

# NEWS & EVENTS

in District 4 with  
Commissioner Fosque



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January 2022



Greetings:

Our new year, 2022, will be full of promise and positivity! We'll set optimistic goals, engage in new and exciting activities, achieve milestones in our personal lives and at work, take strides to become healthier, and just as importantly, make time to assist others who may need a little (or a lot of) help. We are ready, willing, and capable of addressing and identifying solutions to some of our toughest issues, including homelessness, affordable housing availability, employment, infrastructure, transportation, language equity, and the spread of COVID-19. As we celebrate the upcoming national Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday across United States and in Gwinnett, we must go out and serve our communities in honor and remembrance of Dr. King's legacy. If the weather keeps you indoors this weekend, there are plenty of [opportunities in the coming weeks](#).

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

- Authorized the incorporation of Shoal Creek Road into the Gwinnett County Speed Hump Program using about \$26,000 from the 2014 SPLOST program
- Approved a proposed district map to present to the Gwinnett State House and Senate Delegation
- Approved the 2022 budget (read more about the proposed district map and the budget in the Happening Around Gwinnett section below)
- Appointed Commissioner Watkins as Vice Chair of the Board of Commissioners for 2022
- Appointed Jose Marquez to join Commissioner Carden, Bert Nasuti, and me on the Gwinnett Convention and Visitors Bureau

**Leadership Tidbit:** *"Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy. Now is the time to open the doors of opportunity to all of God's children."* - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

My persona mantra is, "all any one of us needs is an opportunity." Now is the time to create opportunities in affordable housing, access to health care, and so many other avenues. Let's use our time and resources collaboratively and let's do it now — this year.

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

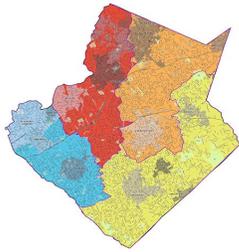
## Happening Around Gwinnett

### Commissioners approve 2022 budget

The Board of Commissioners approved a \$2.07 billion budget for 2022, up 8.1 percent from last year. The newly approved budget does not require a millage rate increase. The adopted spending plan consists of a \$1.6 billion operating budget and a \$455 million capital improvements budget, which includes funds from the County's voter-approved SPLOST program.



With more growth on the horizon, the County's services and infrastructure must keep up. Two-thirds of the operating budget is dedicated to the areas of public safety and public works. The capital budget will pay for new facilities, roads, and parks as well as maintenance



### See the County's proposed commission district map

Once every 10 years, the Georgia General Assembly modifies the district boundaries for various governing bodies, such as county boards of commissioners, so that each elected official represents roughly the same number of people. Georgia legislators grant local governments the opportunity to propose their own maps for consideration by the General Assembly.

In order to obtain public input, my fellow commissioners and I hosted a series of open houses to learn what matters most to residents when it comes to redistricting.

The County took these preferences into account while working with the General Assembly's Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment Office to draft the [proposed commission district map](#). Gwinnett State House and Senate Delegations hosted a joint committee meeting last night at GJAC to accept public comment on the map. Ultimately, the Georgia General Assembly will make the final decision on a new commission district map for Gwinnett County during the 2022 Legislative Session. [See detailed maps and learn more about the redistricting process.](#)



### Masks required in County facilities

In response to the rapidly increasing number of cases of COVID-19 in our community, Chairwoman Nicole Hendrickson signed a [Local Emergency Order](#) requiring face masks or coverings to be worn in all facilities that are owned or leased by the County.

The Local Emergency Order is effective through January 26. At that time, Chairwoman Hendrickson may reevaluate this order based on recommendations by the CDC and the state DPH. [Learn about the order and view exceptions to the new policy.](#)

### Volunteer to help with HomeFirst Gwinnett's annual Point in Time Count

HomeFirst Gwinnett will be leading this year's Point in Time Count overnight from Monday, January 24 to Tuesday, January 25. Volunteers ages 18 and up are needed to help find those that are unsheltered so that HomeFirst Gwinnett and community partners, including Gwinnett County, can offer them assistance. The Point in Time Count also helps us better understand the extent of homelessness across the county. In groups of four to six, volunteers will go out to known homeless encampments overnight. Training and safety guidelines will be provided to volunteers prior to going out to encampments. [Learn more and register to volunteer.](#)

## What's New in District 4

### COVID-19-related staffing shortages impact hauler services

Two Gwinnett County solid waste haulers, Republic Services and Waste Management, are temporarily suspending certain collection services due to a surge in COVID-19 infections among their workforces.

After pausing recycling collection completely earlier this month,

#### **Republic Services has resumed limited recycling services based on staff availability.**

Republic will notify customers on the evening prior to recycling to inform customers that recycling will be serviced the next day. **Pickup of bulky items and yard waste remains suspended** in order to prioritize trash collection while its workforce is limited. **Waste Management has paused bulky item and yard waste collection** in unincorporated Gwinnett County while its workforce is limited. Waste Management will prioritize trash and recycling services. Visit our website for the [latest information and to learn about free drop-off sites for trash, recycling, and bulky items.](#)



### Gwinnett Transit hosts coat drive

Help Gwinnett County Transit provide coats to Gwinnett communities in need. **New** coats for women, men, and children of all sizes will be accepted as donations. Donations received will be delivered to local cooperative ministries.

Coat collection will take place in [several locations around Gwinnett](#), including here in District 4 at the Buford Park and Ride on Wednesday,

January 26 from 6:00am to 8:30am.



## Get ready for the next Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

Now is a good time to begin gathering items for Gwinnett's next Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day, which will be held **Saturday, February 12** from 9:00am to 1:00pm at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds. Place items like aerosols, batteries, pesticides, and fluorescent bulbs in a container to drop them off for safe disposal. You can drop off up to five containers — about the size of a laundry basket or copy paper box — for free. Containers will not be returned. Find [more details and the full list of accepted items](#).



## Constitution Boulevard and Langley Drive closed for weekend paving

As part of a project to build a new roundabout outside the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center, sections of Constitution Boulevard and Langley Drive will be closed for paving on weekends in January. To complete this phase of the project, the contractor will close Langley Drive from Lawrenceville Highway to GJAC and Constitution Boulevard between Culver Street and Nash Street.

The work will last from 7:00am to 5:00pm each Saturday through January 29, weather permitting. Signage will be posted along the detour route to safely direct drivers around the closed area. When complete, the project will include a new roundabout at the intersection, new drainage improvements and overhead street lighting. The project is funded by the 2017 SPLOST program and expected to be completed early this year.

## Catch up on Better Together

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.

Listen to the latest episode [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.

### Kids Get Out

**Saturday, January 22 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm**

Spend an afternoon with us trying out different STEM experiments. Snacks provided. For ages 7 to 13. Fee: \$10 per person. [Register in advance](#). Rhodes Jordan Park Community Recreation Center, 100 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville.

### Entrepreneur Center Tour

**Thursday, January 27 from 2:00pm to 3:00pm**

If you're considering membership with the [Gwinnett Entrepreneur Center](#) or even if you are just interested in learning more about what the Center will offer, a great first step is a visit. Join a one-hour, staff-guided tour to learn about the benefits, purpose, and mission of the center and ask your questions. [Register in advance](#). Gwinnett Entrepreneur Center, 405 North Perry Street, Lawrenceville.

### 90s and 2000s Trivia

**Friday, February 4 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm**

Wear your favorite "blast from the past" outfit and challenge your friends to a fun evening of 90s and

2000s trivia! Enjoy retro refreshments, 90s music, and more! All ages welcome. Fee: \$6 per person. [Register](#). Bogan Park Community Recreation Center, 2723 North Bogan Road, Buford.

### **Coding Challenge: Balloon Pop Game** **Wednesday, February 9 from 5:30pm to 6:30pm**

Learn about creating sprites and random number generation while creating a game with Scratch! This free event is for kids and teens. Collins Hill Branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library, 455 Camp Perrin Road, Lawrenceville.

### **Did You Know?**

The forecast for this weekend calls for potential snow and ice late Saturday night through Sunday. Are you ready for severe weather? You can find great resources to help prepare your family at [Ready.gov/Plan](#).



Here are some quick tips:

- Follow directions from local officials about driving during snow and ice storms, and drive with caution
- Consider bringing outdoor pets inside
- Have flashlights, battery-powered lighting, and fresh batteries on hand in case the power goes out
- Generators should be used outdoors, away from windows and doors. Do not run a generator inside your garage, even if the door is open
- Stay away from downed wires and report any downed wires to authorities
- If the heat stops working, use extra layers of clothes and blankets to stay warm. If you use an emergency heat source, keep anything that can burn at least three feet away

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

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[Marlene.Fosque@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:Marlene.Fosque@GwinnettCounty.com)