

NEWS & EVENTS

in District 2 with Commissioner Ben Ku

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January 2023

Hello!

It's a new year and a chance for a fresh start. I hope you're sticking to your resolutions!

Since my last newsletter, the Board of Commissioners took action on several important items:

- Appointed me to serve as Vice Chair for 2023, which means I will step in when Chairwoman Hendrickson is unavailable
- Reappointed Robert Daniels Jr. to the Recreation Authority and JC Lan to the Water and Sewerage Authority to represent District 2
- Accepted a \$7 million grant from the Georgia Department of Transportation, which will be used to resurface County roads; Gwinnett County will contribute an additional \$2.1 million from the 2017 SPLOST program
- Approved a contract for the Gwinnett Judicial Circuit to have on-demand interpreter services to support language access in the courts
- Added Shady Drive into the Gwinnett County Speed Hump Program using \$20,000 from the 2017 SPLOST program
- Approved a \$514,521 contract for the rehabilitation of the historic Maguire-Livsey House



Keep reading below for some news and announcements to look forward to in 2023.

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. My office is happy to address your concerns.

What's New in District 2



Be wary of fraudulent water testing claims

In recent weeks, residents have reported receiving phone calls from people claiming to be employees from Gwinnett County's water treatment lab, offering to conduct water testing inside their homes. While the Department of Water Resources tests the County's water quality frequently, the County does not send employees to test tap water inside customers' homes.

If anyone claiming to be a Gwinnett County employee asks to take water samples from inside your home, do not let them in. As always, if you feel unsafe or if someone is trying to break into your home, call 911. Residents may call Water Resources' 24-hour dispatch at 678.376.7000 with questions or concerns.

Help out at a warming station

The County has opened five warming stations for residents to receive temporary, overnight relief from long-term exposure to forecasted temperatures 35 degrees and below, and we're seeking part-time staff assistants!

When activated, the warming stations are available from 6:00pm to 7:00am, allowing residents to warm up, eat a meal, and get some rest. Staff assistants will be called on to help with



organizing check-in materials, set up and break down, greeting participants, and other related station tasks. For locations, activation statuses, and more, visit [GwinnettOneStop.com](https://www.gwinnettga.gov/OneStop).



Turn your Christmas tree into mulch for County parks

Do you have a live Christmas tree you need to dispose of now that the holidays are behind us? Drop it off at a designated fire station by January 25 as part of Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful's annual Bring One for the Chipper tree recycling event. Before dropping off your live Christmas tree, remove all lights, tinsel, decorations, and tree stands.

Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful will chip the trees into mulch for use at County parks on Saturday, January 28. Volunteers ages 14 and older are needed from 8:00am to 11:00am on this date. [Find more](#)

[details and register to volunteer.](#)

Test for radon in your home

Radon is an invisible, odorless, and tasteless radioactive gas — and it is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. Learn if radon is present in your home with a test kit from UGA Extension Gwinnett. The affordable and easy-to-use kit should be hung in the lowest lived-in part of your home, such as the basement or first floor, for three to seven days.

Instructions for use and next steps will be shipped with your kit. Learn more about radon and order your test kit at UGARadon.org.

Happening Around Gwinnett



Board approves 2023 budget

In our first major vote of the year, the Board of Commissioners [approved a \\$2.27 billion budget for 2023](#) on Tuesday. It consists of a \$1.78 billion operating budget and a \$488 million capital improvements budget, which includes funds from the County's Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax program.

As part of the budget development process, department directors and elected officials presented business plans for 2023 to five Gwinnett residents recruited by Chairwoman Hendrickson

who reviewed the departmental requests and made recommendations. Thank you to everyone who provided their comments either in-person at our December 5 public hearing or online on the County's website to help inform our final 2023 budget.

Gwinnett County Transit gets a new name and look

Gwinnett County unveiled a new name and a new brand for its transit system last week. Residents will soon see the new look on buses, bus stop shelters, and signs around the community.

Gwinnett's transit system has been operating for more than 20 years with the same look. This new name and brand connect with our County's brand and reflect how our focus on mobility has evolved. Ride Gwinnett has seven local routes, five commuter routes, complimentary paratransit for local routes, three Park and Ride locations, and one transit center. To explore current bus routes and schedule, fare prices, and more, visit RideGwinnett.com.



Leaders break ground on Rowen

In December, the Rowen Foundation hosted a groundbreaking and tree planting ceremony to officially kick off construction on the Rowen knowledge community.

The site will eventually include more than 22 million square feet of lab, office and civic spaces alongside a mix of multi-family residential, cafes, start-up hubs, parks and public trails. At complete build out, Rowen is projected to bring nearly 100,000 jobs to Georgia, contributing up to \$10 billion into the state's economy annually. Stay up-to-date on the latest happenings at Rowen at RowenLife.com.

Join Gwinnett Transportation for Construction Conversations

Join Gwinnett Transportation at the Pinckneyville Park Community Recreation Center on Saturday, January 28 for Construction Conversations, a free open forum about construction projects in Gwinnett. From noon to 4:00pm, residents are invited to learn about the research, design, development, and maintenance of County roads. Staff from the department will also be available to answer questions.



Lunch and lemonade will be provided, but space is limited.

Register at [GwinnettCounty.com/DOTForum](https://www.gwinnettcountry.com/DOTForum). The Pinckneyville Community Recreation Center is located at 4650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard in Berkeley Lake.

Special Events and Happenings

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

Winter Wonderland Karaoke

Saturday, January 21 from 6:30pm to 9:00pm

Bring the whole family out to enjoy a karaoke night! This month's theme is winter wonderland. All ages welcome. Fee: \$6. [Register online](#). Lilburn Activity Building, 788 Hillcrest Road, Lilburn.

Yellow River Post Office Tours

Saturdays, 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Free! Join us on the weekend to travel back in time to the 1800s during a tour of the Yellow River Post Office. Learn about the historic significance of this newly restored site. All ages welcome. [Preregistration](#) is recommended. Tours take about an hour and include walking outdoors. Please dress appropriately for the weather. Yellow River Post Office Site, 3519 Five Forks Trickum Road, Lilburn.

Super Science

Friday, February 10 from 10:00am to 11:00am

Up and atom! Grab your lab coat and become a mad scientist as you have a blast participating in wacky science experiments each month. For children ages 2 to 5. Adult or guardian must accompany children. Fee: \$6 per child. [Register online](#). OneStop Centerville, 3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville.

Safe Sitter

Friday, February 17 from 9:00am to 2:00pm

Free! Designed to prepare students in grades 6 to 8 to be safe when they're home alone, watching younger siblings, or babysitting, the instructor-led class is filled with fun games and role-playing exercises. Students will learn CPR, first aid, and rescue skills. They will also learn child care, business skills, and other life safety skills. For ages 11 to 15. [Register online](#). Mountain Park Aquatic Center, 1063 Rockbridge Road, Stone Mountain.

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