

gwinnettcounty connection

a monthly publication of gwinnettcounty government

New look for
Gwinnett County
Connection
coming soon!

FEATURE

Gwinnett launches discount prescription savings program

Gwinnett County recently launched a program with Coast2Coast Rx to offer prescription drug discount cards to residents. The card is distributed free of charge and may be used at participating pharmacy chains and independent pharmacies in Gwinnett. Residents can also receive discounts on dental, vision, veterinary and hearing services, lab and imaging tests, and diabetic supplies and equipment for all family members. Cards are available at most participating pharmacies, local governmental offices, senior centers, and libraries.

There are no eligibility requirements to obtain the prescription drug discount card, which officials expect will benefit residents who are uninsured or underinsured or face high insurance deductibles. If a particular drug isn't covered under a person's health plan, he or she can use the card to save on those prescriptions. For more information about the program, visit www.coast2coastrx.com.

PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Important information regarding your water and sewer billing

The following rates will be in effect January 2015 – December 2015:

Single Family Residential (per 1,000 gallons)	
Water Tier 1 (up to 8,000 gallons)	\$5.02
Water Tier 2 (8,000 – 12,000 gallons)	\$7.53
Water Tier 3 (over 12,000 gallons)	\$10.04
Sewer	\$8.60

Commercial/Multi Family Residential (per 1,000 gallons)	
Water	\$5.02
Sewer	\$8.60

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.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Stay safe with tips for shopping during the holidays

The Gwinnett County Police Department's Holiday Task Force went into action Thanksgiving night and will continue every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday through New Year's Eve. This initiative increases police presence at major retail outlets around the county.



Please observe the following tips as you and your family shop for gifts this holiday season:

- Shop with others and allow retail employees to assist you with transporting packages to your vehicle.
- Don't carry large amounts of cash; use secure forms of payment such as a credit card, and check your account statements frequently.
- Use a cell phone camera to take pictures of serial numbers of your purchases. Send those photos to your own email accounts so they can be easily accessed.
- Don't announce your family's travel plans on your answering machine or social networking sites.
- Please don't drink and drive after consuming alcohol. Call a taxi or use a designated driver.

Gwinnett County Office of Emergency Management Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training

Come learn about disaster preparedness for emergencies that may impact your community. Instructors will teach basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

Tuesdays, January 27 through March 9, 2015 • 6:30pm – 9:30pm
Saturday, March 14 • 8:00am – 10:30am

Training is open to all Gwinnett County residents 18 years and older who pass a background check provided by the Gwinnett County Police Department.

For more information or to sign up for the training, please email ema@gwinnettcounty.com. Class size is limited to 25 participants.

CHECK IT OUT

Check out these e-books for do-it-yourself holiday gift ideas from our OverDrive digital collection. Look for these and other titles at www.gwinnettpl.org.

Christmas Cookies: 50 Recipes to Treasure for the Holiday Season, by Lisa Zwim

The Complete Photo Guide to Crochet, by Margaret Hubert

More Last-Minute Knitted Gifts, by Joelle Hoverson

Gourmet Gifts: 100 Delicious Recipes for Every Occasion to Make Yourself and Wrap with Style, by Dinah Corley

SPLOST

SPLOST funds to build new Level Creek Park

A new active community park will be built soon to serve the recreational needs of the Lanier school cluster and Sugar Hill area in northern Gwinnett County. The 2009 SPLOST sales tax program will fund the \$10.8 million contract commissioners approved in November with low bidder Astra Group Inc.



The 67-acre Level Creek Park will have a multipurpose field complex, central concessions/restroom building, walking track, six lighted tennis courts, interactive fountain, picnic pavilion, playground, and paved trail. Construction of a youth football press box will be funded by the Lanier Athletic Association. District 1 Commissioner **Jace Brooks** said, "We are happy to have community partners like the Lanier Athletic Association to help us provide needed recreational facilities and programs for our youth."

More than half of the park's total acreage will be preserved. Multiple tributary streams descend through upland hardwood forest to the park's primary stream, Level Creek, and a one-mile loop of natural surface footpath will provide access to the preserved area. Commission Chairman **Charlotte Nash** said, "I am grateful to Gwinnett voters for their support of the SPLOST sales tax programs that provide funding for needed capital projects like this one."

AROUND GWINNETT

Chairman Nash presents proposed 2015 budget

Gwinnett Commission Chairman Charlotte Nash formally presented a proposed \$1.42 billion budget for fiscal year 2015 to the Board of Commissioners during a briefing on November 18. After a public hearing and period for public comment, commissioners will vote on the budget proposal on January 6, 2015. The budget proposal holds the line on property tax rates, addresses critical expansion of fire and emergency medical services, adjusts employee compensation, and partially restores funding for some services to meet increased demand. To view the proposed budget resolution and to make comments, visit www.gwinnettcountry.com or visit the Department of Financial Services office located in the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center, 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville, from 8:00am to 5:00pm Monday through Friday, to view a hard copy version.

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 16 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.gwinnettcountry.com for a list of locations. Fire stations will accept trees 24/7 and other facilities will accept them during regular business hours.

FOCUS ON: Victim Witness Protection Program

FOCUS ON tells the story of how your county government employees provide high-quality services to you each and every day. December features the Gwinnett County District Attorney's Office's Victim Witness program, which ensures that crime victims receive those rights that are afforded to them under Georgia law. To read more, visit www.gwinnettcountry.com.

TAX COMMISSIONER

Getting ready for 2015

A new year is coming, so now is the time to make sure you are taking advantage of the available homestead exemptions to reduce future property tax bills. For more information on requirements and to apply, visit www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.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 also be closed January 1, 2015, for the New Year's holiday and reopen January 2, 2015. A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center during the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

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. To view the holiday schedule, please visit www.sustainablegwinnett.com.

EVENTS

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

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

Septic Tank Maintenance Workshop

January 15 • 6:00pm to 7:30pm
Norcross Human Services Center
5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross
678.376.7193

Women's Self-Defense Course

January 17 • 2:00pm to 3:30pm
Rhodes Jordan Park
Community Recreation Center
100 East Crogan St., Lawrenceville
678.277.0890

An Engaging Affair Winter Bridal Show

January 18 • 1:00pm to 4:00pm
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse
185 Crogan St., Lawrenceville
770.822.5450

heARTS and Crafts

January 31 • 2:00pm to 4:00pm
Pinckneyville Park
Community Recreation Center
4650 Peachtree Industrial Blvd., Berkeley Lake
678.277.0920

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

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