

NEWS & EVENTS

in District 4 with
Commissioner Fosque



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June 2020



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

Today, in our nation, state, county, and communities, we are experiencing a Charles Dickens quote in real time: “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope...” It is **that** spring of hope and faith that I am clinging onto the most for our imminent present and a future full of new opportunities.

The hope that COVID 19 will be eradicated, a safe vaccine will be created and dispersed, and there will be no more coronavirus-related deaths. The hope that compassionate empathy and tough actions are the starting point to embracing, understanding, and acceptance of all lives—especially black lives. This will cause real, tough, and somewhat painful transformations in order to obliterate systemic racism.

In our county, we are much better, working together, to solve economic, housing, educational, and electoral issues; to eliminate racial and implicit biases; and to unravel other societal challenges. Recently, I participated in several Black Lives Matter peaceful protests held throughout Gwinnett. I gained a deeper respect, admiration, and appreciation for our young people who are organizing, using their First Amendment rights of free speech, and requesting reforms that will impact our lives for years to come.

Despite the challenges associated with COVID-19, the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners is continuing to conduct its business. Recently, our Board as a whole took actions on many important initiatives:

- Approved sponsorship of the USDA Summer Food Service Program, to include a meal vendor and daily summer meals at several Gwinnett County Park sites at no cost to the County
- Approved a contract with NaphCare Inc. to provide inmate healthcare
- Authorized staff to apply for and accept provider status from the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) for the Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program to receive funding up to \$100,000 to assist low income families with CAPS scholarships to summer camp and afterschool programs
- Approved a resolution to establish the allocation of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) funding
- Accepted grant funds from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to be used to support the Juvenile Drug Court Program, Family Treatment Court Program, Drug Court Treatment Program, DUI Court Treatment Program, Mental Health Court Treatment Program, Veteran’s Court Treatment Program, and Veteran’s Intervention Treatment Program
- Approved the purchase of four replacement paratransit vehicles

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

County offering grants, loans for local businesses

Gwinnett County is offering \$20 million in federal CARES Act loans and grants for local for-profit businesses that have been hurt during the

COVID-19 pandemic. The funds are intended to help businesses reopen their doors with such needs as deep cleaning facilities, modifying facilities to accommodate ongoing social distancing, restocking inventory, marketing to their clients, and/or paying staff in advance of reopening and achieving revenue.



Applications for the funds will be available June 30. Please check the [Small Business Assistance Program webpage](#) on that date for links to online applications. In the meantime, businesses wishing to apply for a grant or loan should begin gathering the application documents.

Grants are capped at \$75,000. The loans will range from \$50,000 to \$200,000.

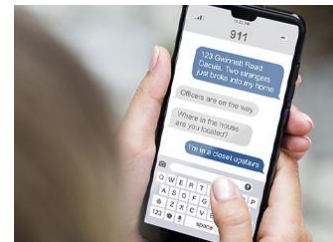


Results for Presidential Preference Primary, General Primary, and Nonpartisan General Election

To view the results of the June 9 Presidential Preference Primary, General Primary, and Nonpartisan General Election, [click here](#). The General Primary Runoff, Nonpartisan General Runoff, and Special Runoff Election for Local and State Offices will take place August 11.

Police department announces text to 911 capability

The Gwinnett County Police Department rolled out Text to 911 capability June 1, giving residents an alternate way to contact police in emergency situations.

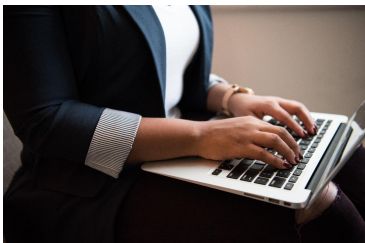


The department emphasizes that the best, fastest, and most reliable method to contact 911 in an emergency is to call and speak to a dispatcher. However, there are times or situations that can make calling 911 difficult. Residents will be able to send a text to 911 if they are unable to call.

Text to 911 is intended primarily for use in three emergency scenarios:

- For an individual who is deaf, hard-of-hearing, or has a speech disability
- For someone who is in a situation where it is not safe to place a voice call to 911
- A medical emergency that renders the person incapable of speech

Remember, call if you can; text if you can't.



Clerk of Courts makes e-filing available for criminal cases

The Gwinnett County Clerk of Superior and State Courts announces the commencement of e-filing for criminal cases beginning June 24.

Criminal e-filing is another step forward in the Court's efforts to become a paperless environment. E-filing systems allow attorneys and self-represented parties to file the vast majority of pleadings, appeals, and other documents from any place that they can access

the internet and at any time of day.

Frequently asked questions, filing instructions and training opportunities can be found at www.odysseyfilega.com. Additionally, the clerk's staff can provide hands-on assistance at the courthouse.

What's New in District 4

Georgia Grown To Go event held again June 25

If you missed the first Georgia Grown To Go drive-thru farmer's market last month, you'll have another chance to participate **Thursday, June 25** from **3:00pm to 7:00pm** at Coolray Field. Residents can soon pre-order boxes for a reduced rate on the Georgia Grown To Go website. Orders will be available for contactless pickup at the event site, where boxes will be placed directly into the customer's trunk.



Visit GeorgiaGrownToGo.com to learn more.

Fire and Emergency Services offers virtual Safe Sitter classes

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services is offering its Fire Prevention and Life Safety Digital Learning Programs online, starting with a baby-sitting safety class in July.



The first online course, Safe Sitter, is set for **July 11 from 9:00am to 4:00pm**, Safe Sitter will prepare students in grades 6 to 8 to be safe when they're home alone, watching younger siblings, or babysitting. Using games and role-playing, the instructor-led class will teach CPR, first aid, and rescue skills as well as child care and business skills.

To receive their course completion certificate, students must demonstrate their knowledge in a hands-on assessment on July 18 from 9:00am to 11:00am and from 1:00pm to 3:00pm at Gwinnett Fire Headquarters. Class sizes are limited to eight students. To register, please email fireprograms@gwinnettcountry.com or call 678.518.4845.

Animal shelter reopens with limited hours

The Gwinnett Animal Shelter will be reopening to limited visitors on Monday, June 15. Residents can visit the shelter Monday through Thursday, noon to 6:00pm and Friday through Saturday, 11:00am to 4:00pm. The shelter will have limited occupancy so you may be directed to wait in your car or in our Education Room. Check out all the available pets online at GwinnettAnimalWelfare.com.

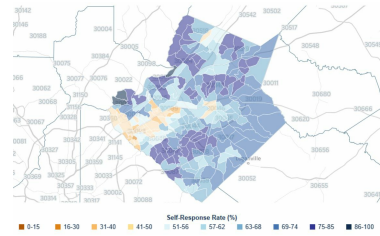
Special Events and Happenings

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

Visit GwinnettCounty.com or follow the County's social media channels to learn about future events.

Did You Know?

The US Census Bureau offers a map to keep track of the response rate in our community. While Georgia's response rate is slightly behind the national average, Gwinnett is pulling ahead of both of those rates with more than 64 percent of our households having already completed the census. You can also encourage friends, family, and loved ones to fill out the survey at My2020Census.gov. It's the first time you can complete the census online, and it takes less than 10 minutes! You can also call in or complete the survey mailed to your home. Visit 2020Census.gov to learn more about why you should and how to participate.



**Marlene Fosque, District 4 Commissioner
Gwinnett County**

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