

# NEWS & EVENTS

in District 4 with  
Commissioner Fosque



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December 2021



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

We did it! Together in 2021, we overcame challenges and accomplished many feats in Gwinnett County, whether in person or virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

From volunteering to making land use decisions that will impact our county for generations, I had the opportunity to engage in many fulfilling activities throughout the year while keeping our residents at the center of my decision making.

I found ways to support my community by serving in food distribution lines for individuals and families, providing Georgia Grown produce boxes to organizations, volunteering at one of the County's [warming stations](#), and teaming up with civic-minded individuals on a COVID-19 task force and mental health, substance abuse, and intellectual and developmental disabilities boards to make recommendations and take action.

Team work also helped me ensure our Project RESET eviction prevention program had adequate financial resources to keep Gwinnett residents stably housed.



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

- Renewed a \$169,505 contract for software for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program funded by the Federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program
- Awarded a contract for a traffic improvement project on Sugarloaf Parkway at SR120/Duluth Highway, Old Norcross Road at Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road, and Old Norcross Road at Cruse Road. The \$359,580 contract, awarded to Ohmshiv Construction, LLC, is funded by the 2017 SPLOST program
- Renewed a \$130,000 contract for the purchase of voting system paper with Dominion Voting Systems, Inc., using a competitively procured State of Georgia contract
- Reappointed Sam Stewart to the Tree Advisory Committee
- Reappointed Johnny Barnard and Gabe Okoye to the Planning Commission
- Appointed Emma Reynolds-Middleton to the Community Outreach Advisory Board



Through it all, we made progress on a variety of projects, evidenced by multiple meaningful ribbon cuttings and groundbreaking ceremonies that represented our economic development, employment opportunities, and investments. I had the opportunity to lead our annual Congressman John Lewis Day recognition, honoring the life and legacy of a great man. Finally, we made time to enjoy quality time with each other and celebrate the progress we have made despite challenges we faced along the way.

Happy holidays and may you have a safe and prosperous New Year!

**Leadership Tidbit:** *"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."* – Barack Obama. To me, being the change we seek means setting forth with a positive mindset that informs our actions. We must put away our fears and follow our core values. We must keep boldness, wisdom, courage, and selflessness in our hearts as we work to better ourselves and our families, communities, region, state, and nation. 2022 will

be a year like no other, so unapologetically... here we come!

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

Chairwoman Hendrickson's 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. Two-thirds of the operating budget, which funds everyday expenses such as employee salaries, benefits, equipment, and repairs, is dedicated to the areas of public safety and public works. The capital budget will pay for new libraries, roads, and parks. [Read more about the proposed budget](#) and [share your comments online](#) by December 31.



### Glass recycling pilot expands to second location

You can now recycle glass at another location in Gwinnett — Pinckneyville Park. This is the second drop-off glass recycling location that the County will offer through our pilot program. The first site, located in the parking lot of OneStop Norcross at 5030 Georgia Belle Court in Norcross, opened in October and has already diverted 4.2 tons of mixed glass from landfills.

Drop off clean, empty glass containers at Pinckneyville Park, located at 4758 South Old Peachtree Road in Peachtree Corners. The clearly marked drop-off container is located by

the baseball complex and is accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

### More than 6,500 vaccinated during Finish Strong Together weekend

Last weekend, Gwinnett County encouraged people to get a COVID-19 vaccine by offering gift cards to people who got vaccinated as part of the communitywide Finish Strong Together event. People from around the county lined up to get their first dose, second dose, or booster and earned \$100. Thank you to everyone who got vaccinated as part of this event, and especially to those who got their vaccine even after gift cards ran out. With your help, we'll finish this year strong and head into 2022 with optimism and hope for a healthier new year.



### Community navigators help residents find assistance

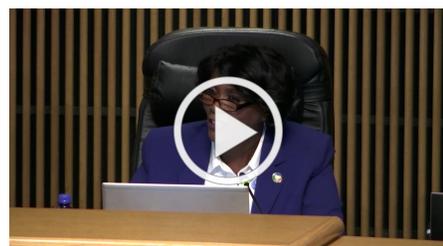
Gwinnett County is providing helpers to guide people in need through the sometimes-complicated process of finding and acquiring resources, services and assistance from nonprofits and other charitable organizations. Called community navigators, the helpers are part of a program called OneStop 4 HELP and can be contacted by email at [OneStopHelp@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:OneStopHelp@GwinnettCounty.com), by phone at 770.822.8850, and soon in-person at any of Gwinnett County's OneStop facilities in Norcross, Buford, and Centerville. Visit

[GwinnettOneStop.com](http://GwinnettOneStop.com) to complete an assistance request form. The assistance offered includes employment, food, housing and shelter, income support, legal consultation, mental and behavioral health, substance use, transportation, and utilities.

## What's New in District 4

### Learn about the redistricting process

Under a decades old law, political boundaries must be drawn every decade to match a county's changing population. My fellow commissioners and I are hosting a series of open houses to inform residents about the process and details of redistricting for the Gwinnett County commission districts. View maps, ask staff questions, and share your feedback. Learn more about the open house by watching this episode of



[Go Gwinnett!](#)

My next open house will be **Thursday, January 13** at 6:00pm at Bogan Park in Buford. Following the open house, stay for a presentation on the County's use of American Rescue Plan Act funding. I hope to see you there!

Commissioner Watkins will also host open houses Friday, December 17 at 6:30pm at the Centerville Senior Center and Monday, December 20 at 6:30pm at the Dacula Park Activity Building.



### **County officials cut ribbon on Gwinnett Entrepreneur Center**

County leaders gathered with partners from Georgia Gwinnett College to cut the ribbon on the Gwinnett Entrepreneur Center. The center, located in downtown Lawrenceville, offers resources, coaching, and workspace to small business owners and innovators looking to get their businesses up and running. The inaugural group of members has been selected and will move into the center in January. Learn more about the center at [GwinnettEntrepreneurCenter.com](http://GwinnettEntrepreneurCenter.com).

### **Catch up on Better Together over the holidays**

In my most recent podcast episode, I sat down with Gwinnett County Grants Director Shannon Candler to discuss the Grants Management Division and how the County manages federal and state funding to help address needs in our community. Also, Vita Dotson, a fiscal manager with Gwinnett Financial Services, stopped by to encourage residents to [submit their input on the County's \\$2.06 billion proposed budget](#) for 2022.

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



## **Special Events and Happenings**

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

### **New Year, New You**

**Saturday, January 8 from 10:00am to 1:00pm**

Free! Discover all the new things you can do in 2022. Explore programs like language classes, Zumba, support groups, and more. Meet OneStop Buford's knowledgeable instructors and register on the spot. OneStop Buford, 2755 Sawnee Avenue, Buford.

### **Job and Career Vision Board Workshop**

**Tuesday, January 11 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm**

Create a career vision board and discuss how the use of creative art can help you visualize and accomplish your career goals. Staff will also cover how library resources can help you to reach your career goals and accomplish everything on your vision board. Lawrenceville Branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library, 1001 Lawrenceville Highway, Lawrenceville.

### **Drive-Thru Meal Distribution**

**Wednesdays – January 12, 19, and 26 from 11:00am to 1:00pm**

Gwinnett County Public Library in partnership with Lettum Eat! Inc. has held free drive through meal distribution events since Summer 2020. Meals are available while supplies last. Buford-Sugar Hill Branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library, 2100 Buford Highway, Buford.

### **Winter Wind Down**

**Friday, January 14 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm**

Dress in your comfiest pajamas and bring your friends for some winter fun! Wind down from the first full week back at school by warming up at the hot chocolate bar and enjoying some snacks. Make snow slime, play snow-themed games, and more. Fee: \$5. Register [here](#). Bogan Park Community Recreation Center, 2723 North Bogan Road, Buford.

## **Did You Know?**

You can earn money while contributing to our environmentally sustainable future. Get up to \$150 for upgrading your old, inefficient toilet to a WaterSense labeled 1.1 gpf toilet! Upgrading your old toilet

can get you a rebate while saving you up to \$150 per year on your water bill.

For more information on qualifying toilets and to apply online, visit the [Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's website](#).



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Gwinnett County

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