

# NEWS & EVENTS



in District 3 with  
Commissioner Watkins

September 2021



Greetings!

It's September, and fall is just around the corner. With gatherings picking back up, it's more important than ever to take measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Get vaccinated, wear a mask in public, enjoy outdoor gatherings, and stay home when you're sick. You can help us get past this pandemic.

Be safe, and enjoy the month ahead!

## Happening Around Gwinnett

### Remembering 9/11 two decades later

This year marks 20 years since the September 11 attacks took the lives of almost 3,000 people in New York, Arlington, and western Pennsylvania. On Saturday, September 11, Gwinnett Fire and Emergency Services will host the annual 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at the Fallen Heroes Memorial.

Join us on the grounds of the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville at 8:30am to hear public safety leaders from around Gwinnett share their memories, recount the impact of that day, and honor the lives of the fallen. The ceremony will also be streamed live on Facebook [@GwinnettFire](#).



### County kicks off 2022 budget preparation with budget plan presentations

Representatives from departments and agencies are presenting their business plans and proposed budgets to Chairwoman Nicole Hendrickson and members of the budget review team, which includes several Gwinnett residents and County staff. This year, Chairwoman Hendrickson invited five residents to help review needs and allocate resources for the 2022 budget.

Watch the presentations live through Thursday on [TVGwinnettLive.com](#) starting at 8:00am each morning. They'll also be available on demand at [GwinnettCounty.com](#) following the presentation.

### County Administrator appoints new Police chief

County Administrator Glenn Stephens announced the appointment of Deputy Chief J.D. McClure to succeed Police Chief Brett West, who retired after 30 years of service to the county. McClure assumed his new role on Saturday, August 21.

McClure began his career as a police officer with Gwinnett County in 1996. Promoted to Lieutenant in September 2009, McClure previously served as Commander of the Criminal Investigations Division, Watch Commander in the Criminal Investigations Section and as the Commander of the Office of Professional Standards. Appointed to Major in September 2016, he served as the Central Precinct Commander and as the department's Chief of Staff.

Deputy Chief McClure was a dedicated member of the Special Weapons and Tactics Team for more than



a decade, retiring as the Tactical Team Leader.

Prior to his appointment, Deputy Chief McClure served over the department's Operations Bureau. McClure is also a proud veteran of the United States Marine Corps.



### County opens first homeless shelter in Gwinnett

HomeFirst Gwinnett: The Resting Spot officially opened its doors Tuesday, August 17. The Resting Spot is the first and currently only emergency shelter in Gwinnett. The Resting Spot caters to women and their children, offering them a stable place to stay and resources and services to get back on their feet. At full capacity, the shelter will have a total of 20 beds. Guests will be able to stay up to 90 days and receive dedicated case management and future housing assistance.

[Watch the ribbon cutting](#) for the center to learn more.

### Help Gwinnett pets find loving homes

The Gwinnett Animal Shelter is offering free pet adoptions through September 19 as part of the national Clear the Shelters initiative. Pet adoptions include vaccinations, microchip, and neutering.

You can also stop by the shelter for the **Clear the Shelter Celebration** on Saturday, September 18 from 11:00am to 4:00pm, which will include music, pet vendors, face painting, and more.

Interested in finding a new best friend? You can see available pets on [Facebook](#) or visit [GwinnettAnimalWelfare.com](#) to complete the adoption application before coming to the shelter for a meet-and-greet.



## What's New in District 3

### Get vaccinated to help keep our community safe

If you haven't received your COVID-19 vaccination yet, you can get vaccinated at vaccination sites, pharmacies, and other locations all around District 3. Gwinnett County and Piedmont Eastside have a vaccine clinic in southern Gwinnett that currently offers all three authorized vaccines, meaning kids ages 12 and up can now receive the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine onsite. 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.



### OneStop centers offer assistance to those in need

Are you facing hunger, health, housing, or other issues? Do you know someone who is? Gwinnett Health and Human Services can help. Emergency assistance is available. Email [OneStopHelp@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:OneStopHelp@GwinnettCounty.com), call 770.822.8850, or visit [GwinnettOneStop.com](http://GwinnettOneStop.com).

¿Está usted enfrentando problemas de hambre, salud, vivienda, u otros? ¿Conoce a alguien que esté enfrentando éste tipo de problemas? Nosotros podemos ayudar. Tenemos asistencia de emergencia disponible. [OneStopHelp@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:OneStopHelp@GwinnettCounty.com), 770.822.8850, [GwinnettOneStop.com](http://GwinnettOneStop.com).

### Learn the latest news about the Rowen knowledge community

Rowen is Georgia's hub for the intersection of business and innovation with an active focus on the environment, agriculture, and medicine. We are building a visionary knowledge community to include a combination of offices, research facilities, public spaces, residences, and preserved greenspace.

Gwinnett and the Rowen Foundation are collaborating on water infrastructure and a community trail system for the site, called the Gwinnett Eastern Regional Infrastructure Project Visit [GwinnettERI.com](http://GwinnettERI.com) to learn more. Rowen will also be joining in the upcoming Joint Community Meeting discussing ERI and Rowen on Wednesday, September 22 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. More information can be found [here](#).

Building on the Rowen Community Conversations held over the last several months online and in-person, the Rowen Foundation is planning additional opportunities to engage with the public in partnership with Gwinnett. Please visit [RowenLife.com](http://RowenLife.com) for additional information as it becomes available.



## Prepare for emergencies during National Preparedness Month

If your home caught on fire, would everyone know how to get out of the house? Do your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms work? September is National Preparedness Month, a time for everyone to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, schools, and communities. Planning ahead could save lives and your property.

If you need help planning, Fire and Emergency Services will conduct a free home safety survey that identifies potential fire and injury hazards inside and outside your home and offers solutions. As a part of this survey, residents will receive free smoke alarm and carbon monoxide alarm installations, if needed.

Visit [GCGA.us/FirePrograms](https://www.gcgga.us/FirePrograms) to schedule a home safety survey. For more information, please contact [FirePrograms@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:FirePrograms@GwinnettCounty.com).

## 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.



## 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.

### Community Health Fair

Saturday, September 11 from 10:00am to 1:00pm

Take charge of your health and join Live Healthy Gwinnett at this free community health fair. Visit with vendors, participate in health screenings, learn about ongoing community wellness activities for all ages, win giveaways, receive a COVID-19 vaccine, and more! Learn more at [LiveHealthyGwinnett.com](https://www.LiveHealthyGwinnett.com). Lenora Park, 4515 Lenora Church Road, Snellville.

### Building Brains (B<sup>2</sup>) Anywhere

**Puppets in the Park:** Friday, September 10 from 10:00am to 11:30am

Create your own puppet, then bring it to life with a book from the G.R.E.A.T. Little Minds Book Exchange! Yellow River Park, 3232 Juhon Road, Stone Mountain.

**Imagine That!** Thursday, September 16 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. Bay Creek Park, 175 Ozora Road, Loganville.

**Shape Lab:** Wednesday, September 22 from 10:00am to 11:30am

Create your own puppet, then bring it to life with a book from the G.R.E.A.T. Little Minds Book Exchange! Alexander Park, 800 Old Snellville Highway, Lawrenceville.

### Health Hero Day

**Saturday, September 18 from 10:00am to 1:00pm**

Uplift Centerville and become a health hero during this day full of fun! Come celebrate the Centerville community with local health and wellness organizations providing resources and screenings for the entire family. There will be family activities, a kids' zone, community resources, and more. Learn more at [GwinnettHumanServices.com](https://www.GwinnettHumanServices.com). OneStop Centerville, 3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville.



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Gwinnett County

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