

GWINNETT
COUNTY

NOVEMBER
2021

Connection

**A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
GWINNETT COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

Project RESET 2.0 named a top performer by U.S. Treasury

Project RESET 2.0, a Gwinnett County program to address pandemic-related evictions, has been named a top performer by the U.S. Treasury Department. The program uses federal Emergency Rental Assistance Funds to pay past-due rent and utility bills for people financially hit by the pandemic. With support from the nonprofit HomeFirst Gwinnett, the initiative helps prevent evictions, which benefits renters, and it ensures payment of rent and utilities, which benefits landlords and utility providers.

As of mid-October, Gwinnett had processed more than \$22 million in financial assistance for almost 2,400 households, ensuring more than 5,300 people did not have to face an eviction or utility disconnection. The top performer designation assures continued funding for Gwinnett County, and that the County will be used as a model for other local governments to follow. To learn more about Project RESET 2.0 and apply for assistance, visit GCGA.us/RentalAssistance.



AROUND GWINNETT

Board expands employee nondiscrimination policy

The Board of Commissioners recently expanded the County's nondiscrimination policy to include ancestry, family status, immigration status, and homeless status. It also covers race-based hairstyles, textures, and protective styles.

These updates add to the previous policy, which prohibited discrimination against County employees based on, sex, race, color, national origin, gender (identity and expression), sexual orientation, age, religious or political affiliation, marital status or if they are pregnant, disabled, active-duty military personnel, or a veteran.

The changes took effect November 1.

Gwinnett, Georgia DOT continue progress on smart corridor program

Gwinnett County is deploying new technology to enable emergency vehicles, buses, and other vehicles to get through certain intersections faster and more safely.

The County is partnering with the Georgia Department of Transportation on a Smart Corridor Deployment Program that will allow County-owned vehicles to use technology to send alerts to specially equipped traffic signals to turn green for faster responses. Other goals include alerting traffic signals to the presence of pedestrians who push an activation button.

The County is installing roadside smart corridor units at 387 intersections starting in 2022 as part of a state-wide regional connected vehicle program.

Gwinnett joins Hefty® EnergyBag® program

Gwinnett has joined the Hefty® EnergyBag® program to help dispose of hard-to-recycle plastic in an environmentally friendly way. You can put plastic films, plastic pillow packs and bubble wrap, grocery and snack bags, foam food containers, plastic straws, and even plastic dinnerware in special orange Hefty® EnergyBags® that you buy at Kroger grocery stores or online.

Bags can be dropped off at WestRock, located at 384 Maltbie Street in Lawrenceville, Monday through Saturday from 7:00am to 2:00pm. For more information, visit GCSolidWaste.com.



PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Protect your pipes this Thanksgiving

Butter, cheese, milk, ice cream, and oils are all great additions to your favorite recipes, but they're not great additions to our county's sewer system or to your septic tank. These foods are all examples of fats, oils, and grease, or FOG, which can potentially clog pipes when not disposed of properly.

FOG can solidify after being rinsed down the sink, creating blockages that can cause messy and costly sewage backups in your home. When grease is washed down the drain, it may seem like a small amount, but as many people can sadly attest, it adds up, and when it does, it can create blockages. Kitchen byproducts also pose a risk to our natural resources by polluting our community's creeks and streams if the backup causes overflows in the public sewer system.

When cooking, you can keep pipes clear of FOG by pouring cooled grease into a container with a top so it can be recycled or placed in a trash can for disposal. You should also wipe cookware and dishes with paper towels and place solid scraps in the trash.

For more information about fats, oils, and grease, visit Gwinnetth2o.com and click "Get Educated."

Toilet rebate program can save water and money

Replacing your old toilets can help you save water and money. The Department of Water Resources participates in a toilet rebate program that can give you up to \$150 in rebates for new, WaterSense 1.1gpf labeled toilets. To qualify, your home must have been built before 1993. Only two toilets can be rebated. Visit Gwinnetth2o.com and click "Customer Care" for more information.

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 \$101,000, you likely qualify for the Senior School Tax Exemption. Apply now through April 1 online at GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Apply. For assistance, email Tax@GwinnettCounty.com or call 770.822.8800.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Be careful when deep frying turkeys

If you're planning to deep-fry the holiday bird, remember to follow proper precautions to prevent a fire or burn injury:

- Use a fresh or thawed bird when cooking in a turkey fryer; placing a frozen turkey into a fryer could cause a violent reaction
- Lower the turkey into the pot slowly — the hot oil may bubble fiercely at first; allow the bubbles to settle before lowering the bird the rest of the way
- Always use turkey fryers outdoors and a safe distance from the house or any other combustible material; never leave the fryer unattended
- Place the turkey fryer on a solid, flat, and level surface, and never use the turkey fryer on the back deck or in the garage/carport
- To avoid a spillover of hot oil, do not overfill the fryer
- Keep children and pets away from the fryer; the pot will be extremely hot both during and immediately after cooking, so remember to use insulated cooking mitts or potholders when touching the pot or removing the lid cover
- Keep the oil temperature in the turkey fryer at the recommended level (350°F or below) when cooking; the oil could ignite and burn if the temperature is raised above the recommended level
- The oil in the pot should be completely cooled before removing or storing



SPLOST

Gwinnett awards pedestrian improvements on Duluth Highway and Grayson Highway

The Board of Commissioners recently approved pedestrian improvement projects on two of Gwinnett's major roads. The County will install sidewalks and related signals and signage along State Route 120/Duluth Highway from Colony Bend Drive to Riverside Parkway and on State Route 20/Grayson Highway from Crane Drive to Park Place Drive.

This \$312,700 project will construct new sidewalks along the east side of State Route 20/Grayson Highway as well as the north side of State Route 120/Duluth Highway. New curb and gutter and associated drainage improvements as well as the extension of the existing left turn lane on State Route 120/Duluth Highway are included in the scope of work.

The projects will be funded through the 2017 SPLOST program.

CHECK IT OUT

Watch thousands of films for free with your library card

The Gwinnett County Public Library has recently added Kanopy to its vast collection of digital resources. Kanopy is a streaming video service that offers ad-free critically acclaimed movies, series, documentaries, award-winning foreign films, classic cinema, independent films, and educational videos that inspire, enrich, and entertain. Kanopy can be enjoyed on your TV, mobile phone, tablet, or online anytime, anywhere. Visit GCGA.us/Kanopy to use this service and have your library card and PIN ready.



SERVING GWINNETT

Help our seniors

Are you looking for a way to help the community? You can make a difference for Gwinnett seniors. Gwinnett Health and Human Services is seeking volunteers to help prepare individual meal trays and home-delivered meal bags for our senior clients. Shifts are available Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 11:30am. To register for a time slot, visit GCGA.us/VolunteerEvents.

It's not too late to get vaccinated

If you haven't been vaccinated yet, you can still register for a free COVID-19 vaccine at our vaccine clinic on the Piedmont Eastside hospital campus in Snellville or our site in the former Sears store at Gwinnett Place Mall in Duluth. Learn more about vaccine sites near you and sign up for an appointment at Vaccines.gov. Many sites, including the Piedmont Eastside and Gwinnett Place Mall sites, accept walk-ins.

We apologize for water billing delays

The Department of Water Resources' meter-reading and billing contractors have recently experienced staffing shortages, which caused delays in billing and a need to estimate bills every two months. We know that you expect timely billing and a high level of service, and we apologize for any inconvenience. We are working diligently with our contractors to adjust and improve processes to ensure accurate bills go out in a timely manner. Staff has been reassigned to assist with meter-reading, and we are rebidding both contracts. This should reduce or eliminate the future need to estimate bills, meaning most customers only received one or two estimated bills. Please visit Gwinnetth2o.com for more information.

County offices closed for Christmas

All Gwinnett County government offices, except for operations required for the comfort and safety of residents, will be closed December 23 and 24 for Christmas. All offices will re-open December 27. A Magistrate Court judge will be at the Gwinnett County Jail. Trash pickup will be delayed a day because of the holiday.

GWINNETT COUNTY CONNECTION

ESCANEE PARA LEER EN ESPAÑOL
한국어 버전은 QR 코드를 스캔해 주세요



Gwinnett County Connection questions/comments:
Info@GwinnettCounty.com | 770.822.7180

Water bill questions: 678.376.6700