



# News for Neighborhoods

A newsletter for gwinnettcountry homeowners

January 8, 2014

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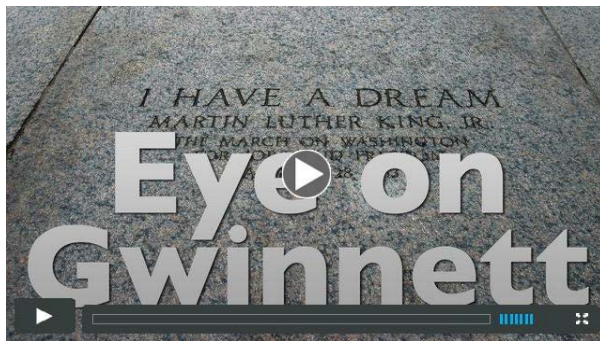
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## Dear Homeowner,

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:

- Annual MLK Day parade coming up
- Tree recycling ends January 18
- Constitutional officers' scholarships
- Budget adoption and award for 2014
- Water conservation workshop

## Shot and microchip clinic for pets

The [Society of Humane Friends of Georgia](#) is hosting a shot and microchip clinic for pets at the Gwinnett County Animal Shelter, 884 Winder Highway in Lawrenceville on Saturday, January 11 from 11:00am to 2:00pm.

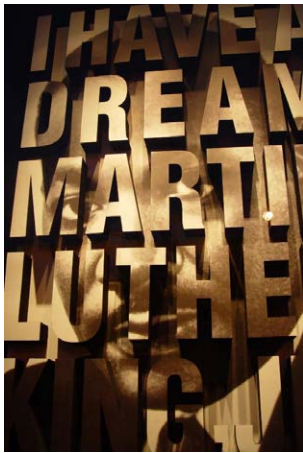
Vaccines are \$10. Microchips are \$20. Only cash is accepted. Dogs must be on a leash and cats must be in carriers. Proceeds from the clinic will benefit the Gwinnett County Society of Humane Friends low-cost spay/neuter clinic and the Sheriff's Office Operation Second Chance Jail Dog and Cat program.



## Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday closures and events

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

The 14<sup>th</sup> annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade presented by the Gwinnett United Ebony Society will be on Monday, January 20. The parade kicks off at 10:00am near the gazebo at the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse on 185 Crogan Street in Lawrenceville and concludes at



Moore Middle School on 1221 Lawrenceville Highway. A free health fair will be held at Moore Middle School at the conclusion of the parade.

Limited transportation from the parking areas at Moore Middle School and Central Gwinnett High School will be provided to those who wish to attend the parade. Please visit [www.gwinnettmlkparade.com](http://www.gwinnettmlkparade.com) to learn

more.

### Winter weather safety tips

With temperatures getting colder and the potential for icy conditions on the rise, Gwinnett Fire and Emergency Services encourages every household to prepare an emergency kit that contains the following items:

- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Battery-powered NOAA weather radio and a portable AM/FM radio
- Non-perishable foods and water
- First-aid supplies
- Blankets, sleeping bags, and extra clothing
- A fully-charged cell phone



There are other steps you can take to stay safe. In addition to getting all heating appliances serviced annually by a qualified technician, you should install and maintain smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms on every level of the home. Finally, develop a home escape plan and conduct fire drills with the entire family.

View the full article on winter weather safety at [www.gwinnettcountry.com](http://www.gwinnettcountry.com).

### Pinckneyville's first live theatre performance

Pinckneyville Park Community Recreation Center's first live theatre performance begins its run on Friday, January 24 with "*A Heart Divided*."

This thought-provoking and gripping play sheds new light on the issues of a changing south. It is the story of a girl from New York City who moves to a small rural Tennessee town. The play was written by Cheri Bennett and Jeff Gottesfeld.

Show times are Fridays and Saturdays, January 24 through February 1 from 8:00pm to 10:00pm and Sundays, January 26 and February 2 from 2:30pm to 4:30pm. Tickets are \$10 if you preregister or \$15 at the door. Pinckneyville Park Community Recreation Center is located at 4650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard in Norcross. Call 678.277.0920 for more information.

### 2014 budget officially adopted



The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners has adopted a \$1.5 billion fiscal year 2014 budget that preserves core services and focuses on priorities set by commissioners during a strategic planning session held last May.

The balanced budget holds the line on property taxes, expands the delivery of emergency and medical services, addresses the issue of employee retention and recruitment,

and funds the impact of legislation and other external factors. The operating budget totals \$1.027 billion. It includes a 3 percent raise for employees, the first increase in five years, and allocates

funds for community outreach, juvenile justice reform, drug court expansion, and a library reserve. The budget also absorbs a nearly 10 percent increase in health care costs.

Emergency medical services will be expanded with additional staffing. Increased staffing will also be funded for Juvenile Court and the District Attorney's Office in response to statewide juvenile justice reform. Outreach efforts include a Gwinnett Citizens Academy, among other programs aimed at educating citizens about county government.

The capital budget totals \$486 million and includes funding for projects from the 2014 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax that begins collections on April 1 when the current SPLOST program ends. Voter approval of the SPLOST renewal last November allowed for the County to budget the use of sales tax rather than property tax for some essential purchases and improvements like ambulances, fire trucks, and road resurfacing.

The budget was developed with input from four county residents and business people who served on Chairman Charlotte Nash's budget review committee. After hearing [presentations from elected officials and department directors](#) in September, the group studied departmental business plans, budget needs, and revenue projections to make recommendations for the 2014 budget. The budget resolution is available online at [www.gwinnettcountry.com](http://www.gwinnettcountry.com). A comprehensive budget document will be available later in the year.

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