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December 22, 2015

In this issue:

What's new on TVgwinnett

County offices closed for Christmas and New Year's

Detention pond workshop on January 7

Comment on proposed 2016 budget

Holiday safety tips

Christmas tree recycling

Be an elections poll official

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:

- Ronald Reagan Park renovations
- Police academy graduation
- Gwinnett is a PlanFirst Community
- Fire receives education grant

County offices closed for Christmas, 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 **Thursday, December 24** and **Friday, December 25** for the Christmas holiday and reopen on **Monday, December 28**. Offices will also be closed **Friday, January 1** for the New Year's holiday and reopen **Monday, January 4**. A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center during the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

Christmas Day and New Year's Day are trash and recycling holidays in unincorporated Gwinnett County. If your normal collection day takes place on one of these holidays, your collection will be delayed. Please visit www.sustainablegwinnett.com to view the detailed collection schedule. If you live within city limits, please contact your city hall for your trash and recycling schedule.

Correction: Workshop on January 7 helps homeowners care for detention ponds

The *Events in Gwinnett County* newsletter issued last week mistakenly listed septic tank maintenance as the topic for a workshop on January 7. Detention pond maintenance is the topic for the upcoming workshop. The septic tank maintenance workshop will be held on August 11 at the Buford Human Services Center, 2755 Sawnee Avenue in Buford. We apologize for any confusion caused by this error.

The Department of Water Resources will host a free detention pond maintenance workshop for residents to learn how to care for detention ponds in their neighborhoods. The workshop will be held on **Thursday, January 7 at 6:00pm** at the **Norcross Human Services Center, 5030 Georgia Belle Court in Norcross**. Attendees from unincorporated Gwinnett County, city of Lilburn, or city of Peachtree Corners may qualify for a maximum 5 percent credit on their stormwater utility fee for the following year. Space is limited, so register in advance by providing your name, address, and phone number to dwrreg@gwinnettcountry.com or call 678.376.7193.

There's still time to comment on the proposed 2016 budget



Gwinnett Commission Chairman Charlotte Nash presented a proposed \$1.5 billion budget for fiscal year 2016 to the Board of Commissioners during a [briefing](#) in November. 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 2016 budget.

Commissioners held a [public hearing](#) on Monday, December 7. Written comments are still welcome through an [online comment form](#) until **Thursday, December 31**. The Board expects to adopt the 2016 budget on **Tuesday, January 5**.

Want to know more about the 2016 budget proposal? Read about it on the County's [website](#) or watch this [video](#).

Holiday safety tips for sipping and serving

If you are hosting a party or other event to celebrate the holidays, it's imperative to recognize your responsibility in keeping others safe. Here are a few tips to help make hosting easier, safer, and more enjoyable for everyone. When hosting an adult party with alcohol, it's important to serve more than just alcoholic beverages; provide high-protein food, limit alcohol consumption, and encourage the use of designated drivers. If you are hosting a party for youth, do not serve alcohol. If you serve alcohol to anyone under 21, you could face criminal charges of up to 12 months in jail or a fine of \$1,000. Also, make sure you provide adult supervision to help prevent underage drinking and other risky behaviors from taking place. For more information, visit www.guideinc.org. We wish you a safe and healthy holiday season.

Drop off your Christmas tree for recycling

Once the holidays are over, don't forget to recycle your Christmas tree. You can drop off your **live, undecorated tree** at one of the [convenient locations](#) between **December 26** and **January 16** in Gwinnett County. The trees will be chipped during Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful's Bring One for the Chipper event on **Saturday, January 23** from **9:00am to noon** at **Bethesda Park**, located at **225 Bethesda Church Road in Lawrenceville**, near the soccer fields. The mulch from the trees will be used for County parks, roadway landscaping, facilities, etc.

Please note that unless you have a yard waste contract with your hauler, trees will not be collected curbside.



Be an elections poll official

The Gwinnett Voter Registrations and Elections Division needs dedicated citizens to serve as paid poll officials for the busy 2016 election year. Successful poll officials demonstrate patience, enjoy working with people, take direction well, possess basic computer skills, and are detail-oriented. If you are interested in applying, please visit www.gwinnettcountryjobs.com and select the Elections Poll Official position.

gwinnettcounty
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