

NEWS & EVENTS

in District 2 with Commissioner Ben Ku

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October 2023

Hello!

The weather is cooling down, and it's starting to feel like fall. Keep reading below for ways to get involved and enjoy those autumn temperatures with your community.

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

- Approved the [Transit Development Plan](#) and submitted it to the Atlanta-Region Transit Link Authority for inclusion in the ATL Regional Transit Plan
- Approved a contract to replace the roof of the Five Forks branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library
- Authorized an application for a \$2 million grant to support the development of a plan to connect the communities surrounding Interstate 85 from Jimmy Carter Boulevard to Beaver Ruin Road
- Authorized a 5 percent market adjustment for eligible County government employees and an additional 3 percent for first responders in response to the impacts of inflation on our workforce
- Accepted a \$195,376.63 Secure the Vote grant from the Georgia Secretary of State to reimburse the County for postage costs associated with 2022 redistricting postcard mailer
- Purchased seven replacement paratransit vehicles, funded 80 percent by the Federal Transit Administration

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 us for a day of spooky fun and learning

Our annual Yellow River Trick or Treatment Fall Festival is back on **Saturday, October 28!** From 10:00am to 2:00pm, you can enjoy this free, family-oriented event that offers games, crafts, and informative exhibitors. The event also includes giveaways, food, touch-a-truck experiences, and tours of the Yellow River Water Reclamation Facility. Attendees will have the chance to learn how water is reclaimed, cleaned, and returned to the environment. The Yellow River Water Reclamation Facility is located at 858 Tom Smith Road in Lilburn.

There's still time to help us plan for Gwinnett's future

We have exciting fall events where you can share your ideas for improving our communities in Gwinnett! Join us at one of our Small Area Plan Charettes workshops where we will analyze specific areas and explore opportunities for improvement.

Or, if you prefer to learn about project recommendations and see how they could be implemented, come at one of our Community Fairs. To learn how you can get involved at these fun, interactive events, visit GwinnettCounty.com/2045UnifiedPlan.





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](https://www.gwinnettcountry.com) and on your favorite streaming platform.

On the last episode, I enjoyed a deep conversation with Roland Behm from the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention regarding the stigmas behind suicide, ways to spot it, prevent it and even to cope with it. Remember, you can call or text 988 or text TALK to 741741 to connect with the Suicide and Crisis Hotline.

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.

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](https://www.volunteer.gwinnett.net) at [VolunteerGwinnett.net](https://www.volunteer.gwinnett.net).



Happening Around Gwinnett



Honor Gwinnett's veterans

Join us to honor Gwinnett's military heroes during our annual Veterans Day ceremony on **Saturday, November 11 at 11:00am**.

The event will take place on the grounds of the Fallen Heroes Memorial at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville. In the event of rain, the ceremony will move indoors to the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center auditorium. I hope to see you there.

Small business grant application deadline extended

Gwinnett has extended the application deadline for its [Small Business Grant](https://www.gwinnettcountry.com/SmallBusinessGrant) to **October 31** to give potential applicants more time to apply and gather the required documents. Applicants must present verification of their business license and payroll records, as well as documentation of COVID-19's impact on their business. Visit [GwinnettCounty.com/SmallBusinessGrant](https://www.gwinnettcountry.com/SmallBusinessGrant) to apply.



The Gwinnett Small Business Grant program is part of the county's response to the economic challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Learn about Ride Gwinnett's newest route

Ride Gwinnett is launching a new route that will serve Lawrenceville, Duluth, Suwanee, and Buford! Starting November 20, [Route 50](https://www.gwinnettcountry.com/Route50) will provide service from the Sugarloaf Mills Park and Ride in Lawrenceville through downtown Suwanee. It will also provide connections to the Mall of Georgia, the Exchange at Gwinnett, and Coolray Field.

Learn more about Route 50 and [join a virtual meeting](#) before it launches.

Start gathering your hard-to-recycle items for America Recycles Day

Have some hard-to-recycle items? Rain or shine, you can bring them to America Recycles Day on **Saturday, November 4 from 9:00am to noon** at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds in Lawrenceville. Volunteers will remove items placed in disposable containers from the trunk or back seat of your vehicle. Recycling electronics is free, but there is a \$35 fee per projection or console TVs, \$15 fee per flatscreen TVs or computer monitors, and \$5 fee per printers.

For a full list of acceptable items, visit GCSolidWaste.com or call 770.822.7141. The Gwinnett County Fairgrounds are located at 2405 Sugarloaf Parkway in Lawrenceville.



Special Events and Happenings

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

Fall into Health Senior Wellness Fair **Friday, October 20 from 10:00am to 1:00pm**

Free admission! Meet local vendors, take part in health screenings, watch live cooking and exercise demonstrations, and listen to guest speakers. Lunch will be available for purchase. For ages 50 and up. [Register online](#). Bethesda Park Senior Center, 225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville.

LABFest V: All in for Fall!

Saturday, October 21 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Free! Fall into fun at this outdoor fest with music, crafts, concessions, and lots of opportunities to celebrate autumn. All ages are welcome. [Register online](#). Lilburn Activity Building, 788 Hillcrest Road, Lilburn.

Fall Glow Festival

Saturday, October 21 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Come in your favorite costume and bring your bag for a fun night of trunk-or-treating, hayrides, and fun glow games! For kids ages 5 to 18. Parents/guardians must accompany children, but are free to attend. Fee: \$10 per child. [Register online](#). Lucky Shoals Park, 4651 Britt Road, Norcross.

Horse Halloween

Saturday, October 28 from noon to 2:00pm

Trot over in your best horse and rider get up for this equine costume contest. Fee: \$6 per person. All ages welcome. [Registration required](#); reserve trailer space when registering. Yellow River Park, 3232 Juhan Road, Stone Mountain.

Honoring Gwinnett's Veterans

Saturday, November 11 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm

After the ceremony at the Fallen Heroes Memorial at 11:00am, head to the historic Yellow River Post Office to continue the Veterans Day celebration as we pay tribute to those who have served our country with distinction and honor. Tours and activities will be offered with an additional craft for the young and young at heart. All ages are welcome. [Register online](#). Yellow River Post Office, 3519 Five Forks Trickum Road, Lilburn.

Ben Ku, District 2 Commissioner
Gwinnett County

Ben.Ku@GwinnettCounty.com