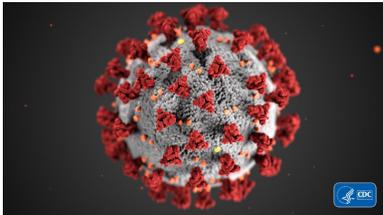


# NEWS

for Neighborhoods

A newsletter for Gwinnett County homeowners

December 31, 2020



Greetings!

Gwinnett County Government is monitoring developments in the spread of the coronavirus outbreak and how it may affect our residents, employees, and our delivery of important County services.

We are following the most up-to-date guidance from the Gwinnett-Newton-Rockdale County Health Departments, the state Department of Public Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. As the COVID-19 pandemic [impacts County services](#) in different ways, residents and business owners are encouraged to take advantage of the many [online services](#) provided by the County.

## What's new on TV Gwinnett?

Gwinnett County brings you the latest news and happenings about your community through Eye on Gwinnett, our weekly news program.

What you'll see in this episode:

- Runoff Election Day is January 5
- The County is welcoming three new commissioners to start 2021
- Play it safe if you're using fireworks to celebrate the end of 2020

View other Eye on Gwinnett episodes on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages, or watch them on [TVGwinnett.com](#).



## Election Day voting next week!



The January 5 Runoff Election is around the corner! If you choose to vote in person on Election Day, you must vote at your assigned polling location, which will be open 7:00am to 7:00pm. Please note that if you are in line at 7:00pm, you will be allowed to vote. There is no voting at the Voter Registrations and Elections Office on Election Day. To find your polling location or view a sample ballot, visit the Georgia Secretary of State's [My Voter Page](#).

Voters must return their voted Absentee/Advance by Mail ballot by Tuesday, January 5 at 7:00pm. Ballots can be delivered by mail or hand-delivered to the Voter Registrations and Elections Office, located at 455 Grayson Highway in Lawrenceville, or they may be dropped into one of the 23 [secure ballot drop boxes](#) located around the county. No postage is necessary if you use the ballot drop boxes.

## ¡La próxima semana es la votación del Día de las Elecciones!

¡El Desempate de las Elecciones del 5 de Enero están a la vuelta de la esquina! Si elige votar en persona el Día de las Elecciones, debe votar en el lugar de votación asignado, que estará abierto de 7:00am a 7:00pm. Tenga en cuenta que si está en la fila a las 7:00pm, se le permitirá votar. No hay votación en la Oficina de Inscripción de Votantes y Elecciones en el Día de las Elecciones. Para

encontrar su lugar de votación o ver una boleta de muestra, visite [My Voter Page](#) de la Secretaría de Estado de Georgia.

Los votantes deben devolver su boleta voto Ausente/Adelantada por Correo hasta el Martes 5 de Enero a las 7:00pm. Las boletas pueden entregarse por correo o entregarse personalmente en la Oficina de Inscripción de Votantes y Elecciones, ubicada en 455 Grayson Highway en Lawrenceville, o pueden depositarse en uno de los 23 [buzones seguros de votación](#) ubicados en todo el condado. No es necesario franqueo si usa los buzones seguros de votación.

## Meet our new commissioners

Newly elected Chairwoman Nicole Love Hendrickson, District 1 Commissioner Kirkland Carden, and District 3 Commissioner Jasper Watkins III have now been sworn into office.

Hendrickson served as associate director of the Gwinnett Coalition for Health and Human Services before joining Gwinnett County Government in 2015 as director for the new Community Outreach Division, where she launched Gwinnett 101 Citizens Academy, Dinner & Dialogue, and the Gwinnett Youth Commission.



Carden is a Gwinnett 101 Citizens Academy graduate. In his professional capacity, he has assisted state and local governments in developing, maintaining, and implementing transportation plans. Carden was elected to the Duluth City Council in 2017 and served on the Duluth Urban Redevelopment Authority. Carden has also worked as an urban planning technician.

Watkins is a nuclear pharmacist and is the principal/consultant for Watty Consultant, LLC. A retired lieutenant colonel in the Army, he received the Legion of Merit among other honors and helped coordinate responses to 9/11, and hurricanes Katrina and Andrew. He also graduated from Gwinnett 101 Citizens Academy.

The new commissioners, alongside returning District 2 Commissioner Ben Ku and District 4 Commissioner Marlene Fosque, will hold their first meeting of the new year on Tuesday, January 5.

## Drop off your Christmas tree for recycling



Wondering what to do with your Christmas tree when it's time to take it down? Give it a second life by participating in the annual Bring One for the Chipper event sponsored by Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful in partnership with Gwinnett County. Between December 26 and January 25, you can drop off natural Christmas trees at designated fire stations and other locations. The trees will be chipped into mulch for use at parks. Find the list of all drop-off sites or register to volunteer for the January 30 chipping event at Bethesda Park by visiting [GwinnettCB.org](http://GwinnettCB.org).

## Remember fireworks safety during New Year's celebrations

Gwinnett County's firefighters encourage residents to observe a safe, socially distanced professional fireworks display instead of using consumer fireworks during the New Year's celebration. The improper use of fireworks could cause significant bodily harm and property damage.



The following are important safety tips to remember if you choose to include fireworks in your celebration:

- Always purchase fireworks from a licensed and reputable vendor
- Read the directions carefully and inspect the device for any defects
- Keep a bucket of water, garden hose, and portable fire extinguisher close at hand
- Ignite fireworks outdoors in an open area away from buildings, vehicles, vegetation, or any other combustible material
- Ignite only one fireworks device at a time and use a grill (punk) lighter or fireplace lighter; remember to keep a safe distance between yourself and the fireworks device
- Always ignite fireworks on a firm, flat surface
- Never give fireworks to a child, no matter the age and keep children away from any fireworks area
- Never attempt to fix or re-ignite a malfunctioning fireworks device; instead, discard them safely by

- soaking them in a bucket of water
- Before going to bed at night, remember to inspect the area where fireworks are used
- Store unused fireworks in a cool, dry place out of the reach of small children or pets and away from open flame

For more tips to keep you safe throughout the year, visit [GwinnettSafety411.com](https://www.gwinnettsafety411.com).

## #ListenToGwinnettMoms as we prepare to welcome the new year!



As we get ready to ring in 2021, no matter how you, your family, or friends celebrate New Year's Eve this year, remember to follow these simple mom-approved COVID-19 safety tips when sharing time with others:

- Join the clean plate and hands club. Wash up before you head to the table, when you leave the table, and really whenever you can.
- Don't forget to keep your distance! Staying six feet apart is recommended, so consider to host a virtual New Year's Eve party with family and friends.
- Spread your joy and hope for the new year, not COVID-19. If you're feeling sick, stay home or if you were exposed to someone who is sick or if you are experiencing any symptoms, seek medical attention if necessary.

Check the [CDC guidelines](https://www.cdc.gov) for travel and gathering recommendations and visit [ListenToGwinnettMoms.com](https://www.listen toegwinnettmoms.com) for a round-up of COVID-19 resources. And don't forget to show us how you safely celebrate on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn with the hashtag #ListenToGwinnettMoms or by sharing your wisdom with us using [this form](#).

Gwinnett County and #ListenToGwinnettMoms wish you a happy, safe, and healthy new year ahead!

## Emissions required for 1997 – 2018 model years

For 2021, all gasoline-powered and light-duty trucks 8,500 pounds or less with the model years 1997 through 2018 require an emissions test to register and renew. For testing locations, senior exemptions, and other information, please visit [CleanAirForce.com](https://www.cleanairforce.com).

Once your vehicle has been tested, renew online at [GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Renew](https://www.gwinnetntaxcommissioner.com/renew).

## Mobile ticketing pilot launches

Beginning **January 4, 2021**, Gwinnett County Transit riders will be able to use their cell phones to pay their fares, avoiding having to handle cash or cards. This safe, secure fare payment option will reduce contact between GCT riders, drivers, and surfaces during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the new Token Transit program, patrons can purchase mobile tickets through the Token Transit App, which is free and can be downloaded from the App Store and Google Play. From **January to February 2021**, users can get 50 percent off their first purchase in the app. For pass validation, customers must give the Token Transit App access to their smartphone's Bluetooth, then bring their phone near the validator on the dashboard so the mobile ticket can be detected. The program will also be available on Xpress, which will offer a regional, contactless product that connects all of metro Atlanta.



In addition to mobile ticketing, Breeze Cards and cash will continue to be accepted as fare payment.

For more information on Token Transit and GCT's fare policy, please click [here](#) or call GCT Customer Service at 770.822.5010.

## Visit our website, social media for latest COVID-19 news

To stay up-to-date on the County's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, visit our website, [GwinnettCounty.com](https://www.gwinnettcountry.com) or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) @GwinnettGov.

**Follow us on**

