

GWINNETT
COUNTY

SEPTEMBER
2020

Connection

**A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
GWINNETT COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

Board cuts millage rate for 2020

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners last month adopted 2020 millage rates to fund county services, lowering the general fund rate from 7.209 mills to 6.95.

The rollback was possible because of overall growth in property values in the county.

Property taxes are based on millage rates set by county government, the schools, and cities, combined with property value assessments by the county Tax Assessor's Office. One mill equals a dollar tax per thousand dollars of assessed property value.

The Board also set the rates for recreation, police, fire and EMS, development and enforcement, and economic development. The 2020 total of all county government millage rates in unincorporated Gwinnett County is 14.71 mills. This total does not include millage rates for schools or for cities. Details on millage rates are available online at GwinnettCounty.com.

The Tax Commissioner will send out property tax bills in October.



AROUND GWINNETT

Voters to decide transit referendum

In July, Gwinnett commissioners called for a referendum on a 1-percent sales tax to fund 82 transit projects on the November 3, 2020, ballot.

A new transit local sales tax will fund projects from the Gwinnett Transit Plan, which was developed by the Board of Commissioners with input from the Gwinnett County Transit Review Committee. The Board submitted this project list to the Atlanta Region Transit Link Authority, which approved the list and enabled the call for a transit local sales tax in Gwinnett. This is a new sales tax option in Georgia, created by state legislature in 2018 to fund transit; Gwinnett's referendum is the first proposed under this new tax.

If passed, Gwinnett County will be responsible for designing, constructing, operating, and maintaining the system, with the exception of the heavy rail extension proposed to Jimmy Carter Boulevard, which MARTA must operate as stipulated by state law.

Read more about the transit plan at GwinnettCounty.com. Additional materials on the Gwinnett Transit Plan and the referendum will be available in the coming weeks.

Gwinnett seeking poll workers

Gwinnett County residents who want to be involved in the electoral process are urged to apply to be poll officials in the November 3 election. The 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. Apply at GwinnettCountyJobs.com.

Gwinnett busca trabajadores electorales

Se insta a los residentes del Condado de Gwinnett que quieran participar en el proceso electoral a aplicar para ser trabajadores electorales para las próximas las elecciones del 3 de Noviembre. La División de Inscripción de Electores y Elecciones 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. Aplicar en GwinnettCountyJobs.com.



PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Mulch your leaves this fall and protect water quality in rivers, streams, and lakes

Each fall, the Department of Water Resources receives complaints about leaves blocking storm drains. Leaves raked, blown, or dumped into storm drains can cause clogs and even localized flooding. When these leaves make it to our local streams, they can also hurt water quality.

As leaves on land decay, they release nutrients back to the soil, but leaves in the stormwater system are washed to streams, rivers, ponds, and lakes where nutrients are released into the water. Excess nutrients can cause increased algae growth and decreased dissolved oxygen. Controlling these factors is important to water quality.

There are several alternatives for leaf disposal that do not affect water quality. Add leaves to a compost pile, or use them as nutrient-rich mulch for your flower beds or garden. These alternatives will keep your yard's curb appeal while protecting our water resources.

You can report leaves in the stormwater system by calling Water Resources at 678.376.7000.

WATER TIPS

LEARN ABOUT WATER QUALITY

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 Gwinnett20.com and click 'Get Educated' to find tips on leak detection, septic systems, fats, oils, and grease clogs, and more!

TAX COMMISSIONER

Property tax bills due December 1

The 2020 Gwinnett County property tax bills are expected to be mailed in October with a December 1 due date. If you have an escrow account, your property tax information is made available to your mortgage company; however, it is your responsibility to ensure taxes are paid. For more information, visit GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Fight the pandemic: wear a mask, social distance, wash your hands

Gwinnett is participating in the Georgia Safety Promise, a statewide campaign from Governor Brian Kemp's office and the Georgia Department of Public Health that encourages businesses and the public to agree to simple, but critical, measures that will keep Georgians safe from COVID-19, minimize spread of the virus, and keep Georgia open for business.

Georgians are urged to wash their hands for 20 seconds with soap and warm water several times a day, practice social distancing, follow the governor's executive orders, and heed the guidance provided by public health officials. All residents and visitors are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings when outside their homes, except when eating, drinking, or exercising outdoors. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, wearing cloth face coverings may help prevent people with COVID-19 from infecting others, including vulnerable people and workers regularly in close contact with other people.



SPLOST

Bethesda, Ronald Reagan parks getting playground upgrades

Gwinnett is replacing playground equipment at Bethesda Park and at Ronald Reagan Park with newer designs that are more fun, challenging, and stimulating. The play areas will be separated by age. The playgrounds are also shaded with fabric canopies. The project will swap wood fiber surfacing with easy-to-maintain rubber tiles that are more accessible for children with disabilities.

Ronald Reagan Park's tot playground will offer slides, funnels, ladders, and things to climb on. The playground for the bigger kids has a rope ladder, a triple-racer slide, a rock wall, and several other elements. At Bethesda Park, the little kid playground will have lots of musical devices, swings, slides, a spiral staircase like stacks of coins, and other equipment. The larger playground will include a twisted ladder, a block climber, slides, and a circular over-hand ladder.

The playgrounds, which should open this winter, will cost \$425,000 and are being funded by the 2014 SPLOST program.

CHECK IT OUT

Gwinnett Library offering online distance learning tool

The Gwinnett County Public Library and Gwinnett County Public Schools are providing students with access to an online resource for remote learning. The Tutor.com Learning Suite offers online tutoring, homework help, test preparation, and self-study resources. Students can get one-on-one tutoring in any math, science, social studies, and English subject. Tutor.com covers 40 subjects, including AP courses. Live tutoring support is available daily from 8:00am to 10:00pm. Students can upload a document 24/7 that will be reviewed by tutors and returned later. For more, visit GwinnettPL.org.

SERVING GWINNETT

Commissioners approve contract for Gwinnett Entrepreneur Center construction

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners recently approved the renovation of a former preschool building for an entrepreneur center that will nurture fledgling business startups and support small business growth in Gwinnett.

The Gwinnett Entrepreneur Center, located on Perry Street in Lawrenceville, will provide budding entrepreneurs with instruction, workshops, coaching, peer learning, connections to customers and capital, and market research, plus membership opportunities that include co-working space and offices.

The \$1.5 million center will feature private offices and co-working space where members can work in an open collaborative atmosphere, a training room with technological equipment, conference rooms, a break-room/dining area, and outdoor workspace. The center will be actively recruiting owners from low-to-moderate income households, as well as minority owners.

The 6,718-square-foot Gwinnett Entrepreneur Center is tentatively set to open later this year.

Gwinnett needs you to participate in the 2020 Census

While more than 68 percent of Gwinnett County households have participated in the census, it is important that every household completes the survey. The federal government often uses population data to determine how to allocate resources. Census data is also used to determine future planning for schools, hospitals, roads, and other vital community resources. Remember, when you complete the census, your private information is confidential by law and can't be shared with any other agency. You can complete your questionnaire online, by phone, or by mail. For more information, visit 2020Census.gov.

GWINNETT COUNTY CONNECTION

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