

GWINNETT COUNTY CONNECTION

A monthly publication of **Gwinnett County** Government

SEPTEMBER 2018



Board of Commissioners approves transit contract with MARTA

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners recently approved a contract with the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority to operate and expand Gwinnett's transit system in accordance with the recently approved Connect Gwinnett Transit Development Plan.

The board also passed a motion putting the contract on the ballot in the **March 19, 2019**, special election for voter consideration.

Gwinnett is expected to grow by up to 500,000 people for a total of about 1.5 million over the next two decades, and that means transportation options are essential. Public input gathered as part of the recently approved Comprehensive Transportation Plan and the newly adopted Connect Gwinnett Transit Development Plan also made it clear that Gwinnett residents and businesses desire congestion relief and mobility options.

Under the contract, the Authority would operate Gwinnett's bus system as soon as practical upon voter approval. Approval of the contract by voters would lead to expansion of transit within Gwinnett and connections with the regional transit system.



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

AROUND GWINNETT

Water Innovation Center to break ground, improve water science

Gwinnett County is moving ahead to recruit the best minds in the water industry as it breaks ground in October for the Water Innovation Center. The \$50 million Water Innovation Center and associated campus will focus on applied research, developing new water technologies, state-of-the-art workforce training, and enhanced public engagement to help ensure that Gwinnett has the water needed to continue to grow and prosper. Population around the world as well as in Gwinnett and metro Atlanta is growing, and the most critical factor affecting well-being and economic health will be the availability of clean water. The knowledge gained at the Water Innovation Center will be shared around the world.

Gwinnett County Career Expo could change your life

Job seekers wanting to begin their careers with Gwinnett County Government are invited to the fourth annual Career Expo hosted by the Gwinnett County Department of Human Resources. The free event will be held **Friday, October 5** from 9:00am to 3:00pm at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center, 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville. The expo offers attendees the opportunity to meet with representatives from County departments to talk about opportunities in a variety of fields. Free résumé critiques will be provided.

Public Safety Fall Festival offers demonstrations, equipment, and fun

Gwinnett's Police and Fire and Emergency Services departments are partnering for a fun day with lots to see at the Public Safety Fall Festival on **Saturday, October 6** at Coolray Field in Lawrenceville. From 10:00am to 2:00pm, the first responders will show off their emergency vehicles, including a helicopter, ambulance, SWAT personnel carrier, and ladder truck. For more information, call 770.513.5119.

Water Resources hosts Halloween open house at Yellow River WRF

Let us show you that wastewater plants aren't scary places after all at the Yellow River Trick or Treat Fall Festival **Saturday, October 27** from 10:00am to 2:00pm. There will be games, giveaways, pumpkin decorating, free food, and tours of one of Gwinnett's innovative water reclamation facilities. The Yellow River Water Reclamation Facility is located at 858 Tom Smith Road in Lilburn.

Pay your water bill on the go!

Visit www.gwinnetth2o.com on your smartphone to easily pay your water bill on the go. Have your username or water account number and password to use this service for nonrecurring, one-time payments.

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

Take a Hike

October 6 from 9:00am to noon
Pinckneyville Park
650 Peachtree Industrial Blvd, Berkeley Lake

Bicentennial Event: Elisha Winn Fair

October 7 from 10:00am to 5:00pm
Elisha Winn House
908 Dacula Road, Dacula

Taste of Gwinnett

October 13 from 11:00am to 2:00pm
OneStop Norcross
5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross

Touch-a-Truck/Antique Car Show | FREE!

October 20 from noon to 3:00pm
Bogan Park
2723 North Bogan Road, Buford

Walk Among the Stars – Lights on Afterschool

October 25 from 5:30pm to 8:00pm
Rock Springs Park
550 Rock Springs Road, Lawrenceville

Mother/Son Halloween Dance: Frankenstein and Gwinnett Turn 200

October 20 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm
George Pierce Park
55 Buford Highway, Suwanee

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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.



gwinnettSPLOST.com

your pennies
for transportation

County widening Cruse Road

Crews are set to begin widening a mile-long stretch of Cruse Road between Club Drive and Paden Drive from two to four lanes with a center turn lane.

The \$5.6 million project also includes sidewalks along both sides of Cruse Road, intersection improvements, and traffic signal upgrades at Club Drive, Herrington Road/Bethesda School Road, and at Paden Drive. Sidewalks will be installed along the north side of Cruse Road from Paden Drive to Country Oaks Court. Curb, gutter, and drainage are included.

This project is funded by the 2009, 2014, and 2017 SPLOST programs. For more information about projects funded by SPLOST, please visit www.gwinnettSPLOST.com.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Keep kids safe this Halloween

Twice as many children in the United States are killed walking on Halloween than any other day of the year. Gwinnett public safety officials are urging parents to prepare kids to be safe and asking drivers to be particularly alert during trick-or-treat hours.

Firefighters suggest using flameless candles for Jack-o'-lanterns and choosing decorations and costumes made of flame-retardant materials. Costumes should fit properly; billowing capes and baggy sleeves pose a tripping hazard as well as a fire hazard. Police officers encourage motorists to slow down and watch for children in the roadway.

Children should be careful not to dart out from houses or between cars. They should stay in groups, carry flashlights, visit familiar houses, and avoid dark or unlit areas. Children shouldn't use authentic-looking guns and swords, and they should never accept rides or candy from strangers.

Children younger than age 12 should not cross streets without an adult. Older kids trick-or-treating without adult supervision should travel in a group and stick to a predetermined route with good lighting.

For more safety Halloween tips, visit Gwinnett Safety 411 at www.gwinnettsafety411.com.

PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES



Composting saves the environment

Organic material represents a large portion of our waste stream, and excess nutrients from grass clippings can hurt the water quality of our rivers, lakes, and streams. Don't waste such a valuable resource; compost it instead! Composting creates fertile soil that can provide nutrients for your yard or garden, and it also protects the environment. If you compost this material, it stays out of the landfill and our surface water, too.

Grass clippings and yard waste are high in nutrients, which contribute to water pollution. When grass clippings and leaves are washed or blown down the storm drain, they end up in our streams, ponds, and lakes and release nutrients as they decompose. Extra nutrients can cause algae blooms, which can deplete oxygen and kill fish. So don't leave your clippings to be washed away—put them in the compost.

Composting can be as simple as creating a pile of yard debris. A successful compost pile needs three things: greens, browns, and water. Your green grass clippings are perfect for composting due to their high nitrogen content. "Browns" can be dead leaves or small sticks and branches. Water comes from nature, but you may need to moisten the pile during dry periods. The only thing left to do is to turn the pile periodically. Just be sure you don't compost things like meat, bones, dairy products, fish, or pet wastes.

Please visit www.extension.uga.edu/publications for more information about composting.

Don't forget to attend our free workshop!

TAX COMMISSIONER

Property tax bills due October 15

The 2018 Gwinnett County property tax bills are due **October 15**. If you have an escrow account, your property tax information is available to your mortgage company; however, it is your responsibility to ensure taxes are paid. You can make multiple payments as long as the total balance is paid by **October 15**. For more information about ways to pay or to pay online, visit www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com.

CHECK IT OUT

Here are some top books from the New York Times bestseller list. Read them and see what the buzz is about. You can visit the library website at www.gwinnettpl.org.

Paradox, by Catherine Coulter

The Outsider, by Stephen King

Indianapolis, by Lynn Vincent

Astrophysics for People in a Hurry, by Neil deGrasse Tyson

Department of Water Resources
2018 October Water Workshops!

DWR 101
F. Wayne Hill Water Resources Center
3320 Financial Center Way, Buford 30519
October 11, 2018 • 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Learn about the services provided by the Department of Water Resources while taking a tour of an award-winning water reclamation facility.

Please note that some walking is required for this workshop.

Homeowner H2O
Lucky Shoals Park
4651 Britt Road, Norcross 30093
October 12, 2018 • 6:00pm – 7:30pm

Attendees will receive a low-flow home retrofit kit, learn why water conservation is important, and receive tips to conserve water at home.

Three ways to register:

Visit the public education page at www.gwinnettH2O.com

Send an email with your name, address, and phone number to dwrworkshops@gwinnettcounty.com

Call 678.376.7193