In an unwavering effort to keep our community safe, the Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office exists to protect life and property, deter crime, create relationships in our community, and to set an example of professionalism in our service to others.

In Memoriam

“A Hero remembered never dies.”

Chief Deputy William Cantrell
End of Watch 1/10/1972

On January 10th, 1972 Chief Deputy Cantrell along with his partner, Deputy Mulkey, were shot and killed after being abducted during a traffic stop. Both deputies were found in the trunk of their patrol car suffering from gunshot wounds.

Deputy Larry Mulkey
End of Watch 1/10/1972

Deputy Mulkey died in the line of duty as he patrolled with Chief Deputy Cantrell. After the two were discovered, a piece of paper containing the tag number of the suspect’s vehicle was found hidden in Deputy Mulkey’s handwriting. This evidence led to the arrest and conviction of the suspects.

Sergeant David P. Land
End of Watch 3/26/2003

Sergeant David P. Land was tragically killed in a motor vehicle accident while responding to a 911 call for service on March 26, 2003. He was only 32 years old and had just been promoted to Sergeant.

Deputy Mike Lord
End of Watch 1/25/2010

On January 25, 2010, Deputy Mike Lord died from a heart attack while transporting inmates to Magistrate Court. Mike Lord was a true gentleman, a beloved Deputy, and friend to all who had the privilege of knowing him.
OUR VALUES

Our core values are fundamental convictions and beliefs that we hold so firmly that they cannot be altered by circumstances. Our values and how we define our values serve as our ethical compass in making decisions and taking actions. We refer to these values as the “Forsyth County Way”.

WE ARE HERE TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY

Service is the cornerstone of our value system at the Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office. The highest form of service we can provide is to protect the lives and property of our fellow human beings. Our county provides an exciting and diverse environment for personal and professional achievement. Our school system and county resources are recognized nationally for their value. We recognize that our achievements as law enforcement officers will be measured by the level of safety and well-being enjoyed by our community.

INTEGRITY

If Service is the foundation of our value system, Integrity is the mortar that must hold it all together. The Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office will demonstrate, through its actions, an uncompromising allegiance to the core principles espoused within the Police Officer’s Code of Ethics. Every Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office employee will embrace ideals such as honor, duty, courage, equality, fairness, and dignity.

COURAGE

Our courage helps prove us worthy of the trust given to us by the citizens. Our words and actions demonstrate the willingness to venture into danger and difficulty when our duties call for it.

SERVICE MATTERS

This is a phrase that must mean more than words, it must embody a state of mind, an approach to delivering law enforcement services which recognizes that in order to be truly effective we must express genuine concern that we are in the business of serving people. We recognize the dignity of all people and treat them accordingly. Our intent is to always reach beyond the expectations of our citizens. We will work tirelessly to be positive role models in our community.

WE APPROACH CRIME PROACTIVELY

Stopping crime before it occurs is our most important function. Identifying conditions which foster crime in our community and interceding is a joint law enforcement - community responsibility, but the actual prevention of crime is a task which no other entity can assume, it rests squarely on our shoulders.

EXCELLENCE

We strive to deliver the best service or product possible. This is the ultimate goal for each employee of the Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office. The effort that one undertakes to obtain such a level of excellence is the most important aspect of this value. Sheriff’s employees are expected to do the best possible job at all times.

INNOVATION

Utilizing creativity to meet today’s challenges is paramount for the Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office to effectively solve problems. While having a consistent process to complete our daily tasks may be valuable in many circumstances, we do not serve this process. We must be willing to seek solutions that exist outside of our normal methodology in order to address the complexities of our era.

LAW ENFORCEMENT CODE OF ETHICS

“As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation; the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all persons to liberty, equality and justice.

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all; maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn or ridicule; develop self-restraint; be constantly mindful of the welfare of others; and be honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life. I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or what is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty. I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, animosities, or friendships influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence, and never accepting gratuities.

I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession… law enforcement.”
MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF

It is my honor to provide this Annual Report from your Sheriff’s Office. I hope you find this report informative and encouraging as to the professionalism and courage our Deputy Sheriffs serve with every day. Serving as your Sheriff is a privileged duty I hold sacred. Since taking office in 2017, we have taken substantial steps to streamline our service delivery and maximize our effectiveness in combating crime and keeping Forsyth safe. We will not waver from this duty, and as a reminder we have adopted the motto of the “Forsyth County Way” which emphasizes service before self.

We have taken great strides in increasing our effectiveness and visibility. From reopening the South Precinct in February, 2017, nearly doubling the School Resource Deputies in our schools, adding a crime intelligence and analysis unit, introducing citizen access to crime mapping data, to the creation of the Forsyth, Johns Creek and Alpharetta Drug Task Force (JCAF), we have realigned our efforts to put more Deputy Sheriffs on the front line, protecting and serving Forsyth County. In January 2017, the Sheriff’s Office was nearly 50 positions short of full staffing even though the positions were funded in past years’ budgets. We immediately set about recruiting the best and brightest candidates we could find. We added 38 net new employees in 2017, greatly increasing our presence in the community and quadrupling the number of Narcotics detectives. Even with these additions, through strong fiscal controls, we ended the year under budget, returning over $700K back to the county general fund.

We experienced many challenges during 2017 as Forsyth County remains one of the fastest growing communities in the Nation. Through hard work and a steadfast resolve to see that our community is safe, our employees made heroic efforts to protect us. Forsyth County enjoys the lowest crime rates of any county in the metro-Atlanta region. We encourage our community to continue in our “see something, say something” campaign to keep our community and schools safe.

Each of our Deputies and employees know that we are privileged to serve in Forsyth. Few law enforcement agencies can envision, much less enjoy, the support and trust that our citizens have given us. We know that we are the only ones who can cause that trust to decay and we work hard every day to build and strengthen relationships with our community. As Forsyth continues to grow, your Sheriff’s Office remains on the cutting edge of technology, crime fighting strategies, school safety, and quality of life issues that make Forsyth THE place to raise your family, do business, or live.

If I can ever be of service to you, please feel free to call upon me or our staff, it will be our honor to serve you.

Elected to office in 2016, Sheriff Freeman has been a resident of Forsyth County for nearly 40 years. Sheriff Freeman has been in Law Enforcement for 30 years, and began his career right here at the Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office in 1987. He is well versed in all operations of the Sheriff’s Office and has served in nearly every division of the agency, including Chief of Detectives, Precinct Commander, and SWAT team leader.

Sheriff Freeman holds a Master’s in Public Administration and is a graduate from both the Georgia Law Enforcement Command College and the FBI National Academy. He has also completed the Georgia’s Sheriff Academy, FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar, and Tennessee Law Enforcement Executive Development, as well as several other leadership training courses.

Ron H. Freeman
Sheriff
It takes all of us working together to reach our goals and be successful, not just one person, and we’re here with the vision the sheriff has given all of us to make the people’s lives of Forsyth County better.”

- Chief Deputy Sanford

Major Patton brings 16 years of law enforcement experience to Forsyth County. Prior to law enforcement, he retired from the corporate sector after over 25 years of service. Major Patton holds a BA from Gettysburg College and a MBA from the University of Virginia. He is a graduate of the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety’s School of Police Staff and Command and of the FBI’s Law Enforcement Executive Development program.

Major Perkins has served in law enforcement for over 24 years. He holds a BS from Mountain State University and a MPA from Columbus State University. Major Perkins is also a graduate of the Georgia Law Enforcement Command College and the FBI National Academy. He currently serves as the Historian for the Georgia Chapter of the FBI National Academy Associates and is also a member of Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police.

For 32 years Major Cash has served in Law Enforcement. Before joining FCSO in January 2018, she was with the Clayton County Sheriff’s Office. In 2016 she was appointed as the Jail Administrator and Jail Operations Division Commander for the Clayton County Sheriff’s Office and in June of 2017, she was recognized and bestowed the honor of the Georgia Jail Administrator of the Year award from the Georgia Jail Association.
Our Organization

Citizens of Forsyth County

Sheriff
RON H. FREEMAN

Chief Deputy
GRADY SANFORD

Communications Unit

Internal Affairs Unit

Law Enforcement Bureau

North Patrol
South Patrol
Special Enforcement Division
Criminal Investigations Division

Special Projects Manager

Communications Unit

Sheriff's Services Bureau

Support Division
Headquarters Division
Policy/ Certification Unit

Operations Section
Watches

Jail Bureau

Law Enforcement Bureau

North Patrol
South Patrol
Peer Support Team
S.W.A.T & C.N.T. Teams
Uniform Patrol
Honor Guard
Major Crimes
Narcotics Task Force
Evidence Unit
Sex Offender Registry Unit
Crime Scene Unit
Property Crime Unit
School Resource Unit
Traffic Enforcement Section
K-9 Unit
Traffic Unit
Motor Unit
Traffic Specialist Unit
Incident Response Team
Marine/ Bike Patrol Unit
Explorers Unit
C.E.R.T. Unit

Jail Bureau

Operations Section
Inmate Services Unit
Bond Administration
Sentencing
Court Coordination
Jail Resource Unit
Watches (A,B,C,D)
Inmate Transport

Special Projects Manager

Communications Unit

Internal Affairs Unit

Law Enforcement Bureau

North Patrol
South Patrol
Peer Support Team
S.W.A.T & C.N.T. Teams
Uniform Patrol
Honor Guard
Major Crimes
Narcotics Task Force
Evidence Unit
Sex Offender Registry Unit
Crime Scene Unit
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K-9 Unit
Traffic Unit
Motor Unit
Traffic Specialist Unit
Incident Response Team
Marine/ Bike Patrol Unit
Explorers Unit
C.E.R.T. Unit

Jail Bureau

Operations Section
Inmate Services Unit
Bond Administration
Sentencing
Court Coordination
Jail Resource Unit
Watches (A,B,C,D)
Inmate Transport

Pictured: DFC Chambers, Sgt. Chatham, and DFC Sessa
Social Media continues to be a powerful platform for FCSO to connect with the citizens of Forsyth. Facebook and Twitter are critical communication tools when we need to get important information out to the public quickly and a great way to get feedback and gather information from our citizens. Social Media is also a wonderful way to build a better relationship with our community, through stories and engagement. We encourage the citizens of Forsyth County to follow us on our Social Media pages to better stay connected with FCSO.

RECRUITMENT

The Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office Recruitment Unit is responsible for promoting FCSO careers in locations such as colleges, technical schools, and military posts. The unit processes all applications, conducts applicant background checks, coordinates pre-employment testing, and ultimately makes hiring recommendations to the Sheriff.

FCSO OPPORTUNITIES
- Uniform Patrol
- School Resource
- SWAT
- Detention
- Court Services
- Investigation
- Other Specialized Units

BENEFITS AVAILABLE
- Competitive salary
- Comprehensive medical, dental, & vision plans
- Paid vacation, sick leave, & holidays
- 401K provided & matched based on tenure
- Uniforms & equipment provided
- Vehicle program
- Tuition reimbursement
- Peace Officers Annuity and Benefit dues paid

HIRING PROCESS
- Written exam
- Physical agility test
- Preliminary interview
- Background check
- Polygraph test
- Psychological evaluation
- Drug screen
- Medical exam

BASIC QUALIFICATIONS
- High School Diploma or G.E.D.
- United States citizen
- 18 years of age or older
- Valid driver’s license
- No felony convictions

FORSYTH COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE 2017 Annual Report

FORSYTH COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE
2017 Annual Report

FORSYTH COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE
2017 Annual Report

2017 ROSTER TOTALS

CERTIFIED

271

CIVILIAN

78

NON-CERTIFIED

69

FCSO is the 4th largest full service Sheriff’s Office in the state of Georgia.

“Great vision without great people is irrelevant.”
— Jim Collins

FORSYTH COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE
2017 Annual Report
2017 YEAR IN REVIEW

Some highlights from the year

1. REOPENING OF SOUTH PRECINCT
   Early February 2017, the South Precinct was re-opened as a fully utilized facility. For four years this facility was only used by Criminal Investigations and now is properly fitted for patrol and investigations. This has reduced our response times for South Forsyth. South Precinct is conveniently located behind South Forsyth High school.

3. SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS
   With over 48,000 students in the Forsyth County public school system, safety of those students is our number one priority. In 2017, the Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office had 28 School Resource Officers and that number continues to grow.

4. C.L.E.A.
   The Citizen’s Law Enforcement Academy is a free 9-week class that gives students actual hands-on training, much like what deputies undergo during their own training. Topics include Constitutional law, traffic stops, judgmental use of force, K9 and S.W.A.T. demonstrations, ride-alongs and much more.

5. BUFORD DAM SWAT TRAINING
   Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office worked with the Army Corp of Engineers and the North Fulton SWAT Team on multi-agency training at the Buford Dam. This is an invaluable exercise for the agency to be better prepared for an emergency.

2. JCAF DRUG TASK FORCE
   After more than 130 drug dealer arrests in 2017, FCSO kick started the drug task force in partnership with Johns Creek Police Department and Alpharetta Public Safety.

6. HURRICANE IRMA
   FCSO worked through Irma, along with our Forsyth County public safety partners, as she left countless downed trees and powerlines and other damage in her path across the county.

7. IT CAN WAIT
   With help from our friend Dale Earnhart, Jr, FCSO won the AT&T #ItCanWait video competition, winning $15,000 for the Georgia Sheriff’s Association, while raising awareness against distracted driving.

8. NEW GUNS
   FCSO purchased 380 new handguns, all Glock’s newest. We are one of the first agencies to receive the new 5th Generation Glocks. After trade-ins, the cost equated to less than $3 per handgun purchased.

9. DRONE UNIT
   The FCSO Drone Unit is comprised of four licensed team members and three zoom and thermal image drones. The unit is a valuable aid in many circumstances, including SWAT callouts, traffic accidents, missing person critical, and other critical incidents.

10. PAWN SHOP BURGLARIES
    Deputies of the Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office, along with other agencies, worked diligently to apprehend burglary suspects in two Forsyth County pawn shop robberies. With several agencies working together, we were able to keep over 122 guns off the streets of our communities.

11. COPS & KIDS
    The 22nd Annual Cops and Kids sponsored by the Fraternal Order of Police (Sgt. D.P Land-Forsyth Lodge #82) was a great success. We had over 150 youth and 75 deputies participate in the event.
INJURED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

DEPUTY SHERIFF JON BEIVAL

On July 16, 2017, Deputy Beival was wounded during the investigation of a domestic disturbance call. Deputies responded to a residence regarding a reported domestic dispute. Upon arrival, deputies attempted to make contact with a male subject when the deputies came under significant rifle fire from within the residence. Deputies on the scene returned the gunfire in an attempt to stop the suspect. Deputy Beival suffered two gunshot wounds to his lower leg from a high-powered rifle. Fellow Deputies immediately placed a tourniquet on his leg and evacuated him to the hospital where he was treated.

Thankfully, Deputy Beival has since made a full recovery and returned to full active duty.

DEPUTY FIRST CLASS ROD REEVES

In the early morning hours of November 18, 2017, DFC Reeves was parked on the shoulder of Ga. 400 after completing a traffic stop when he was struck by another vehicle moving at full speed. DFC Reeves received multiple very serious injuries and faced a long road of recovery.

The driver that hit Deputy First Class Reeves was suspected of driving under the influence at the time of the crash. He was also driving on a suspended Georgia Driver’s License and is classified as an Habitual Violator.

After several surgeries, DFC Reeves returned to light duty in May 2018 and is expected to be back to full duty soon.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are proud to present the recipients of the 2017 Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office awards. Each one of these individuals are awarded for their exemplary service and agency contributions.

MEDAL OF HONOR
- Lt. Brent Weeks
- Lt. Scotty Spriggs
- DFC Drue Green

PURPLE HEART
- DFC Rod Reeves
- DS Jon Beival

MEDAL OF VALOR
- Lt. Scotty Spriggs
- DFC Drue Green
- DFC Tom McCullagh

LIFE SAVING AWARD
- Sgt. Martin White
- Cpl. Kevin Mitchell
- DFC Michael Eaton
- DFC Jonathon Amos
- DFC Guy Velia
- DFC Bob Abanto
- DFC Brandon Keenan
- DFC Mike Jones

JAIL BUREAU DEPUTY OF THE YEAR
- DS Ian Conchar

JAIL BUREAU CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR
- Wanda Hardin

LAW ENFORCEMENT BUREAU DEPUTY OF THE YEAR
- Lt. Scotty Spriggs

LAW ENFORCEMENT BUREAU CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR
- Heather Wheeler

SHERIFF’S SERVICES DEPUTY OF THE YEAR
- DFC Brian Sadler

SHERIFF’S SERVICES CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR
- Lynn Cleveland

Major Cash presents the Jail Bureau Civilian of the Year award to Wanda Hardin.
National Accreditation is the blue ribbon seal of approval that a law enforcement agency is willing to meet the best standards and practices of the industry.”

-Sheriff Ron H. Freeman

The Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office proudly earned accreditation from CALEA, the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, in 2017. CALEA’s standards for awarding accreditation are acknowledged as benchmarks by law enforcement executives and major law enforcement associations.

This accreditation signifies the FCSO’s commitment to maintain the highest standards and accountability, while meeting goals of excellence within both our agency and our community. The Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office will continue to strive to stay at the forefront of professionalism and service to our citizens.

AGENCY AWARDS

The Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office is proud to be honored throughout the year with several awards because of the incredible work our employees do. Below are just a few of the awards we received in 2017.

The Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office had nine award winners recognized at the 13th annual MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) Awards representing FCSO’s dedication to stopping drunk driving.

The Governor’s Office of Highway Safety awarded the Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office second place in the Governor’s Challenge category six in 2017. The awards program was designed to highlight outstanding achievements in highway safety enforcement and education.

The Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office was awarded the NETEN Traffic Enforcement Agency of the year for Northeast Georgia during a presentation sponsored by the Georgia Governor’s Office of Highway Safety. This award was presented to us for our traffic safety efforts, such as the distracted driving campaign and other initiatives.
Priority 1: Respond immediately, most of these calls require emergency equipment, lights & sirens. Priority 2: Respond immediately, under normal traffic conditions. Priority 3: Respond once all priority 1 and 2 calls are handled.

The highest form of service we can provide is to protect the lives and property of our fellow human beings.”

– Sheriff Freeman
The Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office is committed to both stewardship and transparency. Despite inheriting a large budget deficit in 2017, collectively the entire staff worked diligently to ensure regulated spending and cost savings. The 2017 Budget was managed closely by the administration to ensure fiscal responsibility and to stay within the budget that was inherited. In carrying out this function, the Sheriff’s Office was able to improve its operational structure and determine areas of savings to offset required expenses that were not included in the 2017 Budget.

- For fiscal year 2016, final budget actuals for the Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office were $40,917,671, yet the FY2016 revised budget was $39,014,771. The previous administration ended $1,902,900 over budget.
- For fiscal year 2017 the final budget actuals were $39,640,635 with the fiscal year revised budget of $40,375,580. The fiscal year 2017 actuals were $1,277,036 less than the fiscal year 2016 actuals.
- Under Sheriff Freeman’s administration, Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office ended fiscal year 2017 $734,944 under budget despite inherited budget inaccuracies.

- Existing financial commitments were reevaluated and modified to reduce operating expenses. This includes software maintenance agreements, technology improvements and program updates.
- The Sheriff’s Office applied and was awarded grant funds that offset salaries and equipment costs for several specialized units within the enforcement bureau.
- The Sheriff’s Office increased reimbursement expectations for services provided to other County Departments. The agency firmly believes in supporting the county needs, building relationships and providing specialized services when possible.
- Seven Luxury vehicles put in service by the prior administration were traded for 12 pursuit vehicles outfitted for Uniform Patrol and issued to deputies patrolling the county.
- Overtime expenses were greatly reduced once positions were filled and personnel were realigned correctly. FCSO sworn personnel work 10 and 12 hour shifts; however these positions were previously budgeted for only 8 hours. Correcting for this discrepancy added $508,488 to accommodate true costs of employee salaries.
The Sheriff’s Office traded in seven 2014-2015 model year luxury trucks and SUVs that served no purpose in the FCSO fleet. In exchange, and at no additional cost, we acquired twelve brand new 2017 model year police-specific, pursuit-rated sedans and SUVs for our deputies. A total savings of $320K!

**Traffic Response Vehicle**

Similar to the state’s HERO units, this vehicle will respond to stranded motorists and motor vehicle crashes to improve traffic safety and clear county roads as quickly as possible. **Estimated cost: $70,000**

**Drone**

This is an aerial camera platform intended to meet several needs, including searching for missing persons, documenting traffic crash scenes without closing roads, and providing live video to incident commanders. **Estimated cost: $15,000**

**Body Cameras**

FCSO has purchased 80 body worn cameras as a first step toward equipping all uniformed personnel. Cost includes cameras, software, storage, and training. **Estimated cost: $24,000**

**POA/Dues**

The Peace Officers Annuity and Benefit Fund is a state-operated supplemental retirement plan for full-time peace officers. The $20 per month cost can be paid by individual peace officers or by their agencies. **Estimated cost: $74,400 in annual operating expense**

**Tuition Reimbursement**

Reimbursement is available for classes completed in pursuit of job-related degrees, with a maximum of up to $1,000 per year per employee. **Initial allocation: $60,000**