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January 20, 2016

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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:

- Police and animal shelter on social media
- Tips for winter weather preparedness
- Duluth branch library news
- Gwinnett MLK Day celebration
- PlanFirst Community designation
- Sewer master planning

January is National Radon Action Month

Test your home and protect your health during National Radon Action Month. Radon is a radioactive gas that is invisible, tasteless, and odorless. It occurs naturally as a result of the normal decay of traces of uranium existing within the earth's crust and migrates to the earth's surface through rock, soil, and water. Radon further decomposes and releases low-dose radiation once it moves into the atmosphere. The particles may attach to dust and be inhaled if the gas enters your home.

Breathing the radioactive particles produced by **radon is a major cause of lung cancer**, second only to smoking. Exposure to radon is preventable, however, and the only way to know if your home contains it is to conduct a radon detection test. Inexpensive do-it-yourself test kits are available through many home improvement stores and from Gwinnett Extension. If dangerous levels are

confirmed in your home, corrections can be made with simple, cost-effective remediation methods.

For more information, contact Ines Beltran, Gwinnett Extension radon specialist, at 678.377.4010 or by email at Ines.Beltran@gwinnettcounty.com.



Register to vote in the March 1 election



Make sure you're registered to vote in the March 1 Presidential Preference Primary. Residents have until **February 1** to register. To register to vote in Georgia, you must be a citizen of the United States, a legal resident of Georgia and of the county in which you wish to vote, and at least 18 years old by Election Day. You may not register to vote if you are currently serving any sentence imposed by the conviction of a felony or judicially determined to be mentally incompetent.

You can complete the [voter registration application online](#) or print and complete an application on the [Voter Registration webpage](#). You can also contact your local public library, public assistance office, recruitment office, schools, and other government offices for a mail-in registration form.

You can also **register to vote online** on the Georgia Secretary of State's website, www.mvp.sos.ga.gov, or on your mobile phone or tablet using the GA Votes app from the Apple store or Droid Play Store.

Be sure to **check your voter registration status** on the Secretary of State's [My Voter Page](#) before February 1 to ensure your information is up to date. If your information is not correct, you can make those changes online at www.mvp.sos.ga.gov.

Citizens Police Academy begins February 16

Applications are due **February 2** for the next Gwinnett County Police Department **Citizens Police Academy** that starts February 16. Get an application at www.gwinnettcpa.com.

With sessions on animal welfare and enforcement, crime scene investigations, criminal investigations, firearms, SWAT, traffic enforcement, vehicle pullovers, and more, participants will gain a wealth of knowledge to share with their family, friends, and neighbors. Many program graduates go on to volunteer in the department or join the Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association, which also serves the department and community in a variety of ways. Notably, the alumni association assists with searches for missing or endangered persons. For more information about the academy, email CitizenPoliceAcademy@gwinnettcounty.com.



Extension hosts annual plant sale

Don't forget to place your orders for Gwinnett Extension's annual plant sale. Plants for sale include blueberries, blackberries, raspberries, figs, apples, goji berry, native azaleas, and other landscape plants. Place your order through **March 8** and pick it up on **March 17** from **9:00am to 6:00pm** at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds, 2405 Sugarloaf Parkway in Lawrenceville (Sugarloaf Parkway entrance). Visit www.gwinnettextension.com or call 678.377.4010 to request an order form.

Gwinnett 101 gives residents an up-close look at county government

Have you ever wondered why a fire truck responds to your medical emergency? Or why the County has a SPLOST program? Or how clean water gets to your house? The **Gwinnett 101: Citizens Academy** can help answer those questions and more.

Gwinnett County Government is **accepting applications for the Spring 2016 class** of Gwinnett 101: Citizens Academy. It's a free program that seeks to develop and nurture informed and engaged residents, students, and business owners in Gwinnett. Class members will get a first-hand glimpse of how the County works and build a network with others who live, work, and learn in Gwinnett County.

Classes will be held on Thursday evenings from 6:00pm to 9:00pm beginning with an orientation on April 12 and ending with graduation and recognition by the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners on June 28.

You must be at least 18 years old and be a resident and/or business owner in Gwinnett or attend a Gwinnett college or university to apply. You must also have an interest in learning about county government and be able to attend all sessions. Class size is **limited to 30 participants** who will be chosen by a selection committee.

Applications are available online at www.gwinnett101.com and must be received by Tuesday, **March 1** in order to participate in the Spring 2016 session.

For more information about Gwinnett 101, visit www.gwinnett101.com or contact Nicole Love Hendrickson at nicole.hendrickson@gwinnettcountry.com.

Police and Animal Shelter join social media

Gwinnett County Police and the animal shelter have gone social! You can follow police on Twitter [@GwinnettPD](https://twitter.com/GwinnettPD) for the latest news and updates. In addition, check out the Gwinnett Animal Welfare and Enforcement Center on Facebook. Like [Gwinnett Animal Shelter](#) to see adoptable pets, receive PAWsome news, learn about upcoming promotions, and read helpful tips for caring for your furry, scaly, or feathery friends.



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