

The Current

Forsyth County's Monthly Newsletter

June 2007

Use Your Water Quota Wisely: Tips to help your lawn stay green during outdoor watering restrictions

When you are allowed only a few hours weekly for outdoor watering, knowing how much water to give your lawn is important.

University of Georgia experts say homeowners normally water too much and too often. This creates an environment for disease.

An inch of water a week is the rule of thumb. Most sprinkler systems apply about one-fourth inch of water per hour.

Sprinklers can vary. They all have different nozzles, so you should test your system's output.

To test your sprinkler, place open-top containers of the same size, such as margarine tubs, randomly on your lawn. After an hour, measure the amount of water in each container.

The difference in the amounts will give you an estimate of water distribution and application rate. When you have an inch of water in your containers, you know you have applied enough water.

Homeowners should also keep in mind how fast water is absorbed by soil. Apply enough water to soak soil six to eight inches deep. If your system applies water too fast, the water will run off and you will be watering just the curb and sidewalk.

To make the most of your watering efforts, water between sundown and sunrise.

When it comes to turf, watering more often than recommended will actually hurt it. Light, frequent irrigation produces shallow and weak root systems. A shallow root system prevents efficient use of plant nutrients and water in soil.

Mowing your lawn regularly is important, too, especially during dry spells. Mow often enough that no more than one-third of leaf tissue is removed during a cutting.

Raise your mowing height. This helps grass maintain a deep root system, which helps it find more water.

(Source: Gil Landry, University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Georgia Center for Urban Agriculture)

Visit www.forsythco.com for current outdoor water restriction information.

Commissioner's Corner

On May 24, I was honored to speak on behalf of the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners at the second annual State of the Community event. Hosted by the Cumming-Forsyth County Chamber of Commerce and the Council for Quality Growth, the event was an opportunity to share news about this amazing county in which we live. It was with great pride that I had the opportunity to present information about some of the exciting progress taking place in Forsyth County.

Highlights from the past year include transportation projects, which continue to be a focus for our county government. The opening of Windermere Parkway Extension provides a new connection from State Route 20 to State Route 141 and the opening of a new section of Ronald Reagan Boulevard from State Route 141 to Majors Road provides improved access to Lanier Technical College.

The new Public Safety Center opened last August, providing Forsyth County with, for the first time, a centralized Emergency Operations Center from which to operate in times of emergency. Two new Sheriff's Office precincts are under construction as is new Fire Station 2.

Our parks and recreation program continues to flourish, as does our library system and Senior Center, which underwent renovations last year. Everywhere you turn in Forsyth County, something wonderful is happening.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and to bring you the latest county information in this month's issue of *The Current*.

Sincerely,



Charles Laughinghouse, Chairman



Construction of New Sheriff's Office South Precinct Underway

Officials broke ground for the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office new South Precinct May 10. The new facility will be located on the campus of South Forsyth High School and is slated for completion in early 2008. The project is being made possible thanks to the cooperative efforts of the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners and the Forsyth County Board of Education.



Know Your Codes: A Message from Forsyth County Code Enforcement

Forsyth County Code Enforcement is dedicated to enhancing quality of life issues by providing effective, consistent enforcement of county codes and the Unified Development Code. The Code Enforcement Department strives to achieve compliance with these codes by:

- encouraging voluntary compliance of the codes
- educating citizens and businesses through neighborhood and civic meetings, personal contact and the media
- patrolling the county on a regular basis for violations
- being responsive to citizen complaints and assisting the public
- coordinating services with other county departments, as well as local, state and federal agencies
- issuing court summons to Magistrate Court when necessary

Proper enforcement of county codes is important to all citizens, as it protects the safety and the welfare of Forsyth County residents, maintains and increases property values and helps reduce crime.

Forsyth County Code Enforcement encourages citizens to actively participate in keeping the community a safe and clean place to live, work and play by knowing and obeying established codes and by reporting possible violations.

The department offers informational programs about code enforcement related issues to citizens, civic groups, schools, businesses, homeowner associations and other interested parties. The programs are presented by a code enforcement officer and are generally thirty to forty-five minutes in length.

To receive additional information or to schedule a code enforcement officer to meet with your group, please call 678.513.5853.

For Taxes and Tags, Visit Sharon Springs Tax Commissioner's Branch

The next time you need to pay property taxes or buy tags, visit the Tax Commissioner's branch at Sharon Springs Park in the southern part of the county. Ample parking, short wait times and professional, courteous employees help make for a pleasant experience.

Directions: From GA 400, take Exit 13 and travel east on Peachtree Parkway. Turn left onto Sharon Road. The office is on the right at 1950 Sharon Road, just inside the park. If traveling south on Ronald Reagan Boulevard, turn left onto Old Atlanta Road. Then turn right onto Sharon Road, and the park will be on the left. For additional information, please call 770.781.2110.

Mountain Bike Trail Offers Opportunity for Adventure

Did you know that Forsyth County's Central Park features a cross-country mountain bike trail for riders at beginner, intermediate and advanced skill levels? The mountain bike trail covers 3.5 miles, opens at daylight and closes at 11 p.m. There is also a segregated freeriding area, which requires a permit to ride in and has dirt jumps and technical wooden obstacles for riders seeking more advanced challenges. Challenges are progressive, and riders may choose their challenges based on skill level and ability. Riders must wear a helmet on all portions of the trail, as well as in the freeride area. Trails are closed during rain and for 24 hours following rain. For rainout information, please call 770.886.2851 and dial "4" at the voice prompt.

Construction on the mountain bike trail began in March 2004, and the trail opened one year later. The trail was built by volunteers, saving the county in excess of \$125,000. The Southern Off-Road Bike Association (SORBA) and their local chapter, the Roswell Alpharetta Mountain Biking Organization (RAMBO), along with the county's Probationer's Office and community service workers, worked 10 Saturdays over 12 months to build the trail.

Central Park is located at 2300 Keith Bridge Road in Cumming. The trailhead and an information kiosk with a map are located at the end of the main drive of the park. For additional information, please call 770.781.2215.

Our Commissioners

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