

GWINNETT COUNTY CONNECTION

A monthly publication of **Gwinnett County** Government

FEBRUARY 2019



Referendum for transit contract set for March 19

Gwinnett County residents will go to the polls March 19 to vote on a contract with MARTA for the provision of expanded transit services.

If the referendum passes, Gwinnett's transit system and services will expand based on Gwinnett's plan and its contract with MARTA. The expansion will be funded through a one-cent sales tax for transit.

The contract provides control to Gwinnett over funds, expenditures, projects, and services. It requires Gwinnett funds to be spent for the benefit of Gwinnett. It sets Gwinnett's transit plan, Connect Gwinnett, as the source of transit projects. It also provides Gwinnett with three seats on the MARTA board.

The transit plan calls for extension of heavy rail to the Jimmy Carter Boulevard area, bus rapid transit routes, more local and express commuter routes, on-demand flex service, plus new buses and new transit centers. It also expands paratransit coverage and extends hours of service.

Through March 11, voters can attend public education sessions on the contract. Visit www.gwinnettcountry.com to learn about locations, dates, and times and more about the contract. For more information about the transit plan, visit www.ConnectGwinnettTransit.com.



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

AROUND GWINNETT

How to vote in the upcoming transit contract referendum

Voters will have multiple opportunities to cast their ballot in the transit contract referendum on March 19. In-person voting at the Main Elections Office on Grayson Highway runs from 7:00am to 7:00pm daily from February 25 to March 15, including Saturdays and Sundays.

From March 4 to March 15, voters can visit one of seven satellite locations around the county from 7:00am to 7:00pm daily, including Saturdays and Sundays. On election day, March 19, voters must go to their assigned polling location. March 15 is the last day to have an absentee mailed to you. February 19 is the last day to register to vote and/or update your registration record in this election.

For more information about satellite locations and absentee voting, visit www.gwinnettelelections.com. To find your assigned polling location or to check the status of your voter registration, visit the Georgia Secretary of State's website at www.mvp.sos.ga.gov or call the Elections Office at 678.226.7210.

Cómo votar en el próximo referéndum sobre el contrato de transporte

Los votantes tendrán múltiples oportunidades para emitir su voto en el referéndum sobre el contrato de transporte el 19 de Marzo. La votación en persona en la Oficina Principal de Elecciones en Grayson Highway funciona desde las 7:00am a 7:00pm todos los días, del 25 de Febrero al 15 de Marzo, esto incluye los Sábados y los Domingos. Desde el 4 de Marzo hasta el 15 de Marzo, los votantes pueden visitar uno de los siete lugares satélite alrededor del condado desde las 7:00am a 7:00pm todos los días, que también incluye los Sábados y los Domingos. El Día de las Elecciones, 19 de Marzo, los votantes deben ir a su lugar de votación asignado. El 15 de Marzo es el último día para que le envíen por correo una boleta de voto ausente. El 19 de Febrero es el último día para inscribirse para votar y/o actualizar su historial de inscripción electoral para ésta elección.

Visite el sitio web en www.gwinnettelelections.com para obtener más información sobre las ubicaciones satélite y votación ausente. Para conocer su lugar de votación asignado o para verificar el estado de su inscripción electoral, visite el sitio web de la Secretaría de Estado de Georgia en www.mvp.sos.ga.gov o llame a la Oficina de Elecciones al 678.226.7210.

Pay your water bill with your smartphone
Visit www.gwinnetth2o.com using your smartphone to easily pay your water bill on the go. Just have your username or water account number and password ready. You can use this convenient service for non-recurring, one-time only payments.

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

Kids Get Out! Kites and Paper Airplanes Edition

March 2 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Rhodes Jordan Park Community Recreation Center
100 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

Mardi Gras Masquerade

March 4 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm

Bethesda Park Senior Center
225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville

Quince Expo

March 10 from 11:00am to 3:00pm

Pinckneyville Park Community Recreation Center
4650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Berkeley Lake

Vegetable Gardening Workshop

March 18 from noon to 1:00pm

Government Annex Building
Second floor Conference Room
750 South Perry Street, Lawrenceville

Diabetes Alert Day

March 26 from 10:00am to 2:00pm

OneStop Centerville
3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville

GWINNETT COUNTY CONNECTION

send questions or comments to
shaunieka.taylor@gwinnettcountry.com

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

Questions about your water bill? Call 678.376.6700.

Commissioners approve contract for Infinite Energy Center

The Board of Commissioners recently approved a \$73 million contract with Holder Construction Group to manage expansion and renovations at the Infinite Energy Center. The project is expected to transform the venue and surrounding area into Gwinnett's downtown and a major entertainment, shopping, and dining center.

Funded by the 2017 SPLOST program, the project will add about 50,000 square feet of exhibit space, almost doubling the existing space and attracting more conventions. The performing arts center and the grand ballroom will be upgraded, and a new entrance wing with more special event and meeting rooms added.

The improvements complement the new privately funded *Revel* mixed-use development and hotel to be built on the site. The entertainment district is being developed separately on the 118-acre site by North American Properties.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Police Crime Prevention Unit helps promote safety, connection with law enforcement

The Gwinnett County Police Department Crime Prevention Unit offers many free crime prevention classes to better educate residents on safety and crime issues.

Crime prevention officers routinely talk with groups of homeowners, parents, employees, associations, and children about crime trends, how to avoid being victimized, and ways residents can reduce crime, such as child safety for parents, basic self-defense for women, workplace violence, and business fraud/loss prevention.

The unit will offer security recommendations for businesses and homes. The Crime Prevention team also manages programs like the Citizens Police Academy, Community Oriented Policing, or C.O.P.S. Program and Business Watch. Crime Prevention officers also work with other police personnel on special programs and to address community concerns. For more information, call 770.513.5119 or email Cpl. Eric Rooks at william.rooks@gwinnettcountry.com.

PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES



Caring for your septic system is smart financially, environmentally

An estimated 90,000 businesses and homes are not connected to the public sewer system in Gwinnett County. These property owners use septic systems to treat their wastewater. If you own a septic tank, proper care of your system can help the environment and save you money.

The two main components of a septic system are the septic tank and the drain field. The septic tank houses wastewater and gives time for the heavy solids to settle on the bottom of the tank. As more water enters the tank on one end, it pushes wastewater out the other end into underground perforated pipes called the drain field. As wastewater seeps into the ground, natural bacteria in the soil filter contaminants from the wastewater.

Septic system failures can not only be costly, but can also lead to water pollution in Gwinnett's rivers, lakes, and streams. A pungent odor from your yard or standing water on the lawn could signal a septic system problem. System failures are usually due to age or a lapse in maintenance, resulting in a clog in the tank or the drain field. Consequently, wastewater can back up into your yard or inside your home. An overflow can expose your family to potentially harmful contaminants.

Follow these steps to ensure a functioning septic system:

- Pump out the septic tank every 3 to 5 years
- Be mindful of what you flush; toilets are not trash cans
- Practice water conservation to reduce wastewater load
- Use cleaning materials and chemicals as instructed

For more information about septic tanks maintenance and how to find a good septic tank installer or pumper, visit www.gwinnetth2o.com, then Stormwater Management, and then Septic Tank Maintenance Information.

TAX COMMISSIONER

Senior Perks – Exemptions & Emissions

Residents 65 years or older as of January 1 with Georgia taxable income below \$93,664 might qualify for the Senior School Tax Homestead Exemption. An emissions waiver is available for seniors 65+ whose vehicles are at least 10 years old and driven less than 5,000 miles per year. Visit www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Seniors to check eligibility and to apply.

CHECK IT OUT

Gwinnett County Public Library celebrates Black History Month with multiple programs

The Gwinnett County Public Library is highlighting the accomplishments and contributions of African-American people and culture during Black History Month with programs throughout February.

Programs include an exhibit chronicling the history of African-American voting rights plus a screening and discussion about the film, "I Know a Man...Ashley Bryan." Bryan was a recipient of the Coretta Scott King Lifetime Achievement Award. Other programs feature an African-American genealogy workshop, African fairy tales, and culture crafts. No registration is necessary. To learn more, visit the GCPL website events calendar at www.gwinnettpl.org.

Department of Water Resources 2019 March Water Workshops

Fix-A-Leak

March 14 • 1:00pm – 2:30pm
Suwanee branch of Gwinnett County Public Library
361 Main Street, Suwanee

March 19 • 6:00pm – 7:30pm
Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center,
Conference Room C
75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville

Learn how to test your home for leaks,
how to find them, and how to do the
repairs yourself!

Three ways to register:
Visit the Events page at www.gwinnetth2o.com
Send an email with your name, address,
and phone number to
dwrworkshops@gwinnettcountry.com
Call 678.376.7193