

GWINNETT COUNTY CONNECTION

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APRIL 2018



Gwinnett trails master plan foresees network of pathways

A recently unveiled draft of the Gwinnett Countywide Trails Master Plan envisions a network of County trails tying in with trails by other jurisdictions to create an interconnected web of bike and pedestrian pathways for recreation, commuting, or running errands.

As part of the 320-mile network of trails, the study proposes nine "Signature Trails," regionally significant trails with amenities, connectivity between destinations, and other defining features. Some, such as the Sugar Hill Greenway, are being built by cities. Some will stretch across multiple cities. The long-term goal, which may take decades to implement depending on funding, will be realized incrementally.

Many of the Signature Trails were included in the plan's Core Trail Network, a series of trails contemplated by 2040. The plan recommended some quick projects, such as the Western Gwinnett Bikeway, a proposed 18-mile trail located along Peachtree Industrial Boulevard from Suwanee to Peachtree Corners.



Ahora pueden leer Gwinnett County Connection en español a www.gwinnettcountry.com.

AROUND GWINNETT

Celebrate Earth Day by shredding paper

Celebrate Earth Day and get rid of old documents at a free paper shredding event **Saturday, May 5**. Sponsored by Gwinnett County Solid Waste Management and Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful, the event runs from 9:00am to noon at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds, 2405 Sugarloaf Parkway in Lawrenceville. Shredding is limited to five copier boxes per vehicle. To volunteer, visit www.volunteergwinnett.net. For more information, call Melanie Miller at 678.518.6107.

Tax Assessors Office issues real estate property Annual Notices of Assessment

State law requires that the Tax Assessor provide owners of taxable property with an annual assessment notice with property value and ownership information from the Tax Assessor's Office. Estimated taxes use last year's millage rates and exemptions. Most Annual Notices of Assessment will be mailed **April 6**. This is not a tax bill. It states the value assessed on your property as of January 1. You can appeal the stated value within 45 days from the date of your notice. The Tax Commissioner's Office usually issues tax bills in August or later. For more information, visit www.gwinnett-assessor.com.

Look out for 2040 Unified Plan meetings

Gwinnett County is planning a second wave of community outreach meetings for the Unified 2040 Plan to hear feedback on the results of the first round of open house-sessions, online surveys, and living room chats. There will be five meetings from **April 30 to May 17** at parks across the county. For the schedule and more information, visit www.gwinnett2040unifiedplan.com.

Help prevent underage drinking

Adults who buy, supply, or provide alcohol to minors may be fined \$1,000, sentenced to a year in jail, or sued for damages. When teens drink, it can lead to accidents, DUIs, fatalities, lower school performance, and decreased athletic performance. For more information, visit GUIDE Inc., at www.guideinc.org.

Sheriff's Jailbreak Challenge course offers extreme fun

Run the Gwinnett Sheriff's Office Jail Break Challenge, a military-style 5K obstacle race over mixed terrain **June 2** in Lawrenceville. Dubbed "the toughest race the law allows," the race offers competitive heats and open segment. For details, visit www.jailbreakchallenge.org.

County offices closed for Memorial Day

Please note that all offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of the residents of Gwinnett County, will be closed **Monday, May 28** in observance of the Memorial Day holiday. Trash and recycling is scheduled as normal in unincorporated Gwinnett County. A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center. The public is invited to a Memorial Day Ceremony at the Gwinnett Fallen Heroes Memorial in Lawrenceville to honor and recognize those who sacrificed their lives in service to their country. The ceremony begins at 1:00pm.

Explore Gwinnett is Gwinnett's official tourism agency and promotes Gwinnett as a place to meet, stay, and play. View the complete events calendar at www.exploreghwinnett.com.

Camerawork: A View Through The Lens

May 1 through May 20

Tuesday through Saturday • 11:00am – 5:00pm
North Gwinnett Arts Association
3930 Charleston Market Street, Suwanee

Tannery Row Artist Colony: 3D Juried Art Exhibition

June 9 through July 28

Tuesday through Saturday • Noon – 5:00pm
Tannery Row Artist Colony
554 West Main Street, Building C, Buford

Waterworks Exhibition

June 18 through September 7

Monday through Saturday • 11:00am – 4:00pm
Kudzu Art Zone
116 Carlyle Street, Norcross

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

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

Questions about your water bill? Call 678.376.6700



Commissioners approve contract for new playgrounds at two County parks

Two Gwinnett County parks will soon get new playground equipment with improved handicap-accessibility under a SPLOST-funded \$750,000 contract.

Contractors will replace playground equipment and surfaces at George Pierce Park in Suwanee and Mountain Park Park in Lilburn. The playground at George Pierce Park will feature a net-climbing tower with flexible platforms, a tightrope, a multi-person spinner, and a small climbing dome. An area for toddlers includes a new slide and climber.

Mountain Park Park will have a new wheelchair-accessible sensory tunnel, plus ramps, a variety of slides, climbers, activity panels, and a tower. An area for tots includes a two-story playhouse and a sand table.

PUBLIC SAFETY

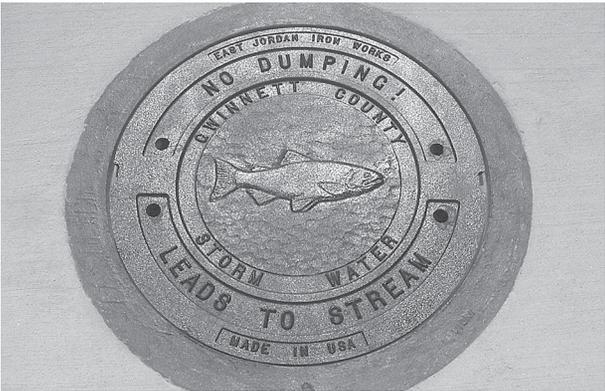
Check your smoke alarm to buy time in a home fire

Spring cleaning around the house is a good time to change the battery in your smoke alarms, especially if you forgot to change the battery at daylight saving time. A smoke alarm is the first line of defense when it comes to surviving a home fire by giving added time to escape. You may have less than two minutes to escape a home fire.

Every home should have working smoke alarms on each level, in the hallway outside the sleeping area, and in each of the bedrooms. Never ignore the noise of the smoke alarm. A constant loud "beeping" sound from the alarm indicates smoke or fire in the home. An intermittent "chirp" indicates the battery needs to be changed.

Test the alarm monthly and replace all smoke alarms after 10 years. And be sure to have an escape plan with two ways out and clear pathways to exits. Contact the Gwinnett Fire Community Risk Reduction Section at 678.518.4845 or email fireprograms@gwinnettcountry.com for details.

PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES



Protect our rivers and streams: Only rain in the drain

Everything that goes in the storm drain could potentially end up in our rivers and streams.

The Department of Water Resources manages a stormwater drainage system designed to move water and control flooding by taking in rainwater from multiple locations and discharging it directly to the nearest body of water. With Gwinnett averaging 50 inches of rain a year, the stormwater drainage system manages a lot of water!

The stormwater system is made up of storm drains, gutters, and ditches that channel stormwater runoff to local rivers, streams, and lakes. What it doesn't do is filter out litter and pollution from our streets, parking lots, or yards. These pollutants could include things like lawn care products and yard clippings, pet waste, automotive fluids, and paint.

To help prevent this type of pollution:

- Don't litter
- Never dump anything down storm drains
- Don't blow yard trimmings into the street or down the drain
- Use lawn care products sparingly, and sweep the excess from sidewalks and driveways back onto your lawn

The *Gwinnett County Illicit Discharge and Illegal Connection Ordinance* prohibits the discharge of anything other than stormwater into any part of the stormwater drainage system. To report illegal discharges down a storm drain, please call the Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources at 678.376.7000.

Don't forget to attend our free workshop!

TAX COMMISSIONER

New self-service kiosks available

New self-service tag-renewal kiosks are available at the Lawrenceville and North Gwinnett tag offices. The kiosks accept credit and debit cards and dispense a new tag decal. You must have a valid Georgia driver's license and the correct address on your renewal notice. Proof of insurance and a current emission inspection, if needed, must be on file with the state. For hours and locations, visit www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com.

CHECK IT OUT

Here are a few books reviewed on National Public Radio that you can find at the Gwinnett Public Library or online at www.gwinnettpl.org.

Anatomy of a Scandal, by Sarah Vaughan

I am I am I am, Seventeen Brushes with Death, by Maggie O'Farrell

The Line Becomes a River, by Francisco Cantu

The Wedding Date, by Jasmine Guillory

**Department of Water Resources
2018 May Water Workshops and Events**

Shoal Creek Open House & Festival
May 19 • 10:00am to 2:00pm

Tour the Shoal Creek Filter Plant at this free, family-friendly bicentennial celebration. Learn the amazing science of water, how it's processed, and how it gets to your home. Enjoy free food, kids' activities, arts and crafts, games, and touch-a-truck. Staff from multiple County departments and community partners will be present to answer questions.

Detention Pond Maintenance Workshop
May 15, 2018 • 1:00pm – 2:30pm
Gwinnett County Justice and Administration Center, Conference Room A
75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville

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
Call 678.376.7193