

gwinnettcounty CONNECTION

a monthly publication of **gwinnettcounty** government

JANUARY 2018



Gwinnett's 2018 budget focuses on safety, quality of life for residents

The Gwinnett County 2018 budget includes several new police positions, more ambulance crews, parks improvements, and other projects to benefit residents and make Gwinnett an attractive place to live and do business.

Totaling about \$1.67 billion, the budget consists of about \$1.28 billion in operating and about \$390 million for capital improvements, including SPLOST-funded projects. The budget reflects specific priorities set by the Board of Commissioners last spring as well as the recommendations of a seven-member committee made of citizen volunteers.

The budget sets aside money for 65 new police officers, two additional 24/7 ambulance crews and a ladder truck crew, construction of a new Bay Creek Police Precinct, and libraries, parks, and senior services. Funding for an expansion of the civic center; a small business resource center; and more planning and development staff falls under the "strong and vibrant local economy" priority. The global water innovation center and pay-for-performance increases to maintain a quality workforce fall under the "smart and sustainable government" priority.

For more about the 2018 budget proposal, visit our website, www.gwinnettcounty.com.



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

AROUND GWINNETT



Be part of Gwinnett history with Story Vault

You can help commemorate Gwinnett County's bicentennial by sharing your story. Stories from the past help put the present in context and shape a shared vision for the future. And we all have stories to tell! The County is capturing stories from residents about how our vibrantly connected community came to be and where we are today. You are invited to share your memories of Gwinnett's people, places, and events. There's no script... just sit down and talk with an interviewer on camera. To schedule an appointment to record your own Story Vault video, email info@gwinnettcounty.com or call 770.822.7180. To view Story Vault and learn more about Gwinnett's past, visit www.gwinnett200.com.

Extension Office annual plant sale features fruits, landscaping

The UGA Extension Gwinnett office is offering blueberries, blackberries, raspberries, figs, apples, pomegranate, Goji berries, azaleas, pecan trees, and other landscape plants in its annual sale. Order your plants by March 21. Pick up your prepaid order only on March 29 at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds in Lawrenceville. No orders are shipped. For order forms and plant sale information, visit www.ugaextension.org/gwinnett, or call 678.377.4010 to request a form.

Gwinnett County, Georgia Tech to assess effects of septic systems on Lake Lanier

The Department of Water Resources and Georgia Tech Research Corporation are partnering to evaluate the impact of septic systems on Lake Lanier. The project will entail sampling and monitoring groundwater quality and flow, lake water; and lake sediment in developed and undeveloped areas of the lake, a source of recreation and drinking water for Gwinnett County and metro Atlanta. Septic tanks can be a source of nutrients in groundwater. The research will help Gwinnett assess which strategies may help reduce nutrient loads and help predict lake response to remedial actions.

County offices closed for MLK and Presidents Day holidays

All Gwinnett County government offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of residents, will be closed January 15 for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Offices will reopen January 16. Offices also will be closed on February 19 for the Presidents Day holiday and will reopen February 20. A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center on both holidays.

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.exploreGwinnett.org.

The Wonderful World of Disney on Ice

February 22 through February 25
Thursday and Friday • 7:30pm

Saturday and Sunday • 1:00pm and 5:00pm
Infinite Energy Center
6400 Sugarloaf Parkway, Duluth

Tannery Row Artist Colony Spring Juried Art Exhibition

March 10 through April 7
Tuesday through Saturday • noon – 5:00pm
Tannery Row Artist Colony
554 West Main Street, Building C, Buford

Mamma Mia!

March 8 through April 22
Tuesday through Saturday • 8:00pm
Saturday and Sunday • 2:30pm
Aurora Theatre
128 East Pike Street, Lawrenceville

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.

County converts football field at Mountain Park Park to synthetic turf

The football field at Mountain Park Park will be renovated with a 100,000 square-foot synthetic turf field for football, soccer, and lacrosse. In addition, the old field and press box, a baseball backstop, and dugouts will be replaced with a new press box, lighting, fencing, and goals. The synthetic turf means the fields won't have to be closed to let the grass recover, allowing more playing time. Completion of the SPLOST-funded upgrade is scheduled for July.

Mountain Park Park covers 44 acres southeast of Lilburn and features baseball/softball fields, tennis courts, a skate complex and sand volleyball court, plus playgrounds, a pavilion, restrooms, and trails.

PUBLIC SAFETY



Make an emergency kit for your vehicle

January and February are peak times for winter storms, so be prepared before an emergency arises. Weather conditions such as snow and ice may cause you to be trapped in your car for an extended time period. Take these few steps to prepare for a winter emergency in your vehicle:

- Winterize your vehicle and keep your gas tank at least half full to prevent your fuel line from freezing.
- Stock an emergency kit with food and bottled water; a portable cell phone charger; ice scraper; flashlight and batteries, a first aid kit, blankets, jumper cables, and sand or cat litter for traction.
- If you do get stuck on the road, remain in your vehicle where rescuers are most likely to find you.
- Avoid going out on foot unless you can find a safe place to take shelter. Avoid idling for a long time with windows up or in an enclosed space.

PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES



Overbend Trail culvert replacement highlights benefits of stormwater fee

To help pay for projects that protect people from flooding, Gwinnett County assesses an annual stormwater utility fee on each property owner, including residents, government facilities, schools, and businesses. These fees are based on the amount of impervious surface on each parcel.

Across the country, stormwater utility fees are used to replace and upgrade stormwater management systems – including pipes and culverts – to help reduce flooding, fulfill regulatory requirements, and reduce pollution carried to waterways by runoff.

A good example of stormwater fees at work is the culvert replacement project at Overbend Trail, a single-entrance road into a neighborhood near Suwanee. During moderate to heavy rains, Level Creek would routinely cover the road and leave residents stranded or unable to get home. To solve this problem, the Department of Water Resources installed a larger culvert and raised the road.

In Gwinnett, stormwater utility fees will help pay for about \$32 million in critical stormwater infrastructure improvements in 2018. The fees allow DWR professionals to better protect water quality, maintain vital stormwater infrastructure, and design solutions for stormwater management to provide the highest level of service to the community.

To learn more about the stormwater utility fee, please visit www.gwinnettH2O.com.

Don't forget to attend our free workshops!

TAX COMMISSIONER

Senior homestead exemptions available

In Gwinnett, several special homestead exemptions are available for seniors to save money on property tax. To learn more about the exemptions and their requirements, visit www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com or contact our office at tax@gwinnettcountry.com or 770.822.8800. Apply online or request an application in person, by email, or by phone. The deadline for all applications is April 1.

CHECK IT OUT

Here are some books from the Gwinnett Public Library for reading in front of a fire on cold, wintery days. We've included both fiction and nonfiction. These and more can be found at your local library or at www.gwinnettpl.org. Enjoy!

Fierce Kingdom, by Gin Phillips

Definitely Not Mr. Darcy, by Karen Doorebos

The Bourbon Kings, by J.R. Ward

Salt, Sugar, Fat, by Michael Moss

Department of Water Resources 2018 February Water Workshops

Lawn Care with Integrated Pest Management
Buford Human Services Center
2755 Sawnee Avenue, Buford
February 7 • 6:00pm – 7:30pm

Learn pest control methods that require fewer chemicals than conventional "spray away" styles.

Rain Barrels – Make and Take Grayson Senior Center

485 Grayson Parkway, Grayson
February 17 • 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Participants make their own rain barrel and learn about collecting and using rainwater. Pre-registration is required, along with pre-payment of \$30 (cash or check). Workshop is outdoors. Visit the Events page on our website for possible schedule changes due to weather.

Three ways to register:
Visit the public education page at www.gwinnettH2O.com

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

Call 678.376.7193