

NEWS & EVENTS

in District 1 with
Commissioner Garden

January 2023



Greetings!

It's 2023! There are so many great achievements to reflect on from last year, and there is so much to look forward to in the year ahead.

I also want to welcome any new readers since the new district map went into effect January 1. Keep reading for news and events in District 1 and around Gwinnett.

Happening Around Gwinnett

2023 budget focuses on service, sustainability, and preparedness

In our first major vote of the year, the Board of Commissioners [approved a \\$2.27 billion budget](#) for 2023. It consists of a \$1.78 billion operating budget and a \$488 million capital improvements budget, which includes funds from the County's Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax program.



As part of the budget development process, department directors and elected officials presented business plans for 2023 to five Gwinnett residents recruited by Chairwoman Hendrickson who reviewed the departmental requests and made recommendations. Thank you to everyone who provided their comments either in-person at our December 5 public hearing or online on the County's website to help inform our final 2023 budget.



Leaders break ground on Rowen knowledge community

In December, the [Rowen Foundation](#) hosted a groundbreaking and tree planting ceremony to officially kick off construction on the knowledge community.

The site will eventually include more than 22 million square feet of lab, office and civic spaces alongside a mix of multi-family residential, cafes, start-up hubs, parks and public trails. At complete build out, Rowen is projected to bring nearly 100,000 jobs to Georgia, contributing up to \$10 billion into the state's economy annually.

Recycle your Christmas tree

Do you have a live Christmas tree you need to dispose of now that the holidays are behind us? Drop it off at a designated fire station by January 25 as part of Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful's annual Bring One for the Chipper tree recycling event. Before dropping off your live Christmas tree, remove all lights, tinsel, decorations, and tree stands.



Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful will chip the trees into mulch for use at County parks on Saturday, January 28. Volunteers ages 14 and older are needed from 8:00am to 11:00am on this date. [Find more details and register to volunteer](#).



Fire Station 13 opens in Suwanee

In December, we celebrated the opening of Fire Station 13 with a ribbon cutting at the station's new home at 105 Main Street in Suwanee. The new, 10,788-square-foot station provides three drive-thru apparatus bays and room for 24-hour staffing for an engine and a medic unit. The state-of-the-art facility is EarthCraft Light Commercial green building certified, which supports the County's sustainability goals and focuses on energy and water efficiency, building durability and improved occupant health and comfort.

The \$7.8 million project was funded by Gwinnett's Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax. The city of Suwanee provided about two acres of land to the County for the new station.

Be wary of fraudulent water testing claims

In recent weeks, residents have reported receiving phone calls from people claiming to be employees from Gwinnett County's water treatment lab, offering to conduct water testing inside their homes. While the Department of Water Resources tests the County's water quality frequently, the County does not send employees to test tap water inside customers' homes.



If anyone claiming to be a Gwinnett County employee asks to take water samples from inside your home, do not let them in. As always, if you feel unsafe or if someone is trying to break into your home, call 911. Residents may call Water Resources' 24-hour dispatch at 678.376.7000 with questions or concerns.



Help out at a warming station

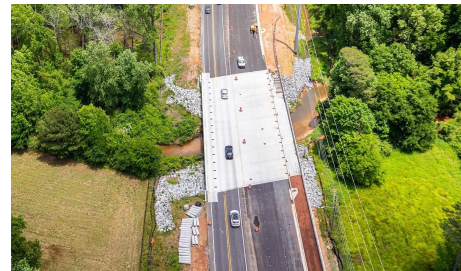
The County has opened five warming stations for residents to receive temporary, overnight relief from long-term exposure to forecasted temperatures 35 degrees and below, and we're seeking [part-time staff assistants](#)!

When activated, the warming stations are available from 6:00pm to 7:00am, allowing residents to warm up, eat a meal, and get some rest. Staff assistants will be called on to help with organizing check-in materials, set up and breakdown, greeting

participants, and other related station tasks. For locations, activation statuses, and more, visit GwinnettOneStop.com.

County wins award for road widening project

Gwinnett Transportation was awarded a Georgia Partnership for Transportation Quality Preconstruction Design Award in urban highway design. The award recognizes the [widening of Spalding Drive](#) from two lanes to a four-lane corridor with center turn lanes from Winters Chapel Road to State Route 140 and Holcomb Bridge Road.



Construction on the project began in spring 2020 and will be completed in spring 2023. The project is a regional partnership with funding from Gwinnett County, the State Road and Tollway Authority, the city of Sandy Springs, and the city of Peachtree Corners. Funding in part was provided by Gwinnett's 2014 and 2017 [Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax](#) programs, known as SPLOST.

Special Events and Happenings

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

Trend Diets

Thursday, January 12 from 11:45am to 12:50pm

Free! The concern about weight gain and its associated health effects can be stressful. This often leads people searching for quick and drastic changes. There are many trendy diets that promote quick weight loss, muscle gain, and an overall "fit look." With all the trendy diets being promoted, it's easy to question which diet plan to choose. During this program we will discuss four trending diets. For ages 18 and up. [Register](#). Virtual event.

Sensory Sensation

Saturday, January 21 from 10:00am to noon

Help your little ones squeeze, feel, smell, and make a mess with a variety of textures, objects, and scents during this sensory exploration event! For ages 2 to 6. Fee: \$5. [Register online](#). Pinckneyville Park, 4758 South Old Peachtree Road, Norcross.

Food Distribution

Tuesday, January 24 from 3:00pm until supplies last

Free! Come pick up fresh and self-stable foods. No identification is required. Distribution will be drive-thru and contactless. Trunks must be empty. Shorty Howell Park, 2750 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth.

Stories and STEM

Saturday, January 28 from 10:00am to 11:00am

Fairy tales, folk tales, picture books, and more! These literature-based science, technology, engineering, and math lessons will engage your child, spark their creativity, and encourage problem solving and critical thinking. For ages 5 to 10. Fee: \$6. Please [register](#) by January 27. Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center, 2020 Clean Water Drive, Buford.



Kirkland D. Carden, District 1 Commissioner
Gwinnett County

Kirkland.Carden@GwinnettCounty.com