

# GWINNETT COUNTY CONNECTION

A monthly publication of **Gwinnett County** Government

## DECEMBER 2018



### Gwinnett's 2040 Unified Plan being reviewed by the state

Gwinnett County has forwarded its 2040 Unified Plan to the state Department of Community Affairs and the Atlanta Regional Commission for review.

The 2040 Unified Plan contains analyses, policies, maps, and proposals to help guide progress and development countywide. Crafted after months of public input, the Unified Plan provides a blueprint of how the county's residents and other stakeholders want Gwinnett to grow and develop.

The 2040 plan addresses community goals, needs and opportunities, as well as housing, transportation, economic development and land use. It also establishes a community work program. A future land use map shows recommended development patterns in detail. The plan was developed by consulting firm Pond & Co. and identifies possible activity centers, employment centers, residential neighborhoods, and low-intensity areas.

Other county plans are incorporated into the Unified Plan, including long-term visions for transportation, transit, trails, and water and sewer plans.

The final 2040 plan will be adopted by the Gwinnett Board of Commissioners in February 2019. To read the plan, visit [www.gwinnett2040unifiedplan.com](http://www.gwinnett2040unifiedplan.com).



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

## AROUND GWINNETT

### Help a foster child this Christmas

Make this Christmas extra special for foster children by being their Santa Claus. Select the age and gender of the child you wish to sponsor and shop for them using a wish list each child turned in to the Gwinnett Division of Family and Children Services. There's always an urgent need for sponsors for youth ages 8 and older. To become a sponsor or for more information, you can call 770.390.4134 or email [Lori-AnnJ.Spears@dhs.ga.gov](mailto:Lori-AnnJ.Spears@dhs.ga.gov).

### Protect yourself from flood damage

Did you know your homeowners insurance does not cover flood damage? Only federal flood insurance reimburses you for flood damage to your property. For information about the National Flood Insurance Program, please call 1.800.427.4661 or visit [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov).



### Parks and Recreation wins state awards

The Georgia Recreation and Park Association named Gwinnett Parks and Recreation its 2018 Agency of the Year for the 50,000-plus population category. Individual Parks and Recreation employees and volunteers also won recognition along with Liberty Mutual and Safeco Insurance Company's Serve with Liberty program. Over six years, volunteers with that program donated more than 1,100 hours of service in Gwinnett parks.

### UGA Extension taking orders for plant sale

Gardeners and fresh-fruit lovers can order fruit and landscape plants as part of UGA Extension Gwinnett's famous annual plant sale. Prepaid orders will be accepted from December 26 through March 6. The plant pickup day will be March 14 at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds at 2405 Sugarloaf Parkway in Lawrenceville. Orders cannot be shipped and must be picked up on this day. Please visit [www.ugaextension.org/gwinnett](http://www.ugaextension.org/gwinnett) or call 678.377.4010 for order forms and plant sale information.

### County offices closed for Christmas, New Year's holidays

All Gwinnett County government offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of residents, will be closed December 24 and December 25 for Christmas and reopen on December 26. Offices will also be closed January 1 for the New Year's Day holiday and reopen January 2. A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center on both holidays. Christmas Day and New Year's Day are trash and recycling holidays in unincorporated Gwinnett County, so collections will be delayed by one day after the holidays. Visit [www.gcsolidwaste.com](http://www.gcsolidwaste.com) to view the holiday schedule.

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

#### First Foot Walk

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

#### Elvis's Birthday Bingo Bash

January 8 from 11:30am to 1:30pm  
Lilburn Activity Building  
788 Hillcrest Road, Lilburn

#### Winter Wind Down

January 19 from 5:00pm to 8:00pm  
Bogan Park Community Recreation Center  
2723 North Bogan Road, Buford

#### Wild West BBQ & Hoedown

January 25 from 11:30am to 1:00pm  
Bethesda Park Senior Center  
225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville

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send questions or comments to [shaunika.taylor@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:shaunika.taylor@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 678.376.6700.



### Gwinnett, state DOT jointly funding engineering to widen Scenic Highway

The Board of Commissioners recently approved a funding agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation for preliminary engineering to widen State Route 124/Scenic Highway from U.S. 78 to Sugarloaf Parkway.

The Georgia DOT will provide \$4.8 million in federal funding for the design of the project. Gwinnett County will provide \$1.2 million, or 20 percent, of the engineering cost. Gwinnett's share of the funding will come from the 2017 SPLOST program.

The 4.3-mile project will widen Scenic Highway to six lanes to reduce traffic congestion and improve connectivity between Lawrenceville and Snellville. The project, which could take several years to complete, also includes sidewalk and curb and gutter improvements.

For more information on SPLOST-funded projects, please visit [www.gwinnettSPLOST.com](http://www.gwinnettSPLOST.com).

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Keep your family and home safe for the yuletide season

Make the holiday season a safe and enjoyable time for the whole family by following these safety tips:

- Never place a live tree close to a heat source, such as a fireplace or space heater
- Inspect holiday lights for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinks or wear
- Never leave holiday lights on unattended
- Lit candles should be placed in stable holders; never leave the house or go to sleep with a candle burning
- Never leave food on the stove unattended and set a timer when baking or simmering
- Have a working smoke alarm on every level of the home and in each bedroom

For more information, contact the Gwinnett Fire and Emergency Services Community Risk Reduction and Education Section at 678.518.4845 or email [fireprograms@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:fireprograms@gwinnettcountry.com).

## PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

### Scheduled water rate increase to begin in January 2019

Effective January 2019, a regularly scheduled rate increase will be implemented as the result of a water rate resolution approved by the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners and the Gwinnett County Water and Sewerage Authority in 2015.

This increase will be used to continue inspecting, maintaining, and repairing the growing water and sewer infrastructure in Gwinnett County, ensuring reliable water and wastewater service for existing and future customers.

For a complete list of rates and charges, please visit [www.gwinnetth2o.com](http://www.gwinnetth2o.com) and select "Rates and Fee Schedule" from the menu, or call 678.376.6700.

| Single Family Residential<br>(per 1,000 gallons) |         |
|--|---------|
| Water  |         |
| Tier 1 (up to 8,000 gallons)                     | \$4.99  |
| Tier 2 (8,000 – 12,000 gallons)                  | \$7.485 |
| Tier 3 (over 12,000 gallons)                     | \$9.98  |
| Sewer  | \$8.14  |

| Commercial/Multi Family Residential<br>(per 1,000 gallons) |        |
|--|--------|
| Water  | \$4.99 |
| Sewer  | \$8.14 |

All irrigation and builder accounts will be billed at two times the tier-one volumetric rate (\$9.98 per 1,000 gallons) for all water passing through the water meter per billing period.

## TAX COMMISSIONER

### Some seniors 65 or older on January 1 can get an exemption

If you are 65 years or older as of January 1 and your taxable income is below \$91,912, you likely qualify for the Senior School Tax Exemption.

Apply by April 1 to be eligible. To apply for an exemption, visit [gwinnetttaxcommissioner.com](http://gwinnetttaxcommissioner.com). For assistance, email [tax@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:tax@gwinnettcountry.com) or call 770.822.8800.

## CHECK IT OUT

### Gwinnett Public Library offers resources for genealogical research

With the Gwinnett County bicentennial sparking new interest in history, the Gwinnett County Public Library is providing free access to databases and other services crucial to genealogical searches.

Ancestry – Library Edition is an invaluable resource and a favorite starting point in many genealogical searches. Find My Past focuses on British, Irish, Canadian, and Australian genealogy.

If you are searching for African American genealogical sources, HeritageQuest will be your go-to resource. If you need assistance getting started, make a Book-a-Librarian appointment at [www.gwinnettpl.org](http://www.gwinnettpl.org).

**Department of Water Resources**  
2019 January Water Workshops

**Septic Tank Maintenance**  
January 10 from 1:00pm to 2:30pm  
OneStop Norcross  
5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross

**Homeowner H2O**  
January 15 from 1:00pm to 2:00pm  
Collins Hill Library  
455 Camp Perrin Road, Lawrenceville

**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@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:dwrworkshops@gwinnettcountry.com)  
Call 678.376.7193