

# FoCo Woman

Women Inspiring Forsyth



## HUMANE SOCIETY

OF FORSYTH COUNTY

*a NO KILL shelter*



ISSUE 3  
FALL 2019



# HUMANE SOCIETY OF FORSYTH COUNTY

a NO KILL shelter



"It is not just a job. It is a lifetime commitment to doing the right thing for the animals that need us!" This statement is what makes the Humane Society of Forsyth County stand out among the rest. The loving staff and volunteers that work daily to save fur lives, share a common goal. They aspire to save as many dogs and cats as humanly possible. This is their dream. This is what they dedicate their lives to.

The Humane Society of Forsyth County, (HSFC), is an independent, privately funded, 501(c)(3) non-profit, **no kill** organization. Established in 1975, the HSFC

has adopted more than 26,000 animals into permanent and loving homes. They are dedicated not only to saving the lives of our county's dogs and cats, but they also strive to reduce pet overpopulation and educate everyone about responsible

pet ownership. The message they want to send out is simple! "Pets are family and family is forever!"

*The three FoCo Women who are this month's cover girls are the leaders of the Humane Society of Forsyth County! They are the ones who help to make things happen in the world of rescue. They are dedicated individuals who go above and beyond to save the lives of furs in need. Each one is an outstanding example of what it is to be a true Rescue Hero!*



The HSFC has many ways for the community to become involved. In addition to finding forever homes, they are always in need of foster homes. The more foster homes they have, the more animals they can save. It is very important to the HSFC that certain animals bypass the shelter. If a nursing mom comes into the program, or a pet that needs some extra care and socialization, they believe that a home environment is the best thing for them. They also have a Cyber Foster Program! More can be learned about this on the HSFC website.

The HSFC has a very strong volunteer base. On any given day, you can find many helping out at the shelter. They work hard to do what is needed for the animals. Volunteers also help at adoption and fundraising events. Without them, the HSFC feels like they would not be able to save as many lives as they do. People always make the difference!

Pet ownership can be expensive, and the HSFC is very aware of this. Last year, in an effort to help the community, they opened an on-site medical facility. In addition to caring for the animals that come into their program, they also offer low cost spay/neuter, vaccines, and microchipping to the public.

The HSFC has a Spay/Neuter Assistance Program and a Pet Food Pantry. Both of these programs are geared to help those who are dealing with financial hardship. To get into either program, there are



requirements. More information is available on the HSFC website.

In an effort to prevent pet overpopulation, the HSFC recently introduced *"Snip It In The Bud, No More Litters Program."* The goal of this program is to help the owners of female cats and dogs who are either pregnant or just had babies. Again, more information is available on the HSFC Website.

There are two more programs that the HSFC is very proud of. The first is the Homeless Pets Club. They have these in about 7 schools within our county. This is a great way to help educate our future rescuers and to teach the youth of Forsyth all about pet care. This has been a very successful and popular program.

Last, but not least, is the Humane Hearts Pet Therapy Program. This program is all about enriching the lives of special groups within our community. Therapy animals,

with their owners, visit assisted living facilities, schools, libraries, and local hospice programs. They help to provide emotional and physical support to those in need. As we all know, animals brighten up all of our lives!

The HSFC is extremely appreciative of the support they receive from individuals and businesses alike. As they say, *"Forsyth County is the best of the best. We could not survive without the donations that are bestowed upon us. It takes a village to save fur lives and, our village is full of Rescue Heroes."*

To learn more about the Humane Society of Forsyth County, visit their website at [www.forsythpets.org](http://www.forsythpets.org) or call the shelter @ **770-887-6480**. If you would like to donate or are interested in learning more about sponsorships, email: [acomstock@forsythpets.org](mailto:acomstock@forsythpets.org) or call **770-842-2394**.

***"It is not just a job. It is a lifetime commitment to doing the right thing for the animals that need us!"***



Justine Daniel – Shelter Director



Justine is originally from Sydney, Australia. She moved to the U.S. in 1996. With over 12 years of experience in animal welfare, Justine is the go to person at the HSFC. She joined the team almost three years ago. She keeps the shelter operating smoothly and efficiently while ensuring the safety and love of all the animals. She is married and is the proud parent of one dog, two cats, and one bunny!

Lauren Kirk – Animal Services Director



Lauren is originally from Dahlonega, Georgia. She has over 12 years of vet tech experience and has been with the HSFC for 10 of those years. Lauren's wealth of knowledge ensures that the medical services are kept to the highest standard. She is

married and is the proud mommy of one beautiful daughter and two fur babies!

Dr. Sue Kascher – Veterinarian/Medical Director



Sue is originally from Rochester, New York. In addition to having an undergraduate and master's degree in education, in 1993 she graduated from UGA as a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. Sue practiced in several clinics prior to focusing on rescue and the HSFC. Although you will see her volunteering at fundraising events, as she has for many years, Dr. Sue is now the on-staff veterinarian at the shelter. She joined the team over a year ago. Sue is the proud mommy of the love of her life...her yellow lab Shae!



# FoCo Woman Shop *with* Alex







**H**ave you heard the old saying that "Seeing is Believing"? In reality, if you want to create a change in your life or see a dream come to fruition, your level of belief is what matters. If you want to see the change, you must first believe.

Your belief is fueled by your thoughts. If you often think about succeeding, how you'll do it, what you need to do it, when you'll do it, why you want it, you will build the belief that you can accomplish your goal.

The power of our thoughts is far greater than most people realize. Thoughts fuel our feelings. The things you think about most, positive or negative, will guide

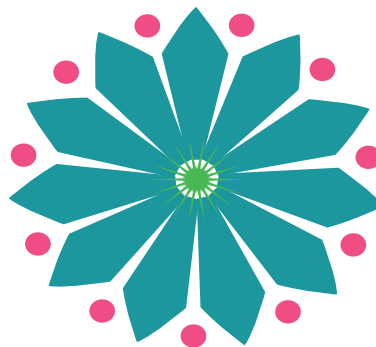
how you feel. The way you feel will decide what actions you take. What you do consistently composes your overall behavior. If you want to behave in a way that brings you success, it all begins within the mind.

Once you learn to build positive thoughts around your goal, shift your focus to feelings. Emotions are powerful! Imagine how you will feel when you reach your goal. Go ahead and let yourself feel that way now. Those feelings will be the driving force that keeps you taking the necessary steps and actions to move you forward.

Being in control of your mind will give you the power to shape your life, taking your reality into your own hands. The most successful people have had many failures along the way, but their thoughts and feelings about the failures set them apart. Instead of feeling defeated, they think about what lessons can be learned from situations and think about pressing forward no matter the obstacles. They stay focused on the win. They keep their eye on the prize and their spirits high. To get what you want, become the master of your mindset.

Cheers to your biggest successes yet to come!

- *Jennessa Sabella*



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# HUMANE SOCIETY

## OF FORSYTH COUNTY

*a NO KILL shelter*



## What About Me?

Hi FoCo people! My name is Truffles and I am four years young. Actually, I am almost 4 1/2 years young! As you can see, I look somewhat like an Oreo cookie!. I've been told that I am a handsome Black & White Domestic Shorthair mix. Wow, that is a lot of words to describe little me. I think that I am just cute and



cuddly and I like what I see when I look in the mirror.

There is one thing that you should know about me is that I am pretty shy. I used to have a wonderful parent, but they got sick and could not keep me anymore. I was very sad to leave, but I guess it was for the best. So, here I am at the Humane Society. I love my staff...they take great care of me! They say that

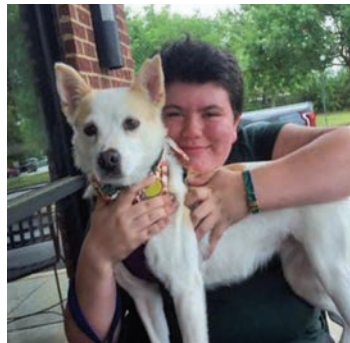
I am sweet and loving and that I have such a gentle disposition. I agree! So, I guess shyness is my only fault! I think my shyness stems from the fact that I am a little sad. You see, when I came here, I came with 3 siblings. They all have since been adopted...but no one wants to adopt me. I wonder why? Do you know?



I really want to find my forever family. I would love to live in a quiet home that has other cats for me to play with. I love other cats and I also love nice people who want to spend time with me. If you earn my trust, you can even pet my belly! Isn't that cool? I've been here for almost six months and as much as I love my HSFC family, I really want a home to call my own. Do you think that will happen soon? Do you want to adopt me? Everyone wants a kitten, but not many folks want an adult cat.

I promise, if you give me a chance, I will give you all the love that a kitten would give you...and I will be loyal till the end! So, what do you think? What about me?

**HELEN UPDATE:** *Helen Herrin is as happy as can be! She is in her forever home with her mommy Grace who spoils her and gives her all the love and attention she needs! She is also getting an education with Rucker Dog Training. What a lucky pup she is! Thank you Grace for*



*adopting Helen and becoming a true Rescue Hero!*

**Here is my info!**

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# CAN WE HEAL OUR BODY *Naturally?*



*by Dr. McNamara, DC, BS, DACNB,  
FACFN Board Certified Chiropractic  
Neurologist, Forsyth County Firefighter*

Have you ever heard advertisements or attended a seminar where you were told how stem cells can heal everything? Well,

a lot of this regenerative medicine hype is true! I believe the future of medicine will be based on the manipulation of our own stem cells and growth factors as well as those donated from afterbirth placental tissue.

In today's regenerative healthcare world there are multiple types and ways of extracting stem cells and growth factors. Here are the three most popular:

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**Wharton's Jelly** is a stem cell product that comes from a donor. There are very few, if any, live stem cells due to the freezing, clarification process and addition of preservatives. These injections have been shown to help with severely arthritic joints and torn tendons.

**Exosomes** are extracted from placental stem cells, concentrated and then injected into damaged areas of the body or given intravenously to help decrease inflammation. Exosomes have millions more growth factors and anti-inflammatory properties compared to Wharton's jelly or our own stem cells.



Researchers are studying their potential benefit for many neurodegenerative diseases like Parkinson's, ALS and Alzheimer's. Exosomes have been shown to accelerate the healing of skin, arthritic joints, damaged cartilage, disc injuries, hair growth and balancing the body's immune system.

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# Doris

## WHITE CORONA

**M**aster Jeweler and Gemologist, Doris White Corona, still remembers the first time she made something that she was able to carve and transform. She made a soap figure of a Buffalo Bison, her elementary school's mascot and she still has it today. As a child, Doris had an insatiable need to understand how things worked. Her parents would often discover that she had taken apart toasters, doorknobs and bicycles and put them back together. She also loved building forts and using tools.

After college, Doris worked for a dental and TMJ center in Atlanta as the public relations and marketing director and there she was first introduced to the process of lost wax casting and the precise art of making crowns and bridges. The center where she worked had an in-house lab and when they weren't making gold and porcelain crowns and bridges for their patients, the techs would sling gold and make rings for fun. Doris was fascinated with the entire process and began learning it herself. Thus, began a career which has spanned over thirty years.

Coincidentally, Doris' sister, Glenda Phillips, had begun to dabble in retail jewelry and opened a store in Douglasville, Georgia. Their brother, Lance White, had graduated from Georgia State University with a degree in management and began working for Glenda. A year later, Lance decided to venture out on his own and with a mere \$10,000, opened Lance's Jewelry in Cumming. Lance's Jewelry



was successful and grew quickly while Doris was reaching a plateau in her dental career. She faced either going back to school to become a dentist or taking a leap of faith and entering the jewelry business that she found so interesting and exciting. Female entrepreneurs weren't common in the 1980s, so Doris joined with a male business partner to open Gwinnett Jewelry in Lawrenceville. Like Lance's Jewelry, Doris' store also enjoyed quick success and she and her brother opened a second store in Douglasville.

**F**ive years later, Doris' husband was offered a promotion in a chemical company and they relocated to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. For the next ten years she worked for Rafael Paz Jewelry Repair and for designer Valerie Naffee in an in-home studio. She also created high-end custom pieces as Corona Creations. Another move took the family to Jackson, NJ. Having young children with lots of extracurricular activities, Doris decided that working for a national jewelry chain would fit with her family's schedule better. For five years she managed a shop which served seventeen stores and helped it become the number one shop in the chain. As her children grew older, Doris began traveling back to Georgia every other week to work for her brother at Lance's Jewelry. She did this until her children graduated and finally made her way back to Georgia on a full-time basis.

Doris has always had a strong drive and desire to be successful and to overcome many of the obstacles for women in business. One of her primary goals was to keep up with the predominately male driven industry of jewelers. She furthered her education by going to several schools and taking classes specifically for the jewelry industry such as the Holland Gemology School in Selma, Alabama; Stewart's International School for Jewelers in Jupiter, Florida; Zantech Quartz Watch Repair in Trenton,





New Jersey; the Gemology Institute of America (better known as GIA) in Carlsbad, California; and various wax carving classes. Very often, she was the only woman doing intricate jewelry repair among a classroom of male students and male instructors. Since then she has mentored and trained several successful men and women in jewelry repair and sales. As Doris said, *"I enjoy sharing my experiences and empowering those who wish to excel in knowledge of metals, fabrication, stone setting, wax carving, and basic soldering to further educate the next generations of jewelers in Forsyth County."*

She currently has two apprentice jewelers, William and Payton, who assist with watch battery installments and watch link adjustments, cleaning, polishing, rhodium plating and engraving of the jewelry. The store's sales manager and artist, Greg,

and Doris work closely together to bring their clients thoughts and images to life; first, in two-dimension on paper and then in three-dimensional wax; ultimately casting the wax into a one of a kind exquisite jewelry piece. From custom design to finished product typically takes from two to eight weeks and this will depend upon the intricacy of the details, the client's participation during the various stages of approval, and the volume of jobs in queue.



**D**oris has worked on a variety of pieces and enjoys the diversity of her client's requests. *"We are asked to design a multitude of custom from rings and pendants, to bracelets and anklets, and even duplicate gun or model train parts. A jeweler never knows what new question or request will be asked of them, which makes my career interesting, fascinating and never boring. We have even repaired a piece for a client which contained Holy Water blessed by the Pope".* The most popular custom design pieces requested are rings, pendants, and bracelets. Her favorite pieces to carve in wax are children's faces, pets, and anything to do with music. Her love and passion for music gives her incredible inspiration. Customers can often find her singing, dancing, and tapping her foot to the beat of the music of artists such as Prince, Melissa Etheridge, and P!nk while creating



silver and gold guitar pick pendants, ninja warriors, memorabilia jewelry and musical symbols and notes.

Giving back to the community is important to Doris. She has worked with Love Out Lavender, fundraisers at local high schools and churches, and cancer societies in this county. She's also served on the board of the Humane Society of Forsyth County and for over five years was on the Bark and Boogie Ball committee. Doris tells us, *"I absolutely love my career, giving back to this community, and wowning our clients with beautiful and elegant memories through jewelry"*. She also points to the importance of family and notes that their successes would not have been possible without the unconditional love and devotion of their mother, Dottie White, who has been by her children's side through every step of their wonderful journey. As Doris says, *"She is truly a rare gem."*

### ***Doris' best jewelry tip:***

Always keep your jewelry clean and have it inspected once a year. By doing so, you will increase its longevity. A good way to remember is on your birthday or anniversary.



**Doris White Corona - Lance's Jewelry**  
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There will be a party for seniors at Sexton Hall in September where we will have a DJ for dancing, line dancing lessons for fun, and refreshments. Age Well is providing all this for **FREE**. Keep checking our website for more details.

Age Well continues with the tradition of entertaining you, producing two plays at the School Street Playhouse. In November we will present "**Remember Hollywood**" and in February 2020 "**Mardi Gras the Musical**".

If you haven't taken a trip this year or you are looking to take another, contact Age Well Forsyth for Christmas on the Danube, December 2019. We are planning a Tulip River Cruise in April 2020 as well as Rome, Italy in August 2020. See our website for details or call (404) 245-7949 for more information.

GRAPHIC DESIGN • PHOTOGRAPHY

*Lisa*  
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*In*

the tradition of the personal advice columnists, FoCo Woman's **Dear Harper** is a plainspoken straight shooter. She can relate to women of all ages on real life questions. Our reporter will research topics of interest to our readers and then answer your questions with empathy and humor. Her opinions and straight to the heart precision will quickly make **Dear Harper** one of your favorite advice columns.

You can submit your questions to:

**DearHarper@forsythcounty.com**

You can also text your questions to: (404) 434-3843. Questions will be answered throughout the month on our website and social media site. All advice seekers will remain anonymous. In each edition of Foco Woman, we will have a page devoted to some of our questions that reach out to a wide range of readers.

*Dear Harper,*

*I am jealous of my brother's new girlfriend. He and I have been best friends during college and now that we have graduated. Neither one of us has found a "person" until now.*

*This girl is the exact opposite of me. She and I have nothing in common so I can't be her friend.*

*I saw her out with a guy at lunch last week. I immediately told my brother and embellished a little bit, hoping to make him mad and leave her. This is not my personality normally.*

*It turns out the guy was her stepbrother. So, my brother quickly figured out I was trying to cause trouble.*

*I don't think he even told her what I had done. My brother now is avoiding me, and I have lost my brother and my friend. How long can I expect this to go on?*

**Bad Sister**

*Dear Bad Sister,*

*The world is full of billions of people. All these people are dealing with shortcomings, heartache, loneliness,*

*and all types dysfunction. So first remember you are not alone. When you and your brother finished college, it's normal that the next steps in life start taking place. As our circumstances change so do our friends. It appears his change took you by complete surprise. What you did was not right but is unfortunately "normal" behavior for a lot of us. As we feel we are losing something important to us we begin to lash out to save it. We will try to make people or places "bad" in the eyes of others and make yourself an innocent victim.*

*One of the most effective ways to stop this impulse (and we all have it) is just to know it is there and call it by name. "I covet what I see." You are using other people's success as the focus of your distress. In other words, your world would still be perfect if your brother did not have a girlfriend.*

*When we do get sucked up in this ugly impulse, as you did, the only way to fix it is to own it. Tell your brother what you did and apologize. Be there for each other not against. Thirty years from now you may have a best friend and then something changes. Life is just full of surprises and changes. So embrace the new and don't destroy the past.*

*Harper*



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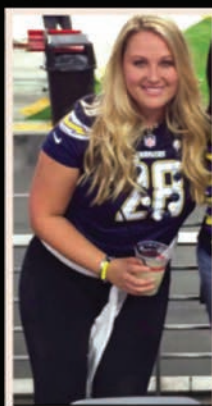
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FoCo Woman

# GIRLS NIGHT OUT

This issue of Girl's Night Out FoCo Woman decided to heat things up. Girls Night Out can be about anything you and your friends decide to do together usually outside of home. With the holidays right around the corner and all the upcoming calories for us to consume we decided to get started now slimming up before we overindulge. Our partner at Hotworx is offering a week free membership. Several of us got together and took them up on the offer. Using technology, a variety of infrared sauna workouts are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. A certified Virtual Instructor guided us through each session. So deciding where to start is the hardest part!

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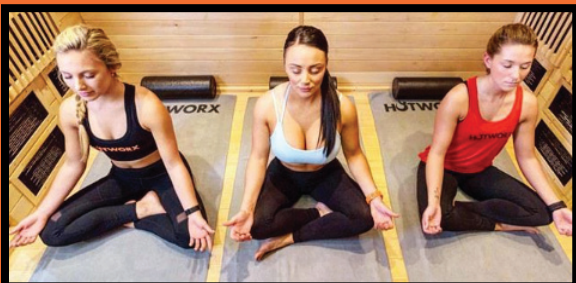
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# FORSYTH COUNTY

## *A Picture of Change*

In June of 1954, the Lake Lanier project broke ground. I was 5 and ½ years old. The building of the lake had an enormous effect on the people of Forsyth, Gwinnett, Hall and Dawson Counties. Large tracts of land were acquired or taken by eminent domain by the Federal Government eliminating hundreds of acres of farmland and homes. The land was purchased, I am told for \$50 an acre or less. The people were sure the remaining land they owned would drop in value due to the intrusive lake. Boy, were they wrong! The lake was built for a number of good reasons; but I recall my parents talking about how sad it was for the local residents who did not want to move out of

their homes. Many farmhouses, homes, trees, barns, bridges and cemeteries were simply covered over by the rising water.

My Family and I went every Sunday after Church to a hill on Hwy 369 to see how much of a beautiful farmhouse was covered by the rising water as each week passed. The first time I remember seeing the house, you could only see water

in the distance. Anyway, with each passing week, the water moved higher and higher covering the house, barn and yard. The last thing to be covered was a huge oak tree in the front yard!

I still feel melancholy when I remember those Sunday afternoons, even after 60 years. When I am on a boat on Lake Lanier today, I still visualize those homes, barns, bridges and trees it covered. I wonder if they are still There underneath those dark waters, crystallized in time.

Excerpts taken from ***Growing up in Ducktown***, by Dr. Linda Ledbetter.

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# FoCo Woman

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# YOUNG CHEFS® ACADEMY



**YOUNG CHEFS ACADEMY** is ready to brighten the days of all aspiring young cooking masterminds in Forsyth County! Focused on providing a nurturing hands-on environment for children to learn valuable culinary skills, **YOUNG CHEFS ACADEMY** inspires its students to develop

a lifelong love of cooking, while cultivating their creativity through experimentation and education in the kitchen.

We teach children and teens the joy of cooking in a kid friendly and safe environment. All classes are hands-on and the kids get to taste their creations at the end of class. They also learn safety, etiquette, math and science.... all while having fun!!

With weekly classes, birthday parties, workshops and camps for ages four through eighteen, the chefs learn valuable lessons, such as how to cut and prepare the dishes, healthy eating and cooking in group settings. **YOUNG CHEFS ACADEMY** also has a program for the "Young Chefs at Heart" which are adult classes created to ensure that everyone gets in on the fun.

The new business is owned and operated by Forsyth County resident, Heather Gary and her husband Bert. Heather, a mother of two, decided a long time ago that she wanted to own a kid-centric business that would foster their creativity. With a passion for cooking and love of working with children, Young Chefs Academy seemed like a perfect fit. "I really wanted to offer a service that would bring enjoyment to the kids. Cooking can be both fun and educational, and a real creative outlet. I am looking forward to sharing our family's joy and value we found in cooking with others in our community."

**YOUNG CHEFS ACADEMY** is located at 1595 Peachtree Parkway, Suite 122 in Cumming.



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Is “Litter Free Forsyth” an impossible dream? Not if Keep Forsyth County Beautiful (KFCB) has anything to do with it! KFCB is a local affiliate of the national Keep America Beautiful program and the state Keep Georgia Beautiful program. The program is a joint partnership between Forsyth County Government and the Keep Forsyth County Beautiful, Inc 501(c)3 Board of Directors. KFCB partners with government, businesses, schools, civic



organizations and citizens in the focus areas of waste reduction and recycling, beautification and community greening, litter abatement, and water quality.

2019 marks the silver anniversary for this busy organization. And what have they been doing for 25 years? Education and outreach is the heartbeat of KFCB. Chances are if you have or had a student in a Forsyth County School, they have been touched by KFCB’s effort in some way. KFCB initially partnered with the schools in 1994 providing a few free bins for recycling paper. That grass roots program has since grown exponentially and is now a sustainable multi-item recycling program supported by the Board of Education. KFCB’s new role is to serve as a consultant to schools and encourage participation in environmental programs including its Green School Awards Program. Eighteen schools applied for and attained Green School status for the 2018-2019 school year.



Recycling is only the beginning of student outreach. Last year 7,902 students participated in educational classes taught by KFCB Outreach Specialists. While thousands more were involved in keeping our county clean, green and beautiful by picking up litter, marking storm drains, and helping with beautification projects.

And KFCB is not just for kids. What’s on the agenda for adults in 2019? Lot’s of fun and impactful activities! Come out to Poole’s Mill Park on August 22<sup>nd</sup> for “Meet The Creek”, an introduction to stream health assessment. Or join us at Shore Sweep, the annual Lake Lanier cleanup event on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Is your garage cluttered with old household chemicals? Pack ‘em up and bring them to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Household Hazardous Waste collection event in November!

Ultimately everything KFCB does circles back to how we handle our waste. In light of that, they are excited to announce a new campaign, launched later this year, “Litter Free Forsyth”. This initiative will be a major undertaking and will require the entire community to work together. Volunteers will be needed to report litter, pick up litter, and spread the word that littering is not acceptable. In addition, KFCB will be seeking monetary sponsors to help support our “Litter Free Forsyth” efforts.



Now is the time to join us on our next big adventure to a “Litter Free Forsyth”. Join us. **“Together, we do beautiful things”**. For more information, call **770.205.4573** or visit: **[keepforsythcountybeautiful.org](http://keepforsythcountybeautiful.org)** and follow us on **[facebook.com/KFCBorg/](https://facebook.com/KFCBorg/)**.



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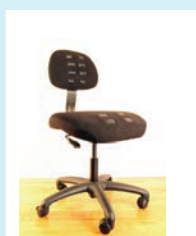
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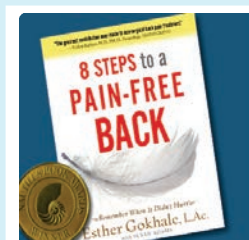
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# From the Publisher

*"August rain: the best of the summer gone, and the new fall not yet born. The odd uneven time." — Sylvia Plath*

As so many of you are saying, "I can't believe school is starting", I'm thinking I can't believe FoCo Woman is six months old. (I also can't believe school is starting.) There is something about the return to school that is almost like New Year's Day again.

August is such a strange month, no real holidays, no beginning or ending of a season, but it sparks the beginning of a new lifestyle. No matter if your first child is going to school, your children are returning or you don't have children going to school, the idea of the "New School Year" brings a sense of opportunity, growth and a spark of excitement.

Since April I have felt those "New School Year" vibes. With the launch of FoCo Woman and the revamp of ForsythCounty.com I've had the opportunity to reach out everyday on a new adventure. This adventure has taken me into offices, stores, network meetings, Chamber events of the people who make up the place we call home. What I've discovered is a community full of passion, hopes, dreams and the unbelievable desire to be supportive.

I want to take this time to thank our advertisers for taking a leap and believing in us. Being the new kid in school we have worked hard to make you proud to be a part of this exciting new opportunity, to tell the stories of your businesses. I also want to thank the many people who make this publication happen. Without the contributing writers, the ideas that have been shared with me, the skilled hands behind the camera and creative hands, this magazine would all still be in the planning stages.

Thank you to our readers for continuing to pick the magazine up in over 30 rack locations, Kroger stores, driveways and many businesses throughout the county. Thank you for supporting us on social media, websites and advertising with us. Because of your support we ordered a second printing in June. I look forward to bringing you more stories,



pictures and information about "Women Inspiring Forsyth".

Here is wishing that "New School Year Excitement" to each of you. See you in October.

*Lou Ann Brownlee*

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*Our mission is to celebrate the lives of women in Forsyth County, Georgia. Each issue is filled with content that is insightful, heartwarming, educational, inspiring and positively local! You will meet women in each issue that are changing the lives and places of the people in this community.*

  
*FoCo Woman*

WOMEN INSPIRING FORSYTH COUNTY

*FoCo Woman, a publication of Comsen, Inc.*

*Bi-monthly copies are distributed throughout Forsyth County in over 30 rack locations as well as local businesses. We welcome your comments, articles and advertisements. Subscriptions are available for \$40 per year. The viewpoint of the advertisers, writers and submissions are not necessarily those of Comsen, Inc. The Publisher makes no claims as to the validity of any Charitable organizations mentioned. FoCo Woman nor Forsyth County.com are not responsible for errors or omissions.*



# What's Happening

## IN FORSYTH COUNTY, GEORGIA

by Forsyth County Commissioner Todd Levent

If you drive around Forsyth County, you will probably encounter road construction of some type. It may be an intersection improvement, sidewalk installation, road widening or resurfacing. This progress in our infrastructure has been made possible through both a Transportation Bond (approved by voters in 2014) and SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) that has been approved by voters since 1987. The current SPLOST (VIII) has over \$153 million earmarked for roads, streets, bridges and sidewalks. Our Engineering Department manages and coordinates the various transportation projects that are underway in the county. There are currently 14 major road projects, as well as a number of intersections, sidewalk and traffic safety improvements being managed by engineering. Many of these will be completed by the end of 2019. In addition to these projects the state will be:

- **Widening Hwy 9 from the Fulton/Forsyth line to the Cumming City limits starting in 2020**
- **Widening Post Road in 2024 or sooner**
- **Widening Hwy 400 and McGinnis Ferry interchange in 2022**
- **Completion of Bethelview Road by the end of 2019**
- **Widening Hwy 20 from the city of Cumming to Canton in 2020**
- **Widening of State Route 369 from Hwy 9 to State Route 306 (including intersection improvements and an interchange at 369 and 400)**
- **New bridges across Lake Lanier and the Chattahoochee River**

While we continue to manage sustainable growth, within zoning laws, we know that more and more people will be moving to our county. With great schools, parks, and high-tech jobs - along with the natural amenities of Lake Lanier and Sawnee Mountain - we have a quality of life that is very attractive. The need for more and better transportation infrastructure, parks and recreation, along with water independence to maintain our quality of life is essential.

While it may seem like the state and county have been



talking about these projects for years – and we have, we held multiple public information open houses to discuss these. Large projects like these take time, as traffic, engineering, environmental and other studies must be completed, utilities relocated and rights-of-way obtained, etc., which typically takes 5 to 10 years.

There are several ways you can keep up with road projects in Forsyth County. Information is updated on a regular basis on the Engineering Department page of our website. Also on our website, you can find information on various projects through the Interactive Transportation Projects Map application. In addition to showing the status of current projects, it also shows future projects. We also share existing project construction updates (as they become available) on the county's social media pages.

More recently, we have made great strides in gaining water independence and securing water for well into the future. I have been working on this diligently for the past 9 ½ years, with trips to the State Capital, State EPD headquarters and Washington D.C. to hold meetings with members of Congress, U.S. Senator, and Chief of Staff to the President for Intergovernmental Affairs. We anticipate this plan fully evolving by the Spring of 2020. The full details will be given in a future article.

None of this would be possible without the support of all the positive and hardworking citizens getting involved! Again, thank you for allowing me to serve this great county of Forsyth.





*Someone  
you should meet!*

**Michelle Wilson is a Forsyth County native committed to making legal services more accessible to her neighbors. She's a frequent supporter of our local Forsyth County charities including the Baldrige Lodge, The Place and Jesse's House. She's a mom, a new aunt of twin nephews, a rotarian and a member of the United Methodist Church in Cumming.**

**Michelle focuses on elder, special needs, estate planning and probate law.**



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Sept 7	1:30p-3p	The DIY Don'ts of Estate Planning
Oct 5	1:30p-3p	3 Must Haves for the Loveable Seniors in Your Life

**You can meet Michelle at one of her community seminars or by appointment:**

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