

GWINNETT COUNTY Connection

A monthly publication of
Gwinnett County Government

DECEMBER 2019



Proposed Gwinnett 2020 budget totals \$1.83 billion

Gwinnett Commission Chairman Charlotte Nash presented a proposed \$1.83 billion budget for fiscal year 2020 to the public and the Board of Commissioners during a briefing on November 19. The budget will be adopted at the Board of Commissioners' **January 7, 2020**, meeting.

The proposed budget includes a \$1.43 billion operating budget plus another \$401 million for capital improvements. Residents will have a chance to provide input at a public hearing on **December 12** and online at the County's website through **December 31**.

The budget, less than one percent more than last year's adopted budget, includes a new police Situational Awareness and Crime Response Center, an alternate E911 center, two new medic units, three alternative response vehicles, improvements at Harbins Road and State Road 316, library relocations in Snellville, Norcross and Duluth, and a Gwinnett Entrepreneur Center.

The proposed budget is available at the Department of Financial Services from 8:00am to 5:00pm at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center, 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville and online at GwinnettCounty.com.



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

AROUND GWINNETT

U.S. Census Bureau gearing up for 2020 count

The U.S. Census Bureau will start the process of counting every person living in the United States starting in January with remote locations in Alaska. By April 1, 2020, Census Day, every home will have received an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. You can respond online, by phone, or by mail. Census takers then will begin visiting campuses, senior centers, and other locations. In May, census takers will visit homes that haven't responded, and in December 2020, the bureau will issue a report to Congress and the president.



Drop off your Christmas tree for recycling

Between December 26 and January 20, drop off your live Christmas tree at designated sites as part of the annual Bring One for the Chipper event. On January 25, the trees will be chipped into mulch for use at County parks. Gwinnett County fire stations will accept trees 24/7, and other locations will accept them during regular business hours. Find a list of all drop-off sites or register to volunteer for the January 25 chipping event at Bethesda Park online by visiting GwinnettCB.org.

Gwinnett, GDOT soliciting suggestions for I-85

Gwinnett and Georgia DOT are partnering to conduct a corridor study of I-85 between I-285 and I-985. The study will propose solutions to reduce congestion, enhance traffic operations, and improve safety. Through collaboration with the public a wide range of potential solutions will be identified. This outreach will begin with community events in December and public meetings in January/February 2020. For more information, visit 85study.com.

Gwinnett SenioR Learning Center offers computer course

In-person registration for senior computer classes will be held January 7 and 9, 2020. The Gwinnett SenioR Learning Center's experienced instructors and coaches provide hands-on training for a variety of low-cost basic computer courses. Visit gsrlc.org for online registration starting in early December.

County offices closed for Christmas, New Year's holidays

All Gwinnett County government offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of residents, will be closed December 24 and December 25 for Christmas and reopen December 26. Offices will also be closed January 1 for New Year's Day and reopen January 2. A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center on both holidays.

Christmas and New Year's Day are trash and recycling holidays in unincorporated Gwinnett County this year. Collections will be made the day following these holidays, and subsequent collection during the holiday week will take place on the day after the normal collection day.

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

Walk the Talk

January 11 at 8:00am

Alexander Park

800 Old Snellville Highway, Lawrenceville

Foam Blaster Turf War

January 11 at 5:00pm

Shorty Howell Park Activity Building

2750 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth

History of Moonshine in the South

January 15 at 6:00pm

OneStop Centerville

3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville

Harriet Tubman One Woman Show

January 17 at 10:00am

Bethesda Park Senior Center

225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville

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Send questions or comments to
Shaunika.Taylor@gwinnettcounty.com

Gwinnett County Communications Division
75 Langley Drive • Lawrenceville, GA 30046
770.822.7180 • GwinnettCounty.com

Questions about your water bill?
Call 678.376.6700.



County joins Georgia DOT to fund design of SR 316 interchanges

The Gwinnett Board of Commissioners recently approved an agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation to fund the preliminary design of a grade-separated interchange on State Route 8 over State Route 316.

GDOT will provide nearly \$2 million with Gwinnett County providing an equal amount of matching funds towards the preliminary engineering for the project, which includes interchanges at Hurricane Trail and State Route 8/Winder Highway. The County's portion will come from the 2017 SPLOST program.

Construction is anticipated to begin in 2022. Other related projects include interchanges at Hi-Hope Road and Harbins Road. Construction on the Harbins Road interchange project is expected to be completed in 2022. The Hi-Hope Road interchange is in the preliminary design phase. For more information on Gwinnett County SPLOST projects, please visit GwinnettCounty.com.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Stay safe with holiday shopping tips

The Gwinnett County Police Department's Holiday Task Force will begin increasing police presence at major retail outlets around the county about a week before Thanksgiving through the Christmas holiday.

Please observe the following tips as you and your family shop for gifts this holiday season:

- Do not leave valuables or presents in your vehicle unless they're hidden in a closed compartment like a trunk
- Park in well-lit areas and be aware of your surroundings as you walk to your car
- Do not carry unnecessary credit cards or your social security card in your wallet
- If you carry a purse, cross the strap over your opposite shoulder to keep it secure
- Shop with a friend or family member
- If your credit card is stolen or misplaced, contact your credit card issuer immediately; keep their phone number in your phone
- Compare your receipts to your credit card statements
- Call 911 if you notice suspicious activity or persons

PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES



Adopt-a-Road offers pride, clean roads

The Adopt-a-Road program gives residents the opportunity to show pride and take ownership of roadways in their community through road cleanup efforts.

Communities with litter are more likely to have increased crime, decreased economic growth, and a decline in quality of life. Litter prevention, greater civic involvement, and area beautification help prevent these outcomes.

Sponsored by Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful and the Gwinnett County Department of Transportation, Adopt-a-Road is a National Association of Counties award-winning program that encourages residents to be active in their community and enables them to safely collect trash and illegal signage along county roadways.

The program helps participants earn volunteer hours while cleaning up roadways, meet others in the community, and learn how litter affects our environment. Participation in the program only requires five simple steps:

- Select a road to adopt or have GC&B recommend one
- Review the Official Adopt-a-Road Agreement
- Contact GC&B to confirm participation and road section
- Organize the first of four annual road cleanups to receive FREE cleanup supplies
- Share your results by completing a Post-Cleanup Report

Not only will your hard work be recognized by passersby on your adopted road, but your group will also receive signage from GC&B that displays your group's name as official adopters of your designated roadway. Those interested in the Adopt-a-Road program should visit GwinnettCB.org, click on "Programs," and then "Adopt-a-Road."

TAX COMMISSIONER

Are you 65 as of January 1?

If you are 65 years or older as of January 1 and your taxable income is less than \$94,000, you likely qualify for the Senior School Tax Exemption. Apply now through April 1 online at GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/apply. For assistance, email tax@gwinnettcountry.com or call 770.822.8800.

CHECK IT OUT

GCPL offers after-hours access to branches in Lawrenceville, Suwanee

The Gwinnett County Public Library is the first library system in North America to introduce Open Access, a service that provides self-service access to the library outside of normal operating hours.

The service is currently available at the Lawrenceville and Suwanee branches for registered customers 18 years of age or older. Open Access, developed by Norcross-based Bibliotheca, controls and monitors building access, self-service kiosks, public access computers, lighting, alarms, and patron safety. Security cameras monitor the facility. Customers insert their library card into a reader at the entrance, enter a pin, and enter the library building. Open Access is available from 8:00am to 10:00am before the library opens and from 8:00pm to 10:00pm after the library closes.

For more information about Open Access, call the Library Help Line at 770.978.5154 or visit your local branch.

Department of Water Resources

January Water Workshop
Septic Tank Maintenance
January 9, 2020, from 6:00pm to 7:30pm
Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center,
Conference Room A
75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville 30046

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

Three ways to register:
Visit the Events page at Gwinnett20.com
Send an email with your name, address, and phone number to dwrworkshops@gwinnettcountry.com.
Call 678.376.7193