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April 2023



Greetings!

What's the best part of being a Commissioner? Participating in the graduations of our future public safety professionals!

Last month, I had the pleasure of congratulating the most recent 2022-23 Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services class graduates. Being among the next generation of firefighters is an uplifting experience. I shared with them our community support and how they are the calm in the storm when we are having our most difficult days.

Gwinnett County is blessed to have them, and I looked forward to watching them progress in their profession. I'm pictured to the right with top award recipient Ethan Mauriello.

And in March, the Center for Public Safety Excellence awarded Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services with the designation of accredited agency for the second time.

This prestigious recognition was given for meeting the criteria of the Commission on Fire Accreditation International's voluntary self-assessment and accreditation program. The department was also commended by the CFAI Committee for its innovative programs and services.



Happening Around Gwinnett

Annual Notices of Assessment in the mail

The Gwinnett County Board of Assessors mailed approximately 304,000 Annual Notices of Assessment to residential and commercial property owners earlier this month. An [Annual Notice of Assessment](#) is not a tax bill. The notice informs you of the value assessed on your residential or commercial real estate as of January 1, 2023.

Property owners may appeal the assessed value within 45 days of the date of the notice by submitting a completed PT-311A State Appeal Form to the Tax Assessors' Office or by visiting Gwinnett-Assessor.com.



Gather your paints, tires, and electronics to recycle this Earth Day

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.



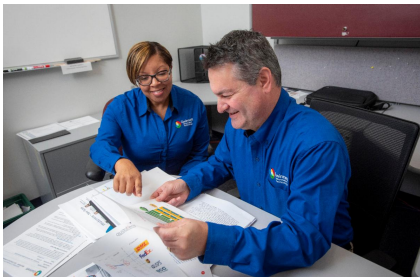
Learn about [items you can recycle at the event](#) or call 770.822.7141 for more information. This rain or shine event is sponsored by Gwinnett Solid Waste Management and Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful.

Save the date for the Gwinnett Multicultural Festival

The Gwinnett Multicultural Festival and County Government Open House is back with cultural performances, face painting, touch-a-truck with public safety vehicles, games, music, and fun for the whole family! This year's event will also feature a naturalization ceremony for some of Gwinnett's newest citizens.



Join us **Saturday, May 13 from 10:00am to 2:00pm** at Gwinnett Place Mall in Duluth to celebrate the vibrant cultures that make up our community. The event is free. We can't wait to see you there!



Start your career in Information Technology Services

Join one of the teams that delivers an integrated, responsive, and secure technology environment. The Gwinnett Department of Information Technology Services is hosting a hiring event on **Saturday, April 22 from 9:00am to 3:00pm** at the [Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center](#). Attendees will be able to discuss career opportunities with IT Services staff, and qualified applicants may interview for open positions.

Qualified candidates will be contacted to receive an onsite interview on a first-come, first-served basis. Attendees are encouraged to bring resumes and dress in business casual attire. Applicants interested in attending can apply and learn more about available positions at [GwinnettCounty.com/ITSHiringEvent](#).

Enjoy Coffee and Conversation with Gwinnett Economic Development

Grab a cup of coffee and join Gwinnett Economic Development for a networking event with other business owners and County Officials. The event will be held Wednesday, April 19 from 8:30am to 10:30am at the Gas South Convention Center, located at 6400 Sugarloaf Parkway in Duluth. Have meaningful discussions about how the County government can play an active role in Gwinnett's thriving business environment. [Register online](#).



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. 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.

Safely dispose of your old prescription drugs

The Gwinnett Police Department will partner with the Drug Enforcement Administration for National Drug Take Back, an initiative that allows residents to properly dispose of unused or expired prescription

medications. Residents can drop off tablets, capsules, patches, and other forms of prescription drugs at Police Headquarters and [precinct locations](#).



Precincts will be accepting prescription items on **Saturday, April 22 from 10:00am to 2:00pm**. Liquids, syringes, and sharps will not be accepted. Residents will not be questioned about medical history or medication possession. For more information, call 678.442.6520 or email PDCommunityAffairs@GwinnettCounty.com.



Last chance to apply for Citizens Fire Academy

Applications for the next Citizens Fire Academy are now open. The nine-week program offers a behind-the-scenes look at department operations and specialty teams. Participants may also ride along on a fire engine at the station of their choice. English and Spanish-speaking instructors will lead the classes, which begin April 19 and meet every Wednesday at 6:00pm.

All interested residents should [fill out an application](#) and submit it by mail no later than **April 17**. For more

information, call 678.518.4845 or email FirePrograms@GwinnettCounty.com.

Become a camp aide this summer!

Teens ages 14 to 17 are invited to gain work experience and spend their summer helping others as a camp aide. During this exciting volunteer opportunity, you'll lead camp activities, learn communication skills, work in a team setting, expand your network, and apply your talents to make camp memorable for children.

Training is scheduled for May 30 through June 2, and applicants must be able to commit to two weeks of camp between June 5 and July 28. [Learn more and apply](#).



Special Events and Happenings

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

How to do business in Gwinnett

Wednesday, April 19 from 10:00am to 11:30am

Free! Attendees of this 90-minute session will gain a clear understanding of how to navigate the County website to find bidding opportunities, register as a vendor, and complete and submit bid documents for County procurements. A link will be sent prior to the program for those attending virtually. [Register online](#). Virtual and in-person at the Gwinnett Entrepreneur Center (District 3).

Sock Hop

Thursday, May 4 from 12:30pm to 2:00pm

Free! It's an Older Americans Month party! Swing, jitterbug, and boogie-woogie your way over to the Buford Senior Center for a dance party taking us all the way back to the 1950s. We will be enjoying the tunes and dances of the decade with this event. Dress in your best garb inspired by the era and bop with us! [Register in advance](#). OneStop Buford, 2755 Sawnee Avenue, Buford.

Splash Pad Scavenger Hunt

Saturday, May 6 from 11:00am to 2:00pm

Free! Bring the whole family for a scavenger hunt. You'll have a fun park story to tell! Wear comfortable clothes and shoes, and don't forget your swimsuit. The hunt will end with prizes and play time at the fountain. [Register in advance](#). E.E. Robinson Park, 885 Level Creek Road, Sugar Hill.

Homeowner H₂O: Saving Water, Saving Money

Thursday, May 11 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm

Join us at this virtual workshop to discover how new habits can help you save money on your water bill. [Register online](#). Conducted virtually via Webex.

Did You Know?

On April 1, long-time department veteran Fred Cephas became chief of our Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

Chief Cephas found his passion to serve in 1996 when he joined the United States Air Force. After basic training, he was assigned to the Louis F. Garland Fire Academy where he trained as a Department of Defense Aircraft Rescue Firefighter. This assignment led him to Seymour Johnson Air Force Base as a first responder. Following his military service, the veteran firefighter served the Winston-Salem Fire Department before launching his Gwinnett County career in 2001. He then rose through the ranks of the department, serving in various capacities including strategic planning, accreditation management, operations, and as a licensed polygraphist.



On top of saving lives and protecting property, Gwinnett Fire and Emergency Services offers a variety of community education opportunities, from CPR training to youth firesetting intervention.

[Check out the variety of programs and register.](#) For additional information or to schedule an education program, email FirePrograms@GwinnettCounty.com or call 678.518.4845.

More from our Partners

Congratulations to District Four Robotic Teams!

- Mechanical Bulls from Lanier High School for the Gracious Professionalism Award
- North Gwinnett Robotics for the Autonomous Award and District Winner!
- Metal Mountain from Mountain View High School for winning the prestigious FIRST Impact Award and ranking No. 7, which qualified them to go to State.

Auburn Earth Day Cleanup Days

April 21 and April 22, 2023

Visit the [city of Auburn website](#) for cleanup location, time, and details.

City of Lawrenceville DTL Happenings

FREE pop-up event series with Yoga on the Lawn on April 20 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Visit the [city of Lawrenceville website](#) for more upcoming events.

City of Sugar Hill recently held a ribbon cutting for the Sugar Hill Greenway/Gold Mine Park

Visit the [city of Sugar Hill website](#) for photos and community greenspace locations.

Braselton Artisan Festival

Friday, April 21 to Sunday, April 23

Visit the [city of Braselton website](#) for festival times and location.

Buford Youth Sports Complex

The complex has three full size soccer, lacrosse, and football fields to enjoy. More information can be found at the [city's recreation website](#).

City of Dacula's Thursdays at the Park

Save the Date: May 18, 2023

Engage with the Mayor and City Council. Visit the [city of Dacula website](#) for event details.

Suwanee International Night Market & Glow in the Park

April 21 to April 22, 2023

Learn more at [Suwanee Events](#) for times and location.

Matthew Holtkamp, District 4 Commissioner
Gwinnett County

Matthew.Holtkamp@GwinnettCounty.com

