

# NEWS & EVENTS

in District 2 with Commissioner Ben Ku

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July 2022



Hello!

After a busy summer, the back-to-school season is almost upon us. I hope you were able to unwind and enjoy time with family and friends.

Sorry that this newsletter is so late in the month, but it's been a busy month with so much going on! I want to thank my planning commissioners who worked overtime to make sure we had several win-wins for District 2 at our zoning public hearings this month.

Remember, if you'd like to chat with me on any topic, you can reach out to my office at [Ben.Ku@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:Ben.Ku@GwinnettCounty.com) to schedule a call or virtual meeting. I want to make sure my office is doing everything we can to address your concerns.

## Happening Around Gwinnett

### Final public hearing on proposed millage rate scheduled for August 1

The Board of Commissioners is considering keeping the general fund millage rate the same as last year, at 6.95 mills. At this rate, our projections show that there will be a use of fund balance (i.e. we do plan on having to dip in to our rainy day fund). Check out [this video](#) to learn about how your property taxes are calculated and how the millage rate impacts your bill, and [learn more about the County portion of your property taxes](#) on the Gwinnett County website.



We have been accepting public comments from residents during public hearings. The last of the three public hearings will be held **Monday, August 1 at 6:30pm** in the auditorium of the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center located at 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville. The millage rates will be adopted during the Board of Commissioners regularly scheduled meeting on **Tuesday, August 2 at 2:00pm**.



### Commissioners approve SPLOST referendum for November ballot

When Gwinnett voters head to the polls during November's General Election, they will decide on the renewal of the one-cent special purpose local option sales tax, or SPLOST. Commissioners officially voted to place the referendum on the November ballot.

Since 2001, the County and all 16 cities within Gwinnett have agreed on how to share the proceeds. This time around, cities are expected to receive 25 percent of the funds. If given the green light by voters, the new program could raise \$1.35 billion over the next six years, an increase over the \$950 million the current SPLOST was estimated to collect through its end date of March 31, 2023. Learn about how the County uses SPLOST funds at [GwinnettSPLOST.com](http://GwinnettSPLOST.com).

## County Annual Financial Audit showcases the Gwinnett Standard

I chair our Internal Audit Committee, and we recently released our annual financial audit for the County, called the [Annual Comprehensive Financial Report](#). Gwinnett County again received an unmodified, or "clean," result. This has a major impact on maintaining our AAA/Aaa bond rating, the best in the nation! If you're interested in hearing more about this, the Board of Commissioners will be receiving a presentation at our 11:00am briefing on Tuesday, August 2, which will be [streamed for viewing](#).

## Board approves expansion of police mental health teams

Gwinnett County is enhancing its services for residents who may be experiencing a mental health crisis. The Board of Commissioners approved an expansion of the mental health partnership between the Gwinnett Police Department and View Point Health. The expansion means the addition of two licensed clinicians, bringing the number of providers in the behavioral health unit to three. A total of six clinicians will be in place by the end of 2022. More than 160 mental health crisis calls were answered during the pilot program that began in 2021. In March of this year, the unit played a key role in both the release of passengers who were being held hostage on a Greyhound bus and getting the suspect off the bus safely.



## Take a tour around your County courthouse

Want to learn more about your County courthouse and what happens there? Join Gwinnett Community Outreach for a behind-the-scenes tour of the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center! This tour provides residents an opportunity to meet County officials while becoming familiar with the County's administrative and courts building to better understand the superior services Gwinnett County Government delivers to the community.

This tour is open to the public and lunch is provided. [Register for an upcoming tour](#) on the County's website. The Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center is located at 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville.

## What's New in District 2

### Gwinnett and United Way prepare to allocate \$4.25 million in grant funds to local nonprofits

Local nonprofits that serve critical needs in the community will soon receive a boost as Gwinnett County and United Way of Greater Atlanta prepare to allocate \$4.25 million in Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery funds to nonprofit service providers. These funds — provided to Gwinnett County by the U.S. Department of the Treasury through the American Rescue Plan Act — will be used to address needs identified or worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic impact. United Way of Greater Atlanta is offering digital listening surveys, where [nonprofits](#), [residents](#), and [community organizations](#) are invited to share their needs and challenges as Gwinnett County recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic. The feedback from these listening surveys will be used to prioritize needs and prepare for the distribution of funding. Local nonprofits can apply for funding from August 1 to 26 through [United Way's Grant Portal](#).



### Apply to serve the County on a board or authority

Each commissioner has dozens of appointments that they can make to a Gwinnett County board or authority to help advise us about special interest areas. Currently, I'm seeking engaged residents to serve on the newly formed [Transportation Citizens Project Selection Committee](#) representing District 2. Read more about the boards and qualifications to serve on the County website, then apply using the form at [GwinnettCounty.com/ApplyToServe](#).

By the way, we're also seeking a **County Historian** on the Gwinnett Historical Restoration and Preservation Board. Those interested in this position should complete the [County Historian application](#).



### 988 mental health crisis line now available

People seeking mental health services can now call 988 to access counselors and response teams at the 24/7 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Callers will be redirected from the current number, 1.800.273.8255, which will stay operational during and after the 988 expansion. The new number will make it easier for individuals to get access to the help they need by providing an easy-to-remember three-digit number for mental health crises. To learn more about the crisis hotline, visit [988LifeLine.org](#).

Please remember to reach out to your family, especially our students. The Gwinnett Youth Commission brought up multiple issues about bullying and mental health concerns saying there were not enough safe spaces where they felt comfortable talking and sharing. Make sure our youth know that you are a non-judgmental, safe space where they can feel free to share who they are and what they are thinking and feeling.

## Special Events and Happenings

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

### **LABFest II: Electric Boogaloo**

**Saturday, August 13 from 5:00pm to 8:00pm**

Free! Celebrate summer with a community block party with dancing, food, friends, and fun. Lilburn Activity Building, 788 Hillcrest Road, Lilburn.

### **Indoor Field Day**

**Monday, August 22 from 10:00am to noon**

Join us on celebration National Senior Citizens Day by bringing out the kid in you. Enjoy a day of games, fun, and ice-cream sundaes. Free for residents, \$1 for non-residents. Ages 50 and up. Bethesda Park Senior Center, 225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville.

### **Resale Market**

**Saturday, August 27 from 8:00am to 11:00am**

Free admission for shoppers! Clear out your clutter and make some cash at this rain or shine event. Vendors must pre-register; \$21 outside space, \$26 inside space. Gwinnett County reserves the right to disallow items deemed inappropriate. Food or beverage items are not allowed to be sold. [Learn more and register](#). Mountain Park Activity Building, 1063 Rockbridge Road, Stone Mountain.

Ben Ku, District 2 Commissioner  
Gwinnett County

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