

NEWS & EVENTS

in District 4 with
Commissioner Fosque



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September 2021



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

Good governance is about creating opportunities and providing services that allow everyone to reach the same outcomes. True [welcoming communities](#) like Gwinnett County choose to assist our residents in achieving milestones that garner positive results, regardless of where they started.

In Gwinnett, residents diligently pursue their dreams — graduating high school, going to college, enlisting in the military, attending a trade school, becoming an entrepreneur, or any combination of these options. The County works to ensure that the sky is limitless through investment in economic development. We identify our challenges regarding access to quality housing, wages, employment, and health care, and we continue to work hard to find solutions through a variety of community partnerships. With steadfast determination, we overcome obstacles and take leaps of faith that will change the status quo and improve the quality of life for all residents.

Recently, I was speaking with a resident about how Gwinnett used to be one of the best kept secrets in the metro Atlanta area. The Gwinnett of today is resilient, innovative, and forever evolving and fluid. With growth comes challenges, including infrastructure and workforce development. In order to advance our county, we must take a leap of faith in our decisions and trust our instincts!

Now, let's take actions to shield ourselves and our loved ones against deadly illnesses, like COVID-19. It's not too late to [get vaccinated](#), and there are ample opportunities at sites across the county. Getting vaccinated is a big step toward stopping the spread of COVID-19, but remember to stay vigilant. [According to the CDC](#), a vaccinated person may still be able to spread the virus to other people, even if the vaccinated person doesn't get sick. That means when you go out in public or attend events, mask up! If you feel unwell, stay home.

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

- Approved a construction agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation for grant funding of the Sugarloaf Parkway ATMS/ITS (SR 20/Grayson Highway to SR 316/University Parkway) project. The maximum Federal contribution is \$543,776.82. The County will provide matching funds of \$135,944.20. This item is funded 80% by the Georgia Department of Transportation and 20% by the 2017 SPLOST Fund.
- Appointed Peg Murray to the Animal Control Hearing Board
- Authorized a Change Order No. 1 with the city of Buford regarding the 2017 County-managed SPLOST projects. This change order increases the contribution of both parties by \$375,000 to cover the actual cost to construct the Thompson Mill Road project funded by the 2017 SPLOST Program and the city of Buford.
- Awarded a contract for the Peachtree Industrial Boulevard at Suwanee Dam Road intersection improvement project to Archimetric Design & Construction Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$2.9 million, funded by the 2017 SPLOST program.

Leadership Tidbit: *"Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality."*— Warren Bennis. In Gwinnett, we believe we have the capacity to create and implement facets of our aspirational, sturdy, innovative vision, "Gwinnett is the preferred community where everyone thrives," through sound decision-making, engaging with our residents, and delving into fiscally responsible actions.

Always remember, ***We Are Much Better.... Working Together***

Commissioner Marlene Fosque

Happening Around Gwinnett

Residents review budget plans from departments, elected officials

County elected officials, department directors, and agency leaders presented their 2022 financial outlooks and business plans to a Citizens Review Team late last month. Chairwoman Nicole Hendrickson invited a diverse group of residents to study the needs of departments and agencies to provide services to Gwinnett residents and businesses. From there, the team will recommend funding from a resident's perspective. Recordings and on-demand video of the budget presentations can be found [here](#).



The Chairwoman's proposed 2022 budget will be available to the public when it's presented to board members in November. A public hearing will be held December 6. By county ordinance, the Board of Commissioners must adopt the annual budget during its first meeting in January.



Share your thoughts on the future of Gwinnett Place Mall

Gwinnett County purchased the Gwinnett Place Mall site to lead the redevelopment process and transform it into a unique regional destination. The County's vision for the property is one of equitable redevelopment, which ensures that the future of Gwinnett Place Mall will be one where all residents share in its growth and feel welcome and included.

Residents are invited to share their feedback on the future of the mall site. Visit ReclaimGwinnettPlaceMall.com to learn about the project, see the latest updates, and share your vision for Gwinnett Place Mall.

Gwinnett donates fresh, local produce to community partners

Since 2020, Gwinnett County has purchased 79,821 boxes of Georgia-grown produce, supplying 145 community partners with fresh, seasonal fruits and vegetables to distribute to residents facing food security challenges.

An estimated 280,000 residents have been supplied with more than 1.6 million pounds of fresh produce in addition to information to help them preserve and prepare food items. Gwinnett County continues to collaborate with emergency food providers to supply boxes in October and December. If you're part of an organization that is interested in participating in the mixed-produce box program, contact Lindsey.Jorstad@GwinnettCounty.com to learn more. If you wish to participate in the next pick-up on Thursday, October 14, please reach out by Thursday, September 23.



We're also seeking volunteers to assist in loading the produce boxes for partners on October 14. Learn more about this service opportunity and register online [here](#).



RSVP for Gwinnett Transit's Executive Ride

Attention local business employers, community developers, real estate developers, and leaders in economic development — save the date for Gwinnett County Transit's Executive Ride on **Friday, September 24** from 10:00am to 1:00pm!

GCT is teaming up with the Office of Economic Development and Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce to discuss our current state of public transit and future plans for transit growth in the county.

Learn about the many ways that public transit stimulates the economy including how public transit can be used as an incentive, decrease wear and tear on drivers' vehicles, help save money on gas, help our essential workers get to their jobs, and more. To RSVP for the executive event, please email Destiny.O'Loughlin@GwinnettCounty.com.

County remembers lives lost on September 11

On September 11, we gathered with public safety professionals and residents from around Gwinnett to remember the events of that terrible day 20 years ago and honor the heroes who sacrificed everything in order to save others.

You can watch the ceremony [here](#).



What's New in District 4



Celebrate Hispanic Latino Heritage Month in Gwinnett

Though we enjoy the Latino community's culture every day, Hispanic Latino Heritage Month, which runs from September 15 to October 15, is a time to enhance our understanding of Latin American history and embrace the vibrancy Hispanic and Latino residents bring to our county.

From **September 15 through October 15** Enjoy a display of resources and information from various organizations that support our Latino community in the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center atrium. Then, on **Tuesday, October 5**, the County will host a Heritage Night celebration at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center. [Registration is required](#) for this event, which will feature food, music, and a proclamation from the Board of Commissioners recognizing Hispanic Latino Heritage Month in Gwinnett County.

Police Citizens Advisory Board hosts town hall

The Gwinnett County Police Citizens Advisory Board is hosting a town hall meeting to help you learn about its members, hear from Police Chief J.D. McClure, and give you an opportunity to make your voice heard about your community and police department.



The town hall will be held **Tuesday, September 21** from **6:00pm to 8:00pm** in the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center Auditorium, located at 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville. What topics would you like to see addressed by the board? Please submit any questions or comments via [email](#) or through the [online form](#).



Gwinnett awards SPLOST-funded road improvement project

Last month, the Board awarded Omshive Construction LLC a project to widen Thompson Mill Road near its intersection with SR 13/Buford Highway. The project will widen Thompson Mill to four lanes with a center turn lane and includes the installation of sidewalks, curb and gutter, and related drainage improvements.

The project is funded by the County and the city of Buford. The project cost is not to exceed \$1.4 million, and the County's portion will be funded by the 2017 SPLOST program.

New episodes of Better Together coming soon

My podcast, Better Together with Commissioner Fosque, launched last year with a 17-episode season one. My guests each shared valuable information for residents and business owners in Gwinnett. 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.gwinnettcountry.com/Events) or follow the County's social media channels to learn about more upcoming events.

Small Business Marketing Tools: Branded Decals and Stickers

Sunday, September 26 from 3:30pm to 4:30pm

Use the library's resources and technologies to create marketing tools for your small business. Customers will learn to create branded decals or stickers as well as Best Practices for product and brand advertising using these tools and materials. Buford-Sugar Hill Branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library, 2100 Buford Highway Northeast, Buford.

Cultural Cuisine: The History of Tex-Mex

Monday, October 4 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm

Join library staff during Hispanic Latino Heritage Month to learn about how this distinctly Mexican-American cuisine came into existence and try a tasty new recipe! Collins Hill Branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library, 455 Camp Perrin Road Northeast, Lawrenceville.

Virtual Haunted House

Thursday, October 7 from 1:30pm to 3:00pm

Enjoy a spooktacular experience as you tour the Winchester Mystery House. Register [here](#) to receive the link.

Did You Know?

As of September 17, Gwinnett County has processed more than \$15.3 million in financial assistance for more than 1,737 households through our Project RESET 2.0 program. In total, Project RESET 2.0 has ensured that 4,154 individuals in Gwinnett County did not have to face an eviction or utility disconnection. Project RESET 2.0 is still going strong, currently approving an average of \$1.8 million per week.

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](#).



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Gwinnett County**

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