

# NEWS & EVENTS

in District 4 with  
Commissioner Fosque



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December 2020



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

In January 2020, none of us knew where we would be today. Over the last year, we have experienced a global COVID-19 pandemic and all the havoc it wreaked, including the loss of more than 300,000 lives; many businesses struggling or even collapsing; schools adapting for in-person, distance, or hybrid learning options; and increased in food insecurity and homelessness throughout our community.

Yet, we've also connected with our Gwinnett residents, businesses, nonprofits, and faith-based organizations to rise to the challenge of caring for others. We believe that in 2021 and throughout the years ahead, no matter how hard things get, our community will be even more generous, kind, compassionate, robust, resilient, and inspirational as we move forward.

As we head into a new year, I'd like to leave you with a leadership tidbit to think about: As you progress in life stages from the "roots to the trees to the forest," know that you could gain a new perspective about things you see. Be open to differences, changes, and how you can be involved in life's metamorphosis.

Meanwhile, our Board of Commissioners as a whole recently took action on many important initiatives:

- Authorized negotiations with Fuqua Acquisitions II, LLC to develop a signature project on the site of the former Olympic Tennis Center near Stone Mountain
- Authorized an agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation for the acquisition of right-of-way for the SR 140/Jimmy Carter Boulevard at US 23/SR 13/Buford Highway intersection improvement project
- Approved the purchase of furniture for the One Justice Square renovation
- Authorized an intergovernmental agreement with the city of Lawrenceville regarding the relocation of traffic signal infrastructure at the intersection of Clayton Street at Nash Street
- Approved a resolution to designate an Urban Redevelopment Area and approve the Gwinnett Gateway Urban Redevelopment Plan

Happy holidays!

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



### Do you have a voting plan for the January 5 Runoff?

There are many ways to cast your ballot in the January 5 runoff election. Vote advance in person December 14 to December 31 at one of several locations throughout the county; please be aware that the locations are closed December 24 and 25. You can also cast an absentee ballot. Request your ballot by December 31 at [BallotRequest.SOS.GA.gov](https://www.sos.ga.gov/BallotRequest.SOS.GA.gov). Then, return your ballot by mail, by dropping it into one of the many drop boxes around the county, or by

hand-delivering it to the Gwinnett Voter Registrations and Elections Beauty P. Baldwin Office. If you choose to vote on Election Day, find your assigned polling precinct at [MVP.SOS.GA.gov](http://MVP.SOS.GA.gov). Learn more at [GwinnettElections.com](http://GwinnettElections.com).

### ¿Tiene un plan de votación para el Desempate del 5 de Enero?

Hay muchas formas de emitir su voto en el Desempate de las Elecciones del 5 de Enero. Vote por adelantado en persona del 14 de Diciembre al 31 de Diciembre en una de varias ubicaciones en todo el condado; tenga en cuenta que estas ubicaciones están cerradas el 24 y 25 de Diciembre. También puede emitir una boleta de voto en ausente. Solicite su boleta antes del 31 de Diciembre en [BallotRequest.SOS.GA.gov](http://BallotRequest.SOS.GA.gov). Luego, devuelva su boleta por correo, dejándola en uno de los muchos buzones alrededor del condado, o entregándola personalmente en la Oficina de Inscripción de Votantes y Elecciones de Gwinnett Beauty P. Baldwin. Si elige votar en el Día de las Elecciones, busque el precinto electoral asignado en [MVP.SOS.GA.gov](http://MVP.SOS.GA.gov). Obtenga más información en [GwinnettElections.com](http://GwinnettElections.com).

### Comment on the 2021 Proposed Budget

Chairman Nash presented her final [proposed budget](#) to guide County spending for the 2021 fiscal year during a [briefing](#) to the Board of Commissioners on November 17. The proposed budget for 2021 totals \$1.91 billion, up 3.7 percent from the 2020 adopted budget. It consists of a \$1.47 billion operating budget and a \$441 million capital improvements budget, which includes funds from the County's [SPLOST](#) program. You can submit your comments about the proposed budget [online](#) through December 31. The Board will consider adopting a final budget at our first meeting of the new year, Tuesday, January 5, 2021.



### Let officials know what you think about proposed SR 316 projects

Gwinnett County and the Georgia Department of Transportation are collecting input on five proposed projects along State Route 316/University Parkway stretching from the State Route 20/Buford Drive interchange to the US 29/State Route 8/Winder Highway intersection. The projects will help expand the freeway-style access on SR 316, which will reduce congestion, increase mobility and

reduce the frequency and severity of crashes on this corridor.

To cut back on public gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic and to allow all residents to participate, detailed information about these projects will be posted at [TransformingSR316-gdot.hub.arcgis.com](http://TransformingSR316-gdot.hub.arcgis.com). Click the link to learn more and provide your feedback before **January 8**.

### Share your motherly wisdom!

We're back with some holiday season safety reminders, courtesy of #ListenToGwinnettMoms! No matter how you and your family celebrate winter holidays this year, remember to continue following these simple, mom-approved COVID-19 safety tips when spending time with others:

1. Remember how mom is always reminding us to take a jacket, scarf, and gloves before leaving the house? Consider this your heads-up that masks are now at the top of that checklist.
2. A snowball's throw away keeps coronavirus at bay. Keep your distance from those outside your pod, staying at least six feet apart.
3. Mittens may protect you from the cold, but they have nothing on germs. Wash your hands often to protect yourself and loved ones.
4. Spread joy, not COVID-19. If you were exposed to someone who is sick or if you are experiencing any symptoms, please stay home and seek medical attention if necessary.



Check your holiday list against [CDC guidelines](#) and visit [ListenToGwinnettMoms.com](http://ListenToGwinnettMoms.com) for a round-up of COVID-19 resources. And don't forget to show us how you safely celebrate on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#) with the hashtag #ListenToGwinnettMoms.

Gwinnett County and #ListenToGwinnettMoms wish you a warm, peaceful, and safe holiday season!

Want more motherly advice? Hear what Juree, a Gwinnett mom from Suwanee, has to say in [our latest video](#) about staying safe this holiday season.

### County purchases 39-acre Gwinnett Place Mall property

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday approved the Urban Redevelopment Agency of Gwinnett



County's \$23 million purchase of 39 acres of the Gwinnett Place Mall site from Gwinnett Place Mall GA, LLC.

The purchase is part of a strategic effort by Gwinnett's government to create new opportunities for catalytic development in the area in partnership with the Gwinnett Place CID and local property owners. In the coming months, the County will begin a comprehensive planning process to explore ways to redevelop the site, actively engaging our Department of Planning and Development, the Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District, and residents to set a new vision for the

property. To learn more about the Gwinnett Place Mall property purchased, click [here](#).

### Get in the holiday spirit

This year's annual Lighting of the Tree event in downtown Lawrenceville was held virtually. Now, you can enjoy the recording any time you'd like! Watch as Santa Claus continues his role in lighting the tree with the help of friends, along with fun holiday stories and music. [Watch the full video here](#).



You can also visit the Great Tree on the grounds of the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse throughout the holiday season.

## What's New in District 4



### GJAC expansion set to open this spring

On Tuesday, we cut the ribbon on [an expansion of the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center](#) in downtown Lawrenceville. The \$75-million expansion project, funded by SPLOST, includes a five-level parking deck, open since 2019, and a new, five-story courthouse building which provides space for a jury assembly room as well as eight courtrooms, holding cells, workspace for the District Attorney, mediation rooms, and space for up to six additional courtrooms.

At the end of the ribbon cutting ceremony, County Administrator Glenn Stephens revealed that the courthouse addition would be named the Charlotte J. Nash Court Building in honor of Chairman Charlotte J. Nash. Nash, who was born and raised in Gwinnett, has served as chairman of the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners since 2011 and previously served in staff roles, including Grants Manager, Budget Manager, Financial Services Director, and County Administrator, before retiring in 2004.

A covered walkway from the parking deck, a security node at the entrance to the Charlotte J. Nash Court Building and a new, enclosed pedestrian bridge to the existing GJAC building will open to guests and employees **December 21**. The full court building is expected to open to the public this spring. See photos from the ribbon cutting event on the [County's Flickr page](#).

### Recycle Right over the holidays!

The holiday season can mean lots of cardboard boxes from gifts, cans from holiday meals, and other recyclables piling up around the house. Do you know how to #RecycleRightGwinnett? Make sure you're recycling right this holiday season by following these simple tips:

- Recycle clean plastic bottles (#1 and #2 only), cans, paper, and cardboard;
- Keep food and liquid out of your recycling; and
- Place your recyclables directly in the container — do not bag recyclables.



Visit [GCSolidWaste.com](https://www.gcsolidwaste.com) to learn what's recyclable.

### Catch up on Better Together with Commissioner Fosque

Thank you to everyone who has tuned in to Better Together with Commissioner Fosque! If you haven't listened in yet, you catch up on the [first four episodes](#) of my new podcast now.

Join me every two weeks as I sit down with an array of special guests to share ideas and discuss issues impacting Gwinnett County. Whether you



## Gwinnett signs agreement with GGC to operate entrepreneur center

The Gwinnett Entrepreneur Center is on schedule to open next spring! We recently signed an agreement with Georgia Gwinnett College to staff and operate the center. The center, which will be located in downtown Lawrenceville, will provide networking opportunities, coworking spaces, and resources to entrepreneurs across Gwinnett County. At the Gwinnett Entrepreneur Center, people will be able to make real-world connections with like-minded individuals in all stages of business development – from others who are just starting out to the most experienced business owners and CEOs.



Members will learn from the experts and master essential principles of business as they develop partnerships and connections that can help them succeed. They will also create new opportunities to pay it forward by mentoring the next entrepreneur. The partnerships that make this center possible are an example of how our community benefits from collaboration. I've been known to say that We are Much Better when we are Working Together, and the Gwinnett Entrepreneur Center exemplifies the spirit of sharing success. Stay tuned for more information about the center's opening date!

## Special Events and Happenings

**Events and activities are suspended due to the County's COVID-19 response.**

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

## Did You Know?

There's a way to get rid of your natural Christmas tree after the holiday season while helping your County parks! Participate in Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful's annual Bring One for the Chipper event.

Between December 26 and January 25, you can drop off undecorated trees at designated fire stations and other locations. The trees will be chipped into mulch for use at parks. Find the list of all drop-off sites or register to volunteer for the January 30 chipping event at Bethesda Park on [Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful's website](https://www.gwinnettcleanandbeautiful.com).



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