



The WaterSpout

'Tis the Season

It's that time of year again where we all hit the malls or, more likely, our computers to look for the perfect gift for the special people in our lives. This year in lieu of buying your friends or family something that will eventually take up space in a landfill, you should consider giving them a gift that will bring you both happiness while being kind to the environment. Some ideas to consider are:

Annual Passes are the gifts that keep on giving throughout the year. We are fortunate and have some amazing places to visit and spend time within close proximity to our area. Consider an annual pass to places such as Oatland Island Wildlife Center, Fort Pulaski, the Coastal Heritage Society, or Skidaway Island State Park (Georgia State Park annual pass). There are plenty of options to please everyone on your list!

Donate to an organization or cause that your recipient feels passionate about. Do you have an animal lover in your life? Consider donating pet food or supplies to the animal shelter in their name or Adopt a Wild Friend at Oatland Island. Tree lover? Check out the Savannah Tree Foundation. Somebody that feels strongly about preserving Savannah's historic treasures? Historic Savannah Foundation would love to have their support! No matter their passion- the environment, animals, education, preservation, etc.- there are organizations out there that are in need of support.

Gift cards for a fun activity. There are so many different options in this area to consider. Treat your friend to something they've never done before like a dolphin cruise, kayaking, or a deep sea fishing trip or something you know they love like bowling, trampoline park, the movies, theater tickets, their favorite restaurant.

The possibilities for a unique, thoughtful, green(er) gift are endless if you just think outside the (gift)box!!!



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Water Restrictions are Still in Effect

It is important to remember that there are permanent outdoor watering restrictions for unincorporated Chatham County, the Cities of Savannah, Bloomingdale, Garden City, Pooler, Port Wentworth, Tybee Island and the Town of Thunderbolt. These restrictions will continue to remain in effect during both a declared drought and non-drought period.

The following outdoor watering schedules apply for all of Chatham County:

- **Odd-numbered addresses** may use outdoor water on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays;
- **Even-numbered and un-numbered addresses** may use outdoor water on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays;
- The use of outdoor water is not permissible between the hours of **10:00 AM to 4:00 PM**; and
- No watering is allowed on **Fridays**.



Thanks to Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation's *Live Well. Be Well.* initiative, Forsyth Farmers' Market has created **Farm Truck 912**, a mobile farmers' market that brings local fruits and vegetables to Savannah neighborhoods with the least access to healthy food.

Farm Truck 912 both *accept* and *double* SNAP/EBT benefits and offer health and nutrition opportunities!

The current Farm Truck stops include:

- **Department of Family & Children Services**
 - **Monday: 10am-11:30am**
- **Savannah Gardens**
 - **Monday: 3pm-4pm**
- **Sustainable Fellwood**
 - **Tuesday: 1pm-2pm**
- **WW Law Community Center**
 - **Thursday: 3pm-4pm**
- **Sheppard's Gas and Food Mart**
 - **Thursday: 5pm-6pm**
- **Memorial Health**
 - **One Friday of each month: 11am-1pm**

Green Resolutions

Another year is coming to an end, and for many of us it's a time of reflection. We think about the last 12 months and how much things have changed or stayed the same. We think about how much our kids have grown, how our careers are going, how our resolutions from last January have fared.

As we think about our resolutions for the upcoming year, think of the difference that it would make if everybody added just one resolution to their list that resulted in them being a little friendlier to the environment. It doesn't take a major lifestyle overhaul to make a big difference. Little changes add up-- especially if every person is making a change. On New Year's Eve when you're thinking about your resolutions for 2017, consider adding one of these small changes:

Turn Off the Lights, Televisions, Computers, Etc.

Turn off lights, televisions, computers, etc. when you are done using them or when you leave a room. Not only is this better for the environment, but it's better for your wallet.

Use Reusable Bags

When you go shopping, take your reusable bags with you and skip the plastic bags. These days they have a reusable bag for everybody, from football fans to fashionistas to supporters of every cause, so grab the bag that suits you best.

Recycle

If you're not recycling yet, now is the perfect time to start. Many of Chatham County's local jurisdictions have made it easier than ever to recycle with their curbside or drop-off recycling programs.

Shop Locally

Nobody is suggesting that you have to buy only locally grown or made items, but consider buying your fruits and vegetables at the Farmers' Market (see page 4 for Forsyth Farmers' Market details) instead of the grocery store. When buying a present for a friend or family member, consider buying something from a local artist or some local sweets they can't get anywhere else.

Meatless Mondays

Join the growing numbers of people that are going meatless one day a week. Not only is it better for the environment and your wallet, but this one is better for your waistline as well. From simple spaghetti to the more elaborate ravioli with pumpkin seed pesto, there is a recipe for all taste buds.

Ride the Bus or Your Bike, or Walk Once A Week

For some this may not be an option, but for those of you that are fortunate enough to live in an area that you can ride the bus or your bike, or walk for some of your trips, just replacing one trip a week can make a big difference. In addition, if you ride your bike or walk you will be helping yourself accomplish the goal we all make each year- to exercise more in the New Year.

Chatham County ShoeBox Recycling Program

"Focus on REUSE Takes Steps in a Greener Direction for ALL"

The Resource Conservation Education Center and ShoeBox Recycling are collaborating to recycle shoes in Chatham County.

ShoeBox Recycling bins are located at the Recycle Drop-Off Center at the Resource Conservation Education Center, where everyone is encouraged to discard their gently used shoes.

Shoes they accept: paired men's, women's, and children's shoes that are still usable with no holes in the soles or wet or mildewed pairs.

Shoes they don't accept: heavy winter boots, skates, blades, flip-flops, slippers, and singles.

ShoeBox Recycling is a for-profit recycler of shoes. All shoes collected for reuse are destined for reuse by those in need of affordable footwear. With over 300 million pairs of perfectly usable shoes hitting landfills each year, ShoeBox Recycling is looking to change the way people think about their shoes and the need for reuse around the globe.

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Don't Forget to Winterize Your Home

The winter months can be a drain on your wallet as the temperatures go down and your electricity bills go up. Winterizing your home doesn't have to cost a lot of money and much you can do yourself. Here are some helpful tips on how to make small, inexpensive improvements that will help keep your home warm and toasty throughout winter:

1. Change your furnace filters monthly during heating season.
2. Run fans on reverse to help circulate warm air...remember heat rises.
3. Turn down your water heater.
4. Cover any door drafts...leaving a drafty door uncovered is literally letting money go out the door.
5. Tune-up your heating system to make sure it is operating at its optimum level.
6. Caulk and weather strip your windows to stop energy from flying away.
7. Insulate your pipes and water heater.
8. Lower your thermostat when you're not home and/or are sleeping.

For a more comprehensive list and additional information and ideas, check out this article in Popular Mechanics:

<http://www.popularmechanics.com/home/interior-projects/how-to/g52/winterize-home-tips-energy-461008/>

Forsyth Farmers' Market

Every Saturday at the south end of Forsyth Park 9 a.m.
to 1 p.m.



Support local farmers, and improve your health by shopping at the Forsyth Park Farmers Market. Select from a variety of fresh, regional produce sold by farmers, and take advantage of nutritional information and demonstrations offered at the health pavilion. EBT cards are accepted. Please visit www.forsythfarmersmarket.org for more information.

Upcoming Events

Earth Day Savannah, Saturday, April 15th 11 am- 5 pm at Forsyth Park, rain or shine
For more information, go to: <http://www.earthdaysavannah.org/>