

NEWS & EVENTS

in District 2 with Commissioner Ben Ku

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September 2023

Hello!

It's September already! Just like that, we're approaching the last quarter of the year. We've been busy planning for our future, and I look forward to seeing those plans wrap up and come to life in the coming months and years. Keep reading below for ways to get involved and make an impact on the future of Gwinnett.

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

- Reappointed J. Michael Levengood and Antonio Molina to the Hospital Authority of Gwinnett County to represent District 2
- Authorized Child Advocacy and Juvenile Services to accept, if awarded, more than \$167,000 from the Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocate for continuation of our CASA program
- Approved a resolution designating Tysh Coleman as the County's new Open Records Officer
- Accepted a donation of 30 security cameras to Gwinnett Police from the Gateway85 CID
- Authorized Gwinnett Transportation to apply for, and accept if awarded grant funding through the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity from the United States Department of Transportation to request up to \$90,000,000 in funding to aid in the construction of a new segment of Sugarloaf Parkway to extend from State Route 316 northward to Interstate 85
- Renewed a contract with the Latin American Translators Network to provide interpreter services for the Gwinnett Judicial Circuit
- Approved an intergovernmental agreement with the city of Lilburn for the Bryson Park/Hood Road realignment at Lawrenceville Highway
- Awarded a \$11.2 million contract for engineering design and support during the preconstruction and construction of the F. Wayne Hill Water Resources Center biosolids dryer project, which will significantly reduce the amount of waste material delivered to landfills from the center, funded 97.3% by the American Rescue Plan Act

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



Graves Park dog park dedicated to fallen K9 Blue

I was proud to join the Gwinnett Police Department and Chairwoman Hendrickson to dedicate Graves Park dog park in honor of our fallen SWAT K9 Blue. K9 Blue was Gwinnett Police's first canine assigned full-time to the SWAT Unit. He was shot and killed on September 10, 2020, while tracking suspects who fled a stolen vehicle in Norcross. Upon locating one suspect in the woods, K9 Blue was fatally wounded as officers issued commands and the suspect opened fire.

This dog park dedication serves as a reminder that heroism knows no species, boundaries, or fear. Let K9 Blue's legacy be a reminder of the importance of teamwork, dedication, and the bond that exists between a K9 and their handler. Graves Park is located at 1540 Graves Road in Norcross.

Download the Ride Gwinnett app to try microtransit

Whether you're going to the doctor's office, school, park, store, or your favorite restaurant, Ride Gwinnett microtransit can get you there! [Download the Ride Gwinnett app](#) from the Apple App or Google Play stores to book your ride. Microtransit operates in Snellville and Lawrenceville Monday to Saturday from 6:00am to 8:00pm. Rides must begin and end within the designated zone. Fares are \$3 per ride and can be paid using the Ride Gwinnett app or with exact change. To learn more, visit RideGwinnett.com.



Gwinnett set to introduce new specialized traffic lights

The County will be implementing a specialized traffic light system at the intersection of Pleasant Hill Road and Ronald Reagan Parkway to enhance pedestrian safety and connectivity. The project will facilitate secure pedestrian crossings at the ramp, providing convenient access to bustling commercial areas including Plaza Las Americas.

Smart Road Technology was awarded the construction contract. The \$868,000 upgrades are funded by the 2014 and 2017 SPLOST programs. Visit GwinnettSPLOST.com to learn how your pennies are working in Gwinnett.

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.

In the most recent episode, I sat down with Jason West from our Department of Community Services to hear about educational resources available in our community. I also answered questions about where residents can report issues in their subdivision.

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.



CONVERSATIONS
WITH KU



Volunteer for Great Days of Service

Volunteers across Gwinnett will be rolling up their sleeves for the annual Gwinnett Great Days of Service taking place October 20 to October 22.

This initiative brings together thousands of individuals, corporations, schools, civic organizations, and communities to lend a hand with critical needs around the county. [Register to volunteer](#) at VolunteerGwinnett.net.

Happening Around Gwinnett

Departments deliver budget plan presentations

Every year, [budget review meetings](#) take place in late summer, near the end of the County's annual budget planning cycle. Representatives from departments and agencies present their business plans and proposed budgets for the next year to Chairwoman Nicole Hendrickson and members of the budget review team, which includes several Gwinnett residents and County staff.

Chairwoman Hendrickson and the budget review team will use the presentations to shape the County's proposed budget for 2024. The Chairwoman's proposed 2024 budget will be made available to the public when it is presented to commissioners in November. A public hearing on the budget will be held this December before the budget is considered in January.



Apply for a small business grant

Applications are now open for Gwinnett County's small business



grant, which will help 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 legible for this relief. Funds will be awarded based on the number of employees, gross revenue, total applicant COVID-19 impact, and more. To apply and learn more, visit

GwinnettCounty.com/SmallBusinessGrant.

Feedback wanted! Take a survey to help shape 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.



Property tax bills due October 15

The 2023 Gwinnett County property tax bills were mailed in August and are due on October 15. If you have an escrow account, your property tax information is made available to your mortgage company; however, it is your responsibility to ensure taxes are paid. For more information or to pay online, visit GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Pay.



Share your input on risks for natural disasters in your area

Are you concerned about the risks of natural disasters in your area? The Gwinnett Office of Emergency Management invites you to take the [Hazard Mitigation Survey](#) to share your hazard and disaster concerns. Your feedback will be used to update the Hazard Mitigation Plan, which identifies natural hazards, risks, and mitigation strategies to reduce or eliminate future losses resulting from those hazards.

For more information about the Office of Emergency Management's mitigation efforts, visit [our website](#) or contact EMA@GwinnettCounty.com.

Special Events and Happenings

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

Caperucita Roja

Saturday, September 23 from noon to 1:30pm

Free! Follow Little Red as she stands up against the Big Bully Wolf. This bilingual bullying prevention adventure is best for kids in kindergarten through sixth grade. Families are welcome. [Register online](#). Lilburn Activity Building, 788 Hillcrest Road, Lilburn.

Community Field Day

Saturday, September 30 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Free! Engage with the community and enjoy a day full of games, giveaways, and more. Ages 3 and up. [Register online](#). JB Williams Park, 4935 Five Forks Trickum Road, Lilburn.

Historic Dahlonega Day Field Trip

Friday, October 6 from 8:00am to 5:00pm

Enjoy the crisp mountain air and changing leaves in historic downtown Dahlonega! The price includes transportation and admission to the Dahlonega Gold Museum. Please bring money for lunch and shopping. For ages 50 and up. Fee: \$21. [Register online](#). Pickup is at 8:00am at Bethesda Park Senior Center, 225 Bethesda Church Road in Lawrenceville.

Mad Hatter Day

Friday, October 6 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Celebrate Mad Hatter Day with us at an unusual tea party! Get dressed up and take a trip down the rabbit hole to enjoy some light refreshments and kooky crafts. For ages 7 and up. Fee: \$8. [Register online](#).
OneStop Centerville, 3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville.

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Gwinnett County

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