

NEWS & EVENTS

in District 2 with Commissioner Ben Ku

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December 2024



Hello Silvia,

Happy December!

The holiday season is upon us! I'm using this time to set some new goals for the coming year and to spend time with my family. I'm also using this time to reflect on some of the achievements Gwinnett County reached this year, including conducting a record number of groundbreaking and ribbon cuttings, providing top level customer service, and receiving impressive awards from prestigious organizations.

This month is the perfect time to reflect on your accomplishments, to give to those less fortunate, and to spend precious time with loved ones. I'm wishing everyone a very happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year!

What's New in District 2

Water and sewer rate to increase January 2025

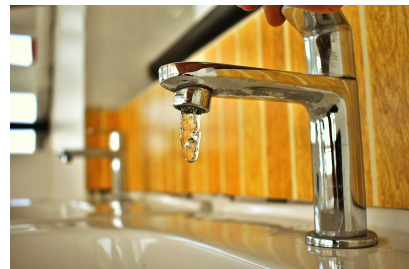
In October 2020, the Board of Commissioners approved the Gwinnett County 2021 Water and Sewer Rate Resolution. This 10-year rate resolution sets a 4.5% rate increase every other year in odd years. Based on this resolution, water and sewer rates per thousand gallons will increase by 4.5% on January 1, 2025.

For an average household usage of 5,000 gallons per month:

- A water-only bill will increase by approximately \$1.25 per month.
- A combined water and sewer bill will increase by about \$3.30 per month.

There will be **no increase** in the water and sewer base charges.

Gwinnett Water Resources offers the Water Resources Assistance Program to eligible homeowners using American Rescue Plan Act funds dedicated for home plumbing repairs. Customer advocates can assist residents with their applications for this program and set up bill payment plans. To apply for WRAP, visit GwinnettCounty.com/WRAP.



CONVERSATIONS
WITH KU



Tune in to Conversations with Ku

Check out Conversations with Ku, my monthly podcast, where I dive into County initiatives, Board decisions, upcoming events, and a variety of other topics. You can find the podcast on GwinnettCounty.com and on your favorite streaming platform.

In the latest episode, I spoke with Financial Services Director Buffy Alexzulian about the proposed 2025 County budget. Be sure to also check out the previous episode, in which I discussed the latest updates in District 2 with my co-host, Hunter Coleman.

I'd love to hear from you or answer questions about District 2 or Gwinnett County Government. Feel free to email me at Ben.Ku@GwinnettCounty.com and your question may be read on the podcast. Also, if there is someone you'd like me to interview, or a topic you'd like me to cover, please let me know.

Apply to serve on a Gwinnett County board

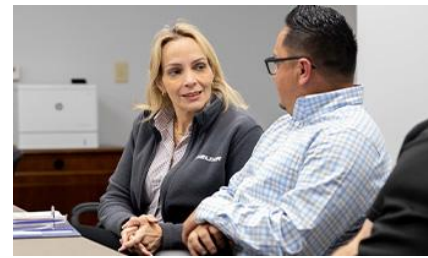
Looking for a way to get more involved in your community? Serve as the District 2 appointee on the Gwinnett County Stormwater Authority, the Gwinnett County Human Services Advisory Board, or the Family and Children Services Board.

The Stormwater Authority consists of seven members who either have scientific training or have demonstrated experience with stormwater issues. Members serve four year terms.

The Gwinnett County Human Services Advisory Board ensures coordination and collaboration among participating entities in the Countywide human services ecosystem. The board is composed of 21 members, who are either Gwinnett County residents or work in a human services field in Gwinnett County, and the Community Services Department Director. Members serve two year terms.

The Family and Children Services Board protects the well-being of this state's children while preserving family integrity. The board consists of seven members, with members serving five-year terms.

For more information about Gwinnett County boards, authorities, and committees, please visit the [Gwinnett County website](#). If you're interested, please [submit an application](#).



Happening Around Gwinnett



The Animal Shelter closed until December 19

The Bill Atkinson Animal Welfare Center will be closed until **Thursday, December 19** to prevent the spread of *Streptococcus Zooepidemicus*, known as Strep Zoo.

The decision follows the sudden, unassisted deaths of three canines in the center's care since Friday, November 29. The County initiated testing in collaboration with the University of Georgia to determine the cause, identifying Strep Zoo. This bacterial infection can cause severe respiratory distress, nasal discharge, vomiting, and a rapid decline in

health within 24 to 48 hours. Without timely intervention, it can be fatal. However, antibiotics are effective when administered early.

Pet owners should monitor pets carefully for symptoms and seek immediate veterinary attention if symptoms arise.

Strep Zoo is a zoonotic disease, meaning it can transfer between animals and humans, although human cases are very rare and associated with other underlying diseases or immunosuppression. During this closure, Gwinnett Animal Welfare and Enforcement will continue to process pet reclaims and intake of sick, injured or aggressive animals for the safety of the community.

For more information about Gwinnett Animal Welfare and Enforcement, visit [GwinnettAnimalWelfare.com](#). The Bill Atkinson Animal Welfare Center is located at 884 Winder Highway in Lawrenceville.

Join us for the Career From Here Hiring Event

Attend the annual Career From Here Hiring Event on **Friday, January 10, 2025 from 9:00am to 2:00pm at the Gas South Convention Center**, located at 6400 Sugarloaf Parkway in Duluth.

Gwinnett County Government offers impactful career opportunities in a variety of fields including accounting and finance, building, grounds cleaning, maintenance, food services, facility operations, information technology, and more.

[Preregister](#) to attend the event and check [GwinnettCountyJobs.com](#) to see the list of available jobs with Gwinnett County Government.



Provide feedback to help Gwinnett's tree canopy

As Gwinnett continues to grow, we want to ensure that we are not just adding buildings but also growing and preserving our green spaces.

The revised Tree Ordinance aims to balance progress and preservation, create healthier neighborhoods, foster sustainability, and enhance public spaces. The Tree Ordinance revision process will take about a year, with completion set for August 2025.

You can help by sharing your input in the [Tree Ordinance Survey](#) through **Thursday, December 19**. Your feedback will help shape how we balance growth with the care of our tree canopy. Through research, community input, and thoughtful planning, we can ensure Gwinnett County remains a vibrant, green place to live, work, and play.

Getting into the holiday spirit

It's essential to follow the manufacturer's instructions for lights and electric decorations. Every year during the holiday season, fires injure more than 2,600 people and cause millions of dollars in property damage. Let's have a safe and enjoyable holiday season by following these best practices:

- Water a live tree and check it daily to prevent it from drying out. If needles fall off when touched, the tree is too dry and needs more water.
- Turn off holiday lights when leaving the home or going to sleep.
- Avoid overloading electrical outlets during holiday decorating.
- Select holiday decorations that are made of fire-resistant materials.



For more safety tips, visit GwinnettSafety411.com.

To learn more and to sign up for fire education programs, trainings, and more, visit GwinnettFireEducation.com.

Special Events and Happenings

Visit GwinnettCountyEvents.com or follow the County's social media channels to learn more about upcoming events.

Winter Adventure Club: Racing River Otters

Wednesday December 18 from 10:00am to 11:00am | Free

Slip, slide, and ride a wave with Georgia's river otters. Explore these fun and water-loving creatures with us in a day of play as we sing songs, listen to a story, and participate in fun hands-on activities. [Register online](#). Ages 2 to 5. Lilburn Activity Building, 788 Hillcrest Rd NW, Lilburn.

Holly Jolly Play Day

Friday, December 20 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm | Free

Celebrate the season with Be Active Gwinnett! Enjoy winter fun, hot cocoa, games, and more! [Register online](#). Ages 3 and up. Lilburn Activity Building, 788 Hillcrest Road NW, Lilburn.

Clicks & Sticks Knitting Guild

Thursday January 9 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm | Free

Meet fellow knitters of all skill levels. Share your craft and learn new techniques. Free for first-time visitors, while membership fees apply. [Register online](#). Ages 18 and up. For more information, call 404.216.6992. OneStop Centerville, 3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville.

Escape The LAB

Saturday, January 11 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Gear up for a night of fun in the coolest escape room ever! [Register online](#). Ages 13 and up. The fee is \$11.00. Lilburn Activity Building, 788 Hillcrest Road NW, Lilburn.

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Gwinnett County

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