

# NEWS & EVENTS

in District 1 with  
Commissioner Carden

February 2023



Greetings!

Happy Black History Month! I hope you'll [join us to celebrate](#). As usual, there's a lot going on around the county. Keep reading below to learn more and find opportunities to get involved in your community.

## Happening Around Gwinnett

### Celebrate Black History Month in Gwinnett

Celebrate Black History Month with Gwinnett! Join us **Tuesday, February 21** at 6:30pm at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center. Enjoy performances, soul food, and community. To reserve your spot for this year's celebration, visit [GwinnettCounty.com/BHMCelebration](https://GwinnettCounty.com/BHMCelebration). A Black History Month display will also be available for viewing in the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center atrium throughout February.



You can also pack a picnic lunch and explore the rich history of African American culture in Gwinnett on a [Black History Month Bus Tour](#) from 10:00am to 2:00pm on **Saturday, February 11**. The tour departs from Lawrenceville Female Seminary. The bus tour is \$11 per person; preregister by February 6.



### Gwinnett Transit gets a new name and look

Gwinnett County Transit is embracing a new look and a new name – Ride Gwinnett. In January, County leaders and employees gathered for the first look at the new name, logo, and bus design. Embodying the County's brand, Ride Gwinnett will carry and support its vibrant people by connecting them to the places they need to go.

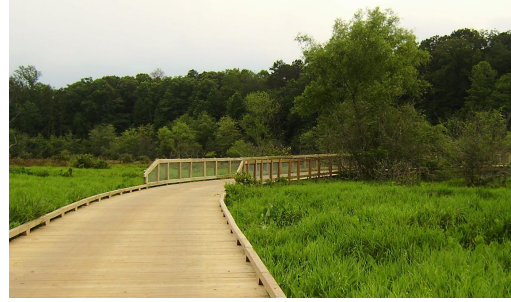
After more than 20 years of service in Gwinnett, the transit system's new look reflects the County's evolving focus on mobility. The rebranding includes the County's buses, bus stop shelters, and signs. To learn more about our local service areas, visit [RideGwinnett.com](https://RideGwinnett.com).

### Gwinnett earns platinum-level sustainability certification

Gwinnett County continues to uphold its commitment to sustainability, earning recertification as a Green Community at the Platinum Level by the Atlanta Regional Commission. Developed in 2009, the [Green Communities Program](#) is a voluntary sustainability certification program that helps local governments implement measures that reduce their environmental

impact through actionable measures.

The recertification recognizes Gwinnett's ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship and leadership in sustainability practices for a stronger, greener community. Gwinnett first earned certification as a Green Community in 2010 and became the first county to be certified at the Platinum Level in 2018.



### Give a shelter pet a loving home in time for Valentine's Day

Stop by our Love-A-Mutt event at the [Bill Atkinson Animal Welfare Center](#) on **Saturday, February 11 from 11:00am to 2:00pm** to find your new best friend! During the event, you can take a photo with your new pet and enjoy some games and a goodie bag.

All adoption fees are waived and include up-to-date vaccines, spay/neuter, microchip, and heartworm treatment if applicable. If you've already adopted, you can still stop by to say hello and get a free photo. To find pets available for adoption, visit [GwinnettAnimalWelfare.com](#).

## What's New in District 1

### Attend a transit expansion public meeting

[Ride Gwinnett](#), formally Gwinnett County Transit, is hitting the road with three new local routes and two microtransit zones. Residents are invited to learn about the new transit services and share their feedback during an [in-person or virtual meeting](#).

The three local transit routes will service new areas in Snellville, Stone Mountain, Buford, and Suwanee and provide extended coverage in Lawrenceville, Lilburn, and Duluth. New service also includes microtransit, which will allow residents to request Ride Gwinnett from a mobile application and go to their destination within the zones of Snellville and Lawrenceville.



### SPLOST-funded upgrades enhance accessibility and mobility

The County will install new bleachers with elevated and accessible seating and ramps at the Shorty Howell Park multi-purpose field. The old bleachers will be demolished. The cost of the project is \$235,000 and is funded by the 2014 SPLOST program.

To encourage pedestrian safety, James Road and Lawrenceville Highway will get new sidewalks. The sidewalks will connect neighborhoods to nearby businesses. The upgrade also includes curb, gutter and drainage improvements. Various SPLOST programs will foot the bill at a cost of \$1,047,467. Meanwhile, a proposed traffic and mobility study will review ways to travel around the Gwinnett Place Mall area. The County will split the cost of the study with the Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District, with the county's contribution of \$37,500 coming from the 2017 SPLOST program.

### Apply for Gwinnett 101 Citizens Academy

Ever wondered how Gwinnett County Government provides high-quality services to the community? Here's your chance to get a behind-the-scenes look at County operations, meet local leaders, and tour government facilities! The Gwinnett 101 Citizens Academy is a 12-week program offered twice each year to develop and nurture informed and engaged residents, students, and business owners in Gwinnett County. To be considered for the spring term, apply at [Gwinnett101.com](#) by **Wednesday, March 1**.





## Help us understand our community's human services needs

Gwinnett County has contracted with Health Management Associates to complete a Comprehensive Human Services Needs Assessment. As a part of this process, Health Management Associates is distributing [a survey](#) to help understand the health and well-being of our community and be able to allocate resources to assist those in need.

The [survey](#) will take approximately 10 minutes to complete, and will be available until **Friday, February 10**. Responses are completely anonymous. Health Management Associates will combine the results of this survey with information collected from other activities to better meet the needs of Gwinnett residents.

## Special Events and Happenings

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

### Mardi Gras Ball

**Friday, February 10 from 7:00pm to 10:00pm**

Join the Krewe of Pinckneyville for an adult dinner party and dance the night away in traditional Mardi Gras style. Wear your most festive attire and bring your own masquerade mask. Compete to be crowned the King or Queen of the ball! Dinner and drinks included. Ages 21 and up. Fee: \$40. [Register online](#). Pinckneyville Park, 4758 South Old Peachtree Road, Norcross.

### Chickens 101

**Wednesday, February 15, 2023 6:00pm to 7:00pm**

Free virtual class! Backyard chicken flocks for meat or egg production is a growing trend among rural, suburban, and even urban dwellers. Learn proper coop set up, breed selection, care of chickens, urban myths and legends, and even learn a few things that experienced chicken owners wish they had known before owning birds. Dr. Casey Ritz, from the Department of Poultry Science at the University of Georgia, shares his knowledge including a Q&A session after the program. Register by February 14 by emailing Laura Tierney at [Laura.Tierney@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:Laura.Tierney@GwinnettCounty.com).

### Stuff-a-Bus Donation Drive

**Monday, February 20 to Friday, February 24**

Help Ride Gwinnett provide necessities to Gwinnett communities in need during this year's Stuff-A-Bus donation drive. We are aiming to fill an entire bus with canned foods and toiletries. Donations received will be delivered to local cooperative ministries. See [a list of items being collected](#), and drop your donation off in the box on your bus or at the Ride Gwinnett Customer Service Office, located at 3525 Mall Boulevard, Suite 5C in Duluth.

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