

# NEWS & EVENTS

in District 1 with  
Commissioner Carden

June 2021



Greetings!

With new guidance for fully vaccinated people and COVID-19 case rates consistently low in Gwinnett, we have good reason to be optimistic about the summer. We can get back out into the community thanks to the safety and efficacy of the vaccines.

Remember, if you're not vaccinated yet, the CDC recommends that you still wear a mask and practice social distancing. Let's all enjoy the summer safely.

## Happening Around Gwinnett



### Board announces diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives

In her remarks at the inaugural Gwinnett Chamber Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Summit, Chairwoman Hendrickson introduced the Gwinnett Place Mall Redevelopment Equity Plan and announced the opportunity for qualified consultants to submit proposals for the development of an Equity Action Plan on behalf of Gwinnett County. Both plans demonstrate the County's determination to embed an equitable, inclusive, and welcoming foundation in all services, programs, policies, decisions and developments made by the County – soon to be

the largest county in Georgia. Learn more about the plans [here](#).

### County honors Charles Hale with soil ceremony

Led by the Gwinnett Remembrance Coalition Project, with the support of the Gwinnett Historical Restoration and Preservation Board, a soil collection ceremony will be held Saturday, June 19 from 10:00am to 11:30am at the corner of West Pike Street and Perry Street. On that site in 1911, a mob of 200 men lynched Charles Hale, an African American husband and father. Dirt from the site will be housed in Gwinnett as well as the Legacy Museum near the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama. This is part of a nationwide effort to memorialize lynching victims in our country.



### Watch board meetings on Facebook Live

You can now watch Board of Commissioners' meetings on Facebook Live. Make sure to follow [@GwinnettGov](#) on Facebook to view the Board in action. Join us first and third Tuesdays at 2:00pm for work and business sessions. You can also tune in starting at 7:00pm on fourth Tuesdays for our public hearings.

Those without access to Facebook can still watch the Board of Commissioners meetings live on TV Gwinnett or stream them online at [TVGwinnettLive.com](#). [Click here](#) for a full list of upcoming board meetings.

### Celebrate Juneteenth at Rhodes Jordan Park

On Saturday, June 19, we'll join the United Ebony Society to celebrate Juneteenth — the oldest celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States — at Rhodes Jordan Park from 11:00am to 4:00pm.

This year's Juneteenth festival includes historical presentations, performances, music, games, and food trucks. Rhodes Jordan Park is located at 100 East Crogan Street in Lawrenceville.



### Outdoor burn ban in effect through September 30

To protect air quality, the state Environmental Protection Division has imposed a metro-wide burn ban through September 30. Most outdoor or open burning are prohibited, including burning trees, limbs, and yard waste, as well as the use of air curtain destructors.

For more information, visit [GwinnettFireMarshal.com](http://GwinnettFireMarshal.com) or call 678.518.4980. For additional information concerning the summer open burning ban, please visit the Environmental Protection Division [webpage](#).

### Be safe during summer fun

With the kids out of school and temperatures rising, we know many of you are gearing up to enjoy the pool, lake, river, creek, spa, or hot tub. To ensure the whole family stays safe this summer, follow these tips provided by firefighters and the American Red Cross:

- **Supervise** – Never take your eyes off children in and around the water. Teach children that they should never swim alone or unsupervised. If a child is missing, look for him or her in the pool or spa first.
- **Use barriers** – Fences with self-closing/self-latching gates and secured doors with access alarms can prevent small children from wandering into the swimming pool or hot tub. Gates should close and lock automatically. Latches for pool access should be out of the reach of children.
- **Learn to swim** – All family members should learn how to swim. Consider teaching children how to swim at a young age, usually around age four. Parks and Recreation offers [classes](#) for people of all ages. All GCPR pools are accessible for people with disabilities and offer safe, supervised swimming places for everyone.
- **Know how to respond** – Learn CPR and know basic water rescue skills. Post emergency numbers by the telephone. Have water rescue equipment such as a lifesaving ring, pole, and AED near the pool deck.
- **Follow the rules** – Be sure to follow all posted rules. No diving in the shallow end, no pushing, and no running on the pool deck. Obey the lifeguard if one is onsite.



### What's New in District 1

#### Get your COVID-19 vaccine in District 1

Across the country – including at nearly 100 sites here in Gwinnett – millions of people have already stepped up and made the choice to get vaccinated. And while the COVID-19 vaccine rollout continues to evolve every day, one fact remains the same: these vaccines are our best shot at safely getting back to the life we love, with the people we love.



You can get your COVID-19 vaccine at the Gwinnett, Newton, and Rockdale County Health Departments' **mass vaccination site at Gwinnett Place Mall**, which is [now accepting walk-ins](#). GNR Health is also partnering with CORE to provide mobile vaccination clinics. Register [here](#).



#### New Duluth Branch library opens

Last week, we gathered with officials from the city of Duluth and the Gwinnett County Public Library to cut the ribbon on the new Duluth Branch of the library. The branch relocation was funded by the voter-approved Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax known as SPLOST.

The relocated branch is 22,038 square feet, about twice as large as the previous branch. The facility's features include two learning labs with areas for sewing, crafting, 3D printing, coding and more;

30 adult computer stations and six kids' computer stations; and a meeting room that can fit 120 people.

with retractable walls to add capacity.

I want to thank our partners with the library and the city of Duluth for their ongoing support and cooperation as we made this space a reality. This project is a great example of what can be achieved when the County and the cities come together to benefit our residents.

## Peachtree Ridge Park improvements complete

The Peachtree Ridge Park playground and ball field improvements are done and open to the public. Upgrades included replacing a rubber-track type surface on the wheelchair-accessible baseball field with synthetic turf, which still remains wheelchair accessible but makes the field usable for all children. There will be a cozy cocoon, a quiet, safe space for children with autism to take a break from the action. The Peachtree Ridge Park baseball playground also received new climbers, swings, and slides, plus more shade and a synthetic turf surface.



Wheelchair-accessible elements of the playground 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 are a firetruck climber, multi-height triple slide, and a multi-person basket-style swing. The improvements were funded by your pennies from the 2017 SPLOST program.



## Gwinnett, CIDS, and state DOT to participate in connected vehicle program

Gwinnett County is partnering with the Georgia Department of Transportation and five Community Improvement Districts to implement the state's Regional Connected Vehicle Program on several major traffic corridors in Gwinnett County. The cutting-edge Connected Vehicle Technology program seeks to enhance traffic safety by providing traffic and road condition information to vehicles equipped to receive the messages. The equipment can also communicate with traffic control centers to help improve traffic management. Special equipment will be

installed on several roads including Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Pleasant Hill Road, Buford Highway, Jimmy Carter Boulevard, Stone Mountain Highway, Sugarloaf Parkway, and Lawrenceville Highway.



## Reminder: apply for rental and utility assistance through Project RESET 2.0

Applications are open for Project RESET 2.0, which will use more than \$28.1 million in stimulus funds from the federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program to support struggling renters in our community. The program offers up to 15 months of total assistance, which may include rental and/or utility arrears (up to 12 months) and future rental and/or utility assistance if needed. Payments will be made directly to landlords and utility providers for past-due balances. Tenants and landlords interested in participating in this program can access the Project RESET 2.0 application portal and program resources at [GCGA.us/RentalAssistance](http://GCGA.us/RentalAssistance). Interested parties can also contact the Project Reset 2.0 Call Center at 770.822.7501.

## Special Events and Happenings

### Events and activities are ramping back up with the CDC's new guidance.

Visit [GwinnettCountyEvents.com](http://GwinnettCountyEvents.com) or follow the County's social media channels to learn about upcoming events.

Kirkland D. Carden, District 1 Commissioner  
Gwinnett County

Kirkland.Carden@GwinnettCounty.com