



# News for Neighborhoods

A newsletter for gwinnettcountry homeowners

December 7, 2016

## In this issue:

- What's new on TVgwinnett
- Still time to comment on proposed 2017 budget
- Protect your plants from the winter cold
- Avoid jury scam calls
- Holiday fire safety tips
- Holiday performances by Gwinnett schools
- County offices closed for Christmas and New Year's

## 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:

- Drought response restrictions in place
- County purchases Maguire-Livsey house
- Celebrate Christmas on the farm
- Register for free disaster response training

## There's still time to comment on the 2017 budget proposal

Gwinnett Commission Chairman Charlotte Nash presented a proposed \$1.56 billion budget for fiscal year 2017 to the Board of Commissioners during a [briefing](#) on November 15. Five county residents and business people served on Nash's budget review committee. After hearing presentations from elected officials and department directors in late August and early September, the group studied departmental business plans, budget needs, and revenue projections to make recommendations for the 2017 budget. Read more about the 2017 budget proposal [here](#) or watch a video on the proposed budget [here](#).



Commissioners held a public hearing on the proposed budget on Monday, December 5. Written comments are still welcome through an [online comment form](#) through **December 31**. The Board expects to adopt the 2017 budget on **January 3**.

## Prepare your plumbing for cold and freezing weather

Fortunately, freezing weather does not happen often in Georgia. When it does, the best way to handle any sort of water emergency in your home - including broken pipes - is to be prepared before it happens. Take a few minutes to learn about the plumbing system in and outside your home to prevent freezing weather from turning into a plumbing emergency. Here are some additional tips:

### Outside plumbing

- Cover outdoor water valves and spigots when the temperatures dip below 32 degrees.

- Shut down your irrigation system for the season.
- Disconnect and drain garden hoses.

### Inside plumbing

- Wrap exposed water pipe that may be in the attic, unheated basement, or crawl space.
- Invest in a water heater blanket.
- When the temperature is below 32 degrees, consider opening cabinet doors in the kitchen and bath to expose pipes to heat.
- Drip the faucet overnight in order to prevent freezing

If your pipes break, close the main water shut-off valve to your house. Shut-off valves can be located where the water line enters the house and contact a licensed plumber for repairs. Remember, the repair of broken pipes on the customer's side of the water meter is the customer's responsibility. For more information, visit [www.gwinnetth2o.com](http://www.gwinnetth2o.com).

### Avoid jury duty scam calls



The Gwinnett County Juror Division warns residents to look out for fraudulent calls regarding jury duty fines. Typically the caller says it's the Gwinnett Sheriff's Office calling to tell the victims that they didn't show up for jury duty and that they now owe a fine of as much as \$900, which can be paid over the phone with a pre-paid debit card.

Gwinnett County's law enforcement agencies do not call people and demand money.

Every year, thousands of potential jurors in Gwinnett are selected randomly by computer from a database of registered voters and licensed drivers and summoned by mail. The summons explains the one-day-or-one-trial system and gives instructions on when and where to report for duty. If you don't show up, they contact you again - also by mail.

If you've been scammed, report it to the Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office Investigative Services Division at 770.619.6655.

### Gwinnett Fire and Emergency Services offers holiday fire safety tips

The holidays are here again and it's time for strands of lights, decorated trees, and your favorite seasonal treats. If you're planning on cooking, decorating your home, or building a fire in the fireplace this year, please be mindful of fire safety. Each year, holiday season fires injure 2,000 individuals and cause more than \$500 million in damage. Here are a few tips for a safe holiday season with your family:

- **Cooking:** Do not leave your stove unattended. If you must leave the room while cooking, set a timer or carry a pot holder to remind you that food is cooking.
- **Trees:** Select a fresh tree. Make sure the needles are green and hard to pull from the branch. Place your tree away from any heat source and keep the stand filled with water at all times.
- **Lights:** Inspect your lights every year to ensure there are no frays, bare spots, or holes in the insulation. Do not overload outlets with light strands and do not link more than three strands unless the directions specify that it's safe. Finally, do not leave your lights unattended while they are on.



For more tips, visit [www.gwinnettsafety411.com](http://www.gwinnettsafety411.com).

### Holiday performances by Gwinnett schools

Gwinnett County schools are spreading the holiday spirit at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center this month. Come out and enjoy the sounds of the holidays during your lunch break. Performances will take place through Friday, December 16 at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center, located at 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville, on the second floor across from the Jury Assembly Room. If you can't make the performances, check them out on TVgwinnett, the County's government access cable television, and on demand at [www.gwinnettcountry.com](http://www.gwinnettcountry.com).

### County offices closed for Christmas holiday

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 **26** for the Christmas holiday and reopen on **December 27**. A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center during the Christmas holiday.

Christmas Day is not a trash holiday in unincorporated Gwinnett County so trash and recycling will be collected as normal. If you live within city limits, please contact your city hall for your trash and recycling schedule.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)