

gwinnettcounty CONNECTION

a monthly publication of **gwinnett**county government

FEBRUARY 2018



Help shape the future of the county through the Gwinnett 2040 Unified Plan

The time to exercise the most influence is while plans are being formed. Gwinnett County is in the early stages of crafting its 2040 Unified Plan, which will shape how land use, transportation, housing, and economic development work together in the county.

The Unified Plan, called a comprehensive plan in other jurisdictions, combines many different plans into a coordinated, working blueprint to help shape future policies by many County agencies. To better create a plan that reflects the community's desires, Gwinnett County will collect public feedback to produce a broad, long-term vision to guide growth and development over the next 22 years as well as a short-term list of projects and programs.

Make your voice heard through one of several community open houses, online surveys, or living room chats.

Visit www.Gwinnett2040UnifiedPlan.com to view the times and dates of the community open houses or to learn more about the plan, and follow the Gwinnett 2040 Unified Plan on Facebook. You can email questions to gwinnett2040@gwinnettcounty.com.



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

AROUND GWINNETT



Gwinnett 101 Citizens Academy accepting applications for the curious

Why do fire trucks respond to medical emergencies? How do they decide where to put traffic signals? What do all those people at the county courthouse actually do? Gwinnett 101 Citizens Academy answers those questions and more.

Gwinnett 101 Citizens Academy, a 12-week program that gives participants a behind-the-scenes look at County government, is accepting applications for the spring session. Participants meet one evening a week with County leaders, visit County facilities, and learn how and why the government works. To apply, visit www.Gwinnett101.com by March 9.

Bicentennial art exhibition will travel Gwinnett County in 2018

As part of the Gwinnett 200 Bicentennial Celebration, an art exhibit featuring local artists will tour the county through December 18, 2018, with projects depicting life in Gwinnett County. The exhibition features original art and photos from Peggy Sullens, several Kudzu Art Zone artists, and the late Charlotte Edwards Howerton. It also includes a pictorial documentary of historic Gwinnett County.

Pieces of the exhibition will rotate among five locations: the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse in downtown Lawrenceville, George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center in Suwanee, Bethesda Park Senior Center in Lawrenceville, Peachtree Corners Branch Library, and Pinckneyville Park Community Recreation Center in Norcross. To learn more, visit www.gwinnettcounty.com.

Gwinnett Transit to equip buses with Wi-Fi for riders

In response to customer feedback, Gwinnett Transit will provide Wi-Fi for riders on local, express, and paratransit buses starting this spring. The \$520,000 project approved by the Board of Commissioners will cover all 83 vehicles in the fleet by the end of the year. The network will be public but some websites will be restricted.

Pay your water bill with your smartphone

Visit www.gwinnett20.com using your smartphone to easily pay your water bill on the go. Just have your username or water account number and password ready. You can use this convenient service for nonrecurring, one-time only payments.

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

Parknership | FREE!

March 3 • 9:00am – 1:00pm
E.E. Robinson Park

650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Sugar Hill
678.277.0903

Quince Girl Expo | FREE!

March 11 • 11:00am – 3:00pm

Pinckneyville Park Community Recreation Center
4650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Berkeley Lake
678.277.0920

Egg-sighting Easter | FREE!

March 29 • 10:30am – noon
OneStop Centerville

3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville
678.277.0228

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

March 31 • 8:30am – 10:30am
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse
185 Crogan Street, Lawrenceville
770.822.5450

gwinnettcounty connection
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 678.376.6700.

New amenities coming to Alexander Park

A new dog park, picnic facilities, a playground, and more will be added to Gwinnett's 132-acre Alexander Park on Old Snellville Highway south of Lawrenceville.

The project includes a new entrance from Scenic Highway, 325 additional parking spaces, a pavilion, a playground, new trail connections, a restroom building, and a picnic shelter. A two-acre dog park will feature a separate area for small dogs.

Funding will come from the 2014 and 2017 SPLOST programs approved by voters.

Future plans for the park include the creation of a nature preserve on about 40 acres of land the County purchased last year. A timeline for that project has not yet been established.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Remember your pet in a disaster

For most of us, our pets are like family. They keep us company, help keep us fit, and help keep us sane. But in an emergency, pets are often not allowed to accompany their families to a shelter. It's good to have a plan for your four-legged friends for when you're caught in a disaster or even unexpectedly called out of town. Consider creating a go-bag of essential items for your pet as well.

- Coordinate with a trusted friend or neighbor to evacuate or care for your pet if you're not around
- Ensure your pet is microchipped
- Bag at least three days of food in an airtight, waterproof container
- Pack medicines and other important documents
- Remember pet litter and a litter box if appropriate
- Bring a picture of you and your pet together in case you become separated. Add species, breed, age, sex, color, and distinguishing characteristics
- Pack familiar items, such as treats, toys, and bedding
- Locate boarding facilities or animal hospitals near your evacuation shelter

PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES



Make a rain barrel and save water, cash

Irrigation accounts for nearly half of the average homeowner's water use during the summer. If you are looking for ways to reduce your water usage, don't use drinking water to irrigate your plants; catch water in a rain barrel and use that instead!

Rain barrels are easy to install and maintain. Many come already set up from a store, or you can purchase a kit and barrel to construct your own. Gwinnett Water Resources will even help you make one at our rain barrel workshops. Install your barrel next to a gutter downspout and near plants that need to be watered regularly. To maintain the barrel, paint it to block the sun. This can be a simple coat of primer, or you can turn it into an art project. Drain and clean the barrel with a small amount of bleach once a year. During the winter, you may want to disconnect the rain barrel or at least drain it soon after it fills to prevent freezing.

Once your rain barrel is set up, it is ready to provide free, renewable rainwater for irrigating your lawn or garden. Using a rain barrel to irrigate helps improve water quality in streams and lakes because it reduces stormwater runoff, which also helps protect stream banks from erosion and can reduce localized flooding. Since treated, potable water comes out of your garden hose, using a rain barrel helps conserve our main source of drinking water – Lake Lanier.

If you are interested in learning more about rain barrels, come to the Department of Water Resources' Rain Barrel—Make and Take Workshop on February 17 at the Grayson Senior Center. To register, visit the "Events" page at www.gwinnetth2o.com or sign up for the Rain Barrel Workshop in July.

Don't forget to attend our free workshop!

TAX COMMISSIONER

Emissions testing update

For 2018, all gasoline-powered and light-duty trucks 8,500 pounds or less with the model years 1994 through 2015 require an emissions test to register and renew. For testing locations and more information, visit www.cleanairforce.com. Once your vehicle has been tested, renew online at www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com!

CHECK IT OUT

For Black History Month, here are some books about the courageous struggle for civil rights for all Americans. Read them and prepare to be inspired!

Kennedy and King: The President, the Pastor, and the Battle Over Civil Rights, by Steven Levingston

Great Speeches by African Americans: Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Barack Obama, Jr. and Others, Edited by James Daley

Atlanta and the Civil Rights Movement: 1944-1968, by Karcheik Sims-Alvarado

Department of Water Resources 2018 March Water Workshops

Fix-A-Leak Workshop

Learn how to test your home for leaks, how to find them, and how to do the repairs yourself!

March 10, 2018 • 11:00am – 12:30pm
Suwanee Library, 361 Main Street, Suwanee

March 13, 2018 • 6:00pm – 7:30pm

Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center
Conference Room A, 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville

Presented by: Jackie Valett, Gwinnett County
Department of Water Resources

Attendees will receive a water conservation kit
for indoor or outdoor fixtures.

Three ways to register:

Visit the public education page at
www.gwinnetth2o.com

Email with your name, address, and phone
number to dwrworkshops@gwinnettcountry.com

Call 678.376.7193