

gwinnettcounty CONNECTION

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NOVEMBER 2015



Gwinnett opens nutrient recovery facility

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners, in partnership with Ostara Nutrient Recovery Technologies, officially opened a nutrient recovery facility on October 21 at the F. Wayne Hill Water Reclamation Center, the county's largest wastewater treatment facility. Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners Chairman Charlotte J. Nash, District 2 Commissioner Lynette Howard, District 3 Commissioner Tommy Hunter, and Environmental Advocate and Attorney Robert F. Kennedy Jr. officially opened the facility following a brief ceremony.

"This incredible technology recovers nutrients that shouldn't be in our waterways and turns them into an environmentally responsible fertilizer made from a renewable resource," said **Nash**.

The Ostara system, known as the Pearl® process, will recover more than 85 percent of the phosphorus and 40 percent of the nitrogen from nutrient-rich process streams before they accumulate as struvite on pipes and equipment. Two reactors will turn the nutrients into slow-release fertilizer, Crystal Green, which will be sold into the agriculture, turf, and horticulture markets in North America and the UK. The County's facility has the capacity to produce up to 1,400 tons per year.

"Today we have an inspiring example of water stewardship," said **Kennedy** in a keynote address, *"The installation of the Ostara system will be a catalyst for change in effectively dealing with nutrient pollution in the state of Georgia."*

County offices closed November 26 – 27

AROUND GWINNETT

Celebrate America Recycles Day on November 21

Celebrate America Recycles Day with the Solid Waste and Recovered Materials Division on Saturday, November 21, 2015, from 9:00am to noon at Coolray Field, home of the Gwinnett Braves, in Lawrenceville. This free event offers paper shredding, plus electronics, tire, toner/printer cartridge, and paint recycling. In addition, bring your old sneakers and gently used clothing to be donated to those in need or to be recycled into new products. Come for free kids' activities, including touch-a-truck, and meet your haulers.

Here are some things to remember before you come:

- Paper shredding is limited to five copier paper boxes
- Paint collection is limited to eight, one-gallon cans
- Cans must contain at least 25 percent wet, usable paint; no rusted cans, no oil-based paints, stains, spackle, thinners, or dried paint
- Tire recycling is limited to eight tires per vehicle; no dealer tires
- Electronics recycling is free with the exception of TVs, monitors, and printers
- There is a \$10 cash fee per TV or computer monitor and a \$5 cash fee per printer

For more information, please call the Solid Waste and Recovered Materials Division at 770.822.7141 between 8:00am and 5:00pm, Monday through Friday, or email Schelly Marlatt at schelly.marlatt@gwinnettcounty.com.



FOCUS ON: Recorder's Court

FOCUS ON is a monthly feature that tells how your county government employees focus on providing high-quality services to you each and every day. This month features the Recorder's Court, which handles traffic citations and code ordinances violations. To read more, please visit www.gwinnettcounty.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 26 and Friday, November 27 for the Thanksgiving holiday. All offices will resume regular working hours on Monday, November 30. A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center.

Thanksgiving is a trash holiday

Thursday, November 26 is a trash and recycling holiday in unincorporated Gwinnett County. During Thanksgiving week, if your normal pickup day is Thursday, your pickup will take place on Friday, November 27. If your normal pickup day is Friday, your pickup will take place on Saturday, November 28. If you live in city limits, please contact your city hall for the holiday trash and recycling schedule.

Gwinnett County Government hosts many events, classes, and workshops for its residents. See these and more at

www.gwinnettcountyevents.com.

Candlelight Tours at McDaniel Farm

December 3 • 6:00pm to 7:00pm

McDaniel Farm

3251 McDaniel Road, Duluth

770.904.3500

Winter Wonderland Dance

December 4 • 6:30pm to 9:30pm

Bogan Park Community Recreation Center

2723 North Bogan Road, Buford

678.277.0850

Holiday Craft Week for Ages 5 to 12

December 14 to 17 • 4:30pm to 6:00pm

Centerville Community Center

3025 Bethany Church Road in Snellville

770.985.4713

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send questions or comments to

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Gwinnett County Communications Division

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Questions about your water bill? Call 678.376.6700.



County's oldest gym will get renovation

The oldest gymnasium in the Gwinnett County park system, built at Best Friend Park in the mid-1970s, will look like new again after commissioners agreed to a \$1.68 million contract with low bidder Kevin Price General Contractors Inc.

The 2014 SPLOST program will pay to replace the roof, wood flooring, and ceilings; renovate office space, locker rooms, restrooms, and entry; and improve drainage, landscaping, and handicapped parking.

The 43-acre Best Friend Park, at 6224 Jimmy Carter Boulevard, also has outdoor pools, 17 lighted tennis courts, indoor badminton courts, outdoor basketball courts, baseball/softball fields, a pavilion and grill, a playground, and a three-quarter mile paved, multi-purpose trail. Gwinnett recreation staff offers summer day camps, year-round basketball play, general recreation, and facility rentals at the park.

PUBLIC SAFETY

4 safe cooking tips for the holidays

While we're getting ready for another busy holiday season, with plenty of meals surrounded by our loved ones, let's not forget to follow safe cooking practices. Fire and Emergency Services and the National Fire Protection Association are calling on all cooks to include the following fire safety tips in their 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 at a safe distance away from the oven or stove. Create a 3- to 4-inch "kids-free zone" around heat-producing cooking appliances or an open flame.
- Install and maintain smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.
- If you're planning to deep-fry your holiday bird, remember to follow proper fire safety precautions. Be sure to read the instructions for your fryer and completely thaw your turkey or chicken before frying it.

Learn more at www.gwinnettsafety411.com.



PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Adopt a road today

Do you get tired of seeing trash and illegal signs along the roadway? Well, you can help keep our streets neater and our streams cleaner by adopting a section of road with Gwinnett County's Adopt-a-Road program. Sponsored by Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful and the Gwinnett Department of Transportation, the Adopt-a-Road program aims to safely reduce the amount trash and illegal signage cluttering county roadways. Not only does removing litter from roads make them more aesthetically pleasing, but it also keeps our waters safer and cleaner by preventing litter from washing into our waterways when it rains.

Adopting a road is an easy process that involves a few simple steps. First, choose which road you would like to adopt. Second, read the official Adopt-A-Road agreement available at www.gwinnettcba.org. Next, submit your preferred road and a signed official Adopt-A-Road agreement, which ensures you will maintain the area for 12 months, by email to gwinnettcba@gwinnettcba.org or fax to 770.822.5179 and conduct at least four cleanups during that period. Finally, submit a post cleanup report when each cleanup is complete. If you have any trash or debris that you are unable to dispose up, contact GC&B to help facilitate proper removal.

For more information about the Adopt-A-Road program, head to www.gwinnettcba.org/programs/adopt-road.

TAX COMMISSIONER

Tax Commissioner's office Thanksgiving holiday hours

All Tax Commissioner offices will be open Monday, November 23 through Wednesday, November 25, then closed Thursday, November 26 through Saturday, November 28 for Thanksgiving. Offices will return to normal business hours Monday, November 30. Please visit www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com for online services and to view the holiday schedule.

CHECK IT OUT

Check out these listings, which were recently recognized as Georgia Children's Picture Book Award Finalists for 2015 – 2016. You can find them at your nearest Gwinnett County Public Library branch, www.gwinnettpl.org.

All Different Now: Juneteenth, the First Day of Freedom, by Angela Johnson

Elizabeth, Queen of the Seas, by Lynne Cox

Grandfather Gandhi, by Arun Gandhi

My Teacher is a Monster! (No, I am Not), by Peter Brown

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