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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:**

- Officials open two new fire stations
- Watch Veterans Day ceremony on TVgwinnett
- Pets for Vets adoption special
- New jury text system

**County offices closed for Thanksgiving; Thursday and Friday collection delayed by one day**

All Gwinnett County government offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of residents, will be closed Thursday, **November 24** and Friday, **November 25** for the Thanksgiving holiday. County offices will resume normal business hours on Monday, November 28. A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center.

Thursday, November 24 is a **trash and recycling holiday** for residents living in unincorporated Gwinnett County. Collections scheduled on that day will be rescheduled to Friday, **November 25** and Friday collections will be rescheduled to Saturday, **November 26**. Only Thursday and Friday collections are affected. Please remember to place your trash and recycling bins at the curb no later than 7:00am on collection day; haulers will pick up trash between 7:00am and 6:30pm. If you live within city limits, please contact your city hall for your trash and recycling schedule.

We wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving!

**Annual tree lighting tradition continues in downtown Lawrenceville**

After your Thanksgiving feast join Gwinnett Parks and Recreation for the 29th Annual Lighting of the Tree on Thursday, November 24 from 5:30pm to 8:00pm. Enjoy musical entertainment and kids'

activities in anticipation of the main event, the tree lighting and the arrival of Santa Claus. The event will take place on the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse lawn, located at **185 West Crogan Street in Lawrenceville.**

For more information, visit [www.gwinnettparks.com](http://www.gwinnettparks.com) or call 770.822.5450.



### Calling all cooks: Put safety first in the kitchen

Gwinnett firefighters encourage residents to cook safely during the holidays and always. Keep these tips in mind while preparing your holiday meal:

- Remember to regularly check on foods you are simmering, baking, roasting, or boiling food and use a timer to remind you that something is on the stove or in the oven.
- Never leave the house when cooking.
- Turn off stove burners if you leave the kitchen or the house and before going to sleep.
- Keep anything that could catch on fire, such as oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, or towels, away from stovetops, ovens, and other heat sources.
- Never wear loose clothing or dangling sleeves while cooking.
- Remember to Stop, Drop and Roll, if your clothes catch fire.
- Keep children and pets a safe distance away from the oven or stove when cooking. Create a "kids-free zone" around cooking appliances.

For more tips, including how to safely use a turkey fryer, visit [www.gwinnettsafety411.com](http://www.gwinnettsafety411.com) and look under *Holiday Safety*.

### Fire danger prompts ban on outdoor burning, other activities



All **outdoor burning is banned** due to ongoing drought conditions and severe fire danger, according to the Gwinnett County Department of Fire and Emergency Services. The ban on outdoor burning includes the burning of all yard waste and debris (leaves, branches, twigs, and pine straw), commercial land clearing, and pit burns as well as the discontinuance of permits for all bonfires.

In addition, **smoking, use of outdoor grills, and campfires are banned** in all Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation facilities.

Also, **fireworks are banned** in 110 counties, including Gwinnett, due to the extreme drought and risk of wildfires. The bans will remain in effect while drought conditions persist. Visit [our website](#) for more information.

### State EPD declares Level 2 drought

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division has declared a **Level 2 drought response** for 52 Georgia counties, including Gwinnett. In response, Water Resources reminds residents of current watering restrictions, as well as other ways to conserve water.

For details, visit [www.gwinnetth2o.com](http://www.gwinnetth2o.com).



### 2017 budget proposal invests in public safety, judicial system and community engagement

Gwinnett Commission Chairman Charlotte Nash presented a proposed **\$1.56 billion budget** for fiscal year 2017 to the public and the Board of Commissioners during a briefing on November 15. The proposed budget is up about 5.5 percent from this year and includes a \$1.18 billion operating budget plus another \$384 million for capital improvements. Read more about the 2017 budget proposal [here](#).



Commissioners will **hold a public hearing** on Monday, December 5 at 7:00pm in the auditorium at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center, 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville. They invite either oral or written comments about the budget during the public hearing or through an [online comment form](#) through the end of December. The Board expects to adopt the 2017 budget on Tuesday, January 3.

### Be safe while shopping during the holidays

The Gwinnett County Police Department will activate its **Holiday Task Force** beginning Thanksgiving night and continuing every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday through December 31. In addition, officers from the Crime Prevention Unit will be conducting vehicle safety checks during the holidays, encouraging shoppers to do their part to **prevent property theft**.



As you are out shopping for gifts during the holidays, the officers want to remind you to be safe with these helpful tips:

- Observe your surroundings; report any suspicious activity or loitering to the police.
- Store packages in your trunk and park your vehicle in a well-lit area.
- Don't shop alone and when offered, let retail employees assist you with taking your merchandise to your vehicle.
- Don't carry large amounts of cash; use secure forms of payment such as a credit or debit card when shopping.
- Have merchandise delivered to a secured location when possible.

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