

NEWS & EVENTS



in District 3 with
Commissioner Watkins

October 2021



Greetings!

As we continue to deal with the ever-present effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, progress is still continuing in Gwinnett. Read about some of our current projects and activities below.

Remember, it's not too late to help our community by getting vaccinated. Learn more and find a vaccination site near you [here](#).

I also want to thank all of the board, authority, and committee appointees representing District 3! Thank you for your willingness to serve.

- **B. Thassanee Gutter-Parker**, Animal Control Hearing Board
- **Norman B. Ellis**, Board of Tax Assessors
- **Marion Sailor**, Community Outreach Advisory Board
- **Michael Johnson**, Development Advisory Committee
- **Bobby Richburg**, Development Authority of Gwinnett County Government
- **Chris Rafanelli**, Family & Children Services Board
- **Darryl Hughes**, Gwinnett Animal Advisory Council
- **Andy Isburgh**, Gwinnett County Airport Authority
- **Ben Archer**, Gwinnett County Planning Commission
- **Glen Williams**, Gwinnett County Planning Commission
- **Anthony Williams, EdD**, Gwinnett County Police Citizens Advisory Board
- **Theodore "Ted" Koppel**, Gwinnett County Public Library Board of Trustees
- **Dr. James "Marshall" Shepherd**, Gwinnett County Sustainability Commission
- **Mark Tapp**, Gwinnett County Transit System Advisory Board
- **William B. Martin**, Gwinnett County Water & Sewerage Authority
- **Justin Walsh**, Gwinnett Historical Restoration & Preservation Board
- **Lois Love**, Hospital Authority of Gwinnett County
- **Wayne Sikes**, Hospital Authority of Gwinnett County
- **Russell Nash**, Housing Authority
- **Antonio Molina**, Merit Board
- **Rick Keenan**, Recreation Authority
- **Derrick Wilson**, Recreation Authority
- **Segun Adeyina**, Tree Advisory Committee
- **Jeff Timler**, Zoning Board of Appeals

Happening Around Gwinnett

Celebrate Hispanic Latino Heritage Month in Gwinnett

Though we enjoy the Latino community's culture every day, Hispanic Latino Heritage Month, which runs from September 15 to October 15, is a time to enhance our understanding of Latin American history and embrace the vibrancy Hispanic and Latino residents bring to our county.

From **September 15 through October 15** Enjoy a display of resources and information from various organizations that support our Latino community in the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center atrium. Then, on **Tuesday, October 5**, the County will host a Heritage Night celebration at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center. [Registration is required](#) for this event,



which will feature food, music, and a proclamation from the Board of Commissioners recognizing Hispanic Latino Heritage Month in Gwinnett County.



Share your thoughts on the future of Gwinnett Place Mall

Gwinnett County purchased the Gwinnett Place Mall site to lead the redevelopment process and transform it into a unique regional destination. The County's vision for the property is one of equitable redevelopment, which ensures that the future of Gwinnett Place Mall will be one where all residents share in its growth and feel welcome and included.

Residents are invited to share their feedback on the future of the mall site. Visit [ReclaimGwinnettPlaceMall.com](https://www.gwinnettnet.com/ReclaimGwinnettPlaceMall) to learn about the project, see the latest updates, and share your vision for Gwinnett Place Mall.

Gwinnett expands non-discrimination policy for County employees

It's equity in motion. The board voted to expand the County's nondiscrimination policy. The changes to the policy added protections for Gwinnett County Government employees' ancestry, family status, immigration status and homeless status. The amendment also draws inspiration from the Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair Act. The CROWN Act ensures that race-based hairstyles, textures and protective styles such as braids, locs, twists and knots are protected in the workplace.



Read more about the expanded policy [here](#).



County continues to offer rental and utility assistance

As of September 24, Gwinnett County has processed more than \$16.8 million in financial assistance for more than 1,816 households through our Project RESET 2.0 program. In total, Project RESET 2.0 has ensured that 4,404 individuals in Gwinnett County did not have to face an eviction or utility disconnection. Project RESET 2.0 is still going strong, currently approving an average of \$1.75 million per week.

Financial assistance is being made available through this program to eligible tenants, their landlords, and utility providers to cover activities including rent arrears, current and future rent payments, and utility arrears payments. Learn more about the program, including who is eligible for assistance, and apply [here](#).

What's New in District 3

Join me for a town hall meeting this month

I'll be hosting a series of town halls this October. Interested in learning more about what's happening in District 3? Please join me and my special guests to learn about the latest County news and to ask your questions. The meetings will be held:

Thursday, October 7 at 6:00pm

Snellville City Hall, 2342 Oak Road, Snellville
Co-hosted with Todd Warner, Snellville City Councilman

Wednesday, October 20 at 6:00pm

Dacula Park Activity Building, 2735 Old Auburn Avenue, Dacula
Co-hosted with Dacula City Council

Monday, October 25 at 6:00pm

Grayson, location to be announced
Co-hosted with Gene Ussery, Grayson City Councilman



I hope to see you there! If you're unable to attend in-person, you can watch the town halls live on Gwinnett County's [Facebook page](#).

Stay up to date on the latest Rowen news



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. The project will provide unparalleled direct and indirect economic benefits to Gwinnett County. Rowen will provide jobs, education, space for collaboration, community, and enjoyment of the site's natural beauty.

On September 22, I met with County leaders and the Rowen Foundation in Dacula for an Eastern Regional Infrastructure Community Meeting. Thank you to everyone who joined me to learn more about Rowen and future plans for this area of Gwinnett. The Eastern Regional Infrastructure project includes new public greenway trails, two trailheads, upgraded and expanded water service, and expanded sewer service to serve the eastern region of Gwinnett, including the Rowen development. Learn more at GwinnettERI.com.

The Rowen Foundation also released the final report of its Gwinnett Community Advisory Task Force on September 20. The report includes 20 immediate, short- and long-term action items that the Foundation will advance to ensure Rowen delivers on its mission, vision, and core principles in partnership with the Gwinnett community. See the full report [here](#), and learn more about Rowen and upcoming engagement opportunities at RowenLife.com.

New, state-of-the-art library coming to Snellville
Gwinnett County and the city of Snellville are planning a new state-of-the-art library in The Grove at Town Center development on Wisteria Drive. The two-story building will house the library on the first floor while the second floor will be operated by the city for coworking space, college classes, and other public or educational uses.



The branch will replace the Elizabeth Williams Library on Lenora Church Road. The 22,000-square-foot space will include adult, teen, and children's areas; 20 computer workstations; and a multipurpose room. The County and the city are jointly funding the \$10.2 million project using 2017 SPLOST program dollars.



Gwinnett Police work to build bridges during Faith & Blue Weekend

The Gwinnett County Police Department will partner with local faith communities to participate in National Faith and Blue Weekend, a nationwide effort created to break down biases through outreach among law enforcement and the communities they serve.

On **Friday, October 8**, the East Precinct will join Lifeway Church from **11:00am to 4:00pm** for a **food drive and blood drive** at the church, located at 2005 Hurricane Shoals Road in Dacula. That same day, officers from our Bay Creek Precinct will host a **cookout** with the United Methodist Church Grayson from **noon to 2:00pm** at Grayson City Park, located at 475 Grayson Parkway.

Building Brains Anywhere helps children learn and grow

Building Brains Anywhere, also known as B² Anywhere, is a countywide early learning initiative that provides safe, fun, and engaging early learning opportunities for children. See some free opportunities to engage in this program below:

Puppets in the Park: Friday, October 8 from 10:00am to 11:30am at Little Mulberry Park

- Ages 8 and under – Create your own puppet, then bring it to life with a book from the G.R.E.A.T. Little Minds Book Exchange!



Imagine That! Thursday, October 14 from 10:30am to 11:30am at Bay Creek Park

- Ages 2 to 5 – 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.

You can also support our G.R.E.A.T. Little Minds Book Exchanges by encouraging creativity and reading. Building Brains Anywhere is seeking book donations of literacy material appropriate for ages birth to 8. [Find a donation drop-off location here](#)

Thank you for joining us on Health Hero Day

Thank you to all those who joined us for OneStop

Centerville's Health Hero Day back in September! I hope you enjoyed our interactive, family-friendly event and were able to connect with our community organizations and Gwinnett County departments who gathered to "uplift" the Centerville community, while focusing on health and wellness initiatives for the whole family.



If you joined, you had the opportunity to meet teams of staff from our departments of Community Services, Water Resources, Police, Fire and Emergency Services; our Solid Waste Management team; our local health department; and other community-based nonprofit and health organizations. Stay tuned for future opportunities to join us for health screenings, information, resources, and fun! You can also see a list of upcoming OneStop Centerville events [here](#).

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.

Fall Family Health and Field Day

Saturday, October 2 from 1:30pm to 4:30pm

Bring your family to enjoy free old-school games and activities with Live Healthy Gwinnett. Learn about your health and receive free glucose screenings, hearing screenings, blood pressure readings, and more. Call 770.822.8825 or visit LiveHealthyGwinnett.com. Alexander Park, 800 Old Snellville Highway, Lawrenceville.

Walk the Talk

Saturday, October 9 from 8:00am to 9:00am

Free! Hit the trail, get moving and get informed! Take a walk with knowledgeable health professionals and learn about the importance of breast cancer awareness with Northside Gwinnett Hospital. Wear comfortable shoes and bring a water bottle. Call 770.822.3197 for additional information. Alexander Park, 800 Old Snellville Highway, Lawrenceville.

Moonlight on the Mill

Friday, October 22 from 5:00pm to 8:00pm

Step back in time and enjoy demonstrations and tours guided by our historical interpreters. Explore how this historic mill played an important role in the community for over 100 years! Admission to this all ages event is \$5 per person. [Preregistration](#) is required by October 20. Call 770.822.5450 or visit GwinnettParks.com. Freeman's Mill Park, 1401 Alcovy Road SE, Lawrenceville.

Fall Family Harvest Festival

Saturday, October 23 from 10:00am to noon

Join Live Healthy Gwinnett at the Lenora Park Community Garden for fun activities, cooking demos, harvesting, and more! Call 678.277.0287 or visit LiveHealthyGwinnett.com for more information. This free event is perfect for all ages. Lenora Park, 4515 Lenora Church Road, Snellville.

Spooky Pond Party

Friday, October 29 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm

I put a spell on you! Spooky Pond party goers will have a glow-in-the-dark good time trick-or-treating...if you dare. Costumes are encouraged. Ghost and goblin parent participation is required. Don't forget your camera. Fee: \$12. Learn more at GwinnettHumanServices.com. OneStop Centerville, 3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville.

Jasper Watkins III, District 3 Commissioner
Gwinnett County

Jasper.Watkins@GwinnettCounty.com