

GWINNETT COUNTY CONNECTION

A monthly publication of Gwinnett County Government

NOVEMBER 2018

Bicentennial closes with daylong events and an evening gala

Gwinnett County will close out a yearlong celebration of its bicentennial on December 15, the anniversary of its creation in 1818, with a family-friendly party and an evening gala, all at the Infinite Energy Center.

Festivities will feature kids' activities highlighting the county's diversity from 10:00am to 2:00pm at the Hudgens Center for Art & Learning and the Performing Arts Center. The free event is a cultural birthday celebration with different rooms representing different continents. In each themed room, youngsters can do crafts from the continent and get their bicentennial passport stamped. Guests will see cultural performances from across the globe.

There also will be a kids' group art project that will be put on exhibit. Other activities include storytelling and meet-and-greets with historical characters from Gwinnett's past.

Visitors can also learn about the history of Gwinnett by viewing documentaries shown throughout the day and by exploring the Gwinnett history exhibit. They can also take in an art exhibit featuring Gwinnett artists.

Outdoors, visitors will find food trucks representing a variety of cultures, make s'mores over fire pits, and watch an artist make an ice carving of the bicentennial logo.

Then, the public can celebrate the county's rich history and pay tribute to its vibrant community and diverse cultures at a gala in the Infinite Energy Center ballroom. The cocktail party begins at 6:00pm and dinner begins at 7:00pm. Tickets cost \$125 per person. Cocktail attire is appropriate.

Visit www.gwinnett200birthday.com/events to buy tickets for the evening gala and to learn more about the free daytime event. To find out more about Gwinnett's bicentennial celebration, visit www.Gwinnett200.com.



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

AROUND GWINNETT



Drop off your Christmas tree for recycling

Don't leave your used Christmas tree by the curb after you take it down. Bring it to the annual Bring One for the Chipper event sponsored by Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful and Gwinnett County. You can drop off natural Christmas trees without lights or decorations between December 26 and January 20 at designated sites in Gwinnett County. Select fire stations will accept trees 24/7 while other locations will accept them during regular business hours. Trees will be chipped into mulch January 26 for use at County parks. To see a list of drop-off sites or to register to volunteer, visit www.gwinnettcbo.org.

Volunteer this holiday season

With the holidays approaching, please consider giving your time, energy, and experience to help others in need. Volunteer Gwinnett can help you find the right volunteer opportunities whether you have just a little or a lot of free time to help those less fortunate during the holidays. Volunteer Gwinnett is a countywide program designed to get residents involved in volunteer activities across our community. Check out www.volunteergwinnett.net to find your next volunteer opportunity.

Commissioners approve contract for Freeman's Mill Park exhibit

Commissioners recently approved a \$442,279 contract to design and build interactive exhibits for Freeman's Mill Park. The exhibits, designed by Pacific Studios, will tell the story of how grains have been planted, harvested, and milled for centuries. Park visitors will see early milling machinery and a smaller scale mill that will grind bags of cornmeal to take home. The exhibit inside the gristmill is expected to open by late summer 2019. Like many other historic sites preserved throughout the county, the restoration of Freeman's Mill is funded by voter-approved SPLOST programs.

County offices closed for Thanksgiving

All Gwinnett County government offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of residents, will be closed Thursday, November 22 and Friday, November 23 for the Thanksgiving holiday. All offices will resume regular working hours on Monday, November 26. A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center. Thursday is a holiday for trash hauling. Trash pick-up will be delayed by a day.

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

Bicentennial Bus Tour:

Celebrate Modern Gwinnett County
December 5 from 10:00am to 4:00pm
Lawrenceville Female Seminary
455 South Perry Street, Lawrenceville

Bicentennial Event: Homestead Holiday at the Chesser-Williams House

December 8, 15, and 22 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm
Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center
2020 Clean Water Boulevard, Buford

Pancakes with the Claus

December 8 from 9:00am to 11:00am
Lilburn Activity Building
788 Hillcrest Road, Lilburn

Supper with Santa

December 15 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse
185 Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

Cookies for Santa

December 21 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm
George Pierce Community Recreation Center
55 Buford Highway, Suwanee

GWINNETT COUNTY CONNECTION

send questions or comments to
shaunieka.taylor@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.



Gwinnett celebrates opening of relocated, expanded fire station in Lawrenceville

Gwinnett County officials celebrated the opening of the relocated Fire Station 15 recently with a ribbon cutting at the station’s new home on Scenic Highway in Lawrenceville.

Fire Station 15 covers 17.5 square miles of the county and last year handled 8,782 emergency responses, making it one of the county’s busiest stations.

The new, 10,788-square-foot building features three apparatus bays for engine, ladder, and medic units. The station also includes sleeping quarters for 12 firefighters, a battalion commander’s office and quarters, a kitchen, dining area, dayroom, fitness room, and storage areas for gear and equipment.

The \$4.46 million project was funded by the 2009 and 2014 SPLOST programs.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Be careful when shopping online this holiday season

Online shopping during the yuletide season can put holiday shoppers at risk. More shopping is being conducted online than in stores, and, though it is convenient, it also can be unsafe. Here are some tips to save you from being scammed this holiday season:

- If it’s too good to be true, it probably is
- Check the reviews when purchasing items online to read about quality
- Beware of making purchases over public or open Wi-Fi
- Review your online account settings
- Keep personal information personal
- Develop good password habits; change them often and use unique ones that are hard to guess
- Consider using a low-limit credit card for online purchases
- Stick to trusted and well-regarded brands and businesses
- Shop only on secure websites; look for https:
- Use credit cards and secure payment services instead of debit cards

PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES



Don’t let a sewage backup ruin your holidays

Three of the primary culprits of sewer backups in Gwinnett County are fats, oils, and grease (FOG). Sewer backups happen in both public sewers and private plumbing.

Everyone can help fight FOG and protect the sewer system by remembering two simple steps. First, pour liquid grease and oils into containers and throw them away. Second, reduce the amount of FOG that goes down the drain by wiping or scraping dishes into the trash.

Another potential cause of sewer backups is items such as wipes, hygiene products, floss, paper towels, or other products that don’t break down easily. Even items labeled as flushable may clog the sewer or your plumbing and cause them to backup. For more information, visit www.gwinnetth2o.com, click on the Public Education link, and view the “What to Know about Flushables” page.

Toilet tissue is safe to flush because it breaks down within seconds. Anything that does not break down easily should be treated as garbage and put safely into the trashcan, not the toilet. It is important to note that this information also applies to septic systems.

Backups and overflows are expensive, messy, and can have a negative effect on the environment.

Fight the FOG and flush wisely to keep the sewer system flowing in the right direction this holiday season!

TAX COMMISSIONER

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 gwinnetntaxcommissioner.com. For assistance, email tax@gwinnettcountry.com or call 770.822.8800.

CHECK IT OUT

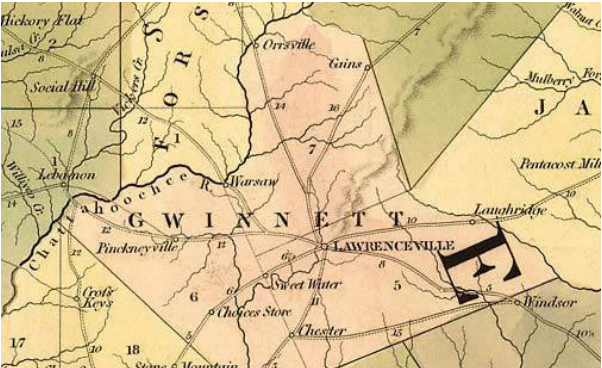
November is National Native American Heritage Month! Be sure to read up on the life and times of America’s indigenous peoples. Search for these and other fascinating books at www.gwinnettpl.org.

Dreaming in Indian Contemporary Native Voices, edited by Lisa Charleyboy and Mary Beth Leatherdale

In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse, by Joseph Marshall III

Not Your Princess: Voices of Native American Women, edited by Lisa Charleyboy and Mary Beth Leatherdale

If I Ever Get Out of Here, by Eric Gansworth



Bicentennial brief: How Gwinnett was founded

Gwinnett County was created by an act of legislature on December 15, 1818, and named for Button Gwinnett (1735–1777), one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. The first government was convened at Elisha Winn’s home (the Winn House). Land for the new county came from Jackson (formerly Franklin) County and from the Indian Cession of 1818. The majority of the county was divided into three districts and distributed through the 1820 Land Lottery in lots of 250 acres each.