

# NEWS & EVENTS

in District 4 with  
Commissioner Fosque



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March 2021



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

In Gwinnett, we strive to honor and value women of all backgrounds, not only during March's Women History Month, but every day of the year. We hope that each person stands solidly with courage, love, and dignity in the face of adversity and finds inspiration from within to be the change they seek.

As Gwinnettians, we hold a firm and proud stance in support of our Asian American and Pacific Islander communities and against hatred, discrimination, xenophobia, intimidation, and bullying acts in our county or anywhere else. I challenge each resident to practice compassionate empathy and to seek ways to enhance their consciousness about other cultures. There is strength in our diversity, especially when it helps us become more socially conscious about relevant, truthful issues. Let us think about the betterment of our society and move forward living in peace, harmony, and fearlessness.

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

- Accepted a \$2,500 donation from the Gwinnett County Police Foundation to purchase new fitness equipment for the Police Central Precinct
- Gave final approval for the issuance of \$23.5 million in bonds to buy 39 acres of Gwinnett Place Mall as part of a major initiative to redevelop one of the key economic engines of the county
- Approved a resolution asking the county's delegation to the General Assembly to adjust the salary of the commission chair to match that of sheriffs of large jurisdictions

**Leadership Tidbit:** Rep. Shirley Chisholm, the first African American woman elected to Congress, stated, *"You don't make progress by standing on the sidelines, whimpering and complaining. You make progress by implementing ideas."* Let's get to it! Most of us reduced our movement last year due to the pandemic. No more excuses; it's time to implement positive ideas that will benefit others and not just ourselves. We can do it!

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



### See how **#GwinnettWomenLead**

In celebration of International Women's Day and Women's History Month, Gwinnett County is recognizing women who represent and lead within Gwinnett County Government. Each week on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#), we'll be highlighting women from different departments and leadership levels who exemplify our theme this year, #GwinnettWomenLead.

We invite you to visit our [social media pages](#) to watch a [special message from Chairwoman Nicole Hendrickson](#), one of the many female trailblazers who make Gwinnett a great place to live, work,

play, and raise a family. If you're inspired by women in Gwinnett, share your stories and join the conversation on social media by using #GwinnettWomenLead.

## Chairwoman Hendrickson delivers first State of the County address

In her [first State of the County address](#), County Commission Chairwoman Nicole Hendrickson lauded the county's high expectations for excellence, called The Gwinnett Standard.



Hendrickson cited Gwinnett's elite Triple AAA/Aaa bond rating, state-of-the-art F. Wayne Hill Water Resources Center, and award-winning parks and library systems as evidence of the county's high level of achievement. She said the Gwinnett Standard also shows in Gwinnett's pandemic response with the County, schools, businesses, and organizations pivoting to online or modified services. Hendrickson challenged the audience and viewers to uphold the Gwinnett Standard as we face future challenges.

A video of the speech will air on the County's government-access cable channels on Charter, Comcast, and AT&T U-verse. Photos may be viewed on [Flickr](#).



## Find community resources during the pandemic

After a year with COVID-19 in our community, many of us are facing difficult circumstances personally. The County has provided grant funding through the CARES Act to many local organizations that are supporting residents through this difficult time. [Click here to find links](#) with more information or to contact these organizations for assistance with food, housing and utilities, childcare, and transportation.

The Office of Economic Development also has [resources and information for businesses](#).

## Gwinnett Fire and Emergency Services celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Our Department of Fire and Emergency Services is celebrating half a century as an organized, professional fire and emergency services provider. On March 30, 1971, the small department responded to its first fire emergency. Now, 50 years later, the department serves more than 960,000 residents with 1,008 fire and emergency services personnel. Follow @GwinnettFire on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to see updates about the celebration. Join Gwinnett County in honoring the brave men and women who continue to save lives and protect property on social media using #GwinnettFire50. You can also keep an eye out for an upcoming episode of [Better Together with Commissioner Fosque](#), where I'll sit down with Fire Chief Russell Knick to discuss this special time.



## Rowen Foundation seeks input on knowledge community

In August, Gwinnett County and the state of Georgia unveiled plans for a 2,000-acre knowledge community that will include a combination of offices, research facilities, public spaces, and residences.

The Rowen Foundation is inviting the public to participate in a virtual conversation on Tuesday, March 23 from 5:30pm to 6:45pm where guests can learn about the foundation and the project and provide input as the planning begins in earnest. The conversation will include an overview from Rowen Foundation President and CEO Mason Ailstock and offer time to ask questions and opportunities for feedback. To participate, RSVP

by [clicking here](#) or by visiting [RowenLife.com/Community](http://RowenLife.com/Community).

## What's New in District 4

### COVID-19 vaccine eligibility expanding across Georgia

The group of people eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine has expanded to include educators and school staff, individuals with developmental or intellectual disabilities and their caregivers, and parents of children who have complex medical conditions. These individuals join previously eligible groups including health care personnel, residents of long-term care facilities, first responders, and adults 65 and older. Eligibility [will expand again Monday, March 15](#) to include adults 55 and older, adults with disabilities, and adults with a health condition that puts them at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19.



If you fall into one of these groups, please visit [MyVaccineGeorgia.com](https://www.myvaccinegeorgia.com) to preregister to be vaccinated at one of the state's mass vaccination sites. 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. Individuals who are not currently eligible to receive the vaccine can sign up at [My Vaccine Georgia webpage](#) to receive email updates on their eligibility.



### County launches expansion of Project RESET

Gwinnett County has received more than \$28.1 million in stimulus funds through the federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program. These funds will be used to extend Project RESET to provide direct rental and utility assistance to income-eligible individuals and households financially impacted by COVID-19. Gwinnett County, in partnership with United Way of Greater Atlanta and HomeFirst Gwinnett, will build on the success of the Project RESET program by enhancing its offerings to include financial support for past-due utility

payment assistance as well as past-due rent. Payments will be made directly to landlords and utility providers for past-due balances. Learn more about eligibility [here](#).

Applications for this program will open in late April. Households in immediate need are encouraged to find currently available community resources at [GCGA.us/COVID19Resources](https://GCGA.us/COVID19Resources).

### Tax Commissioner's office hours shift to accommodate customers

Gwinnett County tag offices have shifted their hours to accommodate customers who need in-person customer services. Afternoons are typically the busiest times at tag offices, so the hours of operation have been shifted from 8:00am – 5:00pm to 9:00am – 6:00pm, with closing time extended to 7:00pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Lawrenceville, Norcross, and Snellville branches, three geographically dispersed locations across the county. The Lawrenceville branch will keep its Tuesday through Saturday schedule, with new Saturday hours of 9:00am – 3:00pm. As a result of COVID-19 preventive safety measures that limit customer flow, tag office visitors are strongly encouraged to check wait times in advance at [GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/wait](https://GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/wait).



### Apply for a homestead exemption by April 1

The best way to reduce your property tax bill is to apply for a homestead exemption. If you own and occupy a home in Gwinnett as your primary residence as of January 1, you likely qualify. Apply at [GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Apply](https://GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Apply) by April 1, and staff will help determine your eligibility and the best exemption for your situation. You must apply by April 1 for relief this year. If you already have an exemption in place, you do not need to reapply.

### Hear how Gwinnett has adapted in the latest episode of Better Together

In the latest episode of my podcast, Better Together with Commissioner Fosque, I sat down with Gwinnett Health and Human Services Director Regina Miller for a discussion about how the County has adapted our senior services during the pandemic. Plus, hear from Muriam Nafees with Volunteer Gwinnett about ways you can give back through volunteering..

Then, stay tuned for my next episode featuring 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](https://GwinnettCounty.com) or follow the County's social media channels to learn about future events.

## Did You Know?

Up to 52 percent of Gwinnett's children aren't prepared for



kindergarten. To help address this, Community Services partnered with Gwinnett County Public Schools and Building Babies' Brains to launch B<sup>2</sup> Anywhere: A Shirley Carver Miller Learning Initiative.

B<sup>2</sup> Anywhere's mobile units travel to parks, childcare facilities, community centers, apartment complexes, places of worship, libraries, and other community locations. The mobile units provide literacy programs and fun, STEAM (Science,

Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) enrichment for children starting at birth through age eight. [Learn more about B2 Anywhere.](#)

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

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