



January 19, 2018

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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:

- MLK parade honors civil rights leader
- New solid waste contract to save county residents money
- Former Lilburn library re-opens as activity center
- Students adopt Sweetwater Park

Help shape the future of the county at the Gwinnett 2040 Unified Plan's first Open House on January 25

The time to exercise the most influence is while plans are being formed. Gwinnett County is in the early stages of crafting its 2040 Unified Plan, which will contemplate how land use, transportation, housing, and economic development can combine and work together in the County. This will include a short-term work program full of projects to implement the desires of the community and a broad long-term vision for the future.



Please join us at one of our upcoming community open houses to learn more about the purpose of the Unified Plan, review initial findings, and provide input that will be used to develop an overall vision for the County.

The first of the community open houses is set for **January 25** from 5:00pm to 7:00pm at Five Forks Library, 2780 Five Forks Trickum Road, near Lawrenceville. There will be a variety of stations for

people to learn about the plan plus a handful of interactive activities for folks to offer input on different topics.

Similar events are scheduled for: **January 29** at the Dacula branch of the Gwinnett Public Library; **February 1** at the Lilburn Activity Building; **February 12** at the Centerville library branch in Snellville; and **February 22** at Bogan Park in Buford.

The plan ultimately will be adopted in October by the Board of Commissioners and then sent to the Atlanta Regional Commission and the state Department of Community Affairs for approval.

To view other community open house opportunities or to learn more about the plan, visit www.Gwinnett2040UnifiedPlan.com or follow us on Facebook at Gwinnett 2040 Unified Plan. If you have questions, email us at gwinnett2040@gwinnettcountry.com.

Gwinnett Police Academy's 100th class begins training



The year 2018 marks the 200th Anniversary of Gwinnett County and the 100th class of Gwinnett County's Police Academy.

The 100th class began Tuesday morning, and the 50-person enrollment is the academy's largest ever. The first Gwinnett County Police Academy class was enrolled in October 1972 and met in the chapel of the Department of Corrections. Now, the academy offers state-of-the-art facilities to train new recruits and offers continuing education to veteran officers and civilian

employees, including some from state and federal law enforcement agencies.

Previous academy class sizes have ranged between 25 to 35 recruits, but to fill its ranks, GCPD plans to have more 50-person classes. GCPD has an authorized strength of 783 officers and has 77 vacant police officer positions.

The last four chiefs of the Gwinnett County Police Department began their careers as recruits in the police academy.

Test your home this January as part of National Radon Awareness Month

Radon, a colorless, odorless, naturally occurring gas, is the second most-common cause of lung cancer and it could be in your home.

Georgia is No. 1 in the Southeast for radon-induced cancer, and according to UGA Extension, 22 to 28 percent of all homes in Gwinnett have significant levels of radon. Radon typically enters a building directly from the soil through the lowest level in the building.



You can buy a radon test kit from UGA Extension Gwinnett to learn if you need to mitigate the levels of radon in your home. The kit includes test instructions and ways to measure results.

The UGA Extension Gwinnett Office is located at 750 South Perry Street in Lawrenceville. To learn more, call 678.377.4010.

Enroll in Gwinnett 101 Citizens Academy and learn how government really works



How does the County put together a \$1.7 billion budget? Why do fire trucks respond to medical emergencies? How do they decide where to put traffic signals? The answer to these questions can be found at Gwinnett 101 Citizens Academy.

Gwinnett 101 Citizens Academy is a free, 12-week program that gives participants a behind-the-scenes look at County government. The Citizens Academy is accepting applications for the spring session. For one evening a week from 6:00pm to 9:00pm, participants meet with County

leaders, visit County facilities, and learn how government works.

Interested candidates must be at least 18 years old and be a resident and/or business owner in Gwinnett or attend a Gwinnett college or university. Class size is limited to 30 participants chosen by a selection committee

To apply, visit www.Gwinnett101.com by **March 9**. To learn more, visit www.Gwinnett101.com, or contact Nicole Love Hendrickson at nicole.hendrickson@gwinnettcountry.com.

Extension Office annual plant sale features fruits, landscaping

Gardeners and fresh-fruit lovers can order berry bushes and fruit trees as part of the UGA Extension Gwinnett office's famous annual plant sale through **March 21**. The plant experts are offering blueberries, blackberries, raspberries, figs, apples, pomegranate, Goji berries, azaleas, pecan trees, and other landscape plants in its annual sale. Pick up your prepaid order only on **March 29** at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds in Lawrenceville. No orders are shipped. For order forms and plant sale information, visit www.ugaextension.org/gwinnett, or call 678.377.4010 to request a form.



Gwinnett County Bicentennial Moment - Founding of Gwinnett County



The original Gwinnett County was carved out of Franklin County, which now occupies 266 square miles bordering South Carolina. Franklin County was named after Benjamin Franklin, who represented Georgia in France while serving as an emissary for the colonies. Since Georgia never paid Mr. Franklin, the Georgia legislature named a county after him instead.

Franklin County, which was founded in 1784, begat Jackson County, which at that time encompassed a mere 1,800 square miles, in 1796. Jackson County begat Gwinnett County in 1818, along with two other counties, all of which were named for Georgia's signers of the Declaration of Independence: Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall, and George Walton. Almost 100 years later, Jackson, Gwinnett, and Walton counties would later give up land to form Barrow County, but that's another story.

Gwinnett County would serve as part of the border with the Creek Nation until 1826 and with the Cherokee Nation until 1839.

gwinnettcounty
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