

NEWS & EVENTS

in District 4 with
Commissioner Fosque



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April 2022



Greetings:

Spring has just begun, but it's shaping up to be a busy one, including several important occasions in April.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to think about how we can help children by stopping abuse before it starts. We also celebrate National Volunteer Appreciation Week April 17 to 23, honoring those who help others throughout our community. Today, April 22, we celebrate Earth Day and make a plan to ensure our actions help future generations thrive in a healthy environment. Last but not least, we celebrate National Stress Awareness Day to

recognize the stressors in our own lives and help ourselves be better friends, parents, coworkers, and neighbors by reducing our stress.

Through these celebrations and commemorations, progress continues in our vibrantly connected community, and at the end of March, I had the opportunity to help break ground on The POINTE at Ariston.



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

- Approved annual contract for emergency generator maintenance and repair for multiple departments including Water Resources, Fire and Emergency Services, and Police
- Approved Police to apply for and accept, if awarded, a \$6,000 grant by the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency to purchase supplies and equipment, conduct health evaluations/screenings, and grooming for the Explosive Detection K9s; the grant is 100 percent funded by GEMA/HS and does not require a County match
- Awarded a \$28.1 million contract for the resurfacing of County roads to E.R. Snell Contractor Inc. that will be funded 75 percent by the 2017 SPLOST program and 25 percent by the Georgia Department of Transportation
- Incorporated Lake Lanier Heights Road into the Gwinnett County Speed Hump Program for a cost of \$29,638, which will be funded by the 2017 SPLOST program

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 effects of the pandemic on our daily lives. 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***

Happening Around Gwinnett

Save the date for the 2022 Multicultural Festival

One of the County's signature events, the Multicultural Festival, is making a return this year after a hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Join us **Saturday, May 14** from 10:00am to 2:00pm at Gwinnett Place Mall on Pleasant Hill Road in Duluth. We could not be more excited to return with a celebration of the vibrant cultures and communities that make up Gwinnett. Visit Police and Fire exhibits, watch cultural performances from around the globe, meet officers, and enjoy kids' activities like games and bounce houses. For more information, call 678.442.6571. The event is open and free to everyone.



Board approves market adjustment, makes Juneteenth an official County holiday

A primary objective for the Board of Commissioners is to be the public sector employer of choice, which requires providing wages and benefits that will attract, recruit, and retain quality employees. On Tuesday, my fellow commissioners and I approved an 8 percent market adjustment for County employees, with an additional 2 percent for first responders bringing the adjustment for those employees up to 10 percent.

In the spirit of honoring the vibrant diversity of our community, we also agreed to follow the federal and state governments in making **Juneteenth** an official County holiday, commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans.

With employee well-being in mind, Gwinnett County as of April 1 now offers four weeks of paid parental leave upon the birth, adoption, or foster of a child as well as access to family planning benefits rolled out earlier this year. We are working to support our dedicated workforce, ensuring the high level of services our residents want and deserve.

Gwinnett Youth Commission application deadline extended

[Applications](#) for the Gwinnett Youth Commission 2022 to 2023 cohort are open through **Friday, April 29 at 5:00pm**. The [Gwinnett Youth Commission](#) is yearlong program, including an eight-week summer program designed to educate youth about local government, engage youth in civic affairs, and provide an opportunity for youth to affect change in their community.

Students get behind-the-scenes tours of County government departments, interact with leaders, and receive community leadership training designed to foster the next generation of leaders for Gwinnett. The next session begins June 1. Accepted students will be notified in early May.



Safely dispose of unwanted medications

Gwinnett Police is partnering with the Drug Enforcement Administration for the National Take Back Initiative on **Saturday, April 30** to provide a safe and convenient way to drop off unused and expired medications at various collection sites. Tablets, capsules, patches, and other forms of prescription drugs can be dropped off at police headquarters and its six precincts from 10:00am to 2:00pm for proper disposal. Liquids, syringes, sharps, and other drugs will not be accepted. [Find a collection site](#) near you.

Gwinnett seeking poll workers for May election

Want to be actively involved in the electoral process and give back to your community? Apply to be a poll official in the May general primaries and future elections. Our Voter Registrations and Elections Office is looking for citizens of all backgrounds, especially bilingual Spanish speakers. It's a great opportunity to

see how elections work, gain valuable work experience, and earn up to \$390 per day. Interested citizens are encouraged to apply at GwinnettCountyJobs.com.

Gwinnett busca trabajadores electorales para la segunda vuelta de Mayo

¿Quieres participar activamente en el proceso electoral y retribuir a tu comunidad? Aplica para ser un trabajador electoral en las primarias generales de Mayo y futuras elecciones. Nuestra Oficina de Inscripción de Votantes y Elecciones está buscando ciudadanos de todos los orígenes, especialmente hispanohablantes bilingües. Es una gran oportunidad para ver cómo funcionan las elecciones, obtener una valiosa experiencia laboral y ganar hasta \$390 por día. Se anima a los ciudadanos interesados a aplicar en GwinnettCountyJobs.com.



What's New in District 4



Watch my State of District 4 Town Hall

If you missed my State of District 4 town halls, you can still hear County highlights, ARPA updates, information about upcoming elections, and more by watching the [recording of the March 29 session](#).

Thanks to everyone who joined me for one of the three sessions! It was great to meet residents (including Cub Scout Pack 589, pictured here) and share information with our amazing community.

Dispose of electronics, paint, and more at our Earth Day event

Recycle your electronics, paint, tires, and paper on Saturday, April 23 from 9:00am to noon at Coolray Field, located at 2500 Buford Drive in Lawrenceville. This annual Earth Day event is brought to you by [Gwinnett Solid Waste Management](#) and [Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful](#).

Attendees must remain in their vehicles at all times. Items to be recycled should be placed in the trunk or back of vehicle where they will be removed by vendors. Materials should be placed in disposable containers or boxes as containers will not be returned. For full details, visit GCSolidWaste.com.



Visit the *For All the World to See* exhibit

The Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center is hosting the *For All the World to See* exhibit now through May 25. Through a compelling assortment of photographs, television clips, art posters, and other historical artifacts, this exhibit traces how images and media disseminated to the American public transformed the modern civil rights movement and jolted Americans out of a state of denial or complacency. Included in

the exhibit are both positive and negative imagery, including stereotypes, in media of the time. The exhibit includes multiple images of the civil rights movement and explores the vast number of potent images that influenced how Americans perceived race and the struggle for equality.

This exhibition has been made possible through NEH on the Road, a special initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities. It has been adapted and is being toured by Mid-America Arts Alliance. *For All the World to See: Visual Culture and the Struggle for Civil Rights* was organized by The Center for Art, Design, and Visual Culture, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, in partnership with the National Museum of African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this exhibition do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Officials cut ribbon on The Water Tower

County leaders cut the ribbon on [The Water Tower](#) — an innovation center that brings water utilities, research, and community together under one roof. The campus features three classrooms, four conference rooms, multiple laboratories, coworking spaces, single-tenant office rentals, a field training center, and a water treatment demonstration area. Located in Buford, The Water Tower is operated by two nonprofit organizations: The Water Tower at Gwinnett and The Water Tower Institute.





Hear from Gwinnett Young Professionals' Jasmine Billings on the latest Better Together

The latest episode of Better Together with Commissioner Fosque features Jasmine Billings, the Community Development Manager for the city of Lawrenceville and chair of the Gwinnett Young Professionals. Listen in as we discuss Jasmine's background, community involvement, Gwinnett's growing young professionals community, and more.

Listen to the latest episode [here](#) or on your favorite podcast streaming platform.

Special Events and Happenings

Visit GwinnettCountyEvents.com or follow the County's social media channels to learn about more upcoming events.

National Adopt a Shelter Pet Day

Friday, April 29 and Saturday, April 30

Celebrate National Adopt A Shelter Pet Day with us and make a difference in a shelter pet's life by giving them a forever home. All adoption fees will be waived. Bill Atkinson Animal Welfare Center, 884 Winder Highway in Lawrenceville.

Screen-Free Field Day

Saturday, May 7 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm

Get the whole family away from the screen with family fun! Lawn games, life size board games, refreshments, and more in partnership with Live Healthy Gwinnett. [Register](#). Bogan Park, 2723 North Bogan Road, Buford.

Garden Tales

Friday, May 13 from 9:30am to 10:30am

Free! Join us at Lawrenceville Community Garden at Rhodes Jordan Park for interactive storytime, sensory exploration, STEAM activities, and more! [Register](#). For kids ages 6 and under. Rhodes Jordan Park, 100 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville.

Did You Know?

Greyfield sites are described as aging or abandoned strip malls, shopping centers, historical buildings, or other underutilized buildings that can be adapted or reused. The County has made great use of existing greyfield sites for new facilities. Examples include the [Gwinnett Entrepreneur Center](#), located in the renovated and converted building that once housed the Sheltering Arms Daycare facility, and Simpsonwood Park, which is the converted former Simpsonwood Methodist Church retreat site along the Chattahoochee River.



Smart development of existing greyfield land prevents the consumption of greenfield space and preserves our natural resources.

Marlene Fosque, District 4 Commissioner
Gwinnett County

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