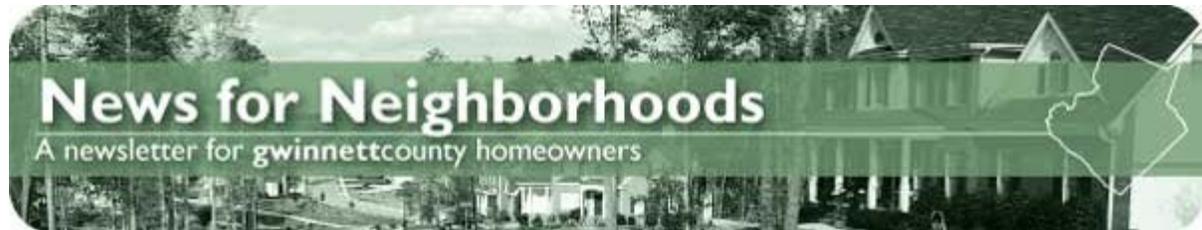


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December 7, 2012

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#### Dear Emily,

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.

 Forward to a Friend

#### Chairman Nash presents budget proposal

Gwinnett Commission Chairman Charlotte Nash formally presented her [proposed fiscal year 2013 budget](#) to the Board of Commissioners during a briefing on November 27. The proposed budget totals \$1.3 billion, which is 8.5 percent lower than this year's \$1.43 billion. The Board expects to adopt the 2013 budget on Thursday, January 3, 2013.



#### About the 2013 budget

The proposed budget preserves core services, maintains necessary reserves, and addresses the impact of some legislation. It also adjusts for the loss of revenues resulting from a further drop in property values, changes mandated by the consent order that ended the Service Delivery Strategy (SDS) litigation between the County and its cities, and the creation of the new city of Peachtree Corners.

Three new service districts for fire, police, and development will provide services and collect revenues only within certain geographic areas of the County rather than countywide. For example, the police service district includes unincorporated Gwinnett and the cities that do not have their own police departments. A fourth district, funded through a contract with the County, will provide emergency medical services to residents of incorporated Loganville who live in Gwinnett.

[Read more.](#)

#### Your input

The public is invited to make either oral or written comments about the budget during the budget public hearing on **Monday, December 10 at 7:00pm**. The hearing will be held in the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center auditorium, located at 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville.

You can also [make comments online](#) through Monday, December 31, 2012.

## Bring a pet home for the holidays



Pets are a wonderful gift for the holidays! Adopt a dog or cat from the Gwinnett County Animal Welfare and Enforcement Center for just \$30 and ensure that a shelter pet has a loving home by Christmas Day.

The animal shelter is also offering pictures and cookies with Santa on **Saturday, December 15** at the shelter, located at 884 Winder Highway in Lawrenceville. [View the event flyer](#) for more information.

## Experience holiday traditions from the Civil War

Do you ever wonder what it would be like to celebrate the holidays during the Civil War? Find out at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center! Join the Union and Confederate troops on **Saturday, December 8** from 10:00am to 4:00pm at McDaniel Farm, located at 3251 McDaniel Road in Duluth. Admission is \$5 per person for Gwinnett County residents and Environmental and Heritage Center members and \$8 per person for residents of other counties. Find out more at [www.gwinnettechc.org](http://www.gwinnettechc.org).

## Reporting credit card fraud

During the holiday season, the Police Department's Electronic and Financial Crimes Unit sees a large increase in credit card fraud. Most often, a victim's credit card information has been used across the country or in foreign countries, which make the cases harder to investigate.



To help resolve these cases, [complete a Gwinnett County incident report](#) and then file a complaint with the Internet Crime Complaint Center. With help from the Internet Crime Complaint Center, the Police Department has been able to successfully close a number of cases.

For more information on the Internet Crime Complaint Center, visit [www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov).

## Making room to work on SR 20



This weekend, SR 20 will move at its intersection of SR 316 to provide space for the construction of a new bridge that will take SR 20 over SR 316. SR 20 will be moved east toward Athens about 200 feet from its current location, and the traffic signal also will be moved.

Lanes of SR 20 will be closed overnight through Friday, December 7 from 8:00pm to 6:00am in preparation for the work that will take place on Saturday, December 8. The shift is expected to be complete by 11:00am on Saturday. SR 20 will remain in the new location until the new bridge is open. Georgia Department of Transportation is advising drivers to exercise caution, slow down, and pay special attention the directional signs and barrels.

Once the bridge is completed, drivers will be able to access SR 316 on ramps instead of through the existing traffic signal intersections. The project is expected to be complete on December 31, 2014.

## Rabies alerts issued

A rabies alert has been issued. The following animals have been found:

- A raccoon found November 22, 2012, at 1145 Swan Mill Court in Suwanee tested positive for rabies at the state laboratory.
- A raccoon found November 22, 2012, at 4364 Grey Park Drive in Buford tested positive for rabies at the state laboratory.

If you or your child have been bitten or scratched by any stray animals, or if you know of anyone handling these animals, please call the Gwinnett County Animal Welfare and Enforcement Bite Office at 770.339.3200 ext. 5576.

#### **What does a rabid animal look like?**

Rabid animals may act tame. They may also display strange or unusual behavior. They may be aggressive, avoid food and water, foam at the mouth, or have trouble moving. Stay away from any unknown animals, especially wildlife. Report any animal that is acting unusual to Gwinnett County Police Animal Welfare and Enforcement at 770.513.5100.

#### **How can I help protect myself and my family from rabies?**

- Make sure your pets get their rabies shots regularly.
- Do not leave garbage or pet food outside.
- Do not pick up or move sick or hurt animals. If you find a wild, sick, or hurt animal, call Gwinnett County Police Animal Welfare and Enforcement at 770.513.5100.
- Do not keep wild animals like raccoons, skunks, foxes, and coyotes as pets. It is dangerous and also illegal.

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