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January 6, 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:

- 2016 budget adopted
- Police academy graduation
- MLK Day volunteers needed
- Poll workers needed

Commissioners adopt \$1.5 billion budget

Gwinnett commissioners adopted a \$1.5 billion budget for fiscal year 2016 during their meeting on January 5, 2016. The adopted budget holds the line on property tax rates while funding services cut during the recession, addressing concerns about workforce recruitment and retention, and investing in essential infrastructure and critical community needs.



Gwinnett Commission Chairman Charlotte Nash said, "This budget invests in the big picture, focusing on what's really important for our community. It also is in line with our history of sustainable, conservative financial management by looking at future implications of today's decisions."

The operating budget totals \$1.1 billion. It includes an additional \$7.2 million to cover election expenses and expand hours and locations for advance voting. It also unfreezes 25 police positions

and restore staff at the animal shelter and in parks maintenance. There will be additions to a special victims unit in the District Attorney's office, 30 new police officers, nine new firefighter/paramedics, 12 new part-time sheriff deputies, three new Juvenile Court positions and another magistrate judge.

The capital budget of \$363 million funds design for a new state patrol building, a courthouse expansion, construction of a new medical examiner/morgue building, senior center renovations and body cameras for police officers and sheriff's deputies.

Read more about the [2016 budget](#) or click here to view the [adopted 2016 budget resolution](#).

Extension hosts annual plant sale

The **Gwinnett County Extension** is offering varieties of blueberries, blackberries, raspberries, figs, apples, pomegranate, native azaleas, and other landscape plants as part of their annual plant sale. Orders will be taken **now through March 17, 2016**. Visit www.gwinnettextension.com or call 678.377.4010 to request an order form.

MLK holiday closures and events



All Gwinnett County government offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of the residents of the County, will be closed **Monday, January 18** for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. County offices will resume normal business hours on **Tuesday, January 19**. A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center during the holiday.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is **not a trash and recycling holiday** for solid waste service providers in unincorporated Gwinnett County, so trash and recycling collections are scheduled as normal. The Gwinnett County Solid Waste and Recycling Call Center will be closed that day, but hauler call centers will be open. Residents can search for their solid waste hauler to find their hauler's contact information. Residents who live in a city should contact their trash and recycling provider to find out if collections will be delayed due to the holiday

The Gwinnett United Ebony Society **will host a parade** that will begin on Langley Drive in Lawrenceville at 10:00am and end at Moore Middle School, which is located at the intersection of Lawrenceville Highway and Johnson Road. TVgwinnett will be at the event so you can catch highlights [on demand](#) on the county's website.

In the spirit of the MLK Day holiday, the Gwinnett Coalition for Health and Human Services, together with Volunteer Gwinnett and the Gwinnett Neighborhood Leadership Institute, will host the third annual **Martin Luther King Jr. Great Day of Service** event. Volunteers can **sign up as individuals or groups** at www.volunteergwinnett.net.

Be an elections poll official

The Gwinnett Voter Registrations and Elections Division needs dedicated citizens to serve as **paid poll officials** for the busy 2016 election year. Successful poll officials demonstrate patience, enjoy working with people, take direction well, possess basic computer skills, and are detail-oriented. If you are interested in applying, please visit www.gwinnettcountyjobs.com and select the Elections Poll Official position.

Prepare for winter weather

While most Georgians enjoy relatively mild winters, the state has experienced **significant snow and ice events** in the past. Snow and ice can disrupt transportation and cause power outages, making it important for Gwinnett County residents to **be prepared**. Here are some tips to help you prepare for potentially disastrous weather emergencies this winter:

- **Be informed:** Listen to a NOAA weather radio and monitor other media outlets for weather-related information. Learn about the terms used to describe winter hazards.
- **Make a plan:** Create an emergency plan for your family and be sure to prepare for your senior and disabled family members as well as your pets.
- **Build a kit:** Build an emergency kit for both your home and car. Include food, water, adequate clothing, and blankets for at least three days.



Learn more at www.gwinnettsafety411.com.

gwinnettcounty
Communications Division
770.822.7180

www.gwinnettcounty.com

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