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January 7, 2015

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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:

- 2015 budget adoption
- Distinguished budget award
- Tree recycling through January 16
- MLK Holiday festivities
- MLK Great Day of Service

Extension hosts annual plant sale

The Gwinnett Extension is offering varieties of blueberries, blackberries, raspberries, figs, apples, pomegranate, native azaleas, and other landscape plants as part of its annual sale. Orders will be taken now through March 11, 2015. Visit www.gwinnettextension.com or call 678.377.4010 to request an order form.

Commissioners adopt annual budget

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners adopted a [\\$1.4 billion budget for fiscal year 2015](#) on Tuesday, January 6, 2015. This balanced budget holds the line on property tax rates and is based on a small amount of growth in the tax digest.

The operating budget totals \$1.052 billion and includes pay-for-performance increases for non-sworn employees and a step increase for public safety personnel. The budget will also fund new staff positions for judicial services, the animal shelter, a new fire station, and the new Level



Creek Park scheduled to open this year. Roadside maintenance will be partially restored through the use of contracts with private companies. Gwinnett will also bring back Saturday bus service for local routes and add two daily express service trips from the Indian Trail Park and Ride lot to help meet demand.

The \$370.6 million capital budget includes construction of two fire stations using SPLOST funds. The new Fire Station 31 will serve Georgia Gwinnett College and the surrounding community and Fire Station 10 will be relocated to improve fire and emergency services coverage in the Mall of Georgia area. Existing personnel will staff the relocated station.

The budget was developed with input from four county residents and business people who were selected by Chairman Charlotte Nash to serve on the budget review committee. The group reviewed departmental business plans and projected revenues to set priorities. Commissioners also sought public input prior to their decision by holding a public hearing on December 8, 2014, and making an online comment form available on the County's website. [Click here](#) for more information on the 2015 annual budget.

MLK holiday closures and events



All Gwinnett County government offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of the residents of the County, will be closed Monday, January 19 for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. County offices will resume normal business hours on Tuesday, January 20. A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center during the holiday.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is not a trash and recycling holiday for solid waste service providers in unincorporated Gwinnett County, so trash and recycling collections are scheduled as normal. The Gwinnett County Solid Waste and

Recycling Call Center will be closed that day, but hauler call centers will be open. Residents can [search for their solid waste hauler](#) to find their hauler's contact information.

Residents who live in a city should contact their trash and recycling provider to find out if collections will be delayed due to the holiday.

The Gwinnett United Ebony Society will host a parade that will begin on Langley Drive in Lawrenceville at 10:00am and end at Moore Middle School, which is located at the intersection of Lawrenceville Highway and Johnson Road. A free health fair will also be part of this year's celebration. TV gwinnett will be at the event so you can catch highlights [on demand](#) on the county's website.

In the spirit of the MLK Day holiday, the Gwinnett Coalition for Health and Human Services, in partnership with Volunteer Gwinnett and the Gwinnett Neighborhood Leadership Institute, will host the second annual Martin Luther King Jr. Great Day of Service volunteer event. Volunteers can sign up as individuals or groups at www.volunteergwinnett.net.

Keep your houseplants healthy during winter months

During the winter months, indoor heating systems dry out the soil your houseplants need to survive. Pay extra attention to your plants' water supply this time of year. To determine if plants should be watered, stick your finger in the soil to a depth of at least one inch. If it is dry, apply water until it trickles out of the bottom of the pot. Group plants together in the same area, and to help maintain the humidity, put the pots in shallow trays filled with gravel and water. Be sure to use room temperature water (between 65 and 75 degrees) when watering plants.



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