

GWINNETT COUNTY CONNECTION

A monthly publication of **Gwinnett County** Government

MAY 2019



Gwinnett launches Facebook, Twitter pages

Gwinnett County Government recently expanded its social media presence, adding several Facebook and Twitter accounts to better inform the public about events, news, tips, and other important things to know.

In this latest launch, Gwinnett County Government established pages on Twitter and Facebook (@GwinnettGov), Police has added a Facebook page (@GwinnettPD), and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services has created new Twitter and Facebook accounts (@GwinnettFire).

In addition to social media pages established by the offices of the Sheriff, District Attorney, and Tax Commissioner, Gwinnett County's previous social media presence consisted of a Twitter page for the Gwinnett Police Department (also @GwinnettPD), a Facebook page for the Gwinnett Animal Shelter (@GwinnettAnimalShelter), and Gwinnett Transit on Facebook (@GwinnettCountyTransit) and Twitter (@GCTransit).

"Being on Facebook and Twitter enables us to reach people who might otherwise not see information that could affect them in real ways," said Joe Sorenson, County communications director. "It opens up opportunities to tell people about fun activities, valuable services, helpful programs, and how to respond in an emergency. Social media will serve to keep us all vibrantly connected."

Like and follow Gwinnett County Government's Facebook and Twitter pages to stay on top of what's happening in your county.



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

AROUND GWINNETT

Burn ban in Gwinnett through September 30

The state Environmental Protection Division is imposing a burn ban for metro Atlanta that includes Gwinnett County from **May 1 to September 30**. In the summer, outdoor burning causes ozone in the air to reach unhealthy levels. All types of outdoor or open burning are prohibited, including burning trees, limbs, and yard waste, as well as the use of air curtain destructors. Call 678.518.4980 or visit www.gwinnettfiremarshal.com for more information.

Gwinnett offers summer meals for kids, teens

Gwinnett children 18 and younger can receive free lunches and afternoon snacks at three County parks from **June 3 to August 2**, Monday through Friday. While supplies last, lunches will be served from **11:30am to 12:30pm** and snacks will be available from **2:30pm to 3:00pm**. No lunches or snacks will be offered from July 1 to July 5. The meals and snacks will be provided at Best Friend Park, 6224 Jimmy Carter Boulevard in Norcross; Rhodes Jordan Park, 100 East Crogan Street in Lawrenceville; and at the Lilburn Activity Building, 788 Hillcrest Road in Lilburn.

Help prevent underage drinking

Adults who buy, supply, or provide alcohol to minors may be fined \$1,000, sentenced to a year in jail, or sued for damages. When teens drink, it can lead to accidents, DUIs, fatalities, lower school performance, and decreased athletic performance. For more information, visit GUIDE Inc., a nonprofit organization focused on substance abuse and positive youth development, at www.guideinc.org.



Sheriff's Office hosts Jail Break Challenge

The Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office will host its annual Jail Break Challenge Saturday, **June 8 at 8:00am** at the Gwinnett County Jail's obstacle course, located at **750 Hi-Hope Road in Lawrenceville**. This 5K course leads runners around the jail campus where they will encounter all levels of terrain and extreme obstacles. Proceeds support the Sheriff's Office's teen mentoring programs. Space is limited, so register soon at www.active.com. For more information, please visit www.jailbreakchallenge.org.

Pay your water bill with your smartphone
Visit www.gwinnetth2o.com on 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 residents. See these and more at www.gwinnettcountryevents.com.

Kids' Fishing Day | FREE!

June 1 • 9:00am – 1:00pm

Jones Bridge Park

4901 East Jones Bridge Road, Peachtree Corners

Family Night Swim

June 7 • 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Rhodes Jordan Park

100 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

Foam Blaster Combat

June 14 • 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Dacula Park

205 Dacula Road, Dacula

Stargazing

June 22 • 9:30pm – 11:00pm

Tribble Mill Park Azora Meadows

2125 Tribble Mill Parkway

Lawrenceville

Life-size Game Night

June 29 • 6:30pm – 8:30pm

West Gwinnett Park Aquatic Center

4488 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard,

Norcross

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send questions or comments to

Shaunika.Taylor@gwinnettcountry.com

Gwinnett County Communications Division

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Questions about your water bill? Call 678.376.6700.



GwinnettSPLOST.com

Your Pennies
for Transportation

Gwinnett adding bridge improvements at Dacula Road

Gwinnett commissioners recently approved \$9.5 million in improvements at Dacula Road at State Road 8/Winder Highway, including an upgrade to the bridge and the addition of turn lanes.

The project, which will also involve installing a new water main and a section of sanitary sewer, will build a new five-lane bridge on Dacula Road near the intersection of Winder Highway to replace the existing two-lane bridge over the rail line. The mile-long project also will realign the intersection to improve the current uneven approaches.

Winder Highway will be widened to three lanes from east of Murray Avenue to Franklin Drive. Dacula Road will be widened from Pharr Avenue northward to Broad Street.

The project includes curb and gutter, sidewalk, and up-graded traffic signalization. This contract is funded by the 2014 and 2009 SPLOST programs and the Department of Water Resources.

PUBLIC SAFETY



Be prepared for severe weather

Severe storms have the potential to destroy property and cause fatalities, making it important for Gwinnett County residents to be prepared.

Check out these tips for staying safe during a severe storm:

- Keep insurance documents along with valuable items in a safe deposit box
- If you encounter flooded roads, turn around. Don't drown!
- Assemble a disaster supplies kit with prescription medications, food, and water
- Monitor local media for weather-related information
- Stay in touch with relatives and friends by making a keep-in-touch arrangement

PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES



Community garden models water stewardship

The volunteers at Lanier Community Garden, located at the Department of Water Resources' Lanier Filter Plant, model the smart way to conserve water.

Residents can rent a plot to grow vegetables, herbs, berries, and flowers. The gardeners strive to protect our shared drinking water supply by using water wisely. Gardeners have access to water hoses and are encouraged to hand water their plots for maximum effect. Those who choose to use sprinklers must be present to make certain water isn't wasted due to overspray off the plot. The garden has nine watering stations with multiple faucets and hoses.

Members of the all-volunteer organization also use mulch to ensure the hot summer days don't dry out the soil, which reduces the amount of water necessary to grow a summer bounty. Finally, watering early in the morning — when leaves are still wet — greatly reduces the amount of water lost to evaporation and reduces the risks of fungal disease.

Established in 2009, the garden has grown from 40 to 79 plots. It offers 26 organic plots and 53 traditional plots. People who choose to use chemicals must be knowledgeable of how they apply them. The covenants for the garden require chemical applications to be done during dry weather and with low wind. These measures prevent unintentional chemical exposure to other plots and the environment.

These same concepts can apply to home gardens and yards. The entire community benefits when each person does their part to conserve water.

For more information about the Lanier Community Garden which is located two miles north of downtown Buford, visit www.laniercommunitygarden.org.

TAX COMMISSIONER

Tag and title services interrupted May 21 through May 29

Tag and title services will be interrupted while a new state motor vehicle system is installed. From May 21 to 29, tag renewals are unavailable via online or at kiosks; from May 23 to 27, tag and title services are unavailable at tag offices and by mail. If your birthday falls within those dates, please renew by May 20. Renewals can be done online at www.gwinnetttaxcommissioner.com/renew.

CHECK IT OUT

Libraries offer help in mastering English

The Gwinnett County Public Library offers two free programs for helping people with their conversational English skills: Let's Talk and English in Your Language. Both programs are an excellent way to practice speaking English while making friends along the way.

English in Your Language is intended for residents who want to enhance their conversational skills in English but prefer help from library staff who speak their native language. We currently offer sessions in Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Korean, and Japanese.

Let's Talk is aimed at assisting members of the community with more advanced English to engage in conversation with fellow English learners. This program is held only in English, and everyone is invited to join and practice speaking English together. For more details on both programs, please contact us at our website at www.gwinnettpl.org or call our customer contact center at 770.978.5154.

Department of Water Resources

2019 June Water Workshop

Water Wise Landscaping Workshop

June 13, 2019 • 6:00pm – 7:30pm

OneStop Buford

2755 Sawnee Avenue, Buford

Learn how to create and sustain a water-efficient landscape to save money and time on maintenance.

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