

# GWINNETT COUNTY Connection

A monthly publication of  
Gwinnett County Government

## FEBRUARY 2020

### Check that your voter registration is up to date

It's election season, so make sure your voter registration is current, and mark your calendar for the upcoming elections:

Presidential Preference Primary: March 24  
General Primary/Nonpartisan Election: May 19  
General Primary/Nonpartisan Election Runoff: July 21  
General Election: November 3  
State General Election Runoff: December 1  
Federal General Election Runoff: January 5

February 24 is the registration deadline for the March Presidential Preference Primary. Visit [mvp.sos.ga.gov](http://mvp.sos.ga.gov) to check your status, register online, locate your polling place, and view sample ballots. Visit [GwinnettElections.com](http://GwinnettElections.com) for advance and absentee voting information.

### Asegúrese de que su inscripción de votante esté actualizada

Es temporada de elecciones, así que asegúrese de que su inscripción de votante esté actualizada y marque su calendario para las próximas elecciones:

Primaria de Preferencia Presidencial: Marzo 24  
Primaria General/Elección No Partidista: Mayo 19  
Desempate de Primaria General/Elección  
No Partidista: Julio 21  
Elección General: Noviembre 3  
Desempate De Elección General Estatal: Diciembre 1  
Desempate De Elección General Federal: Enero 5

El **24 de Febrero** es la fecha límite de inscripción para la Primaria de Preferencia Presidencial de Marzo. Visite [mvp.sos.ga.gov](http://mvp.sos.ga.gov) para verificar su estado, inscripción en línea, ubicar su centro de votación, y ver boletas de muestra. Visite [GwinnettElections.com](http://GwinnettElections.com) para obtener información sobre votación adelantada y ausente.



Gwinnett County Connection  
en español | 한국어 버전  
[www.gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com)

## AROUND GWINNETT

### Census questionnaires coming soon

In mid-March, the Census Bureau will send questionnaires to homes around the country. Completing the census is easy, important, and safe. The 2020 Census is the first time people can fill out their census online on mobile devices, or desktop computers. Public libraries in Gwinnett offer free Wi-Fi and free computer access. You can also respond by phone or by mail.

Census counts shape legislative and congressional districts, determine how federal and state resources are distributed (more people means more resources and services), and influence critical policy decisions.

Also, it is illegal for anyone to share your personal information disclosed in the census. Your information can only be used for statistics.

### Gwinnett 101 Citizens Academy accepting applications

Learn about how and why Gwinnett County Government does what it does by attending the Gwinnett 101 Citizens Academy, a 12-week program that gives participants a behind-the-scenes look at County operations and policies. Participants meet one evening a week with County leaders and visit County facilities. To apply for the spring session, visit [Gwinnett101.com](http://Gwinnett101.com) by **March 1**. Classes start April 9. The Gwinnett Youth Commission, an eight-week summer leadership program for high school students, is accepting applications through **April 6**.

### Household Hazardous Waste event set for February 29

Leap into spring and get rid of your pesticides, cleaners, and other toxic products by taking them to the Household Hazardous Waste disposal event **February 29** from 8:00am to noon at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds. For information on quantities and items accepted, visit [GwinnettCB.org](http://GwinnettCB.org). Register to volunteer to help unload vehicles at [VolunteerGwinnett.net](http://VolunteerGwinnett.net).

### Changes are coming to your water bill

Beginning in Mid-March, your water bill will have a new look! The colorful new design is easier to read, with important notices listed at the top of the bill and your usage over the past 12 months shown graphically. Your charges and balance are easy to locate and understand. The *Gwinnett County Connection* newsletter will also be sporting a new design soon. Stay tuned!

**Pay your water bill with your smartphone**  
Visit [Gwinnett2o.com](http://Gwinnett2o.com) using your smartphone to easily pay your water bill on the go. Just have your username or water account number and password.

Gwinnett County Government hosts many events, classes, and workshops for its residents. See these and more at [GwinnettCountyEvents.com](http://GwinnettCountyEvents.com).

#### Retro Game Night

March 10 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm  
Norcross Senior Center  
5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross

#### Shamrocks and Shenanigans

March 17 from 3:30pm to 4:30pm  
OneStop Buford  
2755 Sawnee Avenue, Buford

#### Seek and Find

March 20 from 6:30pm to 9:00pm  
Rhodes Jordan Park Community Recreation Center  
100 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

#### Family Game Night

March 27 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm  
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse  
185 Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

#### Weekends in the Wild

March 28 from 9:00am to noon  
DeShong Park  
2859 North DeShong Road, Stone Mountain

#### Breakfast and Baskets

March 28 from 9:30am to 11:30am  
Prime Timers Pointe at George Pierce Park  
55 Buford Highway, Suwanee

## 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 • [GwinnettCounty.com](http://GwinnettCounty.com)

Questions about your water bill?  
Call 678.376.6700.



GwinnettSPLOST.com

Your Pennies  
at Work

## Gwinnett helping pay for pedestrian bridge over the Chattahoochee River

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners recently agreed to help pay for the replacement of the existing span with a new bridge over the Chattahoochee River. The bridge will provide bicycle and pedestrian access to the parks and trails in Duluth and Johns Creek.

Gwinnett County, Fulton County, and the cities of Duluth and Johns Creek each agreed to contribute an estimated \$350,000 to meet matching requirements from the Georgia Department of Transportation and the Atlanta Regional Commission. Construction, which is being managed by Duluth, is anticipated to begin by the end of 2020 and completed in the middle of 2022.

Gwinnett County's portion of the funding comes from the 2014 SPLOST. For more information on Gwinnett County transportation projects, please visit [GwinnettCounty.com](http://GwinnettCounty.com).

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Prevent carbon monoxide poisoning at home

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas that can make you sick or kill you before you know it.

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are often mistaken for the flu, including headache, nausea, confusion, dizzy spells, and fatigue. If you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning, go outside immediately and seek medical attention. Call 911 to report a carbon monoxide leak as well as any exposure symptoms.

Here are some tips to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning in your home:

- Have all home heating appliances installed according to the manufacturer's instructions and inspected each year by a certified technician
- Install a carbon monoxide detector in the hallway near the bedrooms and on every level of the home
- Never use fuel-burning camping equipment or gasoline-powered tools and engines, such as generators, inside a structure or tent
- Don't warm your vehicle in the garage

## PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES



### Pick it up and protect the water!

Cleaning up after your pet can have a major impact on the health of Gwinnett's waterways. Pet waste is a contributor to the main type of water pollution in Gwinnett.

When pet owners don't clean up after their pets, stormwater runoff can pick up particles from the waste and wash them into storm drains or directly into streams, ponds, rivers, and lakes. A few small particles might not seem like much, but the cumulative effect of a neighborhood's pet waste washing into the storm drains during a rainstorm can be significant. Gwinnett Animal Welfare and Enforcement estimates about 100,000 households in Gwinnett own at least one dog. Storm drains have no filters, and they lead directly to our natural waterways. This means that pet waste is ending up in the same places where we swim, fish, play, and go boating.

Pet waste contains fecal coliform bacteria, which indicates the potential presence of other, more harmful bacteria. People who interact with waterways affected by fecal coliform can be exposed to diseases present in pet waste. Also, as pet waste decomposes in water, it can deplete the oxygen level or increase the ammonia level of the water, which can harm fish and other aquatic life.

So remember, pick it up at the park, on your walk, and in the backyard! It goes a long way toward helping Gwinnett maintain healthy waterways and a clean environment. For more information on stormwater and preventing pollution in Gwinnett, visit [Gwinnett2o.com](http://Gwinnett2o.com).

## TAX COMMISSIONER

### Reduce your tax bill – apply for homestead exemptions!

The best way to reduce your property tax bill is to apply for homestead exemptions. You must own and occupy the home as of January 1 of the application year. Please visit [GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Exemptions](http://GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Exemptions) to check eligibility and apply. April 1 is the deadline for people to apply for all exemptions.

## CHECK IT OUT

### Gwinnett libraries emulate bookstores to be more user-friendly

The old Dewey Decimal System has gone the way of the dodo at the Gwinnett County Public Library.

GCPL replaced the old, complicated method of finding books with a new bookshelf classification model. Early in January, library staff spent three days reorganizing and relabeling half a million books for the transition. The new system of organization, known as BISAC, follows a bookstore model where books are categorized by major topic using headings and subheadings as needed.

With everything categorized using words instead of numbers, browsing and finding materials will be a more intuitive experience. GCPL is one of only a handful of library systems in the country to adopt this user-friendly classification model, so stop by one of Gwinnett County Library's 15 branches and try it out.

### 2020 March Water Workshops

Fix-A-Leak

March 12 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm  
Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center  
Conference Room C

75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville

March 14 from 11:00am to 12:30pm  
Collins Hill Library  
455 Camp Perrin Road, 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 Get Involved page at [Gwinnett2o.com](http://Gwinnett2o.com)  
Send an email with your name, address, and phone number to [DWRWorkshops@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:DWRWorkshops@gwinnettcounty.com)  
Call 678.376.7193