

NEWS & EVENTS

in District 1 with
Commissioner Carden

January 2022



Greetings!

Happy New Year! 2021 is under our belt, and it's time to head into 2022 with renewed optimism and excitement for the great things to come.

Though we'll certainly face challenges, we'll handle them with the Gwinnett Standard in our minds and our residents' needs at the top of our priority list.

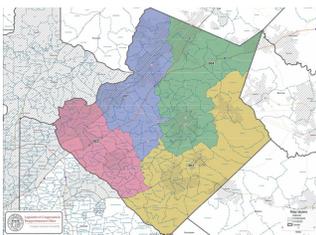
Happening Around Gwinnett

Board approves 2022 budget

The Board of Commissioners approved a \$2.07 billion budget for 2022, up 8.1 percent from last year. The newly approved budget does not require a millage rate increase. The adopted spending plan consists of a \$1.6 billion operating budget and a \$455 million capital improvements budget, which includes funds from the County's voter-approved SPLOST program.



With more growth on the horizon, the County's services and infrastructure must keep up. Two-thirds of the operating budget is dedicated to the areas of public safety and public works. The capital budget will pay for new facilities, roads, and parks as well as maintenance for existing assets and infrastructure. [Learn more and read highlights from the 2022 budget.](#)



Commissioners propose new district map to legislative delegation

Once every decade, the Georgia General Assembly modifies the district boundaries for various governing bodies to rebalance representation.

Georgia legislators grant local governments the opportunity to propose their own maps for consideration by the General Assembly. To obtain public input, my fellow commissioners and I hosted a series of open houses to learn what matters most to our residents when it comes to redistricting. The County took these preferences into account while working with the General Assembly's Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment Office to draft the proposed commission district map. [View the proposed district map](#) and [view the current district map](#).

The Georgia General Assembly plans to address local government redistricting during the upcoming session that starts January 10 for new district lines to be in place by the next election cycle. On **Thursday, January 13 at 7:00pm**, the Gwinnett State House and Senate Delegations will hold a public joint committee meeting on the proposed maps for the Gwinnett Board of Commissioners and Board of Education at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center located at 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville. Residents are welcome to attend to share their feedback.

Ultimately, the Georgia General Assembly will make the final decision on a new commission district map for Gwinnett County.

More than 6,600 people vaccinated before the holidays during Finish Strong Together weekend
The weekend of December 10, 11, and 12, Gwinnett County



distributed \$100 gift cards to people who received a COVID-19 vaccine at one of four participating locations around the county. Thanks to our partners and the support of the community, more than 6,600 people were vaccinated at the four sites over the course of the weekend. Thank you to everyone who turned out to make our community safer.

Bring One for the Chipper

In Gwinnett County, the annual tradition of Christmas tree recycling began in 1984. For years, Gwinnett has led the state in recycling more trees than any other county. As the tree-cycling tradition continues, Gwinnett County homeowners and residents are encouraged to recycle their Christmas trees. Not only are they helping the community by recycling, but they are also helping the environment by the trees being turned into mulch which will be used in Gwinnett County parks.



From now until January 24, you can drop off your Christmas tree at [designated Gwinnett County Fire Stations](#). Trees must be free of lights, tinsel, decorations, and tree stands in order to be recycled. The trees will be chipped Saturday, January 29 from 8:00am to 11:00am at Bethesda Park.



County expands glass recycling pilot program to second location

You can now recycle glass at another location in Gwinnett — Pinckneyville Park. This is the second drop-off glass recycling location that the County will offer through our pilot program. The first site, located in the parking lot of OneStop Norcross at 5030 Georgia Belle Court in Norcross, opened in October and has already diverted 4.2 tons of mixed glass from landfills.

Drop off clean, empty glass containers at Pinckneyville Park, located at 4758 South Old Peachtree Road in Peachtree Corners. The clearly marked drop-off container is located by the baseball complex and is accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Frequently asked questions about glass recycling can be found on GwinnettCB.org/Glass-Recycling.

What's New in District 1

SPLOST-funded passive park coming to Gwinnett Place Mall area

Gwinnett County is constructing a 68.5-acre park, called Beaver Ruin Wetlands Park, near Satellite Boulevard and Beaver Ruin Road. The park will feature trails, boardwalks, small shelters, a playground, parking, and a restroom building. Water Resources is performing the stream and wetland restoration work and associated boardwalks, while Community Services will build the park amenities and upland trails.



The wetlands restoration should be complete in 2022. Construction of park amenities will start in early 2023 and take about a year. The parks project is being funded with the 2017 SPLOST program and the Water Resources capital improvement budget.



County offers residents a place to warm up on frigid nights

Gwinnett County is activating five warming stations around the county for residents to receive temporary, overnight relief from long-term exposure to frigid temperatures of 35 degrees and below. One of the stations is located at Shorty Howell Park in Duluth.

The warming stations are activated on evenings when temperatures are expected to drop to 35 degrees or below. Stations will be available from 6:00pm until 7:00am on these nights, and residents who visit the sites will be able to warm up, eat a meal, and get some rest. The County posts notices for evenings that the stations will open on social media and GwinnettOneStop.com.

Gwinnett County Transit hosts coat drive

Help Gwinnett County Transit provide coats to Gwinnett communities

in need. New coats for women, men, and children of all sizes will be accepted as donations. Donations received will be delivered to local cooperative ministries. Coat collection will take place at several sites around the county, including at the Gwinnett County Transit Customer Service Office, located at 3525 Mall Boulevard, Suite 5C in Duluth. The office will accept donations January 24 through 28 from 6:00am to 8:00pm.



County seeking volunteer CPA for Audit Committee

The County is looking for a volunteer to serve on our Audit Committee. This person **must be a practicing internal auditor or CPA**. The Audit Committee oversees the County's external and internal audit functions. The committee also promotes adherence to policies at all levels and encourages continuous improvement in the control environment.

If you're interested, please reach out to me at Kirkland.Carden@GwinnettCounty.com. Know someone who might be the right fit? Please share this newsletter with them.

Special Events and Happenings

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

Mastering the Citizenship Test 100 together!

Wednesday, January 12 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm

Join staff and fellow studiers at the Duluth Branch to get away distractions and enjoy an uninterrupted hour of study time. The library will assist participants in mastering the Citizenship Test's 100 questions by providing an opportunity to learn with fellow participants and a place to study together intensively. Duluth Branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library, 3180 Main Street, Duluth.

B2 Anywhere: Think Tank

Friday, January 21 from 10:30am to 11:30am

Free! Think Tank offers engaging literacy and STEAM activities for your early learner. Discover the magic of magnetism, compare the weight of objects, use critical thinking skills for building, and more!

[Preregistration](#) is required. Ages 2 to 5. For more information, email B2Anywhere@gwinnettcounty.com or call 770.822.7371. George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center, 55 Buford Highway, Suwanee.

Rhythm at the Park

Sunday, January 23 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm

Experience the joys of the community around you through music, dance, and food at this free event. All ages welcome. [Learn more](#). Shorty Howell Park Activity Building, 2750 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth.

Museum After Dark

Friday, January 28 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm

Drop in and discover the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center afterhours. Spend time in an immersive experience as we explore the exhibits, artifacts, and science specimens with crafts, games, and more! Please [register](#) by January 26. \$6 per person. All ages welcome. Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center, 2020 Clean Water Drive, Buford.

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Gwinnett County

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