

# NEWS & EVENTS

in District 2 with Commissioner Ben Ku

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October 2021



Hello!

With fall upon us, the County continues to make progress on many important initiatives. I'm proud of the work we've done to support our community through the COVID-19 pandemic, and I look forward to future innovations that serve our residents and businesses.

And remember, if you'd like to chat with me on any topic, please reach out to my office at [Ben.Ku@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:Ben.Ku@GwinnettCounty.com) to schedule a call or virtual meeting.

## Happening Around Gwinnett

### County forms Communications Department

The Board of Commissioners approved a budget amendment to expand existing communications resources and create a new Communications Department (something I've been pushing for since getting elected). The decision supports the Board's strategic objective to increase public access to information about County activities, events, projects, policies, and programs. Changes will involve hiring additional employees in the operational areas of public relations and marketing, social media, graphic design, website administration, and video production. Two of the new positions will provide a sharp focus on data analytics and project management to enhance the effectiveness and reach of County messages.



Communication and transparency is so important. I'm glad that our Communications Department is finally in line with our Finance and IT support departments to continue to improve accessibility. I'm proud that I'm able to deliver on my campaign promise to improve communications in the county.



### Get rid of hard-to-recycle items at America Recycles Day

Come and recycle your electronics, paint, clothing, sneakers, tires, and paper on Saturday, November 6 from 9:00am to noon at Coolray Field in Lawrenceville. Items should be placed in disposable containers in the trunk or back seat of your vehicle to be removed by volunteers. Paper shredding is limited to five copier boxes. Oil and latex paint will be limited to 10 gallons total per vehicle. Recycling electronics is free except for TVs, monitors, and printers. There is a

\$35 cash fee per projection or console TV, a \$15 cash fee per flat screen TV or computer monitor, and a \$5 cash fee per printer.

This event is sponsored by Solid Waste Management and Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful. For more information, visit [GCSolidWaste.com](http://GCSolidWaste.com) or call 770.822.7141.

### Honor those who served this Veterans Day

Join us at the Gwinnett Fallen Heroes Memorial on Thursday, November 11 at 11:00am to honor our nation's veterans. This year's ceremony will be held in-person and streamed live on Facebook @GwinnettGov. Our keynote speaker will be Army Maj.



### Reminder: Share your thoughts on the future of Gwinnett Place Mall

Gwinnett County purchased the Gwinnett Place Mall site to lead the redevelopment process and transform it into a unique regional destination. The County's vision for the property is one of equitable redevelopment, which ensures that the future of Gwinnett Place Mall will be one where all residents share in its growth and feel welcome and included.

Residents are invited to share their feedback on the future of the mall site. Visit [ReclaimGwinnettPlaceMall.com](https://ReclaimGwinnettPlaceMall.com) to learn about the project, see the latest updates, and share your vision for Gwinnett Place Mall.

### Reminder: Share your thoughts on the future of Gwinnett Place Mall

Gwinnett is participating in the Hefty® EnergyBag® program to give residents a chance to dispose of hard-to-recycle plastics in a sustainable way. This new program provides a way to recycle plastics #4 through #7, which includes items like plastic packaging and wraps, plastic dinnerware, foam products, and plastic bags. With the new program, Gwinnett residents are invited to collect these items in Hefty® EnergyBag® orange bags.



Gwinnett residents can drop off their full Hefty® EnergyBag® orange bags at WestRock, located at 384 Maltbie Street in Lawrenceville. Drop-off hours are Monday through Saturday from 7:00am to 2:00pm. Only Hefty® EnergyBag® orange bags will be accepted at this site. Learn more about the program [here](#).



### Gwinnett expands non-discrimination policy for County employees

It's equity in motion. The board voted to expand the County's nondiscrimination policy. The changes to the policy added protections for Gwinnett County Government employees' ancestry, family status, immigration status and homeless status. The amendment also draws inspiration from the Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair Act. The CROWN Act ensures that race-based hairstyles, textures and protective styles such as braids,

locs, twists and knots are protected in the workplace. Read more about the expanded policy [here](#).

## What's New in District 2

### County launches glass recycling pilot program

Gwinnett County has teamed up with family-owned Waste Pro USA, Inc., to pilot a drop-off glass recycling program at OneStop Norcross. Instead of glass being tossed in trash bins, manufacturers can reuse it to make items like kitchen tiles and insulation. Residents can bring their clean, empty glass containers to 5030 Georgia Belle Court in Norcross. The clearly marked drop-off container is located in the center's parking lot and accessible 24/7. Acceptable glass items are clear and colored food and beverage bottles and jars.



A program like this is a great way to bring back glass recycling to the community. When I voiced my desire for this initiative, I knew it would be a learning process, one that we can grow from and eventually expand.

### Share your thoughts on the budget with me

The departments have presented their budget requests for 2022, and Chairwoman Hendrickson is in the

process of developing the budget proposal for next year. I encourage you to [watch the budget presentations](#) and stay tuned for the budget proposal next month. I'll be sharing more information in my next newsletter, and you can always reach out to me at [Ben.Ku@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:Ben.Ku@GwinnettCounty.com) to share your thoughts with me before I cast my vote on the budget in January. I want to hear from you!

### Vote in your city's election

While there are no scheduled Federal, State, or County Elections in 2021, some cities and municipalities are hosting elections on November 2, including these cities in District 2:

- [Lilburn](#)
- [Norcross](#)
- [Peachtree Corners](#)

Residents who live within the city limits of one of these municipalities may vote in their elections. Residents of unincorporated Gwinnett are not eligible to vote in city elections.



### New Norcross branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library now open

The Gwinnett County Public Library's new Norcross branch is now open! Located at 5735 Buford Highway in downtown Norcross, the branch is within walking distance to a variety of retail shops, restaurants, civic and community institutions, and basic services. At about 22,000 square feet, the new building is twice the size of the former library. It features larger space for computer services, creative projects, and interactive programming and services. It has a large meeting room, three

learning labs, multiple study rooms, and other features. The city of Norcross provided land for the project along with offsite stormwater detention and streetscaping. The County built the library and parking deck. SPLOST revenues paid for the County's portion of the project. I'm very grateful to our friends and partners at the city of Norcross and the Gwinnett Public Library system for their creative thinking, innovation, and support for this new facility.

### Project RESET 2.0 recognized by U.S. Treasury

In April, Gwinnett County was tasked with spending a little more than \$55 million from the federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program to help those directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Fast forward to today, the U.S. Treasury has named the Gwinnett a top performer – a title that has gone all the way to the White House.



The County is still accepting applications for its emergency rental and utility assistance program, Project RESET 2.0. Tenants and landlords interested in participating in this program can access the Project RESET 2.0 application portal and program resources at [CGA.us/RentalAssistance](https://CGA.us/RentalAssistance). Interested parties can also contact the Project RESET 2.0 Call Center at 770.822.7501.

## Special Events and Happenings

### Events and activities are ramping back up across Gwinnett.

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

#### Holiday Market

**Saturday, November 6 from 10:00am to 3:00pm**

Shop for holiday gifts early this year! Browse unique merchandise from more than 30 local crafters, vendors, and artists. Make shopping a family fun festive tradition and bring the kids, we'll have a kids room with make-and-take crafts, a food truck, and more. Admission is free for shoppers! Pinckneyville Park, 4758 South Old Peachtree Road, Norcross.

#### Coffee Talk: Active Adults

**Thursday, November 11 from 9:30am to 11:00am**

Come join the fun, make some friends, and learn something new during this free event series. Seniors ages 50 and up are welcome to drop in on the second Thursday of each month from 9:30am to 11:00am. Bring a friend and your own snack! Lilburn Activity Building, 788 Hillcrest Road, Lilburn.

#### Pottery People: Cherokee

**Saturday, November 13 from 11:00am to 1:00pm**

Celebrate Native American Heritage month! Learn about Gwinnett's Native American past, the pottery of the Cherokee people, and make your own coil and pinch pottery masterpiece! Tasty treats will be available. Virtual option is available and link will be provided upon registration. Register [here](#).  
Pinckneyville Park, 4758 South Old Peachtree Road, Norcross.

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Gwinnett County

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