

NEWS & EVENTS

in District 4 with
Commissioner Fosque



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September 2019



Greetings V.I.C.s (Very Important Citizens):

August is the month I recall singing the line, "It's the most wonderful time of the year," as I saw my son off to Gwinnett public schools, and later to college. It is the beginning of a great educational year full of achievement, hope, and inspirational and motivational life lessons that will encourage our students to engage in their studies and to make choices today that will positively impact all of their tomorrows. Even as adults, we too should be engaged in equipping ourselves to better serve all communities.

I attended my first Georgia Academy Economic Development Region 3 class held in Douglasville, a Leadership Gwinnett Class Orientation (where 41 other participants and I will become "the best class ever"), a Planning and Zoning 101 class, a Meet & Greet for the Gwinnett legislative delegation and local elected officials in Sugar Hill hosted by the Gwinnett Municipal Association, the dedication of the intersection of US Highway 29 and Harbins Road in honor of former Mayor Jimmy Wilbanks, and the 103rd Police Academy Graduation.

I also spent a day with Matt Elder with HomeFirst Gwinnett touring resource venues that support the homeless or people in need of assistance, including Rainbow Village, Lawrenceville Cooperative, Salvation Army, and Home of Hope. I held my first District 4 Boards & Authorities Appointees breakfast so the governing boards and authorities can connect and develop strong District 4 partnerships. I even had the opportunity to read a proclamation for the newly installed Gwinnett County NCNW with 82 women who joined the organization. I appreciated the warm hospitality and delectable food the Ismaili Council prepared for everyone at a luncheon honoring our Gwinnett County Public Safety and Law Enforcement teams. Finally, even though it was outside District 4, one of the most amazing tours I experienced was visiting Peachtree Corner's Tech Incubators. The facility shows that technology has a bright future, indeed, anywhere in Gwinnett.

Our Board of Commissioners as a whole took actions on many important initiatives:

- Accepted \$50,250 in additional educational incentive funding from the Georgia Department of Corrections to fund the GED and vocational programs at the facility
- Approved a contract to replace the Corrections facility's rooftop HVAC
- Approved a resolution to apply for a GDOT grant to construct the Collins Industrial Way Extension improvement project
- Approved a contract to rehabilitate trenchless stormwater pipes
- Approved a contract for the East Crogan Street at Village Way (Jenkins Elementary and Jordan Middle Schools) pedestrian improvement project
- Approved a contract with the Federal Aviation Administration and GDOT for the construction of Taxiway Y at the Gwinnett County Airport
- Approved a resolution to approve the Gwinnett County Transit Title VI Program

Always remember, ***We Are Much Better.... Working Together***

Commissioner Marlene Fosque
District 4, covering Lawrenceville, Buford, Rest Haven, and parts of Sugar Hill and Braselton

Happening Around Gwinnett

Business plan presentations kick off 2020



budget process

County elected officials, department directors, and agency heads presented their business plans and financial resource requests for budget year 2020 earlier this month. The [budget presentations](#) were heard by the budget review team made up of six Gwinnett residents who were invited by Chairman Charlotte Nash to help set priorities and make recommendations for the proposed budget.

You can watch the business plan presentations on TVgwinnett, the County's government-access cable television channel, and on demand at www.tvgwinnett.com. The Chairman's 2020 budget proposal will be made available to the public and news media on November 19 in conjunction with a formal presentation to our board, and the budget public hearing is scheduled for December 12. According to County ordinance, we must adopt the annual budget during our first meeting in January.

County officials gathered to break ground on new Georgia State Patrol Post

My fellow commissioners and I, along with our friends from the Georgia Department of Public Safety and Georgia Department of Transportation, recently broke ground on the new Georgia State Patrol Post in Gwinnett County. The patrol post, located on I-85 North between Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road and I-985, will replace the existing State Patrol Post off Pleasant Hill Road. The site will also offer parking for HERO units, which the state DOT provides to help motorists with accidents and other vehicle issues. The new post will open in the spring!



Gwinnett Animal Welfare receives \$50,000 grant from Best Friends Animal Society

Earlier this month, the folks from Best Friends Animal Society visited our Gwinnett Animal Shelter to present Animal Welfare staff with a \$50,000 grant check! This grant will help keep animals out of the shelter and in loving homes. It aims to manage and ultimately decrease the number of shelter intakes by at least 20 percent through 2020. Many people surrender their pets for financial reasons, such as an inability to pay for food, veterinary care, or even leashes. The \$50,000

Best Friends grant will be used to help operate a new mobile unit that will remotely perform vaccinations, spay/neutering, and microchipping and provide educational assistance that will encourage people to keep their pets. Learn more about the grant [here](#).

Property taxes mailed, due October 15

The 2019 Gwinnett County property tax bills were mailed in August with a single due date of October 15. If you have an escrow account, your property tax information is made available to your mortgage company; however, it is your responsibility to ensure taxes are paid. To learn about payment options, visit www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com.



What's New in District 4



Get ready for fall at the Gwinnett County Fair

It's that time of year again! The Gwinnett County Fair runs from September 12 to September 22, so I hope to see you there! At the fair, UGA Extension Gwinnett's 4-H Farm Friends exhibit provides city folks a chance to visit farm animals, "milk" a wooden sawhorse cow, play barnyard trivia, and explore other farm life activities for just \$1 on top of fair admission. Farm Friends is located at the big red barn at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds at 2405 Sugarloaf Parkway in Lawrenceville. For a schedule and more information, visit

www.gwinnettcountyfair.com.

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month in Gwinnett

Our county will honor the contributions of our Hispanic community during Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs

September 15 to October 15. The festivities will include a special recognition at the Board of Commissioners' public hearing at 7:00pm on September 24 at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center as well as a reception with guest speakers, entertainment, and cultural cuisine. A Latino and Hispanic cultural exhibit will be on display at GJAC throughout the month, so be sure to stop by GJAC to check it out!



Join us at the Public Safety Fall Festival

Police and Fire and Emergency Services are partnering for an exciting day at the Public Safety Fall Festival on Saturday, October 12 at Coolray Field in Lawrenceville from 10:00am to 2:00pm. First responders will show off their emergency vehicles, including a helicopter, ambulance, SWAT personnel carrier, and ladder truck. Come out and meet the men and women who protect our community!

Free Fridays at Gwinnett Animal Shelter are back!

After a very successful Clear the Shelters event in August, more than 100 pets found homes in a single day. However, the Gwinnett Animal Shelter remains near capacity, so the popular free Friday adoption special is back for the month of September.

All adoption fees are waived on Fridays this month. All pets adopted at Gwinnett Animal Welfare have been vaccinated, neutered and microchipped and are ready to go to their new home. Dogs that have tested heartworm positive will be treated before going home to their new families. The standard adoption fee is \$45 for dogs and puppies and \$30 for cats and kittens. For more information including available pets, adoption specials and events, follow us [@GwinnettAnimalShelter on Facebook](#) or visit www.GwinnettAnimalWelfare.com.



Special Events and Happenings

Gwinnett County Government hosts many events, classes, and workshops for its residents. See these great events and more at www.gwinnettcouyevents.com.

Senior Fitness Assessment and Exercise Demo

September 24 at 1:00pm. Join Gwinnett County Public Library to learn ways to optimize your fitness level and health with a Certified Sportsmetrics Instructor! Receive a brief Senior Fitness Assessment; watch exercise demonstrations to improve mobility limitations; learn how to prevent falls and injury; and discover how balance, flexibility, strength, and brain function can improve. Lawrenceville Branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library, 1001 Lawrenceville Highway, Lawrenceville.

Puddle Duck's Playdate

September 27 from 10:00am to noon. Flock to our puddle duck extravaganza! Enjoy pool time, and then dry off early for some activities with our Be Active Gwinnett bus! To top off the day, we will have a light lunch and make a craft. \$6 per person. Ages 3 – 6. [Preregister](#) with code BOP41600 or call 678.277.0850. Bogan Park Community Recreation Center, 2723 North Bogan Road, Buford.

Bus Tour: Gwinnett's Beginnings

September 28 from 10:00am to 5:00pm. From homes to mills, Gwinnett County has many historic sites to see. Please join us as we explore some of the earliest historic sites and discuss how they impacted Gwinnett. Tour stops include: Buford Tannery Row, the Craig Plantation, and Freeman's Mill. All ages welcome. \$10 per person. Participants may bring their own lunch or bring money for a quick stop along the way. Preregister by September 20 online with code LFS41401 or call 770.822.5178. Pickup is at the Lawrenceville Female Seminary, 455 South Perry Street, Lawrenceville.

Homemade Halloween Bag

October 5 from 10:00am to 11:30am. Go batty creating your own fab-boo-lous trick-or-treat bag that will make you stand out in the neighborhood! Parent or guardian participation is required. Light refreshments and materials included. Ages 5 – 13. [Register here](#). OneStop Buford, 2755 Sawnee Avenue, Buford.

Touch a Truck

October 12 from noon to 3:00pm. Free! Come enjoy a fall day in the park and experience the thrill of big trucks and interact with the people who operate them! Food vendors will be onsite. [Preregister](#) with code BOP41601 or call 678.277.0850. Bogan Park Community Recreation Center, 2723 North Bogan Road, Buford.

Did You Know?

Gwinnett County's website has a Property Tax Calculator that allows you to see how much of your property taxes are used to pay for the services you receive as a resident. Plug in your address or enter a fair market value to see how your dollars are distributed to various taxing authorities like schools, community improvement districts, and state, city, and county governments. You'll also see a breakdown of how Gwinnett distributes the County's portion of your tax dollars to fund important services. [Try it out for yourself!](#)

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Gwinnett County**

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