

gwinnettcounty CONNECTION

a monthly publication of **gwinnettcounty** government

May 2017



County Commission looks ahead to 2018 at annual retreat

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners mapped out priorities and strategies for the coming year on some of the County's most pressing issues at a retreat in Athens March 30 – 31.

Top priorities for 2018 include:

- Developing a transit and integrated land-use plan in conjunction with a comprehensive transit development plan and the required comprehensive plan update;
- Creating a water resource and innovation center to develop cutting-edge water solutions;
- Establishing a Small Business Resource Center to help incubate entrepreneurship and retain new businesses;
- Engaging diverse populations in County government, business, and initiatives;
- Improving communications with the public and among commissioners;

County Administrator Glenn Stephens reviewed the County's 2016 achievements. Although no official votes are taken, the consensus on priorities guides staff in preparing for the next year's budget. For more information about the retreat, visit www.gwinnettcounty.com.

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AROUND GWINNETT

Gwinnett Transit and state Xpress Service helping commuters after I-85 collapse

Following the collapse of a bridge on I-85 in Atlanta, Gwinnett County Transit and Xpress have added a new service taking riders from the six Gwinnett and Xpress Park & Ride lots to the Chamblee and Doraville MARTA stations. Commuters can then access rail service into Atlanta in the morning and return in the afternoon.

The MARTA Feeder buses leave the Park & Ride lots between 5:30am and 9:15am and depart the Chamblee and Doraville MARTA stations between 3:35pm and 6:05pm. A GCT "sweeper" runs from Chamblee at 7:00pm, stopping by all three GCT Park & Ride lots.

For bus schedules and more information, visit the Gwinnett Transit website at www.gctransit.com.

Commissioners approve \$23 million in road resurfacing contracts

Gwinnett County commissioners recently awarded \$23 million in resurfacing contracts and accepted state grant funds to cover 26 percent of the cost. Out of more than 2,500 miles of county road maintained, Gwinnett will resurface close to 170 miles this year.



Gwinnett Animal Welfare Unit moves to Community Services

The Gwinnett Animal Welfare and Enforcement Unit has been moved under the Gwinnett County Department of Community Services on April 1.

The Gwinnett Police Department has run the animal shelter and enforcement program since 1993. The move was planned for several months and is expected to leverage the Community Services department's extensive volunteer resources while allowing the police to focus on crime prevention and law enforcement.

Drought restrictions still in effect

We have had some rain, but Gwinnett remains in a drought response and outdoor water use restrictions still apply. For more information, visit www.gwinnettH2O.com.

Gwinnett County Government hosts many events, classes, and workshops for its residents. See these and more at www.gwinnettcountyevents.com.

Cardboard Boat Race 4

June 9 • 6:30pm – 8:30pm
Collins Hill Park Aquatic Center
2200 Collins Hill Road, Lawrenceville
770.237.5647

Princess and Me Father-Daughter Dance

June 16 • 6:00pm – 7:30pm
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse
185 Crogan Street, Lawrenceville
770.822.5450

Mosquito Control for Homeowners Workshop FREE!

June 21 • Noon – 1:00pm
Gwinnett County Government Annex Building,
Second Floor
750 South Perry Street, Lawrenceville
678.377.4011

Watermelon, White, and Blueberry Blast

June 30 • 1:00pm – 2:30pm
Prime Timers Pointe
George Pierce Park
55 Buford Highway, Suwanee
678.277.0910

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send questions or comments to
shaunieka.taste@gwinnettcounty.com

Gwinnett County Communications Division
75 Langley Drive • Lawrenceville, GA 30046
770.822.7180 • www.gwinnettcounty.com

Questions about your water bill? Call 678.376.6800.

Commissioners acquire greenspace to expand Alexander Park

Alexander Park southwest of Lawrenceville will grow to more than 132 acres after Gwinnett County commissioners recently voted to buy an adjoining about 41 acres for \$3.7 million.

The land has road frontage on Scenic Highway (State Route 124) and Old Snellville Highway. The County plans to use the heavily wooded rectangular property as a nature preserve to be named the Ezzard Nature Preserve at Alexander Park and dedicated to the memory of Dr. Webster P. Ezzard and Dr. George P. Ezzard.

"This greenspace purchase shows our continued commitment to preserving open space and passive recreational opportunities," said Board Chairman **Charlotte Nash**. *"Once again, we're grateful for voter support of SPLOST that provides needed funding for parks and recreation capital improvements."*

PUBLIC SAFETY

Watch out for kids crossing the street

Each year, about 39,000 children are injured crossing busy streets with another 630 killed, most in non-intersection locations. With school letting out on May 24, please be watchful.

Elementary school children are very impulsive and unpredictable. Children 10 and younger need guidance and supervision when playing and walking near traffic. Most child-pedestrian fatalities occur after school and most of the victims are boys.

Here are some pedestrian-safety tips for youngsters – and their parents:

- Walk on the sidewalk or on the left side of the road facing traffic
- Cross at a corner or an intersection, preferably at crosswalk
- Watch for turning traffic or vehicles backing out of driveways
- Walk, don't run or dart, into the street

Learn more at www.gwinnettsafety411.com.



PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Shoal Creek water facility wins gold for water quality for the fourth time

As the weather heats up, staying hydrated can be critical. Fortunately, Gwinnett County residents can drink freely with the knowledge that the County's Shoal Creek and Lanier Filter water production facilities are among the best in the industry.

This year, the Shoal Creek water production facility won the Georgia Association of Water Professionals Plant of the Year Award for the fourth time since 2007. Shoal Creek and Lanier filter plants have earned numerous GAWP Gold and Platinum Awards for flawless yearly plant operation.

The Lanier facility processes up to 150 million gallons of water per day while the Shoal Creek facility can treat up to 75 million gallons per day. Lake Lanier provides the County's water. To access water from the lake, the County operates two intake and pump facilities, which ship the raw water to the filter plants.

The plants are governed by the *Safe Drinking Water Act*, which was passed in 1974 to protect drinking water in the United States. It requires the Environmental Protection Agency and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division to set and enforce standards for all public and community drinking water systems. Technicians at the Gwinnett water plants are required to monitor the water for more than 90 chemical and microbial contaminants all day, every day, and report the results to state and federal authorities.

So stay hydrated this summer knowing that your tap water comes from safe, award-winning facilities!

Don't forget to attend our free workshop!

TAX COMMISSIONER

Paperless billing available for property tax bills

Receive your next property tax bill electronically! If you own property in Gwinnett, visit GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com, click the *Go Paperless* button, then follow the instructions on the *View/Pay Your Taxes* page to sign up.

CHECK IT OUT

With the baseball season in full swing, check out these books on the great American pastime! These and other titles can be found at your nearby Gwinnett County Public Library branch, www.gwinnettpl.org.

1954: The Year Willie Mays and the First Generation of Black Superstars Changed Major League Baseball Forever, by Bill Madden

The Kid: The Immortal Life of Ted Williams, by Ben Bradlee, Jr.

The Betrayal: The 1919 World Series and the Birth of Modern Baseball, by Charles Fountain

Department of Water Resources • Free Workshop! Water Wise Landscaping Workshop

Bogan Park Community Recreation Center
2723 North Bogan Road, Buford, GA 30519
June 8, 2017 • 6:00pm – 7:30pm

Learn how to create and maintain a water efficient landscape to save money and maintenance time.

Presented by: Robert Brannen
UGA Extension Gwinnett

This workshop will present methods and tips to help you create a water efficient landscape. All participants will receive a free outdoor water conservation kit.

Three ways to register: Visit the public education page at www.gwinnettH2O.com, send an email with your name, address, and phone number to dwrworkshops@gwinnettcountry.com, or call 678.376.7126.