

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 before putting it out to be recycled.

Please note that Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 24, is a trash holiday. During the week of November 20 – 26, if your normal pickup day is Thursday, your pickup will take place on Friday, November 25. If your normal pickup day is Friday, your pickup will take place on Saturday, November 26. Only Thursday and Friday pickups will be affected.



PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Compost to protect water quality

After a hard day of trimming, cutting, and mowing, the yard looks great. However, there is also a pile of yard debris that has to be dealt with responsibly, lest it would contribute to the nonpoint source pollution of surface waters in Gwinnett County. How can this pile of natural materials be considered a pollutant? When the tree branch or blade of grass is cut off, nutrients from the soil and fertilizers are still in the plant fibers. If that yard waste is dumped in a creek or a storm drain, those nutrients leach out as the plant material decays and enter the waterways, contributing to nutrient pollution.

So instead of letting those valuable nutrients escape to cause harm, you can keep them in your yard by composting the materials. There are multiple options for composting, from high-tech contraptions to a wire hoop. Whichever method you choose, the resulting dark brown, nutrient-rich substrate can be used in the yard or garden to return those nutrients to your land and plants and to help retain soil moisture. This reduces the amount of excess nutrients reaching our lakes and streams and reduces the need for outdoor watering.

To find out more about composting, contact the Gwinnett County Cooperative Extension Service at 675.377.4010 or visit their office in the Gwinnett County Government Annex building, located at 750 South Perry Street, Suite 400 in Lawrenceville.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Cook safely this holiday

As we get ready for another busy holiday season, let's not forget to follow 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:

- If you are simmering, baking, roasting, or boiling food, remember to check it regularly. Use a timer as a reminder and turn the burners off if you have to leave for any period of time
- Never wear loose clothing or dangling sleeves while cooking. Remember to stop, drop, and roll if your clothes catch on fire
- Never attempt to cook if you are tired, sleepy, or have consumed alcoholic beverages
- Install and maintain smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors in your home

If you're planning to deep-fry your holiday bird, please remember to follow proper fire safety precautions. For a turkey fryer safety demonstration, visit www.gwinnettcounty.com.

CHECK IT OUT

Check out these books to help you understand and plan for new health care and insurance laws. These books and others are available at the Gwinnett County Public Library, www.gwinnettpl.org.

Health Care Reform and American Politics: What Everyone Needs to Know, by Lawrence Jacobs

The New Health Care System: Everything You Need to Know, by David Nather

Doctor, Your Patient Will See You Now: Gaining the Upper Hand in Your Medical Care, by Steven Kussin

The Empowered Patient, by Elizabeth Cohen

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special event venues

live

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SPLOST

Road improvements coming to Dacula

Gwinnett County will spend just over a half million dollars on road improvements in the Dacula Elementary School area after commissioners approved two separate projects in October. One project will realign Old Peachtree Road at its intersection with Dacula Road, improving visibility and traffic flow. The other will add curb, gutter, and sidewalks for a half mile on Fence Road near the school.

The Board awarded both projects to Summit Construction and Development LLC, the lowest of 10 bidders at \$566,411. Construction is expected to take about six months.

"This work completes two safety improvements we promised as part of the voter-approved SPLOST sales tax programs," Gwinnett DOT Acting Director **Kim Conroy** said.



AROUND GWINNETT

Thanksgiving is a trash holiday

Thursday, November 25 is a trash and recycling holiday. During the week of November 20 – 26, if your normal pickup day is Thursday, your pickup will take place on Friday, November 25. If your normal pickup day is Friday, your pickup will take place on Saturday, November 26.

Please note that the trash schedule will not change for Christmas Day and New Year's Day since both holidays fall on a Sunday this year.

View the 2012 budget review meetings

Each Gwinnett County department and agency presented its 2012 business plan including needed financial resources to Commission Chairman Charlotte Nash and a budget review committee made up of citizens and designated County staff in September.

From the information provided by departments, Chairman Nash will develop her proposed 2012 budget. The budget is tentatively set to be presented to commissioners on November 15 and will be made available to the public and the media at the same time. A public hearing will be held in December. By County ordinance, the Board of Commissioners must adopt the annual budget during its first meeting in January.

Visit www.tvgwinnett.com to view the business plan presentations and materials.

Find out where your property taxes go

Did you know that about two-thirds of the county government portion of your property tax dollars fund public safety and the courts? Don't forget to try the new *Where Your Property Taxes Go* tool on the Your Money webpage on the County's website. Just enter your address or the fair market value of a home to get a complete breakdown of how much per day – or per year – goes to various local government services.

TAX COMMISSIONER

Tax Commissioner's office Thanksgiving holiday hours

All Tax Commissioner offices will be closed Thursday, November 24 through Saturday, November 26 for the Thanksgiving holiday. Tag office schedules are different during holiday weeks, so please visit www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com to view the complete schedule or call 770.822.8818.

County offices closed for Thanksgiving

Please note that all offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of the citizens of Gwinnett County, will be closed Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. All offices will resume regular working hours on Monday, November 28.

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

Experience the Holidays During Civil War Times

December 3 • 11:00am – 3:00pm
McDaniel Farm Park
3251 McDaniel Road, Duluth

Free! • Holiday on the Square Celebration

December 17 • 11:00am – 2:00pm
December 18 • 1:00pm – 4:00pm
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse
185 Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

Winter Break Camp

December 19 – 22 • 9:00am – 5:00pm
Bogan Park Community Recreation Center
2723 North Bogan Road, Buford

Health & Human Services

Learn Self-Esteem and Life Skills

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

Gentle Ashtanga Yoga for Beginners and Seniors

Tuesdays • December 6 – 27
9:30am – 10:30am
Centerville Community Center
3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville

Environmental & Heritage Center

Long Nights Moon Hike

December 5 • 5:30pm – 7:00pm
Environmental and Heritage Center
2020 Clean Water Drive, Buford

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

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information from the source

gwinnettcountry.com

