

THE BIG PICTURE

gwinnettcounty
GOVERNMENT

2015 STATE OF THE COUNTY

Local Economy, Finances, & Gwinnett's Excellent Credit History

- Gwinnett had 441,268 employed residents in December 2014*
- Unemployment was 5.7 percent, down from 6.1 percent a year earlier and lowest since the summer of 2008*
- AAA credit ratings from Fitch Ratings, Moody's Investor Services, and Standard and Poor's since 1997; one of a handful of counties in the U.S. to hold the distinction
- County pension and post-employment benefit plans rank in the top 10 percent of all public plans under \$1 billion in assets
- First large county and second overall in the state to receive tax digest approval from the Georgia Department of Revenue
- Purchasing negotiated cost savings of approximately \$2.8 million

* Georgia Department of Labor, preliminary, not seasonally adjusted
**Gwinnett County Finance and Planning and Development Departments

POPULATION

881,000**

2015 Budget

- Four residents helped Chairman Nash and staff prioritize needs and allocate resources in \$1.42 billion balanced budget that holds line on property tax rates, anticipates slight improvement in tax digest, expands fire and emergency medical services, adjusts employee compensation, and restores funding for some important services
- \$1.05 billion operating budget includes new staff positions for treatment courts and other judicial services, animal shelter, new fire station, and new park; partially restores roadside maintenance (mowing/trimming sidewalks/medians, sweeping curbs/tum lanes); restores local bus routes on Saturdays; and adds two daily express service trips from Indian Trail Park and Ride
- \$371 million capital budget includes funding to build two SPLOST-funded fire stations

Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST)

- 2014 SPLOST program estimated to collect \$453 million in three years
- County receives 78.9 percent, cities receive 21.1 percent of collections
- County purposes:
 - 70 percent for transportation (roads, bridges, intersections, sidewalks)
 - 30 percent for public safety facilities and equipment, recreation, library relocations and renovation, parks, and senior services facilities
- Read more about SPLOST at www.gwinnettsplot.com

Planning, Economic Development, & Revitalization

- Adopted new Unified Development Ordinance to modernize/streamline plan review/permitting process and create new mixed-use zoning districts to facilitate redevelopment
- Approved new construction code
- Update to electronic plan review will be rolled out in 2015
- New online services include contractor registration/affidavits, permitting, and payments



Award-Winning Government

- Distinguished Budget Award and Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association
- Purchasing Division won Outstanding Agency Accreditation Achievement Award – National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (accredited since 1999) and Achievement of Excellence in Procurement award – National Purchasing Institute (14 years)
- Achievement Awards from National Association of Counties for Fire Career Awareness Program (Best in Category), Trail Help Locators, Strong4Life Camp Ambassadors, Animal Shelter Turnaround, Crimefree Multifamily Housing, Property Management with Volunteers, Solid Waste Interaction Center, Multicultural Outreach Recycling Initiative, and Planning and Development's One Stop Shop
- Awards of Excellence from National Association of County Information Officers for Doors to Homes and Hope video and water conservation and firearm safety brochures
- Parks and Recreation finalist in National Gold Medal Award for Excellence from the National Recreation and Park Association (won in 2008)
- CREATE Community Technology Award from Atlanta Regional Commission for stormwater asset management plan
- Gwinnett Magazine named Bethesda, Bogan, Harbins, Little Mulberry, and Jones Bridge Parks BEST OF GWINNETT
- Government Programming Awards honorable mention from National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors for water safety TV spots
- Residential F.A.C.T. Program named Fire Safety Prevention Program of the Year by Georgia Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner's Office
- Firefighter/EMT awards from Lions Club, Masonic Lodge, Mundo Hispanico, Rotary, VFW, and others
- Combined, Fire and Police won 13 Public Safety Valor Awards, including Purple Heart, from Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce
- Georgia Tactical Officers Association Unit Citation, Medal of Valor, and Purple Heart awards for SWAT hostage rescue
- MADD Agency DUI Hero Award and red, gold, silver, and bronze pins for DUI arrests
- Two Platinum Awards (Crooked Creek and F. Wayne Hill plants) and one Gold Peak Performance Award (Yellow River plant) for water reclamation from National Association of Clean Water Agencies plus Excellence in Management Silver award
- Georgia FOG Alliance Large Program of the Year Award for fats, oils, and grease program
- Georgia Association of Water Professionals Awards: Crooked Creek Water Reclamation Facility (Platinum Award); water conservation material (Public Education Award/Best Direct Media); Shoal Creek Filter Plant (Plant of the Year); Shoal Creek and Lanier Filter Plants (Gold Awards)
- Human Resources received an award from the National Association of Governmental Defined Contribution Administrators
- Read more about your award-winning government at www.gwinnettcounty.com

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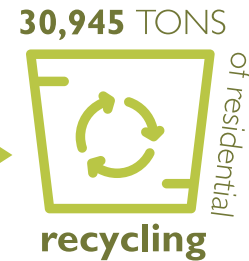
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General Government

- Improved mobile website for on-the-go residents to use with tablets/smartphones
- Converted 22,000 annual juror checks to debit cards, began electronic filing of Georgia child support payments, and simplified utility payments
- Saved time and money with new electronic warrant service for judges, police, sheriff, and prosecutors
- Simplified end-user experience with new GIS platform
- Posted 492 jobs, received 58,374 applications, and processed 919 new hires
- Maintained 221 buildings (2.3 million square feet) and grounds at 31 properties
- Processed 800,000 first class mail letters and retrieved an average of 620 records requests per month
- Maintained 2,979 rolling assets and managed 11 fuel sites, dispensing 6 million gallons of fuel
- Generated \$1.5 million by leasing 9 cell towers and 17 buildings
- Volunteers across all County government sectors contributed 1,054,467 hours valued at \$23.8 million in labor
- Under design and/or construction in 2015: Employee Wellness Center; Lilburn Branch Library (joint project with Lilburn includes new city hall); combined morgue and medical examiner facility; new Centerville Senior Services Center; Lawrenceville Senior Center and Buford Human Service Center renovations

Green Government

- First county to reach Gold Level Certification for Green Communities Program from the Atlanta Regional Commission
- **Solid waste haulers collected 177,959 tons of residential solid waste and**
- Corrections inmates processed 10,836,000 pounds of recyclables in four months at the Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful Recycling Bank of Gwinnett



Police Training Facility Driving Course



Diverging Diamond Interchange at Pleasant Hill Road

Public Safety

- Corrections provided 200,412 hours of inmate labor worth \$2.2 million to County departments, cities, and Community Improvement Districts; two new work crews added at Sugar Hill
- Police volunteers gave 16,743 hours; Fire volunteers donated 4,225 hours
- Police gave 951 crime prevention/safety education programs for 55,573 residents and Fire and Emergency Services presented 1,899 education programs to 72,299 residents, including 1,800 residents who learned life-saving CPR/AED
- Homicide solve rate: 93 percent (national average: 64 percent)
- Animal shelter euthanasia rate down 50 percent (62 percent since 2012)
- Police Academy graduated 58 and Fire Academy graduated 94 recruits
- 911 Center dispatched 770,780 police calls and 82,229 medical/fire calls
- Nearly 7,000 attended annual Public Safety Festival at Coolray Field and 900 attended first Multicultural Festival at North Atlanta Trade Center
- Active shooter training reached 1,100 personnel from Gwinnett Police, Fire and Emergency Services, and other public safety agencies
- Placed new medic units in service at Fire Station 17 (Harbins area) and Station 26 (Sugar Hill)
- **Award-winning home safety visits program used FEMA grant funding to install**
- Under construction in 2015: Fire Academy Phase 2 renovation continues; new Fire Station 31; Fire Station 10 relocation; partial build-out/reconfigured space at Courthouse Annex for Juvenile Court Guardian ad Litem and District Attorney



Transportation

- Completed agreements for \$25 million in SPLOST-funded joint city-county projects
- Widened Hurricane Shoals Road (SR 120 to Collins Hill Road) and SR 20 (I-985 to South Lee Street)
- Added 10.2 miles of fiber-optic cable and 16 cameras along Dacula Road and SR 324 and connected 16 traffic signals to Traffic Control Center
- Upgraded GC Smart Commute website lets users select camera views and snapshots
- Completed 17 Quick-Fix projects, rehabilitated six bridges, resurfaced 135 miles of roads, and rehabbed 5.3 miles of unpaved roads
- **Installed nine new and modified eight traffic signals, upgraded seven intersections for flashing yellow left turns, and**
- Upgraded pedestrian access and installed bus shelters on Lawrenceville Highway, Boggs Road, Buford Highway, and Oakland Park Boulevard
- Gwinnett Transit: 1.7 million boardings; Briscoe Field: 75,197 take-offs and landings
- Design underway for 50 projects funded by 2014 SPLOST
- Construction began on 15 projects funded by 2009 SPLOST (intersection, pedestrian safety, school safety, safety/alignment)
- Opening in 2015: Diverging Diamond Interchange on Jimmy Carter Boulevard at I-85



Community Services

- Worked with 1,134 partners to provide services; volunteers gave 996,557 hours
- Gwinnett Extension made 1,331 educational presentations to youth and adult groups
- Gwinnett Public Library: 308,000 cardholders checked out 6.4 million items; 113,000 attended programs; and 2.8 million visited library branches
- Voter Registration and Elections held three elections for 471,296 registered voters
- Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center provided 180,937 educational hours and will soon have a new entrance, outdoor plaza and classroom, LED lighting, and ADA-compliance work on historic buildings and sites
- Senior Services' Volunteer Drivers program helped reduce transportation wait lists
- Health and Human Services' centers in Norcross, Buford, and Centerville served 434,493 people
- Live Healthy Gwinnett launched with community partners to address wellness and preventable chronic illness
- Parks and Recreation: 9,543 facility rentals; 90,697 participants in 6,993 classes, programs, camps, and events; 461,893 aquatic center admissions; 17,502 adult athletics participants
- Parks maintained 175 sports fields, 69 playgrounds, and 125 miles of trails on 9,413 acres and launched new online registration/reservation system with online facility rentals starting in April
- Park purchases: Simpsonwood property in Peachtree Corners and Johnson property in southern Gwinnett
- Park renovations: Lions Club Park; Bethesda Park softball complex; Little Mulberry Park Phase 3; and Ivy Creek Greenway expansion
- Under construction in 2015: J.B. Williams and Level Creek parks; South Gwinnett Park renovation; expansions at Rock Springs and McDaniel Farm parks

Water Resources

- Eliminated water/sewer rate increases planned for 2015
- \$600,000 annual savings by optimizing chemical use at water production and water reclamation facilities
- Refinanced water/sewer bonds to save \$30 million in interest
- **Returned water drawn from Lake Lanier**
- Completed six streambank restoration projects
- Began intern and co-op programs with local educational institutions



- Inspected 96 miles and lined 4,000 feet of sewer pipe; repaired or replaced 1,049 water leaks, 4,532 fire hydrants, and 14,332 water meters; replaced 4.4 miles of small water mains and 3.4 miles of 48-inch mains; and lined or replaced 10.1 miles of storm drain pipe
- Major renovations: Crooked Creek Water Reclamation Facility (five-year project) and Beaver Run Pump Station
- On-site hypochlorite generation will eliminate chlorine gas from water plants
- New online water bill payment arrangements reduced call volume by 1,000/month



Little Mulberry Park