

# NEWS & EVENTS

in District 4 with  
Commissioner Fosque



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February 2020



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

Well, I am off to another productive month building partnerships with our schools, nonprofits, legislative delegation, and business communities. I was honored to speak about involvement during the United Ebony Society of Gwinnett County's, Martin Luther King Jr. celebration. My educational involvement activities in January included touring the UGA Gwinnett Campus Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Moore Middle School, Lawrenceville Elementary school, GIVE Center East Middle & High school, and through Leadership Gwinnett, experiencing facets of Phoenix High School. Many thanks to the principals and staff at all the schools for enlightening me with the social and educational needs of their most precious assets:

their students.

I attended a very informative Gwinnett House Delegation Town Hall to learn which topics each legislator plan to introduce in the current 2020 legislative session. I also toured the Gwinnett Coalition Health & Human Services and North Gwinnett Co-op offices and learned about the referral services they offer to our community, such as emergency shelter, food, and learned about referral services such as family problems, emergency shelter, food, counseling, and more. Lastly, I attended the IPN Business 2020 Economic Forecast luncheon, discussed with Gateway85 CID their upcoming projects, met with the Gwinnett Convention and Visitor's Bureau Board and attended the Gwinnett Chamber's 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Dinner.

I hope you take the time to celebrate Black History Month and learn about the contributions of our African-American community, and show some love to your family, friends, and neighbors on Valentine's Day. We also have some fun holidays this month to partake in, including Thank a Mailman Day on February 4, Organ Donor Day on February 14, Love Your Pet Day on February 20, and Public Sleeping Day on February 28.

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

### Register by February 24 to be eligible to vote in the March Presidential Primary; get ready for new voting equipment

February 24 is the registration deadline for the March Presidential Preference Primary. You can check your registration status and complete the [voter registration application online](#). This year, we will be voting using the state's new voting equipment. Learn how to use the new equipment to vote by watching [this quick video](#).



Voters can request an [absentee/advance by mail ballot](#) now through March 20 and vote advance in person every day, including weekends, from March 2 to March 20 at the Voter Registrations and Elections Office and at one of our satellite voting locations March 9 through March 20 from 7:00am to 7:00pm every day including weekends. Visit the [Advance Voting webpage](#) for satellite voting locations.



## Gwinnett celebrates Black History Month

Gwinnett County is hosting a monthlong Black History Month exhibit at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center featuring contributions from a variety of community organizations. The exhibit will run through February 28. It is free and open to the public during the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center's normal business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 5:00pm.

Then, join the office of Community Outreach and the United Ebony Society of Gwinnett County for an evening of food and fellowship as we celebrate the contributions of African Americans to our community. The event will be held **Tuesday, February 25** at 7:00pm at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center. The celebration begins with a proclamation reading at the Board of Commissioners public hearing. Immediately following, a formal program will include performances and speakers. Refreshments will be provided. Register [here](#).

## Census questionnaires coming soon

In mid-March, the Census Bureau will send invitations to homes around the country to participate in the 2020 Census. Completing the census is easy, important, and safe. This year is the first time people can fill out their census online on mobile devices or desktop computers. You can also respond by phone or by mail. Census counts shape legislative and congressional districts, determine how federal and state resources are distributed, and influence critical policy decisions. It's illegal for anyone to share your personal information disclosed in the census. Your information can only be used for statistics.



## Gwinnett County and GDOT seek public input for I-85's Future

The Georgia Department of Transportation and Gwinnett County have partnered to conduct a comprehensive corridor study along I-85 between I-285 and I-985. Results from the study will be used to propose recommendations to improve safety, reduce congestion, and enhance traffic operations along the corridor. Provide your feedback online at [85Study.com](http://85Study.com).

## What's New in District 4

### Officials celebrate the opening of the Beauty P. Baldwin Voter Registrations and Elections Building

It was such a pleasure to celebrate the newly renovated Voter Registrations and Elections office on Tuesday, February 4, which was named after longtime Voter Registrations and Elections Board Member and Gwinnett County Trailblazer Beauty P. Baldwin. The \$1.08 million renovation project includes a registration area, a queue and poll worker area, and a voting area. A new processing room doubles as a multi-purpose room that can be closed off by glass partitions. The renovation also includes a designated area for media to stage equipment.



In addition to her contributions to the elections process in Gwinnett County, Beauty Baldwin spent many years as an educator in Gwinnett's public schools. She was one of the first black teachers at Central Gwinnett High School when she was hired in the 1970s and later served as the state's first black female school superintendent when she was named Buford City Schools superintendent in 1984. She also helped found Hopewell Christian Academy and the North Metro Academy of Performing Arts, a Gwinnett County charter school. View pictures from the [event here](#).



## Household Hazardous Waste event set for February 29

Leap into spring and get rid of your pesticides, cleaners, and other toxic products by taking them to the Household Hazardous Waste disposal event February 29 from 8:00am to noon at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds. For information on quantities and items accepted, or to sign up to volunteer, visit Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful's [event page](#).

## Support our democracy! Become a poll official

Gwinnett County is hiring poll officials to staff 156 polling locations plus eight advance voting locations for the 2020 election season.

The Voter Registration and Elections Division is looking for citizens of all backgrounds, including bilingual poll officials.

Workers can gain valuable work experience and get paid! Currently, positions pay up to a \$120 stipend. Learn more and apply at [GwinnettCountyJobs.com](http://GwinnettCountyJobs.com).



### Share your vision for Gwinnett's parks

The 2020 Comprehensive Plan is an opportunity to provide the Parks and Recreation Division with your input toward the future of your parks. This plan will guide park improvements, park development, recreation programming, and cultural and natural resource management of Gwinnett County's parks. Tell us what you think at any of the upcoming meetings, or [take the short survey online](#).

### Take your pick of plants during UGA Extension Gwinnett's plant sale

The UGA Extension Gwinnett office is offering blueberries, blackberries, raspberries, figs, apples, pomegranate, muscadines, and landscape plants in its annual sale. Order your plants by March 6 in person or by mail at the Extension Office in Lawrenceville. Pick up your prepaid order on March 19 at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds in Lawrenceville. No orders are shipped. For order forms and plant sale information, visit [GwinnettExtension.com](http://GwinnettExtension.com), or call 678.377.4010 to request a form.



## Special Events and Happenings

Gwinnett County Government hosts many events, classes, and workshops for its residents. See these great events and more at [GwinnettCountyEvents.com](http://GwinnettCountyEvents.com).

### Little Explorers: Polar Bears!

February 20 from 10:00am to 11:00am. Learn about our cold climate friends through art, exploring their environment, and stories. For ages 5 and younger. Cost: \$2 per child. Adults are free. [Preregister online](#) or by calling 678.277.0890. Rhodes Jordan Park Community Recreation Center, 100 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville.

### Rose Day

February 29 from 9:00am to 1:00pm. Join the Greater Gwinnett Rose Society at its annual Rose Day to learn about caring and growing roses, including planting, feeding, spraying, and pruning. All ages. [Preregister online](#) or by calling 678.277.0850. Bogan Park Community Recreation Center, 2723 North Bogan Road, Buford.

### Leap Day Celebration

February 29 from 10:00am to noon. Have extra fun on the day that comes only once every four years! Participate in frog-tastic crafts and activities, such as coloring lily pads, making frog masks, playing jumping games, and more. Ages 6 to 12. Parent or guardian participation required. \$3 per person. OneStop Buford, 2755 Sawnee Avenue, Buford.

### Crafty Night Out

March 5 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Learn to create your own unique jewelry. Each participant will complete a bracelet and earring set to showcase their new talent. Cost: \$10 per person. [Preregister online](#) before March 2 or by calling 770.822.5178. Lawrenceville Female Seminary, 455 South Perry Street, Lawrenceville.

### Escape Room 3D

March 8 from noon to 2:00pm. Find clues and solve puzzles to escape our 3D printer-themed escape room. Bring your friends or join an existing group. A new game starts about every hour. Sign up in the branch on the day of the program. Limit: eight players per game. Collins Hill Branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library, 455 Camp Perrin Road, Lawrenceville.

### Fix-a-Leak Workshop

March 14 from 11:00am to noon. The average American household wastes more than 10,000 gallons each year from easy-to-fix water leaks. This workshop, led by Gwinnett Water Resources staff, teaches homeowners the easy steps they can take to help save water, and we will talk about the small changes

you can make that will add up to significant savings each year. All attendees receive a FREE water conservation kit for indoor and outdoor use. Collins Hill Branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library, 455 Camp Perrin Road, Lawrenceville.

## Did You Know?



For the first time in its 47-year history, Gwinnett Recorder's Court will offer optional evening court sessions beginning in March to better accommodate residents' schedules.

The nighttime sessions will be held at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center once a month at 6:00pm on the third Thursday of each month beginning March 26. Night court will begin as a monthly offering limited to minor traffic infractions, with plans to expand based

upon community response. Learn more [here](#).

Marlene Fosque, District 4 Commissioner  
Gwinnett County

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Marlene.Fosque@GwinnettCounty.com