

NEWS & EVENTS

in District 2 with Commissioner Ben Ku

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August 2020



Hello!

Fall will be here before we know it, and though everything is a little different this year, there are still things to celebrate about the changing season. Remember to take time to reach out to your loved ones and catch up with old friends.

I want to start this month's newsletter by taking a moment to remember and celebrate the life of Recorder's Court Judge Ramón Alvarado, who passed away Monday, July 20. Judge Alvarado became the first Hispanic judge and full-time judge of Korean descent in Gwinnett County in January 2019. Though no service is planned at this time, Judge Alvarado's hope was to celebrate his life through an event that left everyone in awe of the food selection. When it is safe to do so, his loved ones will have a feast in his honor.

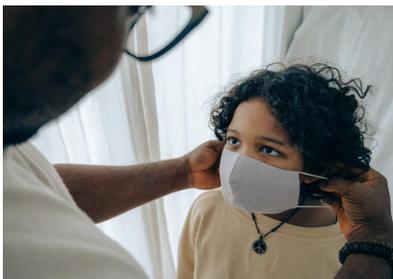
In lieu of flowers, his family requests that donations be made in his honor to the charity of your choice. Ideas include nonprofit organizations focused on civil rights, equality, equal justice, and animal rights. He also passionately supported the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation in honor of his wife's diagnosis, as well as Share Love, That's All, an organization that helped him tremendously following his leukemia diagnosis.

Please keep Judge Alvarado's family, friends, and coworkers in your thoughts and prayers.

Finally, please be on the lookout for an application to be my Gwinnett Hospital Authority appointee that will be up soon at gcca.us/d2application.



Happening Around Gwinnett



#KeepGwinnettSafe by following basic safety precautions

COVID-19 is still affecting our daily lives, but we can all do our part to slow the spread. Please remember to 1) Wear a mask when you are out in public; 2) Wash your hands regularly and thoroughly with soap and water, or use hand sanitizer; 3) Stay 6 feet away from people outside your household; and 4) Abide by the Governor's executive orders and guidance from public health professionals.

As residents and businesses do their part to protect each other and our community, Gwinnett County Government is monitoring developments in the pandemic and how it affects our residents, employees, and our delivery of important County services. Most County facilities remain open, and many facilities that experienced temporary closures have reopened with guidelines in place to protect staff and patrons. Learn about the response from specific departments [here](#).

Learn more about COVID-19 and the latest recommendations from the CDC at [Coronavirus.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus). If you need a test, you can visit [GNRHealth.com](https://www.gnrhealth.com), where you can sign up online for an appointment to get tested. And please do visit [CountCOVID.org](https://www.CountCOVID.org) daily to track your symptoms!

Check your voter registration before the November election

The deadline to register for the November 3 General Election and Special Election is Monday, October 5. If you're planning to vote in November, now is a good time to check your registration status at the [Secretary of State's My Voter Page](#).



If you're not registered, you can register to vote online at mvp.sos.ga.gov if you have a Georgia-issued personal identification card or a Georgia-issued driver's license. For more information about voting in Gwinnett County, visit the [Register to Vote webpage](#).

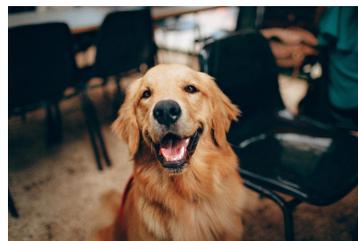
Board considering millage rate rollback

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners will adopt the 2020 millage rate Tuesday, August 18 at 2:00pm in the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center Auditorium, located at 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville. Commissioners are considering a rate of 6.95 mills for the County's General Fund. This rollback rate means that the General Fund portion of the tax bill will not increase. Required notices for the millage rate adoption will be published in the county's legal organ Sunday, August 9.

Commissioners also will consider millage rates for Police, Fire and Emergency Services, Development and Code Enforcement, and Recreation funds. Learn more about the proposed millage rates [here](#).

Clear the Shelter and give pets a home!

For the third year, Gwinnett Animal Welfare and Enforcement will join shelters and rescues across the nation to find homes for shelter pets as part of the Clear the Shelters adoption drive.



Before you head to the shelter, check out all of our available pets at GwinnettAnimalWelfare.com. Completing the [online adoption/foster application](#) will help speed the process when you arrive for your meet & greet with potential new pets. Remember to follow the [Gwinnett Animal Shelter on Facebook](#) to see our newest residents and learn about adoption specials.



Census self-response deadline approaching

Fellow Gwinnettians, let's not miss out on our opportunity for a complete count in the 2020 Census! The Census Bureau recently released an updated timeline announcing that self-responses will end after September 30. Remember, census data determines our representation in government, helps allocate federal funding, and leads future planning for community resources like schools, hospitals, and roads. Currently, just over two-thirds of Gwinnett's households have completed the questionnaire. Are you part of that final third? Be sure to visit My2020Census.gov to fill out the survey! It's simple and takes less than 10 minutes, and you can rest assured that your data will be kept safe and private. Visit 2020Census.gov to learn more about why you should and how to participate.

What's New in District 2



Britt Road Sidewalk
Dedication



Gwinnett celebrates multiple occasions with virtual events

The pandemic has forced us to get creative with hosting special events. My fellow commissioners and I welcomed 22 new recruits and celebrated 20 veterans who were being promoted during a partially virtual [Firefighter Promotion and Recruit Class Graduation](#) earlier this month.

We also held virtual groundbreaking ceremonies for two new libraries that are being relocated in Norcross and Duluth. Stay tuned for the premiere of the Norcross groundbreaking ceremony, **6:00pm on Monday, August 17**, and the Duluth groundbreaking ceremony, **6:00pm on Friday, August 21** on the [County's](#)

[Facebook page.](#)

And last but not least, Davida Baker has been an advocate for her community in District 2 for a long time, so when she advocated for a sidewalk on Britt Road, it was only right to dedicate the sidewalk to her. Ms. Baker encourages all residents to use the Citizen Self-Service page, like she did. I agree, Ms. Baker! If there is something the County can improve in your neighborhood, let us know at gcca.us/selfservice. Check out the video above of the sidewalk dedication to hear about the project from Davida.

Library offers drive-thru food pantry

The Gwinnett County Public Library is partnering with the Atlanta Community Food Bank to host a drive-thru food pantry at the Norcross branch library **Tuesday, August 18** from 11:00am while supplies last. Each family will receive one package of food containing up to 20 pounds of produce and shelf-stable items. To keep everyone safe, volunteers will bring food packages out to cars. The Norcross Branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library is located at 6025 Buford Highway in Norcross. Another drive-thru food pantry event will be held **Tuesday, August 25** starting at 11:00am at the Dacula Branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library, located at 265 Dacula Road in Dacula.

Elections office mails confirmation notices to some voters

Some voters may receive a confirmation notice including a form from Gwinnett County Voter Registrations and Elections. If you receive this notice, please complete and submit the form within 30 days so your voter registration will be updated and you will remain in an Active Status. A postage paid envelope is included in the mailer.

If you choose not to complete and return the form, your registration will **NOT** be canceled. You will still be eligible to vote even if you are moved to an Inactive Status. Voters most likely received this confirmation because a piece of official election mail was returned undeliverable to the Elections Office. If you have any questions, please contact Gwinnett County Voter Registrations and Elections at 678.226.7210 or email voterregistration@gwinnettcountry.com.



Harvest Gwinnett invites gardeners to apply for plots at new community gardens

Harvest Gwinnett is inviting gardeners of all skill levels to reserve a plot and be part of Live Healthy Gwinnett's two newest community gardens. Applications are now being accepted for 4-foot by 8-foot garden plots at Lenora Park in Snellville and Graves Park in Norcross. These raised beds are \$35 each and are available for the 2020 fall and winter growing season.

The Lenora Park Community Garden is located at 4515 Lenora Church Road in Snellville, and the Graves Park Community Garden is located at 1540 Graves Road in Norcross. For more information and guidelines, visit LiveHealthyGwinnett.com or contact HarvestGwinnett@GwinnettCounty.com.

Special Events and Happenings

Events and activities are suspended in compliance with recommendations from the CDC and Governor Kemp's executive orders.

Visit GwinnettCounty.com or follow the County's social media channels to learn about future events.

Ben Ku, District 2 Commissioner
Gwinnett County

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