

NEWS & EVENTS



in District 3 with
Commissioner Watkins

July 2023



Greetings!

Happy Independence Day! I hope you spend the holiday with family and friends.

I recently had the honor of being named to the ACCG Standing Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse. As a veteran, I've witnessed the personal struggles associated with the transition from military to civilian life and recognize the importance of collaborating on solutions to address these sensitive topics. I'm thankful to ACCG President Henry Craig for my appointment to the Mental Health Committee. I look forward to serving alongside the state's esteemed members to tackle mental health and substance abuse challenges.

I also want to share a few shout-outs and thanks to some of our incredible community members.

Thank you to the Korean Veterans Association Southern Regional Chapter USA for inviting me to be a part of the 73rd Korean War Commemorating Ceremony on June 25 where Korean War veterans were recognized and honored. I presented a proclamation from Gwinnett County on behalf of Chairwoman Nicole Love Hendrickson.



I also want to congratulate Pastor Marion Sailor on her 10th anniversary as Pastor of Christ the King Church in Dacula. Thank you for inviting me to celebrate with you and your church family on this milestone occasion.



In June, we celebrated Flag Day, Juneteenth, and Pride Month with some incredible community celebrations. Thank you to the Flag Day President Mike Sabbagh, Vice-President Troy Adler, and the committee for having me as the guest speaker for Flag Day 2023.

Then, on June 17, we celebrated Juneteenth at Rhodes Jordan Park and Lawrenceville beside our friends at the United Ebony Society of Gwinnett County.

Finally, we gathered with our vibrant LGBTQI+ community and allies to celebrate Pride Month at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center for our third annual Pride Party.



Last but not least, I want to celebrate two local businesses. I would like to give a shout out to Marisa King, LaShonia Turner, and Executive Chef Aasiya Muslim they have partnered to create Scrum-did-dly-ump-tious, the first Black women-owned restaurant in historic downtown Lawrenceville located at 169 South Perry Street, serving breakfast, brunch, and lunch from 8:00am to 3:00pm Wednesday through Sunday. I also share my congratulations to Obria Medical Clinics for opening up a new community clinic in Lawrenceville! It was a wonderful Community Open House. This facility is outstanding!

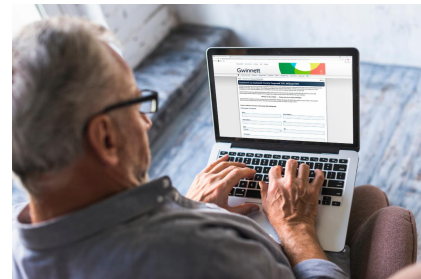
We're continuing a busy summer with plenty of events and activities for the whole family. Keep reading below to learn more.

Happening Around Gwinnett

Learn about the proposed 2023 millage rate

The Gwinnett Board of Commissioners is considering keeping the general fund millage rate the same as last year, at 6.95 mills.

Generally, property owners who benefit from the [Value Offset Exemption](#) will not see an increase in the county government portion of their property taxes. Additionally, for this year, the governor and the Georgia General Assembly approved a [Homestead Tax Relief Grant](#) which will further reduce property taxes by providing a credit (savings) on the tax bill to those with a homestead exemption.



If you have questions or want to learn more, please join me **Monday, July 10 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm** at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center, located at 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville. I'll be joined by members of our Department of Financial Services to share information and answer your questions. The town hall will be held on the second floor in Conference Room C.

Submit your comments using the [online comment form](#) and learn more about your [property taxes](#). You can also attend our third public hearing on **Tuesday, July 18 at 11:00am** in the auditorium of the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center. County staff will be available for questions one hour before the public hearing.



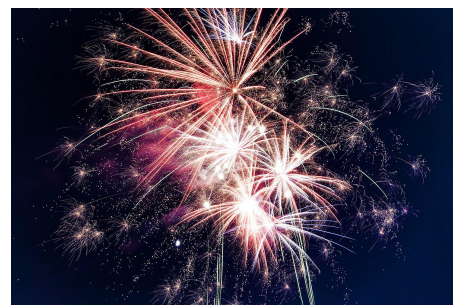
Take a survey to shape the future of transit in Gwinnett

Since 2022, we've been working on the [Transit Development Plan](#) and [Comprehensive Transportation Plan](#). Now, we're excited to share our proposed recommendations for future improvements in transit and transportation in Gwinnett. If you couldn't make it to our community conversations in early June, you can still learn about the plans and share your thoughts by taking a quick, five-minute [survey](#). We want to hear from you, so join the conversation and help shape the future of transit!

Practice fireworks safety this holiday season

Every Independence Day, thousands of people — mostly children — are hurt while using fireworks. To avoid serious injuries, Gwinnett Fire and Emergency Services encourages residents to attend a professional show instead of using fireworks themselves. However, if you are going to use fireworks, follow these tips to celebrate safely:

- Buy fireworks only from a licensed vendor
- Read and follow fireworks directions carefully
- Keep a bucket of water or fire extinguisher handy



- Ignite fireworks on a flat, open surface away from buildings, vegetation, or combustible materials
- Light one device at a time using a lighter
- Keep fireworks away from children

For more safety tips, visit [GwinnettSafety411.com](https://www.gwinnettsafety411.com).



Commissioners approve allocation of 2023 SPLOST projects

The Board of Commissioners [approved the allocation](#) of more than \$759.8 million in anticipated 2023 SPLOST program revenue toward transportation and parks projects.

The transportation project list was developed by a 15-member Citizens Project Selection Committee over the course of 10 meetings held since last fall. The projects cover enhancements to transportation that include upgrades to major roads and intersections, bridges, pedestrian safety,

resurfacing, unpaved roads, speed control in residential areas, and school safety. About 73 percent of the County's budgeted share of 2023 SPLOST funds is dedicated to transportation.

Celebrating our "Sheroes"

In honor of Women Veterans Month in June, I asked some of my coworkers at Gwinnett County Government to share a little bit about their favorite female veteran. Ashley Papastefanou from our Department of Transportation was nominated twice — once by Transportation Director Lewis Cooksey and once by her friends and colleagues at Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful. I'm proud to highlight her here and thank her for her service to both our country and our county.



What's New in District 3



Join us for a land use community workshop

Planning and Development is hosting a series of workshops where will be brainstorming ideas for community improvement related to the 2045 Unified Plan. A workshop will take place in District 3 on **Thursday, July 20** from 5:00pm to 7:00pm at the Dacula Park Activity Building, located at 2735 Auburn Avenue in Dacula.

To learn more about the 2045 Unified Plan and see more upcoming events, visit [GwinnettCounty.com/2045UnifiedPlan](https://www.gwinnettcountry.com/2045UnifiedPlan).

Harris Greenway Trail receives national recognition

In a recent announcement by Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland nine new National Recreation Trails have been designated across nine different states. Among these exceptional trails is the Harris Greenway Trail in Georgia, which serves as a vital connection between Gwinnett's Tribble Mill Park and Harbins Park. The Harris Greenway trail stretches over five miles of paved multi-use path for outdoor recreation and connections to local parks, businesses, schools, neighborhoods, and other local trail systems.



This recognition showcases the commitment of Gwinnett County to promoting outdoor recreation and

connectivity for our residents and visitors. Let's celebrate the addition of the Harris Greenway Trail to our country's highest caliber trails. To learn more about Gwinnett Trails, visit [GwinnettTrails.com](https://www.gwinnettrails.com).



Gwinnett Police collecting school supplies through July 28

Gwinnett Police are looking ahead to make sure students are ready for the 2023-2024 school year.

Residents are encouraged to drop off donations Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm from Thursday, June 1 through Friday, July 28. Donation boxes are located at the Gwinnett County Police Headquarters, Gwinnett County Police Training Center, and all Gwinnett County police precinct lobbies. Learn more and find a [precinct near you](#).

Celebrate National Park and Recreation Month this July!

July is National Park and Recreation Month. This year's theme, Where Community Grows, celebrates the vital role park and recreation professionals play in providing essential services, promoting healthy lifestyles, and nurturing communities.

There are plenty of activities and events for everyone to enjoy and explore, like a STEM-centric Family Night Out, Vibrantly Connected Kids Art Contest, and an exhibit on Gwinnett Parks and Recreation's history. For more information, visit [GwinnettParks.com](https://www.gwinnettparks.com).



Make sure you're prepared for hurricane season

Hurricanes are most active in September, so now is the time to make sure you're prepared. Hurricanes can happen along any US coast and can affect areas more than 100 miles inland.

Do you know how to get emergency information and alerts? Tune in to NOAA Weather Radio, local radio, TV, or other news sources for more information and monitor to stay informed about changing NOAA Watches and Warnings to be ready to take action. Listen to public officials and local alerts to get information and expert advice as soon as available.

Conserve battery power for emergency use; support recovery by reducing phone congestion and use phone lines only for emergency calls. Know alternate methods of communication and getting local information. If you need to reach family and/or friends, use text messaging or social media.

In the event of a storm, only use generators outdoors and away from windows. Never walk, swim, or drive through flood waters. Learn [more safety tips from FEMA](#).

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.

Big Foot and Other Treasures

All month long from 10:00am to 6:00pm

Free! Keep your eyes peeled for Sasquatch as you scout for treasures on a family-led scavenger hunt. All ages welcome. [Register online](#). Rhodes Jordan Park, 100 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville.

Full Court Family Fun

Sunday, July 16 and 23 from noon to 4:00pm

Bring your A-game to this open gym time for families with refreshments on the sidelines. Fee: \$6 per person. All ages welcome. [Register online](#). Rhodes Jordan Park Community Recreation Center, 100 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville.

Ice Cream Pool Party

Saturday, July 16 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Celebrate National Ice Cream Day at the pool! Enjoy splashing around the water park and enjoying some cool ice cream treats. Fee: \$10 per person. All ages welcome. [Register online](#). Lenora Park Pool, 4315 Lenora Church Road, Snellville.

Junior Lifeguards

Friday, July 14, 21, and 28 from 1:00pm to 2:00pm

Free! Learn basic water safety information and skills that can help you save a life. A new water safety topic will be covered each week. All pool rules apply. For ages 5 and up. [Register online](#). Dacula Park Pool, 205 Dacula Road, Dacula.



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