

# NEWS & EVENTS

in District 2 with Commissioner Ben Ku

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May 2023

Hello!

The end of the school year is just around the corner, which means it's almost time to [hit the pool](#) and plan a summer vacation (or staycation). Summer doesn't mean that Gwinnett is slowing down, so keep reading to learn about upcoming events and activities coming to our community.



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

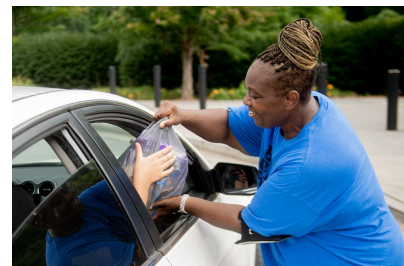
- Appointed Domonique Cooper to the Region Three Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council
- Accepted a \$363,384 grant from the Atlanta Regional Commission to continue the Get in Gear voucher program to provide medical transportation assistance to seniors and those with disabilities
- Awarded the contract for a safe and equitable multimodal access study to Gresham Smith in an amount not to exceed \$247,949, which will be funded 80% by the Atlanta Regional Commission and 7% by the Gateway85 CID
- Accepted \$175,110 in grant funding from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division with a County match of \$135,000 to increase glass recycling opportunities in the county
- Approved a \$161,250 contract for the provision and implementation of a coordinated care solution to Unite USA Inc., funded by the American Rescue Plan Act
- Accepted a \$50,000 donation from Northside Hospital Gwinnett to be used for training initiatives for County lifeguards

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. My office is happy to address your concerns.

## What's New in District 2

### Summer Meals Program returns May 30

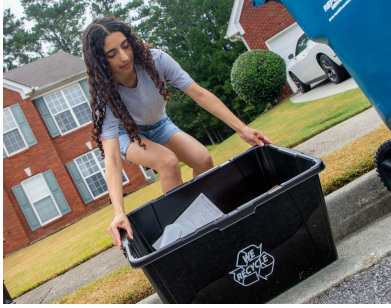
The Gwinnett Summer Meals program will provide free grab-and-go breakfast and lunch to children 18 and younger and those 19 and older with physical or mental disabilities. Meals are available from Tuesday, May 30 through Tuesday, August 1, and can be picked up Monday through Friday from 11:00am to 1:00pm – including County holidays – while supplies last. Visit [GwinnettSummerMeals.com](http://GwinnettSummerMeals.com) to learn more and find a complete list of meal locations, including several here in District 2. If you're interested in volunteering for the Summer Meals program, visit [VolunteerGwinnett.net](http://VolunteerGwinnett.net).



### Learn about recycling at your next HOA meeting

Help protect the environment by educating your neighborhood about curbside recycling. Schedule an onsite visit at your next homeowners association meeting to learn more.

For additional information, please call 770.822.7141 or email



### County awarded SMART grant to improve Singleton Road

Gwinnett was awarded a \$1 million Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation grant from the United States Department of Transportation. Gwinnett Transportation will use the grant to examine safety and mobility solutions — such as focused lighting and warnings — for all roadway users along Singleton Road. Funding will also be used to update the County’s Connected Vehicle Technology Master Plan, which previously identified smart corridor deployment. Senator Raphael Warnock, Senator Jon Ossoff, and Representative Lucy McBath supported the County in securing the federal funding to upgrade its transportation infrastructure. The SMART Grants Program provides grants for projects that improve transportation efficiency and safety through advanced smart community technologies and systems.



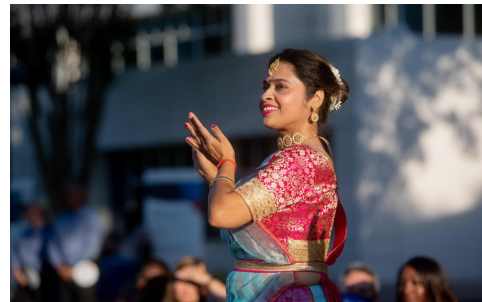
### Outdoor burn ban in place through September 30

To protect air quality, the state Environmental Protection Division is imposing a metro-wide burn ban through September 30. All types of outdoor or open burning are prohibited, including burning trees, limbs, and yard waste, as well as the use of air curtain destructors. For more information, call 678.518.4980 or visit [GwinnettFireMarshal.com](http://GwinnettFireMarshal.com).

## Happening Around Gwinnett

### Celebrate AAPI Heritage Month in Gwinnett

Join Gwinnett in celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month! We’re hosting a heritage night celebration **tomorrow, May 16 at 6:30pm** at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center located at 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville. The celebration will include guest speakers, entertainment, cuisine, and more! Register for the event at [GwinnettCounty.com/AAPICelebration](http://GwinnettCounty.com/AAPICelebration). Follow the County on social media [@GwinnettGov](https://twitter.com/GwinnettGov) to stay up to date on other activities happening around the community throughout the month.



### Join us to honor the fallen this Memorial Day

The County will host its annual Memorial Day ceremony on Monday, May 29 at 1:00pm to pay tribute to our fallen military and public safety heroes. Join us on the grounds of the Fallen Heroes Memorial at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville. This year, we will be inducting Gwinnett Correctional Officer Senior Scott Riner to the Fallen Heroes Memorial. Officer Riner was tragically shot and killed while arriving to work this past December.

During the ceremony, you'll hear from County officials and our keynote speaker, Georgia Department of Veterans Service Executive Director for Field Operations and Appeals Shelly-Ann Simpson.

### New Water Resources, Planning and Development directors promoted

The Board of Commissioners recently ratified employment agreements County Administrator Glenn Stephens executed with two new department directors. Rebecca Shelton was named director of the Department of Water Resources after having served as acting director since last July. She has more than 25 years of experience in civil engineering and management of local government infrastructure and has taught many of us through the Gwinnett 101 Citizens Academy program. Matthew Dickison was promoted

to director of the Department of Planning and Development Department following Susan Canon's recent retirement. He holds exceptional knowledge and understanding of all aspects of planning, zoning and development. Both of these promotions show the County's commitment to succession planning and promoting from within.

### **Don't risk losing your Medicaid**

Update your profile today to avoid losing coverage. The state of Georgia has started verifying eligibility for all Medicaid members, including PeachCare for Kids. Your contact information is crucial to ensure your coverage remains active. If you have recently moved, changed phone numbers or emails, or simply want to double check, please visit [Gateway.GA.gov](http://Gateway.GA.gov) to verify your details and stay informed about your family's Medicaid status. Learn more at [StayCovered.GA.gov](http://StayCovered.GA.gov).

## **Special Events and Happenings**

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

### **Cookies and Canvases**

**Tuesday, May 23 from 1:00pm to 3:30pm**

Get artsy in this instructor-led paint party with sweet treats and a masterpiece to take home! For ages 50 and up. Fee: \$16 per person. [Register online](#). Bethesda Park Senior Center, 225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville.

### **Playground Pals**

**Saturday, May 27 from 10:00am to 12:30pm**

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

### **Chalk About Swimming**

**Saturday, June 3 from 9:00am to 11:00am**

Come show off your chalk art skills! We'll provide the chalk and offer swimming at our leisure pool. Guests are encouraged to decorate our sidewalks from end to end with their masterpieces and enjoy swimming with the whole family. All ages welcome. Fee: \$7 per person. [Register online](#). Bethesda Park Aquatic Center Leisure Pool, 225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville.

### **Scavenger Hunt**

**Tuesday, June 13 from 10:00am to noon**

Free! Bring the whole family for a scavenger hunt and leave with a fun park story to tell! Wear comfortable clothes and shoes, and don't forget your swimsuit. The hunt will end with playtime at the interactive fountain and small prizes. [Register online](#). Graves Park, 1540 Graves Road, Norcross.

Ben Ku, District 2 Commissioner  
Gwinnett County

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