

# NEWS & EVENTS



in District 3 with  
Commissioner Watkins

August 2021



Greetings!

Gwinnett County is fortunate to have dedicated, passionate residents who love and support their community. With this newsletter, I hope to provide some interesting updates about what your local government is doing both in District 3 and across Gwinnett.

Thank you for being part of what keeps Gwinnett vibrantly connected!

## Happening Around Gwinnett

### Commissioners set 2021 millage rate

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners recently approved keeping the 2021 property tax rate at 6.95 mills, the same level as 2020. The millage rates for special service districts and countywide levies for voter-approved debt and recreation also remain unchanged from last year, keeping the total rate for property owners in unincorporated Gwinnett County at 14.71 mills.



A mill is one dollar of tax for every \$1,000 of assessed property value but the millage only applies to 40 percent of the property's total valuation. Your tax bill is calculated by applying your property assessment multiplied by the millage, minus exemptions. Property tax bills also include school taxes and possibly city taxes. Watch [this video](#) to learn more about how your property taxes are calculated.



### Gwinnett designated as a Purple Heart County

At our most recent public hearing, the Board of Commissioners issued a proclamation declaring Gwinnett as a Purple Heart County.

Throughout the decades, Gwinnett sons and daughters have answered the call of duty without reservation or hesitation. Being a Purple Heart County means actively honoring and remembering military personal wounded or killed in combat with hostile force.

### Apply for membership with the Gwinnett Entrepreneur Center

If you're a new business owner in need of advice or one who needs a financial jumpstart, the Gwinnett Entrepreneur Center wants to lend a helping hand. The Gwinnett Entrepreneur Center is now accepting applications for membership from budding business owners.



Sponsored by the Board of Commissioners in partnership with Georgia Gwinnett College, the center offers coworking and office space, classes, workshops, business coaching, and networking connections. The center will also provide support services to local non-member entrepreneurs. Those interested are asked to carefully review the member handbook, tour the facility, and attend an informational webinar about the center before applying. Learn more and apply at [GwinnettEntrepreneurCenter.com](https://GwinnettEntrepreneurCenter.com).



## Host a mobile food distribution in your community

Calling all community partners! Are you interested in hosting a free mobile food distribution for your community members? Connect with Gwinnett Community Services to learn more.

Since January, the County has worked with 22 community organizations to host 31 mobile markets, providing 273,883 pounds of fresh and shelf-stable food to 6,031 households, impacting 24,228 residents.

Contact [CommunityServices@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:CommunityServices@GwinnettCounty.com) to learn more.

## What's New in District 3

### Vaccine clinic with Eastside Medical Center now offering vaccines to kids 12 and up

If you haven't received your COVID-19 vaccination yet, Gwinnett County and Eastside Medical Center are making it easier for you with a vaccination clinic in southern Gwinnett.

The clinic now offers all three authorized vaccines, meaning kids ages 12 and up can now receive the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine onsite. The clinic also offers the first and second doses of the Moderna vaccine and single doses of the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine to adults ages 18 and over. Learn more about the [different vaccine types](#) from the CDC. See the clinic's hours and register for an appointment [here](#). Walk-ins are also welcome.



### Rowen releases answers to FAQs, other updates

Rowen has held several Community Conversations over the past few months to engage residents, and [RowenLife.com](http://RowenLife.com) has been updated with additional resources to keep the community informed about the project and its progress. Rowen recently updated the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page of the website to address questions from the community about topics like development cost and timeline, parks and trails, environment and habitat, transportation, and historic preservation.

The Rowen Foundation is working with the University of Georgia's College of Environment and Design to understand the property's [history and cultural landscape](#). Rowen will share findings from the report with the community when it's complete later this summer. The infrastructure planning for Rowen continues as the Rowen Foundation works with engineering partners to understand site topography, utility services, existing roadways, and to perform a Development of Regional Impact study. Meanwhile, the Foundation continues to work with the [Gwinnett Community Advisory Task Force](#) (which I sit on with Chairwoman Hendrickson) to collect feedback from a diverse set of community leaders.

### Comprehensive parks plan outlines opportunities for the future

The Board of Commissioners recently approved the first step of a Parks and Recreation master plan that lays out a proposed blueprint for adding parks, greenspace, trails, and developing recreational programs over the next decade. In developing the plan, Parks and Recreation examined existing and projected demographics, current parks inventory, local and national trends, as well as what residents and stakeholders really want, for example, creating recreation opportunities within a 10-minute walk. Learn more about the plan [here](#).



### County offices closed for Labor Day

All Gwinnett County government offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of residents, will be closed Monday, September 6 for Labor Day. All offices will resume regular working hours Tuesday, September 7.

A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center. Remember, Labor Day is not a trash holiday for residents in unincorporated Gwinnett County, so please bring your trash and recycling carts to the curb like usual.

## Learn about the library's digital resources

Want to know more about the Gwinnett County Public Library's digital resources? Visit the Snellville branch from 4:00pm to 5:30pm on Thursdays throughout August to learn more! Library staff will be available to provide in-person, socially-distanced guidance on some of the databases under the following filters:

- August 5: History & Geography
- August 12: Math, Science & Medicine
- August 19: Job & Career
- August 26: Kids



## Special Events and Happenings

**Events and activities are ramping back up around Gwinnett. See a few exciting opportunities below!**

Visit [GwinnettCountyEvents.com](https://www.gwinnettcountryevents.com) or follow the County's social media channels to learn about more upcoming events.

### Playground Detectives

**Wednesday, August 11 from 10:00am to noon**

Help wanted! Kids ages 3 to 8 are invited to collect investigative data through scientific observation and solve alphabet codes. This event is part of the Building Brains Anywhere initiative. [Learn more](#). Alexander Park, 800 Old Snellville Highway, Lawrenceville.

### Imagine That!

**Saturday, August 14 from 10:30am to 11:30am**

Let your child's imagination run wild at this literacy-based program. Little learners will hear a short story and unleash knowledge with hands-on STEAM activities that build upon the story. [Preregistration required](#). Bay Creek Park, 175 Ozora Road, Loganville.

### Engage in Aging

**Friday, August 20 from 10:00am to noon**

Free! Join Gwinnett Health and Human Services virtually for a morning of insight, education, and shared resources as we address the challenges of our aging population. For residents age 60+, their caregivers, and those in aging services to learn more about healthy lifestyle habits by connecting them with local resources, partners in health, and to improve health and wellness to aid senior in aging in place. [Registration required](#). Call 770.822.8831 for more information.

### Great Georgia Pollinator Census

**Saturday, August 21 from 11:00am to 1:00pm**

Bee...a citizen scientist – Your contribution to this statewide effort helps to understand and advance pollinator health. Participate on your own or at a free community garden counting event with Live Healthy Gwinnett and UGA Extension Gwinnett!

- Dacula Park, 205 Dacula Road, Dacula
- Lenora Park, 3195 Lee Road, Snellville
- Vines Park, 3500 Oak Grove Road, Loganville

### Duncan Creek Park Cleanup

**Saturday, August 21 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm**

Meet your neighbors at the Hamilton Mill Branch to help make an environmentally friendly impact in your community! The group will travel from the library to Duncan Creek Park, where participants will spend about two hours cleaning up the park to make it an even more beautiful community site for people to enjoy. This is a program for all ages, but parent supervision required for ages 12 and under. Hamilton Mill Branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library, 3690 Braselton Highway, Dacula.

### Citizenship Orientation

**Monday, August 23 from 4:00pm to 5:00pm**

Have you wanted to become a U.S. Citizen but don't know where to start? Join library staff, who will help guide you on your path to citizenship. Centerville Branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library, 3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville.



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Gwinnett County

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