



# NEIGHBORS IN UNIFORM

A newsletter from Gwinnett Police

May 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.

There are many special holidays and observances each month; however, May has the most. We hope you took some time to remember or celebrate moms on **Mother's Day**. If you haven't already done so, please take some time to show appreciation, reflect on the achievements, or foster a deeper understanding in observance of **Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month**, **Jewish American Heritage Month**, **Mental Health Awareness Month**, **Small Business Month**, and **Memorial Day** to name a few. Together, we can cultivate an environment where every individual is valued and belonging thrives.

## Celebrate Gwinnett's diversity at the 10th annual Multicultural Festival

We're just days away from the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Multicultural Festival and County Government Open House! Join us this **Saturday, May 18** from **10:00am to 2:00pm** at Gwinnett Place Mall, located at 2100 Pleasant Hill Road in Duluth to celebrate the rich tapestry of cultures that make up our vibrant community.

This year's festival promises an array of exciting activities and local performances that showcase the global diversity of Gwinnett. The festival is a **free family-friendly** event with plenty of activities for kids, including face painting, inflatables, a touch-a-truck area featuring specialized vehicles from our public safety departments, trivia, and the Passport Challenge – an opportunity to earn prizes while learning more about countries from around the world. Families can also take advantage of free car seat checks.

The festival will kick off with a naturalization ceremony to welcome our newest citizens. You'll have a chance to visit more than 60 exhibits and meet the people who work in Gwinnett departments to discover services and programs available to residents.

There will also be a diverse selection of delicious foods from around the world. For more information, including a look at the performance schedule, visit [Multicultural Festival and County Government Open House](#), or email us at [PDCommunityAffairs@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:PDCommunityAffairs@GwinnettCounty.com).



## Congratulations to the 45th class of Gwinnett Citizens Police Academy

Congratulations to our recent graduates of the [Gwinnett Citizens Police Academy](#)! This diverse group of residents hailing from various walks of life has shown remarkable commitment and enthusiasm in completing the eight-week program. Our 19 graduates gained valuable insights into the workings of our police department and actively participated in practical applications ranging from traffic stops, situational awareness training, and ride-alongs with our peace officers.

Our Citizens Police Academy alumni are well-informed and well-equipped to help their friends, families, and neighbors spread the word about important police services and initiatives. To our graduates: wear your achievement as a badge of honor because you represent the spirit of collaboration and community service that makes Gwinnett County a remarkable place to live, work, and play.

[Applications](#) are accepted year-round for Gwinnett residents who are interested in joining the next session, which starts August 13. Don't wait — [apply today](#) to secure your spot!

## Gwinnett Police Motors Unit showcases its skills at Motorcycle Skills Challenge

Our Motors Unit represented our department in spectacular fashion and brought back three trophies from the Palmetto Police Motorcycle Skills Challenge in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, last month.

The skills challenge combines training with competition, and more than 80 riders from across the United States and Canada participated. Officer Geovanni Novo placed first as a novice, Officer Joshua Bowie placed first in his intermediate rider class, and Officer Ian Caldwell placed second in his class as an expert rider.



You can catch the Motors Unit in action as the Gwinnett Police Foundation hosts the inaugural **Peach State Police Motorcycle Skills & Training Seminar** September 4 through 7, 2024, at Coolray Field in Lawrenceville. We're excited about hosting police motorcyclists from around the country in a spirited competition that features a speed race, challenge ride, slow ride, and head-to-head competition. The public is encouraged to attend and cheer on their favorite rider or department. This family-friendly event will be held during our **Public Safety Fall Festival**. All proceeds from the event benefit Special Olympics of Georgia. Sponsorship opportunities are available at the [Gwinnett County Police Foundation website](#).

## Residents safely discard 575 pounds of medications on Drug Takeback Day

Thank you for helping us prevent medication misuse, opioid addiction, and to safeguard the well-being of our youth. Because of residents like you, we disposed of **575 pounds of medication** on National Prescription Drug Take Back Day last month. We not only kept medications out of the wrong hands but also prevented medications from contaminating our wastewater.

We give a special thank you to Kroger Pharmacy in Lilburn for collecting medication and to our partners at Gwinnett County Solid Waste Management and Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful for allowing our officers to collect medication during their annual Earth Day recycling event.



## Master your firearm with essential gun safety practices



Learn guidelines and best practices for safe gun handling by joining one of our Firearm Safety and Security classes. The classes are offered 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 guns to class. All classes start promptly at 6:30pm.

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

- **Wednesday, June 5**, East Precinct, 2273 Alcovy Road, Dacula
- **Wednesday, July 17**, Central Precinct, 3125 Satellite Boulevard, Duluth

## School zone speed enforcement cameras are operational during summer school

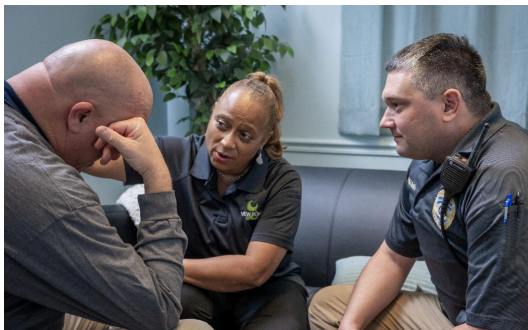
Drivers in Gwinnett should be aware that the school zone speed cameras will continue to operate during the summer at schools where summer school is in session.

These times will include one hour prior to the first class, during school, and one hour after the end of the last class.

To find the list of schools where school zone speed cameras operate, visit [School Zone Safety Program](#).



## Safety Tip of the Month: Calling 911 can dispatch our Behavioral Health Unit



May is Mental Health Awareness Month, a time dedicated to fostering a deeper understanding of mental health issues, promoting wellness, and eradicating the stigma associated with mental illness. In Gwinnett County, we are committed to supporting our residents' mental health journeys. We understand that sometimes life's challenges can feel overwhelming, and it's okay to seek help.

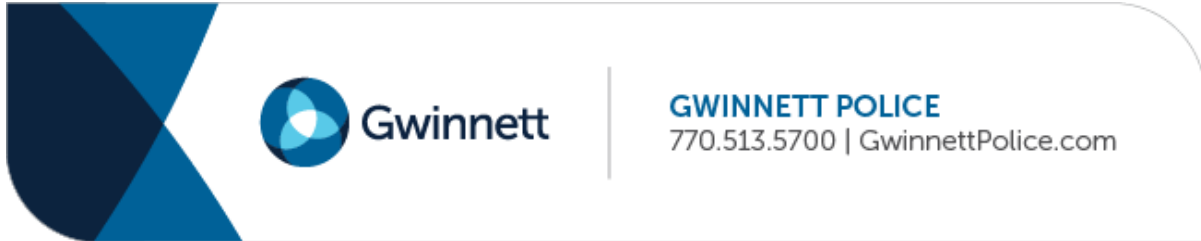
If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis, don't hesitate to call 9-8-8 to speak with a mental health professional,

or call 9-1-1 for [law enforcement assistance](#). Our peace officers work in collaboration with View Point Health to ensure that the person in crisis receives compassionate and professional care. The mission of

the Behavioral Health Unit is to reduce the potential for violence during police contact involving people experiencing a behavioral health crisis while assessing and providing resources for residents.

Together, let's create a community where mental health is a priority and everyone feels empowered to reach out for help. Doing this will help to build a stronger, healthier Gwinnett County.

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.



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