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March 2023



Greetings!

In my second month as Gwinnett's newest Commissioner, I was availed the opportunity to travel with a delegation of local leaders to Montgomery, Alabama. This special Black History Month event provided a trip to the Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace & Justice. It was an eye opening and heart wrenching experience to learn the hardships which were forced on the newly emancipated, former slaves.

It is a sad thing to admit, either by virtue of my Midwest upbringing, or the time in which I came through school, but I had never been exposed to the realities of the southern Black experience. In the past, I had always encouraged friends to seek out those who don't look like you, as a way of building bridges to a more vibrant Gwinnett. As a result of this trip, I learned we also must make a concerted effort to learn the history of our friends from other cultures and life experiences, to genuinely know what makes up their essence and thus, to become an even more cherished and true friend.

Recently, during Chairwoman Hendrickson's 2023 State of the County Address, she said, "It's the small, yet intentional acts of bravery, kindness, and support that fuel the Gwinnett spirit. This is serving with intention."

As we serve with intention, we also strive to understand the challenges faced by people of all walks of life so that we can ensure our actions support the entire community. As we head into spring, I hope you'll take a moment to consider the ways you can be more understanding, more open to learning about others, and to ask yourself – **how will you serve with intention?**



## Happening Around Gwinnett

### Chairwoman Hendrickson delivers State of the County address

In her third State of the County address, Chairwoman Nicole Hendrickson remarked on how the County ensures today's decisions will build tomorrow's solutions by being thoughtful, purposeful, and deliberate. Hendrickson cited Gwinnett's ability to maintain its Triple AAA/Aaa bond rating, the establishment of the Housing and Community Development Division, and the opening of The Water Tower to better serve our community.

Visit [GwinnettCounty.com/SOTC](https://GwinnettCounty.com/SOTC) to watch the address and learn more about our 2022 accomplishments and 2023 vision.





### Commissioners

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. For more information and to apply,

visit [GwinnettYouthCommission.com](http://GwinnettYouthCommission.com).

### Find your future with Gwinnett County Government

Start your career with Gwinnett County Government at the annual Career From Here hiring event on **Friday, March 17 from 9:00am to 3:00pm** at the Gas South Convention Center in Duluth. Candidates will have the opportunity to interview with County representatives, review their resume with the Department of Human Resources, and meet current employees to learn how they can thrive in a variety of fields. Visit [GwinnettCountyJobs.com](http://GwinnettCountyJobs.com) to learn about opportunities with Gwinnett and apply.



The Gas South Convention Center is located at 6400 Sugarloaf Parkway in Duluth. Gwinnett County offers competitive benefits, paid training, educational incentives for certain positions, tuition reimbursement, career advancement, and much more.

### What's New in District 4



### Nominate a local business for my monthly Small Business Highlight

Each month, I will highlight a local business in this 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](mailto: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.

### Apply for a Homestead Exemption by April 1

Looking for a way to reduce your property tax bill? Apply for a homestead exemption. Owners who occupied their home as their primary residence on January 1 and apply by April 1 qualify for an exemption this year. The state's proposed Homeowner Tax Relief Grant could mean additional savings for owners with a homestead exemption in 2023.

You can apply now at [GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Apply](http://GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Apply) to take advantage. If you already have an exemption in place, you do not need to reapply.



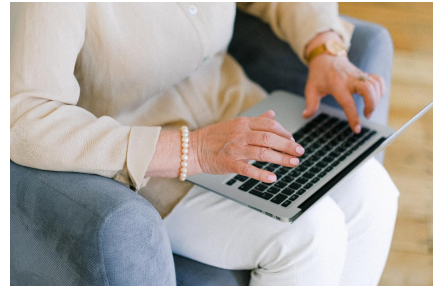
### District Attorney's office accepting applications for student mentorship program

The Gwinnett County District Attorney's Office is accepting applications for the 2023 Junior District Attorney and Investigator Mentorship Program. The program gives students the opportunity to gain hands-on knowledge and experience in the criminal justice system. The mentorship program explores roles of the courts, law enforcement, and corrections. Participants will also gain community service hours. Candidates must be between ages 15 and 18, attend a Gwinnett County public school, and be in good standing with their school and community. The application deadline is April 21 and the program runs June 14 to

June 28 from 10:00am to 2:00pm. For more information about the Junior District Attorney and Investigator

## You may be eligible to file your taxes for free

Have you filed your taxes yet? Tax Day is **April 18**. United Way of Greater Atlanta is providing free tax preparation services through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program in partnership with the IRS. Through VITA, taxes are prepared by IRS trained and certified volunteers for low-to-moderate income families and individuals making \$60,000 a year or less. Those with an annual income of \$73,000 or below can prep virtually for free using [MyFreeTaxes.com](https://www.myfreetaxes.com). [Learn more about these programs](#) from United Way of Greater Atlanta.



## 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.

### Imagine That!

**Tuesday, March 21 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. This program features the book "Walter's Wonderful Web" by Tim Hopgood. [Preregistration required](#). George Pierce Park, 55 Buford Highway, Suwanee.

### Picnic in the Park

**Saturday, March 25 from noon to 2:00pm**

Bring your family to Bogan Park for a fun picnic! Meet us at the pavilion for hot dogs and chips. Enjoy lawn games and music! All ages welcome. Fee: \$5. [Register online](#). Bogan Park Community Recreation Center, 2723 North Bogan Road, Buford.

### Springtime Crafts

**Friday, April 7 from 10:00am to 11:00am**

Take a break from your routine and have fun getting out some wiggles with your little one! Explore activities, games and more. For children ages 5 and under. Parent or guardian participation is required. Fee: \$4. [Register online](#). OneStop Buford, 2755 Sawnee Avenue, Buford.

### Underwater Egg Hunt

**Saturday, April 8 from 9:00am to noon**

Hunt for eggs under the water at the aquatic center, then dry off and head to the community recreation center to spend time with the bunny, have a snack, visit with live animals, and make a craft. Bring your own water-friendly basket for hunting! All pool rules apply. Spots are limited. All ages are welcome. Children 6 years and younger must be accompanied in the water by an adult 18 or over. Fee: \$12. [Register in advance](#). Bogan Park Aquatic Center, 2723 North Bogan Road, Buford.

## Did You Know?

I recently had the chance to visit Gwinnett's E911 Center, and I learned some great information to pass along.

Have you ever dialed 911 by accident? Whatever you do, don't hang up! Stay on the line and let the dispatcher know it was an accident. If you don't, the dispatcher will proceed as if your call is an emergency and send a police officer out to check. Accidental calls tie up operators and take away vital resources from callers in need.

Visit [GwinnettCounty.com/911](https://www.gwinnettcountry.com/911) for more tips to help prevent accidental calls.



You can also download the What3Words app to help 911 dispatchers identify your location, even without an actual address. The free What3Words app gives each 3-meter square in the world a unique three-word address.

If someone is lost — especially in a park, around Lake Lanier, or in any other undeveloped natural area in the county — they can use the unique three words from the application to give dispatchers their exact location.





## More from our Partners

### **Braselton Farmers Market**

**March 17 from 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM, weather permitting**

Learn [more from Explore Braselton](#).

### **St. Paddy's on Perry Block Party**

**Saturday, March 18 from 3:00pm to 8:00pm**

The city of Lawrenceville will sponsor the St. Paddy's on Perry Block Party in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. Enjoy live music and more at this free event. [Learn more](#) from the city of Lawrenceville.

### **Care for Cops 5K**

**March 25 from 8:00am to 9:00am**

Proceeds will directly impact families that have lost a loved one in the line of duty by providing immediate resources in time of great need, bridge the financial gap when a loved one is lost, and acknowledge the sacrifices made by law enforcement officers in Georgia. [Register online](#).

### **Visit Auburn parks**

Live in or near Auburn? It's a beautiful time of year to visit the [city of Auburn's five parks](#).

### **Check out events at the Buford Community Center**

Book tickets today for upcoming events at the Buford Community Center. Visit [Buford Community Center's website](#) for upcoming show listings and to purchase tickets.

### **Recycle in Dacula**

Information about recycling pickup in the city of Dacula can be found on [Dacula's calendar](#).

### **Sugar Hill Arts Commission**

The Sugar Hill Arts Commission meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm. All Meetings will be held in the Art Gallery across Sugar Hill City Hall, located at 5010 West Broad Street, Sugar Hill. Visit the [Arts Commission webpage](#) for more information.



Matthew Holtkamp, District 4 Commissioner  
Gwinnett County

[Matthew.Holtkamp@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:Matthew.Holtkamp@GwinnettCounty.com)