

NEWS & EVENTS

in District 4 with
Commissioner Fosque



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February 2021



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

February is full of significant annual celebrations, including Valentine's Day, Presidents Day, and Black History Month, which honors the history, experiences, achievements, and contributions of African Americans. Locally, we honor Mack Renwick, Marshall M. Hooper, Laura Freeman Gholston, Bob Craig, Ezzard Charles, Thomas Livsey, Norcross Mayor Craig Newton, and so many other great leaders, principals, authors, entrepreneurs, doctors, judges, state representatives, and elected constitutional officers who make an enormous difference in Gwinnett.

Remember, as the number of COVID-19 cases in our community begins to slowly decline and distribution of vaccines increases, we must continue to be diligent in wearing masks, social distancing, washing our hands for 20 seconds or longer, and [following other safety measures](#) to keep ourselves and others safe.

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

- Reappointed several members of Gwinnett's advisory boards and authorities, including Gabe Okoye and Johnny Barnard to the Planning Commission; Diometra Aldridge to the Water and Sewerage Authority; Gail LaBerge to the Gwinnett Animal Advisory Council; Matt Peavy to the Zoning Board of Appeals; and Farooq Mughal to the Community Outreach Board
- Accepted a \$10,000 donation from the Community Foundation of Northeast Georgia to support the Lawrenceville Community Garden at Rhodes Jordan Park
- Approved the renewal of a contract to provide respite care services to residents through January 2022
- Appointed Dr. Clay M. Hunter to the View Point Health Board as an advocate, and appointed me to the board as the elected official representative
- Appointed Andy Morgan to the new Gwinnett County Police Citizens Advisory Board

Leadership Tidbit: In remembrance of the baseball great Hank Aaron, "*Failure is a part of success. There is no such thing as a bed of roses all your life. But failure will never stand in the way of success if you learn from it.*" Remain humble in your successes or failures and always strive to do better, not for selfish accolades, but to help others for the betterment of society.

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



Celebrate Black History Month!

This year, our Black History Month celebration looks a little different than usual, but we can still keep the spirit of this month alive. Please join us as we commemorate African American history and celebrate the path forward. There are events for every age and interest level, many of which you can attend from the comfort of your own home, like the virtual tour of Mike "Stinger" Glenn's exhibit "[Voting Rights: The Struggle for Equality](#)." The exhibit will focus on the history of the struggle for voting rights from Reconstruction to the present, and will

honor civil rights heroes John Lewis, C.T. Vivian, Joseph Lowery, and Juanita Abernathy.

Check out the full [listing of Black History Month events](#) hosted by the County and our partners, and keep reading to learn more about The Impact of John Lewis event.

Phase 1A of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout continues

Gwinnett County Government and the Gwinnett, Newton, and Rockdale County Health Departments worked together to convert the bottom floor of the former Sears building at Gwinnett Place Mall into a mass vaccination center that will accommodate immunizing up to 3,000 people a day as vaccines become available. Vaccine is still limited, and the state is currently in Phase 1A of distribution, which includes health care workers, first responders, long-term care facility workers and residents, and adults 65 and older. Appointments at the Gwinnett Place Mall site are required and can only be scheduled [here](#).



The [state's COVID-19 vaccination page](#) includes information about the COVID-19 distribution phases; a status dashboard where you can see data about the amount of vaccines allocated, shipped, and administered to Georgians; and a list of locations where appointments are available. If you're looking for a [COVID-19 vaccination site near you](#), be sure to check back often as the participating vaccine site locations list will be updated frequently. Additional locations statewide will be added when providers are ready to safely administer the vaccine, and as vaccine supply allows.



Project RESET continues to prevent evictions

Gwinnett County is continuing to use funds from the CARES Act to make past due rent payments directly to landlords in order prevent imminent evictions and keep tenants stably housed. Project RESET, which stands for **Relief from Evictions Starts by Engaging Together**, is a partnership between HomeFirst Gwinnett, Gwinnett County Government, and the Magistrate Court.

Interested parties can get more information by calling 770.847.6765 or emailing MagistrateCourtProjectRESET@gwinnettcountry.com. Read more about the program [here](#), and apply using the QR code in the flyer or [this form](#).

Commissioners establish Police Citizens Advisory Board

To strengthen relationships between the department and the community, our Police Department is setting up a Citizens Advisory Board to offer input on issues like transparency, use of force, training, and dealing with complaints. The 11-member board, made up of representatives from various groups around the county, will provide advice to the Police Department, the county administrator, and the Board of Commissioners and assist the department through a collaborative problem-solving process that supports both the community and the Police Department's desire to enhance public safety.



The Citizens Advisory Board supports the Board's vision of a vibrantly connected community where all stakeholders feel informed, engaged, and heard.



Apply for Gwinnett 101 or Gwinnett Youth Commission

Learn how and why Gwinnett County Government does what it does by attending the Gwinnett 101 Citizens Academy, a 12-week program that gives participants a peek behind the curtain at County operations and policies. Participants meet one evening a week to talk with County leaders and tour County facilities. Apply for the spring session by filling out the [form](#) at Gwinnett101.com by March 2. Classes start April 1. By completing the program, you can join the alumni network that includes three of my fellow commissioners!

The Gwinnett Youth Commission, an eight-week summer leadership program for high school students, is also accepting [applications](#) on the [Gwinnett Youth Commission](#) webpage through April 12. Classes for both programs will be in-person but limited to 15 participants each to allow for social distancing.

What's New in District 4

Join me for a live podcast event honoring Congressman John Lewis

Join me, Chairwoman Hendrickson, and other community leaders as we recognize the late civil rights icon Congressman John Lewis with a virtual event Monday, February 22 at 9:00am. Congressman

Lewis is known as one of the Big Six civil rights leaders who organized the 1963 March on Washington. He served in Congress for 33 years and continued the fight for freedom, equality, and basic human rights for all Americans until his death last year at the age of 82. The event, called [The Impact of John Lewis](#), will stream live on the County's [Facebook page](#).



Kick off your spring cleaning at Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

Gwinnett Water Resources and Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful are teaming up to host the fifth annual Household Hazardous Waste collection day Saturday, February 20 from 9:00am to 1:00pm at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds. Residents can drop off up to five containers of household hazardous waste, like paint, aerosols, batteries, and more, for proper disposal or recycling. COVID-19 guidelines will be in place to ensure the safety of residents and

staff, which may result in a slightly longer wait during drop off. For a full list of accepted materials, guidance on container sizes, and more, please visit [GwinnettCB.org](#).

Masks mandatory in County facilities

If you're making a trip to the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center or another County facility, remember to pack a mask. Masks are now required in County facilities under an executive order signed by Chairwoman Hendrickson. This order helps protect other visitors and our employees as they deliver critical services.



Hear from some of Gwinnett's "first" on Better Together

Another way to celebrate Black History Month is to listen to my most recent podcast episodes featuring Chairwoman Hendrickson, our first African American chairwoman, Judge Ronda Colvin Leary, Gwinnett's first African American judge, and Everton Blair Jr., Gwinnett County Public School's first African American school board member and chairman. Listen as we discuss what it's like to be a "first" and other details about their history-making roles.

Then, stay tuned for my next two episodes featuring Health and Human Services Director Regina Miller and District 1 Commissioner Kirkland Carden. See the full list of episodes on the [County's website](#), or listen on

Spotify or your favorite podcast app.

Special Events and Happenings

Most 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?

In 2020, the Department of Transportation maintained 2,653 miles of road. That's slightly farther than the distance from Washington D.C. to San Francisco!

If you see a pothole on your daily commute, remember that you can request a service, report an issue, or check the status of an existing service request using the County's [Citizen Self-Service portal](#).



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Gwinnett County

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