

# NEWS & EVENTS

in District 2 with Commissioner Ben Ku

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December 2019



Hello!

Can you believe 2020 is almost here? In just a few short weeks, we'll enter a new decade. It's been a long but quick first year for me but I'm excited to continue to be a voice for the entire county and help usher in a new era of our vibrantly connected community.

I will be working hard over the next few weeks to enable the Transit Review Committee to recommend the best transit plan to improve mobility for all of Gwinnett County. I hope all of you will be relaxing and enjoying time with your families. I want to wish you and your family a very happy holiday season and a wonderful New Year.

## Happening Around Gwinnett



### Share your feedback on the proposed 2020 budget through December 31

Chairman Nash presented a proposed \$1.83 billion budget for fiscal year 2020 to the public and the Board of Commissioners during a briefing on November 19. The budget will be adopted at our January 7, 2020, meeting.

The budget includes a new police Situational Awareness and Crime Response Center; an alternate 911 center; two new medic units; three alternate response vehicles; improvements at Harbins Road and State Road 316; library relocations in Snellville, Norcross, and Duluth; and a Gwinnett Entrepreneur Center.

The proposed budget is available online [here](#). There were many great projects that were proposed, so the Chairman's budget review committee had a tough time prioritizing all the items, but I believe it was a fair process to prioritize all the items and simply select as many of the best ones as budget allowed for. If your project didn't make the cut, I would suggest speaking up at our millage rate hearing which determines the amount of funds available for projects. If you have thoughts on projects that shouldn't be included or where you think the county can improve efficiency (we do a good job but there's always room for improvement), let us know what you think! You can submit your feedback through an online [comment form](#) through Tuesday, December 31. Of course I'm constantly trying to improve efficiency and reduce waste by making the government more transparent, easy to interact with, and leveraging new technology.

My vision for the county is to be the most satisfying government experience. What are your thoughts?

### New police cars roll out across the county

Our new police car branding is rolling out soon. Many of you have probably noticed the colorful kaleidoscope logo on our current police cars. Going forward, the colorful logo will be replaced with a special blue police version to better distinguish police cars from other County vehicles.



I'm so proud of our Communications Division, which has been



working hard to get everything they touch beautiful, and I think they've knocked it out of the park with the new car designs. Here is a shot of a car with the new design in front of the new Bay Creek Precinct.

I also want to give a quick shout out and congratulations to our new officers from the 104<sup>th</sup> Police Academy, who graduated November 21. You can watch the ceremony [here](#). I'm grateful to have them here in Gwinnett serving our residents.

### Bay Creek Police Precinct opens in southeast Gwinnett

Speaking of Bay Creek, the precinct is now officially open and serving residents in southeast Gwinnett. Located at 185 Ozora Road in unincorporated Loganville, the precinct will have about 65 officers when fully staffed. It will also offer services like access to police reports and a community meeting room where officers can interact with and provide education to the residents they serve. An alternate 911 center onsite will provide reliable communication with officers and other agencies during critical incidents, including weather-related events, when communications might otherwise be compromised.



### County offices close, trash and recycling pickup delayed for Christmas and New Year's Day

Our Gwinnett County government offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of residents, will be closed December 24 and 25 for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and January 1 for New Year's Day. A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center on both holidays.

Christmas Day and New Year's Day are trash and recycling holidays in unincorporated Gwinnett County this year. Collections will be made the day following these holidays, and subsequent collection during the holiday week will take place on the day after the normal collection day. If you live in a city, be sure to check with them to see if your pickup will be delayed.

### County leaders gather at annual pre-session meeting

Earlier this month, I got the opportunity to meet with the legislators who serve Gwinnett at the annual pre-session meeting as they prepare for the 2020 General Assembly. Chairman Nash and leaders from county organizations like the Gwinnett County Board of Education, Georgia Gwinnett College, Gwinnett Technical College, View Point Health, and the Gwinnett County Health Department presented updates on their organizations. We appreciate everyone's time listening to our thoughts and ideas about legislative issues that affect our county.



### U.S. Census Bureau gearing up for 2020 count

Census Day is just a few short months away on April 1, 2020. The U.S. Census Bureau will start the process of counting every person living in the United States in January with remote locations in Alaska. By April 1, every home will have received an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. You can respond online, by phone, or by mail. Census takers will then begin visiting campuses, senior centers, and other locations. In May, census takers will visit homes that haven't

responded, and in December 2020, the bureau will issue a report to Congress and the president. To learn more about the census, you can visit [2020Census.gov](https://www.census.gov).

## What's New in District 2

### Transit review committee meetings extended through January

The Gwinnett Transit Review will continue its thoughtful and thorough review of Gwinnett's transit needs and the options to address those needs into January. The committee will consider the previous [Connect Gwinnett: Transit Plan](#), analyze transit needs, various types of transit, and potential economic benefits and impacts. To allow for input from the wider Gwinnett Community, the Transit Review Committee has been holding regular meetings to discuss the County's future in transit; these meetings are open to the public. Keep an eye on [this page](#)



for January meeting announcements.

The committee will submit a written report and recommendations to the Board of Commissioners. Learn more about the Transit Review Committee at [GCTransitPlan.com](http://GCTransitPlan.com). As I said above, I will be doing my best to make sure these recommendations allow us to have a world-recognized transit system that we can really benefit from in months, not decades.



### Be safe while shopping this holiday season

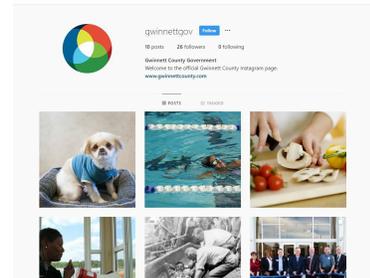
After you've celebrated Thanksgiving with your family, please remember to be safe while shopping this holiday season. You may notice more police officers on patrol at major shopping areas throughout Gwinnett during the holidays. In addition, officers from our Crime Prevention Unit will conduct vehicle safety checks during the holidays to encourage shoppers to do their part to prevent property theft.

As you are out shopping for gifts and traveling during the holidays, officers want to remind you to be safe with these helpful tips:

- Shop in daylight hours when possible; if you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member.
- Stay alert to your surroundings; report any suspicious or loitering people to the authorities.
- Store packages in your trunk and park your vehicle in a well-lit area. Never leave valuables, including electronics and their chargers, in plain view.
- When offered, let retail employees assist you with taking your merchandise to your vehicle.
- Don't carry large amounts of cash; use secure forms of payment such as a credit or debit card when purchasing items.
- Be extra careful if you carry a wallet or purse. They are the prime targets of criminals in crowded shopping areas, transportation terminals, bus stops, on buses and other rapid transit.
- Have merchandise delivered to a secured location when possible.
- Always lock your car doors, even while you're in your car.

### You can now follow Gwinnett County on Instagram!

Our County's social media presence keeps expanding! You can follow us @GwinnettGov on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and now, [Instagram](#). Enjoy great photos and videos of what's happening around your county.



### Recycle your tree and provide mulch for County parks!

If you're celebrating the holiday season with a Christmas tree, you can recycle your undecorated tree from December 26 to January 20 at one of [many locations around Gwinnett](#) as part of Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful's Bring One for the Chipper event! Recycling your Christmas tree is easy and saves precious landfill space. The trees will be chipped into mulch at Bethesda Park on January 26, and the mulch

will be used around our County parks. It's a win-win! Click [here](#) to learn more, including how you can volunteer at the chipping event.

### Upcoming office hours and community meetings

I'm always excited to hear residents' new and interesting ideas for how we can serve Gwinnett. I'll be hosting the **Gateway85 HOA Presidents Meeting Thursday, December 19** at 6:00pm at Lucky Shoals Park. The park is located at 4651 Britt Road in Norcross. Everyone in the Gateway85 CID area is welcome.

Then, meet me during my upcoming office hours to share your ideas about Gwinnett's future.

- **January 7** from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in the newly renovated GJAC cafeteria, 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville
- **January 8** from 8:30pm to 9:30pm at Willy's, 3384 Holcomb Bridge Road in Peachtree Corners
- **February 4** at 6:00pm at Starbucks, 5485 Jimmy Carter Boulevard in Norcross

I hope to see you there!

Gwinnett County Government hosts many events, classes, and workshops for its residents. See these great events and more at [GwinnettCountyEvents.com](http://GwinnettCountyEvents.com).

### **Intro to 3D Printing**

December 16, 6:00pm to 7:00pm. Free! Did you know that many of our libraries have 3D printers available for the community to use FOR FREE? (They're not even charging for materials though I'm sure that won't last long). Learn how you can use these printers for your projects. All ages, fun for the whole family! Visit [GwinnettPL.org](http://GwinnettPL.org) to learn more. Five Forks Branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library, 2780 Five Forks Trickum Road, Lawrenceville.

### **Swim with Santa**

December 21, 11:00am to 2:00pm. Santa is coming to town! Before his holiday rush, join him in a fun holiday swim! You can even have your picture taken with Santa in the pool. Enjoy holiday crafts and games, make a wish list for Santa, and have some light refreshments. \$12/Gwinnett resident (includes one free adult admission). All ages. All pool rules apply. Children 7 to 10 must be accompanied by an adult 18 or over and the adult must be in the water with children 6 and under. [Preregister here](#). A sensory-sensitive version of this event will be held starting at 9:00am. Bethesda Park Aquatic Center, 225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville.

### **Parents' Day Out: Shop 'til You Drop**

December 21 from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Drop off the kids and get your last minute shopping complete, or just enjoy a day out while your children play and dance their way through a morning with us. Participants will enjoy a dance session, game show (with prizes), crafts, movie, lunch, and snacks. Ages 5 – 12; \$31 per person. [Preregister online](#) or call 678.277.0920. Pinckneyville Park Community Recreation Center, 4650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Berkeley Lake.

### **STEM Academy: Endangered Animals**

January 3 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. School's out, but that doesn't mean you can't learn! Visit the Lilburn Branch to learn about animal classification, endangered species, and environmental consciousness. For ages 5 to 12. Visit [GwinnettPL.org](http://GwinnettPL.org) to learn more. Lilburn Branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library, 4817 Church Street, Lilburn.

### **Kid 'n' Me Yoga**

January 15, 10:00am to 11:00am. Free! Join a certified instructor for a 30 – 45-minute class involving movement, music, and fun! Children, required to be accompanied by a participating adult, will learn yoga poses and meditation in an engaging and entertaining way. No prerequisites; please bring a mat, towel, and water bottle. [Preregister here](#). Call 770.822.8825 for more information. OneStop Norcross, 5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross.

### **MLK Day of Service**

January 20, 9:00am to noon. Free! Begin 2020 by giving back to your community. Join Parks and Recreation to help empower and strengthen local communities on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Families, service organization, and scout groups are welcome. Please wear pants and closed-toe shoes to participate, and bring gloves if you have them. Water and snacks will be provided. Call 678.277.0905 for more information. [Preregister here](#). Cemetery Field, 211 Cemetery Street, Norcross.

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Gwinnett County

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