



**FORSYTHCOUNTY**  
Department of Communications  
Release 000595  
September 27, 2012

Contact: Jodi B. Gardner  
Director of Communications  
770.886.2802  
JBGardner@forsythco.com

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FORSYTH COUNTY BREAKS GROUND**  
**FOR NEW FIRE STATION 3**

*Station is in northwest Forsyth County*

**FORSYTHCOUNTY, Georgia** – Forsyth County officials, staff and guests gathered Wednesday, September 26 to break ground for the county’s new Fire Station 3. New Fire Station 3 will be located on Wallace Tatum Road in the Matt area of northwest Forsyth County. It will replace current Fire Station 3 which is located nearby on Doctor Bramblett Road. The new station will be designed for 24-hour occupancy, which the existing station, constructed by volunteers in 1981, was not.

Construction of the new two-bay, approximately 7,300-square foot facility is funded by the current Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax Program, SPLOST VI, and Impact Fees. It is slated for completion in early summer 2013.

During the groundbreaking ceremony, County Commission Chairman Jim Boff thanked those who made the funding for the new station a reality.

“Important progress in our community - such as this new fire station - would not be possible without the support of our citizens,” Chairman Boff said. “I would like to extend a sincere thank you to the residents of Forsyth County for the SPLOST funding that is helping to fund construction of this new fire station. And we also thank the development community for the Impact Fee funding that is helping to make this new station possible.”

District 4 Commissioner Patrick B. Bell, the district commissioner for the Matt area, also addressed the audience during the event.

-more-

“I am extremely proud of the future fire station that will one day stand on this ground, and proud that it will be able to serve the residents of the Matt area and northwest Forsyth County for many years to come,” Commissioner Bell said. “I extend my thanks and appreciation to our firefighters and every member of the Fire Department; to Chief Bowman; to our citizens; and to everyone who is involved in this project.”

The new fire station is being constructed on property Forsyth County acquired in December 2008 for the future Matt Community Park. Approximately 185 acres of property was acquired by the county to serve as a northwest community park and green space, through the Parks, Recreation and Green Space Bond approved by voters in 2008. The conceptual master plan for Matt Community Park reflects 60 acres for use as an active park and 120 acres for use as green space. The master plan concept also includes the potential location of a library, senior center or other county facilities on the property. In November 2011, the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners approved for the Fire Department to purchase three acres of the property to serve as the location of new Fire Station 3, with the purchase funds for those acres going back into the Parks, Recreation and Green Space Bond account. The timeline for development of the park will depend upon future availability of funding.

### **About the Forsyth County Fire Department**



The Forsyth County Fire Department began in 1972 as the Forsyth County Fire Protection Committee, created in response to a residential fire claiming the life of a county resident. In 1973, a volunteer fire department was incorporated, led by Fire Chief John C. “Jake” Moore. The International Association of Fire Chiefs published in 1983 that Forsyth County, Georgia, with 336 volunteer firefighters on the roles, was the nation’s largest volunteer fire department. That volunteer department served the county until 1998, when the time came for a modern fire department and the hiring of 30 full-time, professional firefighters.

Since those first 30 professional firefighters joined the county, the Fire Department has grown tremendously and today includes 126 full-time field suppression firefighter positions in addition to shift workers and a variety of support and administrative personnel. This fall, the department commemorates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

###