

Forest Park City Times

CALENDAR

- 2/17- Council Meeting
7 pm
- 3/3- Council Meeting
7 pm
- 3/17- Council Meeting
7 pm
- 4/5—Community Wide
Yard Sale, 9am—2pm at
Starr Park (Rain Date
April 12th)
- 4/12—Easter Egg Hunt/
Safety Fest, 11 am—2
pm , Starr Park-This
event is for kids ages 10
and under.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

SAGGY PANTS— WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Few of us want to see the undergarments of people in public. Nevertheless, many wear their pants so low that we are all exposed to a view that we would rather avoid. To address the issue, a few years ago, Forest Park passed an ordinance criminalizing the “appearance in a public place wearing pants or skirts more than three (3) inches below the top of the hips (i.e., the crest of the ileum) exposing the skin or undergarments.” Offenders were subject to a fine of \$200.00 or community service, and failure to pay the fine or complete the service would subject them to incarceration for contempt of court.

There were issues with enforcement, e.g., how does a police officer know precisely where the “crest of the ileum” begins? The law was also underinclusive, e.g., it did not prohibit wearing skorts or kilts (I know, who wears a kilt?) too low, and,

amazingly, it did not prohibit wearing only underwear with no pants at all! The law was ripe for a constitutional challenge, which would have exposed our taxpayers to legal fees and, perhaps, damages, and it did not appear to have a real effect on the number of people who were still showing of their fruit of loom. The law was also viewed by many to be targeted toward only particular groups. Because of the risks to taxpayers and its ineffectiveness, it was time for the law to go, and the City Council repealed it recently.

That we no longer have a law prohibiting saggy pants does not mean that there is nothing that can be done to address inappropriate dress. Our businesses are entirely free to set their own standards for dress, and if a patron asked by a proprietor to pull up his pants or leave refuses to do so, he becomes a trespasser and may be subject to removal or arrest as any other trespasser. Moreover, state law prohibits public indecency, which includes “a lewd exposure of the sexual organs” and “a

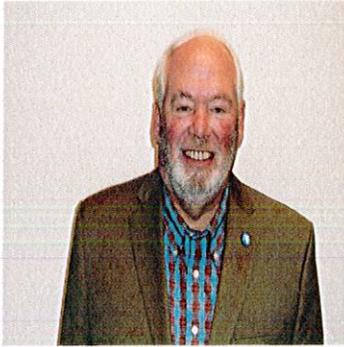


lewd appearance in a state of partial or complete nudity.” If you witness public indecency, you may call the police, and if you operate a business, know that you are free to set your own standards for dress.

Whether it is a matter of word choice, volume, dress or any other personal choices, we should all be mindful that not everyone has the same preferences, and where possible, we should seek to live peaceably among one another. Sometimes that means dressing differently than we would prefer for the sake of not offending others. Sometimes that means not being so easily offended.

Mayor David Lockhart

CITY MANAGER CORNER



Frank Brandon
City Manager

Greetings fellow citizens of Forest Park,

It is my sincere pleasure to serve and work with you in order to build an even better city. Also, I wish to extend my deep appreciation to the 280 plus employees of our city. You should know that these professionals serve the city and it's citizens with integrity, dedication, and loyalty. Together we are making great strides in the improvement and renovation of city facilities for the citizens such as the Forest Park Recreation Center and the Main Street Community Center (formerly the library). In addition, the acquisition of Fort Gillem is just above the horizon. Furthermore, there will be continual upgrade of city streets, as well as new sidewalks and curbs. For your information, Phase II of the Main Street improvement corridor has begun and should be completed within the next eighteen months.

We have partnered with Lake City and Morrow to create opportunity zones, which will give our businesses a significant tax break and hopefully will bring other business outlets to Forest Park. In closing, these six months have been a positive challenge for me, but I have indeed been blessed with an outstanding Mayor and Council, employees who give 110%, and wonderful citizens who care.

**Roses Express
Grand Opening**



The Grand Opening for Roses Express located at 4851 Jonesboro Road will be held Friday, February 28, 2014 at 8:00 am. The first 300-500 people will receive a free gift.

THE GILLEM LOGISTICS CENTER

The Forest Park/Fort Gillem Implementation Local Redevelopment Authority, the City of Forest Park and the Forest Park Development Partners, LLC, look forward to the Army transferring approximately 770 acres of the former Fort Gillem (The Gillem Logistics Center) during the First Quarter of 2014. The transfer will be to a newly-created Forest Park Urban Redevelopment Agency (Agency) that will be recognized by the Army

and Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment as the "local redevelopment authority" for all future transactions and land transfers. Simultaneous with the Army's initial transfer of property, the Agency anticipates selling in excess of 320 acres to a national distribution company, Project Jasper. This deal, along with other possible land sales to Projects Falcon and Blue-

bird in early 2014, will enable the City of Forest Park to begin to put the former Army base into productive reuse, to realize between 1000-1500 new, skilled jobs, and to significantly increase its tax base.

**PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING
DEPARTMENT LAUNCH NEW ONLINE - CITIZEN
REQUEST PROGRAM**

The Planning, Building and Zoning Department has launched a new online citizen request software program that allows citizens to lodge complaints and concerns with the code enforcement and animal control divisions 24/7. The program was implemented in effort to accommodate citizens who are unable to communicate with city staff during normal business hours and to allow citizens to anonymously lodge complaints and receive responses to their concerns via email or phone call upon request. The citizen request software is accessible through the homepage of the city's website by selecting the "Code Enforcement Complaint" banner.

FOREST PARK POLICE OFFICER SAVES MAN'S LIFE

The heroic deeds of local police officers often go unnoticed; however, this was one time their deeds prevailed. Sergeant Christopher Simmons made local and national headlines when he saved the life of Keith Haynes by performing CPR. The entire incident was captured on video by the business security cameras and later aired nationally for the world to see.

Linda Tyler said she was rushing her asthmatic son, Keith, to the hospital when he suddenly stopped breathing. She pulled into the closest gas station, the BP station on the corner of Forest Pkwy and Old Dixie Rd. Sergeant Simmons just happened to be inside getting a cup of coffee when Linda rushed in and called for his help.

Sergeant Simmons quickly brought Keith into the gas station, laid him on the floor and began performing CPR. Within in a few minutes Sergeant Simmons was able to get a pulse and Keith was transported to the Southern Regional Hospital by ambulance. "I thank him so much from the bottom of my heart for helping him," Tyler said. "I really do. I really do." Officer Simmons was equally touched by the experience. "It's an incredible feeling I can't describe to be able to help someone, to save a human life. Absolutely humbling."

Sergeant Simmons has been recognized by several organizations and formally received the "Life Saving Award" at the police department's graduation ceremony of the Citizen Police Academy.

ROUTINE TRAFFIC STOP LEADS TO ARREST OF MURDER SUSPECT

Forest Park Police Officers arrested one of Indiana's most wanted fugitives on October 7th, 2013. While on routine patrol at 1:23 AM, Officer Joseph Carrico made traffic stop on a vehicle that simply failed to dim its headlights. While speaking with the driver Officer Carrico noticed the front seat passenger acting very suspicious.

The passenger told the officers his name was Zoe Lyons, but when his name was checked in the state database, it showed the name didn't exist. Police determined his name was Isaiah Barker, and he was wanted out of Indiana for murder and feticide of his girlfriend Cynthia Funches and her unborn child.

While initiating his arrest, Officers asked Isaiah step out of the car and continued to question him about his name. Isaiah then assaulted Sergeant Christopher Simmons and attempted to flee. A nine minute foot pursuit with Isaiah attempting to steal a patrol vehicle during the struggle finally ended with his arrest. In November he was convicted on Obstruction of a Police Officer, Assault on a Police Officer, and attempted Motor Vehicle Theft charges. He was sentenced to serve 3 years in Georgia. After his sentence in Georgia is complete, he will be extradited to Indiana to stand trial.

15 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

On December 15th, 2013 the Forest Park Police Department began its 4th CALEA reaccreditation. CALEA stands for the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement and is the leading authority on police standards and certification. Reaccreditation occurs every 3 years and this is Forest Park's 15th year in the program after beginning the accreditation process in 1998. The goal of the CALEA process is to strengthen crime prevention and control capabilities; formalize essential management procedures; establish fair and non-discriminatory personnel practices; improve service delivery; solidify interagency cooperation and coordination; and increase community and staff confidence in the agency.

The reaccreditation process consists of CALEA assessors visiting the agency for a week, and checks the compliance of the agency in over 400 individual categories of professional standards. These standards address six major law enforcement areas: roles, responsibilities, and relationships with other agencies; organization, management, and administration; personnel administration; law enforcement operations, operational support, and traffic law enforcement; detainee and court-related services; and auxiliary and technical services.

“Part I Crime Down 64% Since Inception of Community Policing”

As defined by the Uniform Crime Reports, Part I Crimes consist of the following crimes; Homicide, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny, Auto Theft, and Arson. Since the inception of a department wide community oriented policing initiative to combat crime and build partnerships in the community, Part I Crimes have dropped 64%, (from 3,065 crimes in 1996 to 1,103 crimes in 2013).

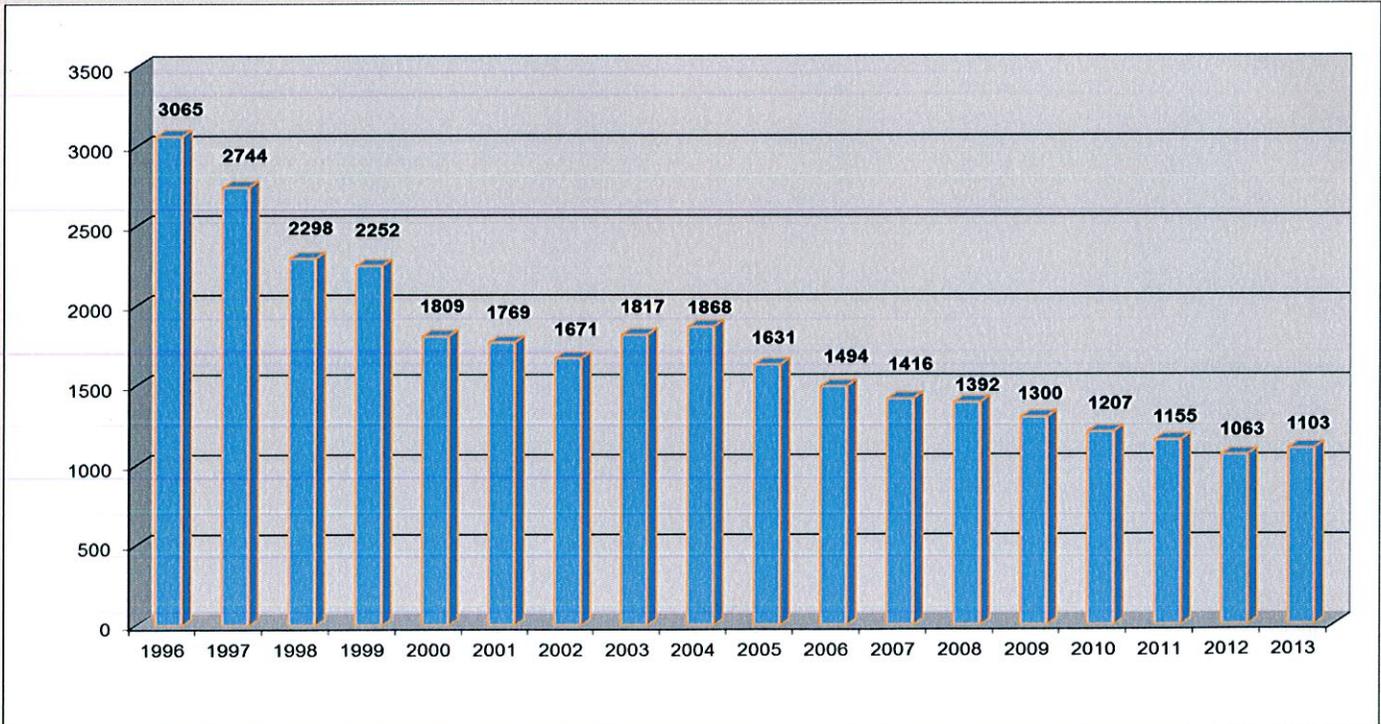
Community Policing is a philosophy based on the notion that community interaction and support helps control crime, with community members helping identify suspects and bring problems to the attention of police. The focus of community policing is to simply respond to crime, but preventing crime and solving community problems. The philosophy rests on the belief that the police and the community work together as partners to solve the challenges law enforcement face in today’s society.

To further strengthen these partnerships the police department offers the following outreach programs and community services in addition to participating in various community wide events such as the Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Autumn in the Park, Swing into Spring, etc.

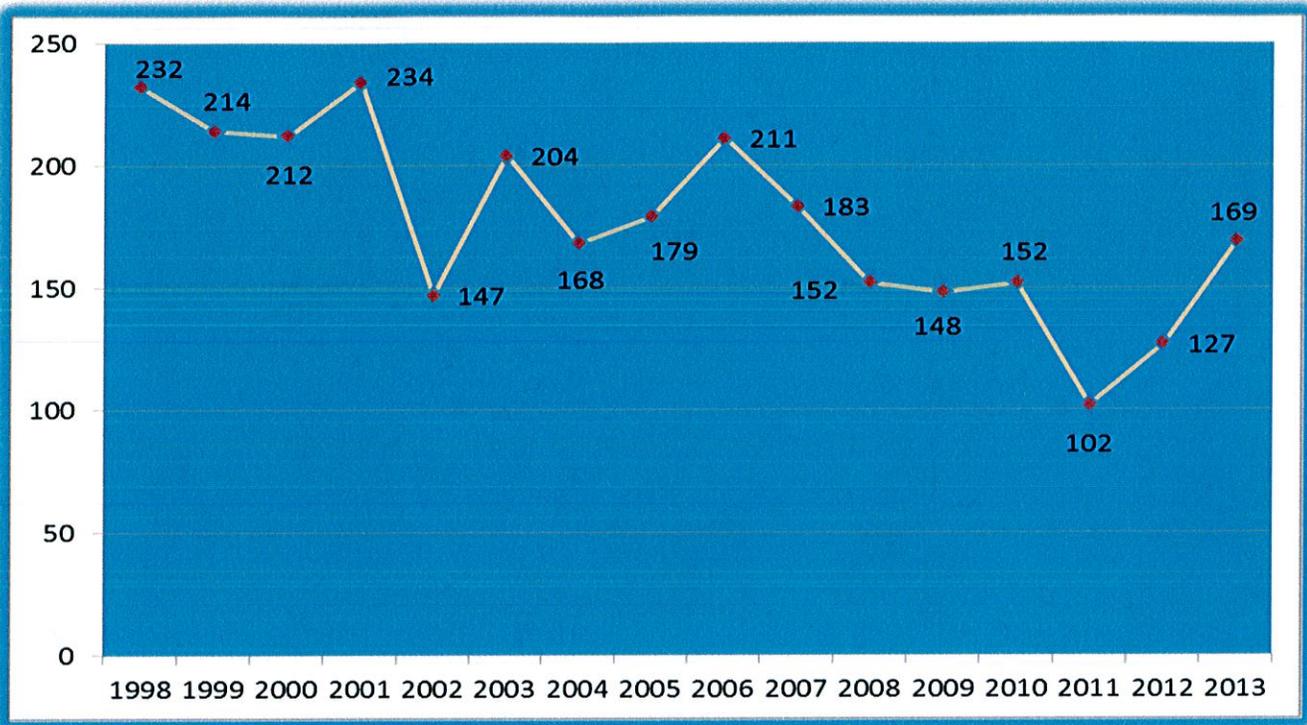
- Neighborhood Watch (Informative meeting focusing on recent criminal activity that is held on the 1st Tuesday and 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 P.M. in the municipal courtroom).
- National Night out (Annual cookout encouraging the public to attend and see the showcasing of public safety equipment from police and fire).
- TRIAD (Informative meeting dealing with crime and quality of life issues affecting the elderly. The meeting is held the 3rd Friday of each month at 10 A.M. at the Senior Center).
- Hispanic Citizen Police Academy and Citizen Police Academy (eight week class, meeting one night per week, focusing on providing the student with a glimpse into the capabilities and limitations of a police officer. Classes start in the Spring and Fall).
- Home and Business Security Inspections
- Business Safety Seminars

If you would like additional information regarding one of these programs please contact Officer Flanigan at 404-366-7280 ext. 202.

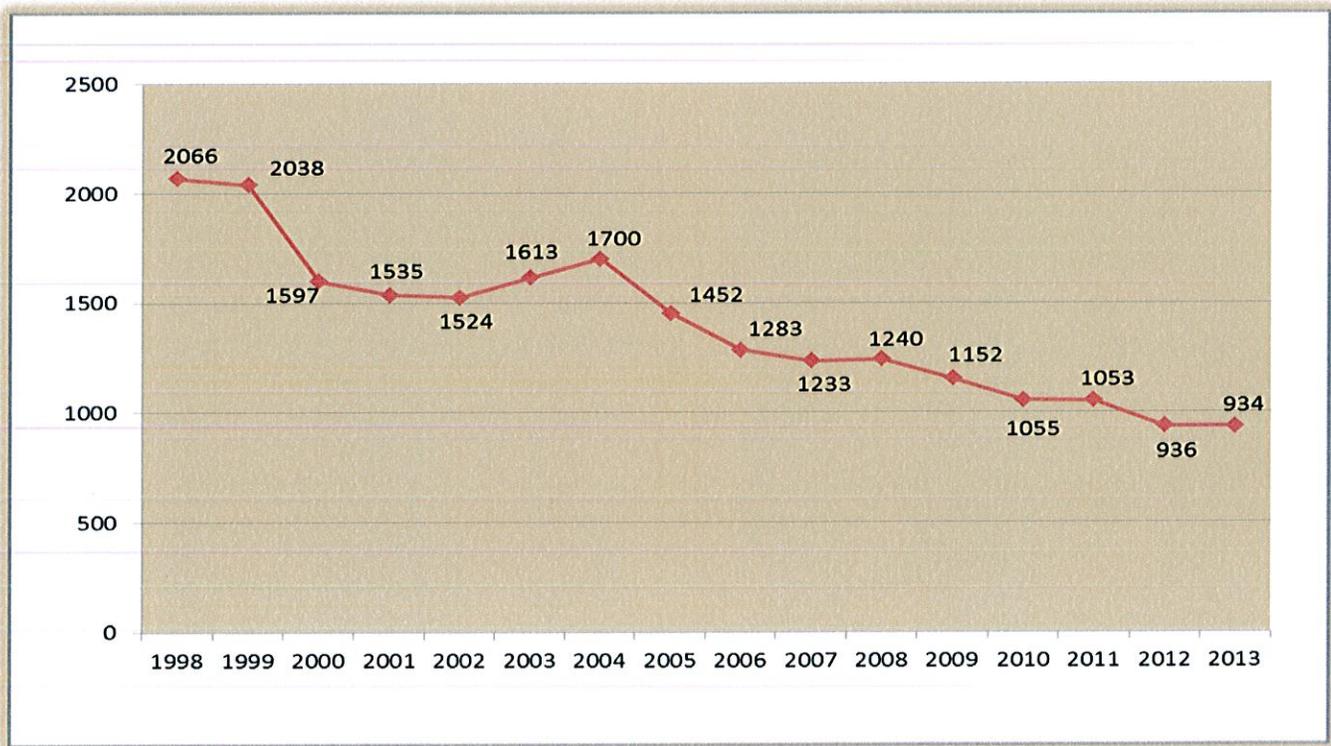
Total Part I Crime - 1996 to Present



Part I Violent Crime - 1998 to Present



Part I Property Crime - 1998 to Present



YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS



Mayor: David Lockhart
Term: (ends December 2017)
dlockhart@forestparkga.org



Ward 1: Tommy Smith
Term: (ends December 2017)
ward1fp@gmail.com



Ward 2: Dabouze Antoine
Term: (ends December 2017)
dantoine@forestparkga.org



Ward 3: Maudie McCord (Mayor Pro-tem)
Term: (ends December 2015)
mmccord@forestparkga.org



Ward 4: Latresa Akins
Term: (ends December 2015)
lakins@forestparkga.org



Ward 5: Linda Lord
Term: (ends December 2015)
llord@forestparkga.org