

GWINNETT
COUNTY

SEPTEMBER
2022

Connection

**A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
GWINNETT COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

Commissioners keep 2022 millage rate the same as last year

The Gwinnett Board of Commissioners adopted the same general fund millage rate as last year, 6.95 mills. Prior to the vote, the Board held three public hearings and accepted comments through the County's website.

Most homeowners in Gwinnett benefit from the Value Offset Exemption, which means they will not see an increase in the county government portion of their tax bill. Property taxes are based on millage rates set by county government, schools, and cities. One mill equals a dollar tax per thousand dollars of assessed property value.

More details on the 2022 millage rates and additional information about how property taxes are calculated are available at GwinnettCounty.com/PropertyTaxes. The Tax Commissioner's Office will mail property tax bills in September and payments will be due in November.



AROUND GWINNETT

Celebrate Hispanic and Latino Heritage

Gwinnett County will celebrate contributions by our Hispanic and Latino community during Hispanic and Latino Heritage Month, which runs September 15 to October 15. The festivities will include a self-guided exhibit sharing the culture of the global Latin American community with stories, history, art, and more in the atrium of the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville. In addition, a special recognition and reception will be held on Tuesday, October 4 at 6:00pm in the same location.

Join us at the Public Safety Fall Festival!

Come join Gwinnett's Police and Fire and Emergency Services departments for a fun day with lots to see at the Public Safety Fall Festival on Saturday, October 1 at Coolray Field. From 10:00am to 2:00pm, meet our first responders and enjoy food, giveaways, demonstrations, and displays. Kids will also enjoy a touch-a-truck with a SWAT personnel carrier, fire trucks, and other specialized vehicles. Coolray Field is located at 2500 Buford Drive in Lawrenceville.

Attend the Transforming Gwinnett Transportation event

Join us for the Transforming Gwinnett Transportation event Saturday, October 29 from 10:00am to 2:00pm at Lenora Park. Learn about all the services that Gwinnett Transportation provides to residents. Enjoy food, music, giveaways, treats, and displays. Kids will also enjoy touch-a-tractor, face painting, games, and prizes. Lenora Park is located at 4515 Lenora Church Road in Snellville.

SPLOST renewal to be on November ballot

When 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. Commissioners voted to place the referendum on the November ballot. If given the green light by voters, the new program could raise \$1.35 billion over the next six years that would fund transportation, new roads and improvements, parks and recreation facilities, public safety facilities and equipment, libraries, and more projects. To find additional details, visit GwinnettCounty.com/SPLOSTreferendum.



PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Keep leaves out of storm drains

Autumn brings rich colors to our trees, and while the crunchy leaves are fun to play in, they could lead to water pollution if swept or blown into storm drains.

Storm drains lead directly to our local waterways. Decomposing leaves add excess nutrients to the water and allow algal blooms to grow, which can negatively affect the water quality and ecosystem. Leaves and other yard debris can also cause a blockage in a storm drain, which can lead to localized flooding during heavy rain events. Here are some useful tips for protecting water quality and storm drains this fall:

- Keep your leaves out of storm drains
- Rake leaves out of the curb and gutter
- Compost fallen leaves for free fertilizer
- Use fallen leaves as mulch in your landscape

Follow these simple tips to protect our water resources and save money on fertilizer and outdoor water use this upcoming season.

Pay your water bill online

Water Resources offers quick and easy online bill payment. Find your account number and meter number on your water bill. Then, register for an online account at Gwinnetth2o.com/PayMyBill, view your current bill, and make a payment online today!

TAX COMMISSIONER

Property tax bills due November 1

The 2022 Gwinnett County property tax bills were mailed in September and are due November 1. 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

Prevent fires in your home

It's important for every member of the community to take time to understand how to stay safe in case of a fire. Fire is fast, and there is little time to escape.

This year's theme, "Fire won't wait. Plan your escape," focuses on simple but important actions you can take to keep yourself and those around you safe from home fires. Here are some helpful steps to follow:

- Plan your escape route. Make sure to draw a simple map of your home, find two ways out of each room, and practice getting out in under 2 minutes
- Make sure smoke alarms are in every level of your home and in each bedroom, and test them twice a year
- Choose an outside meeting place a safe distance from your home
- Practice home fire drills. Run through your plan at different times of the day or night and practice different ways out. In a real fire, go to the safe meeting place, call 911, and keep everyone close until firefighters arrive

To find more information about home fire prevention, visit NFPA.org/FPW.



SPLOST

BOC approves improvements to aquatic centers

Commissioners recently approved SPLOST-funded improvement projects at the Bogan Park and Bethesda Park Aquatic Centers.

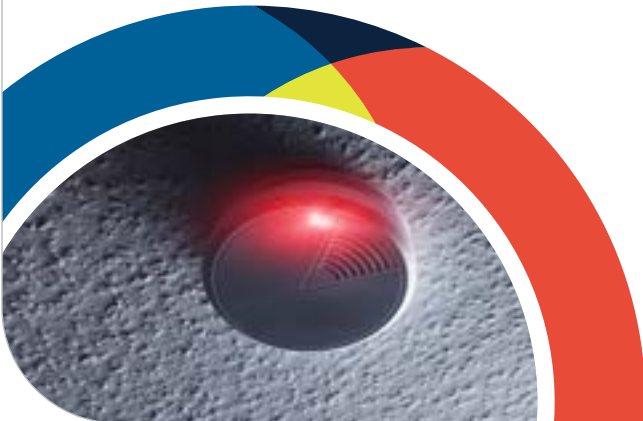
The \$526,000 Bogan Park Aquatic Center project will replaster the pool and replace the play structure installed there in 2008. The \$264,780 Bethesda Park Aquatic Center project will include mechanical improvements to the ductwork to meet the County's asset management plan standards.

Both projects are funded by the 2017 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax program, known as SPLOST.

RESOURCES

988 mental health crisis line now available

If you or someone you know is seeking emergency mental health services, you can call 988 to access counselors and response teams at the 24/7 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Callers will be redirected from the current number, 1.800.273.8255, which will remain available. The new, easy-to-remember number will make it easier for individuals to get access to the help they need for mental health crises. To learn more about the crisis hotline, visit 988LifeLine.org.



SERVING GWINNETT

Need help with the cost of afterschool?

The Childcare and Parent Services program supports early education by assisting low-income families with the cost of childcare while they work, attend school or training, or participate in other work-related activities. Gwinnett Community Services accepts CAPS for several eligible programs when school is out of session. For additional information, email B2Anywhere@GwinnettCounty.com. CAPS is funded by the Child Care and Development Fund and administered in Georgia by the Department of Early Care and Learning.

Gwinnett seeking poll workers

Want to earn extra money while giving back to your community? Citizens who want to be involved in the electoral process are urged to apply to be poll officials in the November 8 election. The Voter Registrations and Elections Division is looking for citizens of all backgrounds, especially bilingual Spanish speakers. It's a great opportunity to see how elections work, gain valuable work experience, and earn up to \$390 per day. Apply at GwinnettCountyJobs.com.

Gwinnett busca trabajadores electorales

¿Quiere ganar dinero extra mientras retribuyes a tu comunidad? Se insta a los ciudadanos que deseen participar en el proceso electoral a aplicar para ser trabajadores electorales para las elecciones del 8 de Noviembre. La División de Inscripción de Electores y Elecciones está buscando ciudadanos de todos los orígenes, especialmente personas bilingües de habla hispana. Es una gran oportunidad para observar cómo funcionan las elecciones, obtener una valiosa experiencia laboral y ganar hasta \$390 por día. Aplica en GwinnettCountyJobs.com.

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