



# NEIGHBORS IN UNIFORM

A newsletter from Gwinnett Police

June 2023

Welcome to Neighbors in Uniform, a monthly newsletter that provides information about Gwinnett County Police events, topics, programs, and initiatives. We are honored to have the respect and trust of the residents we serve and protect, and we're happy to be a resource and support.

## Gwinnett Police offering free basic self-defense course for women



The Gwinnett Police Community Affairs Section will offer a free basic self-defense course to women 16 and older. Women 16 and 17 years of age must be accompanied by a family member 18 years of age or older. The course is taught by Rape, Aggression, and Defense certified instructors and includes lecture, discussion, and self-defense techniques suitable for women.

The lecture portion focuses on risk awareness, risk reduction, and risk avoidance, followed by hands-on tactical training. The techniques taught are designed to be quick and effective so that women of all fitness levels and ages will be successful in learning options to escape attacks.

The 12-hour course will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, July 18, July 20, July 25, and July 27, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm at the Gwinnett Police Training Center at 854 Winder Highway in Lawrenceville. Registration is required. Space is limited. **Participants must attend all four classes; no exceptions.** To register, visit [CGGA.us/RADprogram](https://www.gwinnettpolice.com/CGA.us/RADprogram). If you have any questions or need more information, please email [PDCommunityAffairs@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:PDCommunityAffairs@GwinnettCounty.com).

## Gwinnett Police accepting back-to-school supplies to support students

Gwinnett County Police want to ensure families are supported and students return to class prepared. The Back-to-School Supply Drive will provide students with the supplies they need to achieve academic excellence during the 2023-2024 school year. Residents are encouraged to drop off donations Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm until Friday, July 28.

Donation boxes will be located at the Gwinnett County Police Headquarters, Gwinnett County Police Training Center, and all Gwinnett County Police precinct lobbies. To find a precinct near you, visit [CGGA.us/PolicePrecinct](https://www.gwinnettpolice.com/CGA.us/PolicePrecinct). For more information, please email



## Gwinnett Police recognizes 13 students with Rising Star Awards

Community service is one of the best ways to teach children the value of empathy. Gwinnett recognized 13 students with Rising Star Awards for their community service efforts tackling issues such as autism, early learning, food insecurity, foster care support, homelessness, hospice care, pollution, and underage drinking.

Each Rising Star received a trophy, certificate of recognition, Chief of Police coin, and a tour of the Gwinnett Police Training Center. Congratulations to our 2023 Rising Stars:



- Gisela Beltran, junior, Norcross High School
- Emily Fernandez, 8th grade, Buford Middle School
- Cailyn Grahl, senior, Mill Creek High School
- Meredith Luchtan, freshman, Peachtree Ridge High School
- Maddie Luchtan, senior, Peachtree Ridge High School
- Karen Luciano-Lopez, senior, Meadowcreek High School
- Camila Luna Santana, junior, Meadowcreek High School
- Kevin Matute Mojica, junior, Meadowcreek High School
- Abigail Richardson, 8th grade, Buford Middle School
- Zachary Weldon, junior, Dacula High School
- Lalaria West, senior, Meadowcreek High School
- Garrett Wolfe, 7th grade, McConnell Middle School
- Katie Yerbabuena-Padierna, junior, Norcross High School

The benefits of volunteering can have a holistic effect on young peoples' lives. Volunteering helps counteract the effects of stress, anger, and anxiety. We will continue to celebrate our youth who give their time and talent to improving their communities and the world.



## Gwinnett Multicultural Festival and County Open House was a big success

More than 2,500 residents participated in the Gwinnett Multicultural Festival and County Government Open House on May 13. Gwinnett Police is proud to play a role in advancing inclusion and belonging through





celebration, education, and advocacy. Thank you to all of our partners, supporters, and diverse community members for celebrating our rich diversity.

See the latest [Gwinnett County photos](#) including the Multicultural Festival and County Open House.

## Gwinnett Police raises funds to send over 125 athletes to Special Olympics games



On National Donut Day, June 2, law enforcement agencies from across the state participated in the annual Special Olympics of Georgia Cops on Donut Shops event in partnership with Dunkin' and Law Enforcement Torch Run, to raise money and awareness for Special Olympics athletes.

Gwinnett Police proudly hosted 10 locations and raised enough funds to send more than 125 Special Olympics athletes to the Games. Thank you to our officers, business partners, and residents who came together over coffee and donuts to raise money and awareness for the Special Olympics athletes in our community.

Special Olympics Georgia hosts state games throughout the year and provides year-round sports training and competition for athletes.

## Congratulations to the 108th Basic Communications Officers Course graduates!



Becoming a communications officer is a tough job, but one that is very rewarding. Due to the nature of this profession, Gwinnett Police provides extensive training to all new communications officers. We hold four academy classes each year.

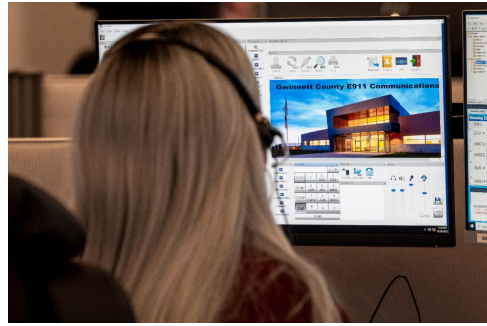
On June 2, we welcomed seven new communications officers who will work in the 911 center answering emergency calls and assisting with police and fire dispatch. This class was one of the highest academic scoring classes.

We are very proud of this graduating class and excited to have them on shift for their on-the-job training portion to stay on the path to become a fully released 911 communications officer. Training Coordinator Magdala Prophete said, "They were an excellent class with positive energy and a true desire to help our citizens and first responders. They're all super dedicated and they've made us all very proud!"

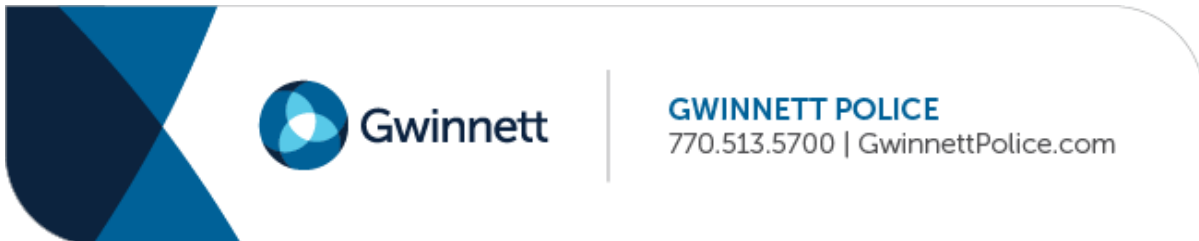
If you are looking for a rewarding career with a \$4,200 hiring incentive, consider [applying](#) to be a communications officer to serve at our 911 center.

## Safety tip of the month: 911 don'ts

- Don't hang up when you call 911 in an emergency. If you get a recording, stay on the line until the dispatcher answers. Hanging up will only further delay the answering of your call.
- Don't call 911 to ask when the power will be restored during outages or to report power outages.
- Don't call 911 to ask for weather reports.
- Don't call 911 for school reports, such as closings.
- Don't call 911 to ask about scheduled events in Gwinnett County, such as fireworks or the times of Halloween.
- Don't hang up if you dial 911 accidentally. Dispatchers have to call the numbers back and if no contact is made a police officer will be dispatched to your address to ensure your safety.
- Don't play with 911 or make false calls. It is a violation of the law to do so.
- Don't call 911 to request directory assistance. 411 is the correct number to call.
- Don't call 911 to arrange for ambulance transportation to a medical appointment.
- Don't call 911 to discuss legal problems, legal issues, or questions on laws.
- Don't call 911 to ask for directions.



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



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