

# NEWS & EVENTS



in District 3 with  
Commissioner Watkins

November 2021



Greetings!

As we approach the holidays and look forward to time spent with family and friends, please remember that it's not too late to get vaccinated and help protect yourself and your loved ones. Learn more and find a vaccination site near you [here](#).

October was a great month of progress and collaboration with the community. Thank you to everyone who has attended one of my town hall meetings so far. If you haven't made it yet, you can learn more about the next two opportunities in the newsletter below.

I had the opportunity to attend some fun and interesting community events last month, including the Georgia Municipal Association's 2021 Hometown Connection, pictured to the right.

The event was hosted by the cities of Auburn and Winder and was a great opportunity to learn more about initiatives in these cities. During the event, we also took a tour of the Raw Water Storage Pond.



I also attended the Gwinnett County Composite Squadron/Civil Air Patrol Promotion Ceremony & Change of Command Ceremony at the Gwinnett County Airport on Thursday, October 28.

Twenty-two cadets were recognized for advancing in grade, and Major Tod Quarles formally accepted command from Lt. Col. Robert Powers, who ascended to the role of Georgia Wing Vice Commander – North.

I would be remiss, however, not to mention that October was also a difficult month for Gwinnett County. We faced the loss of two County employees in the line of duty — Mr. George Bolof of our Department of Water Resources and Police Recruit Ronald Donat. Ceremonies were held to honor the men and to help us always remember them, celebrate their lives, and recall how they strived to serve our community.

Please keep your thoughts and prayers with their families, friends, and coworkers.



## Happening Around Gwinnett

### Join us in person or virtually to honor our veterans

Join us at the Gwinnett Fallen Heroes Memorial on Thursday, November 11 at 11:00am to honor our nation's veterans. This year's ceremony will be held in-person and streamed live on [Facebook @GwinnettGov](#).

Our keynote speaker will be Army Maj. Gen. Ronald L. Johnson (retired), a professor of Industrial and Systems Engineering at Georgia Tech.



### Gwinnett launches pilot program to recycle glass

Gwinnett County has teamed up with Waste Pro USA, Inc., to pilot a drop-off glass recycling program at OneStop Norcross. The pilot program will provide residents a safe and sustainable opportunity to recycle glass.

Instead of glass being tossed in trash bins, manufacturers can reuse it to make items like kitchen tiles and insulation. Residents can bring their clean, empty glass containers to OneStop Norcross,

located at 5030 Georgia Belle Court. The clearly marked drop-off container is located in the center's parking lot and is accessible 24/7.

### Commissioners approve 4 percent market adjustment for employees

The Board of Commissioners voted to approve a 4 percent market adjustment for eligible County employees. The move will also raise the salaries of first responders in Police, Fire and Emergency Services, Sheriff's Office, Corrections, and E911 by an additional 4 percent, bringing the total pay increase for these frontline employees to 8 percent. This decision supports the County's goal to retain and recruit an effective workforce and underscores hiring challenges caused by an increasingly competitive job market, especially in public safety. Learn more about the decision [here](#).



### Gwinnett County participates in the Hefty® EnergyBag® program

Gwinnett is participating in the Hefty® EnergyBag® program to give residents a chance to dispose of hard-to-recycle plastics in a sustainable way. This new program provides a way to recycle plastics #4 through #7, which includes items like plastic packaging and wraps, plastic dinnerware, foam products, and plastic bags. With the new program, Gwinnett residents are invited to collect

these items in Hefty® EnergyBag® orange bags.

Gwinnett residents can drop off their full Hefty® EnergyBag® orange bags at WestRock, located at 384 Maltbie Street in Lawrenceville. Drop-off hours are Monday through Saturday from 7:00am to 2:00pm. Only Hefty® EnergyBag® orange bags will be accepted at this site. Learn more about the program [here](#).

## What's New in District 3

### Join me for a town hall meeting this month

My town hall series is continuing in November! Interested in learning more about what's happening in District 3? Please join me and my special guests to learn about updates in District 3 and around Gwinnett. The meetings will be held:

**Monday, November 1 at 6:00pm**

Centerville Senior Center, 3075 Bethany Church Road, Snellville

**Thursday, November 4 at 6:00pm**

Lenora Park Gym, 4515 Lenora Church Road, Snellville

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](#).



### Learn more about Rowen

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.

Join me and members of the Gwinnett County team at a Town Hall meeting to update the community on planning progress **November 18 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm** at the **Dacula Park Activity Center**.

Hear an update about Rowen's current planning phase and path forward informed by community input gathered since the project's initial announcement.

Gwinnett County and the Rowen Foundation continue their collaboration in planning for the Phase 1 water & sewer infrastructure for the Rowen site. The teams are also advancing the design of a future trailhead site within Rowen that would provide regional connectivity. Visit [GwinnettERI.com](http://GwinnettERI.com) to learn more about the Gwinnett Eastern Regional Infrastructure Project, which will supply infrastructure for both Rowen and other developments in the eastern portion of Gwinnett.

If you have questions about Rowen, you can read answers to frequently asked questions [here](#). Learn more about Rowen and upcoming engagement opportunities at [RowenLife.com](http://RowenLife.com).

### County continues to offer rental and utility assistance

As of October 22, Gwinnett County has processed more than \$24.4 million in financial assistance for more than 2,542 households through our Project RESET 2.0 program. In total, Project RESET 2.0 has ensured that 6,257 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 \$1.9 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](#).



### County hosts Gwinnett County Public Schools' 3DE program

Last week, Gwinnett County hosted students from Gwinnett County Public Schools who are participating in the 3DE Program. Students got a behind-the-scenes look at how the County operates and learned about different career paths in government. At the end of the tour, one team of students was recognized for their plan to help us share important messages with residents.

I was so impressed to see this next generation developing their leadership and analysis skills. They are truly the leaders of tomorrow.

## Special Events and Happenings

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

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

### Kids' Nights, Cool Escape

**Friday, November 12 from 5:00pm to 8:00pm**

Hey parents, how would you like some child-free time to treat yourself or just simply relax? Enjoy a night off as your kids enjoy a night out, making friends, playing games, creating crafts, and so much more. \$10 per child. OneStop Centerville, 3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville.

### Night Hike Star Gazing

**Friday, November 12 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm**

Experience the wonder and beauty of the forest after dark as we take a guided hike down a wooded trail and then look skyward at the vastness of the night sky. \$5/person. [Preregistration](#) required by November 10. Visit [GwinnettParks.com](http://GwinnettParks.com) or call 678.277.0850 to learn more. Little Mulberry Park, 3855 Fence Road, Auburn.

## **Walk for Diabetes**

**Saturday, November 20 at 8:00am**

Free! Join the Diabetes "You Can Win" Foundation and Live Healthy Gwinnett for the third annual Walk for Diabetes during National Diabetes Awareness Month! In addition to the walk, there will be guest presenters and vendors sharing community resources, games, and giveaways! Call 770.822.3197 or visit [LiveHealthyGwinnett.com](http://LiveHealthyGwinnett.com) to learn more. Lenora Park, 4515 Lenora Church Road, Snellville.

## **Cultural Holiday Crafts**

**Saturday, November 20 from 1:00pm to 2:30pm**

Making spirits bright...one craft at a time! Have a jolly good time exploring holidays celebrated around the world and creating crafts inspired by other traditions. \$12 per person. Parent/guardian supervision required. Learn more at [GwinnettHumanServices.com](http://GwinnettHumanServices.com) or by calling 678.277.0228. OneStop Centerville, 3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville.



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Gwinnett County

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