



THE CURRENT

Monthly Newsletter of Forsyth County, Georgia

FEBRUARY 2016



Sawnee Mountain Preserve Phase III Open

Citizens have more than six additional miles of hiking trails to explore, as Phase III of Sawnee Mountain Preserve is now open. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on January 29 to officially open the latest phase of the park. Funded by the Parks, Recreation and Green Space Bond approved by voters in 2008 and by the SPLOST VI sales tax program, the project also includes two picnic pavilions, a playground, restrooms and additional parking.

Sawnee Mountain Preserve Phase III is located at 2505 Bettis Tribble Gap Road. To learn more about this and all county parks, visit www.forsythco.com/parks.

Next Session of Citizens' Fire Academy Starts March 1

Register today to participate in the upcoming session of the Forsyth County Fire Department Citizens' Fire Academy – a free 10-week program that offers an inside look at the county's fire and emergency services. The course is open to county residents age 25 and older. Sessions will be held from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. on 10 consecutive Tuesday evenings beginning Tuesday, March 1 and continuing through May 3, with final end-of-session activities on Saturday, May 7. The course will be held at Fire Department Headquarters at the Forsyth County Public Safety Complex, located at 3520 Settingdown Road in northern Forsyth County.



**CITIZENS'
FIRE ACADEMY**

The application packet is available on the Fire Department page on the Forsyth County website at www.forsythco.com. Space in the program is limited and the deadline to apply is February 19. For more information about the Citizens' Fire Academy, call (678) 513-5869.

Sign Up for Emergency and Weather Alerts

Stay informed during emergency and severe weather events by signing up to receive emergency and weather alerts from Forsyth County government. Residents can elect to receive the time-sensitive notifications via email, telephone call and/or text message. There is no cost for residents to sign up to receive these alerts, but phone usage or text charges may apply.

The alerts will be sent out for three severe weather situations (severe thunderstorm warnings, flash flood warnings and tornado warnings) as well as for emergency situations such as public safety issues or important water notifications from the Forsyth County Water and Sewer Department.

How to sign up:

- Online: Visit www.forsythco.com and look for the 'Emergency & Weather Alerts' icon on the home page.
- On a smartphone: Text **SWIFT911** to **99538** to download the free Swift911 app.



Commissioner's Corner

Last month, Forsyth County experienced winter weather that, thankfully, did not impact us nearly as severely as the winter weather events of 2015 did. However, we did receive some snow and freezing rain, and county personnel did an outstanding job of both preparing and responding.

Our Roads and Bridges crews treated portions of approximately 70 roads throughout the event and worked to maintain driving conditions to as near normal as possible. Our 911 Center was poised and ready to answer emergency calls and dispatch the appropriate first responders. The Fire Department and Sheriff's Office were equipped with four-wheel drive vehicles and chain saws, to help ensure they could respond to requests for service regardless of the weather conditions. Our Emergency Management Agency

coordinated the county's overall response and made sure we were prepared for whatever Mother Nature might bring our way. Numerous county departments and offices played important roles in this effort, and I would like to extend my appreciation to all of them. Thank you also to residents for heeding the warnings and staying off of the roads during the winter weather. Doing so makes a tremendous impact and helps keep everyone safe.

As always, thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

Sincerely,



R.J. (Pete) Amos, Chairman



March 1 Presidential Preference Primary Three Weeks of Advance Voting Available

Weeks One and Two

Monday-Friday, Feb. 8-12, 15-19

8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Cumming City Hall

Hampton Park Library

Midway Park Community Bldg.

Sharon Springs Park Community Bldg.

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

County Administration Bldg.

End of Week Two

Saturday, Feb. 20

7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Cumming City Hall

Hampton Park Library

Midway Park Community Bldg.

Sharon Springs Park Community Bldg.

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

County Administration Bldg.

Week Three

Monday-Friday, Feb. 22-26

7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Cumming City Hall

Hampton Park Library

Midway Park Community Bldg.

Sharon Springs Park Community Bldg.

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

County Administration Bldg.

Election Day, Tuesday, March 1

Voters must go to their designated polling place to vote. All polls are open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Please verify your designated polling place prior to heading out to vote by visiting the Voter Registrations and Elections Department on www.forsythco.com or calling (770) 781-2118 ext. 9.

An update to the Forsyth County Comprehensive Plan is scheduled for 2016



Stay tuned for details on how YOU can get involved!

Our Commissioners

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February Events

February 2

Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting

February 4

Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting/Public Hearings

February 9

Board of Commissioners
Work Session

February 18

Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting

February 23

Board of Commissioners
Work Session

February 23

Planning Commission Meeting

Meeting and event dates are subject to change.

To receive the most current information, visit forsythco.com.

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Email questions, comments or suggestions to thecurrent@forsythco.com.

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