

Helpful Contacts

Banks

BB&T Bank.....478-994-2700
Bank of America.....478-994-2831
Farm Bureau.....478-994-9802
The Farmers Bank.....478-994-6995
Monroe County Bank....478-994-1000
Robins Federal.....478-992-5470
State Farm Bank.....478-994-9600
Woodforest Bank.....478-994-1435

Utilities

City Electric.....478-994-5649
City Water.....478-994-5649
Forsyth Cable Net.....478-992-5096
Georgia Power.....888-660-5890
Recycling Center.....478-992-5049
Solid Waste Collection...478-992-5049

Gas

Natural-
SCANA Energy.....877-467-2262

Propane-
Wilson Farms Propane...478-994-2119

Other

Police Department.....478-994-6022
Fire Department.....478-994-2040
Monroe Co Hospital.....478-994-2521
Post Office.....478-974-0776
Library.....478-994-7025
Welcome Center.....478-994-9239



City of Forsyth
Downtown Development Authority

68 North Lee St
Forsyth, GA 31029

Phone. 478-994-7747
Fax. 478-994-7746

Get the Ball Rolling in the City of *F*orsyth, Georgia



The 1 2 3's Of Starting a Business

Step 1: Planning



Thinking Outside the Box

First, you must choose a business that is right for you. Discuss your interests, positive traits, and what businesses would make your life easier.

Next, research all angles of the venture you are about to embark upon. Gather economic and operating data, determine who your target market will be and where the business should be located to reach this market.

You will also need to prepare a business plan to develop a successful business. A business plan will force you to think through every aspect of your business. It will also help you keep track of where you are and where you are going. For assistance in preparing a business plan or training please contact the Small Business Development Center at 478-757-3609 or www.georgiasbdc.org.



Step 2: DDA/BHT

Come meet our friendly staff! A primary goal for Forsyth's DDA and BHT is to help downtown businesses succeed. We are here to assist you in getting your business started and pointing you in the right direction. We are happy to personally sit down with you and discuss what opportunities are available to you as a business owner as well as answer any questions that may arise.



Please call the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and Better Hometown (BHT) at 478-994-7747 or come by the office located in the Welcome Center at 68 North Lee Street.

Step 3: Zoning

Where do you plan to operate your business? The town's Zoning Ordinance helps you ensure that businesses are located in appropriate and compatible districts. Please be sure to verify that your business is permitted in the desired location.

Please contact our Zoning Officer at 478-994-5649 or www.cityofforsyth.net/zoning.php for more information.



Step 4: Building

Making improvements to your business space? Will it involve just paint or something that might be more involved (changes to the lighting, plumbing, or wall system)? These more significant changes would require a building permit.



Please contact Building Inspection at 478-994-7618.

Changes to the exterior of a building in downtown must also be approved by the Design and Review Board. Please contact the board at the zoning office at 478-994-5649.

Step 5: Licensing

An active business license is required for any business that operates in Forsyth. The funds from this fee help provide a wide range of business promotion activities.

Please contact City Hall at 478-994-5649 for more information.

If you are wanting to open a restaurant you will also need to contact the Monroe County Health Department at 478-992-5082.

If you plan to sell alcohol both a City and State Alcohol Beverage License is required. First, to obtain your city license please call the City Clerk at 478-994-5649. Then, for the state license you will need to contact the Department of Revenue at 706-295-6688.