



The WaterSpout

Baby It's Cold Outside!

Many of you may be wondering when we moved from Savannah to the Arctic Circle with these unusually frigid temperatures we've been experiencing recently. This winter has been an especially cold one and it's not done yet. Not only does it mean that you have to put away your shorts and flip-flops and break out your sweaters and close-toed shoes, winter months can be a drain on your wallet as the temperatures go down and your electricity bills go up. Winterizing your home can help cut down on those costs while keeping the cold air outside. It doesn't have to cost a lot of money and much of it 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 the winter:

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

Water Restrictions are Still in Effect

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It is important to remember that there are permanent outdoor watering restrictions for all of Chatham County. These restrictions remain in effect during both declared drought and non-drought periods.

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

- The use of outdoor water is not allowed between **10:00 AM to 4:00 PM**;
- No watering is allowed on **Fridays**;

Outdoor watering allowed between 4:01 PM– 9:59 AM						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Even/Un-numbered addresses	Odd addresses	Even/Un-numbered addresses	Odd addresses	X	Even/Un-numbered addresses	Odd addresses



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:

FARM TRUCK 912

Current Schedule

Monday

WW Law Library / 909 E Bolton St.
12:00-2:00pm

Tuesday

Skidaway Island / 1 W Ridge Rd.
12:30-2:00pm

Daffin Park / 1301 E. Victory Dr.
3:00-5:30pm

Wednesday

Savannah Gardens / 515 Pennsylvania Ave.
1:00-2:30pm

Lady Bamford / 1410 Richards St.
3:30-5:15pm

Thursday

CITGO Sheppard's Gas & Food Mart / 1302 W Gwinnett St.
12:30-2:00pm

West Broad Street YMCA / 1110 May St.
3:00-5:30pm

Sunday

Jewish Educational Alliance / 5111 Abercorn St.
11:00-1:00pm

Last updated: 1/15/2018

EPA's "I'm for Water" Pledge

Join thousands of your friends and neighbors that are making a commitment to save water this year. Take the **"I'm for Water"** pledge and use EPA's WaterSense monthly checklist to help you use less water year round. By taking one or two simple steps each month, it's easy to do your part to protect our water for future generations. For more information and to sign up the pledge, go to:

<https://www.epa.gov/watersense/im-water-pledge>

Septic System Basics

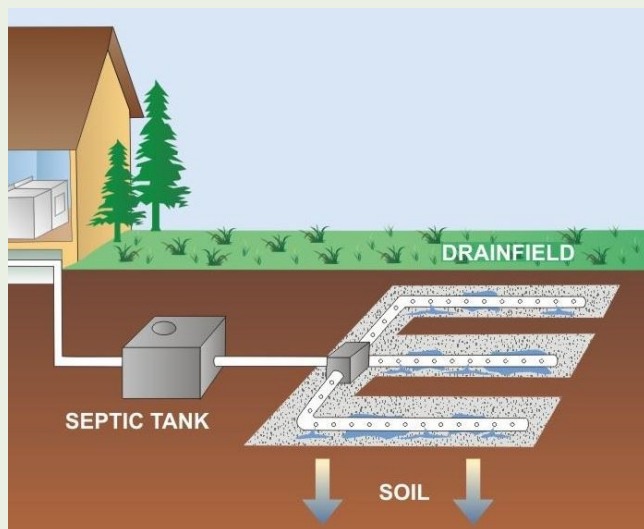
A septic system has two main components: a septic tank which traps and biologically degrades solid waste and a drainfield which provides additional biological treatment and infiltration of the water into the ground. Septic systems require regular maintenance to prevent costly damage and repairs. Septic systems are designed to safely use natural processes such as “helpful bacteria” to treat and dispose of the wastewater generated in your home.

If a septic system is not maintained, untreated human waste may contaminate drinking water supplies and negatively impact the environment. Keeping your septic system working properly is a wise investment for economic, human health, and environmental reasons.

Pumping the septic system regularly will prevent the system from overflowing. If a septic tank overflows, the wastewater mixes with solid waste in the tank possibly clogging the associated drainfield causing sinks and toilets to “back up”. The raw waste may flow into drinking water wells or runoff into streams that lead to the ocean and estuaries, contaminating shellfish and ultimately resulting in waters that are not fit to swim in.

High water tables found along Coastal Georgia can also have a tremendous impact on septic systems. During times of heavy rainfall and coastal flooding, water leaks into the systems through cracks.

Heavy rain storms that seasonally occur along the coast can quickly and easily waterlog your system, making it drain very slowly. Signs of this include toilets not flushing properly and sinks draining very slowly. If you see any of these signs, you can ease the impacts on your septic system by fixing household leaks, reducing the number of toilet flushes and washing clothes at a laundromat.



What can you do to protect your septic system?

- Have your septic system pumped out every 3 to 5 years.
- Look for signs of trouble with your system. Some warning signs that a septic system is not working properly include: foul odors in your home or yard; wet, spongy ground or lush plant growth that appears near a leaky septic tank or drainfield; and plumbing fixtures that drain slowly because of a clog in the house pipes, septic system, or drainfield.
- Do not pour household chemicals down the drains. Many household chemicals can harm the helpful bacteria in your septic system. Without these helpful bacteria the system may malfunction.
- Do not flush materials that will not decompose in the septic tank and clog the system. These include items such as: kitty litter, wipes, feminine hygiene products and cigarette butts.
- Limit your use of the garbage disposal. It can add excess materials to the system that take a long time to decompose...try composting your food instead.
- Do not pour the following things that may kill the helpful bacteria in your septic system down the drain: paints, acids, solvents, drain cleaners, oils, pesticides, and large quantities of bleach.
- Reduce the amount of wastewater generated to extend the life of your septic system. Less potable water in the septic tank provides more storage area for the raw waste. Think water conservation!
- Respond quickly to any problems you observe and call a professional to address the problem.

Earth Day Savannah

Chatham County-Savannah

Metropolitan Planning Commission

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Spring is right around the corner and you know what that means...Earth Day Savannah in Forsyth Park! For those that have never been, Earth Day Savannah is a celebration of environmentally responsible living and business in coastal Georgia. It's an opportunity for local government, businesses, non-profits, and community groups to connect with the public and each other. There will be a wide variety of exhibitors, with something for everyone— young and old.

For additional information, go to: www.earthdaysavannah.org



Saturday, April 21
11am - 4pm
Forsyth Park



Forsyth Farmers' Market

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

Support local farmers, and improve your health by shopping at the Forsyth 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.

