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December 2023



Greetings!

I'm wishing you and your family a joyous holiday season and hope you take a moment to reflect on all your achievements this year!

I'm using this time to reflect on some of the achievements Gwinnett County reached this year, and one of them involves a popular sport with a funny name!

I was able to get an up close and personal look at the new Gwinnett location of Pickle and Social at the event space's grand opening in Buford. Entertainment facilities like Pickle and Social bring people together, boost our local economy, and help Gwinnett thrive. The venue is located at the

Exchange at Gwinnett on Buford Drive. I'd like to applaud tourism partners at Explore Gwinnett and business recruitment partners at the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce for helping make the grand opening a success!



Here's to a happy and prosperous new year!

Happening Around Gwinnett



Share your input on the 2024 proposed budget

You can [give feedback](#) on Chairwoman Nicole Love Hendrickson's proposed budget on the County's website through December 31. Chairwoman Hendrickson presented the budget in November to guide County government spending for the 2024 fiscal year. The proposed budget for 2024 totals \$2.5 billion. It consists of a \$1.96 billion operating budget and a \$542 million capital improvements budget, which includes funds from the County's Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax program.

It addresses community needs like affordable housing and public safety as well as challenges facing county government including hiring and retaining a qualified workforce. Residents can share their input on the budget on the County's website through December 31. After hearing your input, the Board of

Additional safety cameras coming to Gwinnett

Gwinnett Police is leveraging technology to fight crime with the installation of additional safety cameras across the county. Flock cameras are used to find amber alert victims and missing persons, and they allow officers to get real-time information on where stolen vehicles and suspects of crime are located. The Board of Commissioners recently approved an additional 36 Flock cameras to be installed along state routes. There are more than 7,400 cameras in metro Atlanta, and 835 of those cameras have been placed across Gwinnett since 2020. To learn more, visit [GwinnettPolice.com](https://www.gwinnettpolice.com).



Register to vote in the 2024 elections

With election season underway, it's crucial to register to vote now. Georgia residents wishing to register must be U.S. citizens, legal residents of their voting county, and at least 18 years of age by Election Day. The deadline to register to vote in the March 12 Presidential Preference Primary is Monday, February 12. Check your registration status, download a voter registration application, view sample ballots, and locate your polling location at [MVP.SOS.GA.gov](https://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov).

Inscríbete para votar en las elecciones de 2024

Con la temporada electoral en marcha, es crucial inscribirse para votar ahora. Los residentes de Georgia que deseen inscribirse deben ser ciudadanos estadounidenses, residentes legales de su condado electoral y tener al menos 18 años de edad antes del día de las elecciones. La fecha límite para inscribirse para votar en las Primarias de Preferencia Presidencial del 12 de Marzo es el Lunes 12 de Febrero. Verifica el estado de tu inscripción electoral, descarga una aplicación de inscripción de votantes, revisa boletas de muestra y ubica tu lugar de votación en [MVP.SOS.GA.gov](https://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov).

Apply for a homestead exemption by April 1

The best way to reduce your property tax bill is to apply for a homestead exemption. Owners who occupied their home as their primary residence as of January 1 may qualify for an exemption this year. If you already have an exemption in place, you do not need to reapply. For more information and to apply, visit [GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Apply](https://www.gwinnetntaxcommissioner.com/Apply).



What's New in District 4



Braselton Highway to begin construction

Construction is underway to widen State Route 124/Braselton Highway, expanding the road to four lanes with turn lanes, sidewalks, curb and gutter, and drainage improvements from Pine Road to Spout Springs Road. These improvements will enhance local transportation infrastructure, promote safety, and address traffic congestion.

The \$10.6 million project is funded largely by various SPLOST programs, with \$3 million coming from a Georgia Department of

Transportation Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant. To learn more about SPLOST, visit [GwinnettSPLOST.com](https://www.gwinnettsplost.com).

Attend Gwinnett County's annual hiring event

Join Gwinnett County Government at the Career From Here hiring event on Friday, January 19 from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Candidates will have the opportunity to interview with County representatives, review their resume with Gwinnett Human Resources, and meet current employees to learn how they can thrive in a variety of fields. Visit [GwinnettCounty.com/Careers](https://www.gwinnettcountry.com/Careers) to learn about opportunities with the County and apply.



The event will take place at the Gas South Convention Center, 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.



Get assistance buying your first home

Is the cost of a down payment holding you back from purchasing your first home? As a first-time homebuyer, new or existing Gwinnett residents could qualify for Gwinnett's Homestretch Down Payment Assistance Program and receive down payment assistance of up to \$10,000 as a five-year deferred payment loan with zero percent interest. To see if you're eligible, visit GwinnettCounty.com/HomestretchDPA.

Learn more about the Water Resources Assistance Program

Gwinnett Water Resources partners with various organizations to provide plumbing services, septic system repair, and water-saving appliances to Gwinnett residents through the Water Resources Assistance Program. To be eligible for WRAP, homeowners must live in Gwinnett County and own the home where the work will occur.



To learn more about eligibility requirements and to apply, visit GwinnettCounty.com/PaymentAssistance. Customer advocates are also available to help you through the application process. Contact a customer advocate at WRAP@GwinnettCounty.com or call 678.376.6800.

Special Events and Happenings

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

Crafternoon

Monday, December 18 from 2:00pm to 3:30pm

Unwind and get creative! Bring a friend or make new friends as we explore the creative process using a variety of art media. Supplies are provided and feel free to bring your own snacks and non-alcoholic beverages. No prior art experience required. For ages 50 and up. Fee: \$5. [Register online](#). OneStop Norcross, 5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross.

Stop 'N' Play: Wiggles

Friday, January 5 from 10:00am to 11:00am

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

New Beginnings Bingo

Monday, January 22 from 10:00am to noon.

Ring in the New Year with bingo! Make new friends, create a vision board, set goals, and play celebratory bingo. For ages 50 and up. Fee: \$5. [Register online](#). George Pierce Park Community Recreations Center, 55 Buford Highway, Suwanee.

Did You Know?



Did you know that pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports in the world? Gwinnett's new entertainment venue Pickle and Social is now open and brings together pickleball, live entertainment, food, and drinks close to home!

Pickle and Social is located at the Exchange at Gwinnett, a mixed-use development located on Buford Drive on 1-85, just minutes from the Mall of Georgia.

Matthew Holtkamp, District 4 Commissioner
Gwinnett County

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