

# NEWS & EVENTS

in District 4 with  
Commissioner Fosque



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March 2020



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

I hope you all are well and are taking care of yourselves and your loved ones at this time. I want you all to know that we are closely monitoring developments in the spread of COVID-19, also known as the coronavirus, and how it may affect our delivery of important County services to our residents.

I encourage you to take the necessary steps to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, which include avoiding contact with people who are sick, practicing [coughing and sneezing etiquette](#), avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth, [washing your hands thoroughly and regularly](#), and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces with a regular household cleaning spray or wipe. Learn more about how to protect yourself on the [CDC's Prevention & Treatment page](#).

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

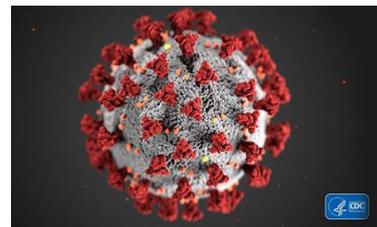
Commissioner Marlene Fosque  
District 4, covering Lawrenceville, Buford, Rest Haven, and parts of Sugar Hill and Braselton

## Happening Around Gwinnett

### Coronavirus update

Gwinnett County is following the most up-to-date guidance from the Gwinnett-Newton-Rockdale County Health Departments, the state Department of Public Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

An internal task force has been working to evaluate existing policies and prepare additional plans for business continuity to allow us to continue to provide essential services to the community. Visit the [Gwinnett County Public Schools webpage](#) for information about school closures. Keep checking the [County's website](#) for updates as we address this developing situation.



### Chairman Nash declares local state of emergency, March 24 public hearing canceled

Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners Chairman Charlotte Nash has signed a [declaration of local emergency](#). Among other provisions, the local state of emergency calls for all available resources of the county to be used as reasonably necessary to cope with the impact of COVID-19 on Gwinnett County.

The local emergency declaration will end April 13, 2020, unless renewed in accordance with the Gwinnett County Code of Ordinances or the emergency conditions no longer exist.

In addition, the Board of Commissioners 7:00pm public hearing for Tuesday, March 24 has been canceled.

### GJAC, other buildings closed for cleaning, reworking public spaces

Gwinnett County Government buildings in the Lawrenceville area will be closed to the public March 19 –

23, 2020, in order for professional cleaners to thoroughly clean and disinfect the facilities. [Read more](#) for the full details on the three business day closure.

### **Judicial emergency declared, affecting jury service and non-essential court matters**

Chief Justice Harold D. Melton of the Supreme Court of Georgia has declared [astatewide judicial emergency](#) until Monday, April 13, 2020, unless otherwise extended. Courts will remain open to address essential functions, and in particular will give priority to matters necessary to protect the health, safety, and liberty of individuals. To the extent court proceedings are held, they will be done in a manner to limit the risk of exposure, such as by videoconferencing, where possible.

Essential functions include but are not limited to: arrest and search warrants, family violence and stalking temporary protective order applications, and mental health commitment hearings.

In addition, this order grants relief from any deadlines imposed by otherwise applicable statutes or court orders, such as statutes of limitations or time within to issue a warrant.

### **Parks & Recreation indoor facilities closed; programs and activities suspended**

All Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation indoor facilities, aquatic centers, and pools are closed and programs and activities hosted at these facilities are canceled until further notice.

### **County suspends senior center operations, senior recreation programming**

All Gwinnett County **senior center operations and senior recreation programming have been suspended.**

Seniors who receive their meals through our senior congregate programming have been added to the County's home-delivered meals program to ensure that their essential needs are being met at home. Meals will continue to be delivered directly to the homes of seniors who already participate in our home delivered meal program, and in-home services will continue for those clients who receive homemaking and respite services.

**Recreational programming for residents ages 50 and older has been suspended until further notice** to limit exposure between at-risk individuals. All operations and programs at Prime Timers Pointe at George Pierce Park and Bethesda Park Senior Center have also been suspended.

### **Presidential Preference Primary postponed until May 19**

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger has **moved the March 24 Presidential Preference Primary to coincide with the state and local primary on May 19, 2020.**

Early voting at all Gwinnett County advance in person voting sites will be suspended starting Sunday, March 15, 2020.

Every vote already cast, whether by mail or in person, will be counted in May for the Presidential Preference Primary along with votes cast in the state and local primary.

## **What's New in District 4**



### **Be on the lookout for your invitation to take the 2020 Census**

Invitations to participate in the 2020 Census will arrive by mail in mid-March! Most areas will receive an invitation to respond online (or by phone), while the other households will receive a paper questionnaire along with an invitation to respond online. Some households will receive the invite in both English and Spanish, and some will receive English only. Regardless of which invitation you receive, all households that have not yet responded will receive a paper questionnaire by mid-April.

As our invites arrive, remember — the Census Bureau will never ask for your Social Security number, your bank account or credit card numbers, or money or donations. The Census Bureau will not contact you on behalf of a political party. [Learn more](#) from the U.S. Census Bureau about avoiding fraud and scams.



### **Apply for homestead exemptions by April 1**

If you own and occupy a home in Gwinnett County, you are likely eligible for a homestead exemption to reduce your property taxes. In addition to a standard exemption, there are several others for residents who are seniors, disabled, and other special circumstances. If you already have an exemption, you don't need to reapply. Here's how to get started:

**Apply by April 1:** Exemptions are not automatic. Applications must be

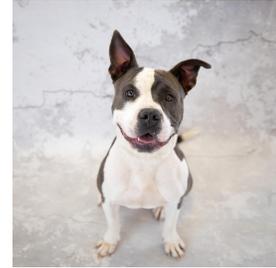
received by April 1 to reduce taxes in the current year.

**Apply online** at [GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Exemptions](https://www.gwinnetntaxcommissioner.com/exemptions). Watch for an email confirmation. If you do not receive this email, contact us.

If you have any questions, concerns, or need help applying, contact the Property Tax Customer Service from 8:00am to 5:00pm weekdays at 770.822.8800 or [tax@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:tax@gwinnettcountry.com).

### Get lucky in love with a pet this month

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day by adopting a new best friend! Adoption fees will be reduced to \$10 for pets adopted from the shelter at the **Lucky in Love** adoption event between **March 16 to March 21**. All pets adopted from the Gwinnett Animal Shelter have been vaccinated, neutered, microchipped, and ready for their forever home.



Follow the shelter on Facebook [@GwinnettAnimalShelter](https://www.facebook.com/GwinnettAnimalShelter) or visit [GwinnettAnimalWelfare.com](https://www.gwinnettanimalwelfare.com) for more information, including available pets, adoption specials, and events. The shelter is located at 884 Winder Highway in Lawrenceville.

## Special Events and Happenings

**Events and activities are currently being assessed on a case-by-case basis due to the coronavirus response.**

Current CDC recommendations are to cancel large gatherings (greater than 250 people) or move to smaller groupings. However, smaller events will be canceled at the County's discretion.

If a Gwinnett County Community Services event you have registered for is canceled you will receive an email or phone call notifying you of the cancellation. Any registration fee will be refunded.

Visit [GwinnettCounty.com](https://www.gwinnettcountry.com) or follow the [County's social media channels](#) to learn about event cancellations.

## Did You Know?

Here are additional resources for information about the coronavirus:

- [Answers to frequently asked questions from the CDC](#)
- [Local updates from Gwinnett-Newton-Rockdale County Health Departments](#)
- [Latest updates from the Georgia Department of Public Health](#)
- [Latest information about COVID-19](#)

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Gwinnett County

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