



Outdoor Water Restrictions: Procedures during periods of water shortage and drought (Forsyth County Code 18-184)

The arrival of spring brings one of the most active seasons for outdoor water use. As in the past, Forsyth County government is seeking cooperation from citizens and businesses in adhering to the outdoor water use restrictions currently in place. It is also imperative that residents and businesses stay informed of any updates or changes to the water use restriction guidelines imposed by either the State of Georgia or Forsyth County.

The current outdoor water use restrictions are in place to ensure that every resident and company has the water supply to meet their needs for cooking, bathing and business requirements; and that an adequate water supply is available for public safety needs. Water restrictions are in effect for the common good of every Forsyth County resident and business. The county has the following restrictions:



No outdoor watering is permitted on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Even-numbered addresses (those ending with the number 0, 2, 4, 6, 8 or no number) and golf course fairways may water on Wednesday and Saturdays, within the hours of midnight to 10:00 a.m.

Odd-numbered addresses (those ending with the number 1, 3, 5, 7 or 9) may water on Tuesdays and Sundays, within the hours of midnight to 10:00 a.m.

Use of hydrants for any purpose other than firefighting, public health, safety or flushing is prohibited.

Washing hard surfaces such as streets, gutters, sidewalks and driveways, except when necessary for public health and safety, is prohibited.

While the Code Enforcement Department's focus is always compliance over citation, failure to follow the outdoor water use restrictions will result in the following enforcement actions.

- First offense: written warning
- Second offense: a citation to appear in Magistrate Court with fines up to \$1,000.00 and/or 60 days in jail
- Third and subsequent offense: same as second offense, plus possible disconnection of water service

Please note that written warnings previously issued remain in effect. This means that if an individual is found to be violating

the restrictions and has received a written notice for such in the past, a citation will be issued.

For a complete list of exemptions to the restrictions, please visit www.forsythco.com. Below are some exemptions:

- Individual wells
- Personal food gardens
- Water dependant businesses such as car washes and retail garden centers
- Newly installed landscaping and newly laid sod within the first thirty (30) days, but only within the allowed hours (proof of installation date may be requested)

The community's cooperation with these water restrictions is appreciated. Restrictions are subject to change. For the most current information about restrictions, please call the Water and Sewer Department at 770.781.2160 or visit www.forsythco.com.

Commissioner's Corner

The Parks and Recreation Department is one of many reasons why Forsyth County attracts new residents and remains a desired location for those who already call Forsyth County home. From Sawnee Mountain Preserve to the new Joint Venture Park, the facilities and programs we offer are second to none. While we recognize this excellence, we must also look to the future to consider the growth that our county is undergoing and consider how our parks and recreation system will prepare for this growth.

At the Board of Commissioners' March 27 work session, we had the opportunity to discuss the Comprehensive System-Wide Recreation Master Plan. The Master Plan is an update to the recreation plan originally prepared for Forsyth County in 1998. It is essentially a road map for the years 2007-2011, and it includes guidelines for upgrading existing facilities and developing new facilities and programs. The county currently has 711 acres of park land, estimated by consultants to be about 150 acres shy of where we need to be. However, future growth in the county could leave us as much as 500 acres short in as little as five years.

While funding mechanisms such as SPLOST and impact fees exist to help support the needed expansions, they fall short of meeting the goals laid out in the Master Plan. The Board of Commissioners unanimously approved a feasibility study to be conducted by the Trust for Public Lands. This study will explore the financial and legal options available to the county and will provide a starting point for securing the funds necessary to fulfill the Master Plan.

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

Sincerely,

Brian Tam, District 2

Preparedness is Key in Times of Emergency

The age-old adage of “always be prepared” is sound advice, especially when it comes to emergency and disaster situations, during which preparedness can prove key to survival and safety. Georgia is susceptible to a variety of disasters, both natural and man made. The more you do today to prepare yourself, your family and your business to cope with such events, the better you will be able to weather the storm.

The Forsyth County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) stresses the importance of being prepared for all types of emergency situations. One area of particular note is severe weather.

“March through October is the main time of year during which our region experiences severe weather,” EMA Director and Fire Chief Danny Bowman said. “The Forsyth County EMA monitors the weather closely via our new Emergency Operations Center. By doing so, we are better prepared and able to help mitigate the effects of severe weather.”

Citizens can take important steps of their own toward emergency preparedness, such as developing a family disaster plan and assembling a disaster supply kit. Residents may learn more about different types of disasters and how to prepare for them by picking up a copy of the “Do you know what to do When Disaster Strikes?” brochure. The brochures are available in the Public Safety Complex at 3520 Settingdown Road and in the County Administration Building at 110 E. Main Street. For more information about emergency preparedness, please call the EMA office at 770.205.5674.

These items are recommended for inclusion in a disaster supply kit:

- flashlight and extra batteries
- three-day supply of water (one gallon per person per day)
- three-day supply of non-perishable food
- wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- weather radio
- local maps
- first aid kit
- prescription medicines
- cleansing agent

For more information, visit the EMA department page at www.forsythco.com.

DISASTER SUPPLY KIT



Promote the Vote – Become a Poll Worker

On Election Day, the Forsyth County Elections Office employs anywhere between 100 and 300 residents as poll workers. The Elections Office is always taking applications from persons interested in filling these positions. Remember, poll workers are compensated for their time. Several informational meetings will be held in June, so call Betsy Brown today at 770.781.2118 (extension 3).

Qualifications for a poll worker:

- Must be a resident of Forsyth County
- Must be judicious, intelligent and upright citizen
- Must be 16 years of age or over
- Must be able to read, write and speak the English language
- Must not have been convicted of a felony (unless voting rights have been restored)
- Must attend training classes and work on Election Day

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