

NEWS & EVENTS



in District 3 with
Commissioner Watkins

April 2023



Greetings!

Just like that, we're already a quarter of the way through 2023! I hope you're making the most of this year.

As we approach Earth Day, I'd like to remind you that we all play a role in preserving and protecting our environment. There are simple things we can do at home, like reusing what you already have, reducing what you buy (especially single-use plastics), and [recycling what you can](#) [Learn more environmental sustainability tips](#), and keep reading below for an opportunity to get rid of those hard-to-recycle items!

Happening Around Gwinnett

2023 SPLOST program begins collections

On November 8, 2022, voters approved the renewal of the one-cent Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax. The 2017 program expired at midnight on March 31, and the 2023 program picked up on April 1. The renewed program, known as the 2023 SPLOST program, is expected to collect \$1.35 billion over the next six years.

[Learn more about the 2023 SPLOST program](#) and how we've used your pennies for County and city facilities, acres of greenspace, parks and recreation facilities, new roads and improvements, police and fire stations, and libraries around the county since the mid-80s.



Last chance to apply for this summer's Gwinnett Youth Commission

Another batch of high schoolers will get an inside look at Gwinnett County government, interact with local leaders, and receive community leadership training this summer. The Gwinnett Youth Commission is a year-long program, which includes an eight-week summer training session. To be considered for this upcoming term, participants must be rising high school freshmen, sophomores, juniors, or seniors going into the 2023 – 2024 school year and must apply by **Friday, April 7**. There is no cost to participate in this program. [Find](#)

[more information and apply.](#)

Join us for Coffee and Conversation

Grab a cup of coffee and join us for a networking event with other business owners and County officials on Wednesday, April 19 from 8:30am to 10:30am. During the event, business owners and entrepreneurs can have meaningful conversations with elected officials about how their County government can play a proactive role in business advancement.

The event will take place at the Gas South Convention Center located at 6400 Sugarloaf Parkway in Duluth. [Register online](#) before the event to let us know



you're coming.



Water bill payment address changing in May

Beginning Monday, May 1, residents will have a new mailing address to pay their water bills. Water Resources will accept payments by mail at P.O. Box 105023, Atlanta, GA 30348-5023.

Other options for paying your bill include by phone at 678.376.6800, online at Gwinnett2o.com, or in person at 684 Winder Highway in Lawrenceville. These payment methods will not be impacted by the change in mailing address.

What's New in District 3

Join me for a State of District 3 town hall

I'll be hosting three State of District 3 town halls around our district to share updates about projects happening around District 3 and across the county. The town halls will take place at 6:30pm on:

- **Monday, April 10** at the [Dacula Park Activity Building](#)
- **Tuesday, April 11** at [Lenora Park Gym](#)
- **Thursday, April 13** at the [Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center](#) (this meeting will also stream live on Facebook [@GwinnettGov](#))



Please share the dates and times with your neighbors. I hope to see you there!



Recycle paint, electronics, tires, and more

Celebrate Earth Day with Gwinnett! Recycle your electronics, paint, clothing, sneakers, and more at our annual recycling event on **Saturday, April 22 from 9:00am to noon** at Coolray Field in Lawrenceville. Items should be placed in disposable containers in the trunk or back seat of your vehicle to be removed by volunteers.

Learn about [items you can recycle at the event](#) or call 770.822.7141 for more information. This event is sponsored by Gwinnett Solid Waste Management and Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful. This is a rain or shine event.

Bring home your new best friend

From National Pet Day on April 11 to National Adopt a Shelter Pet Day on April 30, this month is chock-full of animal shout-outs. There's even World Rat Day on April 4 and World Penguin Day on April 25. While you won't find any seabirds to adopt at Bill Atkinson Animal Welfare Center in Lawrenceville, there are plenty of cats and dogs to take home! All adoptable animals are vaccinated, spayed/neutered, and microchipped too? View available pets [online](#) or on [Facebook](#).

Not ready to commit to a pet? Consider fostering! Share your home with a shelter pet, providing recovery and socialization while allowing the center to accept more animals. Pet food, supplies, and veterinary care are all provided by the animal center. [Visit our website](#) to complete the online application, which includes a volunteer background check and liability waiver.



Gwinnett Police offer firearm safety and security classes

Gwinnett residents will soon have an opportunity to learn guidelines and best practices for safe gun handling from local law enforcement personnel. Gwinnett Police will offer firearm safety and security classes to the community on Wednesday, April 12 at 6:30pm at the Gwinnett County Police Training Center located at 854 Winder Highway in Lawrenceville.

Classes will highlight firearm security, terminology, and how to properly store firearms to keep children safe. Youth who plan to attend must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Residents are prohibited from bringing their own firearms to class. Register online at

Special Events and Happenings

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

Learn It! Play It! Spikeball

Tuesday, April 18 from 11:30am – 2:00pm for ages 8 to 12 or 6:00pm to 8:30pm for ages 13 to 17

Learn a new skill playing spikeball, make a new friend, and enjoy a pizza lunch. Fee: \$10 per person.

[Register online](#). Rhodes Jordan Park, 100 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville.

Earth Day at the Mill

Saturday, April 22 from 9:00am to noon

Free! Explore the importance of water at Gwinnett's historic gristmill, enjoy stories, a science investigation, a take-home craft, and building tour. [Register online](#). Freeman's Mill Park, 1401 Alcovy Road, Lawrenceville.

Food Distribution

Tuesday, April 25 from 3:00pm until supplies run out

Get fresh and shelf-stable foods with drive-thru, contactless distribution. No ID is required. For more details, visit [VolunteerGwinnett.net](https://www.volunteergwinnett.net) or email VolunteerGwinnett@GwinnettCounty.com. Lenora Park, 4515 Lenora Church Road, Snellville.

Jasper Watkins III, District 3 Commissioner
Gwinnett County

Jasper.Watkins@GwinnettCounty.com