

Forest Park City Times

F O R T G I L L E M — N E W O P P O R T U N I T I E S



Mayor David Lockhart and Andy Napoli, Assistant for BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure), Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Housing and Partnerships signing the Proclamations for Gillem Logistics Center. Pictured (left to right) City Manager Frank Brandon, Mayor David Lockhart and Andy Napoli representing the Army.

The City of Forest Park and the U.S. Department of Defense held a joint ceremony Friday, May 2, 2014 at the former First Army Headquarters at Fort Gillem to commemorate the pending transfer of property.

Fort Gillem was included in the 2005 BRAC. The majority of the property will be transferred to the city . However, the Army remains on 257 acres of the property known as the Gillem Enclave, which includes the Forensic Lab and the Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS).

The transfer of the property will take place over two phases . The first phase will transfer 770 acres to the city and the second phase will transfer more than 398 acres. Mayor Lockhart said the acquisition of Fort Gillem will be a boost for economic development in Forest Park and Clayton County.

In addition to city officials, the ceremony was attended by County Chairman Jeff Turner, Commissioners Sonna Singleton and Shana Rooks, Senators Gail Davenport and Valencia Seay, State Representatives Valencia Stovall, Sandra Scott , Keisha Waites, and Demetrius Douglas, Clayton County Chamber of Commerce President Yulonda Beauford, District Attorney Tracy Graham Lawson and County Economic Development Director Grant Wainscott.

MAYOR'S CORNER

NEIGHBORLINESS



Despite what my children say, I am not old. Accordingly, the times that I remember were not so long ago. In just the last few decades, things certainly have changed—some for the better, and some for the worse. I grew up watching reruns of “Leave it to Beaver” and “The Andy Griffith Show.” I realize that the depictions of life in those shows was a bit exaggerated to show the best in people, but the truth is that we have lost a large part of our sense of community.

I regularly receive complaints from residents about their neighbors—complaints about their grass being too high, the junk piled around their yard, their dogs (and kids) running loose, etc. Not so long ago, we would not have faced so many of these complaints. There was a time when neighbors not only knew one another, but when they also understood that they were all part of a community and that their actions affected everyone.

These days, it's often difficult to know how best to address problems caused by a neighbor. After all, though it might be our “neighbors” causing the problem, it's likely that they are strangers. There are many possible reasons why your neighbors' grass is too high: perhaps the home is occupied by a disabled person whose helping family member failed to come this week; perhaps their mower is broken and they chose to buy groceries instead of a used, broken mower at a yard sale, or perhaps they are just bad neighbors who don't care how their irresponsible behavior affects you. The same is true with loose dogs and kids—maybe mom doesn't earn enough at both of her jobs to hire a sitter or to build a fence for her pets—or maybe, she just doesn't care about the people next door who don't even know her name.

Perhaps you would rather talk to your neighbor instead of calling the police, but will your neighbor become physically violent if you ask him to address a problem? If you don't know him, how are you to know how he will respond? And if he seems to be nothing but trouble, why would you ever want to get to know him? I know that when my neighbors were partying by shooting a gun in the air at 2 a.m., I didn't try to reason with them.

Sometimes knowing the right thing to do is difficult, but let's make the effort to do the best we can. If you are a “bad” neighbor—stop being bad! You live here, too, and making your neighbors' lives miserable doesn't do you any good, either. Keep in mind that your actions affect others—for good or bad. If you can't manage everything by yourself (everyone has a rough patch at least sometimes), seek out help from friends or family. If you have a problem neighbor, try to find whether you've got a rotten apple next door or if your neighbor just needs help. If they just need help, then for goodness' sake, help!

Knowing each other by becoming involved in our community—whether that is through a local church, the Citizen's Police Academy, CERT, the Senior Center, or any of the other various programs we offer in Forest Park—will help us see our neighbors as humans. We may not “owe” our neighbors anything, but what we do certainly affects each other. We might disagree about who was included when Jesus said to love your “neighbor,” but I'm pretty sure the word at least includes your neighbor next door.

Mayor David Lockhart

CITY OF FOREST PARK SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM



Seated (left to right) Angela Redding, Management Analyst, Sharon Smith, Recreation and Leisure Services Deputy Director (sitting in for Elaine Corley, Director of Recreation and Leisure Services) and Christine Terrell, Director of Support Services. Standing (left to right) Jeff Eady, Director of Public Works, Michael Blandenburg, Finance Director, Al Wiggins, Planning, Building & Zoning Director, Frank Brandon, City Manager, Chief of Police Dwayne Hobbs, Fire/EMS Chief Eddie Buckholts and Fred Bryant, Executive Director of the Urban Redevelopment Agency and the Development Authority of Forest Park.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 19	Council Meeting, 7pm
May 21	Planning Commission Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
May 26	Memorial Day, City Offices Closed
May 27	Starr Park Pool opens
June 2	Council Meeting, 7 pm
June 13	Movie Night in the Park, 8 pm
June 16	Council Meeting, 7 pm
July 4	Independence Day, City Offices Closed
July 7	Council Meeting, 7 pm
July 11	Movie Night in the Park, 8 pm

SPLOST

(Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax)

On May 20, Voters of Clayton County will have the opportunity to continue a 1-cent sales tax. SPLOST projects for the City of Forest Park include streetscape improvements, sidewalks, new equipment, landscaping, building construction, park improvements and street resurfacing. The City of Forest Park SPLOST projects total \$19,384,548.00.

VOTE your opinion May 20



Department of Fire and Emergency Services Emergency Management Agency (EMA)

Weather Disaster Preparedness

The spring months are upon us, and this tends to be the most active time for severe thunderstorms and tornadoes. These storms can develop quickly and with little or no warning, and it is critical to know what to do and how to prepare in advance, before disaster strikes.

Are you prepared for the next disaster...?

As a Forest Park resident, the following early warning systems are provided for your safety:

- **Emergency Notification Early Warning Systems (EWS)**

When community emergencies such as severe weather, tornadoes or other hazardous conditions present an imminent threat to the area, local officials provide information to the public through the media.

In some circumstances other warning methods, such as sirens or telephone calls, are used.

The amount of time that you have to prepare, seek shelter, or evacuate will depend on the hazard, and notification process.

The earlier the notification/warning, the better the chances to prepare for, mitigate, or avoid a disaster.

Forest Park Emergency Management Agency maintains six (6) severe weather early warning sirens, to warn citizens and business owners of approaching dangerous weather conditions. These sirens are strategically placed at various locations within the City.

Also, it is important to know that a siren "silent" test is conducted daily. A monthly "full-activation" test is conducted at noon the first Wednesday of each month unless weather conditions are non-favorable.

- **Code Red Weather Warning (Telephone Notification)**

Several years ago, Forest Park upgraded its Code Red Emergency Notification System to include the "Code Red Weather Warning" alert option.

City of Forest Park residents and business owners can also sign up for Code Red Weather Warnings while signing up for Code Red.

The Code Red Weather Warning will automatically call citizens when severe weather (tornado, flash flood and severe thunderstorm) warnings are issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) for your immediate area.

The Code Red Weather Warning calls "only" when warnings are issued and "only" if your area is in the path of the storm.

The Code Red Weather Warning will deliver a pre-recorded alert message 24 hours a day, 365 days a year providing residents with the needed time to prepare.

This becomes even more critical if a tornado comes through the area during the night, when television, radio broadcast and sirens are ineffective.

Please go to the City of Forest Park website, forestparkga.org and click on [Learn More](#) under the Code Red icon.

- **Emergency Shelters**

The Forest Park EMA has nine (9) pre-designated shelters including educational and faith-based facilities included in its local Emergency Operations Plan. These facilities are designed to be used on an “as-needed” basis depending on the incident and impacted area(s). During a state of emergency EMA officials will communicate where sheltering is set up VIA public media, Code Red and other means as required.

- **Preparation for a 72 hour self-sufficiency period following a disaster**

In certain rare events such as ice storms, power outages, floods, etc. emergency response personnel may not be able to reach you or your loved ones location for an extended period of time.

Imagine 72 hours with no food, no water, no electricity and “No Help”.

We would like to encourage you to take a few simple steps to help ensure the safety of yourself and your loved ones during such a time.

Please take a few minutes to visit the website: Ready Georgia at www.ready.ga.gov.

Ready Georgia is a statewide campaign supported by GEMA/Homeland Security that motivates Georgians to take action to prepare for a disaster.

By informing residents about the need for stockpiling necessary supplies and developing a communication plan, the campaign seeks to prepare citizens to maintain self-sufficiency for at least 72 hours following an emergency. The Ready Georgia website provides a toolkit that will allow you to customize a Disaster Preparedness Ready Kit and Communications Plan for you and your loved ones.

Remember...To get ready for any disaster follow these simple steps:

- **Prepare** - by assembling a Ready Kit for you, your home and your car.
- Make a **Plan** – for responding to threat and re-connect.
- **Stay Informed** - about your risk for a range of emergencies and make sure you have a way to stay connected during a disaster.

OUTDOOR BURNING

Forest Park residents may obtain a permit for outdoor burning between October 1st and April 30th. Outdoor burning is banned in the metro Atlanta area between May 1st and September 30th. Residents are allowed to burn leaves, small limbs and pine straw only. Large limbs, tree stumps, construction materials and garbage may not be burned. No burning shall be conducted without having first obtained a permit from the Fire Department. There is no cost for a residential burning permit. Permits are good only for one day only and may be revoked for cause. The Forest Park Fire Marshal’s Office also issues permits for construction site pit burns. The cost for permits is \$25.00 per air curtain destructor. If you have any questions concerning outdoor burning, call the Fire Department.

New Businesses

February 2014

Raped Cleaners
763 Main Street

Food Mart
868 Forest Parkway

Roses Express
4851 Jonesboro Road

Enough Entertainment
4527 Jonesboro Road

March 2014

Pro Unique Creations & Designs
4140 Jonesboro Road, Booth 620

Furniture & Mattress Retailer
5418 Old Dixie Highway

Sounds N Effect Electronics
5596 Old Dixie Highway

Choice Tire, LLC
15 Royal Drive

Young Store
4140 Jonesboro Road, Suite 500A

April 2014

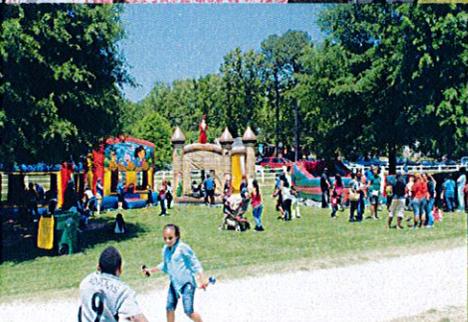
J's DUI & Defensive Driving School, LLC
532-E Forest Parkway

Clear Medical Concepts, Inc.
526 Forest Parkway, Suite K

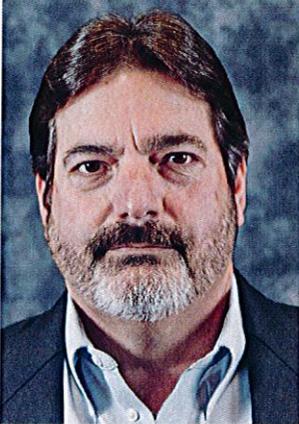
Fashion and Uniforms Clothing
4140 Jonesboro Road, Booth 705

STACIENAILZ4U2C
4140 Jonesboro Road, Booth 1105

SWING INTO SPRING FESTIVAL



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Jeff Eady
Director of Public Works

Jeff was hired in December 2013 as the Public Works Director. Jeff is responsible for the day to day operation of the department which encompasses administration, fleet maintenance, sanitation, streets, parks, and building maintenance.

Having been a public servant since 1982, Jeff is a State and Nationally Certified Public Works Director and is an active member of the American Public Works Association where he has been a member since 1988. Other memberships include the International City Managers Association and Georgia City County Managers Association.

Jeff holds a technical degree in HVAC, an AS in Technology, BA in Business and is a graduate of Georgia Institute of Technology's Dupree College of Management in Mid-Management program. He also received Green Belt and Black Belt Certification in Six Sigma from Kaplan University.

Jeff has a son and daughter, both graduates of the University of West Georgia. Kell majored in Business Administration, and currently serves as a youth minister in Stockbridge, Georgia. Daughter Kaci majored in Education and is a teacher in Carrollton, Georgia.

His hobbies include weight lifting, water sports, and motorcycles.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Facility Management

Recreation Building - The facelift for the recreation center is back in full swing. While the weather has not cooperated well during the early months of the year, work continues on this project which includes an updated and modern building entrance, wide and inviting sidewalks, street furniture and a new digital sign to keep the public informed of all the great happenings in our City. We expect the project to be complete by early summer. If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Eady in our Public Works Department for information. Jeff can be reached at 404-608-2310.

Community Center Renovation – Once the Forest Park Branch of the Clayton County Library system, the building will now be home to the Forest Park Community Center. The building will house classrooms, gathering space, and the Forest Park Museum will be housed in the upper level of the building. The Public Works Department is leading the project and design, cost estimating, and budget determinations for the project is underway.

Community Building Lake Dr. – Formerly housed in two (2) separate buildings the Public Works Department will be removing the old structures and constructing a new 50 ft. x 100 ft. building to accommodate recreational activities and to serve the citizens of Forest Park as usable space. Demolition of the current buildings is set for April with construction to begin immediately following clean up. Importantly, the project is being funded by SPLOST proceeds; therefore, no money will come from the City General Fund budget.

CDBG (Glenn Drive, Sharon Street and School Place) Sidewalk Project – The project consists of constructing handicap accessible sidewalks, curb and gutter and drainage improvements. The project is in the final stage of construction.

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

City Employees Recognition

The following employees were recognized for their 5 year increments of service during calendar year 2013.

5 years

Tiffanie Byrd, Finance
Jennifer Harris, Police
Christopher Simmons, Police
Samuel Pratt, Fire
Micah Cauble, Fire

William Mathis, Fire
Roy Turner, Planning, Building & Zoning
David Hartwell, Fire

20 Years

Robert Cotrell, Police
Mark Harris, Police
Matthew Jackson, Fire
Troy Sanders, Fire

10 years

Walter Thomas, Fleet
Jason Brown, Fire
Bryan Hawkins, Police
Alyssa Zackery, Police
Sidney Jackson, Police
Adrian Ellis, Police

Lisa Hemphill, Public Works
Albert Ross, Public Works
Vincent Hicks, Public Works
Lowell Loggins, Fire
Ian Hogan, Fire

25 Years

Rusty Still, Public Works

35 Years

Vanessa Douglas, Recreation
& Leisure

15 years

Debra Brandenburg, Finance
Diane Lewis, Support Services
Tonya Thomas, Fleet
Mayra Ambris, Police
Derrell Whitehead, Police

Michelle Lemacks, Fire
Major Oliver, Fire
Mario Ibarra, Public Works
Cindy Pierce, Planning, Building & Zoning

40 years

Dwayne Hobbs, Police
William Ross, Public Works

50 Years

Elaine Corley, Recreation &
Leisure