



NEIGHBORS IN UNIFORM

A newsletter from Gwinnett Police

November 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. Happy Thanksgiving!

Get to know your local officers at Coffee with a Cop

Grab a cup of coffee with your neighbors and local police officers and build new relationships. You're invited to have coffee with a cop to ask questions, voice concerns, and get to know the officers who serve your community.

The event will take place Thursday, November 16 from 9:00am to 11:00am at Bettos Pasteleria & Panaderia, located at 1325 Buford Highway, Suite 110 in Buford. We look forward to meeting you!



Fill the sleigh with Gwinnett Police!



Our third annual Fill the Sleigh Toy Drive is underway, and you have a chance to help make this holiday season extra special for local children! We're accepting toy donations for children ages 3 to 15 until **Friday, December 15**. Toys should be new, unwrapped, and priced at \$10 or more. Youth basketballs, footballs, and soccer balls are great gifts for teenagers. Toy weapons will not be accepted. Donations can be dropped off at [Gwinnett Police Headquarters or any precinct lobby](#).

If you or an organization would prefer to use an online retailer and send toys directly to us, please mail items to: Central

Precinct, Attn: Community Affairs, 3125 Satellite Boulevard, Duluth, GA 30096. Donations will be distributed during the Santa's Community Workshop events for local children in need. For more information about the Fill the Sleigh Toy Drive and how you can help support our efforts, email PDCommunityAffairs@GwinnettCounty.com.

Citizens Police Academy graduates feel safe and proud to call Gwinnett home

Congratulations to the 44th graduating class of Citizens Police Academy! We constantly make improvements to the Gwinnett Police Citizens Academy curriculum based on current events and community needs.

Citizens Police Academy participants received Narcan training and are equipped to administer the nasal spray to individuals experiencing an opioid overdose. The increase in fentanyl overdoses is a real public health epidemic with lethal consequences, and we want to make sure we do our part to help



educate and equip residents with the necessary tools to help prevent catastrophic outcomes.

All Gwinnett police officers are equipped to respond to an overdose, and we continue to partner with Gwinnett, Newton, and Rockdale Public Health to provide training and free Narcan nasal spray kits to our police academy participants so we can save more lives.



After going through the academy, graduates shared a deeper sense of security and said they are proud to call Gwinnett home. Graduates were impressed by many things they saw behind the scenes and during their police ride-along, but their overall takeaway was appreciation for how Gwinnett Police leverage relationships with community stakeholders and collaborate with other agencies to better safeguard the county's reputation as a great place to live, work, and play. Watch testimonials from our

latest Gwinnett Police Citizens Academy class:



Gwinnett residents interested in an in-depth, behind the scenes look at how Gwinnett Police serve and protect our community can reserve their seats now for our next [Citizens Police Academy](#). The program runs from March 5 to April 25, 2024, on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6:30pm to 9:00pm. Space is limited.

There are many opportunities to connect and serve alongside Gwinnett Police; please contact us at PDCommunityAffairs@gwinnettcountry.com to learn more.

Gwinnett Police and Faith-Based Organizations team up to make a difference



Last month, each Gwinnett Police precinct, the Training Division, and the Community Affairs Section co-hosted several community events alongside local faith-based organizations to better connect with residents and make a positive impact on the community, one neighborhood at a time.

Gwinnett Police work hand-in-hand with residents from all walks of life and different cultures to develop solutions to issues like graffiti, squatters in abandoned homes, food insecurity, and addressing residents' overall safety and security.

Norcross residents and Universal Church's Youth Power Group worked alongside police officers from the West Precinct to paint over gang graffiti in their neighborhood with supplies provided by Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful. Live Healthy Gwinnett, the Salvation Army of Gwinnett County, Ser Familia, and Padron Law joined the Community Affairs Section for a community block party to provide hot meals, games, crime prevention education, and resources to residents. Faith-based organizations and nonprofit groups are always welcome to



collaborate with Gwinnett Police throughout the year. Let us help support your community event, and don't hesitate to join us when we host events in your neighborhood! Contact us at PDCommunityAffairs@gwinnettcountry.com or submit a [presentation request form](#) anytime.

Police leadership engage with the community



Gwinnett Police leadership have been engaging with residents at a variety of events this fall. Chief J.D. McClure, the Gwinnett Police Citizens Advisory Board, and Central Precinct Commander Major Terry Werho hosted community meetings last month for diverse audiences: Hispanic residents, college students, and business owners in the Gwinnett Place Mall area.

Gwinnett Technical College students asked Chief McClure and members of the Police Citizens Advisory Board a variety of questions that included our response to sex trafficking cases, how we collaborate with code enforcement, the Georgia Constitutional Carry Act, college internship opportunities with Gwinnett Police, succession planning and recruitment, and overall community

relations priorities.

Business owners in the Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District spoke with Major Werho with the help of translation support in Korean and Vietnamese to address a string of commercial burglaries near the Central Precinct. Major Werho reassured business owners that officers are constantly patrolling the area, especially during the early morning hours when thieves tend to strike. Business owners are encouraged to invest in security cameras and contact the [Community Affairs Section](#) to conduct a Commercial Security Survey to address any blind spots and prevent further burglaries.



Please reach out and get to know the police officers and [precinct commanders who serve your community](#). We want to hear your questions or concerns about the areas you live and work. Gwinnett Police will then work to help tailor solutions for the unique needs in your area.

Safety Tip of the Month: Holiday parking lot safety tips

The holiday season is finally here, which means it is time for fellowship, decorating, and spreading cheer!

While it can be the most wonderful time of the year, it can also create opportunities for criminals. Be aware of your surroundings and stay safe! Take extra precautions to protect yourself when shopping during the holiday season.

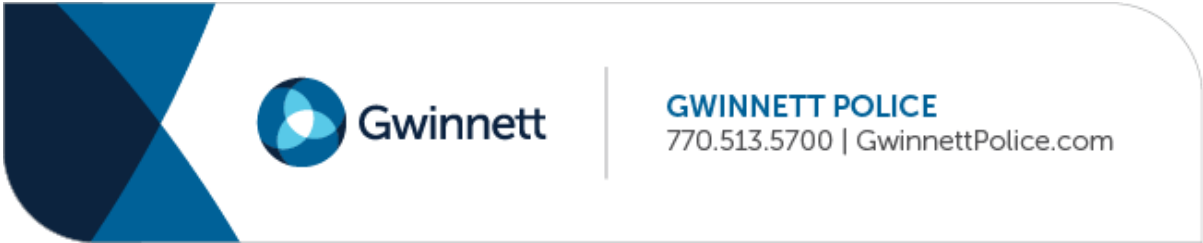


Follow these safety tips:

- Don't leave valuables including wallets, phones, money, or shopping bags visible in your vehicle
- If you are unable to remove valuables and purchases from your car, properly secure them in your trunk
- Park in a well-lit area
- Ask store security to walk you to your car if you feel uncomfortable
- If you suspect someone is following you, report it immediately

[For more safety tips visit Gwinnett Safety 411.](#)

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



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