

NEWS & EVENTS

in District 4 with
Commissioner Fosque



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May 2022



Greetings:

In the midst of springtime celebrations, graduations, weddings, and birthdays, let's also remember to commemorate and honor Memorial Day. On this day, we pause to remember the courageous men and women who died while serving in our United States military and protecting our freedoms.

We should never forget the sacrifices soldiers and their families made in order for us to experience the liberties we have today.

Through my service on the View Point Health Board of Directors, I have become keenly aware of the mental health and behavioral health services that are sorely needed throughout our communities — especially when individuals are experiencing stress, depression, loneliness, isolation, and other issues that impact our emotional health. May is also recognized as Mental Health Awareness Month and reminds us that we must do our part to fight against the stigma of mental health illness — and that we seek support for our friends, family members, and even ourselves as the need arises.

During this busy month, I have had some great opportunities to enjoy time with our vibrant community. I honored Mental Health Month with the Sheriff's Office at the Break the Stigma event at Alexander Park. I attended the Gwinnett Multicultural Festival and County Government Open House on May 14. I attended our AAPI Heritage Month Celebration at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center on May 17. I also made it all the way out to Jekyll Island to absorb some great information at the Georgia Department of Community Affairs' Community Planning sessions last week. See some photos from the events to the right and below.



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

- Accepted a \$190,000 BOOST grant from the Georgia Recreation and Park Association, which will be used to expand the Building Brains Anywhere summer enrichment program
- Approved the purchase of a \$1.4 million ladder truck for Fire and Emergency Services, funded by

the SPLOST program

- Renewed a year-long contract for our Employee Assistance Program and work-life services for County employees
- Accepted \$3,696 in donations as part of the Betty White animal shelter challenge, which called for donations to local animal shelters in her memory; the funds will be used to support the operations of Gwinnett Animal Welfare and Enforcement
- Approved the Police Department to retire K-9 Borni to his handler for the remainder of his life
- Approved a reorganization of the Gwinnett County Juvenile Court system to establish a new administrative department and move administration of Juvenile Court to the Administrative Office of the Courts — a move celebrated by the juvenile court judges

Leadership Tidbit: *“Be open to new ideas and experiences because you’ll never know when someone else will have an interesting thought or when a new door will open to take you on the journey of your dreams.”* – **Ketanji Brown Jackson, Confirmed Supreme Court Justice**

I also believe being courageously receptive to life changes and value adds will cause us to move forward gracefully and with fluidity, regardless of our current situations.

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

Cast your ballot in the May 24 election

Election day is around the corner! Have you voted yet? On Election Day, May 24, you must vote at your assigned polling location. Locations will be open 7:00am to 7:00pm that day. The Elections Office is not a voting location on Election Day.

To check the status of your voter registration, see a sample ballot, and find your polling location, visit the Secretary of State’s [My Voter Page](#).



Emite tu voto en las elecciones del 24 de Mayo

¡El Día de las Elecciones está a la vuelta de la esquina! ¿Ya votaste? En el Día de las Elecciones, 24 de Mayo, debes votar en tu lugar de votación asignado. En ese día las ubicaciones estarán abiertas de 7:00am a 7:00pm. La Oficina de Elecciones no es un lugar de votación en el Día de las Elecciones.

Para verificar el estado de tu inscripción de votante, ver una boleta de muestra y encontrar tu lugar de votación, visita [My Voter Page](#) de la Secretaría de Estado.



Share your thoughts on sustainability in Gwinnett

As Gwinnett County leads the charge in building a more sustainable Gwinnett, we want to hear from you. Share your concerns and priorities for environmental sustainability in our community by taking [this quick survey](#). It takes about 10 minutes to complete. Your feedback is anonymous and will be used to shape the County's environmental sustainability planning efforts. Please share your thoughts with us!

More schools in Gwinnett get speed cameras

Gwinnett Police will get four additional speed detection cameras and license plate readers in Gwinnett County school zones with the renewal of an annual contract with RedSpeed Georgia, LLC, approved by commissioners Tuesday. The new equipment will be placed at Archer High School and Corley Elementary School in Lawrenceville, Collins Hill High School in Suwanee, and Lanier Middle School in Sugar Hill, bringing the number of monitored school zones for the 2022-2023 school year to seven. RedSpeed provides installation and monitoring at no cost to the County with revenue sharing.



Board to consider Smoke Free Air Ordinance

As a measure to protect and preserve the health, safety, and welfare of Gwinnett residents, the Board of Commissioners will consider a Smoke-free Air Ordinance. If adopted, the ordinance will replace Article V of Chapter 38 in the Code of Ordinances of Gwinnett County entitled Clean Indoor Air and will become effective 30 days after its adoption. The Board will also consider



an amendment to the Unified Development Ordinance during the May 24 public hearing. If amended, the ordinance will address cigar bars in the same manner as hookah lounges and will include definitions related to each. For questions or concerns regarding the [Smoke-free Air Ordinance](#) or the [amendment to the Unified Development Ordinance](#), contact Theresa Cox at Theresa.Cox@GwinnettCounty.com or Chris Hayward at Chris.Hayward@GwinnettCounty.com.

What's New in District 4

Attend the AAPI Mental Health Gathering

Gwinnett County is home to Georgia's largest Asian American and Pacific Islander community. Every year during May, we celebrate AAPI residents who enrich our dynamic community and contribute their time, talent, heritage, and culture to the vibrant fabric of Gwinnett.

Join me and my friends at ViewPoint Health, GUIDE Inc., and the Georgia Asian Times for a community gathering to discuss mental health in recognition of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and Mental Health Awareness Month.

The event will take place **Saturday, May 21** from 10:00am to noon at the Water Tower in Buford. Participate in a conversation with expert panelists about mental health among the Asian American community, and learn about available resources and programs. Please [register in advance](#).



Honor the fallen this Memorial Day

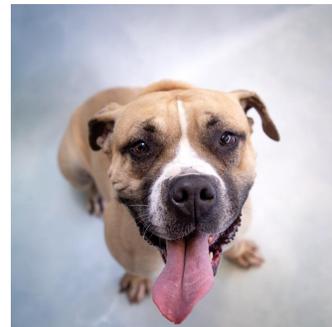
Gwinnett County will honor [four fallen military and public service heroes](#) during the 19th annual Memorial Day ceremony on Monday, May 30 at 1:00pm at the Gwinnett Fallen Heroes Memorial in Lawrenceville. The public is invited to attend the ceremony to remember EMT Logan James Wade, Police Recruit Ronald Donat, Lance Cpl. Jonathan Gierke, Water Resources employee Constantin "George" Bolof, and other fallen heroes who have sacrificed their lives to serve and protect our nation and our communities. The Memorial Day ceremony

will also stream live on the County's [Facebook page](#) @GwinnettGov.

Shelter Pets Rock!

The Bill Atkinson Animal Welfare Center is gearing up for its annual Shelter Pets Rock event Saturday, June 11 from 11:00am to 4:00pm. Adoptions are free, so this is the perfect time to [find a loving pet](#) for your family.

Enjoy an afternoon of family-friendly activities, music, vendors, and more while you find a new bandmate from our group of cool cats and hip hounds. All adoptions include microchip, spay/neuter, and vaccinations. The Bill Atkinson Animal Welfare Center is located at 884 Winder Highway in Lawrenceville.



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.

Health and Fitness Day

Wednesday, May 25 from 10:00am to 11:30am

Free! National Senior Health and Fitness Day is the celebration of senior health and wellness. Have fun participating in outdoor games, get facts on nutrition, and take home some healthy recipes. For ages 50 and up. [Register](#). Bogan Park, 2723 North Bogan Road, Buford.

Picnic Party

Friday, May 27 from noon to 2:00pm

Free! Join us for music and picnic fun for Older Americans Month. Bring your picnic lunch and enjoy a DJ and lawn games with your family. All ages are welcome. OneStop Buford, 2755 Sawnee Avenue, Buford.

Shelter Pets Rock

Saturday, June 11 from 11:00am to 4:00pm

Enjoy an afternoon of free pet adoptions, family-friendly activities, music, vendors, and more while you find a new bandmate from our group of cool cats and hip hounds. All adoptions include microchip, spay/neuter, and vaccinations. Bill Atkinson Animal Welfare Center, 884 Winder Highway in Lawrenceville.

Did You Know?

May is National Water Safety Month! As the summer months approach, many of you are gearing up to enjoy the pool, lake, river, creek, spa, or hot tub. To ensure the whole family stays safe this summer, follow these tips:

- **Supervise** – Never take your eyes off children in and around the water.
- **Use barriers** – Fences with self-closing/self-latching gates and secured doors with access alarms can prevent small children from wandering into the swimming pool or hot tub.
- **Avoid entrapments** – Suction from a pool drain is so powerful it can easily trap an unsuspecting adult or child. Use protective covers to keep swimmers safe.
- **Learn to swim** – All family members should learn how to swim. Consider teaching children how to swim at a young age, usually around age four.
- **Know how to respond** – Learn CPR and know basic water rescue skills. Post emergency numbers by the telephone.
- **Follow the rules** – Be sure to follow all posted rules. No diving in the shallow end, no pushing, and no running on the pool deck. Obey the lifeguard if one is onsite.



Read [more water safety tips](#) for the whole family.

Marlene Fosque, District 4 Commissioner
Gwinnett County

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