



December 21, 2017

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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 emails and by talking to your friends and family.



What's new on TVgwinnett?



Gwinnett County brings you the latest news and happenings about your community through Eye on Gwinnett, our bi-weekly news program.

What you'll see in this episode:

- Bicentennial celebration begins with gala
- Cities and County share SPLOST funds for transportation projects
- Couple buys pet oxygen masks for Fire and Emergency Services
- Mountain Park Park gets upgrades

Revised solid waste plan reduces cost, improves recycling

The Board of Commissioners approved an amended 8-year agreement with the residential trash haulers currently operating in unincorporated Gwinnett County.

The revised agreement will reduce the cost of residential trash and curbside recycling services in unincorporated Gwinnett County, improve recycling, and provide continuity of services. The amended agreement begins **July 1, 2018**, and replaces the current 8-year contract set to expire **June 30, 2018**. City residents will not be affected by the plan.

As part of the approved program, residents will retain their current hauler. In addition, the 17-gallon recycling bins will be replaced with a larger, covered 65-gallon cart on wheels. The haulers have cut their fees, reducing the overall monthly fee from \$19.16 to \$17.91. The senior discount will change from 15 percent to 25 percent, reducing senior fees from \$16.47 to \$13.75 per month.



Residential trash and recycling service will still include weekly trash pickup of household waste and more than 30 types of recyclables. Collection on each street will be on the same day of the week with exceptions for New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. Service will continue to include bulky item and white goods pickup; residents will still need to contact their assigned hauler to schedule pickup. Yard waste collection will also continue to be offered as an elective service, but at a 25 percent reduced cost for those who elect the 12-month plan.

Unincorporated Gwinnett County residential solid waste customers would see the price reductions on their next billing, scheduled for summer 2018. New recycling carts will be delivered later next year.

There's still time to comment on the County's proposed 2018 budget

Residents have until **December 31** to fill out an [online comment card](#) giving their views on the proposed 2018 budget for Gwinnett County.

The \$1.67 billion budget, which focuses on safety and quality of life issues, consists of a \$1.28 billion operating budget and \$390 million for capital improvements, including SPLOST-funded projects.

A team of seven citizen volunteers served on Nash's budget review committee, hearing presentations from elected officials and department directors in late August. The group studied departmental business plans, budget needs, and revenue projections to make recommendations for the 2018 budget.



The Board expects to adopt the 2018 budget on **January 2**. Read more about the 2018 budget proposal [here](#) or watch a video on the proposed budget [here](#).

Extension Office annual plant sale features fruits, landscaping



The UGA Extension Gwinnett office's famous annual plant sale kicks off **December 26**, and the plant experts are offering a whole host of delectable fruit shrubs and trees. You can buy blueberries, blackberries, raspberries, figs, apples, pomegranate, Goji berries, azaleas, pecan trees, and other landscape plants in its annual sale. Order your plants by **March 21**. Pick up your prepaid order only on **March 29** at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds in Lawrenceville. No orders are shipped. For order forms and plant sale information, visit www.ugaextension.org/gwinnett, or call 678.377.4010 to request a form.

Bring One for the Chipper and dispose of your old Christmas tree in a smart, easy way

Don't leave your used Christmas tree by the curb where it sits forever and annoys the neighbors. Bring it to the annual Bring One for the Chipper event sponsored by Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful in partnership with Gwinnett County.



You can drop off natural Christmas trees between **December 26** and **January 15** at designated sites in Gwinnett County. The trees will be chipped into mulch for use at County parks. Select fire stations will accept trees 24/7 and other locations will accept them during regular business hours. Recycling your Christmas tree keeps trees out of landfills by recycling them into mulch. This effort saves precious landfill space and provides an easy and environmentally conscious way to dispose of your old tree.

Visit www.gwinnettcbo.org to see a list of all drop-off sites or register to volunteer for the chipping event scheduled for **January 27**.

Give a shelter pet the greatest gift of a Home for the Holidays this December



As part of *Home of the Holidays* December, the Gwinnett animal shelter is offering a Greatest Gift adoption special through the month of December.

Any of the dogs and cats dreaming of a family for Christmas can be adopted at a discount, with cats available for \$12, or two cats for \$20, and dogs for \$25. Normally, adoption fees cost \$90. The fee covers spaying/neutering, inoculations, and microchipping.

And best of all, the shelter is offering "Free Fridays" in December when animals can be adopted at no cost. The adoption program helps relieve crowding at the shelter, located at 884 Winder Highway in Lawrenceville. So give someone the Greatest Gift of unbridled love from a shelter pet.

For more information, visit the [Animal Welfare webpage](#).

Have some java with an officer at Coffee with a Cop in Duluth

Share a cup of Joe or maybe a story or a concern with a Gwinnett County police officer at Coffee with a Cop on **January 5** from 9:00am to 11:00am at the Chick-fil-A in Duluth.

The program, intended to break down barriers between police and the people they serve, allows the public to ask questions, discuss issues, and get to know each other a little.

The Chick-fil-A is located at 1570 Pleasant Hill Road in Duluth.

For more information, call 678.442.6504 or email Officer David Wood at David.D.Wood@gwinnettcbo.com.



Two Become One: Free mass wedding ceremony on 1-18-18 at Gwinnett Historic Courthouse



At exactly 1:18pm on **January 18, 2018**, a special mass wedding and vow renewal ceremony to celebrate the bicentennial will take place in the Superior Court Ballroom at the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse.

Chief Magistrate Kristina Hammer Blum and Probate Judge Christopher Ballar will perform the free "On 1-18-18...Two Become One" ceremony. Couples must provide a marriage license from a Georgia Probate Court; no out-of-state weddings will be performed.

Each couple may bring a maximum of six guests.

Couples and their guests can celebrate with an exclusive reception in the ballroom for \$15 per person. The reception will include a DJ, first toast and dance, light refreshments, cake, and a ceremony keepsake.

Preregistration is required by **January 16** for both events; call 770.822.5450. The Gwinnett Historic Courthouse is located at 185 Crogan Street in Lawrenceville. For more information, visit www.gwinnettparks.com.

Gwinnett County Bicentennial Moment - The Bicentennial Torch now at GJAC

Gwinnett County's bicentennial torch is now on display at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center.

The torch made its debut **December 15** at the bicentennial celebration's first official event, *A Frontier Affair: Prelude to Gwinnett's Bicentennial*, held at the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse. A group of 12 students from various county high schools carried the LED torch to the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center for a special presentation during the Board of Commissioners' December 19 meeting.

The bicentennial torch relay was first suggested by Bicentennial Advisory Committee member and Lawrenceville Mayor Judy Jordan Johnson as a way to promote Gwinnett's Bicentennial Year of Celebration, which will span from December 15, 2017, to December 15, 2018.

Like the torch of the Olympic Games, the bicentennial torch represents goodwill and the connection between communities. The relay represents the journey that Gwinnett County has undergone from 1818 to today, from a largely agrarian community to one of the fastest growing, most diverse counties in the Southeast.



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