

# NEWS & EVENTS



in District 3 with  
Commissioner Watkins

August 2022



Greetings!

It's hard to believe that the summer is coming to a close and we're already seeing school buses on our roads again. Remember to slow down around schools and keep a watchful eye out for pedestrians as we get used to this part of our daily commute again. Together, we can make sure our students, teachers, and staff get to school and back home safely.

I hope you've had a fun and festive summer filled with activities around our amazing community. I know I had a great time at Health Hero Day at OneStop Centerville back on July 22!

Keep reading below for more opportunities to celebrate our vibrant community.



## Happening Around Gwinnett

### Board keeps millage rate the same as last year

The Gwinnett Board of Commissioners on Tuesday adopted the same general fund millage rate as last year, 6.95 mills. Prior to the vote, the Board held three public hearings and accepted comments through the County's website.

Most homeowners in Gwinnett benefit from the Value Offset Exemption, which means they will not see an increase in the county government portion of their tax bill. Property taxes are based on millage rates set by county government, the schools, and cities. One mill equals a dollar tax per thousand dollars of assessed property value.



You can take a closer look at details on the [2022 millage rates and additional information about how property taxes are calculated](#). Tuesday's action paved the way for the Tax Commissioner's Office to mail property tax bills in September. Payments will be due in November. Property owners or mortgage lenders can make payments by mail, online, in person, or by using one of the special drop boxes located at tax and tag offices across the county.



### SPLOST referendum added to November ballot

When Gwinnett County voters head to the polls during November's General Election, they will decide on the renewal of the one-cent Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax, or SPLOST. SPLOST collections are used to

fund capital projects like roads, bridges, parks, fire stations, police precincts, libraries, and more.

Gwinnett voters have approved a series of SPLOST programs that since 1985 have raised more than \$3.9 billion, allowing the County to save more than \$1.9 billion in financing costs compared to issuing bonds. If given the green light by voters, the new program could raise \$1.35 billion over the next six years, 25 percent of which would go to cities. Learn more about the County's use of SPLOST funding over the years at [GwinnettSPLOST.com](http://GwinnettSPLOST.com).

## August is Purple Heart Month

As a Purple Heart County, Gwinnett honors our Purple Heart recipients all year round. In August, we celebrate Purple Heart Month to affirm our commitment to the brave servicemembers wounded or killed while serving in the U.S. military.

Throughout the month of August, Purple Heart banners will hang from light poles at the entrance to the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center as well as in front of the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse.



## County seeking input on hazard mitigation efforts

Gwinnett Emergency Management invites residents to share input about the impact hazards and disasters have on their lives, property, and the environment. Feedback from the community will be used to update the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan. Gwinnett's Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies natural hazards and vulnerabilities, assesses risk, and lays out ways to minimize loss of life and property due to hazards and disasters. Complete the brief survey at [GwinnettCounty.com/HazardMitigationSurvey](http://GwinnettCounty.com/HazardMitigationSurvey).



## Find your new best friend and help us Clear the Shelter

On Saturday, August 27, we want to Clear the Shelter! Join us at the Bill Atkinson Animal Welfare Center from 11:00am to 4:00pm for a family-friendly adoption event. This nationwide celebration will include music, vendors, food, and kids' activities.

All adoption fees will be waived. All pets are spayed/neutered, given up-to-date vaccines and a microchip. Visit [GwinnettAnimalWelfare.com](http://GwinnettAnimalWelfare.com) to learn more.

## What's New in District 3

### Gwinnett and United Way prepare to allocate \$4.25 million in grant funds to local nonprofits

Local nonprofits that serve critical needs in the community will soon receive a boost as Gwinnett County and United Way of Greater Atlanta prepare to allocate \$4.25 million in Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery funds to nonprofit service providers. These funds — provided to Gwinnett County by the U.S. Department of the Treasury through the American Rescue Plan Act — will be used to address needs identified or worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic impact. United Way of Greater Atlanta is offering digital listening surveys, where [nonprofits](#), [residents](#), and [community organizations](#) are invited to share their needs and challenges as Gwinnett County recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic. The feedback from these listening surveys will be used to prioritize needs and prepare for the distribution of funding. **Local nonprofits can apply for funding now through August 26** using [United Way's Grant Portal](#).



### Dial 988 for mental health crisis support

People seeking mental health services can now call 988 to access counselors and response teams at the 24/7 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Callers will be redirected from the current number,



1.800.273.8255, which will stay operational during and after the 988 expansion. The new number will make it easier for individuals to get access to the help they need by providing an easy-to-remember three-digit number for mental health crises. To learn more about the crisis hotline, visit [988LifeLine.org](https://www.988lifeline.org).

### **New interchange on State Route 316 at Harbins Road improves safety and travel for residents**

County and state officials cut the ribbon on a new interchange over State Route 316 at Harbins Road in Dacula.

The more than \$50 million SPLOST-funded project transformed the intersection into an interchange which will increase safety and ease congestion for motorists traveling through the area. [Watch this video](#) to learn more about the project.



### **Get the latest news about Rowen**

Stay up-to-date on the latest happenings at Rowen by finding the project on social media. Follow [@RowenLife](#) on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#).

You can also follow the Rowen Foundation on [LinkedIn](#).

## **Special Events and Happenings**

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

### **Skate Jam**

**Saturday, August 6 from 1:00pm to 5:00pm**

Roll in for skateboarding, music, and urban art. Put your skills to the test in skateboarding and best trick competitions, and enjoy giveaways, raffles, and more. All ages welcome. Duncan Creek Park Skate Complex, 3700 Braselton Highway, Dacula.

### **Toddler Trek-Fishy Friend**

**Tuesday, August 9 from 10:30am to 11:30am**

One little fish swam in a pond. He blew little bubbles and then he had to yawn. Join us at the Historic Freeman's Mill to explore fish through songs and interactive nature-based play for children ages 1 to 3. \$10 per person. Register online at [B2Anywhere.com](https://www.B2Anywhere.com). Freeman's Mill Park, 1401 Alcovy Road, Lawrenceville.

### **Storytime at the Park**

**Mondays, 10:30am to noon**

From now through October, B<sup>2</sup> Anywhere will be holding Storytime at the Park on Mondays at Alexander Park. Bring your friends for stories, songs, fun, and a mobile library! Blankets will be provided, or you can bring your own. Alexander Park, 800 Old Snellville Highway, Lawrenceville.

### **Playground Pals**

**Friday, August 19 from 10:00am to noon**

Free! Join us for interactive games and activities to unleash knowledge with Building Brains Anywhere and energy with Be Active Gwinnett at the playground! Register online at [B2Anywhere.com](https://www.B2Anywhere.com). Alexander Park, 800 Old Snellville Highway, Lawrenceville.

### **The Great Georgia Pollinator Census**

**Friday, August 19 and Saturday, August 20**

Drop in and "bee" a citizen scientist. Learn about the importance of pollinators and take part in the statewide pollinator count. [Multiple times and locations](#).



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Gwinnett County

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