

NEWS & EVENTS

in District 2 with Commissioner Ben Ku

Follow us on social media!



August 2023

Hello!

The kids are back in school, and despite the warm temperatures, fall is just around the corner. Keep reading for ways to stay engaged in our vibrant community in the coming months.

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

- Authorized the application for a \$500,000 Land and Water Conservation Fund grant from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, which will be used to replace playground equipment at Best Friend and Shorty Howell Parks; if awarded, the County's \$500,000 match will be funded by the 2023 SPLOST program
- Appointed Sharlene McLendon to the Region Three Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council and reappointed Tracie Moultrie to the Family and Children Services Board to serve as Board of Commissioners appointees
- Reappointed Dr. Tameka Womack to represent District 2 on the Gwinnett Animal Control Hearing Board
- Awarded a \$1.3 million contract for the Collins Hill Road Widening Project, funded by various SPLOST programs
- Accepted a \$2 million grant from the Atlanta Regional Commission to help fund senior services, including case management, congregate meals, home delivered meals, recreation, and personal and respite care
- Accepted 40 FIDO bags from The Fetch Foundation; each bag contains one O2 reusable pet mask, three reusable leashes, and water bowls to allow Fire and Emergency Services to help pets on emergency scenes
- Authorized the Chairwoman to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Atlanta-Region Transit Link Authority for the Transit Facility Relocation Study
- Approved an Athletic Association Agreement with Seckinger Athletic Association, which will add more opportunities for young people to play sports like baseball, softball, football, cheerleading, and basketball



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



Microtransit coming to Snellville and Lawrenceville

Gwinnett is expanding its Ride Gwinnett service to include [microtransit](#), an on-demand service beginning August 28. Download the Ride Gwinnett app from the [Apple App](#) or [Google Play](#) stores to explore the new service. Riders will be able to request a shared-ride vehicle — typically a small van or shuttle — to travel to their destination within Snellville and Lawrenceville. This includes the Centerville area to the Shoppes at Webb Gin and Northside Hospital to Sugarloaf Parkway.

The service will provide additional mobility options and allow for better connectivity and accessibility to medical resources, education, and points of interest. It will also provide brand new connections to areas of the county that are not currently served by transit, which opens the service to new customers and increases the transit destination options for residents by 41 percent. To learn more, visit RideGwinnett.com.

Apply for a small business grant

Gwinnett County is helping small businesses impacted by COVID-19 find relief. The Board of Commissioners received \$181 million from the American Rescue Plan Act and allocated \$6 million of the funds to help small business owners.

If your business has experienced income loss or increased costs while continuing business during the pandemic, you might be eligible for this relief. Funds will be awarded based on the number of employees, gross revenue, total applicant COVID impact, and more. Applications will be available online Tuesday, September 5. To apply and learn more, visit GwinnettCounty.com/SmallBusinessGrant.



CONVERSATIONS
WITH KU



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 and on your favorite streaming platform.

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

Help us plan for the future of Gwinnett

If you missed the 2045 Unified Plan summer events, there are still opportunities to share your ideas for improving our communities in Gwinnett! Give your opinion on [Housing and Small-Scale Economic Development](#), [Sustainable Infrastructure and Transportation](#), and [Redevelopment and Community Resources](#) in Gwinnett.

You can also share your preferences on your idea [Daily Community](#), which includes housing types, mobility and transit, and economic development where you live. Stay tuned for more details about engagement opportunities this fall starting in September. To learn more about the 2045 Unified Plan, visit GwinnettCounty.com/2045UnifiedPlan.



Happening Around Gwinnett



Gwinnett receives \$20 million RAISE Award to transform Gwinnett Place Transit Center

We recently joined Congresswoman Lucy McBath, Senator Jon Ossoff, and U.S. Department of Transportation Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy Christopher Coes to celebrate a \$20 million RAISE award granted to Gwinnett County.

With the award, the County will transform the existing Gwinnett Place Transit to include a two-story building that will house onsite customer service, an attached mobility building that will offer travel training and mobility

assistance, 12 bus bays with amenities, and more. Gwinnett's Transit Development Plan identifies the site as a foundational investment that will allow the county to plan for continued growth and the expansion of current transit services.

Attend a Piedmont Pathway Study input meeting

Residents are invited to learn about the 28-mile cross-county trail and share their thoughts on its development. Join us at these

locations:

- Monday, August 21 at Best Friend Park Gym, Norcross
- Tuesday, August 22 at Rhodes Jordan Park Community Recreation Center, Lawrenceville
- Wednesday, August 23 at Dacula Park Activity Building, Dacula

Can't attend in person? [Share your input online.](#)



Public Safety Fall Festival set for September 16

Get ready to meet our local heroes at the Public Safety Fall Festival on Saturday, September 16 from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Join Gwinnett Police and Gwinnett Fire and Emergency Services for giveaways, food trucks, and demonstrations. Enjoy touch-a-truck experiences with SWAT vehicles, fire trucks, and more.

For more information, contact MPO Tebin Clack at Tebin.Clack@GwinnettCounty.com. The event will be held at Coolray Field, located at 2500 Buford Drive in

Lawrenceville.

Special Events and Happenings

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

Pollinator Counting

Saturday, August 19 from 1:30pm to 3:30pm

Free! Join the Great Southeast Pollinator Census in an effort to help understand and advance pollinator health. All ages are welcome. JB Williams Park Community Garden, 4935 Five Forks Trickum Road, Lilburn.

Yellow Daisy Festival Day Trip

Thursday, September 7 from 9:00am to 4:00pm

Come join us for the 55th annual Yellow Daisy Festival! Explore handmade works from artists, potters, jewelers, crafters, woodworkers, and more. Please bring money for a lunch or pack a lunch. For ages 50 and up. Fee: \$16. [Register online](#). Pickup is at 9:00am at Bethesda Park Senior Center, 225 Bethesda Church Road in Lawrenceville.

Free Food Distribution

Tuesday, September 12 from 3:00pm until supplies last

Pick up fresh and shelf-stable foods with no identification required during this drive-thru, contactless food distribution. Bryson Park, 5075 Lawrenceville Highway, Lilburn.

Georgia Grows Native for Birds

Wednesday, September 13 from 9:00am to 11:30am

Free! Flock to the park for a lively exploration of forest, meadow, and riparian areas where native bird species thrive. Finish the day by helping us transplant native pollinators into the ground to enrich the habitat for wildlife. No birding expertise is needed. Binoculars and planting tools are provided, or you can bring your own. [Register online](#). Yellow River Park, 3232 Juhan Road, Stone Mountain.

Ben Ku, District 2 Commissioner
Gwinnett County

Ben.Ku@GwinnettCounty.com