

NEWS & EVENTS

in District 4 with
Commissioner Fosque



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January 2020



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

Can you believe that a new decade is here? I ended 2019 touring Gwinnett Technical College; participating in the new Bay Creek Police Precinct and Alternate 911 Center Ribbon Cutting and the Lawrence Hotel and Parking Deck Groundbreaking Ceremony in Lawrenceville; attending the Gwinnett Family Violence Task Force's Meet & Greet; and learning important facts about human trafficking during Gwinnett County Police's informational meeting with others in the community. I really enjoyed Dinner & Dialogue with Chairman Nash and residents from District 4, who openly shared their insightful thoughts and concerns about Gwinnett County.

Throughout my first year as your Commissioner, I completed 42 tours and visits, five school activities, and 50 meetings with leaders in our community. I attended 46 Gwinnett events, and had the opportunity to speak to residents at 16 engagements. I also got to cut the ribbon or celebrate the grand opening of 13 new facilities! On top of that, I participated in 19 training sessions to learn more about serving our community. I was also recently honored to be chosen as the Vice Chair of the Board of Commissioners for 2020.



The Board of Commissioners as a whole took action on several important initiatives:

- Approved incorporating Padens Chase Phase 2 into the Gwinnett County Street Light Program
- Approved a memorandum of understanding with Georgia Gwinnett College regarding mutual aid
- Appointed four members to the Gwinnett County Water and Sewerage Authority, including District 4 representative Diometra Aldridge
- Approved a Developer Participation Agreement between Gwinnett County, Gwinnett County Water and Sewerage Authority, and Buford Dam Road Partners LLC, to outline the responsibilities of the parties as it pertains to the installation of a pump station for a proposed development to be located in unincorporated Gwinnett
- Approved a resolution to adopt The Exchange at Gwinnett Redevelopment Plan and create the Gwinnett County Tax Allocation District Number 6 – The Exchange at Gwinnett
- Accepted the NRPA Award for Health Equity of \$3,000 from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, which will be used to support Live Healthy Gwinnett's Harvest Gwinnett initiative
- Approved the Statewide Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement with the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency

As we move swiftly into the new year, we are full of excitement, hope, change, and promises of strong leadership for a bright, dynamic, fiscally responsible, diverse, and ever evolving Gwinnett County. Lastly, I look forward to hosting my next Community Engagement event focusing on voter registration February 6 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm in the GJAC auditorium. The event will focus on voter registration and feature a demonstration of the new voting equipment.

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



Board approves 2020 budget

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners approved Chairman Nash's proposed **\$1.84 billion budget** for fiscal year 2020 at our January 7, 2020, meeting. The budget includes a new police Situational Awareness and Crime Response Center; an alternate 911 center; two new medic units; three alternate response vehicles; improvements at Harbins Road and State Road 316; library relocations in Snellville, Norcross, and Duluth; and a Gwinnett Entrepreneur Center.

You can learn more about the approved budget at GwinnettCounty.com.

Get ready for the 2020 Census this spring

By **April 1, 2020**, Census Day, every home will have received an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. The census will provide essential data for future legislative districts, allocation of government and education resources, business strategies, and many other significant decisions.

It is critical that all Gwinnett residents participate! Parents should be sure their children are counted, and college students should be counted according to their residence as of April 1. By law, census data is confidential and can only be used for data purposes. Learn more about census security [here](#).



Serve your community this Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Begin 2020 with service by helping to empower and strengthen your community. The annual MLK Day of Service will be **Monday, January 20**. From 9:00am to noon that day, you can help beautify a local park at Cemetery Field in my district and Peachtree Ridge Park in District 1. Families, service organizations, and scout groups are welcome. Water and snacks will be provided. You can visit VolunteerGwinnett.net to learn more about these volunteer opportunities and sign up to help.

Support our democracy! Become a poll official

Gwinnett County is hiring poll officials to staff 156 polling locations plus eight advance voting locations for the 2020 election season. The Voter Registration and Elections Division is looking for citizens of all backgrounds, including bilingual poll officials.

Workers can gain valuable work experience and get paid! Currently, positions pay up to a \$120 stipend. Learn more and apply at GwinnettCountyJobs.com.



Test your home for radon during National Radon Action Month

Colorless, odorless, and tasteless, radon could be in your home at dangerous levels and you wouldn't know it. Radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer, and one-third of homes in Gwinnett County have unacceptable radon levels. Take action this January and protect yourself and your loved ones by testing your home. Purchase a Radon Test Kit from UGA Extension Gwinnett's office for \$10 or [online](#) for \$15. UGA Extension Gwinnett is located at 750 South Perry Street, Suite 400 in Lawrenceville.

What's New in District 4



Animal shelter offers new hours, free Fridays in January

Shelter and office hours at Gwinnett Animal Welfare have changed for 2020. The new schedule allows us to better care for the pets in the shelter while serving the residents of Gwinnett.

New hours of operation:

- **Adoptions:** Monday through Thursday from noon to 6:00pm; Friday and Saturday from 11:00am to 4:00pm. The shelter is closed on Sunday.
- **Administration:** Monday through Thursday from 9:30am to 6:00pm; Friday and Saturday from 9:30am to 4:00pm. The office is closed on Sunday.

- **Road Operations:** Daily from 8:00am to 10:00pm.
- **Animal Receiving:** By appointment only; please call 770.339.3200 for appointment.

To celebrate the new hours and the start of a new year, you can adopt any pet for free on Fridays this January! Visit GwinnettAnimalWelfare.com to see all the available pets you could bring home.

Take the plunge this Valentine's Day with free wedding ceremonies

Do you have plans for Valentine's Day? Ready for a big commitment? Chief Magistrate Kristina Hammer Blum and Probate Court Judge Christopher Ballar will perform Valentine's Day wedding ceremonies **February 14** from **10:00am to 4:00pm** at the historic Isaac Adair House in Lawrenceville.



Couples getting married need to bring a valid marriage license with them on February 14. You can contact Probate Court at 770.822.8350 to find out how to get your marriage license. Couples renewing their wedding vows don't need to bring a copy of their license. To make a reservation, call 770.822.8081.



Green thumb? Take your pick of plants during UGA Extension Gwinnett's plant sale

The UGA Extension Gwinnett office is offering blueberries, blackberries, raspberries, figs, apples, pomegranate, muscadines, and landscape plants in its annual sale. Order your plants by March 6 in person or by mail at the Extension Office in Lawrenceville. Pick up your prepaid order on March 19 at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds in Lawrenceville. No orders are shipped. For order forms and plant sale information, visit

GwinnettExtension.com, or call 678.377.4010 to request a form.

Transit review committee continues review through January; future meetings scheduled

The Gwinnett Transit Review will continue its thoughtful and thorough review of Gwinnett's transit needs and the options to address those needs into January. The committee will consider the [Connect Gwinnett: Transit Plan](#), analyze transit needs, various types of transit, and potential economic benefits and impacts. To allow for input from the wider Gwinnett Community, the Transit Review Committee has been holding regular meetings to discuss the County's future in transit; these meetings are open to the public. Meetings are held around the county, but many are held here in District 4 at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville. The next TRC meeting is set for January 23 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm in Conference Room C at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center. Another meeting could be scheduled for January 27 if needed. Other information, such as meeting notices, agendas, and minutes, is available [here](#).



Special Events and Happenings

Gwinnett County Government hosts many events, classes, and workshops for its residents. See these great events and more at GwinnettCountyEvents.com.

Discover Your Genealogy

January 25, 3:00pm to 5:00pm. Interested in learning how to get started researching your family tree. Join us for tips and tricks as we delve into your family roots. Not limited to Georgia descendants. All ages are welcome. Register [online](#) or call 770.822.5178. Lawrenceville Female Seminary, 455 South Perry Street, Lawrenceville.

Historical Lawrenceville Walking Tour

February 1, 8:30am to 10:00am. Let our historical interpreters take you back in time as you casually stroll through historic downtown Lawrenceville. This tour is perfect for anyone ready to discover the rich history of Gwinnett County. All ages are welcome. Preregister [online](#) or by calling 770.822.5178. Isaac Adair House, 15 South Clayton Street, Lawrenceville.

80s Trivia Fest

February 7 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Wear your Scrunchies and put on your best 80s gear and challenge your friends to a fun evening of 1980s trivia! Enjoy 80s snacks and refreshments, a photo booth, and more! All ages. \$6 per person. Preregister [online](#) or call 678.277.0850. Bogan Park Community Recreation Center, 2723 North Bogan Road, Buford.

Stuff a Bus

February 8 and 9 from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Gwinnett County Transit and the Gwinnett Coalition for Health and Human Services are partnering to bring Stuff-A-Bus, a donation drive for our Gwinnett communities in need. We hope you will join us in filling up an entire GCT bus with canned foods and toiletries. Receive a GCT stress bus as a thank you for your donation. Walmart Supercenter, 1400 Lawrenceville Highway, Lawrenceville.

Did You Know?



You don't have to wait to see if you're eligible to vote in the March 24 Presidential Preference Primary! Visit the Secretary of State's [My Voter Page](#) to check your status. Just enter your first initial, last name, county, and date of birth to see your voter information and polling place. The cutoff to register to be eligible to vote in the March 24 Election Day is **February 24**.

Marlene Fosque, District 4 Commissioner
Gwinnett County

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