



Matthew C Ledbetter

Tax Commissioner

Forsyth County



Spring 2016

Forsyth County Tax Office News

Dates and Tips for 2016!!

It's been three years now since the new title tax law took effect. It replaced the old annual ad valorem tax and sales tax on motor vehicles. Like in 2015, you will pay a one-time seven percent title tax when you buy a vehicle from a dealer or individual.

And whether your vehicle is in the new or old tax system, you need to renew your vehicle's registration every year before your birthday and get an emissions test, if applicable. Emissions are required for 1992-2013 year models in 2016.

Once again, the homestead exemption application deadline is April 1. The same application is used for regular, and senior exemptions. These have the potential to save you a lot of money on your tax bill, so make sure you apply if you don't already have an exemption. Contact our office for more information.

Mobile home property tax bills are mailed in January of each year and in 2016, are due April 1. Once full payment is received, a decal for the current year is issued. All mobile homes in Forsyth are required to have the current year's decal visibly posted.

If you believe you have been issued a bill in error, contact our office; however, it is your responsibility to ensure that the title has been changed into the new owner's name and that the registration form has been completed.

For more information on registering and titling a mobile home, visit our website or contact our office at 770-781-2110.

What's Inside...

Want to Order a Specialty Plate?
Page 2

2016 Emission Testing Update
Page 3

Dates of Interest *Page 4*



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DO YOU WANT TO ORDER A SPECIALTY PLATE?

Georgia offers a wide variety of specialty license plates in addition to the standard plates. Most styles have additional costs, and some have certain restrictions as to who is eligible to apply (for example, military and firefighter plates.) Check out all the available styles by visiting dor.georgia.gov then clicking on “License Plate Samples.”

Prestige plates, which are frequently referred to as “vanity” plates, are also available. These have a plain white background, and you can pick a combination of up to seven letters, numbers and spaces (six for motorcycles). Check the availability of your chosen combination at a tag office or by emailing us at pkredd@forsythco.com. For these plates there is a one-time manufacturing fee of \$35.00 in addition to the \$20.00 annual tag fee and \$35.00 annual special tag fee. Visit us at either location to order your specialty plate today!

Privacy of Motor Vehicle Information:

Q. I don't have my tag renewal notice—how do I know how much I owe?

A. You can now use the Georgia Department of Revenue's website to find your total. Go to dor.georgia.gov/motor-vehicles and click on 'Find your Tag Renewal Fee Amount'.

You will need the plate number, last name of the registered owner or the business name, the street address and zip code.

You can also email us at pkredd@forsythco.com for the total and/or for a replacement notice.

You may not realize it, but your vehicle registration information is a private record. The Driver's Privacy Protection Act allows motor vehicle records to be exempt from open records requests. This means the disclosure of personal information such as an individual's photograph, driver identification number, name, address, and phone number connected with motor vehicle records is prohibited.

When you visit one of our tag offices, this is the reason that you're asked to show your driver's license. We must be able to identify you as the vehicle's registered owner or connect you to the owner in some way (that is, identify you as a family of the owner or as an agent for a business.)

If a family member with the same last name and/or address on a valid, government issued ID comes into a tag office on your behalf, we are able to return any paperwork, related to the vehicle's registration to them; however, if neither their name or address matches, then we will have to mail the paperwork to the owner.

Another way for people to be allowed to transact business on your behalf is for them to have a copy of your driver's license and a Limited Power of Attorney form completed and notarized.

Visit dor.georgia.gov/motor-vehicle-tag-title-lien-record-information for more information.

DOES MY VEHICLE NEED TO BE TESTED IN 2016??

For 2016 registrations, all 1992 through 2013 model year gasoline-powered cars or light trucks (up to 8,500 lbs) must have a valid Georgia emission inspection.

An emission inspection must be completed prior to submitting a vehicle renewal to receive a registration decal. Visit www.cleanairforce.com for additional emission test information.

Where to Go: For a list of certified testing locations, visit www.cleanairforce.com

Inspect Early: It's best to get your vehicle inspected four to six weeks before the registration renewal date (the first vehicle owner's birthday), in the event repairs need to be made. An emission inspection is valid for 12 months or for one registration renewal by the same owner.

Providing Proof of Emission Inspection: The emission inspection state that completes the emission testing is required to electronically submit the test results to the Georgia Department of Revenue motor vehicle database. If the emission information is not in the database electronically, submit the original emission certificate to the **Forsyth County Tax Office**, along with the payment, **in person or by mail**.



Seniors! You may qualify for an emissions exemption. You must first meet the following requirements:

You are 65 years of age or older

Your vehicle is 10 model years old or older

You drive your vehicle less than 5,000 miles per year

You are the primary registered owner of the vehicle (your name is listed first)

Applications for the waiver must be completed before the tag can be renewed. You must apply every year for this exemption.

You may complete the application at either Forsyth County tag office or Clean Air Force Emissions Waiver Center. Visit CleanAirForce.com or call 1-800-449-2471 for applications or location of the nearest waiver center.

Office Information:

Forsyth County Tax
Commissioner's Office
(Property and Auto)

Main location:
1092 Tribble Gap Road
Cumming, GA 30040
Monday—Friday
8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
770-781-2110
770-781-2112

Sharon Springs Branch
Office
(Property and Auto)
1950 Sharon Road
Cumming, GA 30041
Monday—Friday
8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
770-781-2110
770-781-2112



JUST BOUGHT A HOME OR PROPERTY?

Purchased Property:

First of all, congratulations on your purchase!

If you have specific questions regarding property tax or regular/Senior homestead exemptions, please feel free to contact the Tax Commissioner's Office at 770-781-2112.

Checklist for new property owners:

Make sure that your property taxes are paid in full by the due date. Even if taxes are prorated at closing, it is wise to ensure they have been paid.

If you have an escrow account, make sure that your mortgage company has paid the taxes. You may find this information by accessing your property tax information on our website.
www.forsythco.com

If this is your primary residence, apply for your Homestead Exemption. You must own and occupy your property on January 1 of the tax year to receive the exemption. Deadline for applying is April 1.

We do not send tax bills to mortgage companies. If your property taxes are in an escrow account, your property tax information will be made available to your mortgage company; however, it is ultimately the responsibility of the property owner to ensure taxes are paid. If you have questions about whether your mortgage company will be paying your taxes, contact the mortgage company directly, especially if your mortgage company has recently changed.