

# gwinnettcounty CONNECTION

a monthly publication of **gwinnettcounty** government

## SEPTEMBER 2017



### Sign up for the Great Days of Service and help make Gwinnett great!

Join the Gwinnett Coalition for Health and Human Services for its 18<sup>th</sup> annual Gwinnett Great Days of Service, the largest two-day volunteer event in the country. On **October 20 and 21**, volunteers can participate in service projects such as stocking shelves at food pantries, planting gardens, or picking up trash to help meet the critical needs of community agencies in Gwinnett.

Last year's event involved 27 sponsors, and 63,700 volunteers worked on 403 projects that benefitted 65 agencies.

There are lots of projects to choose from so you can choose the project that fits your skills, interests, or preferred location in Gwinnett. You can volunteer as an individual, a group, family, or company. To sign up for a service project, visit [www.volunteergwinnett.net](http://www.volunteergwinnett.net).

For more information, please call **770.995.3339** or send an email to [volunteer.gdos@gmail.com](mailto:volunteer.gdos@gmail.com).

Ahora pueden leer Gwinnett County Connection en español a [www.gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com).



## AROUND GWINNETT

### Transit offers more options to downtown commuters

Gwinnett County Transit added new bus afternoon pick-up times for commuters returning from downtown Atlanta to Gwinnett Park and Ride lots. The new service now runs two buses before peak afternoon times at 1:45pm and 2:45pm, and three buses after peak afternoon times at 6:45pm, 7:15pm, and 7:45pm. The buses stop at each of the Gwinnett Park and Ride lots. For more details, visit [www.gctransit.com](http://www.gctransit.com).



### Fire and Emergency Services improves ISO rating

Gwinnett County property owners could see their insurance rates drop after an independent review of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services and County infrastructure. The Insurance Services Office, a private organization used by some insurance companies in setting rates, reviewed the department's operations and equipment along with the County's water supply and E-911. Fire Chief Casey Snyder attributed the improved score to enhancements in training, prevention efforts, new stations, and more fire apparatus that help the department better serve the community.

### Water Resources hosts open house at Yellow River WRF

*Trick or treatment* will be the theme of the 2017 Yellow River Water Reclamation Facility Open House, Saturday, **October 28** from **10:00am to 2:00pm**. There will be games, giveaways, pumpkin decorating, free food, and tours of one of Gwinnett's innovative water reclamation facilities. The Yellow River WRF is located at 858 Tom Smith Road in Lilburn.

### Pay your water bill on the go!

Visit [www.gwinnett20.com](http://www.gwinnett20.com) on your smartphone to easily pay your water bill on the go. Have your username or water account number and password to use this service for nonrecurring, one-time payments.

Gwinnett County hosts many events, classes, and workshops for its residents. See these and more at [www.gwinnettcountyevents.com](http://www.gwinnettcountyevents.com).

#### Cape Crusaders

October 6 • 5:30pm to 8:30pm  
Lucky Shoals Park Community Recreation Center  
4651 Britt Road, Norcross  
678.277.0860

#### Elisha Winn Fair

October 7 to October 8 • 10:00am to 5:00pm  
Elisha Winn House  
908 Dacula Road, Dacula  
770.849.1742

#### Haunted Hayride

October 13 • 6:30pm to 8:30pm  
George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center  
55 Buford Highway, Suwanee  
678.277.0910

#### Spook 'n' Splash

October 20 • 5:00pm to 8:00pm  
Bethesda Park Aquatic Center  
225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville  
678.277.0880

#### Fort Daniel Frontier Faire

October 21 • 10:00am to 5:00pm  
Fort Daniel Historic Site  
2505 Braselton Highway, Buford  
770.513.1576

### gwinnettcounty connection

send questions or comments to [shaunika.taste@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:shaunika.taste@gwinnettcounty.com)

Gwinnett County Communications Division  
75 Langley Drive • Lawrenceville, GA 30046  
770.822.7180 • [www.gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com)

Questions about your water bill? Call 678.376.6800.



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your pennies  
for seniors

## Centerville Senior Center opens with fanfare

Gwinnett County Health and Human Services officially unveiled the highly anticipated Centerville Senior Center, located at 3075 Bethany Church Road, with a ribbon cutting ceremony in August.

The newly built 8,456-square-foot center offers a variety of features designed to meet the needs of Gwinnett County's aging adults, such as a dining room capable of serving more than 100 seniors, a full kitchen with a serving line, a multi-purpose room, billiards area, personal care room, support space, and staff offices. The building operates efficiently and sustainably and also offers functionality to those with visual, hearing, and mobility challenges.

Funds for the \$2.9-million building were provided by the voter-approved 2014 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) program – the first to allocate funds specifically for senior services capital projects.

To be a participant at the center, seniors can call Gwinnett Senior Services at [678.377.4150](tel:678.377.4150).

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Share the road with school buses

Did you know that it is against the law to pass stopped school buses from either direction unless there's a grass or concrete median between you and the bus?

Gwinnett County Public Schools has installed cameras on 300 of its buses as a deterrent for drivers who illegally pass school buses picking up or dropping off children. When the bus lights are flashing, the system automatically takes pictures of vehicles passing the stopped school bus.

The violator will receive a citation in the mail with a fine of up to \$1,000 for repeat offenders. For details on when to stop for a school bus, view a short video on our website at [www.gwinnettsafety411.com](http://www.gwinnettsafety411.com).

Learn more at [www.gwinnettsafety411.com](http://www.gwinnettsafety411.com).



## PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

### Detention or retention, which is your pond?

When it rains, runoff could go into a retention pond or a detention pond. They sound similar and both need regular maintenance to function properly, but there are subtle differences between the two.

Retention ponds are typically older structures intended to capture stormwater runoff and hold it indefinitely. The water evaporates, soaks into the ground, or is pushed out by the next rain event. Detention ponds also capture stormwater runoff, but are designed to slowly release that water over the course of a set amount of time. This process of capturing and holding rainwater is how a detention or retention pond helps protect the environment by slowing down stormwater and preventing flooding.

Fortunately, you don't have to determine if your pond is detention or retention in order to make sure it is functioning properly. All stormwater ponds should:

- be free of trash and large debris that can block the outlet control structure
- have small, soft-bodied plants and grasses established to prevent erosion
- have erosion stabilized quickly
- have trees and other woody shrubs cut and removed

Each of these tasks can be handled by the pond owner or neighbors from a subdivision if they are addressed early and regularly. Ponds that have not been maintained for some time may require the expertise and equipment of a pond maintenance contractor.

Whether retention or detention, if you keep your stormwater pond maintained, you can reduce the cost of ongoing maintenance, prolong the life of the pond, and protect the environment downstream.

Don't forget to attend our free workshop!

## TAX COMMISSIONER

### Property tax bills due October 15

The 2017 Gwinnett County property tax bills were mailed in August with a single due date of October 15. If you have an escrow account, your property tax information is made available to your mortgage company; however, it is your responsibility to ensure taxes are paid. To learn about payment options, visit [www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com](http://www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com).

## CHECK IT OUT

Here are some music-themed titles you can find in the Gwinnett Public Library that were included on *Billboard Magazine's* 100 Greatest Music Books of All Time.

*Chronicles: Volume One*, by Bob Dylan

*The One: The Life and Music of James Brown*, by R.J. Smith

*Boys in the Trees*, by Carly Simon

*Girls Like Us: Carole King, Joni Mitchell, and Carly Simon—and the Journey of A Generation*, by Sheila Weller

Whether you want to get involved in your community, find a job, start a business, or simply get ahead, your library card is the key to opportunity. Libraries are transforming. Visit your local Gwinnett County Public Library branch this September during **Library Card Sign-Up Month** and find out how or visit [www.gwinnettpl.org](http://www.gwinnettpl.org).

Department of Water Resources  
Free Workshops!  
October 2017

**October 10:** Rain Gardens, Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center, Conference Room A  
**October 12:** Homeowner H2O, Lucky Shoals Park

Three ways to obtain more info and to register:

1) Visit [www.gwinnettH2O.com](http://www.gwinnettH2O.com)  
(public education page)

2) Email name, address, and phone to:  
[dwrworkshops@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:dwrworkshops@gwinnettcountry.com)

3) Call 678.376.7193 (press 5)