

GWINNETT  
COUNTY

MARCH  
2021

# Connection

**A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF  
GWINNETT COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

## Hendrickson delivers first State of the County Address

In her first State of the County address, County Commission Chairwoman Nicole Hendrickson lauded the county's high expectations for excellence, called The Gwinnett Standard.

Hendrickson cited Gwinnett's elite Triple AAA/Aaa bond rating, state-of-the-art F. Wayne Hill Water Resources Center, and award-winning parks and library systems as evidence of the county's high level of achievement. She said the Gwinnett Standard also shows in Gwinnett's pandemic response with the County, schools, businesses, and organizations pivoting to online or modified services. Hendrickson challenged the audience and viewers to uphold the Gwinnett Standard as we face future challenges.

A video of the speech will air on the County's government-access cable channels on Charter, Comcast, and AT&T U-verse. Photos may be viewed on Flickr, and video may be viewed on demand at [TVGwinnett.com](http://TVGwinnett.com).



## AROUND GWINNETT

### Masks must be worn inside Gwinnett County facilities

Gwinnett County is now requiring face masks or face coverings for all visitors and employees inside County buildings and facilities. Chairwoman Hendrickson signed an executive order citing mask recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and noting the Supreme Court has ruled a community has the right to protect its citizens from epidemics. The order allows exceptions for bona fide medical or religious reasons and for people unable to don or remove masks alone. The mask should cover the mouth and nose. People who do not comply may be denied entry or asked to leave.

### Tax Assessor's Office to issue Real Estate Property Annual Notice of Assessments

Most Residential and Commercial Annual Notice of Assessments for 2021 will be mailed on April 23. An Annual Notice of Assessment is not a tax bill. The notice informs you of the value assessed on your residential or commercial real estate as of January 1, 2021. Property owners may appeal the assessed value within 45 days of the date of the notice by submitting a completed PT311A state appeal form to the Tax Assessor's Office or visiting [Gwinnett-Assessor.com](http://Gwinnett-Assessor.com).

### Learn about Household Hazardous Waste at virtual workshop

Learn how to identify and properly store common household hazardous wastes as well as options for recycling and disposal. A virtual Spring Cleaning and HHW Management workshop is being held by the Department of Water Resources on April 15 at 6:00pm. Please register at [Gwinnetth2o.com](http://Gwinnetth2o.com), by sending an email with your name, address, and phone number to [DWRworkshops@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:DWRworkshops@GwinnettCounty.com), or by calling 678.376.7193.

### Community Services launches publication

The Department of Community Services has combined its Gwinnett L.I.F.E., Gwinnett Extend, and OneSTOP program guides into one publication called InGwinnett to make it easier to learn about programs, events, and experiences in our community. Published twice a year, InGwinnett features information about aquatics and sports, events, clubs and groups, and educational, recreational, and wellness programs.



## PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

### Save money, be a leak detective

A high water bill can come as a surprise and leave you wondering what happened. The most common cause of a high water bill is a leak in your system. Leaky toilets, sinks, or showerheads can account for up to 10,000 gallons of wasted water per year in an average home.

Follow these steps to perform an easy leak test on your home:

1. Turn off all faucets and water using appliances
2. Locate your water meter (likely near the road), and open the cover
3. Look for the leak detection wheel, usually a red star or triangle – if this is spinning, you have a leak
4. If your leak detection wheel isn't spinning, write down the number shown or take a picture of it
5. Wait at least two hours and check your meter again

If the number on your water meter has gone up, this means you may have a leak. Visit [Gwinnetth2o.com](http://Gwinnetth2o.com) for more tips on finding and fixing leaks. Remember, when you save water, you also save money!

### **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 [Gwinnetth2o.com](http://Gwinnetth2o.com) and click "Get Educated" to find tips on leak detection, septic systems, fats, oil, and grease clogs, and more!

## TAX COMMISSIONER

### Scan, pay, print: one-minute tag renewal at kiosks

Renew your tag at any metro-area kiosk and walk away with decal in hand. If your address has changed, update it first at [EServices.Drives.ga.gov](https://www.eservices.ga.gov), then renew. All you need is your Georgia driver's license to begin. Convenience fees apply. Insurance and a passing emissions test, if required, must be completed in advance. Please visit [GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Locations](https://www.gwinnetntaxcommissioner.com/locations) for kiosk hours and locations.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Don't get scammed by fake IRS officials

As tax season approaches, criminals are trying to trick people into divulging private information. Thieves claiming to represent the IRS will call people and threaten to lock up their social security account because of unpaid taxes or some other problem. Some will program their phones so that the phone number of the IRS appears on the victim's caller ID.

Scammers may demand immediate payment with bitcoin or that the victim send cash by FedEx. They also may ask for payment with prepaid debit cards such as Green Dot, gift cards, or wire transfer. These methods appeal to criminals because the money is difficult to track or recover. The scammers sometimes pretend to represent a law enforcement agency. Law enforcement and government agencies will never demand payment over the phone.

To report a phone-based scam, call the Gwinnett Police at 770.513.5700. For more information, visit the Federal Trade Commission website at [FTC.gov](https://www.ftc.gov).



## SPLOST

### New fire station to be built in Suwanee

A new Fire Station 13 is set to be built next to the planned Suwanee Town Center on Main park project.

The city of Suwanee will provide two acres of land at the intersection of the new Main Street/library driveway and Suwanee Dam Road. The County will oversee construction. The County's share of the project, not to exceed \$7 million, is funded by the 2017 SPLOST program.

The 11,000-square-foot station will be located at 105 Main Street and will house a fire engine, an ambulance, and a minimum of five firefighters and paramedics each day. The station, set to open next winter, will feature three apparatus bays, gear and equipment room, industrial grade kitchen, administrative office area, and individual bunkroom cubicles with separate male and female locker and shower facilities.

## CHECK IT OUT

### Need one-on-one help from one of our friendly librarians? Welcome to Book-a-Librarian!

The Book-a-Librarian and the Book-a-Children's Librarian services allow you to book a one-on-one help session with a branch staff member for up to one hour of uninterrupted, personalized reference assistance. The service requires at least 48 hours advance notice.

For adults, knowledgeable and friendly librarians will help you research a variety of issues, such as technology questions. For children, our specialized children's librarians will assist with early literacy tips, reading practice, finding books to learn English, and much more.

To schedule an appointment, visit [GwinnettPL.org](https://www.gwinnettpl.org) and click on Find It in the drop down menu to fill out the Book-a-Librarian Appointment Form, or call 770.978.5154.

## SERVING GWINNETT

### County converts old Sears building into mass vaccination center

Gwinnett County Government and the Gwinnett, Newton, and Rockdale County Health Departments worked together to convert the bottom floor of the former Sears building at Gwinnett Place Mall into a mass vaccination center that can serve up to 3,000 people a day as vaccine supplies become available.

The 80,000-square-foot site offers vaccinations from 9:00am to 6:00pm, but appointments are required. Appointments can only be made at [GNRHealth.com](https://www.gnrhealth.com). Individuals should bring an insurance card, photo ID, and proof of employment, such as a hospital badge (if applicable) to the appointment. Anyone needing assistance with mobility or other issues should bring someone with them to the appointment to help. Second dose appointments are made during the first appointment.

The location was converted from vacant space to a vaccination center in about two weeks. Once the contract was approved in late January, numerous County employees and contractors went to work to tune up the heating and air conditioning, install electrical outlets for computers, replace ceiling tiles, repair plumbing, lay out stanchions for crowd control, give the space a deep cleaning, produce interior and exterior signs, repair the parking lot, and add handicap signage and pavement markings.

### Stay plugged into Gwinnett news and events

Stay current on the latest news from Gwinnett County Government by following us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram [@GwinnettGov](https://www.instagram.com/gwinnettgov) or visiting [GwinnettCounty.com](https://www.gwinnettcounty.com). You can subscribe to email newsletters covering a variety of topics, like County news, volunteering, transit service, and outreach to our diverse communities. You can also listen to the latest updates by tuning into our new podcast, Better Together with Commissioner Fosque, on the listening platform of your choice.

## 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