

NEWS & EVENTS

in District 2 with Commissioner Ben Ku

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January 2022



Hello!

The new year is a time to assess where we are and set goals for our future. What are your goals for 2022? As a County, we will continue to deliver superior services to our vibrantly connected community in the pursuit of our vision — to ensure Gwinnett is the preferred community where everyone thrives!

Remember, if you'd like to chat with me on any topic, you can reach out to my office at Ben.Ku@GwinnettCounty.com to schedule a call or virtual meeting. I want to know if you feel that I have been representing you well or if you think there is something I could be doing to better represent you.

Happening Around Gwinnett



Board approves 2022 budget

The Board of Commissioners approved a \$2.07 billion budget for 2022, up 8.1 percent from last year. The newly approved budget does not require a millage rate increase. The adopted spending plan consists of a \$1.6 billion operating budget and a \$455 million capital improvements budget, which includes funds from the County's voter-approved SPLOST program.

With more growth on the horizon, the County's services and infrastructure must keep up. Two-thirds of the operating budget is dedicated to the areas of public safety and public works. The capital budget will pay for new facilities, roads, and parks as well as maintenance for existing assets and infrastructure. [Learn more and read highlights from the 2022 budget](#)

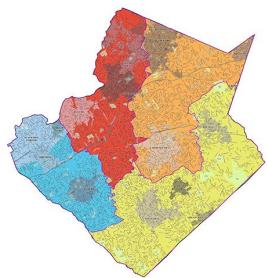
Masks required in County facilities

With the rapid spread of the Omicron variant, Chairwoman Nicole Hendrickson signed a [Local Emergency Order](#) requiring face masks or coverings to be worn in all facilities that are owned or leased by the County. The surge of positive cases has not only affected residents and private businesses — it has also impacted County government. Because we want to be proactive and keep essential services running without interruption to our residents, business owners, and customers, we will follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Georgia Department of Public Health and take measures to limit the spread of COVID-19 for the safety of those who visit our facilities and work in them as well. [Learn more about the order](#), including exceptions, on the County website.



Learn about the redistricting process

Once every 10 years, the Georgia General Assembly modifies the district boundaries for various governing bodies, such as county boards of commissioners, so that each elected official represents roughly the same number of people. Georgia legislators grant local governments the opportunity to propose their own maps for consideration by the General Assembly. In order to obtain public input, my fellow commissioners and I hosted a series of open houses to learn what matters most to residents



when it comes to redistricting. The County took these preferences into account while working with the General Assembly's Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment Office to draft the [proposed commission district map](#). Ultimately, the Georgia General Assembly will make the final decision on a new commission district map for Gwinnett County during the 2022 Legislative Session. [See more detailed maps and learn about the redistricting process.](#)

Republic Services and Waste Management temporarily suspend certain services

Two Gwinnett County solid waste haulers, Republic Services and Waste Management, are temporarily suspending certain collection services due to a surge in COVID-19 infections among their workforces.

After pausing recycling collection completely earlier this month, **Republic Services has resumed limited recycling services based on staff availability.** Republic will notify customers on the evening prior to recycling to inform customers that recycling will be serviced the next day. **Pickup of bulky items and yard waste remains suspended** in order to prioritize trash collection while its workforce is limited. **Waste Management has paused bulky item and yard waste collection** in unincorporated Gwinnett County while its workforce is limited. Waste Management will prioritize trash and recycling services. [Visit our website for the latest information and to learn about free drop-off sites for trash, recycling, and bulky items.](#)



Waste Pro has not had the same issues and should be collecting as normal. If you experience any issues, please reach out to GCSolidWaste@GwinnettCounty.com (and feel free to CC me).



Apply for the next class of Gwinnett 101 Citizens Academy

Connect with your neighbors from across Gwinnett and get a behind-the-scenes look at how the County operates! The Gwinnett 101 Citizens Academy is a 12-week program offered twice each year that aims to develop and nurture informed and engaged residents, students, and business owners in our great county. The next session runs from [April 7 to June 21](#).

Learn more about the program at Gwinnett101.com and [apply for the next cohort](#) by March 1.

What's New in District 2

Recycle your Christmas tree into mulch for County parks

In Gwinnett County, the annual tradition of Christmas tree recycling began in 1984. For years, Gwinnett has led the state in recycling more trees than any other county. As the tree-cycling tradition continues, Gwinnett County homeowners and residents are encouraged to recycle their Christmas trees. Not only are they helping the community by recycling, but they are also helping the environment by the trees being turned into mulch which will be used in Gwinnett County parks.



From now until January 24, you can drop off your Christmas tree at designated Gwinnett County Fire Stations. Trees must be free of lights, tinsel, decorations, and tree stands in order to be recycled. The trees will be chipped Saturday, January 29 from 8:00am to 11:00am at Bethesda Park.



GC Transit hosting coat drive

Help Gwinnett County Transit provide coats to Gwinnett communities in need. New coats for women, men, and children of all sizes will be accepted as donations. Donations received will be delivered to local cooperative ministries. Coat collection will take place at [several sites around the county](#), including the Indian Trail Park and Ride, located at 1560 Indian Trail Lilburn Road in Norcross. Coats will be collected at the Park and Ride January 27 and 28 from 6:00am to 7:30am.

Community navigators help residents in need

Gwinnett County is providing helpers to guide people in need through the sometimes-complicated process of finding and acquiring

resources, services and assistance from nonprofits and other charitable organizations. Called community navigators, the helpers are part of a program called OneStop 4 HELP and can be contacted by email at OneStopHelp@GwinnettCounty.com, by phone at 770.822.8850, and soon in-person at any of Gwinnett County's OneStop facilities in Norcross, Buford, and Centerville. Visit GwinnettOneStop.com to complete an assistance request form. The assistance offered includes employment, food, housing and shelter, income support, legal consultation, mental and behavioral health, substance use, transportation, and utilities.



Citizens Police Academy accepting applications

Gwinnett County residents will soon get an in-depth, behind-the-scenes look at how police officers serve and protect our vibrantly connected community. The Gwinnett County Police Department will accept applications for the next [Citizens Police Academy](#) until Thursday, February 10. The program will run from March 8 through May 5 on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6:30pm to 9:00pm.

[Complete an application](#) and submit it by email to Sergeant Eric Rooks

at William.Rooks@GwinnettCounty.com or by mail to P.O. Box 602 Lawrenceville, GA 30046.

Special Events and Happenings

Visit GwinnettCountyEvents.com or follow the County's social media channels to learn more about upcoming events.

Adventure Days Out

Tuesday, January 25 from 7:30am to 6:30pm

We've got your childcare covered. Drop the kids off for a day spent playing games, experiencing new skills, meeting friends, and having fun. Campers will also spend about 90 minutes swimming. Bring a bathing suit, towel, two healthy snacks, lunch, and a reusable water bottle. \$18 per child. [Register in advance](#). Mountain Park Activity Building, 1062 Rockbridge Road, Stone Mountain.

Clay Creations

Wednesday, January 26 from 10:30am to 12:30pm

Enjoy a morning of relaxation and creation at the Pinckneyville Pottery Studio. Learn the basics of clay hand building and create your own work of art! For ages 50 and up. \$25 per person. Cost includes clay and kiln firing. [Register in advance](#). Pinckneyville Park, 4758 South Old Peachtree Road, Norcross.

Virtual: Landscape Pruning

Wednesday, February 9 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm

Free! Appropriate pruning methods are necessary to keep landscape plants healthy and attractive. The program will cover correct pruning techniques and how to avoid disastrous mistakes. After [registering](#), you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the session.

My Singing Valentine

Saturday, February 12 from 8:00am to 5:00pm

Free! Bring the love! Join teens from the Good Neighbor Teen Club and LAB assistants to brighten days for our senior community. Teens will deliver singing Valentines with a smile and a song. We'll meet in the morning at the Lilburn Activity Building to practice and make gifts to share. Then in the afternoon, we'll visit senior facilities. [Register in advance](#). Lilburn Activity Building, 788 Hillcrest Road, Lilburn.

Ben Ku, District 2 Commissioner
Gwinnett County

Ben.Ku@GwinnettCounty.com