

NEWS & EVENTS

in District 2 with Commissioner Ben Ku

Follow us on social media!



April 2024



Hello!

Happy April! With warmer weather approaching, many of us will be getting started on spring cleaning, spending more time outdoors, and doing yard work. With that in mind, we need to be good stewards of the environment by conserving water whenever we can and making sure to dispose of electronic and household items properly.

This month, we're celebrating Earth Day at Coolray Field. Residents can drop off electronics, oil-based paints, clothing, and more! Details can be found below.

Also, for space enthusiasts like myself, the 2024 total solar eclipse happened on Monday, April 8! Since the totality wasn't visible from Georgia, I traveled to Dayton, Ohio to witness the breathtaking natural event.



Words cannot describe what an incredible experience the totality is. Up until the totality, it's interesting to see the sky dimming and view the crescent sun through protective glasses. But when the totality happens and you can take off your glasses and see the wisps of the sun flares lapping at the stars, it is truly life-changing. It really puts into perspective into how little our differences matter and how we are all one human race sharing this planet we all call home.



If you were able to see the eclipse, I'd love to hear your story and see your photos. I have yet to see any photos or videos that truly do it justice.

The next total eclipse that will be visible from Georgia won't be for another 21 years on August 12, 2045, so be sure to mark your calendar!

And while you're marking your calendar, be sure to plan for a time to go vote in May! There are several offices that have primary election decisions, but this is also the **ONLY** election for our school board and judicial positions and there will be some significant ballot measures that may impact your taxes.

You will **NOT** have another opportunity to vote in November for these items so don't miss your chance to weigh in.

I personally like to take advantage of the three weeks of advanced voting as I can pick any time between 7:00am and 7:00pm, any day of the week, any early voting location, and I'm usually in and out in 5 minutes. If you choose to vote on election day, you must go to your designated polling location.

What's New in District 2

Apply to serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals

We invite you to get involved in your community! Serve as the District 2 appointee on the [Zoning Board of Appeals](#).

The Zoning Board of Appeals is tasked with considering and deciding upon appeals and variances from the Unified Development Ordinance. The board hears appeals by any person aggrieved or by any official of the county affected by any decision of the Director of the Planning & Development Department.

Unlike most of our other boards, this is **NOT** a recommending body and has final decision power, so familiarity and experience with our Unified Development Ordinance is a requirement. If you're interested, please [submit an application](#).

If you have questions about the appointment, you can reach out to my office at Ben.Ku@GwinnettCounty.com.



Gwinnett County to sell Stone Mountain Tennis Center site

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners recently made the decision to sell the Stone Mountain Tennis Center site in unincorporated Gwinnett County for approximately \$5.6 million. The sale will set the course for the site's long-anticipated redevelopment. The County acquired the 26-acre property in 2016 to revitalize the unused site and to spur redevelopment in one of Gwinnett County's

major gateways.

The land was rezoned last year for a regional mixed-use development that will include wholesale retail, four restaurants and multifamily mixed income residential housing with 20% being **dedicated** affordable housing units. The project is expected to create 520 permanent retail and dining jobs, and approximately 400 construction jobs during the estimated two-plus years of redevelopment.

I've heard from many of you how excited you are for this project. It's just the beginning of a long-term investment and focus of the county in the southern side of the county so expect a lot of changes not just on this site, but throughout southern Gwinnett.

Tune in to Conversations with Ku

Check out Conversations with Ku, my monthly podcast, where I dive into County initiatives, Board decisions, upcoming events, and a variety of other topics. You can find the podcast on [GwinnettCounty.com](#) and on your favorite streaming platform.

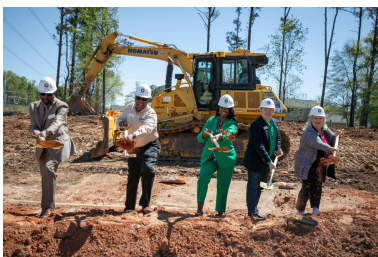


**CONVERSATIONS
WITH KU**



This month, I'm joined by District 4 Commissioner Matthew Holtkamp as we discuss the many factors associated with the proposed City of Mulberry, Commissioner Holtkamp's journey as a commissioner, his first two years in office, and his experiences as a business owner.

I would love to hear from you or answer questions about District 2 or Gwinnett County Government. Feel free to email me at Ben.Ku@GwinnettCounty.com and your question may be read on the podcast. Also, if there is someone you'd like me to interview, or a topic you'd like me to cover, please let me know.



Gwinnett County breaks ground at Singleton Park

Gwinnett officials broke ground on the new Singleton Park and Greenway trailhead. The existing property will be redeveloped into a park spanning almost 2 acres that will feature a playground and play area, a covered picnic area, greenspace, and a 41-space parking lot. It will also feature a 12-foot-wide concrete multi-use trail. The \$6 million project is funded by Gwinnett's 2017 SPLOST program, the American Rescue Plan Act, a Governor's Office grant, a Community Development Block Grant, and the Recreation Fund.

Have pizza with police in Lilburn

Join your local police officers at Stone Creek Pizza in Lilburn at Pizza with Police. The event takes place on Thursday, May 2 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. This event helps Gwinnett Police meet residents where they are and gives residents a chance to engage with officers who patrol and work in their neighborhoods. Come ask questions, share concerns, provide feedback, and get to know the officers who serve your community over a slice of pizza.



Happening Around Gwinnett

Advanced voting for the General Primary and



Nonpartisan General Election starts April 29

The General Primary and Nonpartisan General Election Day is on Tuesday, May 21. Registered voters can vote advance in person every day, including weekends, from April 29 to May 17 from 7:00am to 7:00pm at the [Gwinnett Voter Registrations and Elections office in Lawrenceville and nine advance voting locations around the county.](#)

Voting by mail is another option available for voters. You can request an absentee by mail ballot for the May 21 election now through Friday, May 10. Please complete the absentee ballot application form online or call the Voter Registrations and Elections Office at 678.226.7210 to request an application. The voter registration deadline for the General Primary and Nonpartisan General Election is April 22. To check the status of your voter registration, see a sample ballot, and find your polling location, visit the [Secretary of State's My Voter Page.](#)

La votación adelantada para las Elecciones Primarias Generales y Generales No Partidistas comienza el 29 de Abril

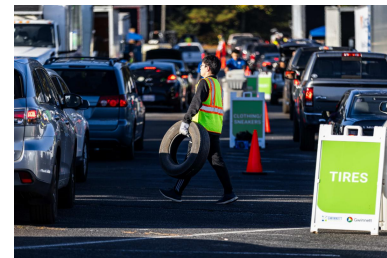
El día de las Elecciones Primarias Generales y Generales No Partidistas es el Martes 21 de Mayo. Los votantes inscritos pueden votar por adelantado en persona todos los días, incluidos los fines de semana, del 29 de Abril al 17 de Mayo de 7:00am a 7:00pm en [la oficina de Inscripción de Votantes y Elecciones de Gwinnett en Lawrenceville y nueve lugares de votación adelantada en todo el condado.](#)

Votar por correo es otra opción disponible para los votantes. Puede solicitar una boleta de voto ausente por correo para las elecciones del 21 de Mayo desde ahora hasta el Viernes 10 de Mayo. Complete el formulario de solicitud de boleta de voto ausente en línea o llame a la Oficina de Inscripción de Votantes y Elecciones al 678.226.7210 para solicitar una solicitud. La fecha límite de inscripción de votantes para las Elecciones Primarias Generales y Generales No Partidistas es el 22 de Abril. Para verificar el estado de su inscripción de votante, ver una boleta de muestra y encontrar su lugar de votación, visite [Mi página de votante de la Secretaría de Estado.](#)

Recycle Used Items for Earth Day

Celebrate Earth Day by joining Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful and Gwinnett Solid Waste on Saturday, April 27 from 9:00am to noon at Coolray Field in Lawrenceville.

Residents can drop off electronics, clothing, sneakers, latex, oil-based paints, and tires for recycling. Paper shredding is also available. [Learn more information and how you can volunteer](#)



Drop off your expired medication

Gwinnett Police is partnering with the Drug Enforcement Administration for National Drug Take Back, an initiative that allows residents to properly dispose of unused or expired prescription medications at any of [our six precincts](#) on Saturday, April 27 from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Residents can drop off tablets, capsules, patches, and other forms of prescription drugs. Liquids, syringes, sharps, and other non-prescription drugs will not be accepted. No appointment is needed. To learn more, please email PDCommunityAffairs@GwinnettCounty.com.

Multicultural Festival returns May 18

Enjoy a fun-filled day with performances from multiple cultures across the globe, carnival rides, bounce houses, multiple food trucks, and more at the 10th annual Multicultural Festival and County Government Open House! Join us on Saturday, May 18 from 10:00am to 2:00pm at Gwinnett Place Mall for this family-friendly event. For more information, email PDCommunityAffairs@GwinnettCounty.com or call 678.442.6520.



Special Events and Happenings

Visit GwinnettCountyEvents.com or follow the County's social media channels to learn more about upcoming events.

Kids Night: Cool Escape

Friday April 19 from 5:30pm to 9:00pm

No parents allowed! Kids will enjoy dinner, make friends, play games, create crafts, and more while their parents get a night off. [Register online.](#) Ages 7-12. Fee: \$12.00 for Gwinnett residents and \$24.00 for

non-Gwinnett residents. OneStop Norcross, 5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross.

A Garden Bug's Life

Tuesday, April 23 from 9:30am to 10:15am

Free! Challenge your mind with Storytime and STEAM activities while enjoying a garden in full bloom! [Register online](#). Ages 3 to 5. JB Williams Park, 4935 Five Forks Trickum Road SW, Lilburn, GA 30047.

Yellow River Post Office

Saturday, May 11 from 9:00am to 12:00pm

Free! Experience Gwinnett's newest historical site as you travel back in time to the 1800's. Our interpreters will share with you the historical significance of this newly restored site. [Register online](#). All Ages. Yellow River Post Office, 3519 Five Forks Trickum Road SW, Lilburn, GA 30047.

Ben Ku, District 2 Commissioner
Gwinnett County

Ben.Ku@GwinnettCounty.com