

GWINNETT  
COUNTY

FEBRUARY  
2022

# Connection

**A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF  
GWINNETT COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

## **BOC approves \$2.07 billion budget for 2022**

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners recently approved a \$2.07 billion budget for 2022, up 8.1 percent from 2021. The newly approved budget does not require a millage rate increase.

The adopted spending plan consists of a \$1.6 billion operating budget, which funds day-to-day County activities, and a \$455 million capital improvements budget, which includes funds from the County's voter-approved SPLOST program. Two-thirds of the operating budget is dedicated to the areas of public safety and public works. The capital budget will pay for new facilities, roads, and parks as well as maintenance for existing assets and infrastructure.

The adopted 2022 budget resolution and supporting documents are available online at [GwinnettCounty.com](https://www.gwinnettcountry.com).



## **AROUND GWINNETT**

### **Gwinnett 101 Citizens Academy accepting applications**

Learn about how and why Gwinnett County Government operates the way it does by enrolling in the Gwinnett 101 Citizens Academy. The 12-week program gives participants an opportunity to get a behind-the-scenes look at County operations, meet County leaders, and tour County facilities. To be considered for the spring session, apply at [Gwinnett101.com](https://www.gwinnett101.com) by Tuesday, March 1. Classes start Thursday, April 7 and will meet one evening per week.

The Gwinnett Youth Commission, an eight-week summer leadership program for high school students, is also accepting applications through Friday, April 15.

### **County expands glass recycling program**

Residents can now recycle clean, empty glass containers at Pinckneyville Park at 4758 South Old Peachtree Road in Peachtree Corners. The Pinckneyville site is the second glass recycling drop-off location that Gwinnett is offering through its pilot program. The first site, located at OneStop Norcross, opened in October and has already diverted tons of mixed glass from landfills. Glass dropped off at both locations will be hauled to Strategic Materials, Inc., a large glass recycler in the Atlanta area.

For more, visit [GwinnettCB.org/Glass-Recycling](https://www.gwinnettcbo.org/glass-recycling).

### **Gwinnett to share cost of Bus Rapid Transit Route study**

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners recently agreed to partner with three community improvement districts to share the cost of a study of a Bus Rapid Transit corridor between Jimmy Carter Boulevard and Sugarloaf Mills. The County is working with the Gateway85, Gwinnett Place, and Sugarloaf CIDs to estimate the capital and operating costs for the corridor.

Bus Rapid Transit, or BRT, resembles a rail system on rubber tires that may include dedicated lanes, traffic signal priority, elevated platforms, and enhanced stations.

Each CID will contribute \$25,000 toward the study, estimated at \$100,000. The County's share comes from the 2017 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax.



## **PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES**

### **Pump your septic system to prevent nasty overflows**

Failure to regularly clean septic systems can cause sewage to back up into homes and sometimes yards, creating a smelly health hazard that can be expensive to fix and pollute groundwater, rivers, and streams.

Proper maintenance increases functionality and extends the life of your septic system. Many people believe that a septic system doesn't need to be pumped out until there is a problem, but experts recommend septic systems be pumped every three to five years.

In a septic system, solids from the household settle in the bottom of a tank, while grease floats to the surface. The remaining liquid then flows to the drainfield, which consists of perforated pipes or chambers buried in the ground. When the tank is not pumped, it fills with solids, which migrate to the drainfield leading to clogs and system failure.

Visit [Gwinnetth2o.com/GetEducated](https://www.gwinnetth2o.com/geteducated) to download the free Homeowner's Guide to Septic System Maintenance.

### **Learn DIY repairs at Fix-a-Leak workshop**

Learn to identify leaks to carry out simple DIY repairs and how fixing leaks can save money. Fix-a-Leak workshops are being held on March 15 at 6:00pm and March 19 at noon. Register at [Gwinnetth2o.com](https://www.gwinnetth2o.com) by sending an email with your name, address, and phone number to [DWRworkshops@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:DWRworkshops@gwinnettcountry.com) or by calling 678.376.7193.

**TAX COMMISSIONER**

**Apply for a homestead exemption by April 1**

The best way to reduce your property tax bill is to apply for a homestead exemption. You likely will qualify if you own and occupy a home in Gwinnett as your primary residence as of January 1. Visit [GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Apply](http://GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Apply) to apply online by April 1, and we will determine your eligibility and your best exemption. You must apply by April 1 for relief this year. If you already have an exemption in place, you do not need to reapply.

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

**Watch out for bail bond scammers**

The Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office is warning the public about scammers trying to con people by claiming to be law enforcement holding their loved ones in custody. In this scam, the suspects call the victims and tell them their loved ones are in jail and that the victims must deposit a bond amount via credit card, PayPal, Venmo, Cash App, etc., for the individual to be released. The scammers will conduct a follow-up call requesting more money to have the alleged incarcerated person enrolled in D.U.I classes, anger management, or other classes.

The only way to bond anyone out is in person at the jail at 2900 University Parkway in Lawrenceville. If you receive a phone call of this nature, do not provide any identifying information or payments over the phone. Please call the Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office at 770.619.6500 with questions or concerns.



**SPLOST**

**Construction underway on new library branch**

Construction is underway on a new library branch in the city of Snellville's Towne Center project. The library will occupy the first floor of the two-story building, and the second floor will be operated by the city for educational uses. The new facility will replace the existing branch on Lenora Church Road. The 22,000-square-foot library space will include adult, teen, and children's areas, 20 computer workstations, and a multipurpose room.

The new library building will continue to be called the Elizabeth H. Williams branch. Gwinnett County and the city of Snellville are jointly funding the \$10.2 million project using 2017 SPLOST program dollars. The library is expected to open this fall of 2022.

**CHECK IT OUT**

**Celebrate talented teen filmmakers in our community**

The Gwinnett County Public Library is inviting the public to celebrate the creativity and technical skills of our young filmmakers at the annual Teen Film Challenge. The competition is organized by GCPL to showcase the work of young filmmakers using the library system's Learning Labs. Learning Labs provide software and equipment, which allow people to create, collaborate, and share digital content in videography, graphic design, or other media. Please join us for the TFC Awards, a red carpet event, on March 12 at 7:00pm to celebrate the films submitted by talented teens around Gwinnett. To learn more, visit [Bit.ly/TeenFilmChallenge](http://Bit.ly/TeenFilmChallenge).

**SERVING GWINNETT**

**Help fight COVID-19 variants by getting vaccinated**

With the Delta and the Omicron variants working in tandem, it's more important than ever to get vaccinated and to receive a booster dose. The vaccines are highly effective at preventing severe illness, hospitalization, and death. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also recommends wearing a tight-fitting mask over your nose and mouth in public indoor settings. To find a location to get vaccinated near you, visit [Vaccines.gov](http://Vaccines.gov).

**Register to vote in the 2022 elections**

The 2022 election season is underway, and the deadline to register to vote in the general primary is April 25. The primary is May 24 with the runoff June 21. The general election registration deadline is October 11. The general election is November 8 with the runoff December 6. To register in Georgia, you must be at least 18 on Election Day, a U.S. citizen, and a legal resident of the county you're voting in. To check your registration status, download a registration application, view sample ballots, and locate your polling place, visit [MVP.SOS.GA.gov](http://MVP.SOS.GA.gov).

**Inscríbese para las elecciones del 2022**

La temporada de elecciones de 2022 está en curso y la fecha límite de inscripción para la primaria general es el 25 de Abril. La primaria es el 24 de Mayo con la segunda vuelta el 21 de Junio. La fecha límite de inscripción para la elección general es el 11 de Octubre. La elección general es el 8 de Noviembre con la segunda vuelta el 6 de Diciembre. Para inscribirse en Georgia, debe tener al menos 18 años en el Día de las Elecciones, ser ciudadano estadounidense y residente legal del condado en el que está votando. Para verificar el estado de su inscripción, descargar una solicitud de inscripción, ver boletas de muestra y ubicar su lugar de votación, visite [MVP.SOS.GA.gov](http://MVP.SOS.GA.gov).

**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