

GWINNETT
COUNTY

OCTOBER
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Connection

**A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
GWINNETT COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

Gwinnett again named among top financially sound counties

Gwinnett County once again received a rare AAA/Aaa bond rating from all three rating agencies, which allows the County to issue or refinance bonds at favorable rates — reducing the amount of interest paid over the term of the bonds. The County has held the coveted rating for more than 20 years.

The review by the three credit rating agencies was part of a bond refinancing effort for \$65.13 million in water and sewer bonds issued in 2011. The refinancing will save Gwinnett taxpayers an estimated \$7.4 million in interest payments over the next four years.

In their analyses of Gwinnett County's finances, the bond rating agencies — Moody's Investors Services, S&P Global Ratings, and Fitch Ratings — cited the County's stability, excellent fiscal position and budgetary performance, flexibility, low debt and pension burdens, and strong management and financial policies as reasons for the high ratings.



AROUND GWINNETT

GJAC campus to undergo modernization

The Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center and One Justice Square in Lawrenceville are receiving upgrades to provide adequate space and more modern workspace. Despite the county's growth, the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center main building has not received a major update since it opened in 1988. Renovations were recently completed on the third and fourth floors of One Justice Square, which houses the County's Planning and Development and Transportation departments.

Recycle your items at America Recycles Day

Recycle your electronics, paint, clothing, sneakers, tires, and paper on America Recycles Day on Saturday, November 6 from 9:00am to noon at Coolray Field in Lawrenceville. Items should be placed in disposable containers in the trunk or back seat of your vehicle to be removed by volunteers.

Paper shredding is limited to five copier boxes. Oil and latex paint will be limited to 10 gallons total per vehicle. Recycling electronics is free except for TVs, monitors, and printers. There is a \$35 cash fee per projection or console TV, a \$15 cash fee per flat screen TV or computer monitor, and a \$5 cash fee per printer.

This event is sponsored by Solid Waste Management and Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful. For more information, visit GCSolidWaste.com or call 770.822.7141.

County honors veterans at annual ceremony

The public is invited to a Veterans Day Ceremony at the Gwinnett Fallen Heroes Memorial in Lawrenceville to honor and recognize those who served their country in the military. The ceremony begins at 11:00am on November 11. The keynote speaker will be Army Maj. Gen. Ronald L. Johnson (retired), a professor of Industrial and Systems Engineering at Georgia Tech.

Protect yourself from flood damage

Did you know your homeowners insurance does not cover flood damage? Only federal flood insurance reimburses you for flood damage to your property. For information regarding the National Flood Insurance Program, please call 1.800.427.4661 or visit FloodSmart.gov.



PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Understanding the value of water

Drinking water is not something that most of us need to think about. When we turn on the faucet, water is there. Imagine going one day without water. That means no coffee, no shower, and no brushing your teeth. Your water has gone on a long journey to get to your tap. Along the journey, Gwinnett Water Resources has made sure it's safe in every way.

Water Resources draws water from Lake Lanier and pumps it to two water filtration facilities, where it goes through two days of processing. Together, these two plants can produce more than 70 million gallons of clean water a day. We also maintain 10 water storage tanks throughout the county — holding more than 60 million gallons of water — ensuring plenty of water is always available for human consumption and firefighting. After treatment, water is sent to almost every residence, business, school, and building in Gwinnett through a distribution system of 4,000 miles of pipe. Each stage in the process is managed by highly trained staff, 24 hours a day, every day of the year. Additionally, that water is tested hundreds of times each day to ensure its quality.

The value of water is clear in Gwinnett. At less than one penny per gallon, we deliver clean, safe, reliable, 24-hour water service straight to your home.

Learn how to dispose of fats, oils, and grease the right way

The proper disposal of fats, oils, and grease in our kitchens can actually help protect our water resources outside! A virtual workshop titled "Better Cooking for a Better Environment" is being held November 18 at 6:00pm. Register at Gwinnett20.com by sending an email with your name, address, and phone number to DWRworkshops@GwinnettCounty.com or by calling 678.376.7193.

TAX COMMISSIONER

Renew your tags online, by mail, or at a kiosk

Skip a trip to the tag office to renew with any of these convenient options: online, by mail, or at a kiosk. If an in-person visit is necessary, skip the wait by scheduling an appointment in advance at [GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Appointments](https://www.gwinnetntaxcommissioner.com/appointments). Find your desired location, click "Make an Appointment," then follow the prompts. Appointments are available from 10:00am to 3:00pm.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Keep kids safe this Halloween

Children are twice as likely to be hit and killed by a car walking on Halloween night than any other day of the year. Parents should coach kids about how to be safe as they trick-or-treat, and drivers should be especially alert, slow down, and watch for children walking in the road and across driveways.

Children should not dart out from houses or between cars, and children younger than 12 should not cross streets without an adult. Police recommend youngsters stay in groups, carry flashlights, visit familiar houses, and avoid dark or unlit areas. Children should avoid carrying authentic-looking guns and swords, and they should never accept rides or candy from strangers. Firefighters suggest using flameless candles for jack-o'-lanterns and choosing decorations and costumes made of flame-retardant materials. Costumes should fit properly; billowing capes and baggy sleeves pose a tripping hazard as well as a fire hazard. For more Halloween safety tips, visit [GwinnettSafety411.com](https://www.gwinnettsafety411.com).



SPLOST

County making improvements on Thompson Mill Road, Peachtree Industrial Boulevard

The Board of Commissioners recently approved two road improvement projects in the northern area of Gwinnett.

One project will widen Thompson Mill Road near its intersection with SR 13/Buford Highway to four lanes with a center turn lane. The project is funded by the County and the city of Buford. The project cost is not to exceed \$1.5 million.

The second project will improve the intersection of Peachtree Industrial Boulevard and Suwanee Dam Road by adding a southbound through-lane along Peachtree Industrial from Suwanee Dam to Grand Teton Parkway. Construction includes converting the single left-turn lanes on Suwanee Dam to dual left-turn lanes, along with the installation of new traffic signals. This project cost is capped at about \$2.9 million. The cost of both projects is covered by the 2017 SPLOST program.

CHECK IT OUT

New Norcross library opening soon

The Gwinnett County Public Library's Norcross branch is relocating to 5735 Buford Highway in downtown Norcross, within walking distance to a variety of retail shops, restaurants, civic and community institutions, and basic services. A ribbon cutting will take place October 26. At about 22,000 square feet, the new building is twice the size of the former library. It features larger space for computer services, creative projects, and interactive programming and services. It has a large meeting room, three learning labs, multiple study rooms, and other features. The city of Norcross provided land for the project along with offsite stormwater detention and streetscaping. The County built the library and parking deck. SPLOST revenues paid for the County's portion of the project. For more information, visit [GwinnettPL.org](https://www.gwinnettpl.org).



SERVING GWINNETT

Gwinnett opens homeless shelter

Gwinnett County's first emergency homeless shelter is now open to help women, moms, and their children by providing them with a stable place to stay, as well as resources and services to get back on their feet.

Called HomeFirst Gwinnett: The Resting Spot, the shelter will have a total of 20 beds. Guests will be able to stay up to 90 days and receive dedicated case management and future housing assistance. Due to COVID-19 precautions, capacity is currently limited to two families and four single female adults.

Take steps to protect our community

Make Gwinnett Moms proud by protecting our community and yourself by wearing a mask, washing your hands, social distancing, and getting vaccinated. The vaccines are free and safe. More than 100,000 people, including Georgians, participated in vaccine trials. Millions have been vaccinated. The vaccines were the result of decades of research and experience, and they have proven extremely effective in preventing severe illness and death from COVID-19. If you haven't already, please help our health care workers by getting vaccinated now. Visit [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to find a COVID-19 vaccine near you.

County offices closed Veterans Day and Thanksgiving

All Gwinnett County government offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of the residents, will be closed Thursday, November 11 for Veterans Day. Offices will resume regular hours Friday, November 12. Offices will also be closed for Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 25, and Friday, November 26. Trash will be collected as normal throughout the holidays, except for Thanksgiving Day, when collection will be delayed. Learn more at [GCSolidWaste.com](https://www.gcsolidwaste.com). A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center during each 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