

# NEWS & EVENTS



in District 3 with  
Commissioner Watkins

September 2022



Greetings!

As we head into fall, I encourage you to take some time to find opportunities to get involved in our vibrant community. There are so many ways to contribute your time and talent, get to know your neighbors, and learn more about your local government. Keep reading for information about upcoming opportunities and events.

## Happening Around Gwinnett

### Departments present budget requests for 2023

Before Chairwoman Nicole Hendrickson compiles her proposed 2023 budget, residents get a chance to weigh in on county government priorities. Gwinnett County department directors and elected officials – from the Sheriff's Office to the Clerk of Courts – present their 2023 business plans to a Citizens Review Team this week. Following the series of presentations, Chairwoman Hendrickson and the group will analyze the needs of departments and agencies that provide services to Gwinnett residents and businesses. From there, the team will recommend funding priorities from the viewpoint of a resident. Recordings and on-demand video of the budget presentations can be found [here](#). The business plans will also be available on the County's government access channel [TV Gwinnett](#).



### County hosts first ever Welcoming Week Festival on September 10

Gwinnett is proud to host its first-ever Welcoming Week Festival at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center on **Saturday, September 10** from **10:00am to 2:00pm**. Welcoming Week brings together neighbors of all backgrounds to build strong connections and affirm the importance of a welcoming and inclusive community. The festival will include arts and crafts, games, food trucks, community resources, and more! The event is free and open to everyone. [Register to attend](#).

### 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](#).



### Meet our farm friends at the Gwinnett County Fair

Learn all about life on the farm inside the Big Red Barn at the annual 4-H Farm Friends exhibit at the Gwinnett County Fair, running September 15 to 25 in Lawrenceville. Celebrating its 32<sup>nd</sup> year of promoting agriculture to children and parents through the UGA Extension Gwinnett 4-H Club, the animal attraction features tons of hands-on fun, from petting rabbits, goats, and sheep to “milking” Daisy, the wooden sawhorse cow. Visitors can play barnyard trivia, celebrate the birthday of Ellie May the donkey and see ducklings and

fluffy baby chicks. In conjunction with the exhibit, 30-minute day group tours are offered from 9:30am to 11:30am weekdays. To schedule a tour, please email [Barbara.Larson@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:Barbara.Larson@GwinnettCounty.com). Discovery Day for toddlers and homeschool families and groups is from 11:00am to noon Friday, September 23. The cost for each is \$2 per child. For additional details visit [GwinnettExtension.com](http://GwinnettExtension.com).

## What's New in District 3

### Join me for a veterans town hall

On **Monday, September 26 at 6:00pm**, I'll be hosting a veterans town hall in the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center auditorium. I'd like to invite veterans and their families to join me to learn about veterans services in Gwinnett County. I hope to see you there!

### County remembers September 11 with virtual ceremony

On Sunday, September 11, tune in as we remember the lives lost on September 11, 2001, with a virtual ceremony. The ceremony will air on [@GwinnettFire](https://www.facebook.com/GwinnettFire) at 8:30am. It can also be viewed on [TV Gwinnett](http://TV.Gwinnett.com).



### Local nonprofits invited to apply for grant funds before September 9

Local nonprofits that serve critical needs now have two more weeks to apply for Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery funds to be allocated by Gwinnett County and United Way of Greater Atlanta. The \$4.25 million in 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. Local nonprofits can apply for funding now through September

9 using [United Way's Grant Portal](https://www.unitedway.org/grant-portal).

### Share your thoughts on the future of transit in Gwinnett

Still haven't given your input on transit expansion in Gwinnett? Take our brief, five-minute [Transit Development Plan survey](https://www.gwinnettcourtesy.com/transit-development-plan-survey) by **September 30** to share your thoughts on transit today and opportunities for tomorrow!

Gwinnett's Transit Development Plan will guide transit development to serve the current and future needs of our county. Whether you're a daily commuter, transit rider, business owner, or resident, we want your help creating the vision and investment plan for transit in Gwinnett. Learn more on the [Transit Development Plan webpage](https://www.gwinnettcourtesy.com/transit-development-plan).



### Get the latest news about Rowen

Join the Rowen Foundation Thursday, September 15 at the Workforce of the Future event, the second event in the foundation's thought leadership series. These events open an important dialogue between our higher education institutions, industry leaders, the community, board members, industry executives and partners to inform and inspire our collective futures, identify opportunities to work collaboratively to advance these industries, drive innovation, and create equitable opportunities. Hosted by Georgia Tech in the heart of midtown, this event is intended to connect leaders from

diverse fields to gain insights into how they view future talent needs and the evolution of a global workforce. Visit [RowenLife.com](http://RowenLife.com) to learn more.

You can also tune in to the latest Rowen infrastructure plan update Tuesday, September 20 from 6:30pm to 7:30pm to learn more about the project, ask questions and provide feedback as the project heads towards groundbreaking later this year. [Register for the virtual event](#). Representatives from the Rowen Foundation will present the updated Phase 1 Infrastructure Plan followed by time to answer your questions and collect feedback.

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](#) or follow the County's social media channels to learn about more upcoming events.

### Yoga in the Park

#### Multiple dates and locations

Free! September is National Yoga Month! Celebrate with Live Healthy Gwinnett all month long by connecting with nature and learning the health benefits of yoga with certified instructors. All skill levels welcome; bring a mat, towel, and water bottle. Learn more at [LiveHealthyGwinnett.com](#).

- Little Mulberry Park – Saturdays September 3 to 24, 7:30am to 8:30am
- Vines Park – Sundays September 4 to 25 from 9:00am to 10:00am
- Alexander Park – Sundays September 4 to 25 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm

### Camp Out and Clean Up!

#### Friday, September 23 to Saturday, September 24 from 6:00pm to 9:00am

Life is better when you're camping! Join us for a family camp out and stick around the next morning for a park clean up volunteer opportunity. Fee: \$15 per person. Dinner, s'mores, and breakfast treats included; register online at [GwinnettParks.com](#) or call 678.277.0900. Tribble Mill Park, 2125 Tribble Mill Parkway, Lawrenceville.

### Walk the Talk

#### Saturday, September 24 from 8:00am to 9:00am

Free! Hit the trail, get moving, and get informed. Take a walk with knowledgeable health professionals on Food Safety Awareness with UGA Extension Gwinnett. All ages welcome. Lenora Park, 4515 Lenora Church Road, Snellville.

Jasper Watkins III, District 3 Commissioner  
Gwinnett County

[Jasper.Watkins@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:Jasper.Watkins@GwinnettCounty.com)