

GWINNETT  
COUNTY

JUNE  
2020

# Connection

**A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF  
GWINNETT COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

## Gwinnett County, library system, GCPS provide summer meals for kids

Gwinnett County, Gwinnett County Public Schools, and Gwinnett County Public Library are collaborating to provide summer meals for youngsters needing food during the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the library branches, Gwinnett now has 20 locations countywide where children 18 years old and younger can pick up free grab-and-go breakfasts and lunches. Parents can pick up nutritious meals for their children at the locations to take home or the children can pick up their own meals. The meals, which consist of food like sandwiches and wraps, meet USDA guidelines. Meals are also available for adults with disabilities.

The County's Summer Meals program complements a summertime meals program for students offered by Gwinnett County Public Schools. The school district will ramp up its Seamless Summer feeding program for children June 8 through June 26, and will provide school locations once they are finalized.

Funding for the program comes from the USDA.

Visit [GwinnettSummerMeals.com](http://GwinnettSummerMeals.com) for more information or call 770.822.8840.



## AROUND GWINNETT

### Register early for school!

New to Gwinnett? Is your child changing schools due to a move? Summer is the best time to register! Gwinnett County Public Schools has an easy-to-use, secure online registration system at [bit.ly/20-21OnlineRegisGCPS](http://bit.ly/20-21OnlineRegisGCPS) that allows you to upload required documents and records. Once online registration is completed, the school will contact you to verify documents and complete the process. To find which school your child will attend, use "School Look-up" at [bit.ly/GCPSSchoolLocator](http://bit.ly/GCPSSchoolLocator). Call the school at [bit.ly/SchoolPhoneListGCPS](http://bit.ly/SchoolPhoneListGCPS) with questions. Register today and look for back-to-school info and key dates on the GCPS website later this summer.

## United States® Census 2020

### Census self-response deadline extended until October 31

The Census Bureau has extended the time for filling out the national survey until October 31, so if you haven't participated, there's still time. The Census is incredibly important to Gwinnett as census data is used by businesses, the federal government, the state government, and other agencies in determining how many and what kinds of resources Gwinnett receives, including legislative and congressional representation. Your private information is confidential by law and can't be shared with any other agency. You can also fill it out by phone or online. For more information, visit [2020Census.gov](http://2020Census.gov).

### Gwinnett honors fallen heroes in virtual Memorial Day ceremony

Gwinnett County Government recently commemorated America's fallen military and law enforcement heroes with a virtual Memorial Day ceremony. Board of Commissioners Chairman Charlotte Nash, District 4 Commissioner Marlene Fosque, and Ron and Carolyn Buice of the Gwinnett Fallen Heroes Memorial Committee delivered video remarks. Retired Marine Colonel Parker Miller was the keynote speaker. Miller is a Vietnam veteran who now serves as senior vice president of Curtiss-Wright. The ceremony can be viewed on-demand at [TVgwinnett.com](http://TVgwinnett.com), on the County's Facebook and Twitter pages [@GwinnettGov](https://www.facebook.com/GwinnettGov), and on the County's Vimeo page, [Vimeo.com/TVgwinnett](http://Vimeo.com/TVgwinnett).



## PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

### Proper disposal of medication protects water quality in the environment

It may be tempting to flush old medications down the toilet, but doing so can contaminate our lakes, rivers, and other waterbodies, affecting water quality.

Just because a medication will dissolve does not mean that it should be flushed. Anything that enters the sewer system through the toilet or the sink has to be processed at the wastewater treatment plant. Improper disposal of pharmaceuticals in the sewer system complicates processes at the plant and increases the risk of contamination in the environment. Privately owned septic systems can also release these contaminants into the groundwater. Fish and other aquatic wildlife in rivers can be vulnerable to pharmaceutical contaminants, which can cause changes to reproductive and other systems.

Ensuring that you properly dispose of pharmaceuticals benefits public health and the environment. You can help keep our waterways free of pharmaceuticals and personal care products by remembering to maintain drug-free drains at home. For locations that accept old medications, you may visit [GwinnettCB.org/recycling](http://GwinnettCB.org/recycling).

## WATER TIPS

### LEARN ABOUT WATER QUALITY AT [GWINETTH20.COM](http://GWINETTH20.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 [Gwinnetth20.com](http://Gwinnetth20.com) and click 'Get Educated' to find tips on leak detection, septic systems, fats, oil, and grease clogs, and more!

Three ways  
to register:

-  Visit the *Get Involved* page at [Gwinnetth20.com](http://Gwinnetth20.com)
-  Call 678.376.7193
-  Email your name, address, and phone number to [DWRWorkshops@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:DWRWorkshops@gwinnettcountry.com)

### TAX COMMISSIONER

#### Get your groceries and renew your tag

While at Kroger stocking up on groceries, you can also renew your tag and walk away with your decal in hand. Tax Commissioner kiosks are located in Kroger stores throughout the metro Atlanta area, and you can renew your tag at any of them, even if they're outside Gwinnett County. For information about Kroger kiosk locations, hours, and requirements, please visit [GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Locations](http://GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Locations). Convenience fees apply.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

#### Fire and Emergency Services offers digital SafeSitter classes

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services is offering its Fire Prevention and Life Safety Digital Learning Programs online, starting with a baby-sitting safety class in July.

These live programs will be hosted through WebEx with a certified educator giving a PowerPoint presentation and live demonstrations when applicable.

The first online course, Safe Sitter, is set for July 11 from 9:00am to 4:00pm, Safe Sitter will prepare students in grades 6 to 8 to be safe when they're home alone, watching younger siblings, or babysitting. Using games and role-playing, the instructor-led class will teach CPR, first aid, and rescue skills as well as child care and business skills.

To receive their course completion certificate, students must demonstrate their knowledge in a hands-on assessment on July 18 from 9:00am to 11:00am and from 1:00pm to 3:00pm at Gwinnett Fire Headquarters. Class sizes are limited to eight students. To register, please email [fireprograms@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:fireprograms@gwinnettcountry.com) or call 678.518.4845.



### CHECK IT OUT

#### Participate in the Summer Reading Challenge online

The Gwinnett County Public Library Summer Reading Challenge is happening online right now through virtual programming on social media through August. Register for the program through the Beanstack app or [GwinnettPL.Beanstack.org](http://GwinnettPL.Beanstack.org) to keep track of reading activities, participate in virtual events, earn digital badges, receive chances to collect great prizes, and more! Fun virtual programs such as crafts, storytimes, and workshops for all ages are free and open to everyone through GCPL's Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram pages.

### SPLOST

#### Gwinnett celebrates construction of library branches in Duluth, Norcross

Construction is underway on two new branches of the Gwinnett County Public library. Gwinnett County celebrated the projects alongside representatives from the Gwinnett County Public Library and the cities of Duluth and Norcross with virtual groundbreakings aired on TV Gwinnett and shared on the County's social media pages.

The two branches are being relocated and expanded with the cities sharing the cost of the project. The County is paying for design and construction with revenue from the 2014 and 2016 SPLOST programs and the cities contributing land. The two libraries each will be about 22,000 square feet, about double the size of the original libraries, and will include a community room and larger areas for computer services, creative projects, and interactive programming and services.

Both library branches are being designed to meet LEED certifications standards through the U.S. Green Building Council. The Norcross library will also include an outdoor pedestrian plaza and a parking structure that will be available for the public during community events.

### SERVING GWINNETT

#### Gwinnett emergency dispatch now taking text messages

The Gwinnett 911 Center is now equipped to receive and respond to mobile phone SMS text messages for situations where it is too dangerous to make a voice call to 911, and for people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech impaired.

The Federal Communications Commission offers the following guidelines for texting 911:

- If you can, call 911; text if you can't
- If you are deaf, hard-of-hearing or speech disabled, and Text to 911 is not available, use a TTY or telecommunications relay service if it's available
- If you text 911 and text is not available in your area, you will receive a bounce-back message advising "text is not available please make a voice call to 911"
- Location accuracy varies by carrier so be prepared to give your location
- Text to 911 service will not be available if the wireless carrier cannot determine the location of the device sending the message
- Text to 911 is not available if you are roaming
- A text or data plan is required to place a text to 911
- Photos and videos cannot be received at the 911 center at this time
- Text messages should be sent in plain language and not contain popular abbreviations or emojis, which will not be recognized
- Text to 911 cannot be sent to more than one person; do not send your emergency text to anyone other than 911
- Texts must be in English

### 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](mailto:info@gwinnettcountry.com) | 770.822.7180

Water bill questions: 678.376.6700