

gwinnettcounty connection

a monthly publication of gwinnettcounty government

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FEATURE

Recycle your holiday items

As the holidays approach, remember to give a gift to the environment. In addition to your regular recyclables, many holiday items can be collected curbside. Examples include but are not limited to: wrapping paper (no plastic or foil varieties) and wrapping paper cores, gift bags, greeting cards, aluminum baking tins, beverage containers (some plastics, aluminum, and glass), and catalogs, plus most boxes and cardboard containers. Be sure to break down the cardboard. Please note that haulers will follow the normal trash and recycling schedule the week of Christmas and New Year's Day.



An Ode to Recycling

The boxes your gifts and toys came in,
Greeting cards and wrapping paper, too.
Don't forget all those aluminum baking tins,
And glass bottles holding your special brew.
Pick up the empty plastic cups from your den,
Once your holiday party is through,
And put them all in the recycling bin,
Because it's the right thing to do!

PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Illegal dump sites lead to polluted streams

Illegal dumping is a problem in Gwinnett County, which poses a threat to environmental and public health. Abandoned subdivision developments and buildings, empty lots, alleyways, and roadsides are all common areas where trash and waste materials are dumped illegally.

Materials that are often dumped illegally include household garbage, yard waste, appliances, tires, furniture, and hazardous materials such as batteries, paint, antifreeze, and biological wastes. When these materials are left exposed to the elements, the pollutants can reach waterways when rain washes through the dump site. Illegal dump sites can be a significant source of pollution in Gwinnett County's streams and lakes.

This pollution can be managed, of course, but not without the assistance of all Gwinnett County citizens, including you. If you see or know about illegal dumping activity, please report it to the Gwinnett County Solid Waste and Recycling Call Center, 770.822.7141. Staff from the Solid Waste and Recycling Division and officers with the Police Department's Quality of Life Unit will follow up on all reports of illegal dumping.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Home heating safety

Cold weather means an increase in the number of structure fires. Many of these fires are caused by poorly maintained heaters or heaters placed too close to combustibles.

If you use space or portable heaters, allow three feet of open space around the heater. Turn the heater off anytime you leave your home.

Only use a fireplace or wood stove that has been installed properly and annually cleaned and inspected by a certified professional. Never use a range top stove or an oven as a heat source. Not only is this a safety hazard, it could also be a source of fire and toxic fumes such as carbon monoxide.

For more information, contact the Gwinnett Fire Community Risk Reduction – Education Section at 678.518.4850 or fireprograms@gwinnettcounty.com.

Water and Sewer Rate Increase

Effective January 2011, a rate increase will be implemented and will remain in effect until December 2011. Visit www.gwinnetth2o.com for a complete listing of rates and charges.

Single Family Residential (per 1,000 gallons)	
Water	
Tier 1 (up to 8,000 gallons)	\$4.38
Tier 2 (8,000 – 12,000 gallons)	\$6.57
Tier 3 (over 12,000 gallons)	\$8.76
Sewer	\$5.89

Commercial/Multi Family Residential (per 1,000 gallons)	
Water	\$4.38
Sewer	\$5.89

All Irrigation and Builder accounts shall be billed at 2.0 times the tier-one volumetric rate for all water which passes through the water meter per billing period.

Monthly Availability Charges (no change from 2010)					
Meter Size	Meter Charges	Meter Size	Meter Charges	Meter Size	Meter Charges
5/8"	\$7.50	1 1/2"	\$27.00	4"	\$210.00
3/4"	\$7.50	2"	\$52.50	6"	\$400.00
1"	\$16.50	3"	\$144.00	8"	\$750.00

CHECK IT OUT

Check out these great new style and fashion guides! These books and other are available at the Gwinnett County Public Library, www.gwinnettpl.org.

What to Wear for the Rest of Your Life: Ageless Secrets of Style, by Kim Johnson Gross

Harper's Bazaar Fashion: Your Guide to Personal Style

How to Never Look Fat Again: Over 1000 Ways to Dress Thinner – Without Dieting, by Charla Krupp

Lauren Conrad Style, by Lauren Conrad

SPLOST

Last Sugarloaf Parkway link gets underway

Gwinnett commissioners awarded a construction contract in November to build the final leg to extend Sugarloaf Parkway to State Route 316. It's the last of four contracts to build the first phase of a new, four-lane roadway from the previous end at State Route 20 south of Lawrenceville to SR 316 in Dacula. When completed, the new road will have interchanges at New Hope Road, Martins Chapel Road, Campbell Road, and State Route 316.



The project will improve mobility in central and eastern Gwinnett, relieving congestion by providing an additional alternative between south Lawrenceville and Grayson and the Dacula area. A planned second phase will extend Sugarloaf Parkway from SR 316 to Peachtree Industrial Boulevard to improve access between the Lawrenceville/Grayson area and the Suwanee/Sugar Hill/Buford area.

ER Snell Contractor, Inc., of Snellville was the lowest of eight bidders at \$14,799,271. The project is funded by the 2009 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax Program.

Work on the first section of the extension began in late 2007 and opened to traffic last February. The second section began construction in late 2008 and is on schedule to be complete by the end of 2010. Section 3A, from Martins Chapel Road to Campbell Road, began construction in early 2010 and is on schedule to be complete by mid-2012.

AROUND GWINNETT

Protect your family with a flu shot

Flu season is here and the Gwinnett, Newton, and Rockdale County Health Departments want to remind you to get your flu shot. Flu shots are available to everyone six months and older at your local health department, pharmacy, walk-in clinic, or from your doctor.

This year's flu vaccine includes three different flu viruses: H3N2, influenza B, and H1N1.

Pneumonia shots are also recommended for people over 65 or with a chronic illness or weakened immune system.

You can also reduce your risk of getting the flu by following a few simple steps:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand cleanser
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth
- Stay home when you're sick
- Do not share eating utensils and other personal items
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your sleeve

For more information, visit www.eastmetrohealth.com.

TAX COMMISSIONER

Tag office Christmas holiday hours

Tag office work schedules are different during holiday weeks, and the day following a holiday is typically very busy. To view the complete tag office 2010 holiday schedule, visit the Tax Commissioner's website or call 770.822.8818.

Be first in line – every time; renew your vehicle online at www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com.

County offices closed

Christmas, New Year's

All offices, except those operations required for the comfort and safety of the citizens of Gwinnett County, will be closed December 23 and 24 for the Christmas holiday. Offices will reopen December 27. County offices will also be closed December 31 for New Year's Day and reopen January 3.

EVENTS

Sign up for these and other great activities at www.gwinnettparks.com.

Dancing with the Sugar Plum Fairy

December 14 • 2:30pm or 4:00pm
Bogan Park Community Recreation Center
2723 North Bogan Road, Buford

BRRRR! BINGO

December 14 • 6:00pm – 8:00pm
Lucky Shoals Park Community Recreation Center
4651 Britt Road, Norcross

Santa's Calling!

December 14 • 6:00pm – 8:00pm
December 16 • 6:00pm – 8:00pm
Bogan Park Community Recreation Center
2723 North Bogan Road, Buford

Tinsel Town Teen Bash

December 17 • 7:00pm – 11:00pm
George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center
55 Buford Highway, Suwanee

Holiday Window Painting Contest

December 18
Lucky Shoals Park Community Recreation Center
4651 Britt Road, Norcross

Dancing with the Sugar Plum Fairy

December 18 • 11:00am or 1:00pm
Rhodes Jordan Park Community Recreation Center
100 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

Who Broke Christmas? Kids Dinner Theater

December 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18 • 6:30pm – 8:00pm
December 11 • 11:30am – 1:00pm
December 18 • 11:30am – 1:00pm
Locations vary

Three-on-Three Holiday Hoopla

December 20 and 22 • noon – 9:00pm
Lucky Shoals Park Community Recreation Center
4651 Britt Road, Norcross

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send questions or comments to shaunieka.taste@gwinnettcounty.com

Gwinnett County Communications Division
75 Langley Drive • Lawrenceville, GA 30046 • 770.822.7180

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