

gwinnettcounty CONNECTION

a monthly publication of **gwinnettcounty** government

DECEMBER 2016



2017 Budget proposal invests in public safety, judicial system, and community engagement

Gwinnett Commission Chairman **Charlotte Nash** presented a proposed **\$1.56 billion** budget for fiscal year 2017 to the public and the Board of Commissioners during a briefing on November 15. The proposed budget is up about 5.5 percent from this year and includes a \$1.18 billion operating budget plus another \$384 million for capital improvements. Residents will have a chance to provide input at a public hearing on December 5 and on the County's website through the month of December.

Nash said, "This proposal is in line with Gwinnett's history of sustainable, conservative budgeting practices and looks at least three to five years ahead at future implications of our decisions. The primary focus of this proposed budget is on retaining employees, supporting public safety, expanding the judiciary to meet demand and enhancing community engagement."

The proposed budget for Gwinnett County is available online at www.gwinnettcounty.com and as a hard copy in the Department of Financial Services during regular business hours at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center, 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville.

County offices closed for Christmas and New Year's Day holidays.

AROUND GWINNETT

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 again this year. After the holidays, drop off your live Christmas tree between **December 26** and **January 15** at designated sites in Gwinnett County. The trees will be chipped into mulch for use at County parks. Fire stations will accept trees 24/7 and other locations will accept them during regular business hours. Find a list of all drop-off sites or register to volunteer for the chipping event at Bethesda Park on Saturday, **January 21** online by visiting www.gwinnettcbo.org.

Holiday safety tips for sipping and serving

Many of us will be hosting parties and events to celebrate this holiday season, and it's important to recognize our responsibility in keeping others safe. Here are a few tips to help make hosting easier, safer, and more enjoyable for everyone.

When hosting an adult party with alcohol, it's important to serve more than just alcoholic beverages; provide high-protein food, limit alcohol consumption, and encourage the use of designated drivers.

If you are hosting a party for youth, do not serve alcohol. If you serve alcohol to anyone under 21, you could face criminal charges of up to 12 months in jail or a fine of \$1,000. Also, make sure you provide adult supervision to help prevent underage drinking and other risky behaviors from taking place.

For more information, visit www.guideinc.org. We wish you a safe and healthy holiday season.

Gwinnett SenioR Learning Center offers computer courses

In-person registration for senior computer classes will be held at Bethesda Park Senior Center, located at 225 Bethesda Church Road in Lawrenceville, on **January 10, 2017**, from 10:00am to 11:00am and at George Pierce Park Community Center, located at 55 Buford Highway in Suwanee, on **January 12** from 10:00am to 11:00am. The Gwinnett SenioR Learning Center's experienced instructors and coaches provide hands-on training for a variety of low-cost basic computer courses. Visit www.gsrlc.org for online registration starting in early December.

County offices closed for Christmas, New Year's holidays

All Gwinnett County government offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of residents, will be closed December 23 and December 26 for Christmas and reopen on December 27. Offices will also be closed January 2 for the New Year's Day holiday and reopen January 3. A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center on both holidays.

Christmas and New Year's Day are not trash and recycling holidays in unincorporated Gwinnett County this year, so collections will take place on your regularly scheduled day. To view the holiday schedule, visit www.sustainablegwinnett.com.

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

POUND Fitness

January 4 to February 22 • 10:30am – 11:30am
Centerville Community Center
3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville
770.985.4713

Windows 10 • FREE!

January 3 to January 17 • 6:00pm – 8:00pm
Norcross Human Services Center
5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross
678.225.5400

An Engaging Affair Bridal Show

January 15 • 1:00pm – 4:00pm
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse
185 West Crogan Street, Lawrenceville
770.822.5450

gwinnettcounty connection

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

Gwinnett County Communications Division
75 Langley Drive • Lawrenceville, GA 30046
770.822.7180 • www.gwinnettcounty.com

Questions about your water bill? Call 678.376.6700.



Voters approve SPLOST renewal

Gwinnett County voters approved the renewal of the one-cent SPLOST sales tax during the November 8 General Election. The six-year program will start when the current program expires next March. It will raise an estimated \$950 million for capital projects.

County and city officials have agreed to share SPLOST proceeds, with the County receiving 78.76 percent and cities getting 21.24 percent. The County will dedicate 65 percent of its share of the proposed SPLOST to transportation, including \$30.8 million for joint city/county projects. Parks, public safety, civic center expansion, library relocation/renovation, and senior facilities will also get funds.

A new citizens oversight committee will be set up to monitor the 2017 SPLOST program progress and review an annual audit of program spending. In addition, the cities and the County will publish a SPLOST projects status report on their websites and in the newspaper by the end of each year. The citizens project selection committee for SPLOST transportation projects will get to work prioritizing projects.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Stay safe with holiday shopping tips

The Gwinnett County Police Department's Holiday Task Force went into action Thanksgiving night and will continue 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.
- Be sure to check your account statements frequently.

Learn more at www.gwinnettsafety411.com.



PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Drought brings outdoor water restrictions

Gwinnett County is in a Level 2 drought response declared by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, and the Water Resources staff wants to remind you of current watering restrictions.

For planting, growing, managing, or maintaining ground cover, trees, or shrubs, watering with an irrigation or sprinkler system is allowed on the following schedule:

- Even-numbered addresses (those ending in 0, 2, 4, 6, or 8) may only water on Wednesday and Saturday before 10:00am and after 4:00pm.
- Odd-numbered addresses (those ending in 1, 3, 5, 7, or 9) may only water on Thursday and Sunday before 10:00am and after 4:00pm.

For washing vehicles, homes, driveways, and other structures:

- Personal use of water to wash vehicles or pressure wash structures is not allowed.
- Commercial car washes and pressure washing businesses are allowed to operate as usual.

For more information on other restricted and allowable outdoor water use, visit www.gwinnettH2O.com.

DWR January Workshops

January 5: Septic Tank Maintenance, Norcross Human Services Center
January 12: Homeowner H2O, Suwanee Library

Three ways to obtain more info and to register:

- 1) Visit www.gwinnettH2O.com (public education page)
- 2) Email name, address, and phone to: dwrworkshops@gwinnettcountry.com
- 3) Call 678.376.7193 (press 5)

TAX COMMISSIONER

Tax Commissioner's office Christmas holiday hours

On Friday, **December 23**, the property tax and administrative offices will be closed for Christmas Eve; however, the North Gwinnett, Peachtree Corners, Snellville and Dealer, Mail & Fleet branches will be open. All offices will be closed on Monday, **December 26** for Christmas Day. Visit www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com for online services and to view the holiday schedule.

CHECK IT OUT

Thinking about writing your own novel? Check out a few titles to get you on your way to writing the next best seller. You can find them at your nearest Gwinnett County Public Library branch, www.gwinnettpl.org.

Get Started in Writing a Novel, by Nigel Watts

The True Secret of Writing: Connecting Life with Language, by Natalie Goldberg

WATER RESOURCES NEWS

Water and sewer rates set to increase

Effective January 2017, a rate increase will be implemented. For a complete list of rates and charges, visit www.gwinnettH2O.com and select *Rates and Fee Schedule* from the menu or call 678.376.6700.

Single Family Residential (per 1,000 gallons)	
Water	
Tier 1 (up to 8,000 gallons)	\$4.92
Tier 2 (8,000 – 12,000 gallons)	\$7.38
Tier 3 (over 12,000 gallons)	\$9.84
Sewer	\$7.98

Commercial/Multi Family Residential (Per 1,000 gallons)	
Water	\$4.92
Sewer	\$7.98

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 base charge will remain the same.