

NEWS & EVENTS

in District 1 with
Commissioner Carden

October 2021



Greetings!

Fall is in full swing! I hope you get to safely enjoy time spent with family, friends, and loved ones. Remember, it's essential that we continue to keep each other safe. If you feel sick, stay home. Wear a mask in public buildings. [Get vaccinated](#) if you haven't. We can all help our community continue to thrive as we make our way through this challenging time.

Happening Around Gwinnett

Gwinnett expands non-discrimination policy for County employees

It's equity in motion. The board voted to expand the County's nondiscrimination policy. The changes to the policy added protections for Gwinnett County Government employees' ancestry, family status, immigration status and homeless status. The amendment also draws inspiration from the Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair Act. The CROWN Act ensures that race-based hairstyles, textures and protective styles such as braids, locs, twists and knots are protected in the workplace. Read more about the expanded policy [here](#).



Gwinnett earns rare AAA/Aaa bond rating

Gwinnett County once again received a rare AAA/Aaa bond rating from all three rating agencies, which allows the County to issue or refinance bonds at favorable rates — reducing the amount of interest paid over the term of the bonds. The County has held the coveted rating for more than 20 years.

The review by the three credit rating agencies was part of a bond refinancing effort for \$65.13 million in water and sewer bonds issued in 2011. The refinancing will save Gwinnett taxpayers an estimated \$7.4 million in interest payments over the next four years.

In their analyses of Gwinnett County's finances, the bond rating agencies — Moody's Investors Services, S&P Global Ratings, and Fitch Ratings — cited the County's stability, excellent fiscal position and budgetary performance, flexibility, low debt and pension burdens, and strong management and financial policies as reasons for the high ratings.

Celebrate Hispanic Latino Heritage Month in Gwinnett

Though we enjoy the Latino community's culture every day, Hispanic Latino Heritage Month, which runs from **September 15 to October 15**, is a time to enhance our understanding of Latin American history and embrace the vibrancy Hispanic and Latino residents bring to our county.

From September 15 through October 15 Enjoy a display of



resources and information from various organizations that support our Latino community in the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center atrium.



Rowen's Gwinnett County Advisory Task Force report released

After a series of five meetings since the task force was announced in February, the Rowen Foundation released the final report of its Gwinnett Community Advisory Task Force on September 20.

The report includes 20 immediate, short- and long-term action items that the Foundation will advance to ensure Rowen delivers on its mission, vision, and core principles in partnership with the Gwinnett community. See the full report [here](#), and learn more about Rowen and

upcoming engagement opportunities at RowenLife.com.

What's New in District 1

Share your thoughts on the future of Gwinnett Place Mall

Gwinnett County purchased the Gwinnett Place Mall site to lead the redevelopment process and transform it into a unique regional destination. The County's vision for the property is one of equitable redevelopment, which ensures that the future of Gwinnett Place Mall will be one where all residents share in its growth and feel welcome and included.



Residents are invited to share their feedback on the future of the mall site. Visit ReclaimGwinnettPlaceMall.com to learn about the project, see the latest updates, and share your vision for Gwinnett Place Mall.



Rental and utility assistance still available to those impacted by COVID-19

As of October 1, Gwinnett County has processed more than \$18.5 million in financial assistance for more than 2,000 households through our Project RESET 2.0 program. In total, Project RESET 2.0 has ensured that 4,805 individuals in Gwinnett County did not have to face an eviction or utility disconnection. Project RESET 2.0 is still going strong, currently approving an average of \$1.5 million per week.

Financial assistance is being made available through this program to eligible tenants, their landlords, and utility providers to cover activities including rent arrears, current and future rent payments, and utility arrears payments. Learn more about the program, including who is eligible for assistance, and apply [here](#).

Watch my District 1 town hall meetings

If you missed my town hall series last month, you can still learn about things going on in District 1 by watching the recordings. Check out the video links below:

[September 2](#): Sugar Hill E Center with Brandon Hembree, Sugar Hill City Council

[September 9](#): George Pierce Park Community Room in Suwanee with Heather Hall, Suwanee City Council

[September 15](#): Duluth City Hall with Marline Thomas, Duluth City Council

[September 22](#): Sonesta Gwinnett Place Atlanta, Duluth with State Senator Michelle Au



Special Events and Happenings

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

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

Community Heritage Night

Friday, October 8 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm

Don't miss this festival of multicultural celebrations! Spend the evening appreciating the diversity of our community through fun and engaging activities and demonstrations from all over the world, and browse merchandise from multicultural vendors. Admission is free, and all ages are welcome. Shorty Howell Park Activity Building, 2750 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth.

Wheels in the Wind Bike Ride

Saturday, October 9 from 10:00am to 2:00pm

Join Gwinnett County transit to learn how buses and bikes can create new commuting options. Pedal around the park with others, receive light refreshments and incentives for changing your commute, and discover how easy it is to load your bike onto the bus. Register [here](#). Shorty Howell Park, 2750 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth.

Harvest Homecoming

Saturday, October 23 from noon to 4:00pm

Take a special trip to the farm for old time games, face painting, crafts, and fun farm tours. Enjoy a hayride, visit vendors, and sample some tasty s'mores! Admission is free for this family-friendly event. McDaniel Farm Park, 3251 McDaniel Road, Duluth.

Monster Menagerie

Saturday, October 30 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm

Have a frighteningly fun time trick-or-treating, playing games, and making crafts! You can also participate in our costume competition and raffle for a chance to win prizes. Admission is free, and some games require a ticket, which are \$1 a piece. OneStop Norcross, 5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross.



Kirkland D. Carden, District 1 Commissioner
Gwinnett County

Kirkland.Carden@GwinnettCounty.com