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#### December 21, 2012

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## Dear Emily,

As a resident of Gwinnett County, you know there is always a lot going on in the community.

<u>Gwinnett County Government</u> would appreciate your help keeping your neighbors informed by sharing the following information through your homeowner association newsletter, website, and emails and by talking to your friends and family.

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## Chairman Nash presents budget proposal

Gwinnett Commission Chairman Charlotte Nash formally presented her <u>proposed fiscal year 2013</u> <u>budget</u> to the Board of Commissioners during a briefing on November 27. The proposed budget totals \$1.3 billion, which is 8.5 percent lower than this year's \$1.43 billion. The Board expects to adopt the 2013 budget on Thursday, January 3, 2013.

#### About the 2013 budget

The proposed budget preserves core services,

maintains necessary reserves, and addresses the impact of some legislation. It also adjusts for the loss of revenues resulting from a further drop in property values, changes mandated by the consent order that ended the Service Delivery Strategy (SDS) litigation between the County and its cities, and the creation of the new city of Peachtree Corners.

Three new service districts for fire, police, and development will provide services and collect revenues only within certain geographic areas of the County rather than countywide. For example, the police service district includes unincorporated Gwinnett and the cities that do not have their own police departments. A fourth district, funded through a contract with the County, will provide emergency medical services to residents of incorporated Loganville who live in Gwinnett. Read more.

#### Your input

You are invited to make comments online through Monday, December 31, 2012.

#### **Recycle your Christmas tree**

After the holidays, turn your Christmas tree into mulch for Gwinnett County parks. Drop off your undecorated, live





trees from December 26 - January 18 at one of the many locations in Gwinnett. Visit <u>www.gwinnettcounty.com</u> to see a <u>list of locations</u>.

Once the trees are collected, community volunteers will chip them into mulch at Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful's annual

Bring One for the Chipper event on January 26 from 9:00am to noon at Bethesda Park in Lawrenceville. If you're interested in volunteering at this event, <u>www.gwinnettcb.org</u> or call 770.822.5187.

## Holiday trash and recycling collection schedule

Christmas Day and New Year's Day are trash and recycling holidays for solid waste providers in unincorporated Gwinnett County, so trash and recycling collections scheduled on or after those days will be delayed by one day:

Holiday Week December 24 - 29	Normal Collection Day Tuesday, December 25 Wednesday, December 26 Thursday, December 27 Friday, December 28	<b>Collection Day</b> Wednesday, December 26 Thursday, December 27 Friday, December 28 Saturday, December 29
December 31 - January 4	Tuesday, January 1 Wednesday, January 2 Thursday, January 3 Friday, January 4	Wednesday, January 2 Thursday, January 3 Friday, January 4 Saturday, January 5

Residents who live in a city should contact their city to find out if trash and recycling will be delayed due to the holidays.

## Recycle your holiday items!

As the holidays approach, remember to give a gift to the environment. In addition to your regular recyclables, the following holiday items can also be collected curbside:

- Wrapping paper (no plastic or foil)
- Wrapping paper cores
- Gift bags (remove string handles)
- Greeting cards
- Aluminum baking tins
- Beverage containers (some plastics, aluminum, and glass)
- Catalogs
- Broken down boxes and cardboard containers
- Calendars



# County offices closed for Christmas and 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 24 and December 25 for the Christmas holiday. Offices will reopen with normal business hours on December 26.

Offices will also be closed January 1 for the New Year's Day holiday and will reopen on January 2.

A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center during the Christmas and New Year's Day holiday.

Sugarloaf Parkway extends to Dacula



The final section the Sugarloaf Parkway extension opened to traffic on December 11. This section of the project extends Sugarloaf Parkway over SR 316 in Dacula and includes the bridge overpass and entrance and exit ramps. The project enhances east-west connectivity across Gwinnett and completes the 6-mile extension from SR 20 south of Lawrenceville to SR 316 in the Dacula area.

The 2009 SPLOST sales tax program primarily

funded the \$15 million project to construct the ramps and section of Sugarloaf Parkway from Campbell Road to the south side of SR 316 that opened this summer. The Georgia Department of Transportation provided \$2.5 million for the construction of this section of the project.

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