

gwinnettcounty connection

a monthly publication of gwinnettcounty government

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FEATURE

Volunteer this holiday season

The holidays are a season of giving, and so many people are in need during the holidays. While you may be short on funds this year, the gift of your time is just as valuable to charities and nonprofits in Gwinnett County. Whether you have just a few hours or lots of free time to spare, *Volunteer Gwinnett* can help you find the right volunteer opportunities.

Volunteer Gwinnett is a countywide volunteer program designed to involve more residents in volunteer activities associated with County government. Volunteers have been an important part of some County departments and agencies for many years. The County's volunteer program has a bold goal of reaching 1 million volunteer hours by 2015. Residents may sign up for opportunities as individuals or with a group. To sign up as a volunteer, please visit www.volunteergwinnett.net.



PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Reduce the FOG in your pipes

Few problems cause a homeowner more grief than toilets and sinks that are backed up – especially during the holidays. Gwinnett County has one of the most advanced sewer systems, but even the best systems only work if the wastewater is able to make it to the treatment plants. The leading cause of collection system failure is fats, oils, and grease buildup in the sewer lines. Collectively known as FOG, fats, oils, and grease cost the County hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage and time spent removing it from the pipes, lift stations, and treatment plants.

Fortunately, much of this damage can be prevented by simply making sure FOG does not get into the collection system in the first place. Scraping your plates into the trash before you wash and rinse them, as well as making sure that all grease and cooking oils are put into containers and thrown away are a few simple steps you can take to help prevent a backup from happening.

So this holiday season, while we celebrate with friends and family, please make sure that fats, oils, and grease do not become unwanted guests. With your help, we can keep the pipes clear and the water flowing. If you have any questions, visit www.unclogthefog.com, or call James Jones at 678.376.6713.

PUBLIC SAFETY

4 safe cooking tips for the holidays

There will be plenty of meals to enjoy surrounded by our loved ones this holiday season, so let's remember to follow safe cooking practices. Try these fire safety tips in your recipes:

- Keep an eye on all foods cooking on the stovetop or in the oven. Use a timer as a reminder and turn the burners off if you're away from the kitchen for a while.
- Keep children and pets at a safe distance away from the oven or stove.
- Install and maintain smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.
- If you are planning to deep-fry your holiday bird, follow proper fire safety precautions. Read the instructions for your fryer and completely thaw your turkey or chicken before frying it.

For a turkey fryer demonstration, please visit www.gwinnettcounty.com.

CHECK IT OUT

Check out these new science fiction books that are sure to keep you on the edge of your seat. These titles and others are available at the Gwinnett County Public Library, www.gwinnettpl.org.

Madmen at the Tombs, by Ilow Martin Roque

Orion and King Arthur, by Ben Bova

Doctor Who: Shada: The Lost Adventure, by Douglas Adams

The Hydrogen Sonata, by Iain M. Banks

gwinnettcounty parks & recreation
gwinnettparks.com

play * live * learn



pools * gymnasiums
community rooms * pavilions
tennis courts * sports fields
special event venues

live
rental venues

SPLOST

Five Forks Library branch reopens to the public

Gwinnett officials celebrated the reopening of the Five Forks library branch on Tuesday, October 16. The branch underwent an extensive upgrade project with an energy-efficient heating and cooling system, lighting, and windows, water-efficient plumbing fixtures, and redesign of the building's square footage and site drainage.



The project also included new spaces designed for using laptops, a study room, children's space that can accommodate large programs, a teen area, and an updated outside seating area. The remodeled library branch also features a Digital Media Lab that gives library customers access to professional-quality software for image and video editing, design, and media creation.

Construction for the redesign was completed by Classic Plains Construction, LLC. The architect for this project was Precision Planning, Inc. Funding for the \$1.55-million project was provided by SPLOST with \$16,500 from the state.

AROUND GWINNETT

Lanier Community Garden celebrates four years

The Lanier Community Garden completed its fourth year in operation at the Lanier Filter Plant in Buford. The garden currently has 81 plots where gardeners have been busy planting vegetables and fruit year-round. Gardeners also donated 975 pounds of produce to the Buford Co-Op.



This year, volunteers took on landscaping projects to improve the garden's appearance, with an arbor at the front entrance and two flowerbeds on each side as well as a bulletin board to post news about the garden. In addition, a new website was created to keep gardeners informed, www.laniercommunitygarden.org.

Plans are underway to hold an annual plant sale beginning next May, in conjunction with the Clean Water Festival at Shoal Creek. Gardeners also hope to build permanent compost bins in order to have a continuous source of organic soil.

Nutrition tip from the Cooperative Extension Service

Think about color to pack nutritional power into your diet:

- **White:** Eat cauliflower more often than potatoes.
- **Green:** Eat spinach and broccoli to replace iceberg lettuce and green beans.
- **Yellow-orange:** Substitute more carrots, winter squash, sweet potatoes, and grapefruit for corn or bananas.
- **Red:** Select red peppers and strawberries instead of apples.

TAX COMMISSIONER

North Gwinnett tag office closed Saturday, December 15

The North Gwinnett tag office at 2735 Mall of Georgia Boulevard in Buford will be closed Saturday, December 15 while the Georgia Department of Revenue conducts computer system maintenance. The maintenance period is from 7:00pm Friday, December 14 until 6:00am Monday, December 17. Internet and telephone tag renewals will not be available during this time. For all office locations and hours, visit www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com.

County offices closed for Thanksgiving

Please note that all offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of the residents of Gwinnett County, will be closed Thursday, November 22, and Friday, November 23, 2012, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. All offices will resume regular working hours on Monday, November 26, 2012.

Thanksgiving is a trash holiday

Thursday, November 22 is a trash and recycling holiday. During the week of November 18 – 24, if your normal pickup day is Thursday, your pickup will take place on Friday, November 23. If your normal pickup day is Friday, your pickup will take place on Saturday, November 24.

EVENTS

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

Parks & Recreation – 770.822.8840

Arts and Crafts Fair • Free

December 8 • 9:00am – 3:00pm
Best Friend Park Gym
6334 Jimmy Carter Boulevard, Norcross

Monday Movie Matinee

December 10 • 10:00am – 1:00pm
Bethesda Park Senior Center
225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville

Health & Human Services – 770.822.8842

AARP Drivers Education Class Taught in Chinese

December 8 • 9:00am – 3:30pm
Norcross Human Services Center
5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross

Breakfast with Santa

December 15 • 10:00am to noon
Centerville Community Center
3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville

American Red Cross Blood Drive

December 21 • 2:00pm – 7:00pm
Centerville Community Center
3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville

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

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