

# GWINNETT COUNTY CONNECTION

A monthly publication of **Gwinnett County** Government

## APRIL 2019



### Gwinnett County helping address homelessness

Gwinnett is teaming up with United Way, the Primerica Foundation, and other partners on a new collaborative program to better coordinate assistance for people in our community who are homeless.

Called the HomeFirst Gwinnett Initiative, the program is establishing an assessment center and a 20-bed shelter for women and children in the Norcross area. At the center, visitors' needs will be determined and they will be referred directly to the appropriate agency or provider.

"Several organizations and individuals in the community are addressing different aspects of the homelessness, but it is not always well-coordinated," said Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners Chairman **Charlotte Nash**. "Partnering with the private sector and the United Way, the County is helping fund the HomeFirst Initiative to help create a system that is coordinated and does the most with each dollar."

Instead of a groundbreaking, work on the center was recently launched with a Break-Through event where dignitaries, including Nash and several district commissioners, used sledge hammers to pummel signs representing obstacles for the homeless.

HomeFirst hopes to open a second assessment center and shelter later this year on another site yet to be selected.

To learn more, visit [www.UnitedWayAtlanta.org](http://www.UnitedWayAtlanta.org).



Ahora pueden leer Gwinnett County Connection en español en [www.GwinnettCounty.com](http://www.GwinnettCounty.com).

## AROUND GWINNETT

### Tax Assessor's Office issues real estate property Annual Notices of Assessment

State law requires the Tax Assessor's Office to send annual assessment notices to inform property owners of the value of their taxable property. The notice is not a tax bill, but it includes an estimate of taxes that could be owed based on the previous year's millage rates and exemptions. Most Annual Notices of Assessment for 2019 will be mailed **April 5**. Property owners can appeal the notice value within 45 days from the date on the notice. The Tax Commissioner's Office usually issues tax bills in August or later. For more information, please visit [www.Gwinnett-Assessor.com](http://www.Gwinnett-Assessor.com).

### Gwinnett launches senior congregate programs in Grayson, Snellville

Two new satellite senior programs in south Gwinnett will soon be operated by Gwinnett County Senior Services under agreements recently approved by commissioners. The County is partnering with the cities of Grayson and Snellville to provide meals and activities such as exercise and dance classes, arts and crafts, table games, day trips, and educational speakers. These congregate programs will function separately from city senior activities already in operation. The program in Grayson will operate in an existing facility behind city hall and the Snellville program will be held at T.W. Briscoe Park. These satellite programs will each accommodate 40 seniors. The project will receive federal funding through the Atlanta Regional Commission. For more information, call 678.377.4150.

### Multicultural Festival set for April 27

Gwinnett Police, County officials, and friends from across the globe will gather at the annual Gwinnett Multicultural Festival and County Government Open House, **Saturday, April 27** from 10:00am to 2:00pm at Shorty Howell Park on Pleasant Hill Road in Duluth. Families can see exhibits and cultural performances from other countries, meet officers, and enjoy kids' activities such as a dunk tank, games, and inflatables. For more information, call 770.513.5119.



**County offices closed for Memorial Day**  
Please note that all offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of the residents of Gwinnett County, will be closed Monday, **May 27** in observance of Memorial Day. The public is invited to a Memorial Day Ceremony at the Gwinnett Fallen Heroes Memorial in Lawrenceville at 1:00pm to celebrate and remember the men and women who have served and protected us throughout our nation's history.

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](http://www.ExploreGwinnett.com).

### Spring Juried Art Exhibition

March 9 through May 3

Tuesdays through Saturdays from noon to 4:00pm

Tannery Row Artist Colony

554 West Main Street, Building C, Buford

### Native Gardens

May 2 through May 14

Thursdays through Saturdays at 8:00pm

Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2:30pm

Aurora Theatre

128 East Pike Street, Lawrenceville

### Tannery Row Artist Colony 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

May 11 through July 5

Tuesdays through Saturdays from noon to 4:00pm

Tannery Row Artist Colony

554 West Main Street, Building C, Buford

### Seoul of the South Korean Food Tour

July 20 at 11:00am

Explore Gwinnett

6500 Sugarloaf Parkway, Duluth

## GWINNETT COUNTY CONNECTION

send questions or comments to

[Shaunieka.Taylor@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:Shaunieka.Taylor@GwinnettCounty.com)

Gwinnett County Communications Division

75 Langley Drive • Lawrenceville, GA 30046

770.822.7180 • [www.GwinnettCounty.com](http://www.GwinnettCounty.com)

Questions about your water bill? Call 678.376.6700.



gwinnettSPLOST.com

Your Pennies  
for Transportation

### Gwinnett commissioners approve new interchange on SR 316 at Harbins Road

Gwinnett commissioners recently awarded a \$30-million contract to build a grade-separated interchange on State Route 316 at Harbins Road.

The project is about 3/4 mile long and will include a five-lane bridge on Harbins Road over SR 316. The new bridge will have dual westbound left-turn lanes, a single eastbound turn lane, and through lanes. The new interchange will have ramps eastbound and westbound as well as an access road to Sugarloaf Parkway. The project also includes an upgraded traffic management system, sidewalks, curbs and gutters, and retaining walls. The project is funded by the 2017 SPLOST program and is anticipated to be open to traffic by late 2021.

For more information on SPLOST projects, please visit [www.GwinnettSPLOST.com](http://www.GwinnettSPLOST.com).

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Avoid clothes dryer fires with simple maintenance

An estimated 2,900 residential fires totaling \$35 million in damage annually are caused by clothes dryers. The main culprit? Failure to clean the lint filter and dryer vents. Fires can occur when lint builds up in the dryer or in the exhaust duct. Lint can block the flow of air, cause excessive heat buildup, and result in a fire in some dryers.

Here are some tips from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission:

- Clean the lint screen/filter before or after drying each load of clothes. If clothing is still damp at the end of a typical drying cycle, the lint screen or the exhaust duct may be blocked
- Clean the dryer vent and exhaust duct regularly
- Clean behind the dryer, where lint can build up
- Replace accordion-type ducting material that can trap lint with rigid or corrugated semi-rigid metal duct
- Wash clothing soiled with volatile chemicals such as gasoline, cooking oils, cleaning agents, or finishing oils and stains more than once, and use the lowest heat setting with a cooldown period at the end of the cycle

## PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES



### Regular checks, fixes can make your detention pond work effectively

Atlanta rainfall in 2018 was 20 inches above average, according to the National Weather Service. Two months into 2019, Gwinnett has already had 20 percent of its average annual rainfall. With all the extra precipitation, neighborhood detention ponds need to be in good shape to be effective. Regular inspections can identify problems early and save money on maintenance.

Detention ponds temporarily collect and detain rainwater that runs off rooftops, driveways, and streets, and release it slowly back into the environment. This helps to prevent downstream flooding and stream bank erosion and remove certain pollutants. When detention ponds are not properly maintained they may not function properly, leading to poor water quality being released from the pond, undue stress on the dam or retaining wall, and possibly creating habitat for nuisance insects. A lack of maintenance can lead to expensive repairs.

Ways to ensure your neighborhood detention pond is in good condition include removing trees from the dam while they are small and you can do it yourself; picking up litter from the pond so that drainage structures don't clog; and checking for holes, depressions, or cracks in the dam and around the concrete structures. If you find any problems in the dam, sides, or concrete, contact a professional to fix the problem before it gets worse.

For additional information about detention ponds, visit [www.GwinnettH2O.com](http://www.GwinnettH2O.com), then go to the Stormwater Management page and search for "Detention."

## TAX COMMISSIONER

### Tag and title services interrupted from May 21 to 29

Tag and title services will be interrupted while a new state motor vehicle system is installed. From May 21 to 29, tag renewals will be unavailable via online and at kiosks; from May 23 to 27 tag and title services will be unavailable at tag offices and by mail. If your birthday falls within those dates, please renew by May 20. You can also renew online at [www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Renew](http://www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Renew).

## CHECK IT OUT

### Career Online High School at the library!

Are you in need of a high school diploma? The library can help. Each year we offer scholarships for adult students living in Gwinnett to complete their high school education online with their library card.

Career Online High School is a program intended to boost job prospects and prepare students for the next steps in their education. Classes are conducted online and work with your schedule to make it easy to reach your goals.

Visit [www.CareerOnlineHS.gale.com/GCPL](http://www.CareerOnlineHS.gale.com/GCPL) to learn more or contact [OnlineHS@GwinnettPL.org](mailto:OnlineHS@GwinnettPL.org).

Department of Water Resources  
2019 May Water Workshop

### Rain Gardens

May 15 • 4:00pm – 5:30pm  
Gwinnett Tech Horticultural Garden  
5150 Sugarloaf Parkway, Lawrenceville

A landscaped rain garden can help protect water quality and provide a new feature in your yard full of beautiful, native plants. Come learn how you can create your own rain garden.

Reclaim your rain!

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

Three ways to register:

Visit the Events page at [www.GwinnettH2O.com](http://www.GwinnettH2O.com)  
Send an email with your name, address, and phone number to [DWRWorkshops@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:DWRWorkshops@GwinnettCounty.com)  
Call 678.376.7193