



New Hours Update: Each Library Will Be Open Two Evenings Each Week
Libraries Will Remain Open Seven Days Per Week

Forsyth County Public Library strives to serve this community by providing high-quality programs, convenient technology, and a wide variety of books and information sources.

The current economic downturn has forced difficult choices on the entire community, and your library is no exception. As you probably already know, the library announced in September 2009 that new, reduced hours would go into effect in coming months.

The hours were based on studies of library use and careful consideration of our patrons’ needs. However, many of you reported that the planned new hours did not fully address the needs of students and others who use the library during evening hours.

We listened to your concerns. On November 16, the Library Board approved **new** new hours, which include **two** open evenings each week at each library.

Beginning Monday, January 4, library service hours for existing branches will be:

Cumming Library	Sharon Forks Library
Monday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Monday: 10:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Tuesday: 1:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	Tuesday: 1:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Thursday: 10:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.	Thursday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Sunday: 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Sunday: 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Hampton Park Library
Monday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday: 1:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Thursday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Sunday: 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Hampton Park Library will open with the hours shown above.

Preschool storytimes will be offered two days a week at Cumming and Sharon Forks, and one day a week at Hampton Park. Our friendly, knowledgeable staff will continue to offer library resources and services with the same stellar customer service the community has come to know and expect. Our virtual library—www.forsythpl.org—will continue to be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You can renew library materials at our website or by telephone at 770-781-9865.

The Forsyth County Public Library appreciates your continued understanding and support.

Questions & Answers about new library schedules:

When libraries in other counties are closing one or more days each week, how can FCPL manage to stay open seven days a week?

Because existing personnel must staff three branches instead of two, some reduction in hours was necessary. However, FCPL has partnered with EnvisionWare, provider of self-service solutions for libraries, to make self checkout available for patrons who wish to handle their own uncomplicated checkouts. Library staff will still be available to assist patrons as needed.

Will the reduction in hours be permanent?

It is our hope that, in future budget cycles, funds will be increased to a level that will allow libraries to restore current hours.

What will happen to preschool storytimes?

The storytime schedule will be restructured, but we will continue to offer preschool storytime programs twice each week at the Cumming and Sharon Forks libraries and one day each week at the Hampton Park Library, during storytime sessions. Please visit our website, www.forsythpl.org, or a library branch for a current preschool storytime brochure.

Why weren't other cost-cutting measures taken?

FCPL has cut operating costs, eliminated and/or frozen staff positions, discontinued the presence of security officers, restructured employee benefits, and reduced purchases of books and electronic resources. Despite these efforts, funding for our new branch has been impacted by recent declines in county revenues. In order to open Hampton Park with a minimum impact on our customers, we have been forced to make difficult choices. Making a small reduction in open hours will allow all three libraries to remain open seven days a week and allow us to continue offering high-quality programs, current technology, and a wide variety of books and information sources.

Why not postpone opening Hampton Park?

Hampton Park was built with funds from the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax V (SPLOST V), impact fees, and a construction grant from the Georgia Public Library Service. There will be costs to maintain this state-of-the-art building even if it remains closed; for instance, it requires lighting and air conditioning to provide security and to avoid damage to furnishings, equipment and materials. Opening all three branches with a small reduction in hours helps to maintain equitable service for the entire Forsyth County community.

Will the library be hiring for positions at the Hampton Park Library?

Instead of hiring new staff as previously planned, we will staff this branch with employees transferred from existing branches. However, individuals interested in future employment opportunities can sign up to receive **Job Alerts** (see the FCPL website, www.forsythpl.org).