

GWINNETT  
COUNTY

JULY  
2023

# Connection

**A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF  
GWINNETT COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

## Rental property enforcements strengthens

Last month, the Gwinnett Board of Commissioners amended the County's ordinances to strengthen enforcement on residential rental properties by adopting the International Property Maintenance Code, following the thorough review of the proposal presented in February 2023.

The adopted code, along with its associated amendments, establishes minimum standards for interior conditions at residential rental properties. It focuses on key areas, such as structural maintenance, lighting, ventilation and occupancy, plumbing, heating and electricity, and fire safety.

This policy update is aimed at enhancing the safety and quality of residential rental properties and enables Gwinnett Code Enforcement officers to work directly with tenants. The new amendment goes into effect on July 31.



## AROUND GWINNETT

### Gwinnett's water quality gets even better!

To enhance water quality monitoring, the County will install new sample piping, sample pumps, and water quality monitoring equipment at the Shoal Creek Filter Plant. This filter plant produces more than 40 million gallons of drinking water daily. The new sample lines will offer more accurate, reliable, and representative water samples and reduce collection time to allow any water quality issues to be addressed quickly. Reeves Young LLC was awarded the \$2.2 million contract. To learn more about Gwinnett's water quality, visit [GwinnettWaterWords.com](https://www.gwinnettwaterwords.com).

### Explore the Gwinnett 2045 Unified Plan

Share your ideas for improving our community! Through a series of upcoming conversations and workshops, residents can share their thoughts about the places they live, work, visit, or relax within the county. As Gwinnett continues to grow, your valuable feedback will guide the Gwinnett Planning and Development team in building stronger communities. To learn about upcoming events, visit [GwinnettCounty.com/2045UnifiedPlan](https://www.gwinnettcountry.com/2045UnifiedPlan).

### Help clear the Gwinnett Animal Shelter

Gear up for some tail-wagging fun at Clear the Shelters on Saturday, August 19 at the Bill Atkinson Animal Welfare Center in Lawrenceville. From noon to 4:00pm, join us for free pet adoptions, hands-on activities, music, local vendors, and more! The sixth annual event, hosted by Gwinnett Animal Welfare, is part of a national campaign to help place shelter pets in loving homes by offering free adoptions. Visit [GwinnettAnimalWelfare.com](https://www.gwinnettanimalwelfare.com) for more information on pet adoptions.

### Find other options to treat chronic illnesses

Four agencies are helping ease the flow of foot traffic in hospitals and emergency rooms. Gwinnett County awarded a total sum of \$400,000 to Good Samaritan Health Center of Gwinnett, Hope Clinic, Positive Impact Health Center, and Behavioral Health of Georgia to treat patients with chronic illnesses and help them avoid emergency room visits and hospitalizations.



## PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

### Maintain your detention pond

As summer rains start to fall, remember the importance of maintaining detention ponds. These ponds temporarily hold stormwater runoff then slowly release it over time, helping to protect our environment and our communities from flooding. However, if detention ponds are not properly maintained, they can lose their effectiveness. Catch pond problems early with these maintenance tips:

- Prevent trees from growing on the dam
- Keep the area free of trash and debris
- Clean up debris from your yard
- Check for holes or erosion

For more information on what to look for during a self-inspection and how to address problems, please visit [Gwinnetth2o.com](https://www.gwinnetth2o.com).

### Identify leaks and protect your septic system

Join us for the Homeowner H<sub>2</sub>O: Stopping Leaks and Saving Water virtual workshop on Tuesday, August 15 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. Learn how to identify and stop water leaks to conserve water resources and save money on your water bill. Residents are also invited to discover how septic systems work at the Septic System Maintenance and Care Workshop on Thursday, August 17 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at OneStop Centerville in Snellville. Visit [Gwinnetth2o.com](https://www.gwinnetth2o.com), call 678.376.6914, or email [DWRworkshops@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:DWRworkshops@GwinnettCounty.com) with your name, address, and phone number to register.

### TAX COMMISSIONER

#### Get credit on your property tax bill

The Homeowner Tax Relief Grant is a one-time tax credit funded by the state of Georgia. If you're eligible for this grant, it will be applied to the 2023 property tax bill under "Exemptions and Credit Savings." If you already have a Gwinnett homestead exemption, the credit will be applied automatically. To learn more about the grant, visit [GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/HTRG](http://GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/HTRG).

### PUBLIC SAFETY

#### Stay safe during a thunderstorm

Ignoring thunderstorms is tempting because they are extremely common in Georgia and affect relatively small areas when compared to hurricanes and winter storms. Despite their smaller size, thunderstorms can still be dangerous. They can bring strong winds, lightning, tornadoes, hail, and flash flooding. Here are some tips to help you prepare for and stay safe during a thunderstorm:

- Remove dead or rotting trees and branches that could fall and cause damage
- Postpone any outdoor activities when a thunderstorm is approaching
- Unplug appliances and other electrical items
- Shutter your windows and secure outside doors
- Use a battery-powered NOAA weather radio for local updates

For more safety tips, visit [GwinnettSafety411.com](http://GwinnettSafety411.com).



### SPLOST

#### Exciting changes coming to Lenora Park

Lenora Park is about to get some exciting additions. A community recreation center will be built, and the gymnasium will be renovated. The existing gym and building renovations will include new flooring, lighting, goals, and more. The community recreation center addition will feature wide open entrance areas; a second floor walking track; offices; activity, storage, and community rooms; and more. The project will also include the addition of outdoor basketball courts, parking lot expansion, the conversion of the multipurpose field to synthetic turf, and a new press box and maintenance compound.

The community recreation center and gym renovation project will be funded by the 2017 SPLOST program and will not exceed \$10 million. Additionally, the multipurpose field project will not exceed \$1.7 million.

### RESOURCES

#### Get affordable internet access for your home

You may qualify for a \$30 monthly discount on your home or mobile internet service through the Federal Communications Commission Affordable Connectivity Program. Gwinnett County is encouraging eligible residents to claim this benefit and start saving on internet service. Visit [AffordableConnectivity.gov](http://AffordableConnectivity.gov) or call 877.384.2575 to learn about eligibility and apply. Then, contact a participating broadband provider to start receiving your monthly discount.



### SERVING GWINNETT

#### New glass recycling sites coming soon

Gwinnett County is adding 10 more glass drop-off recycling locations across the county, thanks to a grant awarded by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division.

This expansion will help to reduce solid waste, recover valuable materials, support manufacturing, and encourage innovation. The grant will help fund a portion of the new sites in Gwinnett at a cost of \$175,110 with a County match of \$135,000. To learn more about glass recycling, visit [GwinnettCounty.com/GlassRecycling](http://GwinnettCounty.com/GlassRecycling).

#### Get free legal advice on wills, estates, and more

The Gwinnett County Probate Court and the Gwinnett Pro Bono Project are teaming up to host a free Probate Clinic on Thursday, August 10 from 1:30pm to 3:30pm. At the clinic, local attorneys will provide 15-minute consultations to address basic questions about uncontested matters involving wills, estates, administrations, guardianships, and conservatorships.

However, please note that this clinic won't help with creating wills or other legal matters. Reservations are required. Be sure to bring documents that may assist the volunteer attorney in reviewing the case. To learn more, visit [GwinnettCourts.com](http://GwinnettCourts.com).

### 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