

gwinnettcounty connection

a monthly publication of gwinnettcounty government

Sign up for
e-newsletters
www.gwinnettcounty.com

FEATURE

Drop off your Christmas tree for recycling

Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful in partnership with Gwinnett County will host the annual *Bring One for the Chipper* event. Residents can drop off their undecorated trees from December 26 until January 15 at various locations in Gwinnett. Trees will be chipped into mulch and used for County parks, facilities, etc. Visit www.gwinnettcounty.com for locations. Unless you have a yard waste contract with your hauler, please note that trees will not be collected curbside. Please be reminded that solid waste haulers will follow the normal schedule during the weeks of Christmas and New Year's Day.

PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Water and sewer rate increase

Effective January 2012, a rate increase will be implemented and will remain in effect until December 2012. 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)	\$4.53
Tier 2 (8,000 – 12,000 gallons)	\$6.79
Tier 3 (over 12,000 gallons)	\$9.06
Sewer	\$6.47

Commercial/Multi Family Residential (per 1,000 gallons)	
Water	\$4.53
Sewer	\$6.47

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

Monthly Availability Charges (no change from 2011)					
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

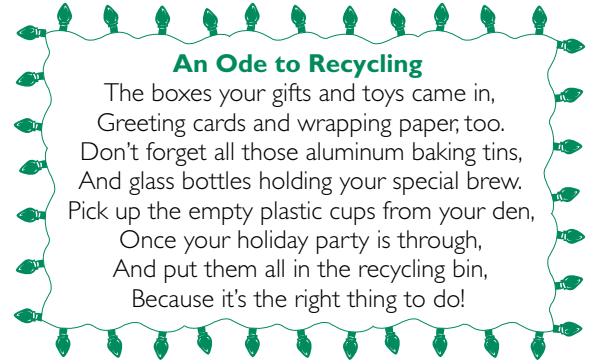
Department of Water Resources

Homeowner H2O: Water Conservation Workshop

This free workshop will provide the knowledge and tools you need to increase water efficiency in your home. Attendees will receive a low-flow retrofit kit, outdoor water efficiency kit, do-it-yourself home water audit guide, and information on how to apply for Gwinnett County's toilet rebate program.

January 11, 2012 • 7:00pm – 8:30pm
Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center Auditorium
75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville

Pre-register by sending an e-mail with your name, address, and phone number to dwrconserve@gwinnettcounty.com or calling 678.376.6722.



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!

PUBLIC SAFETY

Be safe this holiday season

The Gwinnett County Police Department has activated its Holiday Task Force now through December 31. This initiative provides additional visible police presence throughout Gwinnett County's shopping districts. The task force will be available for any calls for service, but the Police Department wants to remind you to be safe while you shop and travel during the holidays. Here are some tips:

- Don't shop alone – and when offered, let retail employees assist you with taking your merchandise to your vehicle
- If you are heading out of town, be sure to secure your home and designate someone you trust to collect your newspapers and mail
- Don't announce on answering machines or social networking sites when you will be traveling away from home

Visit www.gwinnettcounty.com for more safety tips. Have a safe and happy holiday season!

CHECK IT OUT

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

Seasons and Celebrations: A Market-Fresh Cookbook for All Occasions, by Jill Melton

Holiday Crafting and Baking with Kids: Gifts, Sweets, and Treats for the Whole Family, by Jessica Strand

The Creative Kitchen: Over 100 Food Gifts to Make and Give, by Susan White Sullivan

Holiday Cupcakes, by Annie Rigg

SPLOST

SPLOST: Vines Park renovation gets underway

Gwinnett commissioners recently approved a major renovation project for Vines Park near Grayson in southern Gwinnett. The project will replace the existing pavilion with a new one located closer to the lake, replace the existing trail around the lake, and add a new lake overlook. In addition, crews will remove the old wooden structures and bridges that existed on the original residential property when the land was donated to the County in 1990. These structures have presented maintenance issues over the years.



Community Services Director **Phil Hoskins** said, "We are using new materials that are expected to reduce future maintenance costs for the trails and structures while keeping the lakeside experience visitors expect to find at Vines Park. We also will improve access from the parking lot to the trail."

The County signed a 20-year lease agreement in 1997 allowing Georgia Fine Restaurants, Inc., to operate Vines Mansion on the park property but Hoskins said the project does not include the leased property. The Board of Commissioners awarded the \$1.07 million project to low bidder Rescom of Georgia, LLC, using funds from the 2005 SPLOST sales tax program. Vines Park opened to the public in 2005.

AROUND GWINNETT

Chairman proposes 2012 budget

Gwinnett County Commission Chairman Charlotte Nash unveiled the proposed fiscal year 2012 budget to the Board of Commissioners during a briefing on November 15. The proposed budget totals \$1.3 billion, compared to \$1.5 billion for 2011.

The proposed operating budget (daily operations) for fiscal year 2012 totals \$901 million, while the proposed capital budget is \$430 million. Operating expenses are expected to be lower in 2012 compared to 2011, and capital investments have been limited to those that do not require significant additional operating costs.

To view the proposed budget resolution and to make comments, visit www.gwinnettcountry.com or visit the Department of Financial Services office located in the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center (GJAC), 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville, from 8:00am to 5:00pm Monday through Friday, to view a hard copy version. The Board is expected to consider the 2012 budget for adoption during the first meeting of the year on January 3, 2012.

Don't burn green wood

When you're building a fire this winter, the Gwinnett Extension Services urges you to avoid using green or freshly cut wood. Green wood will burn, but seasoned wood has more heat value. Since green wood splits easier, cut and stack it now for burning next winter. For more information, contact the Gwinnett Extension Service at 678.377.4010.

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 2011 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 26 for the Christmas holiday. Offices will reopen December 27. County offices will also be closed January 2 for New Year's Day and will reopen January 3.

EVENTS

Sign up for these and other great activities through the Community Services Department at www.gwinnettcountry.com or call 770.822.8833.

Parks & Recreation

Prom Fashion Extravaganza

January 7 • 2:00pm – 4:30pm
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse
185 Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

Night Bike Ride

January 19 • 6:00pm
Tribble Mill Park
2125 Tribble Mill Parkway, Lawrenceville

Canvas Café Art Experience

January 21 • 10:00am – 1:00pm
Pinckneyville Park Community Recreation Center
4650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Norcross

An Engaging Affair Bridal Show

January 22 • 1:00pm – 4:00pm
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse
185 Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

Health & Human Services

American Red Cross Blood Drive

January 10 • 11:00am – 4:00pm
Norcross Human Services Center
5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross

Super Social Skills for Youth Ages 7 – 12

January 28 • 10:00am – noon
Centerville Community Center
3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville

Cooperative Extension Service

Plant Sale

Pre-paid orders are being accepted now through March 16, 2012. Plants for sale include blueberries, crape myrtles, figs, and much more! For more information, visit www.gwinnettcountry.com, click on *Departments>Community Services>Cooperative Extension Services>Upcoming Events & Calendar*.

gwinnettcountry connection

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

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

linkup

get county government
information from the source

gwinnettcountry.com

