

# NEWS & EVENTS

in District 4 with  
Commissioner Fosque



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January 2021



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

It's here! It's here! It's here! 2021 is here! A brand-new year with new opportunities to create a better today than yesterday and a better tomorrow than today. My focus this year will be on the **impact** of my overall decisions, time, charitable deeds, health, finances, and family. What will be your focus?

The volume of COVID-19 cases continues to rise dramatically. Each of us has an ongoing personal responsibility to mask up, social distance, and frequently wash our hands for 20 seconds or longer. If we all participate in basic COVID-19 prevention steps, it may go a long way to healing our county and ending the pandemic in our community. Did you know that you can volunteer to assist in the Gwinnett Public Health Department's vaccination process? Learn more about this opportunity below. Keep up with the latest information from the health department at [GNRHealth.com](http://GNRHealth.com).

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

- Approved an agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation for the installation, maintenance, and operation of roadway lighting at a proposed roundabout at the intersection of Hi-Hope Road/Hurricane Shoals Road and Airport Road
- Accepted a cash grant of up to \$100,000 from The Recycling Partnership for the implementation of recycling education initiatives within unincorporated Gwinnett County
- Authorized an intergovernmental agreement with the city of Lawrenceville to provide for the construction of a library and the conveyance of land to the County in connection with same
- Approved my appointment as Vice Chair of the Board of Commissioners for 2021

In honor of the upcoming celebration of **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**'s birthday, here's one of his quotes: "*If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward.*"

This is exactly what we must do...move forward in all aspects of our lives together, with faith, peace, and resilience.

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



### Board passes 2021 budget

Another important initiative the Board of Commissioners recently took action on was approval of the 2021 budget on January 5. The 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.

Some aspects of the budget were tightened to reserve funding to deal with the uncertain impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and for new initiatives and improvements by the incoming Board of Commissioners,

such as warming stations during periods of extreme cold and performance audits to increase accountability and efficiency. Read more about the adopted budget [here](#).

## Learn about the COVID-19 vaccine rollout

Distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine is finally here. The Gwinnett-Newton-Rockdale County Health Department is currently in [Phase 1A of the vaccine rollout](#), which includes hospital staff, public health clinical staff, EMS, first responders, long term care facility staff, urgent care facility staff, and adults 65 and older (and their caregivers as applicable). Stay tuned for more information about the vaccine rollout as the supply increases in the weeks and months ahead.

Remember, even as the vaccine rolls out, it's important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to help stop this pandemic as we learn more about how COVID-19 vaccines work in real-world conditions. Cover your mouth and nose with a mask when around others, stay at least 6 feet away from others, avoid crowds, and wash your hands often. [Learn more from the CDC](#) about COVID-19 vaccination.

## Meet the new members of the Board of Commissioners

This January, District 2 Commissioner Ben Ku and I were joined by our newly elected Chairwoman Nicole Love Hendrickson, District 1 Commissioner Kirkland Carden, and District 3 Commissioner Jasper Watkins III.

Hendrickson served as associate director of the Gwinnett Coalition for Health and Human Services before joining Gwinnett County Government in 2015 as director for the new Community Outreach Division, where she launched Gwinnett 101 Citizens Academy, Dinner & Dialogue, and the Gwinnett Youth Commission.



Carden is a fellow Gwinnett 101 Citizens Academy graduate. In his professional capacity, he has assisted state and local governments in developing, maintaining, and implementing transportation plans. Carden was elected to the Duluth City Council in 2017 and served on the Duluth Urban Redevelopment Authority. Carden has also worked as an urban planning technician.

Watkins is a nuclear pharmacist and is the principal/consultant for Watty Consulting, LLC. A retired lieutenant colonel in the Army, he received the Legion of Merit among other honors and helped coordinate responses to 9/11 and hurricanes Katrina and Andrew. He is also a graduate of the Gwinnett 101 Citizens Academy.



## Volunteer as part of the Medical Reserve Corps

Looking for a way to help others during the pandemic? Help GNR Health get the community vaccinated by joining the [Medical Reserve Corps](#). The health department is looking for people of all backgrounds to serve as greeters, screeners, mobility support, vaccinators, and more.

No medical experience is needed for non-clinical roles, and training is provided. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old. Sign up [here](#).

## Celebrate MLK Day by serving your community

Dr. King said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" Honor his life and legacy this Martin Luther King Jr. Day by participating in a service project. Volunteer Gwinnett is offering several outdoor service projects for a limited number of volunteers to keep everyone safe. [See the projects and sign up here](#).

If the projects are full, consider other ways to help the community. Donate blood, clean up litter around your neighborhood or local park, or donate food or money to a local food pantry.



## What's New in District 4

### County partners with city of Lawrenceville to preserve historic Hooper-Renwick School

Gwinnett County and the city of Lawrenceville are collaborating to create a new themed library at the site of the former Hooper-Renwick School, which served as



Gwinnett's only public school for African American students for decades. Watch [this video](#), produced during our bicentennial celebration in 2018, to learn a little bit more about the history of the school.

The new Lawrenceville branch of the Gwinnett Public Library will be the first themed library in the Southeast. As a themed library, it will incorporate cultural and historic objects and artifacts with the library's resources and information to benefit the patrons it serves. The new library will encourage

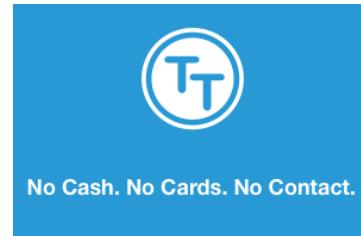
people of today to learn about the history of segregation and desegregation in Gwinnett County through the stories, accomplishments, and personal items from people who attended the Hooper-Renwick School in years past. I am truly excited about the creative and educational opportunities this presents and am grateful for the collaboration between the County, the city, and residents to make this happen.

Gwinnett County will use the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax to fund construction and the city of Lawrenceville will provide 3.8 acres for free. The approximately 25,000-square-foot library will honor the legacy of the former Hooper-Renwick School through architectural design elements and exhibits.

### GC Transit launches mobile ticketing pilot

Gwinnett County Transit riders can now use their cell phones to pay their fares, avoiding having to handle cash or cards. This safe, secure fare payment option will reduce contact between GCT riders, drivers, and surfaces during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the new Token Transit program, patrons can purchase mobile tickets through the Token Transit App, which is free and can be downloaded from the App Store and Google Play. From January to February 2021, users can get 50 percent off their first purchase in the app. In addition to mobile ticketing, Breeze Cards and cash will continue to be accepted as fare payment. For more information on Token Transit and GCT's fare policy, please [click here](#) or call GCT Customer Service at 770.822.5010.



No Cash. No Cards. No Contact.

[Get the Token Transit App](#)



### Gather items for the next Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

The Department of Water Resources' next Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day is Saturday, February 20. Start collecting your HHWs, like aerosols, batteries, pesticides, and more, to drop off at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds. Gwinnett residents can bring up to five containers (about the size of a laundry basket or copy paper box) of household hazardous waste for free. Containers will not be returned.

See more details and the full list of accepted items on [Gwinnett](#)

[Clean & Beautiful's website.](#)

### Bring One for the Chipper

If you're still holding on to your Christmas tree, there is an easy way to dispose of it. Through 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](#).



### Learn about the upcoming Gwinnett Entrepreneur Center

This past fall, we signed an agreement with Georgia Gwinnett College to staff and operate the Gwinnett Entrepreneur Center. The center, which will be located in downtown Lawrenceville and is set to open this spring, will provide networking opportunities, coworking spaces, and resources to entrepreneurs across Gwinnett County.

Learn about our partnership by watching [this video](#).

## Special Events and Happenings

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

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

## Did You Know?



My podcast, Better Together with Commissioner Fosque, is the County's first podcast. If you haven't listened in yet, you catch up on the [first several episodes](#).

Join me every two weeks as I sit down with an array of special guests to share ideas and discuss issues impacting Gwinnett County. Look out for episodes featuring our former chairman, Charlotte J. Nash, as well as our new Chairwoman Nicole Love Hendrickson premiering this month.

You can also save the date for our first live podcast recording Monday, February 22 at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center as we reflect on the impact of the late Congressman John Lewis. Stay tuned for more information in next month's newsletter.

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

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