

# NEWS

for Neighborhoods

A newsletter for Gwinnett County homeowners

January 15, 2020

Greetings!

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 TV Gwinnett?

Gwinnett County brings you the latest news and happenings about your community through Eye on Gwinnett, our weekly news program.



What you'll see in this episode:

- Commissioners adopt 2020 budget
- Norcross, Duluth library construction contracts approved
- Recycle your Christmas tree at Bring One for the Chipper
- MLK Day offers events next week

View other Eye on Gwinnett episodes on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages, or watch them on [TVGwinnett.com](#).

## Board of Commissioners adopts \$1.84 billion budget for 2020

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners recently adopted a \$1.84 billion budget for fiscal year 2020 that addresses a broad spectrum of areas.

The adopted 2020 budget is a 1.1 percent increase compared to last year's budget. It consists of a \$1.44 billion operating budget and \$401 million capital improvement budget, which includes funds from the County's SPLOST program.

The approved budget adds 30 more master police officer positions as well as funding for an 11<sup>th</sup> Superior Court judge, District Attorney and Administrative Office of the Courts staffing, and supplementary sheriff's deputies for courtroom security.

The budget will also fund equipping the recently constructed alternate E-911 center to provide extra security and support to the main E-911 center. The budget includes money to help address homelessness by providing hotel/motel vouchers for emergency shelter providers and completing the buildout of the Norcross Assessment Center to provide homeless shelter beds there.

The fiscal plan for 2020 sets aside funding for the Gwinnett Entrepreneur Center to aid small business startups by providing resources and services, such as physical space, education, and networking connections. Money will also be allocated to continue the Infinite Energy Center Expansion and develop the Water Tower @ Gwinnett for water-related research and training.

The adopted 2020 budget resolution and supporting documents are available online at [www.GwinnettCounty.com](http://www.GwinnettCounty.com).

County offices closed for MLK holiday

All Gwinnett County government offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of residents, will be closed **January 20** for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Offices will reopen **January 21**.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is not a trash and recycling holiday for solid waste providers in unincorporated Gwinnett County, so trash and recycling collections are scheduled as normal. Residents who live in a city should contact their city to find out if trash and recycling will be delayed due to the holiday.

## Recycle your Christmas tree at Bring One for the Chipper

Recycle your live Christmas tree by dropping it off at one of many locations around Gwinnett through **January 20** as part of the annual Bring One for the Chipper event. Recycling your Christmas tree is easy and saves precious landfill space.

Gwinnett County fire stations will accept trees 24/7, and other locations will accept them during regular business hours. On **January 25**, the trees will be chipped into mulch for use at County parks. Click [here](#) to learn more, including how you can volunteer at the chipping event.



## Share your ideas at a Transit Review Committee meeting



With Gwinnett County expected to continue rapid growth through 2040 and beyond, the need for a robust transit system will become even more critical. To analyze Gwinnett's future needs and recommend ways to address those needs, the Board of Commissioners established the Gwinnett Transit Review Committee earlier this year.

The committee, made up of 13 residents representing different walks of life, is weighing different transit scenarios as they try to balance cost, coverage, and service with combinations of heavy rail, bus rapid transit, buses, and vans. When they're finished,

the Transit Review Committee will make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners. The next TRC meeting is set for **January 23 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm** in Conference Room C at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center. Another meeting could be scheduled for January 27 if needed. For more information, click [here](#).

## Give back to your community by becoming a poll official



Gwinnett County is hiring poll officials to staff 156 polling locations plus eight advance voting locations for the 2020 election season. The Voter Registration and Elections Division is looking for citizens of all backgrounds, including bilingual poll officials.

Workers can gain valuable work experience and get paid! Currently, positions pay up to a \$120 stipend. Learn more and apply at [GwinnettCountyJobs.com](http://GwinnettCountyJobs.com).

## Georgia DOT, Gwinnett County studying improvements to I-85

Georgia DOT and Gwinnett County are partnering to conduct a Comprehensive Corridor Study along I-85. The study area is roughly 18 miles long and is primarily located within Gwinnett County. The study will propose solutions to reduce congestion, enhance traffic operations, and improve safety in this area. Through collaboration with stakeholders and the public, a wide range of potential solutions will be identified. These alternatives will be analyzed and the recommendations will be developed for implementation. Public feedback is an important part of the study so the I-85 study team created a survey so you can tell them what you think and help them better understand issues that are important to you. [Click here](#) to take the survey and share your ideas for improving I-85.

## Extension Office annual plant sale features fruits, landscaping plants

The UGA Extension Gwinnett office is offering blueberries, blackberries, raspberries, figs, apples, pomegranates, muscadines, and landscape

plants in its annual sale. Order your plants by **March 6** in person or by mail at the Extension Office in Lawrenceville. Pick up your prepaid order on **March 19** at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds in Lawrenceville. No orders are shipped. For order forms and plant sale information, visit [GwinnettExtension.com](http://GwinnettExtension.com), or call 678.377.4010 to request a form.



## U.S. Census Bureau gearing up for 2020 count

United States  
**Census  
2020**

In mid-March, the Census Bureau will begin sending invitations to take the census to every household in America. You can respond online, by phone, or by mail. For the first time, you can take the census online, or you can take it by phone, or by mail. In May, census takers will visit homes that haven't responded, and in December 2020, the bureau will issue a report to Congress and the president. Learn more about the upcoming census at [2020Census.gov](http://2020Census.gov).

Census counts shape legislative and congressional districts, how federal and state resources are distributed (more people means more resources and services), and influence critical policy decisions. Census results are also used in business decisions and academic studies that can affect your community.

The census is safe, secure, and confidential. Also, it is illegal to share personal information disclosed in the census. The information can only be used to produce statistics. Help us ensure #GwinnettCounts!

## GCPD offering informational class about human trafficking

The Gwinnett County Police Department is partnering with New Mercies Christian Church to offer a second class about human trafficking **January 22** at 7:00pm at the church at 4000 Five Forks Tricum Road in Lilburn. The class is expected to be about 90 minutes, including a question-and-answer period at the end.

Representatives from the Georgia Attorney General's Office, Gwinnett County Public Schools, as well as other community agencies and nonprofits will be participating. This class is not recommended for children under the age of 16. Child care is provided onsite. No RSVP or registration is required.

For more information, email [ashley.wilson@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:ashley.wilson@gwinnettcountry.com) or call the church at 770.925.8600.

## Gwinnett offers Free Fridays as part of National Walk Your Dog Month



Gwinnett Animal Welfare is celebrating National Walk Your Dog Month with the return of Free Fridays throughout January whether your new best friend is a dog or cat!

All pets adopted at Gwinnett Animal Welfare have been vaccinated, neutered and microchipped, and are ready to start the new year with a new family. Dogs that have tested heartworm positive will be treated before going home. The standard adoption fee is \$45 for dogs and puppies and \$30 for cats and kittens.

For more information, including available pets, adoption specials, and events, follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/GwinnettAnimalWelfare) or visit [GwinnettAnimalWelfare.com](http://GwinnettAnimalWelfare.com).



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