

GWINNETT  
COUNTY

MARCH  
2023

# Connection

**A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF  
GWINNETT COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

## Chairwoman Hendrickson delivers the State of the County Address

In her third State of the County address, Chairwoman Nicole Hendrickson remarked on how the County ensures today's decisions will build tomorrow's solutions by being thoughtful, purposeful, and deliberate.

Hendrickson cited Gwinnett's ability to maintain its Triple AAA/Aaa bond rating, the establishment of the Child Advocacy and Juvenile Services Department and the Housing and Community Development Division, and the opening of The Water Tower to better serve our community. She said that residents' choices over the years have created Gwinnett's steady past, vibrant present, and its promising future. Hendrickson challenged the audience and viewers to lead, act, and strive to serve with intention.

Visit [GwinnettCounty.com/SOTC](https://GwinnettCounty.com/SOTC) to watch the address and learn more about our 2022 accomplishments and 2023 vision.



## AROUND GWINNETT

### Gwinnett recognized for sustainability

Gwinnett County continues to uphold its commitment to sustainability, earning recertification as a Green Community at the Platinum level by the Atlanta Regional Commission. As a Green Community, Gwinnett was recognized for the implementation of sustainable policies, practices, and programs for a stronger, greener community. To learn more about our programs and initiatives, visit [SustainableGwinnett.com](https://SustainableGwinnett.com).

### Apply for Gwinnett Youth Commission

Another batch of high schoolers will get an inside look at Gwinnett County government, interact with local leaders, and receive community leadership training this summer. The Gwinnett Youth Commission is a year-long program, which includes an eight-week summer training session. To be considered for this upcoming term, participants must be rising high school freshmen, sophomores, juniors, or seniors going into the 2023 – 2024 school year and must apply by Friday, April 7. There is no cost to participate in this program. For more information and to apply, visit [GwinnettYouthCommission.com](https://GwinnettYouthCommission.com).

### Drop off your expired medicine

Gwinnett Police is partnering with the Drug Enforcement Administration for National Drug Take Back, an initiative that allows residents to properly dispose of unused or expired prescription medications. Residents can drop off tablets, capsules, patches, and other forms of prescription drugs on Saturday, April 22 from 10:00am to 2:00pm at police headquarters and any of our six precincts. To learn more, email [PDCommunityAffairs@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:PDCommunityAffairs@GwinnettCounty.com).

### Add a unique piece of art to your home

Shop more than 100 unique arts and crafts at the annual Art on the Chattahoochee festival. Enjoy live entertainment, concessions, and a chalk-art contest on Saturday, April 29 from noon to 4:00pm at Jones Bridge Park in Peachtree Corners. For more information or to become a vendor, visit [GwinnettParks.com](https://GwinnettParks.com) or call 678.277.0920.



## PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

### Save money with smart water habits

Gwinnett has safe and reliable drinking water, but water is still a limited resource. Reducing your water usage helps conserve our water resources and saves you money on your water bill. Here are some helpful tips to help you save water at home:

- Turn the faucet off when brushing your teeth or shaving
- Only wash full loads of dishes and laundry
- Upgrade to WaterSense plumbing fixtures
- Water outdoors in early morning or late evening to reduce rapid evaporation

Making small changes to the way we use water can go a long way toward conserving this essential resource. For more information on water conservation, visit [Gwinnetth2o.com](https://Gwinnetth2o.com).

### Safely dispose of hazardous waste

Learn more about recycling, reducing, storing, and disposing of household hazardous waste like batteries and pesticides. Attend the Household Hazardous Waste workshop on Thursday, April 13 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at the Grayson Senior Center.

Visit [Gwinnetth2o.com](https://Gwinnetth2o.com), call 678.376.7193, or email [DWRworkshops@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:DWRworkshops@GwinnettCounty.com) your name, address, and phone number, to register.

### TAX COMMISSIONER

#### Apply for a Homestead Exemption by April 1

Looking for a way to reduce your property tax bill? Apply for a homestead exemption. Owners who occupied their home as their primary residence on January 1 and apply by April 1 qualify for an exemption this year. The state's proposed Homeowner Tax Relief Grant could mean additional savings for owners with a homestead exemption in 2023. You can apply now at [GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Apply](https://GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Apply) to take advantage. If you already have an exemption in place, you do not need to reapply.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

#### Don't become a victim of tax scams

Each tax filing season, there are scammers who pose as IRS agents to trick residents into sharing personal information. By sharing this information, your life savings could be compromised. Here are some tips to help you avoid tax scams:

- Be cautious when choosing tax preparers and do research before handing over your information
- Watch for unsolicited emails, texts, and fake websites that might prompt you to click a link or share personal information
- Be on alert for phone scams; IRS representatives will never demand payments over the phone or leave threatening messages

If you suspect fraudulent tax activity, report it to the IRS. You can also report fraud or scams to the Federal Trade Commission. For more tips, visit [IRS.gov](https://IRS.gov).



### SPLOST

#### New SPLOST goes into effect April 1

Last November, Gwinnett voters approved the renewal of the one-cent Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax. The program is expected to raise \$1.35 billion for capital projects over the next six years.

The 2023 SPLOST program begins collections April 1. It is not a new or additional tax, but a continuation of the one-cent tax already being collected on retail sales. Sales tax in Gwinnett is six percent, including four percent for state taxes, one percent for schools' E-SPLOST, and one percent for our SPLOST program. The total sales tax will remain at six percent when the new collection begins in April. To learn how your pennies are working in Gwinnett, visit [GwinnettSPLOST.com](https://GwinnettSPLOST.com).

### 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 new benefit and start saving on internet service. Visit [AffordableConnectivity.gov](https://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

#### Celebrate Earth Day by recycling

Have some hard-to-recycle items? Bring them – rain or shine – to our Earth Day recycling event on Saturday, April 22 from 9:00am to noon at Coolray Field in Lawrenceville. Volunteers will remove items placed in disposable containers from the trunk or back seat of your vehicle.

Recycling electronics is free except for projection/console TVs (\$35), flat-screen TVs/computer monitors (\$15), and printers (\$5). Paper shredding is limited to five copier boxes, and oil and latex paint will be limited to 10 gallons per vehicle.

For more information, visit [GCSolidWaste.com](https://GCSolidWaste.com) or call 770.822.7141.

#### Ensure your property is up to code

Some of the most common code violations include junk vehicles, graffiti, tall grass and weeds, and exterior building and fence or wall maintenance. Gwinnett Code Enforcement works diligently to protect and improve the health, safety, and quality of life for our residents, businesses, and visitors. To learn more about what services they provide, visit [GwinnettCodeEnforcement.com](https://GwinnettCodeEnforcement.com).

#### Stay plugged into Gwinnett news and events

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube at [@GwinnettGov](https://GwinnettGov) to get the latest news and announcements. Subscribe to our e-newsletters covering a variety of topics, like County news, volunteering, transit service, and outreach to our diverse communities. For a deep dive into our programs and services, visit [GwinnettCounty.com](https://GwinnettCounty.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