

GWINNETT
COUNTY

MAY
2022

Connection

**A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
GWINNETT COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

The Water Tower opens as innovation and research hub

In March, Gwinnett County leaders celebrated the completion of The Water Tower – the only facility of its kind in the world.

The Water Tower's mission is to be a thriving ecosystem of water innovation with applied research, technology innovation, coworking, and community engagement, all under one roof.

The Water Tower launched in 2019 and includes two nonprofit organizations: The Water Tower at Gwinnett and The Water Tower Institute. The \$33.7 million facility combines water utilities and community. The campus features three classrooms, four conference rooms, multiple laboratories, coworking spaces, single-tenant office rentals, a field training center, and a water treatment demonstration area.

The Water Tower is located at 2500 Clean Water Court in Buford. To learn more and get involved with this innovative center, visit TheH2oTower.org.



AROUND GWINNETT

Gwinnett provides free summer meals for kids and teens

After Gwinnett County Public Schools wraps up its meal service for the summer, the Gwinnett Summer Meals program will provide free grab-and-go breakfast and lunch to children 18 and younger and those 19 and older with physical or mental disabilities. Meals are available from May 31 through August 2 and can be picked up Monday through Friday from 11:00am to 1:00pm while supplies last. To learn more and see a full list of locations where meals will be available, visit GwinnettSummerMeals.com.

Register for kindergarten now!

If your child will be 5 years old on or before September 1, now is the time to register for kindergarten in an easy, two-step process. Register online on Gwinnett County Public Schools' website at Bit.ly/22GCPSRegistration. Before May 20, schedule an appointment at your child's school at Bit.ly/GCPSEList to verify information, complete a readiness profile, pick up materials, and learn about exciting summer learning activities for your child. To learn more, visit Bit.ly/GCPS22Kinder.

Apply now for the summer Youth Police Academy

May 16 is the deadline to apply for the summer Youth Police Academy, where young Gwinnett residents develop relationships with police officers and learn about the police department's role in the community and the services it provides. The free summer program will consist of two, weeklong sessions – one week for middle school students and the following week for high school students. To apply, contact Sergeant Eric Rooks at 770.513.5119 or William.Rooks@GwinnettCounty.com.

Gwinnett Clerk of Court opens passport acceptance office

Passport services are now available at the Office of the Clerk of Court, located at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center. Residents can now apply for a passport from 8:30am to 4:00pm, Monday through Friday. No appointment is necessary. Passport photo services are also available for a fee. For a list of all fees, acceptable forms of payment, and necessary documents, visit the passport section of the Clerk of Court's website at GwinnettCourts.com as well as the U.S. Department of State site at Travel.State.gov.



PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Water wisely and save money

The heat and sunlight of summer can dry out lawns and landscapes. Fortunately, waterwise landscaping reduces the need for outdoor watering, which keeps water bills down, conserves water, and keeps your landscape healthy.

Here are a few easy tips to help you be more waterwise with your landscaping:

- Group plants with high water needs together
- Reduce turf grass area with larger islands and beds
- Amend soils so they retain moisture better

When landscaping, be sure to group the right plants in the right place according to the plant's sunlight and water requirements. A plant in the wrong part of your yard will never thrive, no matter how much you water it. To learn more, visit DWRconserve.com.

Join Gwinnett Water Resources for a free Waterwise Landscaping workshop

Learn tactics and habits to help keep your yard beautiful and healthy while conserving water and saving money. Attend a free Waterwise Landscaping workshop June 16 at the Collins Hill Branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library at 6:00pm. Register at 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

Skip a trip to the tag office!

Do you need to renew or cancel your tag? Need a duplicate registration or to pay insurance fines? Skip the trip and the line! Visit GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/eservices to do these tasks and more.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Stay safe while enjoying the river

As temperatures heat up, it's the perfect time for families to head out to the Chattahoochee River during the summer season; however, visitors need to prevent river-related emergencies. The Chattahoochee River just below the Buford Dam is one of the most popular trout fishing spots in Georgia.

The Army Corps of Engineers advises visitors to use extreme care when fishing below the dam. The Chattahoochee can quickly change from a serene, slow-moving stream to a swift and treacherous river when water is released from Buford Dam, so visitors should always:

- Wear a life jacket; it's mandatory for all persons wading, boating, or tubing on this section of river
- Exit the river immediately when the warning horns sound; the horns sound to indicate that water is being released from the dam
- Listen to radio station 1610 AM to get river safety messages and water release schedules in the area
- Pay attention to the warning signs posted along the riverbanks
- Plan trips in advance and call 770.945.1466 for water release schedules
- Be aware of the risk for hypothermia; water released at the dam has an average temperature of 44°F to 58°F year-round

Visit GwinnettSafety411.com for more safety tips.



SPLOST

Gwinnett, Georgia DOT to resurface major stretches of county roads

Gwinnett County and the Georgia Department of Transportation are jointly funding a contract to resurface county roads. Every year Gwinnett Transportation employees document roads in need of resurfacing. With nearly 2,700 centerline miles of roadway, it takes close to 30 months for staff members to assess pavement conditions on all the County-maintained roads. Gwinnett will resurface just over 108 centerline miles of roadway this year.

Resurfacing studies show that maintaining roadway pavement reduces costs over time. Funds spent on resurfacing cut down on spending to patch or completely rebuild a roadway.

The \$28.1 million contract is funded 75 percent by the County's 2017 SPLOST program and 25 percent by the Georgia Department of Transportation.

CHECK IT OUT

Join GCPL's 2022 Summer Reading Challenge!

Dive into reading this summer with Gwinnett County Public Library's all-ages Summer Reading Challenge. Use the Beanstack app to track your reading, win prizes, and possibly win an annual pass for a family of four to the Georgia Aquarium. The theme for this year's challenge is Oceans of Possibilities, so be sure to visit your nearest library branch to learn about ocean animals, pirates, surfing, and much more. For information on how to participate, visit GwinnettPL.org.



SERVING GWINNETT

Voting on Election Day: May 24

The General Primary and Nonpartisan Elections will take place Tuesday, May 24 at your assigned polling location from 7:00am to 7:00pm. The main Elections Office is not a polling location on Election Day.

To find your correct polling location or view a sample ballot, visit the Georgia Secretary of State's My Voter Page. Elections results will be available on the County's website, GwinnettElections.com, after polls close on Election Day.

Vota en el Día de las Elecciones: 24 de Mayo

La elecciones primarias generales y no partidista se llevará a cabo el Martes 24 de Mayo en su lugar de votación asignado de 7:00am a 7:00pm. La oficina principal de Elecciones no es un lugar de votación el Día de las Elecciones.

Para encontrar su lugar de votación correcto o ver una boleta de muestra, visite My Voter Page de la Secretaría de Estado de Georgia. Los resultados de las elecciones estarán disponibles en el sitio web del condado, GwinnettElections.com, después del cierre de las urnas en el Día de las Elecciones.

Get your vaccine or booster at vaccination sites

Get vaccinated against COVID-19 at Gwinnett Place Mall in Duluth on Saturdays and Piedmont Eastside's vaccination clinic in Snellville on Fridays and Saturdays. Remember to bring your vaccination card with you if you're seeking a second dose or booster.

To find more vaccination locations near you or to schedule an appointment, visit Vaccines.gov.

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