

# WINNETT COUNTY Connection

A monthly publication of  
Gwinnett County Government

JANUARY 2020



## Bay Creek Police Precinct and Alternate 911 Center open in southeast Gwinnett

The Gwinnett County Police Department recently opened the new Bay Creek Police Precinct and Alternate 911 Center.

Located in unincorporated Loganville, the 12,117-square-foot precinct will dramatically increase the police presence in the growing southeastern part of the county, reduce response times to calls in the area, and enhance many community relations initiatives.

The facility features offices for command staff, a fitness center and locker rooms, and evidence storage space. It will also offer services such as access to reports and a community meeting room. Police services for the area have previously been split between two other precincts.

The alternate 911 center will provide reliable communication with officers and other agencies during critical incidents, such as severe weather, when communications might be compromised.

The \$15 million project was funded by the 2009, 2014, and 2017 SPLOST programs.

## AROUND WINNETT

### Get ready for the 2020 Census this spring

By April 1, 2020, Census Day, every home will have received an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. The census will provide essential data for future legislative districts, allocation of government and education resources, business strategies, and many other significant decisions. It is imperative that all Gwinnett residents participate. Parents should be sure their children are counted, and college students should be counted according to their residence as of **April 1**. By law, census data is confidential and can only be used for data purposes.



Follow us @GwinnettGov!

### Gwinnett launches Instagram

To broaden its social media connection with residents and businesses, Gwinnett County has now launched an Instagram account to complement its Facebook page and Twitter feed. Enjoy great photos and videos of what's happening around your county. Follow the County social media accounts @GwinnettGov.

### Extension Office annual plant sale features fruits, landscaping

The UGA Extension Gwinnett office is offering blueberries, blackberries, raspberries, figs, apples, pomegranate, muscadines, and landscape plants in its annual sale. Order your plants by March 6 in person or by mail at the Extension Office in Lawrenceville. Pick up your prepaid order on **March 19** at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds in Lawrenceville. No orders are shipped. For order forms and plant sale information, visit [GwinnettExtension.com](http://GwinnettExtension.com), or call 678.377.4010 to request a form.

### Celebrate Valentine's Day with wedding ceremonies

Chief Magistrate Kristina Hammer Blum and Probate Court Judge Christopher Ballar will perform Valentine's Day wedding ceremonies **February 14** from 10:00am to 3:30pm at the historic Isaac Adair House in Lawrenceville. Couples getting married must have a valid marriage license with them on **February 14**. Contact Probate Court at 770.822.8350 for information about obtaining a marriage license. Couples renewing their wedding vows do not need to bring a copy of their license. To make a reservation, please call 770.822.8081.

### County offices closed for MLK and Presidents Day holidays

All Gwinnett County government offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of residents, will be closed January 20 for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Offices will reopen January 21. Offices also will be closed February 17 for Presidents Day and will reopen February 18. A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center on both holidays.

Explore Gwinnett is Gwinnett's official tourism agency and promotes Gwinnett as a place to meet, stay, and play.

View the complete events calendar at  
[ExploreGwinnett.org](http://ExploreGwinnett.org).

### Awakening: The Evolution of an Artist Exhibition

January 1 through February 1  
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays  
from 10:00am to 5:00pm  
Thursdays from 10:00am to 8:00pm  
The Hudgens Center of Art and Learning  
6400 Sugarloaf Parkway, Building 300, Duluth

#### Andrea Bocelli

February 13 at 7:30pm  
Infinite Energy Center Arena  
6400 Sugarloaf Parkway, Duluth

### Romantic Comedy with Jeff Dauler

February 15 at 7:15pm and 9:15pm  
Aurora Theatre  
128 East Pike Street, Lawrenceville

### Burgers and Brews Week

March 15 through 21  
Various Gwinnett County restaurants



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

## WINNETT COUNTY CONNECTION

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Questions about your water bill?  
Call 678.376.6700.



### Duluth Library relocation project begins

Construction will soon begin relocating and expanding the Gwinnett County Public Library branch in downtown Duluth. Gwinnett County and the city of Duluth are partnering on the \$5 million project. Construction is estimated to take about 12 months. The County is paying for design and construction of the facility with revenue from the 2014 and 2016 SPLOST programs.

The library branch is moving from its current location to Main Street where it will have access to Buford Highway. The city of Duluth provided 1.9 acres of land while the County added about half an acre. The single-story, 22,000-square-foot space will be twice the size of the existing branch. The new facility will feature adult, teen, and children's areas, a meeting room, and study rooms.

## PUBLIC SAFETY



### Make an emergency kit for your vehicle

January and February are peak months for snow and ice storms. In a worst-case scenario, you could be trapped in your vehicle for an extended time period. Take a few steps to prepare for a winter emergency in your vehicle:

- Winterize your vehicle and keep your gas tank at least half-full to prevent your fuel line from freezing
- Stock an emergency kit with food and bottled water, a portable cell phone charger, ice scraper, flashlight and batteries, first aid kit, blankets, jumper cables, and sand or cat litter for traction
- If you do get stuck on the road, remain in your vehicle where rescuers are most likely to find you
- Avoid going out on foot unless you can find a safe place to take shelter
- Avoid idling for a long time with windows up or in an enclosed space
- Carry a phone charger in your car

## PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES



### Old Norcross Road culvert project highlights the value of stormwater utility fee

An aging stacked-stone bridge on Old Norcross Road near Norcross flooded in heavy rains and lacked shoulders and guardrails. During a three-month project in 2019, the Department of Water Resources rebuilt the structure, adding six box culverts to handle the water flow from a tributary to Bromolow Creek, and adding shoulders and guardrails for safety.

The \$1 million project was made possible by an annual stormwater utility fee, which is based on each property's area of impervious surface and covers the cost of stormwater projects and initiatives. In Gwinnett County, stormwater utility fees are used to inspect, replace, and upgrade the stormwater drainage system, as well as to help reduce flooding, fulfill regulatory requirements, and reduce pollution carried to waterways by runoff.

In Gwinnett, stormwater utility fees helped pay for about \$29 million in critical stormwater infrastructure improvements in 2019 throughout the county. Since its inception in 2006, the stormwater utility fee has enabled DWR professionals to better protect water quality, maintain vital stormwater infrastructure, and design solutions for stormwater management to provide the highest level of service to the community. The program helps DWR complete more than 200 repair, maintenance, and replacement projects a year, including about 10 major projects like the one at Old Norcross Road, plus many other stormwater-related services.

If you have a stormwater question or concern, please contact DWR Dispatch at 678.376.7000 or visit [Gwinnetth2o.com](http://Gwinnetth2o.com).

## TAX COMMISSIONER

### Emissions required for 1996 – 2017 model years

For 2020, all gasoline-powered and light-duty trucks 8,500 pounds or less with the model years 1996 through 2017 require an emissions test to register and renew. For testing locations, senior exemptions, and other information, visit [CleanAirForce.com](http://CleanAirForce.com). Once your vehicle has been tested, renew online at [GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com](http://GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com).

## CHECK IT OUT

### Gwinnett County Public Library can help you keep your New Year's Resolution

Every January, we all resolve to do better. Stop by the Gwinnett County Public Library to keep your New Year's resolutions all year long. GCPL has a busy calendar of events planned every month. From sewing to starting a new business, we have something for everyone. Whether in the pages of a book or from a class instructor, the library has all of the help, ideas, and inspiration you need to stick with your New Year's resolution.

**Department of Water Resources**  
 2020 February Water Workshops  
**Rain Barrels – Make and Take\***  
 February 8 from 1:00pm to 2:30pm  
 Grayson Senior Center  
 485 Grayson Parkway, Grayson  
 Learn how to collect and store rainwater in a rain barrel for use in your landscape. \$30 pre-payment is required to take home your new rain barrel.  
*\*This workshop is outdoors. Check for weather-related schedule changes by visiting the Events page on [Gwinnetth2o.com](http://Gwinnetth2o.com).*

**Detention Pond Maintenance**  
 February 13 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm  
 OneStop Norcross  
 5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross  
 Learn about the purpose, function, and aesthetic value of your detention pond in addition to troubleshooting tips.  
 Three ways to register:  
 Visit the Events page at [Gwinnetth2o.com](http://Gwinnetth2o.com)  
 Send an email with your name, address, and phone number to [dwrworkshops@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:dwrworkshops@gwinnettcountry.com)  
 Call 678.376.7193