

GWINNETT
COUNTY

AUGUST
2021

Connection

**A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
GWINNETT COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

Commissioners set 2021 millage rate

The Gwinnett Board of Commissioners recently approved keeping the unincorporated property tax rate for 2021 at 14.71 mills, the same rate as 2020. The 2021 General Fund millage rate also remains at 6.95 mills. Property taxes for special service districts and countywide levies for recreation and economic development also are unchanged from last year. A mill is one dollar of tax for every \$1,000 of assessed property value but the millage only applies to 40 percent of the property's total valuation. Your tax bill is calculated by applying your property assessment multiplied by the millage, minus exemptions. Property tax bills also include school taxes and possibly city taxes. To see the value you receive in County services plus an estimate of County, school, and applicable city taxes, please visit [GCGA.us/TaxCalculator](https://www.gwinnettcga.com/TaxCalculator).



AROUND GWINNETT

Plan for emergencies during National Preparedness Month

If your home caught on fire, would everyone know how to get out of the house? Do your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms work? September is National Preparedness Month, a time for everyone to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, schools, and communities. Planning ahead could save lives and your property. If you need help planning, Gwinnett Fire and Emergency Services will conduct a free home safety survey that identifies potential fire and injury hazards inside and outside your home and offers solutions. As a part of this survey, residents will receive free smoke alarm and carbon monoxide alarm installations, if needed.

Visit [GCGA.us/FirePrograms](https://www.gwinnettcga.com/FirePrograms) to schedule a home safety survey. For more information, please contact FirePrograms@GwinnettCounty.com.

Assessor's Office conducting onsite property field visits

Gwinnett Board of Assessors appraisal staff routinely conduct field visits to maintain accurate appraisal data as part of the County's annual review process. They verify existing or new construction, measure exteriors, and take photographs. Inspectors from Gwinnett County, LMC, or Tyler Technologies carry identification on field visits and will announce their presence before beginning a review. Residents' privacy and safety are our top priority. No contact or involvement is needed. If no one is available, information will be left to advise you of the visit. For questions or concerns, call 770.822.7200 or email Taxpayer.Services@GwinnettCounty.com.

Cameras to help enforce driver speed in school zones

The Board of Commissioners recently adopted a resolution to allow the use of speed cameras in school zones in unincorporated Gwinnett County. Using research conducted by Gwinnett Police on measures to improve safety around schools, commissioners voted to allow recording devices and associated fines as provided in state law. Speeding endangers buses and school staff assisting children, and the goal is to ensure the safety of both motorists and pedestrians going to and from school. A state-authorized judicial process will ensure fairness and transparency.



PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Save money, use rain

Collecting roof runoff in rain barrels reduces the amount of water that flows from your property and allows you to use water that would otherwise be lost. Collecting runoff means you have free water to use in your landscape.

Whether from the tap or the hose, Gwinnett County water is highly treated and suitable for human consumption. This level of treatment is not necessary for outdoor plants. Rainwater harvested in a barrel is a great alternative to using tap water for plants and will save you a little money on your bill.

Rain barrels are food-grade drums, typically 50 gallons, that connect to your gutter and capture natural rainwater for irrigation. This water can be stored and used in dry spells. You can also connect extra rain barrels to other gutter downspouts or even to each other. Rain barrels are an excellent way to keep your landscape lush and healthy while conserving our water resources. To learn more, visit [Gwinnetth2o.com](https://www.gwinnetth2o.com) and click "Water Conservation."

View septic system maintenance workshop for free on Webex

Learn how your septic system works, how to protect it, and how this all protects our water resources. Water Resources is hosting a free virtual Septic System Maintenance and Care workshop September 16 at 6:00pm. Register at [Gwinnetth2o.com](https://www.gwinnetth2o.com); by sending an email with your name, address, and phone number to DWRworkshops@GwinnettCounty.com; or by calling 678.376.7193.

TAX COMMISSIONER

Property tax bills due October 15

The 2021 Gwinnett County property tax bills were mailed in August and are due October 15. 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 or to pay online, visit GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Police conducting new false alarm reduction program

Although the deadline was August 1, you can still register or reregister your residential or commercial security alarm system with the Gwinnett Police Department. Failure to register will result in an extra \$25 fee for each false alarm. Gwinnett Police recently partnered with CryWolf from CentralSquare Technologies to start providing administrative and online services related to security alarm registrations. As part of this transition, all alarm sites — including those previously registered — must submit a new registration form.

False alarms cost taxpayers an estimated \$1.8 billion annually nationwide. In 2020, Gwinnett Police responded to approximately 22,450 alarm calls, only 163 of which were true alarms or emergencies. Registration can be completed online, by phone, or by downloading a paper registration form and sending it by mail. Alarm sites covered by city police departments need not register with Gwinnett. To register, visit the Gwinnett Police False Alarm Reduction Program at CryWolfServices.com/GwinnettCOGA.



SPLOST

SPLOST enhances Gwinnett's quality of life, economy

The County's Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax has raised an estimated \$3.8 billion since it was first approved by Gwinnett County voters in 1985. The one-percent sales tax allows the County to improve residents' quality of life and the overall economy without resorting to property tax increases. The funds — which are collected from anyone who makes a purchase in Gwinnett, not just residents — are used for capital improvement projects. SPLOST money allows the County to make critical transportation improvements to roads, sidewalks, and bridges. It also pays for police precincts and fire stations, parks, pools, playgrounds, and libraries. It pays for trails and environmental and historic site restorations. SPLOST allows the County to pay for projects without going into debt, saving taxpayer dollars in interest payments.

CHECK IT OUT

Gwinnett Library offers adult programs to learn, enjoy, and thrive

Looking for a job or help to apply for rental assistance? Trying to learn how to grow your business? Seeking to join interesting events? The Gwinnett County Public Library's Adult Services and Programs Department can help.

GCPL offers monthly programs for adults that educate, inform, assist, and entertain. Meet and engage with best-selling and award-winning authors from a variety of genres. Adults are welcome to join the virtual ATLRoads Book Club or the interactive Social Justice or Health & Well-ness Discussion Clubs. Attend the gardening series with expert Tim Daly, writer's workshops, cooking lessons with local chefs, the Small Biz Series, and much more. For more information, visit GwinnettPL.org/AdultServices.

SERVING GWINNETT

Gwinnett moms talk vaccines

This summer, a group of Gwinnett Moms got together in Lawrenceville for something special: a casual conversation. Normally this wouldn't be a headline-grabbing event, but the content of their discussion — and the fact that they were able to gather in person thanks to COVID-19 vaccines — made this gathering pretty extraordinary.

Want to hear these four moms' thoughts, feelings, and unique perspectives on the COVID-19 vaccine? Watch the video by visiting GCGA.us/RealTalk or scanning the QR code. Learn more about COVID-19 vaccines and schedule your appointment at ListenToGwinnettMoms.com. Then, join the conversation on social media by tagging our page, @GwinnettGov, and using #ListenToGwinnettMoms.



Apply for membership with the Gwinnett Entrepreneur Center

The Gwinnett Entrepreneur Center is now accepting applications for membership from budding business owners. Sponsored by the Board of Commissioners and Georgia Gwinnett College, the center offers coworking and office space, classes, workshops, business coaching, and networking connections. The center will also provide help to local non-member entrepreneurs. Visit GwinnettEntrepreneurCenter.com for more information and to apply.

County offices closed Labor Day

All Gwinnett County government offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of residents, will be closed Monday, September 6 for Labor Day. All offices will resume regular working hours Tuesday, September 7. A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center. Labor Day is not a trash holiday for residents in unincorporated Gwinnett County.

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