

NEWS & EVENTS



in District 3 with
Commissioner Watkins

December 2021



Greetings!

The holidays are upon us, and it's a great time to be thankful for everything we have gotten through over the past couple of years. We've had to work together, care for one another, and think ahead to find solutions to the challenges we've faced.

I'm also grateful for the incredible members of our community, including our veterans. We had an opportunity to celebrate the men and women who served our country at last month's Veterans Day ceremony at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center. Despite some adverse weather that moved the ceremony inside, I got the chance to meet remarkable veterans, and we all listened to Maj. Gen. Ronald Johnson's moving keynote address. You can watch the full ceremony [here](#).



Happening Around Gwinnett

Residents invited to share feedback on 2022 proposed budget

Chairwoman Hendrickson presented [her proposed \\$2.06 billion budget for 2022](#) in November. Now, it's your chance to review the proposed budget and share your comments.

We will host a public hearing where you can learn more about the budget and share comments Monday, December 6 at 7:00pm at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville. You can also review the [proposed budget](#) and [presentation](#) at your leisure and [share comments online](#) through December 31.



County opens warming stations on cold nights

Gwinnett County is activating five warming stations around the county for residents to receive temporary, overnight relief from long-term exposure to frigid temperatures of 35 degrees and below.

The warming stations are activated on evenings where temperatures are expected to drop to 35 degrees or below. Stations will be available from 6:00pm until 7:00am on these nights, and residents who visit the sites will be able to warm up, eat a meal, and get some rest. The County posts notices for evenings

that the stations will open on social media and [GwinnettOneStop.com](https://www.gwinnettonestop.com).

Give a pet a home for the holidays

This holiday season, give a shelter pet the gift of a forever home. Gwinnett Animal Welfare and Enforcement will waive all adoption fees on December 18. Visit the Bill Atkinson Animal Welfare Center between 11:00am and 2:00pm for festive activities and adoption photos with our holiday elf.

Call 770.339.3200 or visit [GwinnettAnimalWelfare.com](https://www.gwinnettanimalwelfare.com) to learn more.



Board approves agreement to fund Bus Rapid Transit cost study

The Board of Commissioners approved an agreement with three community improvement districts to fund a cost study of a Bus Rapid Transit corridor between Doraville and Sugarloaf Mills.

The agreement with the Gateway85, Gwinnett Place, and Sugarloaf CIDs outlines financial commitments and the management structure for a study to estimate the capital and operating costs for the Bus Rapid Transit corridor. Bus rapid transit, or BRT, is a bus-based

transit system that may include dedicated lanes, traffic signal priority, off-board fare collection, elevated platforms and enhanced stations.

Each CID will contribute \$25,000 toward the cost of the study, which is estimated to cost \$100,000. The County will manage the study and provide the balance of funding from the 2017 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax.

What's New in District 3



Finish the year strong with a COVID-19 vaccine and earn \$100

As the year comes to a close, we encourage all of our eligible residents to finish 2021 strong with a COVID-19 vaccine or booster. The County is offering \$100 Visa gift cards to people ages 5 and up who receive a COVID-19 vaccine at the Finish Strong Together community-wide vaccine incentive event the weekend of December 10, 11, and 12.

One of the four participating locations, **Piedmont Eastside**, is located right here in District 3 at 1800 Tree Lane, Suite 250 in Snellville. The clinic's hours are Friday from 8:00am to 8:00pm and Saturday and Sunday from 8:00am to 5:00pm. You can find all the details about the event at [FinishStrongTogether.com](https://www.finishstrongtogether.com).

Learn about redistricting at one of my open house meetings

My fellow commissioners and I are hosting a series of open houses to help Gwinnett residents understand how redistricting works for Gwinnett County commission districts. Under a decades old law, political boundaries must be drawn every decade to match a County's changing population. State legislators are charged with the task, which can also determine how people may vote. My open houses will be held:

- **Monday, January 10 at 6:30pm:** Dacula Park Activity Building, 2735 Auburn Avenue, Dacula
- **Thursday, January 20 at 6:00pm:** Centerville Senior Center, 3075 Bethany Church Road, Snellville



I hope to see you there!

Commissioners break ground on Eastern Regional Infrastructure project

Last month, we broke ground on the Eastern Regional Infrastructure project, which will bring water, sewer, and trails to 8,500 acres in eastern Gwinnett.

The Eastern Regional Infrastructure Project includes approximately five miles of new public trails, two trailheads, upgraded and expanded water service, and expanded sewer

service. The project will be funded by the departments of Water Resources and Community Services, including revenue from the 2017 SPLOST, which will fund the trails component of the project. Learn more about the project at GwinnettERI.com.



Gwinnett Police host food drive through December 13

Gwinnett Police are working to ensure families get the support they need during the holidays by partnering with Hamilton Mill United Methodist Church Food Pantry for a food drive. Residents are encouraged to drop off donations **November 15 through December 13** at their local precinct during normal business hours, 8:00am to 5:00pm.

Acceptable items include canned proteins including chicken, tuna, and spaghetti sauce with meat; canned chili and pasta; canned soup; peanut butter; cereal; canned fruit and vegetables; bottled condiments; cooking oil; baby wipes; and toilet paper. Learn more and find your closest drop-off location [here](#).

Rowen Foundation commits to presence for small, minority- and women-owned businesses

The Rowen Foundation has adopted a minimum goal of 30 percent participation for small, minority- and women-owned business enterprises in all Rowen Foundation vendor and contractor relationships. The 30 percent goal will be based on the total contract amount of all contracts with vendors and contractors involved with Rowen, a 2,000-acre knowledge community in eastern Gwinnett County, and is anticipated to continue across the life of the project.



Rowen has a programmatic focus on agriculture, medicine and the environment. Led by the non-profit Rowen Foundation, Rowen will be a dynamic community with offices, research facilities, public and community spaces, residences and preserved greenspaces offering unparalleled economic opportunity to Gwinnett County, the state of Georgia, and beyond.

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.

Special Events and Happenings

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

Visit GwinnettCountyEvents.com or follow the County's social media channels to learn about more upcoming events.

Improving Sleep

Thursday, December 9 from 11:55am to 12:55pm

Do you struggle with falling asleep or getting a good night's rest? Make the sleep of your dreams a reality by practicing healthy sleep habits. [After you register](#), you will receive a link to our virtual class from UGA Extension Gwinnett.

Tree Tips

Tuesday, December 14 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm

Free! From increasing property values to providing shade during the summer, trees can offer several benefits. Gain insight into proper tree health, including when to contact a professional tree management service. [After you register](#), you will receive a link to our virtual class from UGA Extension Gwinnett.

Dazzling December

Saturday, December 18 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm

Join us at OneStop Centerville and make your December one to remember! Jingle and mingle with your friends as you make your diamond painting sparkle and shine and compete in our ugly sweater contest. \$15 per person. [Register online](#) or call for more information. OneStop Centerville, 3025 Bethany Church

Road, Snellville.



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