

gwinnettcounty connection

a monthly publication of gwinnettcounty government

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FEATURE

Abandoned carts

With the exception of former Red Oak customers, if you still have a 95-gallon cart from your previous trash company, you can call your current hauler to schedule a bulky item pickup or mark it "recyclables" for use as an additional recycling bin.

If you are a former Red Oak customer, contact the company directly for cart retrieval or take your cart to Red Oak's facility located at 2 Ruby Street in Gainesville for a refund of your \$50 deposit.

B.Y.O. Bin to America Recycles Day

Decorate your recycling bin and bring it to America Recycles Day and you could win a prize in our decorating contest. Make sure your bin is clearly marked "recyclables." **Don't forget:** Celebrate America Recycles Day with us at Coolray Field, home of the Gwinnett Braves, on Saturday, November 20 from 10:00am to 2:00pm. This free event will include paper shredding and electronics recycling (\$10 cash for TVs), kids' activities, giveaways, and more! For more information, visit www.sustainablegwinnett.com.



PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Dry weather screening detects illicit discharges

Gwinnett County Stormwater Management implements a variety of programs to comply with state and federal stormwater regulations. One of these programs is the Dry Weather Screening Program, which is intended to help detect illicit discharges or illegal connections to the storm sewer system.



Dry weather screening entails checking stormwater outfalls throughout the county after at least 72 hours of dry weather to ensure that no hazardous substances are flowing out of County-owned pipes and into state waters, including most streams, rivers, and lakes. An outfall is the last structure, usually a pipe outlet, in a storm sewer system owned by the County that discharges into state waters (including most streams, rivers, and lakes). The purpose is to detect illicit flow during dry weather, since no rainwater should be flowing through the system. When flow is detected, an investigator measures fluoride, detergent, pH, temperature, and conductivity levels in the water, and if the flow is determined to be an illicit discharge, the investigator traces the flow upstream to determine its origin.

If the source is found and the responsible party identified, the County will then enforce the *Illicit Discharge and Illegal Connection Ordinance* to stop the discharge. To report illicit discharges to the storm drainage system, call Gwinnett County's 24-hour call center at 678.376.7000. For more information, contact the Gwinnett County Stormwater management Division at 678.376.6826 or visit www.gwinnettstormwater.com.

Gwinnett County Water customers can now start, update, or change automatic payment of their water bill online. Visit www.gwinnetth2o.com and click on the "Customer Self Service Forms" link for more information.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Safe cooking tips for the holidays

As preparations get underway for a busy holiday season, firefighters want to encourage safe cooking practices. The Gwinnett County Department of Fire and Emergency Services and the National Fire Protection Association are calling on all cooks to include fire safety in their recipes:

- Remember to check your food regularly when cooking meals. Use a timer as a reminder and never leave the house when you are cooking
- Never wear loose clothing or dangling sleeves while cooking
- Remember to stop, drop, and roll if your clothes catch on fire
- Cool a burn injury with water until the pain goes away
- Never attempt to cook if you are extremely tired, sleepy, or if you have consumed alcoholic beverages
- Install and maintain smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors in the home
- If you're planning to deep-fry your holiday bird, follow all manufacturers' instructions to safely use a turkey fryer

CHECK IT OUT

Check out these selections and get ideas for holiday cooking and crafts! These books and others are available at the Gwinnett County Public Library, www.gwinnettpl.org.

Seasons & Celebrations: A Market-fresh Cookbook for All Occasions, by Jill Melton

Super Simple Holiday Treats: Easy No-bake Recipes for Kids, by Nancy Tuminelly

Gather: Memorable Menus for Entertaining Throughout the Seasons, by Georgeanne Brennan

Kids in the Holiday Kitchen: Making, Baking and Giving, by Jessica Strand and Tammy Massman-Johnson

SPLOST

George Pierce Park gets greenway link

Construction will begin soon on another piece of the **Ivy Creek Greenway** trail. Currently one section of the Greenway is already complete and extends from the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center to the Mall of Georgia.

In October, Commissioners approved trail construction within George Pierce Park that will include a trailhead near the adult softball parking lot with benches and signage, almost a mile of paved, multi-purpose trail with retaining walls, and 1,850 feet of boardwalk with scenic overlooks. New concrete steps near the lower parking area for the soccer fields will connect to an existing gravel trail.

District 1 Commissioner **Shirley Lasseter** said, "I'm excited that we are able to move forward with another phase of this long-planned recreation project with funding from the 2005 SPLOST program. This trail is an excellent example of coordination between the city and the County to connect greenways that our citizens will enjoy using."

JD James, Inc., submitted the low bid for the sales-tax-funded trail project at \$1.02 million.



County offices closed for Thanksgiving

All offices, except those operations required for the comfort and safety of the citizens of Gwinnett County, will be closed November 25 and 26. Offices will reopen on November 29.

EVENTS

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

Breakfast with Santa

November 27 and December 11

9:00am – 11:00am

Gwinnett Historic Courthouse

185 West Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

Santa Trolley

December 3 and 5 • 5:00pm – 8:00pm

Gwinnett Historic Courthouse

185 West Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

Pet Pics with Santa

December 4 • 9:00am – noon

Dacula Park Activity Building

205 Dacula Road, Dacula

Dancing with the Sugar Plum Fairy

December 4, 14, and 18

Times and locations vary

Annual Senior Christmas Tea

December 9 • 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Prime Timers Pointe at George Pierce Park

55 Buford Highway, Suwanee

Who Broke Christmas?

Kids Dinner Theater

December 9 – 17

Times and locations vary

Holiday on the Square

December 10 – 12, 17 – 19 • 5:00pm – 8:00pm

December 20 – 21 • 10:00am – 2:00pm

Gwinnett Historic Courthouse

185 West Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

Green Your Holiday

December 11 • 10:00am – 3:00pm

Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center

2020 Clean Water Drive, Buford

www.gwinnettEHC.org

Green Living Kids Holiday Drop-Off

December 11 • 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center

2020 Clean Water Drive, Buford

www.gwinnettEHC.org

AROUND GWINNETT

Help a senior stay warm this winter

Help Gwinnett County Senior Services keep Gwinnett seniors warm during the bitter winter months by taking part in **Project A.W.A.R.E.** (Added Warmth Assistance for Residences of our Elderly). Many seniors struggle to pay their heating bills and afford food and prescriptions. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation of a brand new portable electric heater to one of our local seniors.

Drop off your donation at your local Gwinnett County fire station through February 11, 2011. For more information about Project A.W.A.R.E., contact Melanie Miller at 770.822.8842 or melanie.miller@gwinnettcountry.com.

You can also donate sweaters and blankets to Sweaters for Seniors, presented by Alternative Home Care for Seniors (AHCS). Sweater donations must be made by December 1, 2010. For more information on Sweaters for Seniors, please contact Sharna Fulton, AHCS Director of Marketing at 770.736.7977 or sharna.fulton@att.net.

2011 budget review meetings

Each Gwinnett County department and agency presented its 2011 business plan including needed financial resources to the Commission Chairman and a budget review committee made up of citizens and designated County staff on October 6 – 8 at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center. Visit www.tvgwinnett.com to view the budget plan presentations and materials.

TAX COMMISSIONER

Tag office Thanksgiving 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 GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com.

gwinnettcountry connection

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

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