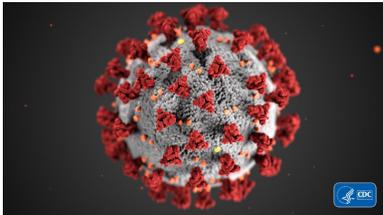


# NEWS

for Neighborhoods

A newsletter for Gwinnett County homeowners

December 4, 2020



Greetings!

Gwinnett County Government is monitoring developments in the spread of the coronavirus outbreak and how it may affect our residents, employees, and our delivery of important County services.

We are following the most up-to-date guidance from the Gwinnett-Newton-Rockdale County Health Departments, the state Department of Public Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. As the COVID-19 pandemic [impacts County services](#) in different ways, residents and business owners are encouraged to take advantage of the many [online services](#) provided by the County.

## 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:

- Make a plan to cast your ballot in the January 5 runoff election
- Chairman Nash has unveiled her last proposed budget for Gwinnett County
- The last free community health fair of the year is set for December 5 at Lenora Park

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



## Public hearing on proposed 2021 budget set for December 9



Chairman Nash unveiled her last [proposed 2021 budget](#) for Gwinnett County. The \$1.91 billion budget is a 3.7 percent increase from the 2020 budget and focuses on the Board of Commissioners strategic priorities, including a safe and healthy community and smart and sustainable government.

Residents can learn more about the budget [here](#) and are invited to provide feedback. The Board will hear comments at a public hearing December 9 at 7:00pm at the [Gwinnett Justice and](#)

[Administration Center](#) in Lawrenceville. Residents are also encouraged to provide comments [online](#) through December 31. Commissioners will consider the proposed budget January 5.

## Advance voting for General and Special Election Runoff begins December 14

Gwinnett Voter Registrations and Elections is providing opportunities to cast your ballot before the January 5 General and Special Election Runoff. If you plan to vote advance in person, you can vote from December 14 to December 31 at the Beauty P. Baldwin Voter Registrations and Elections Office and eight additional satellite locations, including the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds. Find advance

voting locations and hours [here on the Elections website](#).

Voters may request an absentee/advance by mail ballot for the January 5 runoff election now through Thursday, December 31.

Voters may apply for their absentee ballot online at [BallotRequest.SOS.GA.gov](#), or by using the forms at [GwinnettElections.com](#). Mail-in ballots must be delivered by hand, by mail to the Voter Registration and Elections Office, or dropped into one of the secure [ballot drop boxes](#) located across the County, including at all Gwinnett County Public Library branches. To check the status of your voter registration, see a sample ballot, and find your Election Day polling location, visit the Secretary of State's My Voter Page at [mvp.sos.ga.gov](#).



## La votación adelantada para el Desempate de la Elección General y Especial comienza el 14 de Diciembre

La Inscripción de Votantes y Elecciones de Gwinnett ofrece oportunidades para emitir su voto antes del Desempate de las Elecciones Generales y Especiales del 5 de Enero. Si planea votar por adelantado en persona, puede votar del 14 al 31 de Diciembre en la Oficina de Inscripción de Votantes y Elecciones Beauty P. Baldwin y en ocho ubicaciones satélite adicionales, incluido el Gwinnett County Fairgrounds. Encuentre lugares y horarios de votación adelantada [aquí en el sitio web de Elecciones](#)

Los votantes pueden solicitar una boleta de voto ausente/adelantado por correo para las elecciones de desempate del 5 de Enero desde ahora hasta el Jueves 31 de Diciembre. Los votantes pueden solicitar sus boletas por correo en el sitio web de [BallotRequest.SOS.GA.gov](#), o usando los formularios en [GwinnettElections.com](#). Las boletas por correo deben entregarse en mano o por correo a la Oficina de Inscripción de Votantes y Elecciones o depositarse en uno de los [buzones seguros](#) ubicados en todo el condado así como también en todas las sucursales de las bibliotecas públicas de Gwinnett. Para verificar el estado de su inscripción de votante, ver una boleta de muestra y encontrar su lugar de votación en el Día de las Elecciones, visite la página My Voter Page de la Secretaría de Estado en [mvp.sos.ga.gov](#).

## #ListenToGwinnettMoms this holiday season!



We're back with some holiday season safety reminders, courtesy of #ListenToGwinnettMoms! No matter how you and your family celebrate winter holidays this year, remember to continue following these simple, mom-approved COVID-19 safety tips when spending time with others:

1. Remember how mom is always reminding us to take a jacket, scarf, and gloves before leaving the house? Consider this your heads-up that masks are now at the top of that checklist.
2. A snowball's throw away keeps coronavirus at bay. Keep your distance from those outside your pod, staying at least six feet apart.
3. Mittens may protect you from the cold, but they have nothing on germs. Wash your hands often to protect yourself and loved ones.
4. Spread joy, not COVID-19. If you were exposed to someone who is sick or if you are experiencing any symptoms, please stay home and seek medical attention if necessary.

Check your holiday list against [CDC guidelines](#) and visit [ListenToGwinnettMoms.com](#) for a round-up of COVID-19 resources. And don't forget to show us how you safely celebrate on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#) with the hashtag #ListenToGwinnettMoms.

Gwinnett County and #ListenToGwinnettMoms wish you a warm, peaceful, and safe holiday season!

## Protect your pipes from the winter cold

Fortunately, freezing weather does not happen often in Georgia. When it does, the best way to handle any sort of water emergency in your home, including broken pipes, is to be prepared. Take a few minutes to learn about the plumbing system in and outside your home to prevent freezing weather from turning into a plumbing emergency. Here are some tips:

- Cover outdoor water valves and spigots when the temperatures dip below 32 degrees
- Shut down your irrigation system for the season
- Disconnect and drain garden hoses
- Wrap exposed water pipe that may be in the attic, unheated basement, or crawl space
- Invest in a water heater blanket, and may also help reduce water and electric or gas bills
- When the temperature is below 32 degrees, you can open cabinet doors in the kitchen and bath



- to expose pipes to heat
- Keep your home warm, at least 55 degrees and especially at night, since the warmer air will keep the water in your pipes from freezing

Remember, the repair of broken pipes on the customer's side of the water meter is the customer's responsibility. Contact a licensed plumber for repair work. Learn more tips to protect your pipes [here](#).

## Are you 65 as of January 1?

If you are 65 years or older as of January 1 and your taxable income is less than \$97,264, you likely qualify for the Senior School Tax Exemption.

Apply now through April 1 online at [GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Apply](https://GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Apply). For assistance, email [Tax@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:Tax@GwinnettCounty.com) or call 770.822.8800.

## Prevent fire hazards during the holidays



Winter holidays are a time for festive décor and celebration. But the holidays can also mean a greater risk for fire. More than one-third of home decoration fires are started by candles. More than 40 percent of decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.

Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire safe holiday season:

- Blow out candles and turn off holiday lights before leaving the room or going to bed
- Choose flame resistant or flame retardant decorations
- Replace worn or broken strings of lights
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged
- Test your smoke alarms, and tell guests about your home fire escape plan
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles
- Keep matches and lighters away from children
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop
- Ask smokers to smoke outside and provide large, deep ashtrays

## Visit our website, social media for latest COVID-19 news

To stay up-to-date on the County's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, visit our website, [GwinnettCounty.com](https://GwinnettCounty.com) or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) @GwinnettGov.



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