

GWINNETT COUNTY CONNECTION

A monthly publication of **Gwinnett County** Government

JULY 2018



Commissioners approve expansion of Infinite Energy Center, boost for tourism

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners recently took several steps to enhance tourism and support the expansion of the Infinite Energy Center.

Commissioners authorized Explore Gwinnett, formerly known as the Gwinnett Convention and Visitors Bureau, to receive a portion of the County's hotel/motel tax to promote tourism, conventions, and trade shows. The board also raised the County's hotel/motel tax rate to 8 percent effective August 1 in the first increase in 18 years.

Two years ago, the Board of Commissioners endorsed the master plan for the Infinite Energy Center campus. Voters then approved \$67.3 million in 2017 SPLOST funding to expand the center. Plans call for an expansion of the exhibit hall, more parking, a hotel, more arena seating, and a mixed-use district with entertainment, dining, retail, and housing.

The commissioners also set terms for issuing bonds for construction, the County's first construction bond issue in nearly 10 years.

The Infinite Energy Center, located at 6400 Sugarloaf Parkway, provides \$200 million in economic impact annually.



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

AROUND GWINNETT



Gwinnett to offer free disposal of household hazardous waste on August 11

Household hazardous waste materials can potentially contaminate water resources and pollute the air.

To help protect the environment and ease the burden on Gwinnett residents, the County's Fiscal and Solid Waste Management Division, Department of Water Resources, and Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful are partnering to host the County's first household hazardous waste recycling event on **August 11**. Gwinnett residents can drop off five containers each of household hazardous waste for free.

The event is limited to Gwinnett residents and proof of residency may be required.

Materials accepted at the event include cleaners, batteries, fluorescent light bulbs and ballasts, lawn care products, oils, paints, and pesticides.

The event runs from **9:00am to noon** at the Department of Water Resources Central Facility at 684 Winder Highway in Lawrenceville. For a full list of acceptable items, visit www.gcsolidwaste.com.

New solid waste agreement offers larger recycling containers for free

The Board of Commissioners has approved a revised agreement with residential solid waste haulers that allows residents in unincorporated Gwinnett to keep the same services for less money and makes it easier to recycle more.

Residents can contact their hauler to request a covered 65-gallon recycling cart on wheels at no additional cost. To identify your hauler, please visit www.gcsolidwaste.com. Recycling carts requested in July will be delivered no later than September. Recycling carts requested after July will be delivered within 60 days.

The monthly fee for basic solid waste is being reduced from \$19.16 to \$17.91, and the rate for those individuals who are age 62 and older is being reduced to \$13.75 with no reduction in service.

Gwinnett's new website going live

Gwinnett County government's website has a new look and design that makes it easier to use on a variety of mobile devices. The redesign is easier to read and easier to navigate, plus it's easier to pay water bills and conduct other required business. So visit us at www.gwinnettcounty.com and see for yourself!

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.com.

Waterworks Exhibition

August 1 through September 7
Tuesdays, Thursdays through Saturdays
11:00am to 4:00pm
Kudzu Art Zone
116 Carlyle Street, Norcross

Seoul of the South Korean Food Tour

August 18 • 11:00am
Explore Gwinnett
6500 Sugarloaf Parkway, Duluth

Michael Bolton

August 25 • 8:00pm
The Bowl at Sugar Hill
5039 West Broad Street, Sugar Hill

Sail On – The Beach Boys Tribute Band

August 10 • 8pm
Red Clay Music Foundry
3116 Main Street, Duluth

See Rock City

August 10 through August 26
Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays • 8:00pm
Sundays • 3:00pm
Buford Community Center
2200 Buford Highway, Buford

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

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Questions about your water bill? Call 678.376.6700.



County partners with state to fund Interstate 85 corridor study

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners recently committed to providing \$5 million over the next four years to cover half the cost of studying the Interstate 85 corridor.

Georgia Department of Transportation will fund the other half of the study to extend I-85 from I-285 to I-985. Gwinnett County's portion is funded by the 2017 SPLOST.

The project was identified in the County's Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

The study will address congestion, improving traffic flow, and safety. Georgia DOT will manage the project, with a total cost not to exceed \$10 million. For details on this and other SPLOST-funded projects, visit www.GwinnettSPLOST.com.

PUBLIC SAFETY

New distracted driving law takes effect July 1

Under a new law, motorists can no longer physically hold a phone, GPS navigation device, media player, tablet, computer, or other electronic device while operating any vehicle. The law also prohibits reading or writing text messages, recording or playing videos except for hands-free devices such as dash cameras that record continuously, and sending or receiving internet data.

Drivers can still talk on the phone or use voice-to-text technology if done through an earpiece, headset, smart watch, or other hands-free device. Phones and other devices may also be used for navigation if mounted and used hands-free.

Violators face a fine of \$50 and 1 point on their driver's history for a first offense; a \$100 fine and 2 points for a second offense; and a \$150 fine and 3 points for a third offense. Motorists may receive a one-time pass for a first offense if the driver appears in court with proof of having purchased a hands-free device.

Gwinnett Police estimate that in 2017, 1,088 collisions were related to distracted driving, resulting in 2,254 citations.

PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES



Septic tank maintenance saves money, the environment

If you have a septic tank, the best way to avoid costly and foul backups into your home and discharges into streams and lakes is to understand how your septic system works and how to properly maintain it.

Septic systems hold wastewater in an underground tank where solids settle to the bottom. A pipe at the top of the tank takes wastewater and runs it into an absorption field, or drainfield, a series of perforated pipes or chambers buried in the yard. The drainfield allows the wastewater to slowly infiltrate the soil, which is the last step in the treatment process.

Regular maintenance will prevent failures and extend the life of your system. A properly maintained septic system can last for more than 30 years. These tips will help keep your system up and running, and help you avoid expensive replacement of the drainfield or the tank:

- Have your septic tank pumped out every three to five years
- Flush only human waste or toilet paper
- Use cleaning chemicals as directed. In excess, these chemicals can harm the septic system
- Spread washing machine use throughout the week. Doing all your household laundry in one day could flood your drainfield
- Don't plant trees over or near your drainfield
- Remember that septic system maintenance is proactive; don't wait for your septic system to fail before you have maintenance performed

The Department of Water Resources is also hosting a Septic Tank Maintenance workshop on August 9 at 1:00pm. The workshop will be held at the Five Forks Branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library located at 2780 Five Forks Trickum Road in Lawrenceville. For more information and to register online, please visit www.gwinnettH2O.com/Events.

Don't forget to attend our free workshop!

TAX COMMISSIONER

Paperless billing available for property tax bills

Receive your next property tax bill electronically. If you own property in Gwinnett, visit GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com, click the "Go Paperless" button, then follow the instructions on the "View/Pay Your Taxes" page to sign up.

CHECK IT OUT

Can't get outside? Let the outside come to you with these books about nature from the Gwinnett County Public Library. Visit the library website for these and other selections at www.gwinnettpl.org.

American Wolf: A True Story of Survival and Obsession in the West, by Nate Blakeslee

The Nature Fix: Why Nature Makes Us Happier, Healthier, and More Creative, by Florence Williams

Being a Beast: Adventures Across the Species Divide, by Charles Foster

Animal Wise: The Thoughts and Emotions of Our Fellow Creatures, by Virginia Morell

Department of Water Resources 2018 August Water Workshops

Septic Tank Maintenance
August 9, 2018 • 1:00pm

Presented by
Gwinnett County Health Department

Gwinnett County Public Library Five Forks Branch
2780 Five Forks Trickum Road, Lawrenceville
August 9, 2018 • 1:00pm

Learn how your system works,
how to prevent problems, and how to
determine when a repair is necessary.

Attendees from unincorporated Gwinnett County or the city of Lilburn qualify for 5 percent credit toward their stormwater utility fee for the following year.

Three ways to register:

Visit at www.gwinnettH2O.com

Send an email with your name, address, and phone number to

dwrworkshops@gwinnettcounty.com

Call 678.376.7193, Option 5