



# NEIGHBORS IN UNIFORM

A newsletter from Gwinnett Police

September 2024

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.

September is **National Suicide Prevention Month**. Suicide is a major public health concern and a leading cause of death in the U.S. If you or someone you love are having thoughts of suicide, **please dial 988** for help and support. **#BeThe1To**

As we begin to celebrate **National Hispanic Heritage Month**, don't miss the opportunity to recognize Hispanic American champions who have inspired others to achieve success. Follow us on social media **@GwinnettPD** to see where we'll be celebrating so you can join us.

## Guns and Gangs: A Conversation with Gwinnett Youth

Gwinnett Police in partnership with SEASUS, a local youth nonprofit organization, will host a conversation with Gwinnett youth about the dangers of guns and gangs and their impact on families.

Gwinnett Police is eager to collaborate with local organizations in an ongoing effort to combat gang activity and gun violence. The conversation is tailored for teens and parents and will take place on **Saturday, September 21 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm** at the Gwinnett Police Training Center, located at 854 Winder Highway in Lawrenceville. Register [now](#) to secure your seat. Refreshments will be served.



## Behavioral Health Unit featured in Suffering in Silence: Mental Health Townhall



District 3 Commissioner Jasper Watkins III hosted a town hall to raise awareness of the mental health crisis and shine a light on local resources available to residents.

Sgt. David Smith provided a brief update on the recent school shooting at Apalachee High School in Winder. Sgt. Smith also provided information on accessing the [Behavioral Health Unit](#) and noted its 98 percent jail diversion rate.

Commissioner Watkins is advocating for the addition of a social worker to the Behavioral Health Unit and for the creation of a community dashboard to provide residents with access to essential resources.

## Local faith-based organizations partner with Gwinnett Police for National Faith & Blue

We will continue our annual tradition of partnering with local faith-based organizations for the annual National Faith and Blue weekend. Events are scheduled across the county from Friday, October 11 to Monday, October 14.

This year, our six police precincts, along with our Training Division and Community Affairs Section, will host a total of eight events in partnership with local houses of worship. Here is a look at the event schedule:

1. **Now until Friday, October 11:** the Gwinnett Police Training Center will accept non-perishable food donations during business hours from 8:00am to 4:00pm to support Neighborhood Church
2. **Friday, October 11 from noon to 3:00pm:** the Community Affairs Section will host a community block party at Valley Brook Mobile Home Park in partnership with The Salvation Army-Gwinnett
3. **Friday, October 11 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm:** South Precinct hosts a Hoops and Heroes event at Annistown Road Church
4. **Friday, October 11 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm:** North Precinct hosts a community event at Buford Church of God
5. **Saturday, October 12 from 9:30am to 12:30pm:** Central Precinct hosts a Cops, Games, and Cones event at Cross Pointe Church
6. **Saturday, October 12 from 11:00am to 2:00pm:** East Precinct hosts a community cookout at Lifeway Church
7. **Sunday, October 13 from 3:00pm to 5:00pm:** West Precinct hosts a softball game at Best Friend Park in partnership with Universal Church
8. **Monday, October 14 from 10:00am to noon:** Bay Creek Precinct hosts a food, household, and personal care items donation event to support the Southeast Gwinnett Cooperative Ministry

For more information about a Faith and Blue event near you, please visit the event page on [FaithandBlue.org](https://www.gwinnettpolice.org/faithandblue).



## Families enjoy fully immersive experience at Gwinnett's Public Safety Fall Festival

We welcomed more than 4,000 residents and friends to Coolray Field for the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Public Safety Fall Festival.

The event engaged all senses with sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and tactile experiences. Families participated in hands-on exhibits to learn safety measures. Specialized units provided life-saving resources and live demonstrations. The [police motorcycle rodeo](#) featured revving engines, screeching tires, and the clinking of metal. Car enthusiasts reveled in a show of more than 160 classic cars, all meticulously restored. A free fun zone with an amusement ride, bounce houses, face painting, and games delighted children, while food trucks offered comfort foods and international cuisine.



Officers from the Southeastern United States and as far as Brazil attended the inaugural Peach State Motorcycle Rodeo, held alongside the festival, to hone their riding skills. The competition showcased motorcycle skills, with officers navigating courses named Toot Suite, King Cowboy, The Banjo, Dawg House, a speed course, Peach Brawl, Last Man Standing, and Slow Race.

First-time exhibitor Loretta Malcolm said, "The Public Safety Fall Festival was incredible! Right from the start, it was clear that we were in the hands of a dedicated team eager to create an unforgettable experience. The behind-the-scenes creativity, professionalism, and relentless effort made a significant impact."

We extend our deepest gratitude to all the residents and friends, Gwinnett County exhibitors, local public safety agencies, car show participants, food truck vendors, volunteers, and Peach State Police Motorcycle Rodeo [sponsors](#) and police motorcycle competitors for your attendance and support of the festival. Check out all the festival photos in the [photo album](#).



### Gwinnett County Police Headquarters is getting an upgrade

The County will use Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax funds for the redesign of our Gwinnett Police headquarters. The upgrades will address current and future space requirements, consolidating offsite teams and sections into a single facility. Originally built in 1977, the existing headquarters was expanded in 1988 and has undergone several reconfigurations over the years to adapt to the evolving needs of the county and the department.

Precision Planning Inc. was awarded a \$5.8 million contract for design and construction, funded by SPLOST. Construction on the project, totaling approximately \$86 million, is slated to begin in 2026. To learn more about how your pennies work in Gwinnett, visit [GwinnettSPLOST.com](http://GwinnettSPLOST.com).



## Learn how to defend yourself in an active violence situation

An active shooter is an individual who is engaged in killing, or attempting to kill, people in a confined and populated area. Active shooter incidents are often unpredictable and evolve quickly.

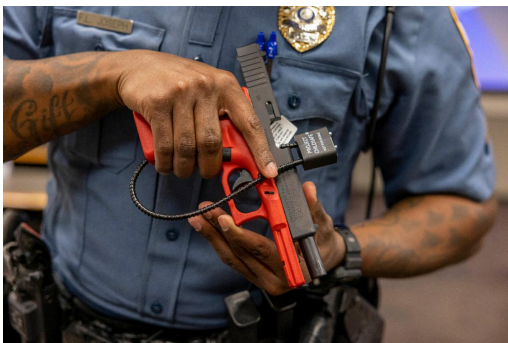
Gwinnett Police is now offering an active violence course to individuals. The course outlines the importance of situational awareness and the concepts RUN, HIDE, FIGHT and AVOID, DENY, DEFEND. The course encourages participants to think about different ways to improvise to protect themselves if an active violence situation occurs and what to do after police officers arrive. These concepts will be learned in a classroom setting and will not be physical scenarios



Visit [GwinnettCounty.com/ActiveViolence](https://www.gwinnettpd.com/ActiveViolence) to register for one of our upcoming classes below:

- **Tuesday, October 8, 6:30pm** at South Precinct, 2180 Stone Drive, Lilburn
- **Saturday, October 12, 10:00am** at Training Center, 854 Winder Highway, Lawrenceville
- **Saturday, November 2, 10:00am** at Training Center, 854 Winder Highway, Lawrenceville
- **Monday, November 4, 6:30pm** at North Precinct, 2735 Mall of Georgia Boulevard, Buford
- **Thursday, December 5, 6:30pm** at West Precinct, 6160 Crescent Drive, Norcross

## Master your firearm with essential gun safety practices



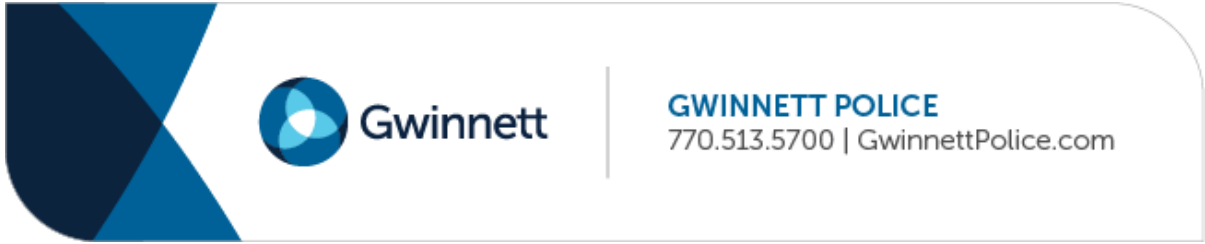
Whether you're new to gun ownership or if you've been a gun owner for quite some time, it's always great to brush up on your firearm safety skills. We provide several Firearm Safety and Security classes throughout the year to share guidelines and best practices for safe gun handling. The classes are held at all police precincts and taught by local law enforcement personnel.

Registration is required to participate, and seating is limited. Youth who plan to attend must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Residents are prohibited from bringing their own weapons to class. All classes start promptly at 6:30pm.

Visit [GwinnettCounty.com/FirearmSafety](https://www.gwinnettpd.com/FirearmSafety) to register for one of our upcoming classes below:

- **Thursday, October 3**, East Precinct, 2273 Alcovy Road, Dacula
- **Thursday, October 24**, South Precinct, 2180 Stone Drive, Lilburn
- **Tuesday, November 5**, North Precinct, 2735 Mall of Georgia Boulevard, Buford
- **Tuesday, December 3**, Bay Creek Precinct, 185 Ozora Road, Loganville

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



Gwinnett County Police Department | 770 Hi Hope Road | Lawrenceville, GA 30044 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)