

NEWS & EVENTS



in District 3 with
Commissioner Watkins

January 2023



Greetings!

Happy New Year! It's 2023, and we're off to a running start. In the first week of the year, the Board of Commissioners approved the year's budget and welcomed a new commissioner.

Check out some more news and events in District 3 and around Gwinnett below.

Happening Around Gwinnett

Board approves 2023 budget

In our first major vote of the year, the Board of Commissioners [approved a \\$2.27 billion budget](#) for 2023 on Tuesday. It consists of a \$1.78 billion operating budget and a \$488 million capital improvements budget, which includes funds from the County's Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax program.

As part of the budget development process, department directors and elected officials presented business plans for 2023 to five Gwinnett residents recruited by Chairwoman Hendrickson who reviewed the departmental requests and made recommendations. Thank you to everyone who provided their comments either in-person at our December 5 public hearing or online on the County's website to help inform our final 2023 budget.



Recycle your Christmas tree

Do you have a live Christmas tree you need to dispose of now that the holidays are behind us? Drop it off at a designated fire station by January 25 as part of Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful's annual Bring One for the Chipper tree recycling event. Before dropping off your live Christmas tree, remove all lights, tinsel, decorations, and tree stands.

Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful will chip the trees into mulch for use at County parks on Saturday, January 28. Volunteers ages 14 and older are needed from 8:00am to 11:00am on this date. [Find more details and register to volunteer.](#)

Be wary of fraudulent water testing claims

In recent weeks, residents have reported receiving phone calls from people claiming to be employees from Gwinnett County's water treatment lab, offering to conduct water testing inside their homes. While the Department of Water Resources tests the County's water quality frequently, the County does not send employees to test tap water inside customers' homes.

If anyone claiming to be a Gwinnett County employee asks to take water samples from inside your home, do not let them in. As always, if you feel unsafe or if someone is trying to break into your home, call 911. Residents may call Water Resources' 24-hour dispatch at 678.376.7000 with questions or concerns.





Help out at a warming station

The County has opened five warming stations for residents to receive temporary, overnight relief from long-term exposure to forecasted temperatures 35 degrees and below, and we're seeking part-time staff assistants!

When activated, the warming stations are available from 6:00pm to 7:00am, allowing residents to warm up, eat a meal, and get some rest. Staff assistants will be called on to help with organizing check-in materials, set up and breakdown, greeting

participants, and other related station tasks. For locations, activation statuses, and more, visit GwinnettOneStop.com.

What's New in District 3

Leaders break ground on Rowen

In December, the Rowen Foundation hosted a groundbreaking and tree planting ceremony to officially kick off construction on the knowledge community.

The site will eventually include more than 22 million square feet of lab, office and civic spaces alongside a mix of multi-family residential, cafes, start-up hubs, parks and public trails. At complete build out, Rowen is projected to bring nearly 100,000 jobs to Georgia, contributing up to \$10 billion into the state's economy annually.

Stay up-to-date on the latest happenings at Rowen by finding the project on social media. Follow [@RowenLife](https://www.instagram.com/RowenLife) on [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/RowenLife), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/RowenLife), and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/RowenLife). You can also follow the Rowen Foundation on [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/RowenFoundation).



Learn about upcoming transportation projects

My appointees to the Transportation Citizens Project Selection Committee will be hosting two community meetings to share information about upcoming transportation projects and to ask for your input.

The first meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, January 14** from 10:00am to 11:30am in the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center auditorium at 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville. The second will be **Saturday, February 11** from 10:00am to 11:30am in the Lenora Park Gym at 4515 Lenora Church Road

in Snellville. I hope to see you there!

Get involved with Gwinnett's community gardens

Live Healthy Gwinnett now boasts 10 community gardens, including a new location in Grayson, along with thriving gardens at Dacula, Lawrenceville, Lenora, and Vines parks.

Get growing with a space of your own! Applications are now being accepted for a 4-by-8-foot raised bed plot. Visit LiveHealthyGwinnett.com, email HarvestGwinnett@GwinnettCounty.com, or call 678.277.0287 to apply.



Special Events and Happenings

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

S'more Winter Fun

Friday, January 20 from 6:30pm to 9:00pm

Free! Come on out to Lenora Park Pavilion to enjoy some time by the fire making s'mores, telling stories, and enjoying some fun games and activities. All ages welcome. [Register online](https://www.gwinnettparks.com/lenorapark). Lenora Park, 4515 Lenora Church Road, Snellville.

Freeman's Mill Tours

Saturday, January 21 and 28 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Free! Enjoy a free guided tour of a local landmark and national treasure. Located along the scenic banks of the Alcovy River, the restored gristmill was one of the last operating gristmills in Gwinnett, providing wheat flour, cornmeal, and feed for residents and animals for over a century. Educational interpreters will lead guided tours. [Preregistration](#) is recommended. Historic Gristmill at Freeman's Mill Park, 1401 Alcovy Road, Lawrenceville.

Resale Market

Saturday, January 28 from 9:00am to 1:00pm

Find a treasure or cash in your clutter at this indoor resale market. Admission is free. Vendors must [preregister](#). Dacula Park Activity Building, 2735 Old Auburn Avenue, Dacula.



Jasper Watkins III, District 3 Commissioner
Gwinnett County

Jasper.Watkins@GwinnettCounty.com