

# NEWS & EVENTS

in District 2 with Commissioner Ben Ku

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February 2021



Hello!

With the vaccine rollout underway, we're starting to see a light at the end of the tunnel. Remember, it's absolutely critical that we maintain our protective measures, including wearing masks, staying at least 6 feet apart, avoiding crowds, and washing our hands frequently — even after you receive the vaccine. Together, we can keep each other safe!

Speaking of working together, I'm so excited and appreciative that the new board members are also focused on increasing transparency and accessibility. I'd like to thank all of the voters who voted last year and this year for ensuring that I have the support I need to make progress in Gwinnett!

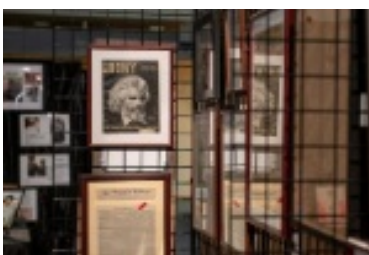
## Happening Around Gwinnett

### Vaccinations underway at mass vaccination site at Gwinnett Place Mall

Gwinnett County Government and the Gwinnett, Newton, and Rockdale County Health Departments worked together to convert the bottom floor of the former Sears building at Gwinnett Place Mall into a mass vaccination center that will accommodate immunizing up to 3,000 people a day as vaccines become available. Vaccine is still limited, and the state is currently in Phase 1A of distribution, which includes health care workers, first responders, long-term care facility workers and residents, and adults 65 and older. Appointments at the Gwinnett Place Mall site are required and can only be scheduled [here](#).



The [state's COVID-19 vaccination page](#) includes information about the COVID-19 distribution phases; a status dashboard where you can see data about the amount of vaccines allocated, shipped, and administered to Georgians; and a list of locations where appointments are available. If you're looking for a [COVID-19 vaccination site near you](#), be sure to check back often as the participating vaccine site locations list will be updated frequently. Additional locations statewide will be added when providers are ready to safely administer the vaccine, and as vaccine supply allows.



### Celebrate Black History Month in Gwinnett

This year, our Black History Month celebration looks a little different than usual, but we can still keep the spirit of this month alive. Please join us as we commemorate African American history and celebrate the path forward. There are events for every age and interests, many of which you can attend from the comfort of your own home so anyone can safely participate in the festivities. Check out the [listing of Black History Month events](#) hosted by the County and our partners

### Apply for the Gwinnett 101 Citizens Academy

Learn how and why Gwinnett County Government does what it does

by attending the Gwinnett 101 Citizens Academy, a 12-week program that gives participants a peek behind the curtain at County operations and policies. Participants meet one evening a week to talk with County leaders and tour County facilities. Apply for the spring session by filling out the [form](#) at [Gwinnett101.com](http://Gwinnett101.com) by March 2. Classes start April 1. By completing the program, you can join the alumni network that includes Commissioner Carden, Commissioner Watkins, and me!



The Gwinnett Youth Commission, an eight-week summer leadership program for high school students, is accepting [applications](#) on the [Gwinnett Youth Commission](#) webpage through April 12. Classes for both programs will be in-person but limited to 15 participants each to allow for social distancing.



### **Kick off your spring cleaning at Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day**

Gwinnett Water Resources and Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful are teaming up to host the fifth annual Household Hazardous Waste collection day Saturday, February 20 from 9:00am to 1:00pm at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds. Residents can drop off up to five containers of household hazardous waste, like paint, aerosols, batteries, and more, for proper disposal or recycling. COVID-19 guidelines will be in place to ensure the safety of residents and staff, which may result in a slightly longer wait during drop off. For a full list

of accepted materials, guidance on container sizes, and more, please visit [GwinnettCB.org](http://GwinnettCB.org).

## **What's New in District 2**

### **Apply for a seat on the Zoning Board of Appeals**

I'm looking for an engaged resident to serve in the District 2 seat on the Zoning Board of Appeals. The role of the ZBA is to consider and decide upon appeals and variances from the strict application of the Unified Development Ordinance. Generally, meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm at the Gwinnett County Justice and Administration Center auditorium. Due to the pandemic, certain meetings may be held virtually.

I'm also seeking applicants for roles on the [Board of Tax Assessors](#), [Family & Children Services Board](#), and [Animal Control Hearing Board](#). If you'd like to apply for any of these roles, use my new [district 2 application form](#) on the County website.

### **Attend a virtual town hall with me and other local leaders**

Over the next few weeks, I'm teaming up with a variety of local elected officials to host virtual town hall events. The events will take place:

- [Tuesday, February 16](#) at 6:30pm with Representative Beth Moore
- [Wednesday, February 17](#) at 6:00pm with Representative Pedro Marin and Senator Sheikh Rahman
- [Thursday, February 25](#) at 6:00pm with Representative Marvin Lim, Senator Michelle Au, and Senator Sheikh Rahman

Follow the County's [Facebook page](#) for details and updates. I hope you'll drop in!



### **Harvest Gwinnett offers community garden plots**

If you're itching to dig in the dirt but have no place to do it, the Harvest Gwinnett community gardens program is accepting applications for its gardens at J.B. Williams Park, Graves Park, and seven other garden locations around the county. Applications for 4-foot-by-8-foot raised beds will be accepted while supply lasts. Other applicants will be added to a waiting list. Each plot costs \$35 for the year. Visit [LiveHealthyGwinnett.com](http://LiveHealthyGwinnett.com) to apply for a location near you or to learn about classes and volunteer opportunities.

### **Help your neighbors fight hunger with the Stuff-a-Bus donation drive**

Gwinnett County Transit and Community Outreach are asking transit users to bring non-perishable goods to Park & Rides around the county as part of the second Stuff-A-Bus Donation Drive to help people who are struggling amid the coronavirus pandemic.

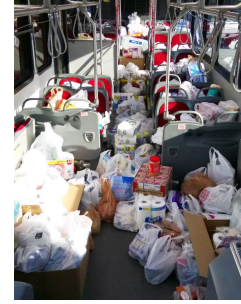
Residents can bring their donations to the following Park & Ride lots:

- February 16 from 5:00am to 9:00am at Sugarloaf Mills Park & Ride, 1905

North Brown Road, Lawrenceville

- February 17 from 6:00am to 8:30am at Buford Park & Ride, I-985 at SR 20, Buford
- February 18 and 19 from 6:00am to 7:30am at Indian Trail Park & Ride, 1560 Indian Trail Lilburn Road, Norcross

The GCT Customer Service Office at 3525 Mall Boulevard, Suite 5C in Duluth also will be accepting donations from 6:00am to 8:00pm February 15 through 19. To see a list of preferred food and toiletry items, click [here](#).



### **Now is the time to apply for a homestead exemption**

The best way to reduce your property tax bill is to apply for a homestead exemption. If you own and occupy a home in Gwinnett as your primary residence as of January 1, you likely qualify. Apply at [GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Apply](http://GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Apply) by April 1, and staff will help determine your eligibility and the best exemption for your situation. You must apply by April 1 for relief this year. If you already have an exemption in place, you do not need to reapply.

## **Special Events and Happenings**

**Most events and activities are suspended due to the County's COVID-19 response.**

Visit [GwinnettCounty.com](http://GwinnettCounty.com) or follow the County's social media channels to learn about future events.

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.

Ben Ku, District 2 Commissioner  
Gwinnett County

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