



NEWS & EVENTS

in District 4 with
Commissioner
Matthew Holtkamp



Follow us on social media!

February 2023



Greetings from your new commissioner!

I am so humbled to serve all of you as commissioner. You will be happy to know how helpful and welcoming all the other commissioners have been, especially when getting settled into my office and figuring out where and when to be in the right place.

My first month has been filled with introductory meetings with all 14 administrative departments. Each meeting included staff reports and time for as many questions as I could possibly ask. I came away very impressed with how well this County is run and that there truly is such a thing as the "Gwinnett Standard."

In addition to my official duties, I was honored to speak at the firefighters' graduation, sharing with them how grateful we all are of their service and willingness to put their lives on the line for us. At another event, I was able to offer thanks to several Gwinnett employees for long-term service, especially Ms. Maria Woods, who hit 25 years this year. We must always remember the importance of the people who toil every day to create this wonderful place we call home.

In the months to come, I will be working on setting up events throughout District 4, bringing together the Department of Transportation and representatives from the Police Department to share information on what's happening now and what's planned for the future.

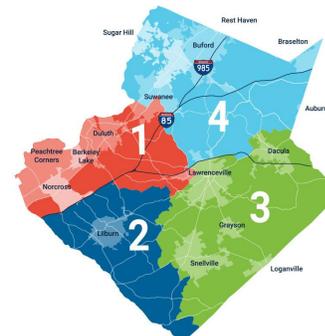


Happening Around Gwinnett

New districts in effect

Once every decade, the Georgia General Assembly modifies the district boundaries for various governing bodies based on data from the most recent census. Last February, Governor Kemp signed into law a new district map for the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners.

The new district maps went into effect January 1, 2023, which means about 40 percent of Gwinnett's voting-age residents are now in a different commission district than last year. Now is the time to [check your district](#). Need to sign up for another district newsletter? [Subscribe online](#).



Let us know about human services needs around the county

Gwinnett County has contracted with Health Management Associates to complete a Comprehensive Human Services Needs Assessment. As a part of this process, Health Management Associates is distributing [a survey](#) to help



understand the health and well-being of our community and be able to allocate resources to assist those in need.

The [survey](#) will take approximately 10 minutes to complete and will be available until **Tuesday, February 28**. Responses are completely anonymous. The online survey is also available in Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean, and Chinese. Health Management Associates will combine the results of this survey with information collected from other activities to better meet the needs of Gwinnett residents.

Celebrate Black History Month in Gwinnett

Gwinnett County has been [hosting events and activities](#) all month long to honor the achievements, contributions, and rich history of Gwinnett's African American community. We hope you'll join us to celebrate!

A Black History Month display will also be available for viewing in the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center atrium throughout February.



Gwinnett earns platinum-level sustainability certification

Gwinnett County continues to uphold its commitment to sustainability, earning recertification as a Green Community at the Platinum Level by the Atlanta Regional Commission. Developed in 2009, the [Green Communities Program](#) is a voluntary sustainability certification program that helps local governments implement measures that reduce their environmental impact through actionable measures.

The recertification recognizes Gwinnett's ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship and leadership in sustainability practices for a stronger, greener community. Gwinnett first earned certification as a Green Community in 2010 and became the first county to be certified at the Platinum Level in 2018.

What's New in District 4



Nominate a local business for my monthly Small Business Highlight

Each month, I plan to highlight a local business in my email newsletter. From your favorite café to a local law firm and everything in between, I want to see your nominees!

Please email suggestions for small businesses in District 4 to highlight to Matthew.Holtkamp@GwinnettCounty.com. You can check whether a business is located in District 4 by using the [Find My District Commissioner](#) tool on the County's website.

Please share some information about why your nominee is a great example of Gwinnett's vibrant business community.

Share your thoughts about transit in Gwinnett

Gwinnett County unveiled a new name and a new brand for its transit system in January: Ride Gwinnett. Residents will soon see the new look on buses, bus stop shelters, and signs around the community as Ride Gwinnett hits the road.



Three new local transit routes will service areas in Snellville, Stone Mountain, Buford, and Suwanee and provide extended coverage in Lawrenceville, Lilburn, and Duluth. New service also includes microtransit, which will allow residents to request Ride Gwinnett from a mobile application and go to their destination within the zones of Snellville and Lawrenceville. Residents are invited to learn about the new transit services and share their feedback during an [in-person or virtual meeting](#).

To explore current bus routes and schedule, fare prices, and more, visit RideGwinnett.com.

Apply for Gwinnett 101 Citizens Academy

Ever wondered how Gwinnett County Government provides high-quality services to the community? Here's your chance



to get a behind-the-scenes look at County operations, meet local leaders, and tour government facilities!

The Gwinnett 101 Citizens Academy is a 12-week program offered twice each year to develop and nurture informed and engaged residents, students, and business owners in Gwinnett County. To be considered for the spring term, apply at Gwinnett101.com by **Wednesday, March 1**.

Gwinnett Youth Commission accepting applications for the 2023 – 2024 Cohort

High schoolers can also take a deeper dive into their local government. The Gwinnett Youth Commission 2023 – 2024 cohort begins Tuesday, June 6! This program is designed to engage and educate high school students in local government and civic affairs to develop the next generation of leaders. County officials facilitate workshops, field trips, and activities to promote personal and professional development, increased civic engagement, and commitment to public service.



To be considered, students must be a Gwinnett County resident; be enrolled as a rising freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior in a Gwinnett County Public School, Buford City School, private, charter, or homeschool in Gwinnett; and submit a completed application. Visit GwinnettCounty.com/GYC for program details and to apply for the Gwinnett Youth Commission by **Friday, April 7**.



County uses state grant and SPLOST pennies to maintain roads

Smooth roads are ahead for Gwinnett County travelers. The Board of Commissioners voted to apply for a Georgia Department of Transportation grant worth more than \$7 million. This local maintenance and improvement grant will extend the life of approximately 55 miles of roadway throughout the County through resurfacing. Each year, Transportation staff rate the pavement conditions of roadways throughout the County. Streets with a rating of 55 or below on a scale of 100 are prioritized for resurfacing. Streets above that level are patched and reexamined in the following years. The grant will be matched by the County with \$2.1 million from the 2017 SPLOST program.

Special Events and Happenings

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

High Museum Day Trip

Thursday, February 23 from 8:15am to 4:00pm

The High's permanent collection — made up of more than 18,000 objects and growing — focuses on seven key collecting areas. Get to know the masterpieces that have made the High one of the country's leading museums as well as the distinctive strengths that set them apart. Lunch will follow the trip to the High Museum at a local restaurant. For ages 50 and older. Fee: \$28. [Register online](#). The bus will have an 8:15am pickup and George Pierce Park, 55 Buford Highway, Suwanee.

Gwinnett Skills Challenge

Saturday, March 4 from 10:00am to 2:00pm

Come test your basketball skills as you go head-to-head in a tournament to see who's king of the court in Gwinnett County. Fee: \$6. [Register for your age bracket](#). George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center, 55 Buford Highway, Suwanee.

Imagine That!

Tuesday, March 7 from 10:00am to 11:30am

Free! Let your child's imagination run wild at this literacy-based program. Little learners will hear a short story and unleash knowledge with hands-on STEAM activities. [Preregistration required](#). Bogan Park Community Recreation Center, 2723 North Bogan Road, Buford.

Unplugged Gamers

Saturday, March 11 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Put down those electronic devices and come to Bogan for unplugged fun. Enjoy dice, card, and board

Did You Know?

The Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center is a great place to learn more about our natural world and local history.

Located on 233 wooded acres near the Mall of Georgia, the center offers opportunities to explore educational exhibits inside, including the Water Ways diorama and the kid-friendly Discover H2O, and enjoy recreational offerings outdoors, from the Treetop Quest ropes course to five miles of walking trails. You can picnic at the wooded pavilion and venture back in time at the historic Chesser-Williams House, also on the campus.



Gwinnett's first LEED-certified building is a model of eco-smart innovation, from the pervious pavement to the green roof – the largest sloped vegetative roof in the Southeast. Among the tranquil water features are a waterfall wall and a natural stream teeming with tadpoles and turtles. [Learn more](#) and stop by this local gem!

More from our Partners

Suwanee Arts Festival vendor applications open

The Suwanee Arts Festival is a two-day celebration of art that will take place on April 29 and April 30 at Suwanee Town Center, one of the vibrant hubs of Suwanee. The Suwanee Arts Festival will feature talented artists who will set up their tents to market a variety of high-quality art in various mediums including painting, ceramics, photography, sculpture, wood, jewelry, glass, fiber, and more. The festival will include live artist demonstrations and entertainment on the Town Center stage. Kids can attend the Animation Academy and participate in a scavenger hunt to win a prize! Delicious food and beverages will also be available. [Applications for vendors are now open](#).

Braselton seeks event volunteers

Braselton's Community Development department is launching a new, volunteer work force to help with town events and welcome visitors. Nicknamed the "Bee-Team," volunteers will be assigned to welcome visitors and help staff event preparation and/or office tasks. B-Team members will be asked to complete a brief application, attend an orientation and begin learning local history. For more information, reach Amy Pinnell at apinnell@braselton.net or telephone 706.654.6026.

North Gwinnett Middle School teacher earns national award

Sarah Bell, a Gwinnett County Public Schools teacher, recently earned the 2023 Elizabeth A.H. Green School Educator Award from the American String Teacher Association. Sarah works as an orchestra teacher at North Gwinnett Middle School. The award is presented to one school string teacher with a current and distinguished career in an orchestral setting. Congratulations, Sarah, and thank you for your dedication to your students and community!



Matthew Holtkamp, District 4 Commissioner
Gwinnett County

Matthew.Holtkamp@GwinnettCounty.com