

GWINNETT
COUNTY

JANUARY
2023

Connection

**A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
GWINNETT COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

BOC approves \$2.27 billion budget for 2023

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners approved a \$2.27 billion budget on Tuesday, January 3 for the 2023 fiscal year. The adopted spending plan consists of a \$1.78 billion operating budget and a \$488 million capital improvements budget, which includes funds from the County's Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax program.

The budget includes funding for new initiatives like a language learning program for employees, new Environmental Sustainability Officer and Equity Officer positions, and staff to support the new seventh State Court judge and expand the County's Emergency Management team. With more growth on the horizon, the County's services and infrastructure must also keep up. The budget also includes upgrades for County roads, water and sewer lines, and parks to meet the County's current and future needs.

Please visit GwinnettCounty.com/2023Budget for more information and highlights.



AROUND GWINNETT

Meet our new commissioner

Newly elected Commissioner Matthew Holtkamp began his four-year term representing district 4 on January 1. District 4 encompasses Buford, Sugar Hill, Braselton, Rest Haven, Auburn, and parts of Suwanee and Lawrenceville.

Holtkamp is the owner and CEO of Holtkamp Heating & Air Conditioning, president of the Metro Atlanta Air Conditioning Contractors Association, and a Leadership Gwinnett graduate. He was also appointed by Governor Kemp as a Board Member of the State Construction Industry Licensing Board in the Division of Conditioned Air Contractors.

County to build new pedestrian walkways

The Georgia Department of Transportation awarded Gwinnett County with \$1.1 million in grants from the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program. As part of the Loop Trail Pedestrian Project, the County will use the funds to build new pedestrian-friendly walkways connecting the Gas South District, future businesses, and current shopping centers along Satellite Boulevard. The County will provide a match of \$275,000 from the 2017 SPLOST program.

Adventure awaits next summer

Plan ahead and register your kids for summer camp! We have a variety of action-packed programs planned where kids ages 5 and above can have fun, explore new activities, and make friends. All County camp sites are Childcare and Parent Services eligible. Please visit GwinnettCommunityServices.com for more information.

Celebrate Black History Month with us

Gwinnett County will host its Black History Month celebration on Tuesday, February 21 at 6:30pm to acknowledge the past and how it contributes to a brighter, and more equitable future. Join us at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center located at 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville. Registration begins Monday, January 16.



PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Help protect our local waterways

On its way to the drain, stormwater can carry pollutants that have been left on the ground or dumped into storm drains, potentially leading to pollution in local waterways. Adopt these healthy habits to help keep the stormwater drainage system clean:

- Never dump waste down a storm drain
- Clean up after your pets
- Repair leaking vehicles quickly and recycle automotive fluids at local auto parts stores
- Pick up trash on your street
- Prevent car wash water from entering storm drains

If you see any illicit discharges, report them to Water Resources at 678.376.7000. For more information, visit Gwinnett20.com.

Save money and be more resourceful

Join us for a virtual Toilet Tech Workshop on February 16 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm to learn how toilets play an integral role in indoor water conservation. Then, residents are invited to discover how to collect and store rainwater in a rain barrel for landscaping use on Saturday, February 18 from noon to 1:30pm at the Grayson Branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library. Visit Gwinnett20.com, call 678.376.6914, or email DWRworkshops@GwinnettCounty.com with your name, address, and phone number to register.

TAX COMMISSIONER

Emissions are required for 1999 – 2020 model years

All gasoline-powered and light-duty trucks weighing 8,500 pounds or less with model years 1999 through 2020 require an emissions test to register and renew. For more information, visit CleanAirForce.com for testing locations, senior exemptions, and more. Once your vehicle has been tested, renew online at GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Renew.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Prepare for severe winter weather

Weather forecasts can sometimes send people into a frenzy, causing them to scurry for groceries and fuel for vehicles and heaters. Those caught unprepared for a winter snow or ice storm may find themselves in a dangerous situation. Follow these helpful tips to stay safe during winter storms:

- Have an emergency heating source, such as a wood-burning fireplace or stove or a space heater
- Close off unneeded rooms by stuffing towels in cracks underneath doors or covering windows at night
- Eat energizing foods to help produce your own body heat and replenish with fluids to prevent dehydration
- Limit travel to emergencies only

Stay ahead of winter storms and learn more safety tips at GwinnettSafety411.com.



SPLOST

Fire Station 13 opens in Suwanee

Fire Station 13 crews moved into their new home at 105 Main Street in Suwanee in December. The new, 10,788-square-foot station provides three drive-thru apparatus bays and room for 24-hour staffing for an engine and a medic unit.

The \$7.8 million project was funded by the 2017 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax program, known as SPLOST, with land provided by the city of Suwanee. Fire Station 13 serves more than 29,000 residents and local businesses across 25 square miles.

RESOURCES

Test for radon in your home

Radon is an invisible, odorless, and tasteless radioactive gas – and it is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. Learn if radon is present in your home with a test kit from UGA Extension Gwinnett.

The affordable and easy-to-use kit should be hung in the lowest lived-in part of your home, such as the basement or first floor, for three to seven days. Instructions for use and next steps will be shipped with your kit. Learn more about radon and order your test kit at UGARadon.org.



SERVING GWINNETT

Help for seniors and adults with disabilities

The Board of Commissioners recently approved a contract that will provide pre-approved, non-emergency medical and quality of life transportation to seniors and disabled adults across the County. To learn more about accessing these services, please visit the Gwinnett Senior Services Center located at 567 Swanson Drive in Lawrenceville or call 678.377.6930.

Stay warm during the coldest nights

Gwinnett County is opening five warming stations for residents to receive temporary, overnight relief from long-term exposure to temperatures of 35 degrees and below. When activated, the warming stations will be available from 6:00pm to 7:00am. Residents who visit the sites will be able to warm up, eat a meal, and get some rest. For more information on warming stations, please visit GwinnettOneStop.com. To volunteer, email OneStopHelp@GwinnettCounty.com or call 770.822.8850.

County offices closed for Presidents Day

All Gwinnett County Government offices, apart from operations required for the comfort and safety of residents, will be closed Monday, February 20 in observance of the Presidents Day holiday and will resume regular hours on Tuesday, February 21.

There will be no change to trash and recycling collection, so remember to set out your bins as usual. For more information, visit GCSolidWaste.com. A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center during the holiday.

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