

# gwinnettcounty connection

a monthly publication of gwinnettcounty government

County offices  
closed for  
Thanksgiving:  
November  
27 and 28

## 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. Examples include but are not limited to: wrapping paper (no plastic or foil varieties) and wrapping paper cores, gift bags, greeting cards, aluminum baking tins, beverage containers (some plastics, aluminum, and glass), and catalogs, plus most boxes and cardboard containers. Be sure to break down the cardboard before putting it out to be recycled.

Please note that Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 27, is a trash holiday in unincorporated Gwinnett County; therefore, if your normal pickup day is Thursday, your pickup will take place Friday, November 28. If your normal pickup day is Friday, your pickup will take place Saturday, November 29. Only Thursday and Friday pickups will be affected. Residents who live in a city should contact their trash and recycling provider to find out if collections will be delayed due to the holiday.



## PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

### Keep our waterways clean

Storm drains are everywhere, but you may have seen one and not even known it. Storm drains collect rainwater during wet weather and prevent flooding by directing the water to local waterways such as creeks, streams, rivers, and lakes. Water entering a storm drain does not go to a treatment plant to be cleaned, so it is extremely important to keep illicit discharges (anything other than rainwater) out of our storm drains. Illicit discharges occur when pollutants are spilled onto the ground, dumped, or poured directly into the storm drain. Rain then washes these pollutants through the drainage system where it flows into natural waterways, harming wildlife and water quality.

Some of the most common pollutants that enter our storm drains can be easily kept out if we all do our part. Yard waste, such as grass clippings and leaves, can be bagged or composted instead of being blown or dumped into the street or storm drain. In addition, be sure to pick up behind your pet. Pet waste can be washed into local waterways and cause a health risk to the public and wildlife. Also, do not litter and please place all trash in an appropriate receptacle so it doesn't end up in the storm drain. Other common pollutants that could end up in storm drains are motor oil, paint, soapy car wash water, pesticides, and fertilizers. By making small changes to everyday habits and keeping these pollutants out of the storm drains, you can make a big impact on keeping Gwinnett's waterways clean.

To report illegal dumping in a storm drain or waterway, call the Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources at 678.376.7193.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Tips for a safe and happy holiday

A holiday fire should start in the fireplace, not in the stove or on the tree. Take these simple precautions to ensure your holiday is fire safe.

**Electricity:** Make sure your string lights are in good working order and unplug tree lights before going to bed or leaving your home.

**Trees:** When selecting a live Christmas tree, make sure it is moist and green. Choose an artificial tree that is flame-retardant.

**Cooking:** If you plan to deep-fry your holiday bird, follow proper safety precautions and be sure to read the instructions. Always stay in the kitchen when you are cooking, but keep kids out.

Please visit [www.gwinnett411.com](http://www.gwinnett411.com) for more holiday safety tips.

## Special weddings offered on 12.13.14

December 13, 2014

Pinckneyville Community Recreation Center  
4650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard in Berkeley Lake



Magistrate and Probate Court judges will perform a **free** mass ceremony at 10:11am. The ceremony will be followed by an outdoor reception in a romantic garden and tent. Cost for reception is \$12 per person and includes light refreshments and keepsake champagne flutes. Don't forget your camera to capture your special day!

Couples must bring a valid marriage license with them to the ceremony.

All-inclusive wedding and reception packages are also available for purchase.

**Pre-registration is required** for all activities. For more information about weddings and packages, please visit [www.gwinnettparks.com](http://www.gwinnettparks.com) or call 678.277.0920.

## CHECK IT OUT

Use your library card to download these and other Game of Thrones Read-Alikes from our OverDrive digital collection. Check them out at [www.gwinnettpl.org](http://www.gwinnettpl.org).

*The Eye of the World, book 1 of the Wheel of Time series*, by Robert Jordan

*The Steel Remains, book 1 of the Land Fit for Heroes series*, by Richard K. Morgan

*The Name of the Wind, book 1 of the Kingkiller series*, by Patrick Rothfuss

## SPLOST

### Three more subdivisions join streetlight program

Since 1997, Gwinnett County has required developers to install streetlights in new subdivisions. For older neighborhoods, commissioners agreed last year to use funds from the 2009 SPLOST sales tax to pay for streetlight installation if a majority of homeowners sign a petition and agree to pay annual operating costs. In September, three more subdivisions accepted that offer.

Seventy-nine percent of the 24 homeowners in Buckingham Place near Lilburn voted in favor. Installation of 11 lights there will cost \$31,486 with estimated operating costs of \$1,457. Near Snellville, a majority of the 26 homeowners in Cedar Pointe agreed to split estimated operating costs of \$1,248 for nine lights that will cost \$4,181 to install. And the 34-home Westwood Crossing subdivision nearby will get 10 lights with installation costs of \$5,400 and estimated operating costs of \$1,769.

The County divides electricity and maintenance costs among all affected homeowners on their annual property tax bills. For information on the petition process, call the Gwinnett DOT Community Relations at 770.822.7400 or email [DOTCommunityRelations@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:DOTCommunityRelations@gwinnettcountry.com).



### County offices closed for Thanksgiving

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 Thursday, November 27 and Friday, November 28 for the Thanksgiving holiday. All offices will resume regular working hours on Monday, December 1. A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center.

## EVENTS

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

See these great events and more at [www.gwinnettcountryevents.com](http://www.gwinnettcountryevents.com).

### Breakfast with Santa

December 6 • 8:30am to 10:00am  
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse  
185 Crogan St., Lawrenceville  
770.822.5450

### Homeowner H2O: Water Conservation Workshop • FREE!

December 9 • 7:00pm to 8:00pm  
Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center Auditorium  
75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville  
678.376.6722

### Elf On a Shelf Dinner

December 12 • 6:00pm to 7:30pm  
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse  
185 Crogan St., Lawrenceville  
770.822.5450

### AARP Smart Driver Course Taught in Chinese

December 13 • 9:00am to 3:30pm  
Norcross Human Services Center  
5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross  
678.225.5400

### Candy Cane Jamboree

December 13 • 10:00pm to 4:00pm  
Dacula Park Activity Building  
2735 Old Auburn Ave., Dacula  
678.277.0850

### Paws and Pages • FREE!

December 20 • 1:00pm to 2:00pm  
Gwinnett Animal Welfare and Enforcement Center  
884 Winder Highway, Lawrenceville  
770.339.3200

## AROUND GWINNETT

### Ayers named Gwinnett police chief

A. A. "Butch" Ayers was recently named Gwinnett's new police chief, replacing **Charlie Walters**, who retired after serving Gwinnett County for 35 years. Commission Chairman **Charlotte Nash** said, "It's hard to believe we are saying goodbye to Charlie after 11 years as chief. I will miss him, but I also know that Butch is a great choice to lead the department." A resident of Dacula, Ayers holds an associate degree in criminal justice from Gainesville State College, a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Georgia, and a Master of Public Administration from Columbus State University. He is a graduate of the Georgia Law Enforcement Command College, the FBI National Academy, and has logged more than 3,700 hours of specialized training during his career. He also holds several certifications from the Georgia Peace Officers Standards and Training Council as an instructor.



### FOCUS ON: Solid Waste and Recycling

*FOCUS ON* tells the story of how your county government employees provide high-quality services to you each and every day. November features the Solid Waste and Recycling Division that manages the county's trash and recycling, keeping our County clean and green. Read more at [www.gwinnettcountry.com](http://www.gwinnettcountry.com).

## TAX COMMISSIONER

### Tax Commissioner's office Thanksgiving holiday hours

All Tax Commissioner offices will be open Monday, November 24 through Wednesday, November 26, then closed Thursday, November 27 through Saturday, November 29 for Thanksgiving. Offices will return to normal business hours December 1. For online services and to view the holiday schedule, visit [www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com](http://www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com).

### 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)

