

NEWS & EVENTS

in District 1 with
Commissioner Carden

March 2021



Hello!

I'm excited to share my first District 1 newsletter with you! Follow this newsletter to learn about happenings around Gwinnett and in District 1 (which includes Duluth, Suwanee, Sugar Hill, and portions of Norcross).

As we work through recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, there is still a lot of great stuff happening in Gwinnett. Learn about some of those things below.

Happening Around Gwinnett

Apply for Gwinnett Youth Commission

High schoolers can learn how and why Gwinnett County Government does what it does by attending the Gwinnett Youth Commission, an eight-week summer leadership program for high school students. After the summer session, participants are sworn in as Youth Commissioners where they:

- Interact with Gwinnett County Government leaders
- Speak on behalf of Gwinnett County youth
- Help local government better understand the issues facing Gwinnett youth
- Serve as youth ambassadors for the county
- Plan community events and participate in volunteer projects



[Applications](#) will be accepted on the [Gwinnett Youth Commission](#) webpage through **April 12**. This summer's session will be in-person but limited to 15 participants to allow for social distancing.



Chairwoman Hendrickson delivers first State of the County address

In her [first State of the County address](#), County Commission Chairwoman Nicole Hendrickson lauded the county's high expectations for excellence, called The Gwinnett Standard.

Hendrickson cited Gwinnett's elite Triple AAA/Aaa bond rating, state-of-the-art F. Wayne Hill Water Resources Center, and award-winning parks and library systems as evidence of the county's high level of achievement. She said the Gwinnett Standard also shows in Gwinnett's pandemic response with the County, schools, businesses, and organizations pivoting to online or modified services. Hendrickson challenged the audience and viewers to uphold the Gwinnett Standard as we face future challenges.

A video of the speech will air on the County's government-access cable channels on Charter, Comcast, and AT&T U-verse. Photos may be viewed on [Flickr](#).

County moves Confederate monument

The Confederate monument on the grounds of the Gwinnett County Historic Courthouse has been placed in storage following a Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners agreed on a resolution to relocate the memorial. The monument became the focus of media attention and protests after it was vandalized twice.

A previous Board of Commissioners in March 1992 approved the placement of the Confederate monument at the Historic Courthouse.

Gwinnett has always strived to be a welcoming and inclusive world-class community. Removing this monument is a step in the right direction.



Masks required in County facilities

Gwinnett County is requiring face masks or face coverings for all visitors and employees inside County buildings and facilities. Chairwoman Hendrickson signed an executive order citing mask recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and noting 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 unable to don or remove masks alone. The mask should cover the mouth and nose. People who do not comply may be denied entry or asked to leave.

Apply for a homestead exemption by April 1

The best way to reduce your property tax bill is to apply for a homestead exemption. If you own and occupy a home in Gwinnett as your primary residence as of January 1, you likely qualify. Apply at GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Apply by April 1, and staff will help determine your eligibility and the best exemption for your situation. You must apply by April 1 for relief this year. If you already have an exemption in place, you do not need to reapply.

What's New in District 1

Gwinnett opens mass vaccination center at Gwinnett Place Mall

Gwinnett County Government and the Gwinnett, Newton, and Rockdale County Health Departments worked together to convert the bottom floor of the former Sears building at Gwinnett Place Mall into a mass vaccination center. Vaccine is in limited supply, but as supply increases, the site will accommodate immunizing up to 3,000 people a day. Appointments at the Gwinnett Place Mall site are required and can only be scheduled [here](#).



The [state's COVID-19 vaccination page](#) includes information about who is eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine; a status dashboard where you can see data about the amount of vaccines allocated, shipped, and administered to Georgians; and a list of locations where appointments are available. If you're looking for a [COVID-19 vaccination site near you](#), be sure to check back often as the participating vaccine site locations list will be updated frequently. Additional locations statewide will be added when providers are ready to safely administer the vaccine, and as vaccine supply allows.

Apply to serve on the Hospital Authority

If you're interested in getting more involved with our local government, you can apply to serve on a [board or authority](#) representing District 1. Boards and authorities advise commissioners and departments about specific areas, like animal welfare, stormwater, and zoning.

I'm currently seeking candidates to serve on the [Hospital Authority](#), which is made up of nine members who serve three-year terms. The Hospital Authority provides adequate and necessary facilities for medical care and hospitalization within Gwinnett County. To apply, fill out the [District 1 Application](#) and make sure to select Hospital Authority in the first dropdown.



New fire station to be built in Suwanee

A new Fire Station 13 is set to be built next to the planned Suwanee Town Center on Main park project. The city of Suwanee will provide two acres of land at the intersection of the new Main Street/library driveway and Suwanee Dam Road. The County will oversee construction. The County's share of the project, not to exceed \$7 million, is funded by the 2017 SPLOST program.

The 11,000-square-foot station will be located at 105 Main Street and will house a fire engine, an ambulance, and a minimum of five firefighters and paramedics each day. The station, set to open next winter, will feature three apparatus bays, gear and equipment room, industrial

grade kitchen, administrative office area, and individual bunkroom cubicles with locker and shower facilities.

Water Resources hosts virtual Household Hazardous Waste workshop

Get ready for spring cleaning! Learn how to identify and properly store common household hazardous wastes as well as options for recycling and disposal. A virtual Household Hazardous Waste workshop is being held by the Department of Water Resources April 15 at 6:00pm. Please register at Gwinnett2o.com, by sending an email with your name, address, and phone number to DWRworkshops@GwinnettCounty.com, or by calling 678.376.7193.



Special Events and Happenings

Most events and activities are suspended due to the County's COVID-19 response.

Visit GwinnettCounty.com or follow the County's social media channels to learn about future events.

Kirkland D. Carden, District 1 Commissioner
Gwinnett County

Kirkland.Carden@GwinnettCounty.com

Gwinnett County | 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville, GA 30046

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