

NEWS & EVENTS



in District 3 with
Commissioner Watkins

July 2021



Greetings!

It's July, Gwinnett! There are so many events and activities taking place around the county that we can join in to celebrate our vibrantly connected community. From Independence Day with our friends and family to Park and Recreation Month with our neighbors, let's get back out there and enjoy summer fun.

Have a safe and happy Fourth of July!

Happening Around Gwinnett



Gwinnett Entrepreneur Center applications set to open this summer

Gwinnett will start accepting applications this summer for membership in the Gwinnett Entrepreneur Center, an incubator for startups and small businesses looking to grow.

The program, which provides facilities and coaching for beginner business owners, will accept between 30 and 40

Gwinnett-based members. The center is encouraging applications from minority business owners and those from financially challenged households. The center will provide instruction such as workshops, coaching, peer learning, connections to customers and capital, and market research. For more information and to sign up to receive updates from the center, visit GwinnettEntrepreneurCenter.com.

County promotes new Parks and Recreation Director; first African American to oversee Gwinnett Parks

When a young Chris Minor played football at Cemetery Field, he did not know he would one day oversee the organization that operates that very park. For the first time in history, Minor — an African American — has been named as the new director of the Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation Division.

A graduate of South Gwinnett High School, Minor attended Clemson University where he eventually shifted his focus to the school's well-known parks, recreation and tourism degree. Minor served in the Parks and Recreation Division since 2013 and worked his way up to deputy director of recreation in 2017.



Get ready, get set, register for school!

If you're new to Gwinnett and need to register your child for school or if your child is changing schools due to a move, summer is the best time to register. All Gwinnett County Public Schools locations will be open for registration from 9:00am to 4:00pm on July 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, and 22.

To learn which school your child will attend, use Gwinnett County Public Schools' [school locator tool](#). You can also [start the registration process online](#), then go to the school on registration days to complete the process. Find your school's phone number [here](#) to learn additional registration dates and hours.



Have a fun and safe Fourth of July

The Gwinnett Department of Fire and Emergency Services encourages residents to leave fireworks displays to the professionals. For those planning to use consumer-type fireworks as part of their celebration, follow these safety tips:

- Purchase fireworks from a licensed and reputable vendor
- Read the directions carefully and inspect the device for any defects
- Keep a bucket of water, garden hose, and fire extinguisher close by
- Ignite fireworks outdoors in an open area away from buildings, vehicles, vegetation, or any other combustible material
- Ignite only one device at a time and use an ignition stick or fireplace lighter
- Always keep a safe distance between yourself and the device
- Before going to bed at night, remember to inspect the area where fireworks were used
- Call 911 in case of emergency



And remember, County offices, with the exception of operations required for the comfort and safety of residents, will be closed July 5 in observance of the holiday. Offices will open back up with normal business hours Tuesday, July 6.

What's New in District 3



Gwinnett partners with Eastside to expand vaccine access in southern Gwinnett

If you haven't received your COVID-19 vaccination yet, Gwinnett County and Eastside Medical Center are making it easier for you with a new clinic located in the southern portion of Gwinnett. The clinic offers first and second doses of the Moderna vaccine for adults ages 18 and over in a building located on the hospital campus.

Appointments can be scheduled using the [TriStar Health: Eastside Medical Center COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic registration form](#) or [VaccineFinder.org](#). Walk-ins are also welcome.

New, state-of-the-art library coming to Snellville

Gwinnett County and the city of Snellville have a new construction project on the books. The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday approved a contract with Reeves Young, LLC, to build a new library in the city's planned The Grove at Town Center development on Wisteria Drive. The branch will replace the Elizabeth Williams Library on Lenora Church Road. The two-story building will house the library on the first floor. The second floor will be operated by the city for co-working space, college classes and other public or educational uses. The 22,000-square foot space will include adult, teen and children's areas; 20 computer workstations; and a multipurpose room.

Gwinnett County and the city of Snellville are jointly funding the \$10.2 million project using your pennies from the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax program, known as SPLOST.

Rowen invites community involvement

Community input and diverse partnerships are crucial for the 2,000-acre Rowen knowledge community. Building on input received earlier this year, the Rowen Foundation plans to hold more public sessions and events to keep residents informed and provide opportunities for feedback. Later this summer, the foundation will

share findings gathered through its partnership with UGA's College of Environment and Design highlighting the property's [historical and cultural landscape](#).

Also, infrastructure planning continues with reviews of the site's topography, utility services, existing roadways, and a Developments of Regional Impact to assess Rowen's anticipated impact on surrounding areas. Lastly, the [Gwinnett Community Advisory Task Force](#) is expected to release its final report and recommendations for Rowen in the coming months.



Learn more at [RowenLife.com](#).



July is National Park and Recreation Month

July is National Park and Recreation Month, which mean it's all about fun activities, giveaways, and events across the county celebrating this month's theme, Our Park and Recreation Story. This year's theme highlights how parks and recreation positively impacts communities. The County will offer free or low-cost activities like art, a family game night, and an intercultural festival. A full list of activities can be found [here](#).

People can also donate children's books for kids 8 and under at any parks and recreation facility. Their gift will support the

Building Brains Anywhere G.R.E.A.T Little Minds Book Exchanges.

Summer Meals Program continues to provide breakfast and lunch for kids

Our Summer Meals Program is still going strong and we will continue serving at 22 of the 25 sites on July 5. The Duluth, Lawrenceville, and Snellville library locations will not be handing out meals on this day.

Meals are provided free of charge to those 18 and under. All meals meet U.S. Department of Agriculture standards, including healthy whole grains and vegetables. For more information and a complete list of locations visit [GwinnettSummerMeals.com](#).



Site volunteers are also needed at each location; visit [VolunteerGwinnett.net](#) to sign up. Additionally, emergency meal kits and information will be available at each of the summer meals sites for residents ages 60 and older who need assistance with hunger, health, or mobility. For more information, visit [GwinnettSummerMeals.com](#) or call 770.822.8840.



Calling all gardeners!

Gardeners of all skill levels are invited to submit [an application](#) to reserve a raised plot at any of Harvest Gwinnett's nine [Community Gardens](#) for the 2021 to 2022 growing year.

There are still plots available for lease at:

- Dacula Park Community Garden (205 Dacula Road, Dacula)
- Lenora Park Community Garden (3195 Lee Road, Snellville)
- Vines Park Community Garden (3500 Oak Grove Road, Loganville)

Learn how to [reserve a raised plot](#) and/or volunteer opportunities by contacting HarvestGwinnett@GwinnettCounty.com.

Special Events and Happenings

Events and activities are ramping back up with the CDC's new guidance. See a few exciting opportunities below!

Visit [GwinnettCountyEvents.com](#) or follow the County's social media channels to learn about more upcoming events.

Tales, Trails, and Bales

Friday, July 23 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at Lenora Park in Snellville

Free! Add to your park story and experience all that parks and recreation has to offer! Join us in celebration of National Park and Recreation Month for activities, hayrides, entertainment, inflatables, COVID-19 vaccines, and more.

Vines Park Privet Pull

Friday, July 30 from 8:00am to 11:00am at Vines Park in Loganville

Join Gwinnett Parks and Recreation as we tackle invasive species at Vines Park! Our focus will be the removal of privet, mahonia, and nandina with hand tools; no prior experience needed. This is a great opportunity to learn about some of the common invasive species we find in our parks and homes, while creating sustainable habitat for native wildlife and earning volunteer hours! Recommend bringing work gloves, closed toed shoes, and water. Ages 12 and up. Register [here](#).

Pop-up Park Play Days

Multiple dates in July at Lenora Park in Snellville

Our team is popping up across Gwinnett with fun activities, games and more! This free, drop-in program, is designed to bring recreation and community resources to families. No registration required, closed-toe shoes recommended. Find Live Healthy Gwinnett at Lenora Park in July! Learn more and see dates and times [here](#).



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