

GWINNETT COUNTY CONNECTION

A monthly publication of **Gwinnett County** Government

MARCH 2018



Chairman Nash delivers 2018 State of the County Address

Almost two centuries of Gwinnett County's rich history provided the backdrop for Board of Commissioners Chairman Charlotte Nash's 2018 State of the County speech Tuesday to a crowd of about 800 at the Infinite Energy Center.

"Two hundred years after our founding, we remain a community of pioneers, with many of our residents having come from across the U.S. and from around the globe, seeking opportunity and prosperity," she said.

With a projected population of more than 1.5 million in 2040, Nash said expanded transportation options must include transit. She said she hopes the state legislature will pass a bill that balances regional oversight and local control.

Video of the speech airs frequently on the County's government access cable channel on Charter, Comcast, and AT&T U-verse and is available on demand at www.gwinnettcounty.com. Text of the speech and a related handout can also be found on the County's website.



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

AROUND GWINNETT



Tax Commissioner announces new self-service kiosks for tag renewal

The Tax Commissioner's Office is offering two new self-service kiosks for citizens to renew their tags. Customers will be able to renew their vehicle registrations and immediately receive current decals for their license plates. Major credit and debit cards are accepted, but processing fees apply. Residents can also use kiosks in Kroger stores in neighboring counties. The kiosk in the entrance foyer at the North Gwinnett tag office is available 24/7. The kiosk in Lawrenceville is available from 7:00am to 7:00pm Monday through Friday, and from 8:00am to 7:00pm on Saturdays. Visit www.gwinnetttaxcommissioner.com for more details.

County hosts annual networking event for potential vendors

The Gwinnett County Purchasing Division will host the 12th annual Supplier Symposium on Thursday, **April 26** at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center, 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville. The symposium lets vendors meet buyers and contracting officers from the County and other metro Atlanta agencies. Potential vendors may drop in between **8:30am** and **11:30am**. To register for this free event, view current projects open for bidding, or see explanations of bidding procedures, visit the Purchasing Division's webpage at www.gwinnettcounty.com.

Take a survey to help shape the future of Gwinnett County

Gwinnett County is drafting its 2040 Unified Plan, a blueprint for the County for the next two decades, and we want to hear from you. Take a short online survey at www.gwinnett2040unifiedplan.com through May 11 to share your perception of Gwinnett and how you think Gwinnett should grow and develop over the next two decades.

Pay your water bill with your smartphone

Visit www.gwinnetth2o.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.

Vegetable Gardening Class

April 10 • 6:30pm – 7:30pm
Suwanee Branch of Gwinnett Public Library
361 Main Street, Suwanee
events@gwinnettpl.org

Gwinnett County Transit Bus Tour: Moving Millennials

April 12 • 11:00am – 2:00pm
Georgia Gwinnett College
Outside of Student Center, Building E
1000 University Center Lane, Lawrenceville
770.822.7447

Gwinnett Multicultural Festival and County Government Day Celebration

April 14 • 10:00am – 2:00pm
Shorty Howell Park
2750 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth
770.513.5119

Gwinnett County Master Gardener's Annual Plant Sale

April 28 • 9:00am – 2:00pm
Lilburn Library/City Hall parking lot
4817 Church Road Northwest, Lilburn

Gwinnett Green Fest

April 29 • 1:00pm – 5:00pm
Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center
2020 Clean Water Drive, Buford
770.904.3500

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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.



SPLOST: New parking deck heralds courthouse addition project

A new parking deck at Constitution Boulevard and Nash Street is the first phase of a courthouse expansion at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville.

The project begins with part of the deck constructed with 850 spaces for employees and visitors to the facility. After this phase is finished by the end of the year, the existing parking deck on Nash Street will be demolished. Then, a new 180,000-square-foot courthouse addition will be built where the old deck once stood, and the remaining portion of the new deck will be built with about 700 spaces.

The new parking structure, which will also include elevators, will result in four stories of covered parking and about 1,500 parking spaces. A covered pedestrian walkway will tie the deck to the new courthouse addition. The expansion project will be funded with 2009 SPLOST revenue.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Beware of phone scams

Scammers are posing as law enforcement officials or IRS agents to trick people into giving them money with prepaid debit cards.

Con artists are calling people claiming to be from the Gwinnett County Police Department, the Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office, or the IRS.

The official-sounding caller will tell the victim that there are outstanding fines, active warrants for their arrest, or unpaid taxes, and that to avoid going to jail, the victim must drive to a local grocery or convenience store, load a specific sum of money on a prepaid debit card, such as Green Dot, and then give the access codes to the caller. Once the scammer has the card's PIN number, the money is gone.

Law enforcement and government agencies will never demand payment over the phone by a prepaid debit card.

To report a phone scam, call Gwinnett Police at 770.513.5300.

PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES



Protect the earth from home toxic waste

Many of the same chemicals that make household products effective are harmful when released into the environment. If misused or disposed of improperly, many commonly used products have the potential to become household hazardous waste.

Household hazardous waste includes paints, oils, batteries, and pesticides. Improper disposal of these types of products includes pouring them on the ground, down the drain, into a storm drain, or directly into a waterway.

Some of these items might be kept under the sink or in the garage for extended periods of time, and as their containers age, the risk of leakage increases. Once exposed to the environment, toxins could soak into the ground or be washed down a storm drain, which could lead to pollution in our lakes and streams.

Follow these tips to prevent water pollution:

- Only buy the amount you need for a project
- Many liquid home products can be solidified using cat litter, saw dust, and other absorbent materials, and placed in the trash
- Many local retailers and organizations offer recycling programs and will accept home products for disposal
- Consult the product label for disposal guidance

For more information about home toxic waste recycling programs, visit www.gwinnettcb.org/recycling or check www.sustainablegwinnett.com for the County recycling directory. If you see any evidence of toxins being discharged into a storm drain or waterway, call 678.376.7000.

Don't forget to attend our free workshop!

TAX COMMISSIONER

Reduce your tax bill – apply for homestead exemptions!

The best way to reduce your property tax bill is to apply for homestead exemptions. The application deadline is April 1. Apply at www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com.

CHECK IT OUT

Here are some novels with strong, female lead characters. You can find these and other titles at your nearest Gwinnett County Public Library branch or www.gwinnettpl.org.

Salvage the Bones, by Jesmyn Ward

The Red Tent, by Anita Diamant

The Girl Who Fell From the Sky, by Heidi W. Durrow

Jane Eyre, by Charlotte Bronte

**Department of Water Resources
2018 April Water Workshops**

**Spring Cleaning –
Household Hazardous Waste Management**
Learn how to identify, manage, and properly dispose of hazardous materials in your home.

April 12 • 1:00pm – 2:30pm
Lilburn City Hall
340 Main Street, Lilburn

Rain Gardens*
Create your own rain garden to help protect water quality and provide a new feature in your yard. Attendees from unincorporated Gwinnett County or the city of Lilburn may qualify for a maximum 5 percent credit toward their stormwater utility fee for the following year. Reclaim your rain!

April 17 • 4:00pm – 5:30pm
Gwinnett Tech Horticultural Garden
5150 Sugarloaf Parkway, Lawrenceville

*This workshop takes place outdoors. Check for weather-related schedule changes by visiting the Events page on our website.

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