



# NEIGHBORS IN UNIFORM

A newsletter from Gwinnett Police

September 2023

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.

## Public Safety Fall Festival returns to Coolray Field!



Meet the first responders who proudly serve our community at the Public Safety Fall Festival. This family-friendly event is free and features giveaways, food trucks, touch-a-truck experiences with SWAT vehicles, fire trucks, and more. Join us **Saturday, September 16 from 10:00am to 2:00pm at Coolray Field**, located at 2500 Buford Drive in Lawrenceville.

“The Public Safety Fall Festival highlights the partnership between public safety in Gwinnett County to those we service in the community,” said Gwinnett Police Chief J.D. McClure. “We look forward to opening our doors to show you the inner workings of many of our specialized units.”

For more information about the 2023 Public Safety Fall Festival, please email [PDCommunityAffairs@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:PDCommunityAffairs@GwinnettCounty.com).

## Join Gwinnett Police at Faith and Blue events throughout the county

We look forward to partnering with local faith-based organizations for National Faith and Blue weekend!

[Check out the list of community events](#) that will be free and open to the public from October 6 through October 9. Gwinnett County Public Schools is on fall break during this time, so please bring the whole family and select an event that fits your schedule!

Communities are stronger and safer when residents and law enforcement professionals can relate as ordinary people with shared values, hopes, and dreams. We look forward to building relationships in the community as we serve together!



## Register now for the next self-defense course for women

Gwinnett Police will offer our third free basic self-defense course to women ages 16 and older. The course is taught by Rape, Aggression, and Defense certified instructors and includes lecture, discussion, and self-defense techniques suitable for women of all ages.



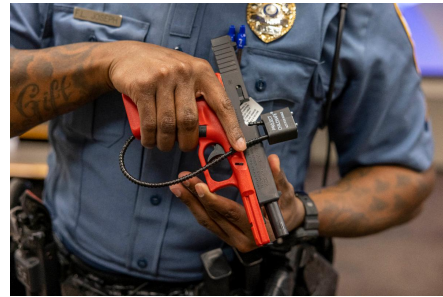
The lecture portion focuses on risk awareness, risk reduction, and risk avoidance, followed by hands-on tactical training. The techniques taught are designed to be quick and effective so that women of all fitness levels and ages will be successful in learning options to escape attacks.

The 12-hour course will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays: November 7, November 9, November 14, and November 16 starting at 6:30pm. Registration is required. [Sign up now](#). Women 16 and 17 years of age must be accompanied by a family member 18 or older.

### Free gun locks for Gwinnett residents

While violent crime was down overall last year, several tragic incidents involving young people killed because of gun violence motivated us to find solutions. In response, Gwinnett Police Chief J.D. McClure started a gun crime initiative in February to address gun violence in the county.

Statistics show that about 91% of guns stolen in the county are taken from cars. To combat this issue, **we need your help**.



The Community Affairs Section offers firearm safety and security classes, and we are also offering gun locks to all Gwinnett residents at no cost. Gun locks can be picked up from the records clerk at the Gwinnett Police headquarters and all Gwinnett Police precincts from 8:00am to 4:00pm daily. For more information, please email [PDCommunityAffairs@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:PDCommunityAffairs@GwinnettCounty.com).

### Congratulations to the graduates of the 116th Police Academy!

The 116<sup>th</sup> Gwinnett Police Academy class exemplifies diversity that embodies Gwinnett's mission of delivering superior services to the community.

The 31 graduates speak more than a dozen different languages, including Creole, Swahili, Arabic, Russian French, Korean, Spanish, German, and Ukrainian. The class age ranges from 21 to 54. Listen to what academy spokesperson Officer Vanessa Garcia had to say about her academy experience:



If you know someone with a heart for service and would like to learn more about a law enforcement career with the Gwinnett Police Department, please visit [GwinnettPoliceJobs.com](http://GwinnettPoliceJobs.com), contact Investigator Valle at 770.513.5513, or email [PDRecruiter@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:PDRecruiter@GwinnettCounty.com).

To become a police officer, applicants must have a high school diploma or GED, be a United States citizen and be eligible for POST Certification, must possess a valid driver's license from their state of residency, and must be 21 years old by the time they graduate from the police academy.

### Gwinnett Police Foundation recognize longstanding community partner



Each year the Gwinnett County Police Foundation recognizes the valuable community contributions made by members of the police department and community. The 2023 community honoree was Mr. Angel Alonso Sr. who recently retired after 33 years from his own business, Indian Trail Hardware.

Angel has volunteered in various capacities with the Gwinnett Police Department for more than 31 years. He graduated from the Gwinnett Police Citizens Academy's seventh class, served as a Spanish translator for the West and South precincts, DUI

taskforce, and Immigration. Angel was instrumental in launching the volunteer search team with Gwinnett Police. His most supportive role has been a liaison between police and the Hispanic community.

To learn more about the Gwinnett Police Foundation and how they support the law enforcement community and the community at-large, please visit its website, [GwinnettPoliceFoundation.org](https://www.gwinnettpolicefoundation.org).

### Safety Tip of the Month: Gang safety for parents

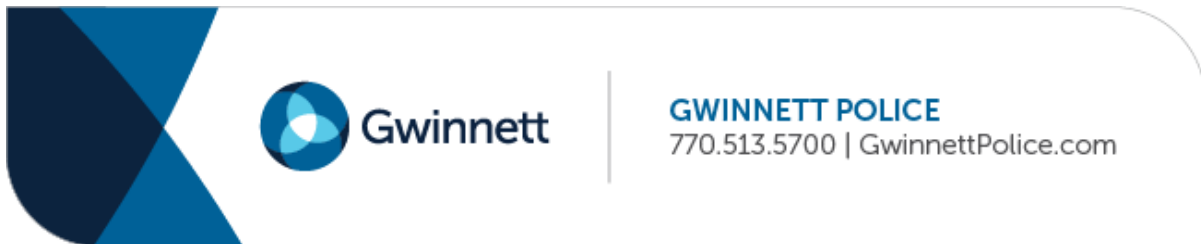
Gwinnett County's youth are under attack when it comes to gangs and gang recruitment. The best way to fight gangs is to educate our youth at a very young age about the pitfalls of getting involved with gangs or being associated with gangs.

As parents, it is up to you to raise your children, helping them understand that being in a gang or hanging around with a gang can lead to death or prison. Parents need to be deeply involved in their children's lives by keeping a close eye on all their social media, the music they are listening to, and who their friends are. It is up to you as parents to make your children understand the difference between reality and the fictitious life that is presented by so many people in the music and entertainment industry.

Parents should ask their children questions if they notice they are always wearing the same color clothing as the rest of their friends. Do not accept the answer, "We are not a gang; we are a clique or a family," as this is the same thing as a gang.

Parents must be involved in every aspect of their children's lives. If parents don't give the love and support the children need, the gangs will — and by then it will be too late.

For questions regarding the Neighbors in Uniform newsletter, please contact Rachael Warnsley 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

[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#)

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

Sent by [rachael.warnsley@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:rachael.warnsley@gwinnettcountry.com)