

News for Neighborhoods

A newsletter for gwinnettcounty homeowners

December 9, 2011

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Dear Homeowner:

As a resident of Gwinnett County, you know there is always a lot going on in the community. [Gwinnett County Government](#) would appreciate your help keeping your neighbors informed by sharing the following information through your homeowner association newsletter, website, and e-mails and by talking to your friends and family. Click on *forward this e-mail to a friend* below to share this newsletter!

Chairman proposes 2012 budget

Gwinnett County Commission Chairman Charlotte Nash unveiled the proposed fiscal year 2012 budget to the Board of Commissioners on November 15. The proposed budget totals \$1.3 billion, compared to \$1.5 billion for 2011.

The proposed operating budget (daily operations) for fiscal year 2012 totals \$901 million, while the proposed capital budget is \$430 million. Operating expenses are expected to be lower in 2012 compared to 2011, and capital investments have been limited to those that do not require significant additional operating costs. The Board is expected to consider the 2012 budget for adoption during the first meeting of the year on January 3, 2012.



Commissioners will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, December 13 at 5:30pm in the auditorium at GJAC. The public is invited to make either oral or [written comments about the budget](#) during the hearing or via the county's website through December 25. The Board of Commissioners is expected to consider the 2012 budget for adoption during the first meeting of the year on January 3, 2012.

View the [proposed 2012 budget resolution](#) and a [presentation on the budget highlights](#).

Gwinnett's credit rating gets reaffirmed

Moody's Investors Services notified Gwinnett County on December 7 that it had revised the County's Aaa credit rating to a stable outlook, upgraded from a negative outlook assigned in August. Confirmation of the U.S. government's Aaa rating and assignment of a negative outlook due to the national debt ceiling dispute last summer caused Moody's to place 161 local governments, including Gwinnett, on a watch list for a possible credit rating downgrade.

Since the August announcement, Moody's has had discussions with each of the credit issuers and conducted additional studies to further gauge their indirect linkages to the U.S. government. According to the rating agency, approximately 4 percent of all Moody's-rated state and local governments are rated Aaa with a stable outlook.

Gwinnett County has maintained the highest bond rating - Aaa from Moody's and AAA from Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings - since 1997. Officials attribute this achievement to the organization's conservative fiscal policies and management, multi-year financial planning, and ample reserves.

Gwinnett Cooperative Extension Service hosts annual plant sale

Blueberries, raspberries, figs, crape myrtles, and much more are available from the Cooperative Extension Service. During the winter months, walk your landscape and decide where you could place some delicious blueberries, crape myrtles, figs, etc. Each of our plants are locally grown and are strong and healthy. We have information about each of the plants offered in our office to assist you with planting.



We are accepting pre-paid orders from now through March 16, 2012. The pickup date is March 29, 2012, from 10:00am to 6:30pm at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds. All orders should be pre-paid with cash or check only.

For a list of what plants are for sale and basic information about each plant, click [here](#). To place an order, please fill out the [plant sale order form](#).

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.



Drop off your Christmas tree for recycling

And once the holidays are over, don't forget to recycle your Christmas tree! From December 26 until January 15, residents can drop off their live, undecorated trees at [various locations](#) in Gwinnett County. The trees will be chipped during Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful's Bring One for the Chipper event on January 21 from 9:00am to noon at Bethesda Park, 225 Bethesda Church Road in Lawrenceville, near the soccer fields. The mulch from the trees will be used for County parks, facilities, etc. Please note that unless you have a yard waste contract with your hauler, trees will not be collected curbside.

Also be reminded that solid waste haulers will follow the normal schedule during the weeks of Christmas and New Year's Day.

Donate heaters to keep Gwinnett's seniors warm this winter

Electric portable heaters (UL tested) are needed to help keep Gwinnett seniors warm this winter. This is the third year that Gwinnett County Senior Services, in partnership with its local nonprofit, Friends of Gwinnett County Senior Services, and Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services are working together to provide heating assistance to senior citizens through Project AWARE (Added Warmth Assistance for Residences of our Elderly).

[Gwinnett County fire stations](#) are accepting brand new portable electric heaters through February 28, 2012. The heaters will be collected from the stations and personally delivered to seniors in need. A smoke detector and information on fire safety will also be included along with the heaters.

For seniors to be considered eligible to receive a heater, they should be 60 years or older, Gwinnett County residents, and undergoing a financial hardship. For more information about Project AWARE, please contact Adrienne Noble at 678.377.4150 or adrienne.noble@gwinnettcountry.com. You may also visit www.fogcss.com to find out how you can help Gwinnett seniors through Friends.

Safe Kids Gwinnett receives national safety award

[Safe Kids Gwinnett](#) recently received the Safe Kids Buckle Up Badge of Courage award at the Safe Kids USA conference for increasing awareness about the danger of leaving children unattended in vehicles. In 2011, 30 children died from hyperthermia-related injuries after being left unattended in vehicles.

With the support of its lead agencies, members, and community partners, including [Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services](#), Safe Kids continues to be a leader in helping to prevent accidental injuries to children 14 and under through distributing safety devices, education programs, and training programs.

Gwinnett hosts holiday activities

Looking to get into the holiday spirit? Join [Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation](#) as they host the following holiday activities:

- An Old Fashioned Christmas: December 9 and 16
- Breakfast with Santa: December 10 and 17
- Holiday on the Square: December 10, 11, and 17 - 20
- Pet Pics with Santa: December 10
- Seniors Annual Christmas Tea: December 15
- Dancing with the Sugar Plum Fairy: December 17 and 20



For event details and registration, visit www.gwinnettparks.com.

gwinnettcounty
Communications Division
770.822.7180

www.gwinnettcounty.com

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Gwinnett County Communications | 75 Langley Drive | Lawrenceville | GA | 30046