

GWINNETT  
COUNTY

NOVEMBER  
2020

# Connection

**A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF  
GWINNETT COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

## #85Study drives forward

Gwinnett County and the Georgia Department of Transportation are partnering on the Interstate 85 Study for the 18-mile stretch from I-285 to I-985. This study is the first project in Georgia to apply the Planning and Environmental Linkages process. For more information, visit the Federal Highway Administration's PEL website at [Environment.fhwa.dot.gov/env\\_initiatives/PEL.aspx](http://Environment.fhwa.dot.gov/env_initiatives/PEL.aspx).

In analyzing I-85's current conditions, the project team evaluated factors such as demographics and land use as well as roadway, multimodal, safety, and traffic operations. The team also gathered public input to identify corridor needs. Visit [85Study.com](http://85Study.com) to learn more about the corridor, analyses, and results from early public outreach—including that more than 340,000 vehicles travel the busiest part of I-85 daily and that "Improve Vehicle Travel" was the most preferred study interest, followed by "Traveler Safety."

The 85 Study team is analyzing more than 1,200 potential solutions for the corridor and will return to the public for input on a refined list of project alternatives in early 2021. Sign up at [85Study.com](http://85Study.com) for project updates and follow Gwinnett County's and GDOT's social media accounts to learn more about the project and upcoming input opportunities.



## AROUND GWINNETT

### Are you recycling right?

You've made the environmentally conscious decision to recycle. Collection day is here, and your recycle container is ready for pickup.

Before you leave your recycling container on the curb, remember these three simple tips:

- Recycle clean plastic bottles (#1 and #2 only), cans, paper, and cardboard;
- Keep food and liquid out of your recycling;
- Place your recyclables directly in the container; do not bag recyclables.

Visit [SustainableGwinnett.com](http://SustainableGwinnett.com) to learn what is recyclable. We can each do our part to **#RecycleRightGwinnett!**

### Gwinnett Animal Welfare recognized for save rate, work with other agencies

Gwinnett Animal Welfare and Enforcement last month received a Lifesaving Award for Collective Impact from Best Friends Animal Society, a national no-kill animal welfare organization.

Best Friends Animal Society honored Gwinnett Animal Welfare and Enforcement for work with other organizations and its high save rate. The County saved about 96 percent of the animals in its care last year. The team at Animal Welfare has assisted other local shelters with best practices, grown its rescue and foster family partners programs, increased education and outreach efforts, hosted vaccination clinics, and recently hired an animal behaviorist.

### Volunteer this holiday season

With the holidays approaching, please consider giving your time, energy, and experience to help others in need. Volunteer Gwinnett is a countywide program designed to get residents involved in volunteer activities across our community. Check [VolunteerGwinnett.net](http://VolunteerGwinnett.net) to find your next volunteer opportunity.

### Tune in for the Lighting of the Tree

In response to COVID-19, the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Lighting of the Tree will be virtual this year, with the ceremony pre-recorded and premiered on the County's social media channels and website on Thanksgiving Day. The tree will be on display to the public on the lawn of the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse throughout the holiday season.



## PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

### Unclog the FOG!

Cooler weather often brings more time in the kitchen. Many meals we enjoy can generate FOG – fats, oils, and grease. FOG can come from cooking oil, meat, cheese, peanut butter, salad dressing, and many other foods.

When these products are poured down the drain, they can collect in the pipes and cause blockages. When a pipe becomes blocked, the dirty water can back up through our indoor drains. A blockage can also occur in the public sewer system, forcing wastewater into the environment where it can pollute rivers and streams.

Here are some tips on how to dispose of FOG properly:

- Absorb FOG with paper towels
- Pour used oil and grease in a container with a lid and place in the trash
- Use mesh drain strainers to catch solid food scraps for disposal in a trash can
- Scrape plates over the trash can or wipe with a paper towel before washing

These simple tips can help reduce the potential for FOG clogs. Visit [UnclogTheFog.com](http://UnclogTheFog.com) for more information.

### COUNTY OFFICES CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING

All Gwinnett County government offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of residents, will be closed Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

All offices will resume regular working hours Monday, November 30. A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center.

Thursday is a holiday for trash hauling, so trash pickup will be delayed by a day.

## TAX COMMISSIONER

### Are you 65 as of January 1?

If you are 65 years or older as of January 1 and your taxable income is less than \$97,264, you likely qualify for the Senior School Tax Exemption. Apply now through April 1 online at [GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Apply](https://GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Apply). For assistance, email [Tax@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:Tax@GwinnettCounty.com) or call 770.822.8800.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Be safe in the kitchen this Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is the leading day of the year for home fires involving cooking equipment.

By following a few safety tips, you can prevent these types of fires:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking so you can keep an eye on the food
- Use timers to keep from forgetting food on the stove or in the oven
- Keep children at least 3 feet away from the stove
- Always turn off burners and ovens as soon as you're done with them
- Be sure electric cords from appliances are not dangling off the counter
- Keep matches and utility lighters away from children
- Never leave children alone in a room with a lit candle
- Test your smoke alarms before Thanksgiving to make sure they are working
- Have a fire extinguisher close by
- Never drop a frozen turkey in a deep fryer
- Never use an outdoor turkey fryer inside your home
- Use caution when cooking indoors with an electric fryer



## SPLOST

### Improvements coming to Pleasant Hill Road

The Board of Commissioners recently awarded a \$1.2 million construction contract to widen Pleasant Hill Road from the Chattahoochee River to Peachtree Industrial Boulevard in Duluth. The project includes a boardwalk and multi-use paths.

This widening and pedestrian improvement project will add a third westbound travel lane with a multi-use path from west of Peachtree Industrial Boulevard to the Chattahoochee River. The work also includes curb and gutter installation and necessary drainage improvements.

Construction should start by the end of 2020 and be completed by spring 2021. The project, funded by SPLOST, is about a half-mile long. The multi-use path is about a quarter-mile in length.

## CHECK IT OUT

### Learn something new 24/7

If you're looking for something to do at home, be sure to check out the Gwinnett County Public Library's official YouTube channel.

GCPL has a growing collection of virtual programs available for viewing 24/7 on YouTube. Programs cover a variety of topics and interests, and there's something for all ages. Whether you're interested in cooking and culinary programs or want to learn about coding and graphic design, there's a program for you.

Check it out today by visiting [GwinnettPL.org](https://GwinnettPL.org) and clicking the YouTube icon. You can also see the full schedule of upcoming programs by visiting the library's website calendar. New programs are added daily.

## SERVING GWINNETT

### Listen to the experts: Gwinnett moms

Turns out that moms and experts agree on a lot, especially when it comes to staying safe. The best way to avoid COVID-19 is to avoid being exposed.

Here are some tips your mom would approve:

- Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around people who don't live with you
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds
- If you can't wash your hands, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unclean hands
- Stay 6 feet apart from others
- Stay at home if you're sick and away from sick people
- If exposed to COVID-19, get tested ASAP
- Disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces daily

You can find more about COVID-19 from trusted, mom-approved resources like the CDC, Georgia Department of Public Health, GNR Health, and our website, [ListenToGwinnettMoms.com](https://ListenToGwinnettMoms.com). If you're a Gwinnett mom or just have some motherly COVID-19 advice to offer, join the conversation on our social channels by using #ListenToGwinnettMoms at @GwinnettGov.

### Commissioners agree to purchase Lawrenceville Water Distribution System

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners and the Gwinnett Water and Sewerage Authority recently approved the \$400,000 purchase of the city of Lawrenceville's water distribution system, effective December 1.

Gwinnett will make \$13.3 million in repairs, replacements, rehabilitation, and upgrades to the system over the next 10 years. Lawrenceville residents will see a slight increase in their monthly water bill to replace aging pipes and perform preventive maintenance.

## GWINNETT COUNTY CONNECTION

ESCANEE PARA LEER EN ESPAÑOL  
한국어 버전은 QR 코드를 스캔해 주세요



Gwinnett County Connection questions/comments:  
[Info@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:Info@GwinnettCounty.com) | 770.822.7180

Water bill questions: 678.376.6700