

GWINNETT
COUNTY

JULY
2020

Connection

**A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
GWINNETT COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

Gwinnett offering federal loans/grants to businesses affected by COVID-19

Gwinnett County is offering \$20 million in federal CARES Act loans and grants for local for-profit businesses hurt during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Grants are capped at \$75,000 and can be used for payroll, rent, mortgage interest, utilities, inventory, equipment, or other COVID-19 response needs. The \$10 million in grant funding targets small businesses that cannot access capital.

The Small Business Assistance Program's \$10 million loan initiative offers loans between \$50,000 and \$200,000 with the first nine months of principal and interest payments waived to help businesses with such needs as deep cleaning facilities, inventory, marketing, and/or paying staff.

To learn more and apply, visit GwinnettCounty.com.



AROUND GWINNETT

United States® Census 2020

Fill out the census before census-takers come to your house

Participating in the census is required by law for everyone living in the United States, but that's not the only reason to make sure you count! Each Georgian who participated in the 2010 Census effectively brought \$1,639.10 in federal funding to the state, which funds important programs like Medicaid, SNAP, highway planning and construction, and the National School Lunch Program. Census data also determines our community's representation in government. Beginning August 11, census takers will visit homes that haven't yet responded. You can avoid the knock on your door by completing the questionnaire the before census takers head out.

Superior, State courts now accepting e-filing in criminal cases

The Gwinnett County Clerk of Superior and State Courts now allows attorneys and self-represented parties to file pleadings, appeals, and other documents in criminal cases online. E-filing was mandated in Superior Court and State Court Civil Divisions in January 2019. Online filing allows for social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic, is more convenient and efficient, and saves taxpayer dollars. For frequently asked questions, filing instructions, and training, visit odysseyefilega.com. The clerk's staff can provide assistance at the courthouse.

Water Resources' Consumer Confidence Report now available

The annual Consumer Confidence Report containing important information about the quality of your drinking water is now available. The report details results of state and federally mandated tests for various contaminants. In 2019, there were no EPA Safe Drinking Water Act violations to report. View the report and learn more about your drinking water at GwinnettWaterWords.com.



PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Use smart outdoor watering to save money, water resources

On average, Americans use enough water to fill 27 swimming pools per year. In the summer, that usually involves lots of outdoor watering. Efficient water use will save money, keep your landscape healthy, and conserve a limited supply of water.

All water used in Gwinnett is drawn from Lake Lanier. As the Gwinnett population grows, we all must do our part to conserve our water resources.

Here are a few tips to help you conserve water outdoors:

- Use shower warmup water for irrigating plants
- Use native, drought-tolerant plants
- Group plants with high water demands together
- Use a rain gauge to measure rainfall – an inch per week is all that is needed for most plants
- Install mulch to maintain moisture around your plants
- Use a rain barrel for irrigating your landscape

Regularly check your sprinkler systems for leaks. An underground irrigation system can waste thousands of gallons of water in a month. A weak spray or saturated ground can signal a leak.

Do your part and help Gwinnett conserve water. For more information, visit DWRconserve.com.

WATER TIPS

LEARN ABOUT WATER QUALITY AT GWINNETTH2O.COM

The Water Resources website is a great place to learn about ways to protect water quality in Gwinnett, conserve water at home, and prevent troublesome clogs in your plumbing. Go to Gwinnetth2o.com and click 'Get Educated' to find tips on leak detection, septic systems, fats, oil, and grease clogs, and more!

PUBLIC SAFETY

Watch out for rabies this summer

Summertime is rabies season, so people should use caution around wild animals or animals acting oddly.

Primary carriers of rabies are bats, raccoons, skunks, bobcats, and foxes, although domestic pets can be infected as well. All pets, including indoor pets, should be current on their rabies vaccination as required by Gwinnett County ordinance. Experts say unvaccinated animals exposed to rabies should be euthanized immediately or strictly quarantined for six months and vaccinated a month before being released. Through mid-June, there had been five rabies cases in Gwinnett, and five cases in 2019, all involving foxes and raccoons.

People should take any bites by wild or unfamiliar animals seriously and seek immediate treatment; without treatment, rabies is nearly always fatal to humans. Animal bites should be reported to 770.339.4260. For information, please visit GwinnettAnimalWelfare.com.

TAX COMMISSIONER

Property tax bills and due date delayed a month

Because of COVID-19, the 2020 Gwinnett County property tax bills are expected to be mailed in September and are now due in November, a month later than normal. If your home was sold this year, both the **January 1** owner and the new owners will receive a bill. The **January 1** owner is responsible to pay the entire year's taxes, unless the Tax Commissioner's office receives acceptable proof that the buyer assumed the future liability of taxes – which is different than the proration of taxes on the closing statement. Learn more at GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/sold.



SPLIST

Improvements coming to George Pierce Park

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners recently approved \$2.55 million in improvements to George Pierce Park, including a playground with features for children with disabilities.

Many of the improvements are occurring on the eastern-most part of the park near the adult softball fields. The County is adding restrooms, a playground, and a wheelchair-accessible woodland trail loop extending up a wood-ed stream valley with boardwalks and bridges. The plan also calls for maintenance to the existing picnic pavilion.

The playground includes a house-play area, ADA-accessible swings, a merry-go-round, and a wheelchair-accessible sidewalk leading above the playground to a bridge to the top of the playground tower that allows kids to gaze down at the playground. It also has slides from the tower to the playground.

The project is being funded by SPLIST. Construction is expected to finish in the summer of 2021.

CHECK IT OUT

Gwinnett Public Library and partner to offer free eye exams

Gwinnett County Public Library and Vision to Learn have partnered to provide free eye exams and eyeglasses to Gwinnett County students in July and August. Vision to Learn is a nonprofit that provides free eye screenings, eye exams, and glasses for school-age youth living in low-income communities in 13 states and more than 400 cities. GCPL will host eye screenings and exams at select library locations across the county between 9:30am to 3:30pm. Registration is required. Screening locations, dates, and registration forms can be found at GwinnettPL.org.



SERVING GWINNETT

Gwinnett seeking poll workers for August runoff

Gwinnett County residents who want to be actively involved in the electoral process and to give back to the community are urged to apply to be poll officials in the August 11 runoff election and future elections.

The Gwinnett County Voter Registrations and Elections Division is looking for citizens of all backgrounds, especially bilingual Spanish speakers. It's a great opportunity to see how elections work, gain valuable work experience, and earn up to \$300 per day.

Interested citizens are encouraged to apply at GwinnettCountyJobs.com.

Gwinnett busca trabajadores electorales para la segunda vuelta de Agosto

Se insta a los residentes del Condado de Gwinnett que quieran participar activamente en el proceso electoral y retribuir a la comunidad a aplicar para ser trabajadores electorales para las próximas elecciones de segunda vuelta el 11 de Agosto y en las elecciones futuras.

La División de Inscripción de Electores y Elecciones del Condado de Gwinnett está buscando ciudadanos de todos los orígenes, especialmente personas bilingües de habla hispana. Es una gran oportunidad para observar cómo funcionan las elecciones, obtener una valiosa experiencia laboral y ganar hasta \$300 por día.

Se anima a los ciudadanos interesados a aplicar en GwinnettCountyJobs.com.

GWINNETT COUNTY CONNECTION

The new *Gwinnett County Connection* and water bill designs are here! We hope you enjoy the new look and feel, and we look forward to keeping you connected to all things Gwinnett County.

ESCANEE PARA LEER EN ESPAÑOL
한국어 버전은 QR 코드를 스캔해 주세요



Gwinnett County Connection questions/comments:
info@gwinnettcountry.com | 770.822.7180

Water bill questions: 678.376.6700