

GWINNETT  
COUNTY

JANUARY  
2021

# Connection

**A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF  
GWINNETT COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

## Meet our new commissioners

Newly elected Chairwoman Nicole Love Hendrickson, District 1 Commissioner Kirkland Carden, and District 3 Commissioner Jasper Watkins III took the oath of office in December.

Hendrickson served as associate director of the Gwinnett Coalition for Health and Human Services before joining Gwinnett County Government in 2015 as director for the new Community Outreach Division, where she launched Gwinnett 101 Citizens Academy, Dinner & Dialogue, and the Gwinnett Youth Commission.

Carden is a Gwinnett 101 Citizens Academy graduate. In his professional capacity, he has assisted state and local governments in developing, maintaining, and implementing transportation plans. Carden was elected to the Duluth City Council in 2017 and served on the Duluth Urban Redevelopment Authority. Carden has also worked as an urban planning technician.

Watkins is a nuclear pharmacist and is the principal/consultant for Watty Consultant, LLC. A retired lieutenant colonel in the Army, he received the Legion of Merit among other honors and helped coordinate responses to 9/11, and hurricanes Katrina and Andrew.



## AROUND GWINNETT

### January is National Radon Action Month

The Environmental Protection Agency has designated January as National Radon Action Month. Radon, an odorless, tasteless, radioactive gas, is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States.

Test your home and protect your health by visiting [GCGA.us/Radon](https://www.gcgga.us/Radon) to order a \$15 radon test kit. Use coupon code NRAM2021 for a \$5 online discount during January. For more information, contact Ines Beltran at 678.377.4014 or [Ines.Beltran@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:Ines.Beltran@GwinnettCounty.com).

### Gwinnett to honor John Lewis

In celebration of Black History Month, Gwinnett County will recognize the late civil rights icon Congressman John Lewis with a virtual event Monday, February 22 at 9:30am. Chairwoman Nicole Hendrickson, District 4 Commissioner Marlene Fosque, and other community leaders will discuss his life, sacrifices, and achievements in fighting for freedom, equality, and basic human rights for all Americans. 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 until his death last year at the age of 82. The event, called The Impact of John Lewis, will stream live on Gwinnett County Government's Facebook page at [Facebook.com/GwinnettGov](https://www.facebook.com/GwinnettGov).

### County authorizes negotiations for catalyst development project

The Board of Commissioners recently authorized negotiations with Fuqua Acquisitions II, LLC to develop a signature project on the site of the former Olympic Tennis Center in the County's southern corridor off US 78 along the border with DeKalb County.

Fuqua Acquisitions envisions building multi-family units, a large grocery store, some outparcel structures, and some Main Street-style stores and shops. County officials hope the project will be completed by the end of 2022.

Details of the project will be firmed up during negotiations. Fuqua has developed such notable projects as Peachtree Corners Town Center and the retail portion of The Battery at Truist Park, home of the Atlanta Braves, and is currently developing The Exchange @ Gwinnett near the Mall of Georgia.



## PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

### Winterize your pipes to prepare for cold temperatures

As the coldest days of the year come upon us, now is a good time to ensure your pipes are properly winterized. Uninsulated pipes are at risk of freezing and bursting during winter. A burst pipe can quickly lead to thousands of dollars in property damage and wasted water. These simple preparations can help you easily avoid the headache of a burst pipe:

- Insulate pipes in attics, crawl spaces, and basement ceilings
- Open kitchen and bathroom cabinets to let warm air in
- Keep your thermostat set at the same temperature all day
- Place a spigot cover over your outdoor spigots
- If you travel, leave your heat on at least 55 degrees Fahrenheit

Taking these steps to winterize the pipes in and around your home will go a long way to preventing costly repair bills and will allow you to help conserve our water resources. For more tips on saving water and stopping leaks, visit [DWRConserve.com](https://www.dwrconserve.com).

### COUNTY OFFICES CLOSED FOR MLK AND PRESIDENTS DAY HOLIDAYS

All Gwinnett County government offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of residents, will be closed **January 18** for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Offices will reopen **January 19**. Offices also will be closed **February 15** for Presidents Day and will reopen **February 16**. A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center on both holidays.

## TAX COMMISSIONER

### Senior Perks – Exemptions & Emissions

Seniors qualify for some tax breaks in Gwinnett County. Residents 65 years or older as of January 1 with Georgia taxable income below \$100,552 might qualify for the Senior School Tax Homestead Exemption. An emissions waiver is available for seniors 65 or older whose vehicles are at least 10 years old and driven less than 5,000 miles per year. To check eligibility and apply, visit [GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Seniors](http://GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Seniors).

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Use space heaters safely

Heating equipment is a leading cause of home fire deaths. Half of home heating equipment fires are reported during the months of December, January, and February. Some simple steps can prevent most heating-related fires from happening.

Here are some tips to ensure you stay safe and warm with your space heater during the winter months:

- Maintain a 3-foot kid-free zone around open fires and space heaters
- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from the heater
- Never use your oven or stove for heating
- Turn portable electric heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room
- Purchase and use only portable space heaters listed by a qualified testing laboratory
- Purchase and use space heaters that have an automatic shut-off if they tip over
- Plug space heaters directly into wall outlets
- Do not plug anything else into the same circuit as the one used for a space heater



## SPLIST

### Peachtree Ridge Park to see improvements

Gwinnett Parks and Recreation is making improvements to Peachtree Ridge Park to broaden the appeal of an aging playground and ball field. Improvements include replacing a rubber-track type surface on the wheelchair-accessible baseball field with synthetic turf, which will still remain wheelchair accessible but make the field usable for other children. The dugouts will have improved accessibility and designated wheelchair spaces. The field also will be shortened to 150 feet.

The Peachtree Ridge Park baseball playground also will be getting a major upgrade. In addition to new climbers, swings, and slides, the playground will have more shade and a synthetic turf surface. Wheelchair-accessible elements include a large multi-person rocker and a ground-level spinner. A new electronic game includes eight ground-level stations in a 10-foot diameter circle. A 60-inch sectional slide features a wide landing to help children return to their wheelchair after sliding. Other elements include a firetruck climber, multi-height triple slide, and a multi-person basket-style swing.

The improvements, set for completion in the spring 2021, are being paid for through the 2017 SPLIST.

## CHECK IT OUT

### GCPL mobile library van transporting food

The new Gwinnett County Public Library mobile library van has taken on an unexpected mission. Because of the pandemic, instead of delivering books and other services, the van is helping the library's countywide food distribution efforts. GCPL is partnering with local organizations to help residents facing food insecurity, and the mobile library is helping distribute meals at several library locations designated as food distribution sites. Residents can drive through to pick up boxes of produce and shelf-stable food items or individual meals, depending on location. Visit [GwinnettPL.org](http://GwinnettPL.org) to learn more.



## SERVING GWINNETT

### It's your turn to share motherly wisdom

Throughout the [#ListenToGwinnettMoms](https://www.instagram.com/ListenToGwinnettMoms) campaign, Gwinnett Moms have generously shared their wisdom – with a healthy dose of sass – to help us stay safe as we weather COVID-19 together. And we know they're just getting started. From keeping your hands AND germs to yourself to washing your hands before mom counts to three, they've been sharing their wisdom since day one.

Now, we want to hear from you! Please share your best "momisms" or words of encouragement for our community, and your advice could be featured in future [#ListenToGwinnettMoms](https://www.instagram.com/ListenToGwinnettMoms) messages. So, like mom says, stop procrastinating and share your wisdom today at [GCGA.us/Momisms!](https://www.gcgga.us/momisms) For more tips and COVID-19 resources, visit [ListenToGwinnettMoms.com](https://www.ListenToGwinnettMoms.com).

### Gwinnett Police receives accreditation

The Gwinnett County Police Department was accredited for the ninth time by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., the gold standard for professionalism in public safety.

GCPD was initially accredited in 1993. About 4 percent of the more than 18,000 law enforcement agencies nationwide are accredited by CALEA. To receive CALEA accreditation, a department must comply with more than 400 standards promoting fair and professional law enforcement in policy, procedures, management, and operations.

CALEA is an independent nationally accrediting authority formed in 1979 by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, the National Sheriff's Association, and the Police Executive Research Forum.

## GWINNETT COUNTY CONNECTION

ESCANEE PARA LEER EN ESPAÑOL  
한국어 버전은 QR 코드를 스캔해 주세요



Gwinnett County Connection questions/comments:  
[Info@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:Info@GwinnettCounty.com) | 770.822.7180

Water bill questions: 678.376.6700