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September 2023



Greetings!

August was a busy and exciting month in District 4! I presented Mr. Ken Higgins — a longtime Gwinnett resident and veteran — a proclamation for logging thousands of miles on the road, overcoming injuries, and showcasing his love of racing. This year, Ken set a record as the oldest competitor in the Peachtree Road Race's wheelchair division. Ken's determination and positive impact on our community make him an inspiration to all Gwinnett residents and racers around the world. I applaud Ken for all his accomplishments and wish him success for years to come.



Then, I was honored that so many residents wanted to meet their newest Gwinnett commissioner by attending my town halls. More than 150 of you came to discuss topics and hear directly from department directors on important updates. If you were unable to attend, you can [watch the recording on Facebook](#), or keep reading below for another opportunity to attend a town hall on October 5 in Suwanee. This one will also include District 1 Commissioner Kirkland Carden since we share representation of different areas of Suwanee. I hope you'll join us.



In August, I also had the opportunity to meet with the Camp Branch Ladies, who invited me to their small group informal meeting. I had a great time getting to know them. If you have an upcoming small group or HOA meeting you'd like me to be a part of or if you would like to nominate a great community servant leader who has done extraordinary things for and in our community, please contact my office with nominations or event details. I can be reached at 770.822.7004 or Matthew.Holtkamp@GwinnettCounty.com.

Happening Around Gwinnett

Apply for a small business grant



Applications are now open for Gwinnett County's small business grant, which will help small businesses impacted by COVID-19 find relief. The Board of Commissioners received \$181 million from the American Rescue Plan Act and allocated \$6 million of the funds to help small business owners.

If your business has experienced income loss or increased costs while continuing business during the pandemic, you might be eligible for this relief. Funds will be awarded based on the number of employees, gross revenue, total applicant COVID-19 impact, and more. To apply and learn more,

visit GwinnettCounty.com/SmallBusinessGrant.

Gear up for 2024 Elections by learning important voting dates

Though some cities will host municipal elections on November 7, the next major election that will take place across Gwinnett is the **Presidential Preference Primary on March 12, 2024**. Make sure you're registered to vote by **February 12, 2024**, to ensure you're eligible to vote in this election. You can check your voter registration status and update any details, like your address, at MVP.SOS.Ga.gov.



Applications to request an absentee ballot may be submitted up to 78 days prior to an election. A completed application must first be received before an absentee ballot is issued. It's best to apply as soon as possible; the deadline to receive absentee ballot applications for processing is 11 days prior to the election date. If you plan to vote absentee by mail in the March 12 election, you can apply for your ballot from December 25, 2023, to March 1, 2024, but I encourage you to apply sooner rather than later to give yourself plenty of time to receive your ballot, vote, and return it to Gwinnett Voter Registrations and Elections.

See more [2024 election dates](#) and get prepared at GwinnettElections.com.

Prepárate para las elecciones del 2024 conociendo fechas importantes de votación

Aunque algunas ciudades celebrarán elecciones municipales el 7 de Noviembre, la próxima elección importante que se llevará a cabo en Gwinnett será la **Primaria de Preferencia Presidencial el 12 de Marzo del 2024**. Asegúrese de estar inscrito para votar antes del **12 de Febrero del 2024**, para asegurarse de que es elegible para votar en esta elección. Puede verificar el estado de su inscripción de votante y actualizar cualquier detalle, como su dirección, en MVP.SOS.Ga.gov.

Las solicitudes para solicitar una boleta de voto ausente pueden presentarse hasta 78 días antes de una elección. Primero se debe recibir una solicitud completa antes de emitir una boleta de voto ausente. Es mejor presentar la solicitud lo antes posible; La fecha límite para solicitar el proceso de solicitudes de boleta de voto ausente es 11 días antes de la fecha de las elecciones. Si planea votar a través de voto ausente por correo en las elecciones del 12 de Marzo, puede solicitar su boleta desde el 25 de Diciembre del 2023 hasta el 1 de Marzo del 2024, pero le recomiendo que presente la solicitud lo antes posible para tener tiempo suficiente para recibir su boleta, vote y devolverla a Inscripciones de Votantes y Elecciones de Gwinnett.

Vea más [fechas de las elecciones del 2024](#) y prepárese en GwinnettElections.com.



Graves Park dog park dedicated to fallen K9 Blue

Earlier this month, Gwinnett County dedicated Graves Park dog park in honor of our fallen SWAT K9 Blue. K9 Blue was Gwinnett Police's first canine assigned full-time to the SWAT Unit. He was shot and killed on September 10, 2020, while tracking suspects who fled in a stolen vehicle in Norcross. Upon locating one suspect in the woods, K9 Blue was fatally wounded as officers issued commands and the suspect opened fire.

The dog park dedication will remind guests of K9 Blue's courage and sacrifice for decades to come. Graves Park is located at 1540 Graves Road in Norcross.

Plan your fall events with InGwinnett

The [fall edition of InGwinnett](#), Gwinnett Community Services' program guide, is full of family-friendly events and activities happening in September, October, and November, many of which are free or low-cost. Browse the offerings, register

online, and start planning your schedule.

To [register](#), simply create an account or log in to your existing account, select an activity, add it to your cart, and check out. Some activities don't require registration. If you have any questions or need assistance, call the activity location during operating hours.



What's New in District 4

Save the date for my joint town hall with Commissioner Carden

As I mentioned in my greeting, I'll be hosting a joint town hall with Commissioner Carden in Suwanee. Join us on **Thursday, October 5 at 6:00pm** at Suwanee City Hall to hear about updates in the Suwanee area. You'll also get to share your thoughts, concerns, and questions with the commissioners.

I hope to see you there! If you can't attend in person, [stream the town hall on Facebook live](#).



Get to know local police over ice cream

Join your neighbors and local police officers to celebrate the end of summer Friday, September 29 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at Buford Station Creamery. Residents are invited to the Cops and Cones event to enjoy frozen treats and meet the officers who serve their communities. Let us know you're coming! [RSVP](#) on Gwinnett Police's Facebook event page.

Buford Station Creamery is located at 26 East Main Street in Buford.

Help us plan for the future of Gwinnett

If you missed the 2045 Unified Plan summer events, there are still opportunities to share your ideas for improving our communities in Gwinnett! Give your opinion on [Housing and Small-Scale Economic Development](#), [Sustainable Infrastructure and Transportation](#), and [Redevelopment and Community Resources](#) in Gwinnett.

You can also share your preferences on your idea [Daily Community](#), which includes housing types, mobility and transit, and economic development where you live. Stay tuned for more details about engagement opportunities this fall starting in September! To learn more about the 2045 Unified Plan, visit [GwinnettCounty.com/2045UnifiedPlan](#).



Share your input on risks for natural disasters in your area

Are you concerned about the risks of natural disasters in your area? The Gwinnett Office of Emergency Management invites you to take the [Hazard Mitigation Survey](#) to share your hazard and disaster concerns. Your feedback will be used to update the Hazard Mitigation Plan, which identifies natural hazards, risks, and mitigation strategies to reduce or eliminate future losses resulting from those hazards.

For more information about the Office of Emergency Management's mitigation efforts, visit [our website](#) or contact EMA@GwinnettCounty.com.

Special Events and Happenings

Visit [GwinnettCountyEvents.com](#) or follow the County's social media channels to learn about more upcoming events.

Diaper Day

Wednesday, September 27 from 1:00pm to 2:00pm

Free! Speak with an Amerigroup Community Care Representative to answer your questions on member benefits and services. Receive free diapers and wipes for your children while supplies last. All ages welcome. [Register online](#). OneStop Buford, 2755 Sawnee Avenue, Buford.

Harvest Moon Trivia

Friday, September 29 from noon to 2:00pm

Celebrate the falling leaves on the day of the harvest moon with fellowship and fall trivia. Refreshments will be provided. A prize will be given to the top trivia winner. For adults ages 50 and up. Fee: \$5 per person. [Register online](#). Bogan Park Community Recreation Center, 2723 North Bogan Road, Buford.

Scaredy Cat Soiree

Friday, October 6 from 10:30am to 12:30pm

Dress up and join us for a not-so-scary celebration! Get ready for Halloween with themed crafts, activities, characters, and treats. For kids ages 2 to 5. Fee: \$8 per person. [Register online](#). George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center, 55 Buford Highway, Suwanee.

Dash 4 Domestic Violence Awareness 5K

Saturday, October 7 at 8:00am

Support domestic violence survivors at the Dash 4 Domestic Violence Awareness 5K. Proceeds from this event will go to three domestic violence organizations that provide essential resources to survivors and education to the public: Mosaic Georgia, Partnership Against Domestic Violence, and Ahimsa House. Registration is \$35 per participant. Groups of 10 runners are \$30 each. [Register online](#). Alexander Park, 955 Scenic Highway, Lawrenceville.

Well-o-Ween

Saturday, October 14 from 10:00am to 2:00pm

Free! Come in costume for wellness activities and family fun with health screenings and informative community resources. All ages welcome. [Register online](#). OneStop Buford, 2755 Sawnee Avenue, Buford.

Did You Know?

Get to know Gwinnett Elections

Gwinnett Elections works to uphold the United States Constitution and maintain public confidence by registering eligible voters and conducting honest and impartial elections in a fair, efficient, and accurate manner. Though elections are seasonal, Gwinnett Elections works year-round to ensure eligible voters are educated and informed about their opportunities to exercise their civic duties, all while preparing for upcoming elections.



By law, Gwinnett must provide elections-related information in both English and Spanish. In the past few years, we have decided to expand our multilingual offerings to share voter education materials in Korean, Vietnamese, Cantonese, and Mandarin.

Learn more about Gwinnett Voter Registrations and Elections at GwinnettElections.com.

Conozca las Elecciones de Gwinnett

Elecciones de Gwinnett trabaja para defender la Constitución de los Estados Unidos y mantener la confianza del público inscribiendo votantes elegibles y realizando elecciones honestas e imparciales de manera justa, eficiente y precisa. Aunque las elecciones son estacionales, el equipo de Elecciones de Gwinnett trabaja durante todo el año para garantizar que los votantes elegibles estén educados e informados sobre sus oportunidades para ejercer sus deberes cívicos, mientras se preparan para las próximas elecciones.

Por ley, Gwinnett debe proporcionar información relacionada con las elecciones tanto en Inglés como en Español. En los últimos años, hemos decidido ampliar nuestra oferta multilingüe para compartir materiales educativos para votantes en Coreano, Vietnamita, Cantonés y Mandarín.

Obtenga más información sobre la Inscripción de Votantes y Elecciones de Gwinnett en GwinnettElections.com.

More from our Partners

Auburn hosts Farmers Market Tuesdays

Visit the [city of Auburn's calendar](#) for more information.

Braselton earns A+ bond debt rating

See [the town of Braselton's announcement](#)

Buford seeks input for 2045 Comprehensive Plan

Visit [Buford's website to learn how to share your feedback](#)

Help Dacula update its 2050 Comprehensive Plan

Learn more from the [city of Dacula](#).

Lawrenceville unveils community mural

Read the full story from the [city of Lawrenceville](#).

Join Suwanee's community build for PlayTown Suwanee V2.0

Visit the [city of Suwanee's website](#) for more information.

Sugar Hill Historic Perseveration Society offers scholarship

Learn more about the scholarship from the [city of Sugar Hill](#).



Matthew Holtkamp, District 4 Commissioner
Gwinnett County

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