

NEWS & EVENTS

in District 4 with
Commissioner Fosque



Follow us on social media!

August 2021



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

Renewed. Refreshed. Restored. I spent my free time this summer doing things that make me feel rejuvenated. It was first time I was able to spend three whole weeks with my 2-year-old granddaughter! The time we spent bonding was beautiful and care-free. Mindful of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we had lots of fun safely visiting playgrounds at our County's fabulous parks. We also laid on the grass in the backyard counting airplanes, birds, and ladybugs and playing other imaginary games. Oh, the joy of summer!

I also stayed busy in the community, stopping by the Live Healthy Gwinnett table at the Gwinnett Daily Post's Kid Fest, helping our Department of Water Resources recruit the best and brightest employees, and sharing an update at the Gwinnett Chamber's Public Policy Meeting, among other exciting opportunities.



We hope that our students, teachers, faculty, and supporting staff also had refreshing summers and are ready for excellence in the new academic school year. Unfortunately, as we start the school year, we are experiencing a rise in COVID-19 cases throughout Gwinnett again. In two weeks, our positivity rate has increased, and we have moved into a high transmission category with the number of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and loss of life increasing. Therefore, we must all do our part and strive to be diligent wearing our masks, social distancing, washing our hands, getting vaccinated if we can, and sneezing into our elbows if we want everyone to be healthy. Our numbers were declining a few months ago, and we can get back to that place again by working together.

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

- Appointed Cheryl Brannon to the Region 3 Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council
- Authorized a construction agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation for grant funding of the Collins Industrial Way Extension project and awarded a contract for the project funded 31 percent by the County using funds from the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax program and 69 percent by GDOT
- Authorized an agreement with the city of Lawrenceville for an intersection improvement project at State Route 124/Scenic Highway and Jackson Street and New Hope Road, with the County's portion of the funding coming from SPLOST
- Approved Ringtail Drive to be incorporated into the Gwinnett County Speed Hump Program, funded by SPLOST
- Awarded a contract for an automated speed detection school zone safety program to RedSpeed Georgia
- Accepted a \$644,000 grant from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to fund treatment for medium to high-risk juvenile offenders
- Approved a supplemental agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation for preliminary engineering of the SR 316/University Parkway at US 29/SR 8/Winder Highway project. GDOT will contribute up to an additional \$1.75 million and the County will provide an equal

amount of matching funds of \$1.75 million (funded by SPLOST) toward the preliminary engineering for this project

Leadership Tidbit: “The best way to renew thought is to go outside the human imagination” — Bernard Werber. Sometimes we stifle our lives when we don’t dream or re-imagine the possibilities. Let’s not be short-sighted. Instead, dream big, do big things for others, and renew your mind. Then, true changes will occur.

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



Board working on diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives

Earlier this summer at the inaugural Gwinnett Chamber Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Summit, Chairwoman Hendrickson introduced the Gwinnett Place Mall Redevelopment Equity Plan and an Equity Action Plan. The Gwinnett Place Mall plan will serve as the foundation for redevelopment in the area, ensuring that the effort does not exclude or displace marginalized communities. The Equity Action Plan will evaluate current County government systems, processes, and policies; it will then serve as a living document, providing actionable steps the County should take to create a more welcoming and inclusive community. Learn more about the plans [here](#).

Searching for a job in public safety? Learn about careers with the County on August 28

Gwinnett County Government is hiring! Learn about some of these opportunities at two upcoming events. First, the Department of Corrections is hiring for several Correctional Officer and Correctional Officer Senior positions! Complete the first step of the hiring process at a career fair on Saturday, August 28, from 8:00am to 2:00pm at the Comprehensive Correctional Complex located at 750 Hi Hope Road in Lawrenceville. Apply at GCGA.us/CorrectionsJobs before Thursday, August 26 to allow full participation at the career fair.



Interested in serving in the Sheriff's Office instead? The Gwinnett Sheriff's Office will hold its third virtual career expo from 11:00am to 3:00pm on Saturday, August 28 with a live feed on Facebook and Instagram. Visit GwinnettSheriffJobs.com for details.



Officials cut ribbon on homeless shelter for women and children

Last week, I joined my fellow commissioners and representatives from HomeFirst Gwinnett to cut the ribbon on the Resting Spot, a homeless shelter for women and children. Formal operations begin August 17. At full capacity, there will be 20 beds for single women and/or women who are legal guardians of children; due to COVID-19, capacity is currently limited to two families and four single adult women. Guests may stay up to three months and receive dedicated case management and future housing assistance. The shelter —

which will be the only operating homeless shelter in Gwinnett — is primarily funded by Gwinnett County. Learn more about HomeFirst Gwinnett’s services [here](#).

Police Citizens Academy accepting applications

The Gwinnett Police Department is accepting applications for the next Citizen’s Police Academy through Tuesday, August 24. The Citizens Police Academy will run from September 7 to October 26 on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6:30pm. to 8:30pm. Examples of topics covered include: crime prevention, communications (911), criminal investigations, gangs, K-9, S.W.A.T, crime scene investigations, and more.



Residents interested in joining the Citizen’s Police Academy can

obtain an application [here](#). These applications will need to be received no later than Tuesday, August 24 to be considered.



Remembering Judge Alvarado

Last year, Recorder's Court Judge Ramón Alvarado passed away from complications resulting from treatment for acute myeloid leukemia, an aggressive form of cancer. Earlier this month, his fellow judges and several members of the Board of Commissioners gathered for a ceremony honoring his life and contributions to Gwinnett. During the ceremony, we unveiled a portrait and proclamation, which will both be displayed on the walls of the Recorder's Court annex building. These items will help us remember his legacy.

What's New in District 4

Rent and utility assistance still available through Project RESET 2.0

The County is still accepting applications for Project RESET 2.0, an expansion of its emergency rental assistance program. Payments will be made directly to landlords and utility providers for past-due balances. 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](#).



Fire and Emergency Services hosts 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony

On Saturday, September 11, Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services will host the annual 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at the Fallen Heroes Memorial. This year marks two decades since the September 11 attacks took the lives of almost 3,000 people in New York, Arlington, and western Pennsylvania. Join us on the grounds of the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville at 8:30am to hear public safety leaders from around Gwinnett share their memories,

recount the impact of that day, and honor the lives of the fallen.

Apply for membership at the Gwinnett Entrepreneur Center

Gwinnett is now accepting applications for membership in the Gwinnett Entrepreneur Center, an incubator for startups and small businesses looking to grow.

The program, which provides facilities and coaching for beginner business owners, will accept between 30 and 40 Gwinnett-based members. The center is encouraging applications from minority business owners and those from financially challenged households. The center will provide instruction such as workshops, coaching, peer learning, connections to customers and capital, and market research. For more information and to apply, visit GwinnettEntrepreneurCenter.com.



Save the date for the Police Citizens Advisory Board Town Hall

In January, the Board of Commissioners established the Gwinnett County Police Citizens Advisory Board to develop and maintain a partnership with the Police Department, engaging in a collaborative problem-solving process that supports both the community and the Police Department's desire to enhance public safety. The Police Citizens Advisory Board is hosting a town hall meeting **Tuesday, September 21 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm** in the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center Auditorium.

Learn about the board, hear from Police Chief Brett West, and make your voice heard about policing in our community. What topics would you like to see addressed by the board? Please submit any questions or comments via [email](#) or through the [online form](#).

Catch up on Better Together before season 2 begins

My podcast, Better Together with Commissioner Fosque, launched last year. Over the course of 17 episodes in season one, I sat down with guests ranging from my fellow commissioners to the fire chief to Dr. Audrey Arona with our local health department.



These guests each shared great information about things going on in our community. I encourage you to check out the archive from season one before season two starts back up soon! See the full list of episodes on the [County's website](#), or listen on Spotify or your favorite podcast app.

Special Events and Happenings

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

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

Did You Know?

False alarms cost taxpayers an estimated \$1.8 billion annually nationwide. In 2020, Gwinnett Police responded to approximately 22,450 alarm calls, only 163 of which were true alarm or emergencies.

Every resident or business owner who has a residential or commercial security alarm system is required to register their security alarm system with the County. Failure to register may result in an extra \$25 fee for each false alarm. Learn more [here](#).



Marlene Fosque, District 4 Commissioner
Gwinnett County

Marlene.Fosque@GwinnettCounty.com