



THE CURRENT

Monthly Newsletter of Forsyth County, Georgia

DECEMBER 2015

State Route 400 Widening Project is Underway

If you have driven on SR 400 recently, you might have noticed construction equipment. That is because the project to widen SR 400 from McFarland Parkway to SR 369 has begun. The work was kicked off November 4 with a groundbreaking ceremony. Crews have already begun repairing the damaged concrete driving surface of the existing lanes, and construction of the additional lanes – one in each direction along the 13.4-mile stretch – is expected to commence in the spring. The project is slated to be completed in mid-2018.

The project is being made possible through a partnership between Forsyth County and the Georgia Department of Transportation. GDOT has contributed \$13 million to this work and is managing the project. The remainder of the project funding – approximately \$34.5 million – comes from the Forsyth County Transportation Bond, approved by 63 percent of Forsyth County voters in November 2014.

Please note: For the safety of construction crews and motorists, GDOT has reduced the speed limit on SR 400 in the construction area to 55 miles per hour.



Enhanced County Website Now Available

Visitors to the Forsyth County government website – www.forsythco.com – will notice a new look, along with a variety of enhancements designed to improve their access to county information online. The new site features a search function, something not previously available on the county's site, as well as improvements to the site's layout and navigation.



Check it out today at www.forsythco.com!

Probate Court Has Moved

The Probate Court of Forsyth County recently moved into its new offices in the Forsyth County Courthouse Annex. The address is 100 West Courthouse Square, Suite 008. Probate Court is located on the lower level of the Courthouse Annex, accessible via the rear entrance to the building. The Probate Court telephone number is (770) 781-2140.

Christmas Tree Recycling

When the holidays have passed, Keep Forsyth County Beautiful invites residents to recycle their Christmas trees at locations throughout the county. The annual "Bring One for the Chipper" Christmas tree recycling event will take place from December 26 through January 30.

For details:
www.KeepForsythCountyBeautiful.org
or (770) 205-4573

Commissioner's Corner

With Christmas season quickly approaching, everyone looks for the perfect gift we can give someone, a gift that will make the best impression and will be remembered above all others. I have just the gift – you can become a mentor.

Through the county's Social Services Committee and Mentor Me North Georgia, we have recently funded the Reach2 scholarship program that is patterned after Governor Deal's Reach scholarship program. Mentor Me is in need of 13 mentors for the academically accelerated eighth grade students who have been selected for the Reach2 scholarship. In addition to these students, there is already a waiting list of 30 kids at Mentor Me, and each school has children in need of mentors as well.

It is proven that kids with mentors are less likely to get on drugs and more likely to graduate from high school. If you really want to make a difference in this world and give back to the community, contact Mentor Me at (678) 341-8028 or Forsyth County Schools Student Support Services at (770) 887-2461 and brighten the life of a child by becoming a mentor. I promise you that you'll be the one to find the greatest blessing along the way. I know, because I did when I found my mentee a couple of months ago. I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas!

Sincerely,



Cindy Jones Mills, District 4 Commissioner

Stay Safe this Holiday Season

Help keep you and your family safe with these tips from the Forsyth County Fire Department. Find even more tips online at www.forsythco.com.

- Follow manufacturers' recommendations regarding where and how to use any heating devices.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable space heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room.
- Do not place your Christmas tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat can dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks.
- Be sure that Christmas trees and other holiday decorations do not block exits.
- Select toys to suit the age, abilities, skills and interest level of the intended child. Toys too advanced may pose safety hazards for younger children.
- In case of emergency, dial 911.



Give the Gift of Meals to Homebound Seniors

Help brighten the holiday season for Forsyth County homebound senior citizens by participating in the 2015 Home-Delivered Meals Holiday Gift Certificate Program. Meals purchased with a holiday gift certificate through Forsyth County Senior Services will be delivered through the Meals on Wheels program.

Those interested in participating may choose to provide meals for a day, week, month or year. The cost is \$3.68 for one day, \$18.40 for one week, \$80.96 for one month, and \$956.80 for the entire year. Gifts may be tax-deductible.

To learn more, call Forsyth County Senior Services at (770) 781-2178.

Holiday Closures

Forsyth County government offices will be closed Thursday, December 24 and Friday, December 25, in observance of Christmas and Friday, January 1, in observance of New Year's Day. This includes county offices, the animal shelter, Senior Services locations, three recreation centers and three recycling convenience centers.

Our Commissioners

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December Events

December 1

Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting

December 3

Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting/Public Hearings

December 8

Board of Commissioners Work Session

December 17

Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting

December 22

Board of Commissioners Work Session

December 24 – 25

County Government Offices
Closed for Christmas

Meeting and event dates are subject to change.

To receive the most current information,
visit www.forsythco.com.

Toy Collection

The Fire Department's 13th annual Aerial's House toy collection continues through December 11. New, unwrapped toys can be dropped off at fire stations and other locations.

Visit www.forsythco.com for details.

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Email questions, comments or suggestions to
thecurrent@forsythco.com.

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