

# 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. You can recycle wrapping paper (no plastic or foil), wrapping paper cores, gift bags (remove string handles), greeting cards, aluminum baking tins, beverage containers (some plastics, aluminum, and glass), and catalogs, plus most broken down boxes and cardboard containers.

After the holidays, be sure drop off your undecorated live trees from December 26 to January 18 at various locations in Gwinnett. Please visit [www.gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com) for locations. Please be reminded that Christmas Day is a trash and recycling holiday, so if your normal collection day falls on or after Tuesday, December 25, your collection will be delayed one day.

## PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

### Water and sewer rate increase

Effective January 2013, a rate increase will be implemented and will remain in effect through December 2013. All irrigation and builder accounts shall be billed at two times the tier-one volumetric rate for all water that passes through the water meter per billing period.

Single Family Residential (per 1,000 gallons)	
Water	
Tier 1 (up to 8,000 gallons)	\$4.69
Tier 2 (8,000 – 12,000 gallons)	\$7.03
Tier 3 (over 12,000 gallons)	\$9.38
Sewer	\$7.11

Commercial/Multi Family Residential (per 1,000 gallons)	
Water	\$4.69
Sewer	\$7.11

Visit [www.gwinnetth2o.com](http://www.gwinnetth2o.com) for a complete list of rates and charges or call 678.376.6700 for information.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Be safe while shopping during the holidays

The Gwinnett County Police Department activated the Holiday Task Force on Thanksgiving night; it continues every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday through December 31.

This initiative increases police presence at major retail outlets around the county.

In addition, officers from the Crime Prevention Unit will be conducting vehicle safety checks during the holidays, encouraging shoppers to do their part to prevent property theft.

While you are out shopping for gifts and traveling during the holidays, the Police Department wants to remind you to be safe. Please visit [www.gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com) for helpful tips on how to be safe during the holidays.



## Department of Water Resources Septic Tank Maintenance Workshop

Learn how your system works, how to prevent problems, and how to determine when a repair is necessary at this free workshop. Participants from unincorporated Gwinnett County or the City of Lilburn can qualify for a maximum 5 percent credit toward their Stormwater Utility Fee for the following year.

January 10, 2013 • 6:00pm – 7:30pm  
Norcross Human Services Center at 5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross

Spanish translation will be provided.

Pre-register by emailing your name, address, and phone number to [dwrswreg@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:dwrswreg@gwinnettcounty.com) or calling 678.376.7193 and pressing 5.

## CHECK IT OUT

Check out these inspiring biographies. These titles and others are available at the Gwinnett County Public Library, [www.gwinnettpl.org](http://www.gwinnettpl.org).

*The Real Jane Austen: A Life in Small Things*,  
by Paula Byrne

*American Phoenix: The Remarkable Story of William Skinner, a Man Who Turned Disaster Into Destiny*, by Sarah S. Kilborne

*As I See it: My View From the Inside Out*,  
by Tom Sullivan

*In the House of the Interpreter: A Memoir*,  
by Ngugi Wa Thiong'o

## SPLOST

### North Berkeley Lake Road gets sidewalks

More sidewalks will be built soon along North Berkeley Lake Road under a contract approved in November by the Gwinnett Board of Commissioners. The pedestrian safety project includes sidewalks, curb, gutter, and improvements to the roadside shoulders along North Berkeley Lake Road west of Lakeshore Drive to Bush Road.

When this project and the City of Berkeley Lake's dam reconstruction project are complete, sidewalks will run continuously from Peachtree Industrial Boulevard to Bush Road along North Berkeley Lake Road and along Bush Road from North Berkeley Lake Road to Medlock Bridge Road.

Johnson Landscapes, Inc., d/b/a Vertical Earth of Cumming was the lowest of six bidders at \$455,269. Funding comes from the 2009 SPLOST program, and construction is anticipated to be complete in mid-2013.

Gwinnett DOT Director **Kim Conroy** said, "This project ties together a network of pedestrian facilities to enhance the quality of life in this part of the county."



## AROUND GWINNETT

### State offers mortgage assistance

The state is offering temporary mortgage payment assistance through HomeSafe Georgia. HomeSafe Georgia is a federally funded program designed to assist homeowners who are struggling to pay their mortgage due to reduced income from involuntary unemployment, underemployment, or loss in income from self-employment. Since HomeSafe Georgia began in April 2011, more than 2,000 Georgians have received assistance to help them make their mortgage payments until they find work.

Eligible homeowners approved for the program will close on a no-interest loan. After the assistance period, the loan will be reduced at a rate of 20 percent per year for five years. Georgia received \$340 million for the program as part of the U.S. Treasury's Hardest Hit Fund, which targeted states with high rates of unemployment and foreclosure. HomeSafe Georgia's goal is to help more than 18,000 homeowners avoid foreclosure by the end of 2014. For more information about this program, visit [www.HomeSafeGeorgia.com](http://www.HomeSafeGeorgia.com).

### County offices closed Christmas, New Year's

All Gwinnett County government offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of residents, will be closed December 24 and December 25 for the Christmas holiday and reopen on December 26. Offices will be closed January 1, 2013, for the New Year's holiday and reopen January 2, 2013. A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center during the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

## TAX COMMISSIONER

### Tag office Christmas holiday hours

Tag office work schedules are different during holiday weeks. Visit the Tax Commissioner's website at [www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com](http://www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com) or call 770.822.8818 for the complete tag office 2012 holiday schedule.

The day following a holiday is typically very busy, so be first in line – every time – and renew your vehicle online at [www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com](http://www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com).

### Pay your water bill with your smartphone

Visit [www.gwinnetth2o.com](http://www.gwinnetth2o.com) using your smartphone to easily pay your water bill on the go. Just have your username or water account number and password ready. You can use this convenient service for nonrecurring, one-time only payments.

## EVENTS

Sign up for these and other great activities through the Community Services Department at [www.gwinnettcountry.com](http://www.gwinnettcountry.com).

### Parks & Recreation

#### New Year Breakfast & BINGO Bash

January 10 • 9:00am – 11:00am  
Bethesda Park Senior Center  
225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville

#### An Engaging Affair Bridal Show

January 13 • 1:00pm – 4:00pm  
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse  
185 Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

#### Gwinnett Senior Learning Center offers computer courses

Winter registration for senior computer classes will be held at Bethesda Park Senior Center, located at 225 Bethesda Church Road in Lawrenceville, on **January 8** from 9:00am to 11:00am and George Pierce Park Community Center, located at 55 Buford Highway in Suwanee, on **January 9** from 10:00am to noon. Classes will begin on **January 14**. For more information and class schedules, please visit [www.gsrlc.org](http://www.gsrlc.org) or call 770.564.4699.

### Health & Human Services

#### CRCT Prep Classes for Grades 5 – 8

Tuesdays and Thursdays • 5:15pm – 7:30pm  
Centerville Community Center  
3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville

#### VITA Income Tax Preparation • FREE!

January 25 – April 12 • Call for an appointment  
Buford Human Services Center  
2755 Sawnee Avenue, Buford

#### Wellness Fair

January 12 • 10:00am – 3:00pm  
Norcross Human Services Center  
5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross

### gwinnettcountry connection

send questions or comments to [shaunieka.taste@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:shaunieka.taste@gwinnettcountry.com)

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linkup

get county government  
information from the source

[gwinnettcountry.com](http://gwinnettcountry.com)

