

GWINNETT
COUNTY

AUGUST
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Connection

**A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
GWINNETT COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

Commissioners add SPLOST referendum to November ballot

When Gwinnett County voters head to the polls during November's General Election, they will decide on the renewal of the one-cent Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax, or SPLOST. SPLOST collections are used to fund capital projects like roads, bridges, parks, fire stations, police precincts, libraries, and more.

Gwinnett voters have approved a series of SPLOST programs that since 1985 have raised more than \$3.9 billion, allowing the County to save more than \$1.9 billion in financing costs compared to issuing bonds.

If given the green light by voters, the new program could raise \$1.35 billion over the next six years, 25 percent of which would go to cities. Learn more about the County's use of SPLOST funding over the years at GwinnettSPLOST.com.



AROUND GWINNETT

Assessor's Office to conduct 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.

Gwinnett celebrates Welcoming Week

Join us to celebrate our annual Welcoming Week Festival on Saturday, September 10 from 10:00am to 2:00pm at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center Plaza at 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville. Welcoming Week is a nationwide initiative that brings together neighbors, immigrants, and long-time residents to celebrate diversity and inclusion. This year's theme, #WhereWeBelong, focuses on places and spaces that foster belonging. It reflects on how and why belonging occurs and how to foster welcoming places for all, including immigrants and refugees. During this family-friendly event, learn about Gwinnett County Government resources; enjoy music, face painting, food trucks, and a taquiza from a local taquero; and contribute to the community sidewalk chalk mural on the plaza. The event is open and free to everyone.

Help protect your child from COVID-19

As children start the school year, you can help protect them from getting severely sick if they do get COVID-19. The CDC recommends that all children ages 6 months and older should receive a COVID-19 vaccine. The CDC also recommends that children ages 5 to 17 can receive a booster shot five months after their initial Pfizer-BioNTech vaccination series. Some people ages 12 years and older who are immunocompromised and those 50 years and older should receive a second booster dose at least four months after their first. To find out when you or your child can get one or more COVID-19 boosters, visit [CDC.gov/Vaccines](https://www.cdc.gov/Vaccines). To find a vaccination location near you, visit [Vaccines.gov](https://www.Vaccines.gov).



PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Practice indoor conservation

While the Earth appears to be covered in abundant water, only about 2 percent is available for human consumption. The rest is either frozen, deep underground, or saltwater. In Gwinnett, Lake Lanier is the sole water source for the entire County, and surrounding communities pull water from the lake as well, amounting to millions of gallons per day. This high demand for water from one source means that it is important for each of us to conserve water. Here are some tips to help you save water at home:

- Only wash full loads of clothes and dishes
- Checks for leaks often and repair them quickly
- Turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth or shaving
- Thaw frozen foods in the refrigerator or in a bowl of water, not under running water

Making small changes to the way we use water can go a long way toward conserving this essential resource. For more information on water conservation, visit Gwinnetth2o.com.

Join Gwinnett Water Resources for a free Backyard Stream Restoration workshop

Learn about streambank stabilization, native plants and animals found around water, water quality, and more. Attend a free Backyard Stream Restoration workshop on September 17 at Ronald Reagan Park at 11:00am. Attendees may qualify for a 5 percent credit on their stormwater utility fee. Register at Gwinnetth2o.com; by sending an email with your name, address, and phone number to DWRworkshops@GwinnettCounty.com; or by calling 678.376.6914.

TAX COMMISSIONER

Property tax bills delayed

Property tax bills will likely be mailed in early September and due early November. Mortgage companies are provided access to property tax information; however, it is the owner's responsibility to ensure taxes are paid. Once released, taxpayers may view, print, and pay their bills online from any device at GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Pay.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Teach kids how to be safe while walking

Every day in the United States, more than 40 children are hit by vehicles. Help prevent tragedies by teaching your child about pedestrian safety. Share these important tips with your child to keep them safe as they walk to school or the bus stop:

- Look both directions multiple times before crossing the street and continue to check for oncoming traffic as you cross
- Wait until you cross the road to use your phone or headphones
- Always cross at the intersection and avoid crossing at the mid-block
- Always use sidewalks or paths! If none are available, walk facing traffic and as far away from the vehicles as possible
- Be alert when it's dark out and wear bright colors to make sure drivers can see you
- Stop at driveways and watch out for cars reversing or entering

Visit SafeKids.org for more pedestrian safety tips.



SPLOST

Leaders celebrate the completion of new interchange in Dacula

Gwinnett and Georgia Department of Transportation officials celebrated the completion of the interchange at State Route 316 and Harbins Road in Dacula, which is named for former Gwinnett Board of Commissioners Chairman Charlotte Nash.

The new five-lane bridge, which spans over SR 316, enhances safety while easing congestion for motorists. The \$50 million project, which opened to traffic in March, was funded by 2014 and 2017 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax funds, known as SPLOST.

The Georgia Department of Transportation approved a permit allowing the County to construct the interchange on a state route.

RESOURCES

County offers emergency assistance through OneStop4Help

If you are facing challenges related to hunger, health, housing, or other issues, emergency assistance is available. Contact OneStop4Help and reach our community navigators who are ready to help you. To speak to a community navigator, call 770.822.8850 or fill out a request form at GwinnettCounty.com/OneStop4Help.

SERVING GWINNETT

Water customers get support from virtual assistant

Gwinnett Water Resources has launched an enhanced virtual assistant billing and support system for customers. The virtual assistant uses smart technology to assist residents with bill payments, account management, service assistance, and more. The virtual assistant is available 24/7 in English and Spanish and saves customers time by eliminating the need to wait for an available representative to help you:

- Pay your bill
- Request same-day reconnection service
- Schedule convenient callbacks
- Get answers to frequently asked questions
- And more!

For more information about Water Resources virtual assistance, call 678.376.6800 or visit Gwinnett2o.com.

Commissioners approved expansion of Gwinnett Police mental health teams

Gwinnett County is enhancing its services for residents who may be experiencing a mental health crisis. The Gwinnett Board of Commissioners approved an expansion of the mental health partnership between the Gwinnett Police Department and View Point Health. The addition of two licensed clinicians brings the number of providers in the behavioral health unit to three. A total of six clinicians will be in place by the end of 2022.

More than 160 mental health crisis calls were answered during the pilot program that began in 2021. Gwinnett Police plans to continue expanding the unit so they can provide more coverage to give residents who may be suffering from a mental health crisis the opportunity to receive the care they need. The total cost of the contract with View Point Health is \$539,820.

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