



## GWINNETT AT 200: Planning a Yearlong Celebration of Community

**CHARLOTTE J. NASH, CHAIRMAN**  
GWINNETT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**You're invited to a birthday party.** With a million or so other people. And it will last for an entire year. How's that for a celebration!

Gwinnett County will turn 200 years old later this year – on December 15, 2018, to be exact. We have organized an advisory committee and started a celebration countdown in December 2017 with plans for a yearlong celebration. We are inviting everyone who lives or works in Gwinnett to participate in some way.

A good place to start is the website for the bicentennial, [www.gwinnett200.com](http://www.gwinnett200.com). It has a calendar of bicentennial events and a form you can use to register related events. Any event that builds community spirit and celebrates the strengths of Gwinnett County is welcome. The easy, online form prompts you to provide the basic details of your event.

We've also started assembling a Story Vault of videotaped recollections of life in Gwinnett as told by people who were here. Some stories are seen through the eyes of a child while other stories, still vivid many years later, speak to the perseverance, determination, and problem-solving of Gwinnett County

residents. For newer residents, we want to hear your stories about how – and why – you chose Gwinnett. All stories are welcome whether you were born here or moved here last week.



TVgwinnett, our government-access cable channel, is providing the cameras and crew – and even a studio to tape in. All we need is you. We'll edit the best stories together to make a video portrait of Gwinnett to show at the closing celebration in December. Information on the website explains how you can

volunteer to tell your stories and get them recorded for posterity.

The new website also lists the members of the advisory committee along with a photo gallery, historic site locator, and ways to get involved in the celebration.

When Gwinnett County was formed by the state legislature in 1818, they named it for Button Gwinnett, one of three men from Georgia who signed the Declaration of Independence. We have a fascinating history, but everyone who lived through our first century is gone. Now it's up to each of us to take part in documenting and celebrating our second century and looking ahead with optimism to our third.

Let's celebrate how far our remarkable community has come and make some memories that they'll still be talking about a hundred years from now. **G**

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