

NEWS & EVENTS

in District 4 with
Commissioner Fosque



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November 2021



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

As we head toward the end of 2021, I'm grateful that many of the unknowns we've faced the past few years are now behind us. It was a year full of chaos related to the pandemic, with family, employment, housing, business, financial, educational insecurities, and unwarranted legislation rising to the surface. Disappointments occurred. Yet, the sun still shone down upon us, giving us energy. Hope still prevailed. Gratitude provided us with daily opportunities to reflect kindness onto others.

Let's finish the year strong and strategically. Let us not focus on the things that we lack, but instead, let us be full of gratitude for everything we do have, especially during this Thanksgiving holiday. I got a chance to express my gratitude to a few groups recently, including the dedicated customer care staff in our Department of Water Resources. I also issued a proclamation celebrating those who often go without fanfare — our family caregivers, who do so much to help their family members. Let's spend some time this Thanksgiving thinking about how we can express our thanks to those around us.

As we get ready to gather with friends, family, and loved ones for the holiday, I want to remind you that it's not too late to get vaccinated against COVID-19. If you've already had your Johnson & Johnson shot or two doses of Moderna or Pfizer, consider getting your booster. The [CDC recently recommended boosters for all adults](#) who received a Pfizer or Moderna vaccine at least six months after their second dose. Find a vaccination site near you at [Vaccines.gov](#).



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

- Appointed David Whitman to fill the seat on the Gwinnett County Water and Sewerage Authority left behind by the late Diometra Aldridge
- Awarded a \$3.5 million contract for improvements to the Lake Louella Dam funded 89 percent by 2014 SPLOST funds
- Approved the purchase of voting equipment and licenses
- Authorized the application for and acceptance of (if awarded) Federal Transit Administration Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funds to provide assistance for Gwinnett County Transit projects
- Awarded the construction contract to Cooper & Company General Contractors, Inc. for a Hooper Renwick themed library project

Leadership Tidbit: *"Life has two rules: number 1, never quit! Number 2, always remember rule number one."* — Duke Ellington. We will persevere if we keep forging new paths. Challenges come. Challenges

go. Now blessings... blessings last forever, full of gratitude, protection, and favor.

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

Share your thoughts on the 2022 proposed budget

Gwinnett County Chairwoman Nicole Hendrickson [presented her proposed budget](#) on November 16 to guide County government spending for the 2022 fiscal year.

The [proposed budget](#) for 2022 totals \$2.06 billion, up 7.8 percent from the 2021 adopted budget. It consists of a \$1.6 billion operating budget and a \$454 million capital improvements budget, which includes funds from the County's voter-approved SPLOST program. We will accept public comments during a public hearing held Monday, December 6 at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville and will continue to accept [online comments](#) through December 31 before adopting a final balanced budget on Tuesday, January 4, 2022. Please let us know your thoughts!



Become a poll official

Citizens who are interested in the electoral process and want to give back to the community are invited to attend one of Gwinnett County's upcoming poll official hiring events. The Gwinnett Voter Registrations and Elections Division is looking for citizens of all backgrounds, but especially needs bilingual poll officials. Poll officials will gain valuable work experience and training in preparation for the 2022 elections. Currently, positions pay up to a \$350 stipend.

The hiring events are set for:

- **November 29 and 30** from 9:00am to 1:00pm at George Pierce Park, 55 Buford Highway, Suwanee
- **December 11** from 9:00am – 1:00pm at Bogan Park, 2723 North Bogan Road, Buford

Interested citizens are encouraged to apply online prior to the event at GwinnettCountyJobs.com.

County officials break ground on Eastern Regional Infrastructure project

County leaders gathered earlier this month to kick off the start of construction on an infrastructure project that will provide water, sewer, and trails for 8,500 acres of land in east Gwinnett. The Eastern Regional Infrastructure Project includes approximately five miles of new public trails, two trailheads, upgraded and expanded water service, and expanded sewer service. The project will be funded by the departments of Water Resources and Community Services, including revenue from the 2017 SPLOST, which will fund the trails component of the project. Learn more about the project at GwinnettERI.com.



Gwinnett Police hosting food drive through December 13

Gwinnett Police are working to ensure families get the support they need during the holidays by partnering with Hamilton Mill United Methodist Church Food Pantry for a food drive. Residents are encouraged to drop off donations **November 15 through December 13** at their local precinct during normal business hours, 8:00am to 5:00pm.

Acceptable items include canned proteins including chicken, tuna, and spaghetti sauce with meat; canned chili and pasta; canned soup; peanut butter; cereal; canned fruit and vegetables; bottled condiments; cooking oil; baby wipes; and toilet paper. Learn more and find your closest drop-off location [here](#).

Warming stations open to residents when temperatures drop below 35 degrees

Gwinnett County will open warming stations for residents to receive temporary, overnight relief from long-term exposure to frigid temperatures of 35 degrees and below. Beginning this week, the warming stations will be available from 6:00pm until 7:00am on evenings that temperatures drop below that threshold. Residents who visit the sites can warm up, eat a meal, and get some rest.



The County will announce the availability of the warming stations at GwinnettOneStop.com and on social media. Two of the stations are located in District 4: one at the **Buford Senior Center**, located at 2755 Sawnee Avenue in Buford, and one at the **Lawrenceville Senior Center**, located at 225 Benson Street in Lawrenceville. Learn more [here](#).



Celebrate the holidays with the Lighting of the Tree

On Thanksgiving night each year, we light the Great Tree on the grounds of the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse in Lawrenceville to celebrate the holiday season. The event will take place after your turkey dinner, from 5:00pm to 8:30pm.

For the first time ever, this annual event can be enjoyed in person or from the comfort of your own home. Festivities include crafts, s'mores, hot cocoa, and a very special appearance of jolly old Saint

Nick himself to get everyone in the spirit of the upcoming holidays!

SPLOST-funded pedestrian improvements coming to two major roads

The Board of Commissioners recently approved pedestrian improvement projects on two of Gwinnett's major roads. The County will install sidewalks and related signals and signage along State Route 120/Duluth Highway from Colony Bend Drive to Riverside Parkway and on State Route 20/Grayson Highway from Crane Drive to Park Place Drive. This \$312,700 project will construct new sidewalks along the east side of State Route 20/Grayson Highway as well as the north side of State Route 120/Duluth Highway. New curb and gutter and associated drainage improvements as well as the extension of the existing left turn lane on State Route 120/Duluth Highway are included in the scope of work. The projects will be funded through the 2017 SPLOST program.



Listen to the latest episodes of Better Together

In my latest episodes of Better Together with Commissioner Fosque, I sat down with Buford City Schools Superintendent Dr. Robert Downs to discuss how the school system is navigating the COVID-19 pandemic and the formula behind being ranked Georgia's top school district. Also, Kareem Briscoe from Gwinnett Voter Registrations and Elections encourages citizens to serve their community and earn extra money as a poll official for the upcoming 2022 Elections! Learn more at GwinnettElections.com.

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

Special Events and Happenings

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

Get Ready for Santa

Saturday, December 4 from 10:00am to noon

Have a holly-jolly time! Enjoy a fun day of winter craft making, writing your letter to Santa, and yummy hot cocoa and tasty treats! Or pick up the supplies and have fun in the comfort of your home. Parents, if you would like a response back from Santa, please provide a stamped envelope addressed to your child. \$5 per person. Register [here](#). Rhodes Jordan Park, 100 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville.

Supper with Santa

Friday, December 17 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm

Children of all ages will delight in a yummy supper, fun crafts, and sharing their wish list with Santa. Bring your little ones to hear Santa share a magical story, and don't forget your camera for photos with old Saint

Nick! Registration is required by December 8. \$18 per person. Call or reserve your spot online [here](#).
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse, 185 Crogan Street, Lawrenceville.

Yuletide Fiesta

Saturday, December 18 from 3:30pm to 6:00pm

Tis the season to be jolly! Eat drink and be merry with your family and friends as you enjoy crafts, games, dancing, light refreshments, and more. Parent or guardian supervision is required. Call to receive our special family of four pricing! All ages. Fee: \$8 per person. Children 3 and under are free. Register [here](#).
OneStop Buford, 2755 Sawnee Avenue, Buford.

Did You Know?

You completed your 2020 Census — now what?

Under a decades old law, political boundaries must be drawn every decade to match a County's changing population. State legislators are charged with the task, which can also determine how people may vote. To give residents a look at the redistricting process, the Board of Commissioners is hosting a series of open houses about redistricting for Gwinnett's commission districts. My open houses will be held **Thursday, December 16** at 6:00pm at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville and **Thursday, January 13** at 6:00pm at Bogan Park in Buford. They'll also feature a presentation on how the County is using American Rescue Plan Act and Infrastructure funding. Read more [here](#).



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Gwinnett County

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