

GWINNETT COUNTY CONNECTION

A monthly publication of **Gwinnett County** Government

MARCH 2019

Nash explains transit contract referendum in State of the County Address

Gwinnett County Commission Chairman Charlotte Nash briefed an audience of 900 business and civic leaders on the transit contract referendum during her recent 2019 State of the County Address.

Through March 19, Gwinnett voters will go to the polls to consider a contract with MARTA to operate and expand the County's transit system and to implement a 1 percent sales tax to pay for expansion and improvements.

"In my opinion, this is the next big decision for Gwinnett, akin to those made in the past regarding water, sewer, and roads," Nash said. "We have a unique opportunity before us to strengthen one of the most important foundations for a vibrantly connected Gwinnett – transportation and mobility."

Nash said that roads alone will not be enough to meet Gwinnett's future transportation needs, and polls show people want transportation options. Using expert analysis and public input, Gwinnett developed a 30-year plan to expand the transit system and improve its service.

The arrangement, previously approved by the Board of Commissioners, allows the County to leverage MARTA's network and expertise while protecting Gwinnett's interests, Nash said. She explained that with the contract, Gwinnett controls Gwinnett funds, expenditures, and projects, and funds collected in Gwinnett must be spent for the benefit of Gwinnett. Nash also said the contract will give Gwinnett three seats on the MARTA board.

She encouraged the public to attend one of the remaining education sessions to learn more about the plan and the contract. Visit www.GwinnettCounty.com for more information about the sessions, the contract, and the plan.



Ahora pueden leer Gwinnett County Connection en español en www.GwinnettCounty.com.

AROUND GWINNETT

Voting in the upcoming transit contract referendum on March 19

Voters will have multiple opportunities to cast their ballot in the transit contract referendum. Vote in person at the Main Elections Office through March 15 and at satellite locations from March 4 to March 15 seven days a week, 7:00am to 7:00pm. On March 19, go to your assigned polling location. For absentee by mail applications and additional information, visit www.GwinnettElections.com or call 678.226.7210.

Vote en el próximo referéndum sobre el contrato de transporte

Los votantes tendrán múltiples oportunidades para emitir su voto en el referéndum del contrato de transporte. Vote en persona en la Oficina Principal de Elecciones hasta el 15 de Marzo y en las ubicaciones satélite del 4 Marzo al 15 de Marzo, los siete días de la semana, de 7:00am a 7:00pm. El 19 de Marzo, vaya a su lugar de votación asignado. Para solicitudes de voto ausente por correo e información adicional, llame al 678.226.7210 o visite www.GwinnettElections.com.

Celebrate Earth Day with free recycling

Residents can bring paint, tires, electronics, and paper to Gwinnett County's Earth Day event on **April 13 from 9:00am to noon** at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds at 2405 Sugarloaf Parkway in Lawrenceville. Paper shredding is limited to five copier boxes per vehicle; paint is limited to 10 gallons; and tire recycling is limited to eight tires (no dealer tires). Recycling is free except for TVs and monitors, which cost \$15 each, and printers, which cost \$5 each (cash only). To learn more, call Solid Waste Management at 770.822.7141. Volunteer opportunities are available at www.VolunteerGwinnett.net.

County hosts annual networking event for potential vendors

The Gwinnett County Purchasing Division will host the 13th Annual Supplier Networking Event **Thursday, April 11** at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center at 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville.

Vendors can meet County contracting officers and buyers between 8:30am and 11:00am. To register, view current projects open for bidding, or learn about bidding procedures, visit the Purchasing Division's webpage at www.GwinnettCounty.com.

Multicultural Festival set for April 27
Gwinnett Police, County officials, and friends from across the globe will gather at the annual Gwinnett Multicultural Festival Saturday, April 27 from 10:00am to 2:00pm at Shorty Howell Park on Pleasant Hill Road. Families can see exhibits and cultural performances from other countries, meet officers, and enjoy kids' activities such as a dunk tank, games, and inflatables. For more information, call 770.513.5119.

Gwinnett County Government hosts many events, classes, and workshops for its residents. See these and more at www.GwinnettCountyEvents.com.

Story Time in the Park

April 8 from 10:30am to 11:00am
Alexander Park
800 Old Snellville Highway, Lawrenceville

My Lucky Charm

April 17 from 6:30pm to 9:30pm
OneStop Buford
2755 Sawnee Avenue, Buford

Egg-Citing Easter | FREE!

April 19 from 10:00am to noon
OneStop Centerville
3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville

Earth Day | FREE!

April 20 from 10:00am to 2:00pm
McDaniel Farm Park
3251 McDaniel Road, Duluth

Art on the Chattahoochee Art Market

April 20 from 10:00am to 5:00pm
Jones Bridge Park
4901 East Jones Bridge Road, Peachtree Corners

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send questions or comments to

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Gwinnett County Communications Division
75 Langley Drive • Lawrenceville, GA 30046
770.822.7180 • www.GwinnettCounty.com

Questions about your water bill? Call 678.376.6700.



gwinnettSPLOST.com

Your Pennies
for Transportation

Gwinnett's 2019 resurfacing campaign to cover 150 miles of roadway

Gwinnett County will resurface about 150 centerline miles of County roads, starting this spring.

Gwinnett Transportation employees rate the pavement status on about half of the County-maintained roads annually to identify those most in need.

The County's share of the \$24.1 million project is funded by the 2017 SPLOST program. The state will pay about 27 percent of the cost. Maintaining the pavement of a road helps keep costs down by reducing the amount spent on patching or completely rebuilding a roadway.

Please visit www.GwinnettCounty.com for more information on the Gwinnett County resurfacing program or other SPLOST projects.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Don't get scammed by criminals posing as law enforcement officers

The Gwinnett County Police Department is seeing a rise in scams where suspects posing as Gwinnett County Police officers – sometimes with the name of real officers – call victims with allegations of unpaid debts or active warrants and threaten consequences if they are not paid immediately.

The criminals also may claim they represent the IRS, a utility company, a financial institution, or an immigration authority. Some will program their phones so that the phone number of the Gwinnett Police Department or some other agency appears on the victim's caller ID.

Scammers may demand payment with bitcoin or that the victim send cash by FedEx. They also may ask for payment with prepaid debit cards (such as Green Dot), gift cards, or wire transfer. These methods appeal to criminals because the money is difficult to track or recover. Law enforcement and government agencies will never demand payment over the phone.

To report a phone-based scam, call Gwinnett Police at 770.513.5700. For more information, visit the Federal Trade Commission website at www.ftc.gov.

PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES



Take the hazard out of household hazardous waste products

Many common products used to maintain homes, yards, and vehicles include potentially hazardous ingredients that can be harmful if disposed of incorrectly. Improper disposal of motor oil, oven cleaner, weed spray, and many other household products poses a threat to the environment.

Household hazardous waste is categorized as leftover household products that can catch fire or explode, or products that are corrosive or toxic. This includes a long list of items such as paint, oil, pesticides, and cleaning materials.

The most important phrase to remember about proper disposal of HHW is "Do not pour!" Pouring these leftover products on the ground, into waterways, or down storm drains can damage the ecology of local waterways and pollute the drinking water sources that communities depend on.

Follow these tips to prevent water pollution from HHW:

- Only purchase the amount necessary for a project and try to use it all
- Use sawdust, cat litter, and other absorbent materials to solidify many liquid home products like leftover paint and then place them in the trash
- Check with local retailers and organizations to see if they offer recycling programs and will accept home products for disposal
- Ask friends, family, or neighbors if they can use leftover products or consider splitting a product with someone

For more information about HHW disposal programs, visit www.GwinnettCB.org/Recycling or check the County recycling directory at www.SustainableGwinnett.com. If you see evidence of HHW being discharged into a storm drain or waterway, report it to the Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources by calling 678.376.7000.

TAX COMMISSIONER

Reduce your tax bill by applying for homestead exemptions by April 1

The best way to reduce your property tax bill is to apply for homestead exemptions. You must own and occupy the home as of January 1 of the application year. In addition to the regular exemption, there are also several specialty exemptions available, to check eligibility and apply, visit www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Exemptions. The application deadline is April 1.

CHECK IT OUT

Get your passport at the Buford-Sugar Hill library branch

The Buford-Sugar Hill Branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library is an official passport application acceptance facility. Since receiving the designation in April 2018, the Buford-Sugar Hill Branch has accepted more than 1,300 passport applications. The branch can assist if you are applying for your first U.S. passport, you are under the age of 16, your previous U.S. passport was issued when you were under age 16 or issued more than 15 years ago, or if your U.S. passport was lost, stolen, or damaged. You can apply for a passport book, passport card, or both. The branch has copies of the Form DS-11, which is also available at www.Travel.State.Gov.

Department of Water Resources
2019 April Water Workshops

Spring Cleaning: Household Hazardous Waste Management

April 11 • 1:00pm – 2:30pm
Lilburn City Hall
340 Main Street, Lilburn

Learn how to identify, manage, and properly dispose of hazardous materials in your home.

Lawn Care with Integrated Pest Management

April 16 • 6:00pm – 7:30pm
Suwanee Library
361 Main Street, Suwanee

Learn how to take control of your yard from bugs using methods that require fewer chemicals than conventional "spray away" styles.

Three ways to register:

Visit the Events page at www.GwinnettH2O.com
Send an email with your name, address, and phone number to DWRWorkshops@GwinnettCounty.com
Call 678.376.7193