

NEWS & EVENTS

in District 2 with Commissioner Ben Ku

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March 2023

Hello!

I hope you had a great and safe St. Patrick's Day! We've had a busy winter and I know that will continue as we head into spring.

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

- Appointed Jason Graham to represent District 2 on the Zoning Board of Appeals
- Approved a contract for swimming pool improvement at County aquatic centers, partially funded by SPLOST
- Officially retired Police K-9 Kai from service after he was shot and injured last year; Kai will be permanently retired to his handler, Cpl. Aaron Carlyle
- Appointed and reappointed several members to the Community Outreach Advisory Board including Derrick Brown, Gwinnett 101 Citizens Academy Alumni Board; Jefferson Dominguez, Community Partner, Georgia Hispanic Contractors Association; Incumbent Albert Sorto, Community Partner, Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; and Lisa Briseño, Community Partner, Gwinnett Visibility Club.
- Approved a SPLOST-funded, \$39.7 million contract to resurface County-maintained subdivisions and streets to keep up road quality and fix any existing issues
- Partnered with the Georgia Department of Transportation on a study to look at the need to widen Sugarloaf Parkway from Scenic Highway to Old Norcross Road
- Approved a contract with a vendor to continue to host our household hazardous waste collection events
- Approved County Administrator Glenn Stephens appointment of Assistant Chief Fred Cephas to the role of Fire Chief beginning April 1 when our current Fire Chief Russell Knick moves to a role in the County Administrator's Office; Chief Cephas will be the County's first Black Fire Chief



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



Join me to learn about the State of District 2

I'm hosting my second annual State of District 2 address this **Thursday, March 23 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm** in the Lucky Shoals Park Community Room. It'll also stream live on [Gwinnett County's Facebook page](#). I'll share some updates about upcoming projects and programs in District 2, as well as some information that's great for all residents to know.

I hope to see you there!

Apply for a summer internship with Gwinnett by March 24

During the Career Starts Here: Gwinnett Empowering Youth program, interns ages 15 to 21 will enhance their

leadership and teambuilding skills, explore careers with local government, and gain valuable workplace experience — all while earning \$15 an hour.

The program includes two workshops on May 13 and May 20, followed by a four-week paid internship from June 5 to 30 and a graduation ceremony June 27. [Learn more and apply](#) by **Friday, March 24**.



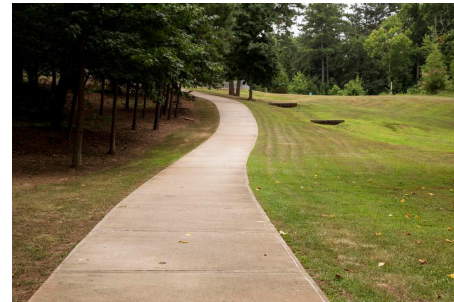
Apply for a Homestead Exemption by April 1

Looking for a way to reduce your property tax bill? Apply for a homestead exemption. Owners who occupied their home as their primary residence on January 1 and apply by April 1 qualify for an exemption this year. The state's proposed Homeowner Tax Relief Grant could mean additional savings for owners with a homestead exemption in 2023.

You can apply now at GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Apply to take advantage. If you already have an exemption in place, you do not need to reapply.

County applies for grant to enhance mobility around Centerville

The Board recently approved the County to apply for a \$120,000 grant through the Atlanta Regional Commission's 2023 Livable Centers Initiative Program. Partnering with the Centerville Community Association, the County wants to focus on a plan that will prioritize pedestrian and bicycle access to transit locations close to the Centerville area. The County will contribute \$30,000. The overall project is estimated to cost \$150,000.



Happening Around Gwinnett



Chairwoman Hendrickson delivers State of the County address

In her third State of the County address, Chairwoman Nicole Hendrickson remarked on how the County ensures today's decisions will build tomorrow's solutions by being thoughtful, purposeful, and deliberate. [Watch the address](#) and learn more about our 2022 accomplishments and 2023 vision.

Attend the Women in Business Networking Event

We're closing out Women's History Month with a celebration for Gwinnett's business owners and leaders! Join Gwinnett Economic Development on **Thursday, March 30** from 5:30pm to 8:00pm at the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse for an evening of networking, live music, and hors d'oeuvres. Please register at GwinnettCounty.com/WomenInBusiness. The Gwinnett Historic Courthouse is located at 185 West Crogan Street in Lawrenceville.



County seeking next cohort of Gwinnett Youth Commissioners

Another batch of high schoolers will get an inside look at Gwinnett County Government, interact with local leaders, and receive community leadership training this summer. The Gwinnett Youth Commission is a year-long program, which includes an eight-week summer training session. To be considered for this upcoming term, participants must be rising high school freshmen, sophomores, juniors, or seniors going into the 2023 – 2024 school year and must apply by



Friday, April 7. There is no cost to participate in this program. For more information and to apply, visit GwinnettYouthCommission.com.

Gwinnett Police offer firearm safety and security classes

Gwinnett residents will soon have an opportunity to learn guidelines and best practices for safe gun handling from local law enforcement personnel. Police will offer firearm safety and security classes to the community Wednesday, April 12 at 6:30pm at the Gwinnett County Police Training Center located at 854 Winder Highway in Lawrenceville. Classes will highlight firearm security, terminology, and how to properly store firearms to keep children safe. Youth who plan to attend must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Residents are prohibited from bringing their own firearms to class. Visit GwinnettCounty.com/FirearmSafety to register.



Special Events and Happenings

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

Playground Pals

Saturday, March 25 from 10:00am to 12:30pm

Free! Join us for interactive games and activities to unleash knowledge and energy at the playground. For children ages 2 to 10 and their caregivers. [Register online](#). Club Drive Park, 3330 Club Drive, Lawrenceville.

State Botanical Garden Trip

Thursday, March 30 from 9:00am to 5:00pm

Stop and smell the flowers! Join us for a trip to the Georgia State Botanical Garden in Athens. For ages 50 and up. Fee: \$25. [Register online](#). Call for more information. Pickup is at the Bethesda Park Senior Center, 225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville.

Game Night

Saturday, April 1 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Come join us for game night on the water. Gather the whole family and play games like Hungry Hungry Hippos, Skee-Ball, and aquatic Scrabble. Not comfortable playing in the water? Feel free to play a game of oversized checkers or bowling on deck. We will also have board games available throughout the facility for your enjoyment. Prizes will be awarded at the end of the night, and anyone in attendance has a chance to win. Fee: \$3 per person. [Registration](#) is preferred, but drop-ins are welcome. Children 7 to 10 must be accompanied by an adult 18 or over in a swimsuit. Children 6 and under must be accompanied by an adult 18 or over in a swimsuit, and the adult must be in the water with the child. Mountain Park Aquatic Center, 1063 Rockbridge Road Southwest, Stone Mountain.

April Fools Bingo Trivia

Wednesday, April 12 from 1:00pm to 2:00pm

The prizes are real, but the trivia may not be in the fact-or-fiction spin on bingo! For ages 50 and up. Fee: \$5 per person. [Register online](#). OneStop Centerville, 3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville.

Ben Ku, District 2 Commissioner
Gwinnett County

Ben.Ku@GwinnettCounty.com