

# GWINNETT COUNTY CONNECTION

A monthly publication of Gwinnett County Government

## AUGUST 2018



### Commissioners approve cut in millage

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners recently lowered the millage rate for the County's general fund for 2018 to 7.209 mills, a reduction of 2.58 percent less than the 2017 millage rate.

The annual millage rate and individual annual property assessments determine each property owner's property tax for County operations. Property tax bills also include school taxes, which are usually the larger portion of the total. For properties within certain cities, the tax bill may also include city taxes. A mill is one dollar of tax for every \$1,000 of assessed property value; however, applying various homestead exemptions will reduce a residential property's tax bill.

The 2018 total property tax millage rate for unincorporated Gwinnett County will be 13.319, as compared to 13.51 for 2017. The millage rates for special service districts and countywide levies for voter-approved debt and recreation all remain unchanged from last year. Millage rates for service districts in Gwinnett are based on property location and County services provided, such as police, fire, and emergency medical. Details on millage rates are available online at [www.gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com).

Property owners can also visit the website to see the value they receive in County services plus an estimate of County, school, and applicable city taxes. A pie chart shows how the County allocates its portion. Click on Where Your Property Taxes Go under the Your Money button at [www.gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com).



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

## AROUND GWINNETT



### Gwinnett County Transit kicks off pilot for door-to-door bus service in Snellville

Gwinnett County Transit is launching a pilot program on September 17 that will provide six months of free door-to-door bus service in Snellville. The program will roll out over the next 20 years to seven different areas of the county.

The on-demand service will use seven 12-passenger buses operating Monday through Saturday. Riders can request service by using an app that will also show the bus's location and estimated arrival time. The service is accessible to everyone and can be used for appointments, shopping, visits, and connecting with GRTA buses going to downtown Atlanta. For more information, visit [www.gctransit.com](http://www.gctransit.com).

### Gwinnett County, United Way of Greater Atlanta to explore reducing homelessness

The Gwinnett County is partnering with United Way of Greater Atlanta to address homelessness in our community by contributing \$50,000 to cover half the staff cost of a new full-time position to lead the effort. The funding for this agreement comes from \$500,000 allocated in the County's 2018 budget to address issues of homelessness in the community.

### Gwinnett Library expands genealogy resources with new databases

As we're celebrating 200 years of Gwinnett's history, residents can now use three new programs through the Gwinnett County Public Library to discover their own family's history.

In addition to Ancestry Library Edition and HeritageQuest, patrons can use Findmypast, Fold3, and Gale Genealogy Connect to search history records, military records, and other comprehensive references.

Ancestry Library Edition and Findmypast are only available within the library. Other resources can be accessed remotely by visiting [gwinnettpl.org](http://gwinnettpl.org).

### County offices closed Labor Day

All Gwinnett County government offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of residents, will be closed September 3 for Labor Day. All offices will resume regular working hours Tuesday, September 4. A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center. Labor Day is not a trash holiday for residents in unincorporated Gwinnett County.

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

### Human Trafficking Education Forum | FREE!

September 26 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm  
Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center Auditorium  
75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville

### I Can't Believe It's Butter

September 15 from 10:00am to 2:00pm  
McDaniel Farm Park  
3251 McDaniel Road, Duluth

### Yellow River Trash Bash

September 15 from 9:00am to 12:30pm  
Yellow River Park  
3232 Juhan Road, Stone Mountain

### Farm Friends

September 13 to 23 (Times vary)  
Big Red Barn at Gwinnett County Fairgrounds  
2405 Sugarloaf Parkway, Lawrenceville

### Bicentennial Bus Tour: Transportation in Gwinnett

September 22 from 10:00am to 4:00pm  
Lawrenceville Female Seminary  
455 South Perry Street, Lawrenceville

### Saturday Night Lineup

September 29 from 6:00pm to 10:00pm  
Lilburn Activity Building  
788 Hillcrest Road, Lilburn

## GWINNETT COUNTY CONNECTION

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

Gwinnett County Communications Division  
75 Langley Drive • Lawrenceville, GA 3004  
770.822.7180 • [www.gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com)

Questions about your water bill? Call 678.376.6700.



### Commissioners approve contract to renovate Norcross Senior Center

The Norcross Senior Center soon will undergo renovation with additional space and amenities to make the facility more comfortable and convenient for Gwinnett's aging population to use.

Updates at the center located at 5030 Georgia Belle Court include an improved entrance, a new covered drop-off area, and interior renovations, such as modernized restrooms, new furnishings and furniture designed to meet seniors' needs, and dining room upgrades.

Additional space will allow for new and expanded programming like art, sewing, and writing classes as well as cooking demonstrations and gardening. The \$974,000 project is funded with SPLOST revenue. Read more about SPLOST-funded projects at [www.GwinnettSPLOST.com](http://www.GwinnettSPLOST.com).

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Fire and Emergency Services offers free home safety surveys for seniors

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services offers a free home inspection program for seniors, called SeniorBSafe, aimed at reducing the number of injuries and deaths among Gwinnett's older population.

As part of the program, fire service professionals and community volunteers team up to visit homes where seniors live to conduct safety surveys and answer questions about potential fire and life safety hazards. During home surveys, fire service personnel check and/or install safety equipment such as smoke alarms, motion lighting, carbon monoxide detectors, smart burners, and a file of life.

About 2,000 people die in U.S. residential fires annually, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission. About two-thirds of all deadly residential fires occur in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

To schedule a SeniorBSafe home safety visit, please contact the fire programs scheduling desk at 678.518.4845 or email [fireprograms@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:fireprograms@gwinnettcounty.com). Supplies are limited.

## PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES



### Maintain your neighborhood detention ponds to save money, avoid flooding

When was the last time you took a walk around your neighborhood's detention pond? If it's been a while, you may want to consider a quick inspection of the pond and its infrastructure. Maintenance responsibility rests with the owner, which could be a homeowners' association, a business, or an individual.

Detention ponds temporarily detain stormwater runoff, which improves water quality in streams and lakes by slowing down the flow from streets, neighborhoods, parking lots, commercial areas, and industrial sites. The detention of the water allows sediment to settle out, reducing pollution and sedimentation of streams. Regular inspections and maintenance can save money and avoid potential flooding problems later. Poorly maintained ponds fail to protect water quality and prevent bank erosion. They can also harbor nuisances.

Inspect your detention pond every three or four months and after significant rainfall to spot small issues before they become big problems. Examine all the major structures, including the dam, the pipes draining water into the pond, and the outlet control structure, which releases water from the pond. They should be regularly checked for cracks, depressions, holes, tree growth, or other signs of failure. Watch for erosion as well, and keep your detention pond and the access easement free of debris, shrubs, and trees.

To learn more about detention pond inspections and maintenance, see the Detention Pond Maintenance brochure at [www.gwinnettH2O.com](http://www.gwinnettH2O.com). Click *Stormwater Management*, then *Public Education*, and then *Brochures* to find it.

Don't forget to attend our free workshop!

## TAX COMMISSIONER

### Property tax bills due October 15

The 2018 Gwinnett County property tax bills will be mailed by August 15 and are due **October 15**. If you have an escrow account, your property tax information is available to your mortgage company; however, it is your responsibility to ensure taxes are paid. You can make multiple payments as long as the total balance is paid by October 15. For more information about ways to pay or to pay online, visit [www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com](http://www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com).

## CHECK IT OUT

Coming soon to a theater near you! Visit the Gwinnett County Public Library and scope out these titles that are being made into movies. See for yourself whether Hollywood was true to the original tale. Visit the library website at [www.gwinnettpl.org](http://www.gwinnettpl.org).

- The Girl in the Spider's Web*, by David Lagercrantz
- The Darkest Minds*, by Alexandra Bracken
- Boy Erased*, by Garrard Conley
- The Little Stranger*, by Sarah Waters

**Department of Water Resources**  
**2018 September Water Workshops**  
**Fall Gardening and Composting Workshop**  
**September 13, 2018 • 7:00pm – 8:30pm**

**Presented by**  
**Robert Brannen**  
**UGA Extension Gwinnett**

Gwinnett County Justice and Administration Center Auditorium  
 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville

Learn how to use fallen autumn leaves to your advantage and prevent stormwater pollution at this free workshop.

**Three ways to register:**  
**Visit** the public education page at [www.gwinnettH2O.com](http://www.gwinnettH2O.com)  
**Send** an email with your name, address, and phone number to [dwrworkshops@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:dwrworkshops@gwinnettcounty.com)  
**Call** 678.376.7193, Option 5