

Community Outreach NEWS

February 2021

Greetings!

Gwinnett Community Outreach promotes strategic communications and outreach with diverse constituencies and coordinates cultural events and programs to encourage and empower residents to be more informed and involved with Gwinnett County Government. Community Outreach News is one way we are able to stay vibrantly connected with our diverse community.

This year, **Black History Month** in Gwinnett County will be celebrated differently than past years, but we can still keep the spirit of this month alive. Please join us as we commemorate African American history and celebrate the path forward.

In addition, we celebrated **Lunar New Year** Friday, February 12, beginning the year of the Ox. If you were born in 1961, 1985, 1997, or 2009, your zodiac sign is an Ox. [Check out the video below](#) which celebrates Lunar New Year with your fellow Gwinnettians.



2021 Black History Month Events



2021 Virtual Black History Month Display

Sports commentator, historian, and author Mike "Stinger" Glenn leads a virtual tour of his exhibit **Voting Rights: The Struggle for Equality**. The exhibit focuses on the history of the struggle for voting rights from Reconstruction to the present, and honors civil rights heroes John Lewis, C.T. Vivian, Joseph Lowery, and Juanita Abernathy. A tour of the display is available on the County's Facebook page throughout the month at www.facebook.com/gwinnettgov. You can also take the tour at CGA.us/VotingRightsExhibit.

Celebrate the impact of John Lewis this Monday

Gwinnett County will recognize the late civil rights icon Congressman John Lewis with a virtual event **Monday, February 22 at 9:00am**. Chairwoman Nicole Hendrickson, District 4 Commissioner Marlene Fosque, and other community leaders will discuss his life, leadership, and legacy. Lewis is known as one of the Big Six civil rights leaders who organized the 1963 March on Washington. He served in Congress for 33 years and continued the fight for freedom, equality, and basic



human rights for all Americans until his death last year at the age of 82. The event, called The Impact of John Lewis, will stream live on the County's Facebook page, facebook.com/gwinnettgov.

Virtual Black History program premieres February 25

In addition, Community Outreach will celebrate the progress and influence of African Americans in Gwinnett County with a virtual ceremony. In addition to reflections from County leaders and community representatives, the virtual ceremony will highlight Black-owned businesses and community service organizations, and historically Black churches in Gwinnett. The ceremony will premiere on the County's social media channels **Thursday, February 25**.

Black History Month events hosted by Gwinnett Public Library

The Gwinnett Public Library is also hosting several virtual events, including:

- African American Authors, a brief history of their works in the history of American literature: February 23
- Trace Your Roots, a virtual presentation by Joshua Beasley: February 25
- Yesterday and Tomorrow: the history and future impact of Historically Black Colleges and Universities: March 11
- HBCU Impact: Gwinnettians Talk About the Impact of HBCUs in their Lives: March 18
- HBCU Admissions Talk: What Every Teen Needs to Know: March 25

The links to these events will be available on the [Gwinnett County Public Library's Facebook page](#) and online at [GwinnettPL.org](#).

Engagement Opportunities



Stuff-A-Bus to help those in need

Gwinnett County Transit and Gwinnett County Community Outreach are partnering to bring Stuff-A-Bus, a donation drive for our Gwinnett communities in need. We hope you will join us in filling up an entire GCT bus with canned foods and toiletries. Receive a GCT stress bus as a thank you for your donation.

Collection at Indian Trail Park and Ride:

- February 18 and 19 from 6:00am to 7:30am

Collection at GCT Customer Service Office:

- February 15 through 19 from 6:00am to 8:00pm
- 3525 Mall Boulevard, Suite 5C, Duluth

Boxes will also be placed on all commuter buses for donations. Receive a GCT stress bus as a thank you for your donation. [Click here](#) for a list of suggested items to donate.

Water Resources hosts Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day: February 20

Gwinnett Water Resources and Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful team up to host the fifth annual Household Hazardous Waste collection day on **Saturday, February 20 from 9:00am to 1:00pm** at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds.

Residents can drop off up to five containers of household hazardous waste, like paint, aerosols, batteries, and more, for proper disposal or recycling. COVID-19 guidelines will be in place to ensure the safety of residents and staff, which may result in a slightly longer wait during drop off.



For a full list of accepted materials, guidance on container sizes, and more, please visit [GwinnettCB.org](#).



Harvest Gwinnett, United Ebony Society hosts mobile food distribution

Harvest Gwinnett, in partnership with the United Ebony Society of Gwinnett County will host a contactless mobile food distribution event **Tuesday, February 23** at the Lawrenceville Senior Center. Residents can walk up or drive thru to receive fresh and shelf-stable foods from 3:00pm while supplies last. Gwinnett Fire & Emergency Services will be onsite to conduct car seat safety checks. No registration or identification required. For more information, call 770.822.7955 or 678.277.0931. The Lawrenceville Senior Center is located at 225 Benson Street in Lawrenceville.

Applications are still open for Gwinnett 101, Gwinnett Youth Commission

Applications are open for Gwinnett Community Outreach's signature programs, and those interested in a behind-the-scenes look at their local government are invited to apply.

Applications for the Gwinnett 101 spring class are available online at Gwinnett101.com. The deadline is **March 1**. The 12-week session begins April 1 and continues through June 22. Weekly sessions are expected to take place in person; however, to keep everyone safe and allow for social distancing, the class size will be reduced to 15 participants. Masks will be required.



High school sophomores, juniors, and seniors can take part in the Gwinnett Youth Commission, which consists of an eight-week training session and a graduation, at which participants are sworn-in as youth commissioners. High schoolers can get more information about the program, along with the application, on the [Gwinnett Youth Commission](#) webpage or at [GwinnettCommunityOutreach.com](#). The weekly training sessions are expected to take place in person; however, to keep everyone safe and allow for social distancing, the class size will be reduced to 15 participants. Masks will be required.

High schoolers invited to be part of the congressional youth council

The Office of Congresswoman Carolyn Bourdeaux has created the Georgia 7th District **Congressional High School Youth Council**. This council will be comprised of two members from each high school in the district as well as a few at-large members. Participants will get to hear from officials from Gwinnett and Forsyth counties to learn more about their roles and how they serve their communities. We hope that this program will help to educate students on the importance of local government as well as inspire them to pursue careers in public service. For more information, contact Rob.Tester@mail.house.gov.



Wear a mask to enter a Gwinnett County building

Gwinnett County is requiring face masks or face coverings for all visitors and employees while inside County buildings and facilities.

Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners Chairwoman Nicole Hendrickson signed [the executive order](#) in January, which cites [face mask recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) to reduce the spread of the disease, and that the Supreme Court has ruled a community has the right to protect its citizens from epidemics. The order allows exceptions for bona fide medical or religious reasons and for people who cannot don or remove masks by themselves.

The mandatory face mask order is necessary to help protect County workers as they provide essential services to the public, Hendrickson said.

The order requires a face mask covering the mouth and nose inside County facilities. People who do not comply may be denied entry or may be asked to leave.

Also, if you are looking for information about the COVID-19 vaccine, visit the Georgia Department of Public Health's [COVID-19 vaccination page](#). Check the website often for participating vaccination sites near you. Additional locations statewide will be added when providers are ready to safely administer the vaccine, and as vaccine supply allows.



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