



**FORSYTHCOUNTY**  
Department of Communications  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FORSYTH COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT  
COMMEMORATES 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

*Board of Commissioners recognize milestone during November 1 meeting*

**FORSYTHCOUNTY, Georgia** – At their November 1 meeting, the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners presented a Resolution commemorating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Forsyth County Fire Department. The presentation of the Resolution occurred exactly 40 years to the date of the creation of the Fire Department.

“We thank Fire Chief Danny Bowman and all department personnel for their protection of the citizens of Forsyth County and for their service to the community,” Forsyth County Commission Chairman Jim Boff read from the Resolution.



Now an established Fire Department, the Forsyth County Fire Department began on November 1, 1972 as the Forsyth County Fire Protection Committee, created in response to a residential fire claiming the life of a county resident. From that committee, the county’s volunteer Fire Department was incorporated in 1973. The volunteer Fire Department served the county until 1998, when the time came to establish a modern Fire Department and to hire 30 full-time, career firefighters.

Since those first 30 full-time firefighters joined Forsyth County, the Fire Department has continued to grow. The department today consists of 129 full-time field suppression personnel responding out of 12 staffed fire stations, in addition to shift workers and a variety of administrative and support personnel. In 2011, the department responded to more than 11,500 incidents, ranging from structure fires and motor vehicle accidents to medical calls and gas leaks.

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In addition to daily fire suppression functions, the department reviews building plans, performs inspections and conducts fire investigations. The department also features a number of special operations units whose expertise focuses on handling extreme conditions and circumstances. These specialized units are deployed during emergency incidents such as trench collapses, brush fires and river rescues.

Throughout its 40 years, three individuals have held the title of fire chief. In 1972, John C. Moore became the department's first leader; Norris Bennett was named fire chief in 1990; and current Fire Chief Danny Bowman was named chief of department in 2003.

The Fire Department's primary funding source is the Fire Department millage rate. Additionally, funds from both Impact Fees and the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) program provide the department funding for special projects and capital purchases.

Fire Department projects currently underway include new Fire Station 4, which is located in west Forsyth County and expected to officially open this month, and new Fire Station 3 in northwest Forsyth County, construction of which began in late September.

"We continue to honor the legacy of those who came before us by serving this community with excellence and integrity," Fire Chief Danny Bowman said. "We take great pride in what we do. It is an honor and privilege to serve Forsyth County."

The Forsyth County Fire Department is active in the community and offers a variety of programs including child safety seat inspections, school visits, the Vial of Life initiative and more. To learn more, call Fire Department Headquarters at 770.781.2180.

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