

gwinnettcounty connection

a monthly publication of **gwinnettcounty** government

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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. When the holidays are over, drop off your live Christmas tree from December 26 to January 18 to be recycled at various locations in Gwinnett County. These trees will be chipped into mulch and used for County parks, facilities, etc. Visit www.gwinnettcounty.com for a list of locations. Fire stations will accept trees 24-hours-a-day and other facilities will accept them during their normal business hours.

Unless you have a yard waste contract with your hauler, please note that trees will not be collected curbside. Christmas Day and New Year's Day are trash and recycling holidays in unincorporated Gwinnett County, therefore collections will be delayed by one day after the holidays. For more information about the 2013 holiday schedule, please visit www.sustainablegwinnett.com.

PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Water and sewer rate increase

Effective January 2014, a rate increase will be implemented and will remain in effect through December 2014. For a complete list of rates and charges, call 678.376.6700 or visit www.gwinnetth2o.com.

| Single Family Residential (per 1,000 gallons) | |
|--|---------|
| Water | |
| Tier 1 (up to 8,000 gallons) | \$4.85 |
| Tier 2 (8,000 – 12,000 gallons) | \$7.275 |
| Tier 3 (over 12,000 gallons) | \$9.70 |
| Sewer | \$7.82 |

| Commercial/Multi Family Residential (per 1,000 gallons) | |
|--|--------|
| Water | |
| | \$4.85 |
| Sewer | |
| | \$7.82 |

All irrigation and builder accounts will be billed at two times the tier-one volumetric rate for all water that passes through the water meter per billing period. The monthly availability charge will not change.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Be safe while shopping during the holidays

The Gwinnett County Police Department will activate its Holiday Task Force beginning Thanksgiving night and continuing every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday through December 31. 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.



As you are out shopping for gifts during the holidays, the Police Department wants to remind you to be safe with these helpful tips:

- Observe your surroundings; report any suspicious activity or loitering to the police.
- Store packages in your trunk and park your vehicle in a well-lit area.
- Don't shop alone and when offered, let retail employees assist you with taking your merchandise to your vehicle.
- Don't carry large amounts of cash; use secure forms of payment such as a credit or debit card when shopping.
- Have merchandise delivered to a secured location when possible.

CHECK IT OUT

Check out these books for great holiday recipes. These and others are available at the Gwinnett Public Library, www.gwinnettpl.org.

200 Skills Every Cook Must Have: The Step-by-Step Methods That Will Turn a Good Cook into a Great Cook, by Clara Paul and Eric Treuillé

Wintersweet: Seasonal Desserts to Warm the Home, by Tammy Donroe Inman

Look for catalog upgrades in January! New features include auto-fill/spell check, checkout history, and saved searches that send alerts when new titles are added.

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.

February 6, 2014 • 6:00pm – 7:00pm

Gwinnett County Library • Suwanee Branch • 361 Main Street, Suwanee

Please pre-register by emailing your name, address, and phone number to dwrconserve@gwinnettcounty.com or by calling 678.376.6722.

SPLOST

County installs more cameras to manage traffic congestion

Ten more miles of fiber-optic cables will soon connect traffic cameras and signals on Gravel Springs Road and Dacula Road to Gwinnett's award-winning Traffic Control Center. The ComTran Group Inc. was the low bidder on two contracts awarded in November by the Board of Commissioners. Both projects are funded by the 2009 SPLOST program.

The Gravel Springs Road/State Route 324 project will install 10 cameras and 5.7 miles of fiber-optic cable and provide connectivity to nine traffic signals along the corridor from State Route 20 to Dacula Road at a cost of \$702,484.

The second project will install six cameras with connections to nine signals and cable along 4.5 miles of Dacula Road from Winder Highway/State Route 8 to Auburn Road/State Route 324 at a cost of \$419,656.

District 4 Commissioner **John Heard** said, "This is another good example of using SPLOST funds to improve mobility. These projects will provide more real-time traffic monitoring and control in this growing area of the county."



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 also be closed January 1, 2014, for the New Year's holiday and reopen January 2, 2014. A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center during the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

EVENTS

Gwinnett County Government hosts many events, classes, and workshops for its residents.

See these great events and more at www.gwinnettcounevents.com.

AARP Smart Driver Course

January 7 • 9:30am to 4:00pm
Centerville Community Center
3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville
770.985.4713

Basic Computer Classes for Adults • FREE!

Beginning January 7 • 9:00am to 11:00am
Norcross Human Services Center
5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross
678.225.5400

Juice and Cookies Music Exploration for Ages 6 months to 4 years

January 15 • 11:00am to noon
Centerville Community Center
3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville
770.985.4713

An Engaging Affair Bridal Show

January 19 • 1:00pm to 4:00pm
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse
185 Crogan Street, Lawrenceville
770.822.5450

A Heart Divided Premier

January 24 • 8:00pm to 10:00pm
Pinckneyville Park
Community Recreation Center
4650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Norcross
678.277.0920

AROUND GWINNETT

Chairman Nash presents proposed 2014 budget

Gwinnett Commission Chairman Charlotte Nash formally presented a proposed \$1.5 billion budget for fiscal year 2014 to the Board of Commissioners during a briefing on November 19. After a public hearing and period for public comment, commissioners will vote on the budget proposal on January 7, 2014, during their first meeting of the year.

The budget proposal holds the line on property taxes while expanding the delivery of emergency medical services, addressing the issue of employee retention and recruitment, and funding the impact of legislation and other external factors. The budget also preserves core services and absorbs a nearly 10 percent increase in health care costs.

To view the proposed budget resolution and to make comments, visit the County's website at www.gwinnettcounevents.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.

FOCUS ON: Home-delivered meals program

FOCUS ON tells the story of how your county government employees provide high-quality services to you each and every day. December features Gwinnett County's home-delivered meals program, which assists seniors who are homebound or unable to prepare their own food by delivering frozen, chilled, or hot meals on a regular basis. To read more, please visit www.gwinnettcounevents.com.

TAX COMMISSIONER

Tag office Christmas holiday hours

Tag office work schedules are different during holiday weeks. To view the complete tag office 2013 holiday schedule, visit the Tax Commissioner's website.

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.

gwinnettcounevents connection

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

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information from the source

gwinnettcounevents.com

