

February 2023



Happy Black History Month!

We're honored to have the respect and trust of the residents we serve and protect. There is so much to look forward to in the year ahead. Please share the information below with your friends and neighbors.

Gwinnett Police distributes more than 3,500 toys to children in need

It's been said that the act of giving is a way to express gratitude and trust. We don't know the motives behind the generosity of those who supported Gwinnett Police's Fill the Sleigh Toy Drive, but we are beyond grateful to the residents, organizations, and businesses that provided more than 3,500 toys. As a result, we expanded our holiday outreach, serving more than 1,175 kids at three of our Santa's Community Workshop events at Tucker Mobile Home Estates, Peachtree Mobile Home Park, and Gwinnett Estates. We also distributed toys to children at InTown Suites, Buford Church of God, Old Suwanee Christian School, Streetwise, and HomeFirst Gwinnett's Resting Spot Shelter.



Thank you to all the residents who supported our efforts, including our partners North Metro at Lawrenceville National Pan-Hellenic Council, Ismaili Civic, the Fry Law Firm, and Doris Bridges, for donating the vast majority of toys for our Fill the Sleigh Toy Drive.

We couldn't execute our holiday events without the support of David Cuffie, Doris Bridges, and volunteers from Ismaili Civic, who braved the cold temperatures to distribute toys, color with children, and provide adults with COVID-19 tests and a Gwinnett Police holiday ornament. Thank you!



Gwinnett Police Chief J.D. McClure Speaks at Gas South's Conversation on Crime



Gwinnett Police Chief J.D. McClure was among several local, state, and federal leaders who came together on Thursday, February 2 to discuss reasons for and remedies to crime in our community. Chief McClure reassured residents and leaders in attendance that crime is down in Gwinnett but acknowledged there is still work to be done.

If you are interested in making your business, community, or home safer, consider partnering with Gwinnett Safe Communities by providing access to cameras, license plate readers, and other technologies to assist first responders in emergency situations.

Please email the Situational Awareness and Crime Response Center at SafeCommunities@GwinnettCounty.com to learn how you can join the network to help us protect Gwinnett.

Gwinnett Police accepting nominations for the Rising Star Award

We are accepting nominations for the Rising Star Award until Friday, March 31. The Rising Star Award recognizes Gwinnett youth who are active volunteers in the community and improve the lives of others.

Our first-ever Rising Star Award recipients were recognized in 2022 and include:

- Aleesha Bhatti
- Afomia Giday
- Jaye Geyer
- Danielle Godson
- Bruce Hedley
- Genesis Howze
- Gavin Martine
- Ja'Nya McFadden



The Gwinnett Police Community Affairs team will review nominations and recognize Rising Stars in May 2023. Award recipients will receive a Rising Star award, a chief of police coin, a VIP tour of the Gwinnett police training facility, and other prizes. See the [criteria and nomination guidelines](#) to nominate a Rising Star.

Talented artists needed for 2023 Gwinnett Multicultural Festival



Calling all local artists! Whether you're a photographer, painter, sculptor, artist, comedian, dancer, magician, musician, or singer, here's your opportunity to showcase your unique skills and talents at our annual Multicultural Festival. Please let us know if you are interested in performing by March 31.

We had a phenomenal lineup of dynamic performers who entertained us with unique cultural performances in 2022, and we want to make our next event even better!

If your local business would like to support the Multicultural Festival with giveaways, please email Outreach Manager

Rachael Warnsley or call 770.513.5348. The event will take place Saturday, May 13 from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Stay tuned for more information about this year's event. In the meantime, check out this gallery of [Multicultural Festival photos](#) for a recap of last year's event

Get to know your local officers at Coffee with a Cop

Join your neighbors and local police officers to build new relationships one cup at a time. You're invited to ask questions, voice concerns, and get to know the officers who

serve your community.

The event will take place Thursday, March 9 from 9:00am to 11:00am at Mojitos at the Forum, located at 5161 Peachtree Parkway, Suite 630 in Peachtree Corners.



Dialed 911 by mistake? Don't hang up!



Have you ever dialed 911 by accident? Whatever you do, don't hang up!

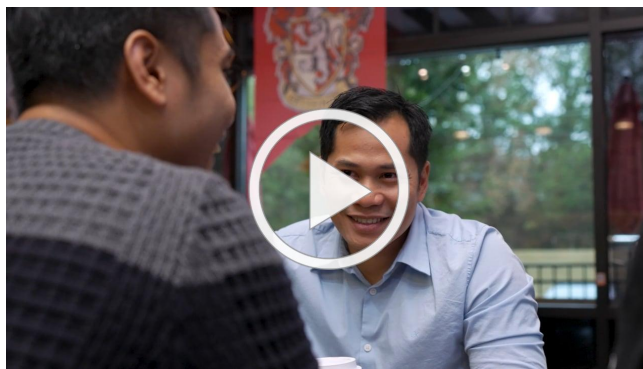
Stay on the line and let the dispatcher know it was an accident. If you don't, the dispatcher will proceed as if your call is an emergency and send a police officer out to check. Accidental calls tie up operators and take away vital resources from callers in need.

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

Meet your Neighbors in Uniform

On and off the clock, Gwinnett County police officers form bonds with people throughout our community. They work in the communities they serve and live alongside you as neighbors. We're sharing stories of our officers' meaningful relationships with residents. Watch two of our latest stories in our Neighbors in Uniform series below.

Meet Officer Khanh Tran



Meet Corporal Joseph Mathias



Safety tip of the month: secure your vehicle

As car break-ins increase, we want to ensure your valuables are always protected. Here are some tips to help you avoid becoming a victim of a car break-in:

- Always lock your vehicle and close your windows completely
- Engage your car alarm
- If you have a garage, park your car inside it
- Lock your car doors before walking away from the vehicle
- Do not leave valuable items such as purses, backpacks, laptops, cell phones, tablets, or firearms inside your vehicle
- If you need to secure items in your vehicle temporarily, always place them out of sight
- Secure valuable items before you reach your destination as criminals may watch you when you place them in your trunk
- Never leave valuables in your vehicle overnight
- Make sure items of value aren't visible when looking in your car
- Report any suspicious vehicles, activity, or individuals to the Police Department



For questions regarding the Neighbors in Uniform newsletter, please contact Rachael Warnsley at Rachael.Warnsley@GwinnettCounty.com or 770.513.5348. Be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) @GwinnettPD.

