

NEWS & EVENTS

in District 2 with Commissioner Ben Ku

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November 2023

Hello!

November is here, and soon, the holiday season will be starting up. Keep reading below for ways to get involved as we approach winter.

I'll be holding open office hours in my district tomorrow, **November 16 at noon**. If you're interested, please email me at Ben.Ku@GwinnettCounty.com, and I will send you the details.

I'm also accepting board applications for the following positions through **November 29**:

- Community Outreach Advisory Board
- Planning Commission
- Water and Sewerage Authority
- Tree Advisory Board
- Recreation Authority

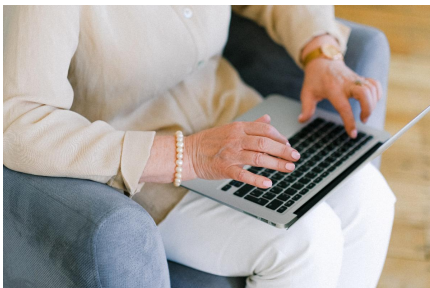
If you're interested in serving, please apply at GwinnettCounty.com/ApplyToServe.

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

- Accepted \$2 million in grant funds from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; the funds will be used over 5 years to expand substance use disorder treatment services in the Gwinnett County Adult Drug Treatment Court
- Awarded a contract for language learning and language skill assessment for County employees to enhance our workforce's ability to communicate with our diverse population
- Approved an application for \$200,000 in grant funding from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to replace and add signage for the Gwinnett Trails system; if awarded, a County match of \$50,000 will be funded by the 2023 SPLOST program
- Retired K9 Elsa to her handler, Corporal A. Hylton
- Executed an agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation for water relocations as part of the SR 316 at Cedars Road intersection modification project

Finally, if you'd like to chat with me on any topic, you can [email me](#) to schedule a call or virtual meeting. My office is happy to address your concerns.

What's New in District 2



Take a survey to help enhance our election processes

Gwinnett Voter Registrations and Elections values your feedback to help enhance our election processes and outreach initiatives. [Take a survey](#) in your language of choice to share how we can best serve and accommodate your needs. Your responses will be completely anonymous and will not be used for any other purpose than to promote strengthened voting processes for future elections.

¡Toma una encuesta para ayudar a mejorar

nuestros procesos electorales!

La Inscripción de Votantes y Elecciones de Gwinnett valora sus comentarios para ayudar a mejorar nuestros procesos electorales e iniciativas de divulgación. [Toma una encuesta](#) en el idioma de

tu elección para compartir cómo podemos servirte y acomodar tus necesidades. Tus respuestas serán completamente anónimas y no se utilizarán para ningún otro propósito más que el de promover procesos de votación fortalecidos para futuras elecciones.

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.



CONVERSATIONS
WITH KU



On the last episode, I enjoyed an amazing interview with our guest Steven Igarashi-Ball. He's the Director of Equity and Engagement at Atlanta Pride, an activist, drag performer, district 2 resident, and lifelong Gwinnettian.

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 Gwinnett Police fill the sleigh

Gwinnett Police are accepting toy donations for children ages 3 to 15 through Friday, December 15. Toys should be new, unwrapped, and priced at \$10 or more. Youth basketballs, footballs, and soccer balls are great gifts for teenagers. Toy weapons will not be accepted.

Donations can be dropped off at Gwinnett Police Headquarters or any precinct lobby. For more information about the Fill the Sleigh Toy Drive, email

PDCommunityAffairs@GwinnettCounty.com.

Provide your feedback to shape the 2045 Unified Plan

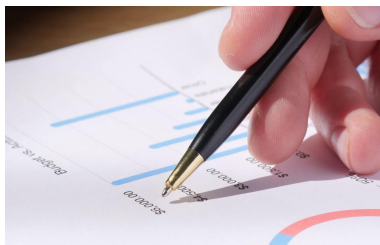
It's not too late to share your ideas for improving our communities. Join us at one of our Small Area Plan Charettes workshops where we will analyze specific areas and explore opportunities for improvement.

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](https://www.gwinnettcountry.com/2045UnifiedPlan).



Happening Around Gwinnett



Chairwoman Hendrickson proposes 2024 County budget

Chairwoman Nicole Love Hendrickson presented her [proposed budget](#) on Tuesday to guide County government spending for the 2024 fiscal year. The proposed budget for 2024 totals \$2.5 billion. It consists of a \$1.96 billion operating budget and a \$542 million capital improvements budget, which includes funds from the County's Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax program. It addresses community needs like affordable housing and public

safety as well as challenges facing county government including hiring and retaining a qualified workforce.

We'll host a public hearing on Monday, December 4 at 6:30pm at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center, and [residents can share their input on the County's website](#) through December 31. After hearing your input, the Board of Commissioners will consider the 2024 budget at our first meeting of the new year on January 2.

Learn about Ride Gwinnett's newest route

Starting November 20, there will be a new way to connect to your favorite places! Ride Gwinnett [Route 50](#) will provide a connection from the Sugarloaf Mills Park and Ride through downtown Suwanee. It also includes 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.



Get a grant toward your first home

Are you a first-time homebuyer? You might be eligible for Gwinnett's Homestretch Down Payment Assistance Program! New or existing Gwinnett residents aspiring to own a home can receive down payment assistance of up to \$7,500 as a five-year deferred payment loan with zero percent interest. To qualify, the home must be located within Gwinnett County and should not exceed \$323,000 for an existing home or \$346,000 for new construction. For a list of eligibility requirements, visit GwinnettCounty.com/HomestretchDPA.

Special Events and Happenings

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

Adventure Days Out

Monday, November 20 to Wednesday, November 22 from 7:30am to 6:00pm

It's not too late to secure childcare for Thanksgiving Break. Children will have an amazing experience trying new games, exploring new skills, making new friends, and most of all, having fun! Campers should wear closed-toe shoes and pack two healthy snacks, a lunch, and a labeled water bottle. For ages 5 to 12. Fee: \$18 per camper, per day. [Register online](#). Multiple locations, including Pinckneyville Park in Norcross and Mountain Park Aquatic Center in Stone Mountain.

Holiday Luncheon

Friday, December 1 from 11:30am to 1:30pm

Let's gather at this festive annual event. Enjoy entertainment and a tasty catered meal. or seniors ages 50 and up. Fee: \$15. Please [register](#) by November 27. Bethesda Park Senior Center, 225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville.

Tutoring and Homework Assistance

Saturday, December 2 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Does your child need help with homework or sharpening their academic skills? Join us for peer-led sessions in math, reading, and writing in an engaging learning environment. Classes for ages 5 to 11 and 12 to 18. Fee: \$5. [Register online](#). OneStop Norcross, 5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross.

Ben Ku, District 2 Commissioner
Gwinnett County

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