

Cumming Greek Festival returns this weekend. **3A**



We know that you need accurate and up-to-date information about the effects of the coronavirus in the state and our region.

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4,378 confirmed cases, **48** deaths documented in Forsyth County

FORSYTH COUNTY NEWS

Midweek Edition - October 14-15, 2020

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FORSYTH COUNTY COMMISSION

Board passes new rules for food trucks, temporary businesses

By **Sabrina Kerns**
skerns@forsythnews.com

Forsyth County Commissioners voted unanimously to approve new rules for food trucks and other temporary businesses during the board's latest meeting.

The new rules are for food trucks, mobile vendors, seasonal sales and temporary vending and mostly focus on where in the county these businesses are allowed to set up for business.

Discussions about the rules regarding food trucks and other temporary businesses first came up to commissioners within the past year as they spoke with businesses like JJ's Flower Truck and NoFo Brewing Co.

"It feels like we're finally starting from scratch on different business models and figuring out how we can make things a lot easier for the customer and be a little less archaic and restrictive in the way that we

See **RULES | 2A**

ELECTION 2020



Photo courtesy Kristen Morrissey

Voters wait in line as polls opened on Monday, Oct. 12 at Sharon Springs Park.

Advance voting begins

Advance voting for the Nov. 3 election officially kicked off on Monday in Forsyth County and will continue from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for three weeks through Friday, Oct. 30, including Saturday, Oct. 17 and 24.

Vice Chairwoman of the Forsyth County Board of Education, Kristin Morrissey, provided Forsyth County News with a picture of voters standing in line as polls opened on Monday at Sharon Springs Park. Morrissey said local students were also volunteering at the voting sites by handing out personal protective equipment, or PPE.

"The School System appreciates working with County Elections Staff to create an opportunity for our students be part of this year's critical election process," she said. "Their volunteer hours will help keep poll workers and the community a little safer and keep costs down for the county."

The Forsyth County government has also provided a new online resource where voters can see how quickly lines are moving at advance voting sites, which can be found at <https://bit.ly/34NYoB1>

Those who want to avoid crowds can use a new absentee ballot drop box at the voter registrations and elections office.

"The box is open 24 hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week, and the awning area where the box is located is very well lit with camera surveillance," said Director of Forsyth County Voter Registrations and Elections Mandi Smith in a news release.

For more information, go to the voter registrations and elections department's website at bit.ly/33RlgQI or call 770-781-2118, Ext. 9.

— Kelly Whitmire

See profiles on candidates, Pages 3-6A

Visit [ForsythNews.com](https://forsythnews.com) for profiles on candidates and more information on the upcoming election

Publix opens in northwest Forsyth



For the Forsyth County News

The new Publix grocery store located at the intersection of Matt Highway (Hwy. 369) and Bannister Road opened to the public Saturday.

Mills: 'I am grateful it recognized the heritage of the Matt community'

By **Kelly Whitmire**
kwhitmire@forsythnews.com

Grocery shopping just got a little easier for residents living in the Matt Community in north Forsyth.

On Saturday, the new Publix grocery store located at the intersection of Matt Highway (Hwy. 369) and Bannister Road opened to the public.

Forsyth County District 4 Commissioner Cindy Jones Mills, who represents the area, said the store would be a big change for the area while following in the footsteps of other grocery



Photo courtesy Forsyth County Chamber

Ineal Milford, 94, got a special delivery of her favorite food, Publix fried chicken, on Saturday morning from Forsyth County Commissioner Cindy Jones Mills and officials with the Forsyth County Chamber of Commerce and Publix to celebrate the opening of the new store.

See **PUBLIX | 2A**

After weekend rains and runoff, this is what's in Lake Lanier

By **Megan Reed**
FCN regional staff

Heavy rains the weekend of Oct. 10-11 have filled Lake Lanier with sediment, runoff and debris, which can make boating conditions dangerous and have adverse environmental effects, according to Chattahoochee Riverkeeper.

According to the National Weather Service, the area got about 4.78 inches of rain late Saturday and early Sunday as the remnants

of Hurricane Delta moved over the region. The lake stood at 1,074.01 as of 1:15 p.m. Oct. 12, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Dale Caldwell, headwaters director for Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, said the weekend storms brought more debris to the Thompson Bridge area than he has ever seen with previous severe weather. The area near Thompson Bridge on Ga. 60 is the meeting point of Wahoo

See **RAINS | 7A**



Debris floats in Lake Lanier near Thompson Bridge following the remnants of Hurricane Delta dumping at least 3-4 inches of rain overnight Oct. 10-11.

Photo courtesy Dale Caldwell with Chattahoochee Riverkeeper



Hose uncoupling ceremony held for new Fire Station 11. **8A**



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FORSYTH FORECAST

The four-day outlook

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			
Sunny 77 / 56	Partly cloudy 77 / 49	Partly cloudy 62 / 40	Sunny 63 / 43

Lake Lanier level

1070.70 feet (as of 10 a.m. Oct. 9)
Full pool is 1,071 feet

Oct. 10: 1071.30 feet
Oct. 11: 1073.40 feet
Oct. 12: 1073.40 feet

Commissioners honor work of Family Promise and volunteers



For the Forsyth County News

Each year, an estimated 4.2 million youth and young adults experience homelessness. Of that total, 700,000 are unaccompanied minors, meaning they are not part of a family or accompanied by a parent or guardian, according to research from the University of Chicago. During the Oct. 8 meeting, the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners proclaimed the week of Oct. 18-25, as Family Promise Week in Forsyth County. The commission also urged all residents to recognize and raise awareness of the issue of children and families who are homeless in their communities. The board recognized the work of Family Promise of Forsyth County Inc. and their 500-plus volunteers that empower local families in making the transition from homelessness to sustainable independence even through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cumming Greek Festival returns this weekend

From staff reports

The Cumming Greek Festival will look a little different this year. Starting Friday, Oct. 16 and going through Sunday, Oct. 18, patrons will be able to pre-order Greek food and drinks from the menu and pick everything up when you arrive. Visitors will also have the option of ordering onsite. Officials with the event will be following all CDC, Forsyth County, and Georgia safety protocols due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The festival will be 4-8 p.m., Friday,

Oct. 16; 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 17, and noon to 4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 18. After you’ve enjoyed the fine Greek cuisine, you can shop at the virtual market page. There will be authentic Greek sailor hats, clothing, ceramics, books, icons, jewelry, gold, and hand-crafted wares. The event is at Saints Raphael, Nicholas & Irene Greek Orthodox Church, 3074 Bethelview Road, Cumming, GA 30042. Visit www.cumminggreekfestival.com for more information.

FROM 1A Publix

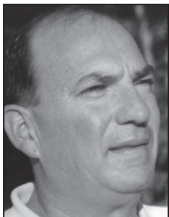
stores that had been in the area previously. “The opening of the Matt Town Center is a first of many things — it’s the first shopping center to open in this area as well as the largest commercial complex to open thus far under the new architectural guidelines of the Coal Mountain Overlay,” said Forsyth County District 4 Commissioner Cindy Jones Mills, who represents the area. “I am grateful it recognized the heritage of the Matt community in its name as it follows in the footsteps of other grocers like Loy Grogan, Roy Moore, Ollie Hurt and Leon Roland that came before them in this area. With a quality developer like Retail Planning Corporation, and a premier grocery store chain like Publix, we are happy to welcome them to our Matt community.” The 48,500-square-foot Publix store will anchor an 81,000-square-foot retail plaza that will feature a mix of restaurants and other businesses, including Reveille Cafe, Laredo’s Cantina & Taqueria, Peaches and Pine, Great Clips, Alpha Nail Salon and the UPS Store.

The new Publix is the company’s 10th store in Forsyth County, and it is one of the company’s new models with all-natural and traditional products, along with a full pharmacy department including drive-thru window service. According to her family, one resident in particular is happy to see the store open. Ineal Milford, 94, is a lifelong resident of the Matt Community and a big fan of Publix’s fried chicken, and before the store opened on Saturday, Mills and officials with Publix and the Forsyth County Chamber of Commerce brought her the first fried chicken sold at the store. “They were over here between, 6:30 and 6:45 [a.m.], and they made her day. They made her day,” said her daughter, Rebecca Milford. “She still loves Publix, and she loves Brenda [Heard, her niece who got in touch with Mills to set up the visit.]” Rebecca said her mother, a longtime school bus driver and cook at Jack’s Restaurant in Cumming, was a “fried chicken connoisseur” and even lived on the land with her parents where the store is when she was young. “She’s fried chicken all of her life,” Rebecca said, “and she knows what kind of fried chicken she wants.”

OBITUARIES

Loraine (Raine) Marchbanks
Mrs. Loraine (Raine) Marchbanks died on Sunday, Oct. 4, 2020 at her home in Dawsonville. She is preceded by her husband George Marchbanks and is survived by her children Thomas McGarey, Glenn McGarey, Elizabeth McGarey, and Patrick McGarey as well as five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Mrs. Marchbanks was well known for her Pen n’ Ink artwork of historic places in and around Forsyth County. Mrs. Marchbanks was also a caring breeder of Shelties and made sure that only the most loving, caring families were lucky enough to be blessed with one. Mrs. Marchbanks was also an active member in the Sheltie Rescue of Georgia helping save abused Shelties from deplorable conditions. Her infectious smile and laugh made the world a better place and the people around her happier. Her love and dedication to her children was forever unwavering. She will be forever loved as she waits to see them again one day with open loving arms. At the request of Mrs Marchbanks, there will be no memorial service. In lieu of flowers, Mrs. Marchbanks also requested that donations be made to the Sheltie Rescue of Georgia in her name in care of Kathy Greene, 155 Sonya Lane, Copper Hill, TN 37317. And please state your affiliation to the organization. Ingram Funeral Home & Crematory is in charge of arrangements. Sign our online guestbook at forsythnews.com. *Forsyth County News* Oct. 14, 2020

Edwin Grant “Ed” Saye
Edwin Grant “Ed” Saye, 75, of Gainesville, died Sept. 26, 2020 following a short illness. Ed was born Sept. 20, 1945 in Athens. He was the son of the late Ralph Milton Saye and Belle Barrett Saye. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by, his siblings, Ralph Milton Saye Jr., Carolyn Saye Nelson, Harry Wendell Saye and Hugh Donald Saye. Ed had a passion for singing. He sang with the Jesters and Genteels for 50 years. Later in life his true calling was to minister to people through gospel music. He attended Freedom Tabernacle in Cumming and worked for Kraft Foods for 17 years. Ed spent many years ministering to people at the Good News at Noon in Gainesville. Survivors include his wife, Frederica “Freddie” Saye; daughter, Libby Renee Saye McFry (Kevin); son, Robert Edwin “Bobby” Saye; two sisters, Naomi Saye Wolfe and Bess Schillinger; five grandchildren, Christian Douglass Saye, Beau Ryland West, James Dalton Saye, Drew Channing West and Conner Ryland Castleberry Saye. A celebration of Ed’s life will be held from 2-4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 18, at VFW Post 2872, 835 Sunset Drive in Athens. Due to the social distancing requirements, the service will be held outdoors. Please bring your own lawn chair. Bernstein Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Sign our online guestbook at forsythnews.com. *Forsyth County News* Oct. 14, 2020



Annie Frances Burgess
Annie Frances Burgess, 93, died Oct. 8, 2020. Funeral services were held at noon, Oct. 13 in the Ingram Funeral Home Chapel with Dr. G. Gil Watson officiating. Interment followed at 3:30 p.m. at Mizpah United Methodist Church Cemetery in Kingston. Ingram Funeral Home of Cumming was in charge of the arrangements. *Forsyth County News* Oct. 14, 2020

Toxie Carl “T.C.” Bynum
Toxie Carl “T.C.” Bynum, 76, of Warner Robbins, died after a brief illness. The family will receive friends from 4 to 8 p.m., Oct. 14, at Bearden Funeral Home. A private graveside service will be held. Bearden Funeral Home of Dawsonville is in charge of the arrangements. *Forsyth County News* Oct. 14, 2020

Anthony “Tony” Joseph Draghi
Anthony “Tony” Joseph Draghi, of Cumming, died at home surrounded by his loved ones on Oct. 5, 2020. McDonald and Son Funeral Home and Crematory is in charge of arrangements. *Forsyth County News* Oct. 14, 2020

Frances Marie Johnson
Frances Marie Johnson, 74, of Cumming, died Oct. 10, 2020. Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Oct. 13 at the Ingram Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Scott Henderson and Chaplain Kwaku Kusi officiating. Interment will be later at Georgia National Cemetery. Ingram Funeral Home and Crematory of Cumming was in charge of the arrangements. *Forsyth County News* Oct. 14, 2020

Jayantibhal Desaihbhai Patel
Jayantibhal Desaihbhai Patel, 82, of Cumming, died on Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2020. McDonald and Son Funeral Home and Crematory is in charge of arrangements. *Forsyth County News* Oct. 14, 2020

Maura Cicely Ochsen
Maura Cicely Ochsen, 68, of Gainesville, died on Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2020. McDonald and Son Funeral Home and Crematory is in charge of arrangements. *Forsyth County News* Oct. 14, 2020

Marion Richard (Rick) Stone, Jr.
Marion Richard (Rick) Stone Jr., age 65, of Suwanee, died on Oct. 9, 2020. Ingram Funeral Home & Crematory is in charge of arrangements. *Forsyth County News* Oct. 14, 2020

FROM 1A Rules

allow people to create new genres and get in business,” said BOC Chairwoman Laura Semanson. Under the new rules, food trucks and mobile vendors will be allowed within most of the county’s commercial district with a conditional-use permit, which would have to be obtained by the property owner instead of the mobile business owner. They will also be permitted in mixed-use districts, but a zoning condition amendment will be required. These mobile vendors will not be allowed within residential or agricultural districts, but Jerry Oberholtzer, with Forsyth County’s Department of Planning and Community Development, said that there are a few exceptions to the rule. Food trucks and mobile vendors are allowed in any part of the county if it is part of a government sponsored or special event, agritourism event, HOA-sponsored activity or when they are not open to the public such as when catering an event. Seasonal sales and temporary vending, which include booths where businesses or individuals can sell merchandise, will also be allowed in most of the commercial dis-

trict and mixed-used district with a conditional-use permit. These temporary businesses will not be allowed in agricultural or residential districts. Oberholtzer said that there will be “plenty of exceptions” for nonprofits and places of worship within the county, meaning these organizations will still be able to hold Christmas tree and pumpkin sales during the winter and fall seasons as usual. There will also be an exception for firework stands. Oberholtzer stressed that the new rules would limit all temporary businesses to one permit per property, per year, meaning that those who sell fireworks may not have been able to set up shop in the same location for both New Years Eve and Independence Day in the same year. “But we do have exceptions in here for nonprofits, and the state law on firework stands are run by nonprofits,” Oberholter said. The mobile vendors, seasonal sales and temporary vending will face some supplemental regulations as well, including restrictions on noise and “attention-grabbing activities,” requirements for health and fire approval and restrictions on location. Businesses primarily run by minors, such as a small lemonade stand, will not be subject to the new rules.

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