

NEWS & EVENTS

in District 2 with Commissioner Ben Ku

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January 2020



Hello!

It's a new year, and I hope you're off to a great start on accomplishing your resolutions! 2020 is sure to be an exciting year, and I look forward to continuing to work toward my vision for making interactions with the County the most satisfying government experience for all.

I also want to mention that I'm taking applications for my Water and Sewerage Authority appointment. If you're interested in serving on this board, please apply at gcga.us/d2application by **February 19**.

Happening Around Gwinnett



Board approves 2020 budget

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners approved Chairman Nash's proposed \$1.84 billion budget for fiscal year 2020 at our January 7, 2020, meeting. The budget was developed based on six priorities set by our board in March 2019 during our annual session. In addition, the budget added six code enforcement officers to the Planning and Development department to create a Commercial Zone Enforcement Unit, \$150,000 to address food insecurity, \$250,000 for a library literacy program, and \$250,000 to the transit fund for matching grant funds.

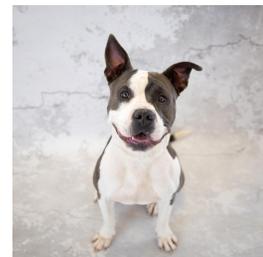
There were many great projects that were proposed, so the Chairman's budget review committee had a tough time prioritizing all the items, but I believe it was a fair process to prioritize all the items and simply select as many of the best ones as budget allowed for. If your project didn't make the cut, I would suggest speaking up at our millage rate hearing which determines the amount of funds available for projects.

Animal shelter offers new hours, free Fridays in January

Shelter and office hours at Gwinnett Animal Welfare have changed for 2020. The new schedule allows us to better care for the pets in the shelter while serving the residents of Gwinnett.

New hours of operation:

- **Adoptions:** Monday through Thursday from noon to 6:00pm; Friday and Saturday from 11:00am to 4:00pm. The shelter is closed on Sunday.
- **Administration:** Monday through Thursday from 9:30am to 6:00pm; Friday and Saturday from 9:30am to 4:00pm. The office is closed on Sunday.
- **Road Operations:** Daily from 8:00am to 10:00pm.
- **Animal Receiving:** By appointment only; please call 770.339.3200 for appointment.



To celebrate the new hours and the start of a new year, you can adopt any pet for free on Fridays this January! Visit GwinnettAnimalWelfare.com to see all the available pets you could bring home.

Transit Review Committee meetings continue



The Gwinnett Transit Review Committee is in the process of analyzing Gwinnett's needs and recommending ways to address those needs. The committee, made up of 13 residents representing different walks of life, is weighing different transit scenarios as they try to balance cost, coverage, and service with combinations of heavy rail, fixed guideway, buses, and vans. When they're finished, the Transit Review Committee will make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners. The next TRC meeting is set for January 23 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm in

Conference Room C at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center. Another meeting could be scheduled for January 27 if needed. Other information, such as meeting notices, agendas, and minutes, is available at GCTransitPlan.com.

Green thumb? Take your pick of plants during UGA Extension Gwinnett's plant sale

The UGA Extension Gwinnett office is offering blueberries, blackberries, raspberries, figs, apples, pomegranate, muscadines, and landscape plants in its annual sale. Order your plants by March 6 in person or by mail at the Extension Office in Lawrenceville. Pick up your prepaid order on March 19 at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds in Lawrenceville. No orders are shipped. For order forms and plant sale information, visit GwinnettExtension.com, or call 678.377.4010 to request a form.



Get ready for the 2020 Census this spring

By April 1, 2020, Census Day, every home will have received an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. Every Georgian who participated in the 2010 census brought \$1,639.10 to our state, so it's critical that all Gwinnett residents participate!

Parents should be sure their children are counted, and college students should be counted according to their residence as of April 1. The census form will consist of 10 simple questions, and can be completed online, by phone, by mail, or in person. By law, census data is confidential and can only be used for data purposes. Learn more about census security [here](#).

What's New in District 2

Serve your community this Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Begin 2020 with service by helping to empower and strengthen your community. The annual MLK Day of Service will be Monday, January 20. From 9:00am to noon that day, you can help beautify a local park at Cemetery Field in my district and Peachtree Ridge Park in District 1. Families, service organizations, and scout groups are welcome. Water and snacks will be provided. You can visit VolunteerGwinnett.net to learn more about these volunteer opportunities and sign up to help.



Construction begins on new Norcross library branch

A new building for the Norcross branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library and a parking deck will soon be under construction on a 1.6-acre site located at Buford Highway (U.S. 23) and Britt Avenue near Lillian Webb Park.

The 22,000-square-foot library will be about twice the size of the existing library branch located at 6025 Buford Highway. The new facility will feature areas for children, teens and adults, a multi-purpose meeting room, maker spaces, and study rooms. The project will also include a pedestrian plaza, parking structure for 134 cars, and a drop-off area from Britt Avenue. Planning began in 2017 when the city and county governments signed an intergovernmental agreement to share costs. The project is funded from various SPLOST programs and the city of Norcross. Wonderful things happen when local governments work together and voters support SPLOST for quality-of-life amenities like this branch library replacement!

Give back to your community by becoming a poll official

Gwinnett County is hiring poll officials to staff 156 polling locations plus eight advance voting locations for the 2020 election season. The Voter Registration and Elections Division is looking for citizens

of all backgrounds, including bilingual poll officials.

Workers can gain valuable work experience and get paid! Currently, positions pay up to a \$120 stipend. Learn more and apply at GwinnettCountyJobs.com.



Recycle your tree and provide mulch for County parks!

Drop off your live Christmas tree at one of many locations around Gwinnett through January 20 as part of the annual Bring One for the Chipper event. Recycling your Christmas tree is easy and saves precious landfill space.

Gwinnett County fire stations will accept trees 24/7, and other locations will accept them during regular business hours. On January 25, the trees will be chipped into mulch for use at County parks. Click [here](#) to learn more, including how you can volunteer at the chipping event.

Upcoming office hours

Do you have something you want to discuss with me about Gwinnett County, present or future? Meet me during my upcoming office hours to share your ideas! On **February 4 at 6:00pm**, I'll be at the Starbucks located at 5485 Jimmy Carter Boulevard in Norcross. I hope to see you there!

Special Events and Happenings

Gwinnett County Government hosts many events, classes, and workshops for its residents. See these great events and more at GwinnettCountyEvents.com.

Living Green Workshop

January 16, 10:30am to 11:30am. Free! Learn tips for home recycling from guest speaker and founder of Gwinnett Recycles, Laura Hernandez. Visit GwinnettPL.org to learn more. Norcross Branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library, 6025 Buford Highway, Norcross.

The Big Freeze

January 24, 6:30pm to 8:00pm. It's all about the ice as we create crafts, play games, and even make ice cream! Discover unique ways you can play and create using frozen h2o. Fun for the whole family. Ages 3 and up. Admission is \$4 per resident or \$7 for non-residents. Call 678.277.0920 for more information. [Preregister here](#). Pinckneyville Park Community Recreation Center, 4650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Berkeley Lake.

Space Rock Sherlock

January 25 from 2:00pm to 3:00pm. Free! Kids become detectives as they use scientific instruments and challenges to find genuine space rocks among a collection of rocks. Each child gets to take home a NASA button! Visit GwinnettPL.org to learn more. Lilburn Branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library, 4817 Church Street, Lilburn.

Unsung Heroes of Black History

February 3 from 5:00pm to 6:00pm. Learn about some of the important figures in black history that you didn't learn about in school. Visit GwinnettPL.org to learn more. Five Forks Branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library, 2780 Five Forks Trickum Road, Lawrenceville.

Family Trivia Time

February 8, 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Come one, come all! Bring just yourself or your family and friends and form teams (up to six members per team) to compete against others. Age-friendly questions will encourage equal participation. Light refreshments included. Admission is \$3 per person. [Register today](#). OneStop Norcross, 5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross.

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Gwinnett County

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