

WINNETT COUNTY Connection

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Gwinnett County Government

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Gwinnett County commissioners set 2019 millage rate

Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners recently approved keeping the 2019 property tax rate at the same level as 2018.

The General Fund millage remains at 7.209 mills. The millage rates for special service districts and countywide levies for voter-approved debt and recreation also remain unchanged from last year, keeping the total rate for property owners in unincorporated Gwinnett County at 13.319 mills.

A mill is one dollar of tax for every \$1,000 of assessed property value. The County's Tax Assessor calculates the total value of all property in the county, called the tax digest, by conducting annual updates of residential and commercial property. The millage only applies to 40 percent of the total valuation of a piece of property. In addition, applying various homestead exemptions will reduce a residential property's tax bill.

Property tax bills also include school taxes, which are usually the larger portion of the total bill. For properties within certain cities, the tax bill may also include city taxes. Property owners can visit the County's website to see the value they receive in County services plus an estimate of County, school, and applicable city taxes. A pie chart shows how the County allocates its portion. Click on **Where Your Property Taxes Go** under the **Your Money** button at www.gwinnettcounty.com.



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

AROUND GWINNETT

Department of Corrections graduates second inmate welding class

The Gwinnett County Department of Corrections held a graduation ceremony for the second class of a vocational welding program designed to equip inmates with an occupational skill to help them land good jobs upon release.

The ceremony recognized the program's 14 graduates. The 16-week program is offered through a partnership between Gwinnett County Department of Corrections, the Georgia Department of Corrections, the Atlanta Regional Commission, and Gwinnett Technical College.

Participants in the program attend the class four days a week for six hours a day after completing their work detail. In class, students receive instruction that emphasizes basic skills, safety and quality workmanship. Upon completion of the course, they'll earn certificates in several welding skills. The program drew the attention of two local newspapers that featured the graduates on the front page.

Responses to census questions are confidential

Did you know that the U.S. Census Bureau is legally required to protect your answers and keep them strictly confidential, even from law enforcement? The law ensures that your private information is never released and that your answers cannot be used against you by any government agency or court. Your answers are used only to produce statistics. You are kept anonymous: The Census Bureau is not permitted to publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you. The Census Bureau uses the latest technology to protect information from hackers. So don't be afraid to fill out your Census questionnaire. It benefits everyone!

Wireless alerts keep residents and visitors safe in an emergency

The Gwinnett County Office of Emergency Management can tap into an existing feature on smartphones that alerts users when an imminent threat to safety occurs in their area. The emergency alerts are sent by the County to all smartphones near an emergency in Gwinnett. Alerts will include the time and type of alert and any action residents and visitors in the affected area should take. The messages will not duplicate AMBER alerts or extreme weather messages from the National Weather Service. To ensure that you receive these lifesaving alerts, make sure the emergency alerts feature is enabled and activated on your smartphone. To find out if your mobile phone is capable of receiving these messages, contact your service provider or visit www.gwinnettema.com.

County offices closed: Labor Day

All Gwinnett County government offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of residents, will be closed Monday, September 2 for Labor Day. All offices will resume regular working hours Tuesday, September 3. A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center. Labor Day is not a trash holiday for residents in unincorporated Gwinnett County.

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

Gwinnett Community Health Fair

September 7 from 10:00am to 1:00pm
Best Friend Park
6224 Jimmy Carter Boulevard, Norcross

Senior Coffee Club

September 13 from 9:30am to 11:00am
Lilburn Activity Building
788 Hillcrest Road, Lilburn

Foot Stompin' Festival

September 21 from 3:00pm to 7:00pm
Lawrenceville Female Seminary
455 South Perry Street, Lawrenceville

Pirate Day Cardboard Boat Race

September 27 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm
Collins Hill Aquatic Center
2200 Collins Hill Road, Lawrenceville

Weekends in the Wild

September 29 from 1:00pm to 5:00pm
Graves Park
1540 Graves Road, Norcross

GWINNETT COUNTY CONNECTION

Send questions or comments to
Shaunika.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.



GwinnettSPLOST.com

Your Pennies
for Transportation

Gwinnett building sidewalk to elementary school in Sugar Hill

To help ensure the safety of youngsters walking to and from school, Gwinnett County is constructing 1,700 feet of sidewalk on Sycamore Road from Sycamore Elementary School to Richland Creek Trail in Sugar Hill. Richland Creek Trail is the entrance to the Richland Creek subdivision.

The sidewalk will run along the west side of Sycamore Road from Richland Creek Trail to Riverside Road. It will then run along the east side of Sycamore Road from Riverside Road to the school. Construction is to cost about \$392,000 and is anticipated to be completed by early 2020.



PUBLIC SAFETY

Records unit opening at three precincts

To make police records more readily available to the public, Gwinnett County Police Department Records Unit staff are now available in the lobbies of the West Precinct, South Precinct, and Central Precinct. Visitors may obtain copies of police reports, accident reports, and criminal histories. People can also start the application process for record restrictions. Previously, members of the community could only retrieve police records in person at Police Headquarters on Hi Hope Road in Lawrenceville or online. Records Unit staff are available weekdays from 8:00am to noon and 1:00pm to 4:00pm at the three locations. North Precinct and East Precinct records offices will open soon. Records are available at Gwinnett County Police Headquarters located at 770 Hi Hope Road in Lawrenceville, West Precinct at 6160 Crescent Drive in Norcross, South Precinct at 2180 Stone Drive in Lilburn, and Central Precinct at 3125 Satellite Boulevard in Duluth.

PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES



Preventing water pollution helps our aquatic neighbors

Gwinnett County is home to beautiful rivers, lakes, and streams. Residents may interact with these waters for recreation, but they are also home to many aquatic animals. A small amount of pollution can have a big impact on our tiny neighbors. That's why it is vital that we do our part to protect the health of these waterways by preventing pollution from entering the stormwater drainage system.

The stormwater system is different than the drinking water and sanitary sewer systems. The water we use to bathe, drink, and clean dishes goes through a filtering process before it reaches our taps. The dirty water from our showers, sinks, and toilets is filtered before it reenters the environment. Stormwater is different. The stormwater system consists only of drains, pipes, and ditches that collect stormwater runoff and direct it into our waterways—unfiltered. If we don't prevent pollutants from being washed away with runoff into storm drains, we can create major health issues in waterways.

Here are a few reminders of what you can do to keep your waterways healthy:

- Never dump anything down storm drains, including yard trimmings
- Check your vehicle for leaks and repair them quickly
- Clean up after your pets
- Avoid overspray of lawn care products onto sidewalks and driveways

The *Gwinnett County Illicit Discharge and Illegal Connection Ordinance* prohibits the discharge of anything other than stormwater into any part of the stormwater drainage system. To report illicit discharges to a storm drain, please call DWR at 678.376.7000.

TAX COMMISSIONER

Property tax bills due October 15

The 2019 Gwinnett County property tax bills were mailed in August and are due October 15. If you have an escrow account, your property tax information is made available to your mortgage company; however, it is your responsibility to ensure taxes are paid. For more information or to learn how to pay online, visit www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com.

CHECK IT OUT

Gwinnett Public Library patrons can check out free Georgia State Park passes

Through a partnership with Georgia State Parks, Gwinnett County Public Library allows patrons to check out free park passes for a week at a time.

GCPL patrons can use passes for most state parks and outdoor recreation areas, including Amicalola Falls, Black Rock Mountain, Cloudland Canyon, Crooked River, Red Top Mountain, and Tallulah Gorge state parks. Normally, park passes are good for a day and cost \$5 to cover parking. Historic sites charge an admission fee. You won't be able to use the pass for some commercially run state parks. Check with your local library branch for details and availability.

Department of Water Resources

2019 September Water Workshops

Septic Tank Maintenance

September 10 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm
Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center,
Conference Room C
75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville

Come to this free workshop to learn how your system works, how to prevent problems, and how to determine when a repair is necessary.

Backyard Stream Restoration

September 21 from 11:00am to 12:30pm
Ronald Reagan Park
2777 Five Forks Trickum Road, Lawrenceville

This free workshop will include a walking tour of Ronald Reagan Park. Learn about streambank stabilization, native plants, Gwinnett Adopt-a-Stream, and more!

Three ways to register:

- Visit the Events page at www.gwinnettH2O.com
- Send an email with your name, address, and phone number to dwrworkshops@gwinnettcounty.com
- Call 678.376.7193