

NEWS & EVENTS

in District 1 with
Commissioner Carden

August 2021



Greetings!

Ready for the kids to head back to school? It's hard to believe it's that time already!

If you have kids 12 and up getting ready for the fall, consider getting them vaccinated for COVID-19. We can all do our part to keep our kids' classmates, teachers, bus drivers, and school staff safe. Remember, [vaccines are widely available](#) across Gwinnett, and walk-ins are welcome at many locations. If you have vaccine questions, check out [ListenToGwinnettMoms.com](#) for answers.

Happening Around Gwinnett



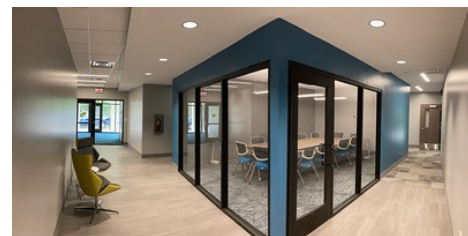
Commissioners set 2021 millage rate

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners recently approved keeping the 2021 property tax rate at 6.95 mills, the same level as 2020. The millage rates for special service districts and countywide levies for voter-approved debt and recreation also remain unchanged from last year, keeping the total rate for property owners in unincorporated Gwinnett County at 14.71 mills.

A mill is one dollar of tax for every \$1,000 of assessed property value but the millage only applies to 40 percent of the property's total valuation. Your tax bill is calculated by applying your property assessment multiplied by the millage, minus exemptions. Property tax bills also include school taxes and possibly city taxes. Watch [this video](#) to learn more about how your property taxes are calculated.

Apply for membership with the Gwinnett Entrepreneur Center

If you're a new business owner in need of advice or one who needs a financial jumpstart, the Gwinnett Entrepreneur Center wants to lend a helping hand. The Gwinnett Entrepreneur Center is now accepting applications for membership from budding business owners.



Sponsored by the Board of Commissioners in partnership with Georgia Gwinnett College, the center offers coworking and office space, classes, workshops, business coaching, and networking connections. The center will also provide support services to local non-member entrepreneurs. Those interested are asked to carefully review the member handbook, tour the facility, and attend an informational webinar about the center before applying. Learn more and apply at [GwinnettEntrepreneurCenter.com](#).



Get vaccinated at Eastside Medical Center

If you haven't received your COVID-19 vaccination yet, Gwinnett County and Eastside Medical Center are making it easier for you with a vaccination clinic in southern Gwinnett.

The clinic now offers all three authorized vaccines, meaning kids ages 12 and up can now receive the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine onsite. The clinic also offers the first and second doses of the Moderna vaccine and single doses of the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen

What's New in District 1

Attend a District 1 town hall meeting

I'm hosting a series of town halls across district 1 in September. Come out to any or all of the town halls to meet me and talk through issues close to our community. Some special guests will join me along the way:

September 2 at 6:00pm

E Center @ Sugar Hill, Waterfall Room
Co-hosted with Brandon Hembree, Sugar Hill City Council



September 9 at 6:00pm

George Pierce Park Community Room, Suwanee
Co-hosted with Heather Hall, Suwanee City Council

September 15 at 6:00pm

Final location to be announced, Duluth
Co-hosted with Marlene Thomas, Duluth City Council

September 22 at 6:00pm

Sonesta Gwinnett Place Atlanta, Independence Ballroom, Duluth
Co-hosted with State Rep. Pedro Marin HD-96

Stay tuned for more details on GwinnettCounty.com and in my September newsletter. I hope to see you soon!



Sensory treehouse coming to the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center

The board recently approved a \$4.1 million project to build a sensory treehouse at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center. The treehouse will allow visitors with disabilities to experience the sensation of being in a canopy of trees while in a controlled environment. The treehouse is designed to accommodate all ages and abilities.

The sensory treehouse will resemble a giant American chestnut tree of Georgia's historic forests. In the treehouse building, visitors will be immersed in an indoor sensory exhibit that uses video, audio, and scents to allow visitors to experience 24 hours in a piedmont forest. The project is scheduled to begin in the fall and take about a year to construct.

Apply for a seat on the Animal Control Hearing Board

I'm looking for an applicant to represent District 1 on the Animal Control Hearing Board. The board receives dangerous dog and vicious dog hearing requests from dog owners. They hear testimony and receive evidence at hearings as reasonably necessary to make a determination either to sustain, modify, or overrule the animal control officer's classification of the dog as dangerous or vicious.

If you're interested in this position, learn more about the role [here](#), and then apply using the form [here](#).

Comprehensive parks plan outlines opportunities for the future

The Board of Commissioners recently approved the first step of a Parks and Recreation master plan that lays out a proposed blueprint for adding parks, greenspace, trails, and developing recreational programs over the next decade. In developing the plan, Parks and Recreation examined existing and projected demographics, current parks inventory, local and national trends, as well as what residents and stakeholders really want, for example, creating recreation opportunities within a 10-minute walk. Learn more about the plan [here](#).



Events and activities are ramping back up around Gwinnett. See a few exciting opportunities below!

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

Clash of the Comics

Thursday, August 5 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm

Throw on a t-shirt of your favorite courageous comic book hero and join us for a delightful day of marvelous fun & phenomenal factoids! Light refreshments will be served. \$3 per resident. George Pierce Park, 55 Buford Highway, Suwanee.

Back to School STEAM

Saturday, August 14 from 10:00am to 2:00pm

It's back to school time, so celebrate with us as we build, experiment, create, and demonstrate some of the exciting STEAM concepts. Register [here](#). Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center, 2020 Clean Water Drive, Buford.

Karaoke Kraze: Cartoons & Movies

Saturday, August 21 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm

Join us in person or virtually. You don't have to be internationally known to rock our microphone! Let loose and feel like a superstar jamming out to your favorite songs with family and friends. Solo, duet, group performances welcome. Register [here](#). OneStop Norcross, 5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross.

- **In person:** Parent/guardian supervision required. Japanese treats available for a minimal fee.
- **Virtual:** After you register, you will receive a link to our virtual event.

Kirkland D. Carden, District 1 Commissioner
Gwinnett County

Kirkland.Carden@GwinnettCounty.com