



NEIGHBORS IN UNIFORM

A newsletter from Gwinnett Police

October 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.

Drop off unused prescriptions during National Drug Take Back Day

Our department partners with the Drug Enforcement Administration twice a year to provide a safe and convenient way to dispose of unused and expired prescription medications.

On **Saturday, October 28** from **10:00am to 2:00pm**, residents can drop off tablets, capsules, patches and other forms of prescription drugs to any of the [seven collection sites around Gwinnett County](#). Liquids, syringes, sharps, and other drugs will not be accepted. This initiative aims to:

- Reduce accidental poisoning, overdose, and abuse
- Prevent easy access to prescription drugs via home medicine cabinets
- Stop contamination of water supply from unused drugs being flushed down the toilet



Residents will not be questioned about medical history or medication possession.

Help Gwinnett Police fill the sleigh!



You have a chance to help make this holiday season extra special for local children by participating in our third annual Fill the Sleigh Toy Drive!

We're accepting toy donations for children ages 3 to 15 starting **Wednesday, November 1** through **Friday, December 15**. Toys should be new, unwrapped, and priced at \$10 or more. Youth basketballs, footballs, and soccer balls are great gifts for teenagers. Toy weapons will not be accepted. Donations can be dropped off at [Gwinnett Police Headquarters or any precinct lobby](#).

If you or an organization would prefer to use an online retailer and send toys directly to us, please mail items to: Central Precinct, Attn: Community Affairs, 3125 Satellite Boulevard, Duluth, GA 30096.

Donations will be distributed during the Santa's Community Workshop events for local children in need. For more information about the Fill the Sleigh Toy Drive and how you can help support our efforts, please email PDCommunityAffairs@GwinnettCounty.com.

Rotary Clubs of Gwinnett features Gwinnett Police for International Day of Peace

Last month, the Rotary Clubs of Gwinnett County and the Ismaili Council of the Southeastern United States hosted the annual Peace and Unity event with the theme Actions for Peace.

Gwinnett Police Chief J.D. McClure, Sergeant Selena Francis, Corporal Joseph Mathias, and the Behavioral Health Unit's Corporal Tracey Reed and Pej Mahdavi, LCSW, shared stories they've encountered ranging from heartbreak to healing, pain to transformative growth, and addiction to rehabilitation.



Gwinnett Police Citizens Advisory Board Chair Marc Cohen and View Point Health CEO Jennifer Hibbard served as moderators - fielding audience questions around prioritizing mental health, youth gun crimes, social service resources, crime prevention programs, and opportunities for open dialogue.

In Gwinnett County, we have the unique opportunity to be a beacon for the nation, demonstrating how a vibrantly connected and inclusive community promotes peace, justice, and equitable treatment of all residents. Check out the full panel discussions on crime and mental health on [TV Gwinnett](#).

If you would like to request Gwinnett Police to attend your community event, please email PDCommunityAffairs@GwinnettCounty.com.

Residents meet first responders at Gwinnett's Public Safety Fall Festival

Thank you to the more than 2,500 residents who attended the Public Safety Fall Festival at Coolray Field! Families explored our specialized units and life-saving resources from local organizations and other County departments. As public safety professionals, we aim to safeguard residents from crime, disaster, and other potential dangers and threats.

We've already started planning next year's Public Safety Fall Festival and have a few surprises in mind for residents of all ages.



[See the latest photos from the festival and other signature events.](#)

Gang Unit featured at Boys to Men Youth Empowerment Expo



Sergeant James Mellow and Detective Kory White from Gwinnett Police's Gang Unit attended the Boys to Men Empowerment Expo at Gwinnett Technical College to educate more than 300 young men and their mentors about the dangers of using firearms to resolve conflict, the prevalence of gangs in our community, [fentanyl](#) overdoses, and traffic stops.

The expo was the first of its kind in Gwinnett County, providing young men with essential life-saving education, conflict resolution tools, relevant books,

and inspirational clothing to remind them that they are valued and can be the change they wish to see in their homes, schools, and community.

We appreciate the support and collaboration from the Dream House Make a Difference Foundation, Gwinnett Technical College, Gwinnett County Public Schools Community Based Mentoring Program, and the 100 Black Men of North Metro Atlanta. These organizations were instrumental in funding, recruitment, and planning the event.

The next event in collaboration with the Dream House Make a Difference Foundation will be for young women in spring 2024.



Make your voice heard at Gwinnett Police's Community Meeting



You're invited to our second public meeting to strengthen communication with the police department and to voice your concerns to build a safer and more engaged community. Police Chief J.D. McClure and members of his command staff will be present to discuss concerns and develop solutions.

We look forward to seeing you on **Thursday, November 2 at 6:30pm at Universal Church**, located at 6081 Singleton Road in Norcross. Spanish-speaking translators will be on site.

Safety Tip of the Month: Halloween trick-or-treating safety

The holiday season is upon us. Let's start it off by having a safe and enjoyable Halloween. Here are some safety tips for parents and trick-or-treaters:

- Make sure all children are accompanied by a responsible adult.
- Adults should make sure that traffic rules for pedestrians are followed.
- Carry a flashlight and wear bright colors or reflective items.
- Stay in well-lit communities and areas. If a home does not have lights on, please do not approach.
- Nothing should be eaten until it has been checked by a responsible adult. Remember — when in doubt, throw it out.
- If you're driving, be on the lookout for trick or treaters.
- If a community has an end time for activities, be respectful of the time.



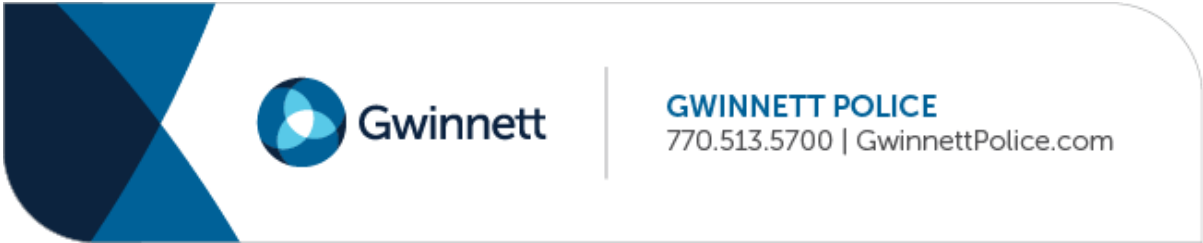
Tips for residents who pass out treats:

- Pass out sealed, individual treats or items.
- Keep your home well-lit while passing out treats.
- Never give money to anyone who approaches.
- If you feel uncomfortable at any time, do not open your door.

If you see anything out of the ordinary, please call the police, but remember this is a very busy night, so be prepared to provide as much information as possible.

[For more safety tips visit Gwinnett Safety 411.](#)

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](#), [X](#), and [Instagram](#) @GwinnettPD.



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