

# Community Outreach NEWS

July 2022

Greetings!

Gwinnett Community Outreach promotes communications and engagement activities to empower residents to be more informed and involved with Gwinnett County Government. Community Outreach News is one of the many ways we remain vibrantly connected to our diverse community!

## Community Outreach summer recap

Summer is upon us and Community Outreach has been out and about celebrating our diverse constituency while ushering in new community leaders. Read below for a recap of our recent events and activities!



### **Gwinnett Celebrates Juneteenth**

Gwinnett County Government partnered with the United Ebony Society to celebrate Juneteenth at Rhodes Jordan Park on June 18. The community festival included music, food, games, and performances to commemorate the ending of slavery in the United States. [Click here](#) to view photos from the event and make plans to join us for next year's festival on Saturday, June 17, 2023!



### **Gwinnett Thrives with Pride**

In addition to participating in community Pride events, Gwinnett County Government hosted the second annual Pride Party Tuesday, June 28 in the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center Plaza. More than 200 Gwinnett County residents and employees attended the day party, displaying their support of our LGBTQ+ residents and confirming Gwinnett Thrives with Pride!

### **Gwinnett 101 Citizens Academy Cohort 14 graduation**

The Board of Commissioners, County department directors, and elected officials celebrated the graduation of Gwinnett 101 Citizens Academy's Spring Cohort 14 on June 28 at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center. As with each previous cohort, these 19 graduates bring a spirit of service that will benefit Gwinnett County far beyond their graduation! Our Fall session will begin Thursday, August 26 and applications are accepted now! [Click here](#) to learn more and apply.



### **Gwinnett Youth Commission newest cohort begins**

A new cohort of students began their journey to



become Gwinnett Youth Commissioners earlier this summer. Twenty-seven rising ninth through twelfth graders will experience personal and professional development training, while learning about their County government. At the conclusion of the eight-week summer training, the participants will become Youth Commissioners and conduct civic engagement exercises, and other leadership and community service opportunities.

### Tour your county courthouse

Want to learn more about your County courthouse and what happens there? Join us Friday, July 29, from 10:00am to 1:30pm for a behind-the-scenes tour of the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center! This tour provides residents an opportunity to meet County officials while becoming familiar with the County's administrative and courts building to better understand the superior services Gwinnett County Government delivers to the community.



This tour is open to the public and lunch is provided. [Click here](#) to register for the tour by Friday, July 22 or until all slots have been filled. Other dates are available. The Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center is located at 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville, GA 30046.

### County news worth sharing

#### County offices closed for Independence Day

All Gwinnett County government offices will be closed Monday, July 4, except for operations required for the comfort and safety of residents. All offices will resume regular working hours Tuesday, July 5. Happy Independence Day!



#### Roadmap for Gwinnett Place Mall makes area's future more clear, equitable

When it comes to revitalizing the Gwinnett Place Mall, Gwinnett residents have spoken: They would like to see affordable housing, neighborhood services, incentives for existing businesses in the area, job support, and a central location with regional and accessible transit.

Here is a breakdown of the five themes that emerged from the community's responses:

- **Housing:** Ensure existing residents of the mall can remain in the area and share in the benefits of redevelopment
- **Neighborhood Services:** Support existing and new Gwinnett residents as the County grows and becomes increasingly diverse
- **Small Business:** Offer existing businesses in the mall area new opportunities to grow and thrive
- **Jobs:** Generate jobs for Gwinnett residents that enable them to support themselves and their families
- **Cultural Activity Center:** Become a vibrant, regional destination, with transit connectivity, that generates prosperity for communities and the County

In the next major milestone for the mall's future, the Board of Commissioners will evaluate themes from the Reclaim Gwinnett Place Mall Project and outcomes from the Gwinnett Place Livable Centers Initiative study and use the findings from both plans to prepare a Request for Information to solicit proposals for the redevelopment of Gwinnett Place Mall.

#### Gwinnett and United Way to distribute \$4.25 million in grant funding to nonprofits

Local nonprofits that serve critical needs in the community will soon receive a boost as Gwinnett County and United Way of Greater Atlanta prepare to allocate \$4.25 million in Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery funds to nonprofit service providers. These funds —

provided to Gwinnett County by the U.S. Department of the Treasury through the American Rescue Plan Act — will be used to address needs identified or worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic impact.

Critical needs like housing stability, food security, childcare, early education/literacy, transportation, and mental health are likely to be supported by this round of grant funding.

United Way of Greater Atlanta is offering digital listening surveys now through July 15, where nonprofits, residents, and community organizations are invited to share their needs and challenges as Gwinnett County recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic. Listening survey questions will be made available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean, and Simplified Chinese later this month on the United Way of Greater Atlanta website. The feedback from these listening surveys will be used to prioritize needs and prepare for the distribution of funding.

Local nonprofits can apply for funding August 1 to 26 through the United Way's Grant Portal. The portal will not be open or accessible until August 1.

### **Gwinnett County Water Resources wins “Best Tasting Water” in Georgia**

Through a blind taste test and vote, the Georgia Association of Water Professionals named Gwinnett County's drinking water the best tasting in Georgia! [Click here](#) to read more.



**Gwinnett Community Outreach**  
770.822.8877  
GwinnettCounty.com

Follow us on

