

NEWS & EVENTS



in District 3 with
Commissioner Watkins

January 2024



Greetings!

I hope you had a wonderful and relaxing holiday season. It's hard to believe that 2024 has already arrived. We have some exciting news and events happening in Gwinnett as we enter the new year. Keep reading to learn more about some exciting events we have in January.

Happening Around Gwinnett

Board of Commissioners adopts 2024 budget

Today, the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners approved a \$2.53 billion budget for 2024 to fund County operations and projects for the year. This year's spending plan consists of a \$1.97 billion operating budget and a \$561 million capital improvements budget, which includes funds from the County's Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax program.

The adopted budget addresses community needs facing the County, such as public infrastructure, a safe, livable, and healthy community, and organizational excellence. For more information about the adopted budget, visit GwinnettCounty.com/2024Budget.



Pay it forward this MLK Day

Mark your calendars for MLK Day on **Monday, January 15**. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service is the only federal holiday that is also designated by Congress as a National Day of Service – a “day on, not a day off.” Volunteer Gwinnett offers numerous opportunities to help, from vital wetland cleanups with the Department of Water Resources to preparing food for homebound seniors in Gwinnett.

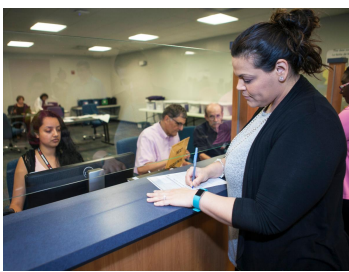
Sign up today at VolunteerGwinnett.net to effect meaningful change as we move closer to Dr. King’s vision of a united community, strengthened by individual acts of kindness.

Attend Gwinnett's annual hiring event

Gwinnett County will host its annual [Career from Here](https://CareerFromHere.com) hiring event on **Friday, January 19 from 9:00am to 3:00pm** at the Gas South Convention Center in Duluth. Candidates will have the opportunity to meet Gwinnett County Government employees face to face, discover the vast number of jobs available, and in some cases, receive a conditional job offer on the same day.

Gwinnett offers competitive pay, benefits, paid training, educational incentives for certain positions, tuition reimbursement, career advancement, and much more. Visit GwinnettCountyJobs.com to learn more about opportunities within the County and a list of jobs eligible for onsite interviews.





Register to vote in the upcoming 2024 elections

With election season underway, it's crucial to **register to vote now**. Georgia residents wishing to register must be at least 18 years of age by Election Day, must be a U.S. citizen, and be a legal resident of their voting county. The deadline to register to vote in the March 12 Presidential Preference Primary is **Monday, February 12**. Visit MVP.SOS.GA.gov to check your registration status, download a voter registration application, view sample ballots, and locate your polling location.

Apply for the Fire and Emergency Services Chaplaincy Program

Gwinnett Fire and Emergency Services is seeking volunteer chaplains for its chaplaincy program. Interested candidates must be certified members of clergy whose qualifications include current ministry service for at least two years.

All interested candidates must fill out an [online application](#) by **February 2**. For more information, please get in touch with Captain Ryan McGiboney at 678.518.4862 or Ryan.McGiboney@GwinnettCounty.com.



What's New in District 3



New glass recycling locations arrive in District 3

Two new glass recycling locations have arrived in District 3. Residents can now recycle their glass at **Lenora Park (football entrance) in Snellville** and **Harbins Park (football entrance) in Dacula**.

The County's glass recycling program allows residents to drop off glass for safe and sustainable recycling. Be on the lookout for the purple glass recycling containers to recycle your glass. For more information and to find the glass recycling location nearest

to you, visit GwinnettCounty.com/GlassRecycling.

Mobile Food Distribution

Free food distribution is back at **Rhodes Jordan Park in Lawrenceville** on **Tuesday, January 9**, from 3:00pm until supplies last. Get fresh and shelf-stable foods with drive-thru, contactless distribution. No ID is required. For more information, visit GwinnettCommunityServices.com.



Recycle your live Christmas tree

Recycle your live Christmas tree once the holidays have passed as part of Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful's annual Bring One for the Chipper tree recycling event. **Live Christmas trees can be dropped off through January 24** at various fire stations throughout the county. Before dropping off your Christmas tree, please remove all lights, tinsel, decorations, and tree stands.

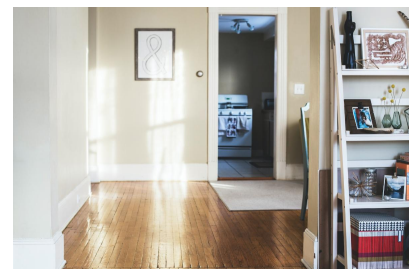
Trees will be chipped into mulch for use at County parks on Saturday, January 27 at Bethesda Park in Lawrenceville.

Volunteers ages 14 and older are needed from 7:30am to 11:00am and must register in advance. For more information and to volunteer, visit GwinnettCounty.com/BringOneForTheChipper.

Test your home for radon

Is your home safe from dangerous levels of radon? **January is Radon Awareness Month** and is a great reminder to check. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S., causing over 21,000 deaths each year. This radioactive gas from the soil and groundwater can get into your home and the air you breathe, with high indoor levels leading to dire exposure risks.

Pick up a diagnostic test kit for \$15 at the UGA Extension Gwinnett Office located at 750 South Perry Street in



Special Events and Happenings

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

Pickleball Potluck

Friday, January 12 from 10:00am to noon

Active adults can gear up for some friendly pickleball competition. Bring a friend and a shareable snack. Must be 50 years or older. [Register here](#). Resident Fee: \$7. Non-resident Fee: \$14. Rhodes Jordan Park Community Recreation Center, 100 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville.

Little Explorers: Stars

Tuesday, January 16 or Thursday, January 18 from 10:00am to 11:00am

Children can explore through crafts and stories. Snacks included. Ages two years old to five years old. Adult attendance also required. Resident Fee: \$3. Non-resident Fee: \$13. Rhodes Jordan Park Community Recreation Center, 100 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville (January 16). Dacula Park Activity Building, 205 Dacula Road, Dacula (January 18). [Rhodes Jordan Registration](#). [Dacula Park Registration](#).

Gardening 101 and Volunteer Workday

Saturday, January 27 from 9:00am to 1:00pm

Free! Let's get growing! Join Harvest Gwinnett for a Gardening 101 volunteer workday. Activities offered include planting, watering, fertilizing, composting, weeding, and much more. Join other gardeners of all skill levels and give back to the community while strengthening your garden skills. All ages are welcome. [Register here](#). Grayson Community Garden, 700 Grayson Parkway, Grayson.

Jasper Watkins III, District 3 Commissioner
Gwinnett County

Jasper.Watkins@GwinnettCounty.com