

gwinnettcounty CONNECTION

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NOVEMBER 2016



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 24**, is a trash holiday in unincorporated Gwinnett County; therefore, if your normal pickup day is Thursday, your pickup will take place Friday, **November 25**. If your normal pickup day is Friday, your pickup will take place Saturday, **November 26**. 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.

County offices closed November 24 – 25
for Thanksgiving

AROUND GWINNETT



Volunteer this holiday season

Another holiday season is here and while we know that this is the season of giving, many people are still in need during the holidays. Whether you have just a few hours or lots of free time to spare, Volunteer Gwinnett can help you find the right volunteer opportunities. Volunteer Gwinnett is a countywide volunteer program designed to involve more residents in volunteer activities associated with County government. Search for your next volunteer opportunity at www.volunteergwinnett.net.

Sponsor a foster child this Christmas

The Georgia Department of Family and Children Services encourages families to sponsor a foster child in Gwinnett County this Christmas. Families can select the child they want to sponsor and shop from the foster child's wish list. For more information, call 678.518.5604 or email Lori-Ann Spears, Communications Specialist with the Gwinnett County Division of Family and Children Services, at lori-annj.spears@dhs.ga.gov.

Community emergency volunteer courses available

The Gwinnett County Office of Emergency Management is offering free Community Emergency Response Team, or CERT, training to Gwinnett County residents beginning **January 3, 2017**. CERT courses educate residents about disaster preparedness for emergencies that may impact their community. Residents are trained in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

CERT training is open to all Gwinnett County residents 18 years and older. The training consists of five sessions that take place from 6:30pm to 9:00pm on Tuesdays. A course review and disaster simulation will take place on Saturday, February 4 from 8:00am to noon. For more information or to register, please email ema@gwinnettcounty.com. Sign up soon; classes fill up quickly.

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 24 and Friday, November 25 for the Thanksgiving holiday. All offices will resume regular working hours on Monday, November 28. A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center.

29th Annual Lighting of the Tree • FREE!

November 24 • 5:30pm – 8:00pm
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse
185 Crogan Street, Lawrenceville
770.822.5450

Melted Snowman Party

December 2 • 7:00pm – 9:00pm
Collins Hill Park Aquatic Center
2200 Collins Hill Road, Lawrenceville
770.237.5647

Holiday Train Display • FREE!

December 3 • 2:00pm – 4:00pm
George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center
55 Buford Highway, Suwanee
678.277.0910

Surviving an Active Shooter Event • FREE!

December 15 • 6:00pm – 9:00pm
Buford Human Services Center
2755 Sawnee Avenue, Buford
678.225.5360

GC Soul Line Dance for the Holidays for Ages 21+

December 17 • 11:00am – 1:00pm
Centerville Community Center
3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville
678.680.3033 (register by December 10)

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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.



Citizens committee recommends funding allocations for projects

The Citizens Project Selection Committee has recommended funding allocations for 10 categories of road improvements to be funded by the proposed 2017 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax. If the SPLOST is approved by voters on November 8, the CPSC will reconvene to discuss project priorities to recommend to the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners.

Projects will be selected from the list of potential projects developed in conjunction with the update of the County's Comprehensive Transportation Plan. The committee will also consider citizen requests for projects that have been compiled and are part of the list of potential projects. Additional public input during the CPSC's work and study of congestion and safety concerns by the County will also be used by the committee to determine its final project priorities for recommendation to the Board of Commissioners. To view the CPSC funding allocation recommendations, visit www.gwinnettcpsc.com.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Learn the facts about fires

The holiday season is upon us and so is the increased risk of house fires. Keep your home and family safe by learning these facts about fires:

- **Fire is dark:** Don't expect to see bright red and orange flames when a fire occurs. Dense smoke quickly rises and fills a room in a matter of seconds, making it difficult to see.
- **Fire is hot:** Hot air and gases can build quickly in a house fire, often reaching hundreds of degrees.
- **Smoke and gas are killers in a fire:** Several toxic gases are given off in a fire. Since humans can't smell in their sleep, this creates a deadly situation in a matter of seconds.
- **Time is not your friend:** Fire experts say there is less than a two-minute window to escape a home fire.

To schedule a fire safety presentation, please contact the Gwinnett Fire Community Risk Reduction Division at 678.518.4845 or email fireprograms@gwinnettcountry.com.

PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Protecting our waterways

In Gwinnett County, there are three separate water systems. The first is the water distribution system that brings clean water to residents and businesses. The second is the sanitary sewer system that collects wastewater from homes and businesses and delivers it to the water reclamation facilities, where it is treated to state standards before being released back into surface waters.

The third system is the stormwater system. This consists of storm drains, gutters and ditches. The stormwater system is designed to collect excess water that can occur with heavy rainfall and direct it to local waterways including creeks, streams, lakes and rivers. Since the water that enters a storm drain does not go to a treatment plant to be cleaned, we need to prevent any discharge of contaminants into our storm drains and, ultimately, our streams.

Under the *Illicit Discharge and Illegal Connection Ordinance*, it is illegal to put anything other than stormwater into a storm drain. If you see someone putting anything into a storm drain – whether it is yard waste, pet waste, car wash water, motor oil, pesticides, or fertilizers – please call the Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources at 678.376.7193. Once we receive the information, a water quality associate will contact the complainant, conduct a field investigation, and provide education on preventing water pollution. With your help, we can keep pollutants from entering our waterways.

Department of Water Resources 2017 Workshop Calendar

The 2017 workshop calendar is available on the Department of Water Resources website. Workshops are offered throughout the year to help conserve and protect our valuable water resources. Topics range from detention pond maintenance and composting to fix-a-leak, water conservation, and water wise landscaping.

Find your favorite workshop topics and sign up online.

To find a link to the calendar or to sign up for a workshop, visit www.gwinnettH2O.com and select the Public Education page from the left navigation.

TAX COMMISSIONER

Tax Commissioner's Office Thanksgiving holiday hours

All Tax Commissioner offices will be closed Thursday, November 24 through Saturday, November 26 for Thanksgiving. Visit www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com for online services and to view the holiday schedule.

CHECK IT OUT

Check out these titles to help you create your holiday menu. You can find them at your nearest Gwinnett County Public Library branch, www.gwinnettpl.org.

Thanksgiving Sweets and Treats, by Ronne Randall

Daisy's Holiday Cooking: Delicious Latin Recipes for Effortless Entertaining, by Daisy Martinez

Southern Living's Cooking for Christmas: Favorite Holiday Recipes to Share with Family and Friends

The Holiday Kosher Baker: Traditional & Contemporary Holiday Desserts, by Paula Shoyer

Vegan Holiday Kitchen, by Nava Atlas

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