

# NEWS & EVENTS

in District 2 with Commissioner Ben Ku

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June 2023

Hello!

What are you up to this summer? June ushers in summer travel, trips to the pool, and celebrating Pride Month! I hope each of you continue to enjoy summer and the many quality of life activities Gwinnett has to offer with family, friends, and community.



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

- Reappointed Krupesh Patel to represent District 2 on the Gwinnett Sustainability Commission
- Accepted a \$205,000 BOOST grant from the Georgia Recreation and Park Association to enhance the Building Brains Anywhere summer enrichment program; funds will pay for staffing, supplies, and weekend meal packs
- Executed a contract with Good Samaritan Health Center of Gwinnett, Hope Clinic, Positive Impact Health Center, and Behavioral Health of Georgia, providing a total sum of \$400,000 for the providers to treat patients with chronic illnesses and help them avoid emergency room visits and hospitalizations
- Awarded a \$2.2 million contract for water quality sampling improvements at Shoal Creek Filter Plant to further enhance monitoring capabilities at the facility, which produces more than 40 million gallons of drinking water daily

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

### Gwinnett Code Enforcement to host Clean Community Forum on June 22

Residents are invited to attend the Gwinnett Clean Community Forum on **Thursday, June 22 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm** at Lucky Shoals Park located at 4651 Britt Road in Norcross. The event will be hosted by Gwinnett Code Enforcement, Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful, and Gwinnett Transportation.



The forum aims to inform residents about the collective efforts of the County and residents to keep Gwinnett a safe, livable, and healthy community. Attendees will have the opportunity to share their neighborhood successes and ask questions.

### Gwinnett Summer Meals Program is back!

The Summer Meals Program is back! The Gwinnett Summer Meals Program is providing 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 now 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](https://www.gwinnettsummermeals.com) to learn more and find a complete list of meal locations. If you're interested in volunteering for the Summer Meals program, visit [VolunteerGwinnett.net](https://www.volunteer.gwinnett.net).

### Seeking Tree Advisory Committee appointee

I'm looking for a passionate resident to represent District 2 on the [Tree Advisory Committee](#). The Tree Advisory Committee advises the Board of Commissioners and the Department of Planning and Development about issues and matters of concern regarding the preservation and replacement of trees.

If this sounds like your area of expertise, please [apply online](#).



### Gwinnett Police collecting school supplies through July 28

Gwinnett Police are looking ahead to make sure students are ready for the 2023-2024 school year.

Residents are encouraged to drop off donations Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm from Thursday, June 1 through Friday, July 28. Donation boxes are located at the Gwinnett County Police Headquarters, Gwinnett County Police Training Center, and

all Gwinnett County police precinct lobbies. Learn more and find a [precinct near you](#).

### Listen to Conversations with Ku

My co-host Tristan Fernandes and I host a monthly podcast aimed at giving residents an inside look at decisions made by the Gwinnett Board of Commissioners. You can find the podcast on [GwinnettCounty.com](https://www.gwinnettcountry.com) and on your favorite streaming platform.

I would love to hear from you or answer questions about District 2. Feel free to email him at [Ben.Ku@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:Ben.Ku@GwinnettCounty.com) and your question may be read on the podcast.



CONVERSATIONS  
WITH KU



### Sustainability Commission seeking advisory committee members

Join an advisory committee to help guide Gwinnett on sustainability! The Gwinnett Sustainability Commission is gathering Gwinnett County residents and stakeholders to advance sustainability progress in the county. Consider joining an advisory committee on one of the following topics:

- **Public education and outreach:** contact [Marshall.Shepherd@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:Marshall.Shepherd@GwinnettCounty.com) and [Krupesh.Patel@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:Krupesh.Patel@GwinnettCounty.com)
- **Clean energy and electric transportation:** contact [Robert.Blatchky@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:Robert.Blatchky@GwinnettCounty.com)
- **Bikeability:** contact [Daniel.Hilton@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:Daniel.Hilton@GwinnettCounty.com)

## Happening Around Gwinnett



### Join us for our annual Pride Party on June 28

In recognition of Pride Month come celebrate the contributions and accomplishments of Gwinnett's LGBTQ+ community at our annual Pride Party. The event will take place on **Wednesday, June 28 from 11:00am to 1:00pm** at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center Plaza, located at 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville.

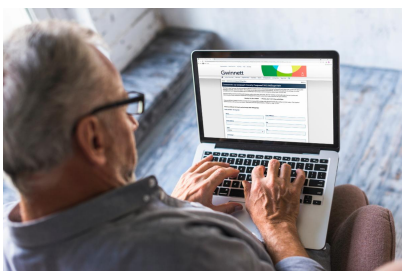
Get ready for a fantastic time with food trucks, music, and more.

## Help us plan for the future of Gwinnett County

We're hosting a speaker series as we get your input for the 2045 Unified Plan. Attendees will learn about innovative ideas and solutions to foster healthy, connected, and livable communities. Local and national experts will share best practices and case studies, providing inspiration for Gwinnett County and beyond. In addition, representatives from Gwinnett Planning and Development will provide a brief update on the current state of housing and the County's affordable housing initiatives.



The next session is **Wednesday, June 28 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm** at the Aurora Theater in Lawrenceville and will highlight how infrastructure can keep Gwinnett green and healthy. This free event is open to the public. Visit [GwinnettCounty.com/2045UnifiedPlan](https://GwinnettCounty.com/2045UnifiedPlan) to learn more.



## Commissioners to hold public hearings on proposed 2023 millage rate

The Gwinnett Board of Commissioners is considering keeping the general fund millage rate the same as last year, at 6.95 mills, and will hold three public hearings for residents to comment. Two public hearings will take place on **Thursday, June 29 at 10:00am and 6:30pm**. The final public hearing will occur on **Tuesday, July 18 at 11:00am**. All three public hearings will be held in the auditorium of the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center located at 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville. County staff will be

available for questions one hour before each public hearing.

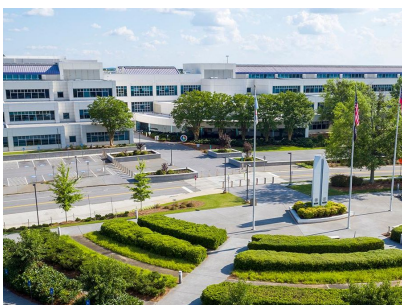
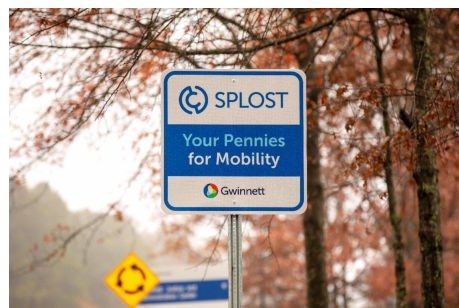
Generally, property owners who benefit from the [Value Offset Exemption](#) will not see an increase in the county government portion of their property taxes. Additionally, for this year, the governor and the Georgia General Assembly approved a [Homestead Tax Relief Grant](#) which will further reduce property taxes by providing a credit (savings) on the tax bill to those with a homestead exemption.

Residents can submit their comments using the [online comment form](#) and learn more about their [property taxes](#).

## Commissioners approve allocation of 2023 SPLOST projects

The Board of Commissioners approved the allocation of more than \$759.8 million in anticipated 2023 SPLOST program revenue toward transportation and parks projects.

The transportation project list was developed by a 15-member Citizens Project Selection Committee over the course of 10 meetings held since last fall. The projects cover enhancements to transportation that include upgrades to major roads and intersections, bridges, pedestrian safety, resurfacing, unpaved roads, speed control in residential areas, and school safety. About 73 percent of the County's budgeted share of 2023 SPLOST funds is dedicated to transportation. [Read more](#).



## County offices closed for Independence Day holiday

All Gwinnett County Government offices, apart from operations required for the comfort and safety of residents, will be closed **Tuesday, July 4** in observance of the Independence Day holiday.

Trash and recycling collection will be delayed by one day during the Independence Day holiday week. For more information, visit [GCSolidWaste.com](https://GCSolidWaste.com).

## Practice fireworks safety this holiday season

Every Independence Day, thousands of people — mostly children — are hurt while using fireworks. To avoid serious injuries, Gwinnett Fire and Emergency Services encourages residents to attend a professional show instead of using fireworks themselves. However, if you are going to use fireworks, follow these tips to celebrate safely:

- Buy fireworks only from a licensed vendor

- Read and follow fireworks directions carefully
- Keep a bucket of water or fire extinguisher handy
- Ignite fireworks on a flat, open surface away from buildings, vegetation, or combustible materials
- Light one device at a time using a lighter
- Keep fireworks away from children



For more safety tips, visit [GwinnettSafety411.com](http://GwinnettSafety411.com).

## 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, June 27 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.

### **Patriotic Bingo**

**Wednesday, July 5 from 10:00am to 11:00am**

Vie for prizes as you enjoy fun and fellowship at this star-spangled special! Ages 50 and up. Fee:\$5.00 [Register online](#). OneStop Norcross, 5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross.

### **Chalk About Swimming**

**Thursday, July 13 from 10:30am to 11:30am**

Free! Approximately one million people live with Parkinson's disease according to the Parkinson's Foundation. Join this supportive group to share information and experiences. All ages. OneStop Centerville, 3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville.

### **Popsicle Pop In**

**Thursday, July 14 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm**

Free! Swing by for a popsicle and to learn about all the great classes and events offered at the Lilburn Activity Building. All ages. Lilburn Activity Center, 788 Hillcrest Road, Lilburn.

Ben Ku, District 2 Commissioner  
Gwinnett County

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[Ben.Ku@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:Ben.Ku@GwinnettCounty.com)