

FEATURE

Recycling the right way

Gwinnett County's solid waste plan makes it easy for residents to recycle curbside, and with more recyclables collected than ever before, residents can significantly reduce the amount of waste that goes into landfills.

Before you place recycling in your bins, be sure to clean out your cans, bottles, and containers, and clean off your paper plates. Don't put recyclables in a plastic bag, since they are not recyclable at the curb. Other items such as paper towels, light bulbs, and batteries aren't recyclable at the curb either. Remember that you can use additional bins for recycling, including an old trash cart, as long as they are clearly marked "recyclables."

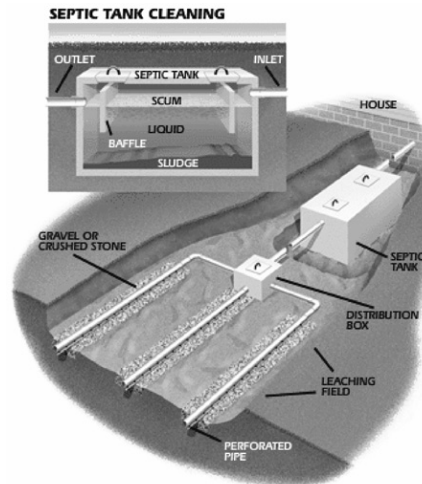
For more information, including a list of recyclables and a recycling directory for items not accepted at the curb, visit www.sustainablegwinnett.com.

PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Septic systems impact Gwinnett's streams

There are more than 200 miles of streams in Gwinnett County that are impaired due to fecal coliform bacteria. This type of bacteria will not necessarily make you sick, but it is an indicator of the possible presence of other disease-causing bacteria. There are multiple sources of fecal coliform bacteria, including pet waste, sewer overflows, septic systems, and wildlife. Gwinnett County has some areas with a high density of septic systems, and many of these septic systems are getting old. Having your septic system serviced every three to five years is the best way to prevent your system from failing. Preventing a failure can help save you money and also protect Gwinnett streams.

If you are unsure about your home's wastewater treatment method or have more questions about septic tanks, please visit www.gwinnettstormwater.com and scroll to the bottom of the page for the link titled "Septic Tank Maintenance Information." You can also attend the upcoming workshop on Septic Tank Maintenance on February 9, 2012, at the Norcross Human Services Center. See the ad below for more details about this free workshop.



PUBLIC SAFETY

Winter weather safety

With the temperatures getting colder and the potential for icy conditions on the rise, Gwinnett Fire and Emergency Services encourages residents to stay safe and enjoy the winter weather season by following a few simple rules:

- Avoid playing, skating, or driving over any frozen body of water. Remember that only the surface area is frozen and the ice will not be thick enough to hold the weight of an adult, child, or a large animal
- Dress warmly in layers and limit your time out in the cold weather to avoid hypothermia or frostbite
- If you must drive, monitor weather and road conditions and stay alert while driving
- Use home heating appliances with caution and don't leave them on when you go to bed or leave the house
- Install and maintain smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in the home. Develop and practice a home escape plan

Department of Water Resources Septic Tank Maintenance Workshop

February 9, 2012 • 6:00pm – 7:30pm
Norcross Human Services Center • 5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross

Learn how your system works, how to prevent problems, and how to determine when a repair is necessary at this free workshop. Attendees who live in 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.

Presented by: Carolyn Simonton, Gwinnett County Environmental Health
Spanish translation will be provided

Pre-register by sending an e-mail with your name, address, and phone number to dwrswreg@gwinnettcounty.com or calling 678.376.7193 and pressing 5.

CHECK IT OUT

Check out these books and get inspired to eat healthy in 2012! These and others are available at the Gwinnett County Public Library, www.gwinnettpl.org.

Restaurant Calorie Counter for Dummies, by Rosanne Rust

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Eating Local, by Diane A. Welland

The Everything Guide to Nutrition, by Nicole Cormier

The No-cry Picky Eater Solution: Gentle Ways to Encourage Your Child to Eat – and Eat Healthy, by Elizabeth Pantley

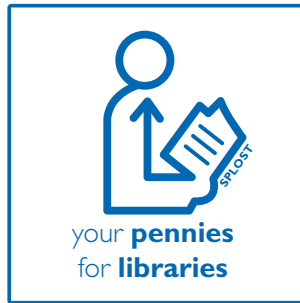
SPLOST

Five Forks Library undergoes renovation

Upgrades planned for the 16-year-old Five Forks Branch Library in Lawrenceville will help control operating costs and improve efficiency. Commissioners approved the construction contract in December 2011.

Needed improvements identified in 2007 include lighting, mechanical equipment, temperature control, sight lines, moisture/water infiltration, air quality, and lowering overall energy use. The \$1.06 million project also includes new carpet, paint, and finishes throughout the 20,135 square-foot building. Classic Plains Construction, LLC, was the lowest of eight bids received for the work, which includes disposal of old building materials, fixtures, and shelving. Project funding comes from the voter-approved SPLOST sales tax program.

Contractors will complete the efficiency upgrade in two phases over seven months beginning in early winter. They will close the building to the public during the first phase of construction that includes the front of the building, the meeting room, and lobby restrooms. Library staff will still provide curbside checkout of reserved items. During phase two, many library services will be available in the new front section and in temporary trailers provided by the Gwinnett school system.



County offices closed for King and Presidents' Day holidays

All Gwinnett County government offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of the citizens of the County, will be closed January 16 for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Offices will reopen January 17. Offices also will close on February 20 for the Presidents' Day holiday and reopen February 21.

EVENTS

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

Parks & Recreation

Family Valentine Dance

February 10 • 7:00pm – 9:00pm
Rhodes Jordan Park
100 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

Daddy-Daughter Valentine Dance

February 11 • 6:00pm – 9:00pm
Lucky Shoals Park
4651 Britt Road, Norcross

Valentine's Day Dinner and Dance

February 14 • 6:30pm – 9:00pm
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse
185 Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

Health & Human Services

Walk-a-Weigh Fitness and Nutrition

February 2, 9, 13, 23 • 10:30am – 12:30pm
Centerville Community Center
3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville

AARP Tax Aid

Tuesdays and Thursdays
February 7 – April 12 • 9:00am – 1:00pm
Norcross Human Services Center
5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross

Cooperative Extension Service

Proper pruning techniques for the home landscape

February 23 • noon – 1:00pm
Gwinnett Cooperative Extension Service office
750 South Perry Street, Suite 400, Lawrenceville

AROUND GWINNETT

Plumbing rebates continue in 2012

Gwinnett County will continue its successful toilet rebate program and open it up to include multi-family units in 2012. The program provides rebates of up to \$100 to homeowners, and they may replace up to two original toilets in homes built prior to a 1993 building code change. Newer toilets use up to 20 percent less water than the current federal standard, while still providing equal or superior performance.

Details about the toilet rebate program and applications are available on the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's website at www.northgeorgiawater.com.

Police conduct gang sweep

The Gwinnett County Police Department announced the results of a gang investigation during a joint press conference with the ATF on December 19. The nine-month long investigation focused on a criminal street gang operating under a larger gang called "Gangster Disciples." Members of this gang are responsible for committing drug transactions, burglaries, thefts, robberies, carjackings, and other violent crimes.

Officers and agents made 31 arrests during a gang sweep held on December 14. In total, the investigation resulted in the arrest of 49 gang members, 248 felony warrants, 96 felony indictments, and 17 misdemeanor warrants.

TAX COMMISSIONER

Emissions testing update

For 2012, all gasoline-powered cars and light-duty trucks 8,500 pounds or less with the model years 1988 – 2009 require an emissions test to register and renew. For testing locations and more information, visit www.cleanairforce.com.

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

gwinnettcounty connection

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

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

linkup

get county government
information from the source

gwinnettcounty.com

