

Sky Valley Property Owners Association

Newsletter – June 15, 2022

First meeting is 3 p.m. at Sky Valley Country Club

Join us today at 3 PM for our first meeting of the season. This meeting will be held in the Sky Valley Country Club.

Our speakers will be Rick Story, Director of Forward Rabun, and CJ Thompson, Manager of Marketing and Tourism. Take a look at the following information about Forward Rabun, Rick, and CJ. They will be prepared to answer any questions you may have.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THIS AFTERNOON.

Forward Rabun Presentation by Rick Story.

All about what Forward Rabun is doing in Rabun County and beyond. A great way to learn about Rabun County and what it has to offer.

<https://forwardrabun.com> and <https://explorerabun.com>

About Forward Rabun:

Forward Rabun is a public-private partnership that includes representatives from the county, its cities, and the private sector to help manage the responsible growth of our community, provide better economic opportunities, and drive a better quality of life for everyone. They strive towards this goal by connecting people and resources to work together for our common goals.

Rick Story - Director of Development

Prior to his appointment as Rabun County's Director of Development, Rick served as Vice-President of Economic Development at the North Georgia Technical College, as well as working with the University of Georgia's Archway Partnership. In these capacities, he managed a staff of people dedicated to training and enhancing workforce and community development throughout northeast Georgia. Prior this, Rick served as a congressional aide for House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Congressman Nathan Deal. He served in both the Washington, DC and Georgia offices for these members of Congress. Outside of his work in public service, Rick was a member of the Rev. Billy Graham's personal staff. Rick holds current appointments to the state boards of the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) as well as the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Council (GHRAC), positions to which he was appointed by Governors Brian Kemp and Nathan Deal. A long-time native of Rabun County, he attended the University of Georgia and earned degrees from Young Harris College and the University of West Georgia.

CJ Thompson - Manager of Marketing & Tourism

After graduating Georgia Tech with a BS in Industrial Design, CJ worked in the marketing and advertising community of Atlanta for over 15 years before relocating with her husband and Rabun County native, Brendan Thompson, of the Rabun County Water & Sewer Authority, to raise their family. When the opportunity to contribute to the community utilizing her experience in

marketing and advertising design came about and the kids now grown, she decided to go back to work. As Marketing and Tourism Manager, CJ oversees the proper expenditure of the restricted portions of the County's and contributed amounts of the City's hotel/motel tax collections. She works to promote the community as whole and highlights the individual assets of the area in order to encourage tourism and overall economic development and viability.