

Community Outreach NEWS

February 2020

Greetings!

Gwinnett Community Outreach promotes strategic communications and outreach with diverse constituencies, cultural events, and programs to engage and empower residents to be more informed and involved with Gwinnett County Government. Community Outreach News is one way we are able to stay vibrantly connected with our diverse community.

In honor of Black History Month, Gwinnett County is partnering with local organizations to host programs and events throughout the month of February. Check out these and more in this month's newsletter!

2019 Year in Review



We want to take a moment and thank all of our community partners, volunteers, and residents for their support on programs and projects accomplished in 2019.

Community Outreach participated in more than 700 community events, directly impacting 25,000 Gwinnett County residents. None of our programs would be possible without the support of our volunteers. We had more than 2,000 volunteers who contributed 7,700 volunteer hours toward our events in 2019.

Our flagship program, the **Gwinnett 101 Citizens Academy**, continues to attract residents from all over Gwinnett who want to have a better understanding of how local government operates. Our 10th class of graduates recently joined 300 alumni who are ready to be engaged and serve our county. Learn more about the program [here](#).



We've held four **Dinner & Dialogue** events, where residents shared a meal and conversation with Chairman Nash and district commissioners.



This year's class of **Gwinnett Youth Commissioners** brought the best and brightest students from 20 high schools to serve as the voice for the youth in our community. They are busy planning 2020 initiatives of their own!

A nine-member **Community Outreach Advisory Board** was assembled this year to promote our programs by encouraging involvement, engaging diverse groups of stakeholders, and advising and making recommendations to the Board of Commissioners on additional community outreach initiatives.

Our multicultural outreach continues to grow! We hosted programming that celebrated the rich history and culture of our natives and newcomers alike. Take a look at our various festivals and celebrations held in 2019:

- [Black History Month](#)
- [Gwinnett Multicultural Festival](#)
- [AAPI Heritage Month](#)
- [Hispanic Heritage Month](#)

Lastly, we have a new staff person who joined our team! **Meet Jessica Stewart:**



Jessica Stewart is a passionate, strategic community leader. She received her bachelor's degree in sociology from Georgia State University and is completing her MPA from Troy University. When she isn't busy in the community, Jessica spends quality time with her daughter Jala, family, and friends. She enjoys a good podcast or TED Talk or catching up on her favorite shows. Jessica currently engages and advocates for Gwinnett as a Community Outreach Program Coordinator.

Mark Your Calendar

Black History Month Display

Gwinnett County is hosting a Black History Month exhibit at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center from **February 3 through February 28**. The exhibit is free and open to the public during business hours, Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm. The exhibit features contributions from a variety of community organizations, including the United Ebony Society of Gwinnett County, Inc., Discovery High School, the RKL Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, the NAACP – Gwinnett Chapter, and others. It will also feature an exhibit from the Mike Glenn Collection titled "Once He Learns How to Read: A Legacy of Literacy," which showcases how literacy has shaped the African American culture. The Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center is located at 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville.

Black History Month Reception

Then, join the office of Community Outreach and the United Ebony Society of Gwinnett County for an evening of food and fellowship as we celebrate the contributions of African Americans to our community. The event will be held **Tuesday, February 25** at 7:00pm at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center. The celebration begins with a proclamation reading at the Board of Commissioners public hearing. Immediately following, a formal program will include performances and speakers. Refreshments will be provided. Register [here](#).



Other County groups are getting in on the fun as well. Check out Black History Month events happening across the county on [Gwinnett County's](#) events calendar and from the [Gwinnett County Public Library](#).

Engagement Opportunities

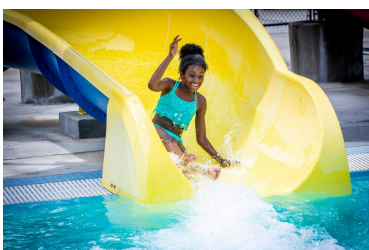


Gwinnett 101 Citizens Academy

The Gwinnett 101 Citizens Academy is now accepting applications for its spring and fall cohorts! Gwinnett 101 is a 12-week program that aims to develop and nurture informed and engaged residents, students, and business owners in our great county. Participants will get a behind-the-scenes look at how Gwinnett County Government provides high-quality services to the community. [Apply here](#). The deadline to apply for the spring term is **March 1**. The deadline to apply for the fall term is **July 1**.

Gwinnett Youth Commission

Gwinnett County needs future youth leaders in the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades who want to serve their county on behalf of their peers and learn how to impact decisions that affect youth in our community. Interested candidates must apply by **Monday, April 6**. The Gwinnett Youth Commission is a leadership and service oriented program that empowers young people to become knowledgeable and involved in the local governmental process. For more information or to download an application, [click here](#).



Help shape our parks

Now is your chance to provide the Parks and Recreation Division with your input on the future of your parks. This plan will guide park improvements, park development, recreation programming, and cultural and natural resource management of the Gwinnett County's parks. Tell us what you think at any of the upcoming meetings. The next meeting is **Tuesday, February 11** from 6:30pm to 8:30pm at OneStop Centerville. See the full listing [here](#). If you can't attend a meeting, take the short survey [online](#).



Bilingual poll officials needed

On Election Day, approximately 3,000 of your neighbors serve Gwinnett County voters by working as poll officials. As a poll official at one of our polling locations, you play an active role in ensuring the ongoing success of the electoral process.

Gwinnett County Elections needs dedicated individuals who take pride in their work, are patient, enjoy working with people, take direction well, and are detail oriented. To apply to be an poll official, click [here](#).

Make sure #GwinnettCounts on Census Day, April 1, 2020

In preparation for the 2020 Census, we launched the Gwinnett County Complete Count Committee, including representatives from local governments, school districts, faith and cultural communities, nonprofit agencies, and other groups that support the U.S. Census Bureau's mission of making sure every resident is counted once, only once, and in the right place. We hosted a kickoff last November to spread awareness about the upcoming count, and we celebrated with a proclamation in January.



Every person matters. Every. One. Counts! Learn more about the Census and why it's important by visiting 2020census.gov.



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