

# NEWS & EVENTS



in District 3 with  
Commissioner Watkins

December 2022



Greetings!

In November, we celebrated Thanksgiving, and we also honored those who have served our country through military service on Veterans Day.

Check out a few photos from the Veterans Breakfast I hosted at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center to honor some of the many Gwinnett County Government employees who served in the military before serving their county.



As the holiday season continues, there's no better time of year to look back at all that we've accomplished and get excited about the journey ahead. I hope you get the chance to spend time with your family, friends, and loved ones as we wrap up a busy 2022.

## Happening Around Gwinnett



### Get ready for the December 6 runoff election

We have a run-off election for our United States Senator coming up on Tuesday, December 6. From Saturday, November 26 through Friday, December 2, registered voters may vote advance in-person, from 7:00am to 7:00pm at one of Gwinnett's [11 advance voting locations](#). Unlike Election Day, you may vote early at any advance voting location in the county, not at an assigned polling location. All voters who were registered by November 7 can cast their ballot regardless of whether or not they voted in the General Election. Learn more

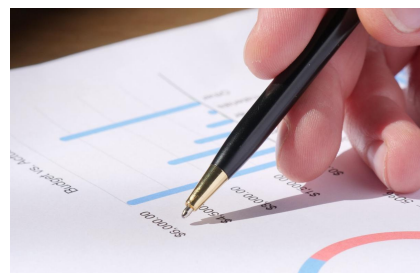
about the runoff election at [GwinnettElections.com](https://GwinnettElections.com).

### Prepárate para el desempate de las elecciones del 6 de Diciembre

Tenemos una elección de desempate para nuestro Senador de los Estados Unidos el Martes 6 de Diciembre. Desde el Sábado 26 de Noviembre hasta el Viernes 2 de Diciembre, los votantes inscritos pueden votar por adelantado en persona, de 7:00am a 7:00pm en [uno de los once lugares de votación adelantada de Gwinnett](#). A diferencia del día de las elecciones, puede votar anticipadamente en cualquier lugar de votación adelantada del condado, no en un lugar de votación asignado. Todos los votantes inscritos antes del 7 de Noviembre pueden emitir su voto independientemente de si votaron o no en las Elecciones Generales. Obtenga más información sobre la elección de desempate en [GwinnettElections.com](https://GwinnettElections.com).

## Proposed 2023 budget focuses on service, sustainability, and preparedness

Chairwoman Nicole Hendrickson [presented her proposed budget](#) on November 15 to guide County government spending for the 2023 fiscal year. The [proposed budget](#) totals \$2.26 billion. It consists of a \$1.77 billion operating budget and a \$488 million capital improvements budget, which includes funds from the County's Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax program. Voters last week opted to extend the County's one-cent SPLOST program for another six years beginning in April. Read more about the [proposed 2023 budget](#).



The Board of Commissioners will accept public comments at a public hearing Monday, December 5 at 7:00pm at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center and [online through December 31](#) before adopting a final budget Tuesday, January 3, 2023.



## Gwinnett Police accepting donations for the Fill the Sleigh toy drive

The Gwinnett Police Department is accepting toy donations for children ages 3 to 12 years old for its annual Fill the Sleigh toy drive. Donate new, unwrapped toys priced \$10 or above at [Gwinnett Police headquarters or any precinct](#) through **Friday, December 16**. Toys will be distributed during the department's Santa's Community Workshop events for local children. For more information, please call 678.422.6520 or email [PDCommunityAffairs@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:PDCommunityAffairs@GwinnettCounty.com).

## Voters approve SPLOST for another six years

Voters approved the renewal of the one-cent Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax, or SPLOST, during the November 8 General Election. SPLOST collections are used to fund capital projects like roads, bridges, parks, fire stations, police precincts, libraries, and more.

Gwinnett voters have approved a series of SPLOST programs that since 1985 have raised more than \$4 billion for capital projects. SPLOST also allows the County to pay for major projects with a funding source other than property tax revenue. The new program is expected to raise \$1.35 billion over the next six years, about 25 percent of which will go to cities. Learn more about the renewed SPLOST program at [GwinnettSPLOST.com](http://GwinnettSPLOST.com).



## What's New in District 3



## Gwinnett Code Enforcement to host Clean Community Forum on December 1

Residents are invited to attend the Gwinnett Clean Community Forum on Thursday, December 1 at the OneStop Centerville Community Room located at 3025 Bethany Church Road in Snellville.

From 6:00pm to 7:30pm, attendees will hear presentations by Gwinnett Code Enforcement, Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful, and Gwinnett Transportation on the collective efforts of the County and

residents to keep Gwinnett a safe, livable, and healthy community. Attendees will have the opportunity to share their neighborhood successes and ask questions. For more information, contact Shannon Ashe at [Shannon.Ashe@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:Shannon.Ashe@GwinnettCounty.com).

## Gwinnett Police, Fire and Emergency Services to host joint hiring event

Gwinnett [Police](#) and [Fire and Emergency Services](#) are hosting the joint hiring event **Saturday, December 10** from 8:00am to 4:00pm at the Gwinnett County Fire Academy, located at 3608 Braselton Highway in Dacula.

Recruiters from both departments will be on hand to answer questions about various career paths. Successful police candidates may receive conditional job offers. Fire candidates will have an opportunity to complete an orientation, application, background check, PPE (sneakers and long pants required), and an oral interview, typically a two-to-three-hour process altogether. For more information,





### Get involved with Gwinnett's community gardens

December and January might be the slowest months of the year at Gwinnett's community gardens, but there's always something going on to boost the harvest, including plans to resurface the Lenora garden with crushed slate, install blackberry vines at the Dacula garden, and install hoops/row covers in the field crops at Vines to protect against early spring frost. Want to plant a garden of your own? Find out how to [reserve a raised plot](#) for next year.

### Reminders for the holiday season

As the holidays approach, here are some important reminders:

- Our **warming stations** activate when temperatures drop to 35 degrees or below. You can check their activation status on the County's website. Find out more about [warming station job opportunities](#) and [volunteer opportunities](#).
- Our **OneStop 4 Help** community navigators are here to help you find valuable resources and overcome challenges like hunger, health, housing, or other issues. Call 770.822.8850, [email](#), or [complete the online assistance request form](#) to connect with a community navigator.
- [Services for veterans and their families](#) are available at the newly opened **Veteran and Family Services office** at the Gwinnett Senior Services Center.
- **Recycle right this holiday season!** Don't place plastic bags, bubble wrap, Styrofoam, or glossy/embellished wrapping paper in your recycling. Break down cardboard boxes before you put them in your recycling cart. Reuse boxes and gift bags to extend their useful life. Please take a minute to [brush up on acceptable recycling](#)



### Get the latest news about Rowen

Stay up-to-date on the latest happenings at Rowen by finding the project on social media. Follow [@RowenLife](#) on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#). You can also follow the Rowen Foundation on [LinkedIn](#).

### Stay active during the holidays

It's easy to be sedentary during the holidays, but Gwinnett is offering ways for people of all ages to stay active and engaged.

- Get moving with Be Active Gwinnett at [Pop-up Park Play Days](#) (ages 5 and up) at Lenora Park Gym on Wednesdays, December 7 to 21 and Friday, December 9. This free drop-in program features fun games and activities.
- Breathe your way to better health in [Yoga for Baby Boomers](#) at Dacula Park, with Thursday evening sessions offered in December, January, and February. Learn all the basics at this affordable class for beginners!
- Get your kicks in [Karate class](#) at Lenora Park with Saturday sessions for youth from 1:00pm to 2:00pm, December 3 to 31.



## Special Events and Happenings

Visit [GwinnettCountyEvents.com](http://GwinnettCountyEvents.com) or follow the County's social media channels to learn about more upcoming events.

### Traveling Seniors 50+ Workshop

**Saturday, December 10 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm**

Let your golden years stay full of gold. Understand how to travel on a budget. Learn about travel rewards programs, senior discounts, and more. Light refreshments available. For ages 50 and older. Fee: \$10. [Register online](#). OneStop Centerville, 3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville.

### HIV Testing

**Tuesday, December 13 from 3:00pm to 6:00pm**

Free! Keep yourself and your loved ones healthy. Complete a confidential test without an appointment

and receive your results with preventative information and additional resources. For ages 13 and up. OneStop Centerville, 3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville.

### **A Beary Merry Day**

**Saturday, December 17 from 10:00am to noon**

Adopt a teddy bear, listen to a story, and take home a book to read to your new pal. Get a printed picture taken to take home with your adoption certificate and make great memories! For kids ages 12 and under. \$2 per child. Parent/guardian participation required. [Register online](#). OneStop Centerville, 3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville.

### **Saving Seeds Made Easy**

**Monday, December 18 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm**

Free virtual class! Why save seeds? Many reasons! Saving your seeds and sharing them promotes the use of regionally adapted seed, builds genetic diversity, and strengthens food security through education and a culture of sharing. For ages 18 and up. [Register online](#).



Jasper Watkins III, District 3 Commissioner  
Gwinnett County

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