

NEWS & EVENTS

in District 4 with
Commissioner Fosque



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October 2021



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

In Gwinnett, we realize that with changes come challenges, and with challenges, come changes. Both have three common elements: hope, collaboration, and people. Our leaders, residents, community stakeholders, non-profits, and business partners strive to work together on economic development, housing needs, inclusivity, transit, and mobility issues. They bring forth the spirit of hope and pride where the final decisions that are made change the trajectory of Gwinnett County for generations to come.

I'm happy to have had recent opportunities to celebrate that collective spirit at our Department of Planning and Development's Fall Festival and a ribbon cutting for Class Act Security Executive Protection.



Our Board of Commissioners as a whole recently took action on many important initiatives:

- Accepted a \$179,000 grant from the Atlanta Regional Commission for Gwinnett Senior Services to continue its Get In Gear voucher program, a medical transportation assistance service
- Approved the appointment of incumbent Frances E. Davis to the Hospital Authority
- Approved the appointment of Nicola McIntyre to the Development Advisory Committee
- Approved the appointment of Joshua Williams to the Gwinnett County Transit Advisory Board
- Awarded a \$22.8 million contract for membrane building improvements at the F. Wayne Hill Water Resources Center

Leadership Tidbit: *"Hope is the companion of power, and mother of success; for who so hopes strongly has within him the gift of miracles."* - Samuel Smiles. We must never lose hope — not in our families, communities, counties, or nation. Of course, we must never, ever lose hope in ourselves. Even when we receive less than desirable news or results, we still must have hope!

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

Project RESET 2.0 recognized by U.S. Treasury

In April, Gwinnett County was tasked with spending a little more than \$55 million from the federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program to help those directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Fast forward to today, the U.S. Treasury has named the Gwinnett a top performer – a title that has gone all the way to the White House.

Financial assistance is being made available through this program to eligible tenants, their landlords, and utility providers to cover activities including rent arrears, current and future rent payments, and utility arrears payments. Learn more about the program, including who is eligible for assistance, and apply [here](#).



Get vaccinated this weekend and earn \$100

Need a COVID-19 vaccine? Join us this weekend for the Vaccines Aren't Scary event. We have partnered with Gwinnett, Newton, & Rockdale County Health Departments to give out \$100 Visa gift cards to those who get vaccinated on October 22 and 23 at the former Sears at Gwinnett Place Mall.

First and second doses of the Moderna and Pfizer vaccine will be administered. Pfizer boosters are also available for those eligible. Make an appointment to secure your slot and gift card by visiting GCGA.us/VaccineIncentive.

Police partner with DEA for National Take Back Day

Gwinnett Police is partnering with the DEA for the National Take Back Initiative on **Saturday, October 23 from 10:00am to 2:00pm**. This event gives residents the opportunity to drop off potentially dangerous prescription medications at collection sites around the county. This event is a part of an effort to help prevent drug abuse and overdose in our community. Liquids, syringes, and sharps will not be accepted. Residents can drop off tablets, capsules, patches, and other forms of prescription drugs and over the counter meds. The proper disposal of unused drugs can save lives and protect the environment.



Click [here](#) to see all seven drop off locations around the county.



Vote in your city election

While there are no scheduled Federal, State, or County Elections in 2021, some cities and municipalities are hosting elections on November 2, including these cities in District 4:

[Braselton](#)

[Buford](#)

[Lawrenceville](#)

[Sugar Hill](#)

Residents who live within the city limits of one of these municipalities may vote in their elections. Residents of unincorporated Gwinnett are not eligible to vote in city elections.

Commissioners approve 4 percent market adjustment for employees

The Board of Commissioners voted to approve a 4 percent market adjustment for eligible County employees. The move will also raise the salaries of first responders in Police, Fire and Emergency Services, Sheriff's Office, Corrections, and E911 by an additional 4 percent, bringing the total pay increase for these frontline employees to 8 percent. This decision supports the County's goal to retain and recruit an effective workforce and underscores hiring challenges caused by an increasingly competitive job market, especially in public safety. Learn more about the decision [here](#).



County forms Communications Department

Last week, the Board of Commissioners approved a budget amendment that expands existing communications resources and creates a new Communications Department. The decision supports the Board's strategic objective to increase public access to information about County activities, events, projects, policies, and programs. Changes will involve hiring additional employees in the



operational areas of public relations and marketing, social media, graphic design, website administration, and video production. Two of the new positions will provide a sharp focus on data analytics and project management to enhance the effectiveness and reach of County messages.

What's New in District 4

Get rid of hard-to-recycle items at America Recycles Day

Come and recycle your electronics, paint, clothing, sneakers, tires, and paper on Saturday, November 6 from 9:00am to noon at Coolray Field in Lawrenceville. Items should be placed in disposable containers in the trunk or back seat of your vehicle to be removed by volunteers. Paper shredding is limited to five copier boxes. Oil and latex paint will be limited to 10 gallons total per vehicle. Recycling electronics is free except for TVs, monitors, and printers. There is a \$35 cash fee per projection or console TV, a \$15 cash fee per flat screen TV or computer monitor, and a \$5 cash fee per printer.



This event is sponsored by Solid Waste Management and Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful. For more information, visit GCSolidWaste.com or call 770.822.7141.



Join us to honor our nation's veterans

Join us at the Gwinnett Fallen Heroes Memorial on Thursday, November 11 at 11:00am to honor our nation's veterans. This year's ceremony will be held in-person and streamed live on [Facebook @GwinnettGov](https://www.facebook.com/GwinnettGov). Our keynote speaker will be Army Maj. Gen. Ronald L. Johnson (retired), a professor of Industrial and Systems Engineering at Georgia Tech.

County making improvements on Thompson Mill Road, Peachtree Industrial Boulevard

The Board of Commissioners recently approved two road improvement projects in the northern area of Gwinnett.

One project will widen Thompson Mill Road near its intersection with SR 13/Buford Highway to four lanes with a center turn lane. The project is funded by the County and the city of Buford. The project cost is not to exceed \$1.5 million.



The second project will improve the intersection of Peachtree Industrial Boulevard and Suwanee Dam Road by adding a southbound through-lane along Peachtree Industrial from Suwanee Dam to Grand Teton Parkway. Construction includes converting the single left-turn lanes on Suwanee Dam to dual left-turn lanes, along with the installation of new traffic signals. This project cost is capped at about \$2.9 million. The cost of both projects is covered by the 2017 SPLOST program.



Gwinnett County participates in the Hefty® EnergyBag® program

Gwinnett is participating in the Hefty® EnergyBag® program to give residents a chance to dispose of hard-to-recycle plastics in a sustainable way. This new program provides a way to recycle plastics #4 through #7, which includes items like plastic packaging and wraps, plastic dinnerware, foam products, and plastic bags. With the new program, Gwinnett residents are invited to collect these items in Hefty® EnergyBag® orange bags.

Gwinnett residents can drop off their full Hefty® EnergyBag® orange bags at WestRock, located at 384 Maltbie Street in Lawrenceville. Drop-off hours are Monday through Saturday from 7:00am to 2:00pm. Only Hefty® EnergyBag® orange bags will be accepted at this site. Learn more about the program [here](#).

Better Together is back!

After a short summer break, I kicked off new episodes of Better Together with Gwinnett Community Outreach Director Shaunika Taste. We discussed signature outreach programs and engagement events. Also,

Officer Michael Parker from the Gwinnett Police Department shares announcements about Halloween safety,



Listen to the latest episodes [here](#) or on your favorite podcast streaming platform.



Special Events and Happenings

Events and activities are ramping back up under the CDC's latest guidance.

Visit GwinnettCountyEvents.com or follow the County's social media channels to learn about more upcoming events.

Murder Mystery Dinner

Friday, October 29 from 6:30pm to 9:30pm

Test your sleuthing skills while watching a mysterious crime unfold during this adult-only evening of investigation. Hors d'oeuvres, a delicious dinner, two drink tickets, and dessert will be served. Additional specialty drinks may be available for purchase. [RSVP](#) by October 22. Fee: \$35 per person; for ages 21 and up. Gwinnett Historic Courthouse, 185 Crogan Street, Lawrenceville.

Prehistoric Popup

Saturday, November 6 from 9:00am to noon

Uncover your inner paleontologist with our educators who will be ready to answer any dino questions you may have. We will be sharing an array of fossils, stories, and crafts. All ages; free. Rhodes Jordan Park, 100 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville.

Full Moon Bonfire & S'mores

Friday, November 19 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Enjoy the park after dark! We'll be storytelling around the bonfire and making s'mores. Spooky stories welcome! [Registration](#) is required. Fee: \$6. For ages 13 to 18. Bogan Park Community Recreation Center, 2723 North Bogan Road, Buford.

Did You Know?

The Board of Commissioners recently voted to expand the County's nondiscrimination policy for employees. The changes to the policy added protections for Gwinnett County Government employees' ancestry, family status, immigration status and homeless status. The amendment also draws inspiration from the Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair Act. The CROWN Act ensures that race-based hairstyles, textures and protective styles such as braids, locs, twists and knots are protected in the workplace. Read more about the expanded policy [here](#).



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Gwinnett County

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