



CONTACT INFORMATION

EMERGENCY 911

ANIMAL CONTROL
706-613-3540

CITY HALL
706-742-8600

CITY HALL FAX
706-742-5476

CULTURAL CENTER
706-742-0823

DOCTORS MUSEUM
706-389-5151

LEAF & LIMB
PICKUP
706-613-3501 x 318

LIBRARY
706-742-7735

POLICE
706-742-5295

POST OFFICE
706-742-8875

PUBLIC UTILITIES
706-613-3440

STREET OR
DRAINAGE REPAIR
706-613-3465

WINTERVILLE GAZETTE

VOLUME XXVII, ISSUE 1

JAN-MAR 2025

Mayor's Corner

I am writing to you today from a chair that is not behind my desk in the Train Depot. Today, I am writing from a Midtown East hotel in New York City two days after Christmas. Cameron and I have always wanted to take the kids to New York during the holiday season, and we finally made it happen. We travelled all day on the 26th with the kids, so we can now begin to check off a bucket list item for us!

New York City is a little different from Winterville, Georgia, but it has an energy that I believe we do share, an energy that thrives when people are getting things done and enjoying their surroundings, as well as those they share them with. It is a welcoming energy that invites all to see and be a part of the fun and excitement of what hope has to offer. Winterville and New York share that for me. The lights here are beautiful just as they are back home. The only thing that IS different...this city never sleeps, as you know from the song or experience. That was true when I toured here as a musician years ago, and it's true now. We like to sleep in Winterville!

So as the New Year unfolds, I hope you are all well rested, reset and ready for another busy year in your beautiful town. You will see a lot of energy at work



throughout 2025. The Blacksmith shop will be renovated, crosswalks on Main Street and Parkview will be constructed, and the Auditorium will go through a final phase of renovation made possible by a 3rd grant from Fox Gives and the

Fox Theatre. Please be patient as we try to get as many of these projects done in time for the 2025 Marigold Festival in May. We all have so much to be excited about!

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season, and maybe some of you checked something off your bucket list. Tell me all about it when I see you on the streets of Winterville next year.

Sincerely,
Dodd I. Ferrelle, Mayor

We are a small city with a big heart,
and we are glad that you are here.

Wintervillians take pride in our
community traditions, festivals,
parks and trails, and our people.

Whether you are a long-term
resident, a new neighbor or a visitor,
there is room for you here.

Winterville

We welcome and value the beauty
of diversity and strive for equality
and inclusivity in all we do.

2025 Budget

City Council voted unanimously in November to pass the 2025 budget for the City of Winterville. The budget will be on the City website and is always available upon request at City Hall.

Solar Project 2024

Thanks to the ongoing efforts of City Councilperson Bruce Johnson, we have begun yet another Solar project in the city. The Front Porch Bookstore now has panels in place to use renewable solar energy and possibly help us power another building close by. Great job, Bruce, and congratulations Winterville on moving close to our 100% renewable energy goal.

Fox Gives Auditorium Grant #3

Thank you to the Fox Theatre and Fox Gives (formerly the Fox Theatre Institute) for a third grant award in the amount of \$58,000. This grant will go toward the final phase of renovation to the building structure that is the Marigold Auditorium. Included in this scope of work will be a metal worked sign for the front facade and backstage door; new bannisters, railing and lights on the front entrance; refinished stage and stairs; a travelling stage curtain; audio visual screen rear stage; carpet runners down the aisles; and a renovated service window at the bar. We cannot wait to get started on this work. As part of the grant, we have to get this project completed by June 2025, so please be patient if things are in disarray over the next few months. Please also consider supporting the Auditorium through donations to help fund the operations moving forward.

We would not be where we are without that kind of generosity, and the scale with which Fox Gives does contribute is so incredibly impactful, not only to the City of Winterville, but throughout the state and the Southeast.

We are eternally grateful to everyone at Fox Gives and all who have contributed to this effort over the last nine years. I am especially grateful to David Matthews-Morgan. David's hand has written each of these grants (and more) for the Auditorium renovation, and the City has benefitted already and will benefit greatly from his work for many years to come. Think of what a single citizen like David has done...and come be a part of it!

Blacksmith Shop

A contractor has been awarded this special renovation project, and work will begin early in 2025. Character Built is an award-winning firm out of Athens, Georgia. They have worked on many successful renovations over the last several years, and we look forward to working with them. As you know, the Blacksmith Shop renovation has been made possible through a federal grant with no matching funds required from the City. Such a great opportunity to salvage an iconic building and provide a space for our incredibly important Marigold Collective. We hope to have Sarah and the gang moved in before the Market season opens in April!

Intersection Improvements

A contractor has been awarded the dual project of intersection improvements at Robert Hardeman and Main Street as well as the new crosswalk and sidewalk improvements at Pittard Park across Parkview Road. College Pro Landscaping will be on site early in 2025 to create crosswalks very similar to the ones we installed a couple of years ago along Main Street. These projects will continue to make pedestrians safer and calm traffic throughout our city. Once the project at Robert Hardeman and Main Street is complete, we will order another traffic study to hopefully allow for lower speed limits all the way down Main Street. Please be patient and allow for a little more travel time over the next few months. There will be periods of traffic control with single lanes during construction. Thanks in advance for your understanding.

Alcohol by the Drink in Restaurants

City Council voted unanimously to amend the City charter to allow the sale and manufacture of distilled spirits in the City of Winterville. This does not mean alcohol can be sold or manufactured yet. Amending the Charter was merely the first step and is the mechanism that allows for a vote by citizens to take place. It is now up to you. There will be a referendum on the 2025 November Ballot that will give each citizen the opportunity to vote on whether you would like the city to allow the sale of alcohol by the drink in restaurants and entertainment venues only. Please come to the next Town Hall meeting for more information!

Welcome the New Police Chief

Please give a big Winterville welcome to our new Chief of Police, Colt Young. We are thrilled to have Colt and his family join our community, and we look forward to many years of service and working together with Chief Young and our beloved Winterville Police Department.

Welcome New Cultural Center Director

Welcome Tina Mills as your new Cultural Center Director! I think everyone knows what a great job Tina is doing already and will hopefully continue to do for many years to come. We so look forward to working with Tina and her incredible crew, and we cannot wait to see all of the exciting things that go on at the Cultural Center and the Marigold Auditorium in 2025!

Thank you, Judy, Jack, and David

Wow. When I see those three names, Judy, Jack and David, and I think about all that they have done for this city, I get chill bumps. What amazing work they have put in and what great rewards the city has received because of that

hard work. Judy started a gallery from scratch and quickly turned it into the place to be for artists and art lovers. The last show was packed on a UGA gameday—that tells you something. And Jack stepped back out of retirement to take the Cultural Center to new heights as he did in the very beginning. You are a treasure and dear friend of the city. Chief Painter, you answered the phone at midnight on a Sunday night and went right back to work protecting this community that has grown so near and dear to your heart. I cannot thank you enough for your service. I know none of you will be strangers, but on behalf of the City, I wish you each a wonderful retirement. Please carry our sincerest appreciation and gratitude with you through the years!

City Council Seat

The vacant City Council seat will be in the referendum this spring, so be on the lookout for qualifying dates. The term will go through the year and that same seat will be up for election again in November of this year. Stay tuned to the city's website and social media for more information.



WINTERVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

A Letter from New Police Chief Colt Young

Hello Everyone,

My name is Colt Young, and I am the new Police Chief for the Winterville Police Department. It is an absolute honor to have been appointed to be the new Chief, and I do not take this opportunity lightly. I would like to thank Mayor Dodd Ferrelle, the Winterville City Council, and former Chief David Painter for their faith in me. I would also like to thank the many other people, including several Winterville Firefighters who recommended me.



I grew up in Greensboro, Ga. Growing up, I always knew that I wanted to do something to help others. But I wasn't sure what that was, until after I graduated high school.

Law enforcement has always been a cornerstone for my family, as my great grandad was a police officer for many years, eventually becoming Police Chief in Social Circle back in the 70's. His son followed in his footsteps and made the same career moves before retiring from the Walton County Sheriff's Office. My uncle also followed in his footsteps after getting out of the military and served with the Clarke County Sheriff's Office for many years, retiring as a Sergeant.

My career in law enforcement has led me to work in Greene County, Franklin Springs, Oglethorpe County, and Comer.

In 2017, when Sheriff Gabriel was elected as Sheriff of Oglethorpe County, I was offered a position as Crime Suppression/K9 in Oglethorpe

County. That position began the major growth that has brought me to where I am today. Over the years in Oglethorpe County, I was promoted to Sergeant, with the last two years supervising a shift, working K9 and crime suppression. In 2018, I was awarded Deputy of the Year by Sheriff Gabriel. Through my years in Oglethorpe County, I became an FTO (Field Training Officer) Deputy and worked several years with the Northern Judicial Circuit Felony Drug Court as a compliance officer.

In February of 2024, I went to work with Comer Police Department under Chief Dennis Bell. Chief Bell was preparing me to become the Police Chief when he retired. Before that came about, I was given the opportunity to become the Chief of Police in Winterville. As a total in my career, I have 23 years of experience and over 2,000 hours of training.

During my time in Franklin County, I met my wonderful wife, Katie. We attend church at Cornerstone Church in Athens and have been there for several years. Between the two of us, we have four kids. The youngest is eight years old, and the oldest is eighteen years old and started college this year. He will be pitching for Claflin University Baseball this coming Spring. Our three youngest (eight, ten, and eleven) attend school in Oglethorpe County.

My goal as Chief is to create a community-oriented Police Department. We are here as a Police Agency to help our community, and we will continue to do so as the department did under Chief Painter. If I haven't already met you, I look forward to meeting you in the coming days. We will have community events in the future so that citizens can voice concerns and get to know the officers within the Police Department. I will be easy to contact. If you have a question and do not see me at the Police Department or around town, you can get in touch with me through City Hall. Chief Painter will continue to serve the City of Winterville with the Police Department as Lieutenant in a part-time role, and we are extremely grateful that he has decided to stay with us.

I look forward to serving the Winterville Community for years to come!

CIVIC CALENDAR

Meetings are held at City Hall unless otherwise stated.

Times, Dates, and Meeting Places are subject to change without notice.

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Wednesday, January 1 | New Year's Day, City Hall Closed |
| Monday, January 6 | Planning & Zoning, 5:30 p.m. |
| Tuesday, January 7 | Council Workshop, 6:00 p.m. |
| Thursday, January 9 | Winterville Arts Council, 6:00 p.m. (Community Center) |
| Monday, January 13 | Municipal Court, 5:00 p.m. |
| Tuesday, January 14 | City Council, 6:00 p.m. |
| Thursday, January 16 | Friends of the Winterville Firefly Trail, 6:00 p.m. |
| Monday, January 20 | Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, City Hall Closed |

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Monday, February 3 | Planning & Zoning, 5:30 p.m. |
| Tuesday, February 4 | Council Workshop, 6:00 p.m. |
| Monday, February 10 | Municipal Court, 5:00 p.m. |
| Tuesday, February 11 | City Council, 6:00 p.m. |
| Thursday, February 13 | Winterville Arts Council, 6:00 p.m. (Community Center) |
| Monday, February 17 | President's Day, City Hall Closed |
| Thursday, February 20 | Winterville Arbor Day, All Day |

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Monday, March 3 | Planning and Zoning, 5:30 p.m. |
| Tuesday, March 4 | Council Workshop, 6:00 p.m. |
| Monday, March 10 | Municipal Court, 5:00 p.m. |
| Tuesday, March 11 | City Council, 6:00 p.m. |
| Thursday, March 13 | Winterville Arts Council, 6:00 p.m. (Community Center) |



The Sudsy Truth: How Soap Impacts Our Streams

Have you ever thought about the science behind your favorite household staples? The cleaning products we rely on daily—like dish soap, laundry detergent, and degreasers—contain surface-active agents, or surfactants, that make water better at cleaning. They work by breaking the cohesive bond between water molecules, reducing surface tension. Those suds are great for cutting through stubborn grease on dirty dishes or removing tough stains from clothes. But what happens when those same surfactants end up in our waterways?

Imagine you're washing your car at home, armed with a bottle of your favorite cleaner. You park in your driveway and get to scrubbing, letting all that soapy water flow down the street into a storm drain. Out of sight, out of mind, right? The problem is, everything that goes into a storm drain flows untreated into our local streams and rivers. In this case, that soapy runoff eventually makes its way to the Oconee River, bringing surfactants along for the ride.

Surface tension plays a vital role in aquatic ecosystems, helping maintain a stable water

surface. A single drop of soap, however, can completely disrupt it. For instance, small aquatic insects like water striders depend on surface tension to “walk” on water, enabling them to feed and move. Many insects, including caddisflies, mayflies, and water beetles, lay eggs on the water's surface. Without surface tension, those eggs sink, drastically reducing their chances of survival.

Fish and plants are also affected. Some fish, such as killifish and goldfish, lay floating eggs that rely on surface oxygen, while others, like trout and salmon, attach eggs to vegetation just below the surface for stability. Surfactants in the water can disrupt these processes, putting eggs and larvae at risk. Floating aquatic plants, which provide shelter and habitat for fish and insects, rely on surface tension to stay buoyant. When surface tension is disrupted, pollutants like oils and pesticides can mix more easily into the water, damaging habitats and destabilizing ecosystems.

The harm doesn't stop there. Surfactants can coat fish gills, making it difficult for them to breathe and often leading to death. These cascading effects show how a seemingly harmless car wash at home can have serious consequences for aquatic life.

So, what can we do to keep surfactants out of our waterways? One simple solution is to wash your car on grass instead of pavement. This allows soapy water to filter into the ground rather than flow directly into storm drains. You can also opt for biodegradable or non-toxic cleaning products, especially if there's a chance the runoff could enter a storm drain. For businesses or large-scale operations, containment systems like the VacuBoom are excellent options. To learn more about these systems and other best practices, visit accgov.com/stormwater.

As we step into the New Year, let's make choices that protect water quality and wildlife. By being mindful of how our actions affect our waterways, we can all be better Stormwater Stewards. Remember, small changes in our daily habits can make a big difference!

Winterville Tree Council: It's Time to Plant Some Trees!

January, February, and March are great times to plant trees, help establish these new trees, and work on maintenance of existing trees. Here are some hints.

January: The Right Tree in the Right Place

As arborists, working with property owners as well as municipalities, we are getting away from "beautification" only. While beautification is a side benefit of tree planting, the real question is what do you want that tree to accomplish? What is its "job"? Do you want it to be a screen? Do you want it to provide shade? Do you want ornamental flowering? Do you want it to help save heating/air conditioning costs, or help with storm water runoff and erosion? Or are you interested in fruits and edible production?

Before selecting a tree, look at your environmental landscape. Are your planting areas wet/dry or sunny/shady? Have you done a soil sample through the Cooperative Extension to determine the necessary pH (soil acidity or alkalinity that the tree requires to absorb nutrients)? It is inexpensive and simple to do.

Where are the overhead and underground utilities located on the property? And lastly, will your desired planting space be adequate to accommodate the tree when it reaches full maturity? Do some research to determine the pros and cons of the tree, especially the ongoing and maintenance needs of the particular species. Is it subject to disease, is it messy, or will it just need general maintenance?

DO NOT fertilize at planting. It will only confuse the tree.

February: Pruning

Dead, diseased, and damaged branches can be pruned off at any time, but for routine pruning, wait until winter when the tree is dormant. Pruning too early in fall may indicate to the tree that it needs to force new growth, which can kill the shoots before they have a chance to harden off. And be sure you make cuts outside the branch collar (the little "wrinkly part") and not flush up against the trunk. Think of a wrinkly elephant foot when you think of "outside the branch collar."

February/March: Planting

Plant your trees a bit shallow—about an inch above grade. These trees need to be able to access water and oxygen, and the weight of the canopy can cause trees to sink too low into the ground. Give them some space to settle. Water them well at planting, and water them if there is not an inch of rainwater produced each week. Trees need water in the winter even though it is cold. Be sure to spread a 2-4" layer of mulch to the edges of the canopy, but keep it about 6" from the trunk to prevent rot and insect damage. Aged wood chips and the tree's own leaves are great. Avoid gravel and rubber mulch as it does not decompose, will not enrich the soil, and can generate more heat than the roots can stand.

Have Questions?

Contact Winterville Arborist Susan Russell at 706-201-7893, or Arborvitals@gmail.com, or City Hall for additional contact information.

The Winterville Tree Commission works to enhance the tree canopy and promote the health of trees throughout Winterville. If you're interested in this work, we encourage you to attend our regular meetings and/or contact us at wintervilletreecomm@gmail.com.

Marigold Farmers Market Winter Hours and New Easy Online Grocery Ordering

Mondays all winter long from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., shop for fresh, local produce, nuts, honey, eggs, meat, milk, bread, cheese, flowers, sheep's wool and yarn, goat's milk soap, coffee, ceramics, baskets, and more! SNAP/EBT is always doubled thanks to our partnership with Wholesome Wave Georgia.

Lydia, our Americorps Community Vista, has been working alongside our staff and Co-Op farmers to implement a seriously awesome new website, which means that you can finally shop online for your favorite seasonal fruits and veggies, convenient prepared foods, and pantry staples.

The website will help us track inventory and work together to plan crops and harvests and is a major step forward as we expand our shopping hours, prepared food offerings, and nutrition initiatives and make plans to move into our new home in the Historic Blacksmith Shop later this year. We are so appreciative of Lydia, Americorps, and UGA's Office of Service Learning for helping us to build capacity and a bigger table!

We hope to have online ordering up and running by the second week of January, but keep an eye on our website and sign up for our newsletter to stay in the loop. Let us know what you want to see on the shelves in YOUR community market!



MARIGOLD



MARKET

Marigold Farmers Market

Mondays

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Year-Round

Saturdays

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
April 5 – December

100 North Church Street in Pittard Park
(right across from City Hall)

MARIGOLD COLLECTIVE / MARIGOLD MARKET

Call for Musicians and Vendors!

Our Saturday Farmers Markets in Pittard Park starts up again on April 5th, and vendor applications are now open. We are looking for family-friendly musicians to play two-hour sets under the trees in the breeze. We have a PA and offer a small stipend.

Link Marigold Collective to Your Kroger Plus Card

Just a reminder that the Marigold Collective is now one of the non-profits in Kroger's database that you can select to link to your shopper's card and earn community rewards donations. Please visit <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards> and link your Kroger Plus card. Every little bit helps. You can search "Marigold Collective" or our code is QH245.

Save The Date: April 19 at the Marigold Auditorium

Join us for an evening of music and merriment with Cicada Rhythm and Friends to benefit the Marigold Collective.

Questions? Please email us at marigoldmarketwinterville@gmail.com



WINTERVILLE MARIGOLD FESTIVAL

Marigold Festival: Saturday, May 10, 2025

The Winterville Marigold Festival wishes you a Happy New Year!

We are excited for 2025! The Winterville Marigold Festival will take over Pittard Park on Saturday, May 10th. Come join us, volunteer, and have fun with your neighbors hosting the BEST festival around.

Local vendors can submit applications for the juried selection process beginning December 30th. Applications will be reviewed as they are received, beginning March 1. We reserve the right to limit the number of vendors with similar offerings.

We would love to see the community showcased in this year's parade. Participation is free; just fill out an application by May 3rd.

The Festival Board remains forever grateful to our local sponsors who make it possible to

host this wonderful community event each year. Any individual or organization interested in becoming a sponsor should contact the Board. To be featured in printed publications, sponsorship packets and artwork must be submitted by March 15th.

For more information and all festival applications, visit www.marigoldfestival.com Follow us on Facebook & Instagram for updates and information @marigoldfestival.



WINTERVILLE LIBRARY

A Busy Fall!

The Winterville Library had a fun and very busy fall! We enjoyed a visit from Winterville Elementary during their Day in Winterville, and we also visited Coile Middle School for Georgia Reads Day! We gave away bookmarks, free books, and prizes in exchange for an answer to a book-related question. We quizzed the students about their favorite book, and the most popular answer was “Dogman.”

The library also hosted a myriad of events from a new Trivia Night program hosted by Eddie Whitlock to a Pumpkin Painting Night!

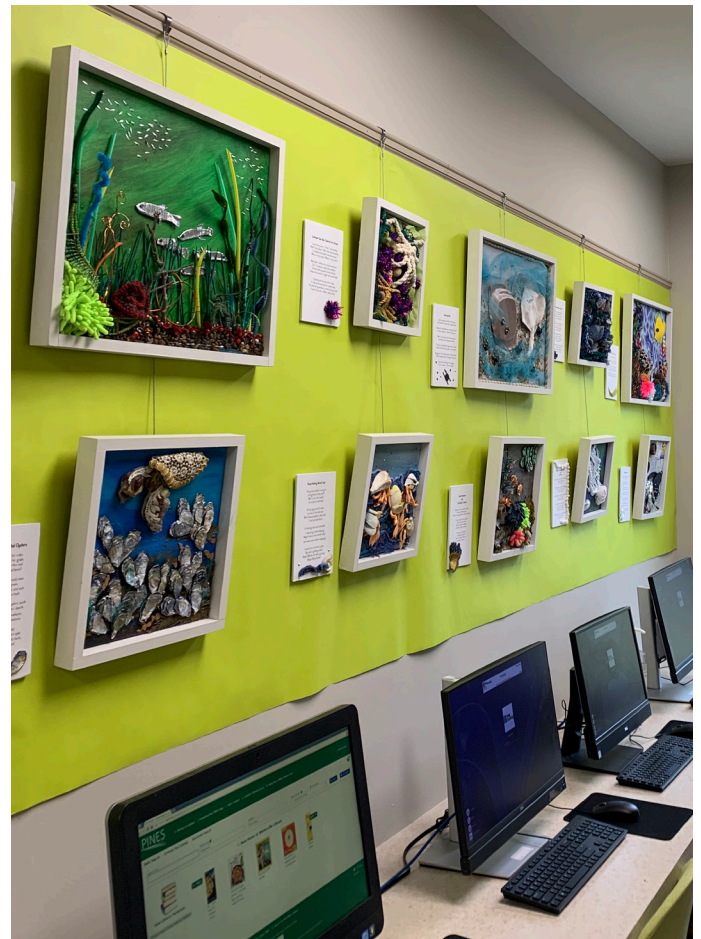


Front Room Art Gallery

Jenifer Borg and Vicky Tavernier displayed their show, “Tide Pools, Rainforests, Deserts, and Fields: Selected Works from What Hides in the Tides and Stay a While with a Reptile,” in our

Front Room Gallery in December. This show was a wonderful addition to the library with its bright green background and delightfully engaging pieces.

We’re excited to host a Teen Art Show in our Front Room Gallery in January! The show will feature works by students at Our Resilient Community ALC, as well as other local teen artists.



Upcoming Events

We’re also looking forward to continuing our book clubs in the new year and starting a new list of books! Come by the library to look at what our Daytime and Evening Book Clubs will be reading throughout the year. Our Naturalist Book Club will be reading *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold for their meeting on Thursday, January 16th at 6:00 p.m. We will have copies of the books selected by each book club available at the library.

FRONT PORCH BOOKSTORE

The Front Porch Bookstore opened 15 years ago in November 2009, and we have grown and made improvements ever since. This year we are starting 2025 with solar panels on the annex roof, courtesy of the great city of Winterville.

The bookstore is run solely by volunteers from the Friends of the Winterville Library and is a 501(c)3 not for profit organization. All books are donated, and all proceeds support our local Winterville Library. So, if you are clearing your bookshelves to make room for more books,

consider donating your used books to the Front Porch Bookstore!

Our hours are:

Monday–Thursday: 11:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

****On concert Saturdays in spring & fall open 10:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.**

Remember, a \$10 bag of books sale every Saturday! Come see us!

WINTERVILLE CIVITAN CLUB



DATE: January 11th, 2025

LOCATION: Register in the Pittard Park Pavilion, Winterville, Georgia.

10K COURSE: Beautiful city & county roads, relatively flat with some shade. USATF certified course GA19030DJ.

IN PERSON FEES: Pre-registration \$30.00 through December 18th, \$35.00 Beginning December 19th through January 8th.

VIRTUAL OPTION: Registration ends January 8th. Run your 6.2 miles any day between Saturday, January 1st and Saturday, January 11th at noon. Submit your finish time using the results tab on the main registration page. Finish times must be submitted no later than Saturday, January 12th at noon. Awards are not available for the virtual option.

VIRTUAL FEES: \$30.00. Virtual runners are not eligible for t-shirts or race day awards.

T-SHIRTS: Long sleeve t-shirts guaranteed to those that register by December 26th. After December 26th, t-shirts will be available as supplies last.

TO REGISTER: Make checks payable to Winterville Civitan Club. Mail registration form and check to: Snowflake 10K, Classic Race Services, 1860 Barnett Shoals Road, Suite 103-498, Athens, GA 30605. Registration is also available at runsignup.com. In person race is a rain or shine event. Sorry no refunds. All mail in registrations must be received no later than Wednesday, January 10th.

IN PERSON AWARDS: Overall M/F, Masters M/F, Grand Masters M/F, and top 3 M/F in age groups "10 and under" through "80 and over" in 5-year increments.

TRAIL SERIES: This is the first race in the 2025 Firefly Trail Series.

OTHER INFO: In case of rain, the races will go on. Delay of the start may happen in case of severe weather in the area at race time. If severe weather continues, then the race director or local authorities may make the call to cancel the race at that time. Sorry, no refunds.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Carole Black at classicraceservices@gmail.com.

WINTERVILLE ARTS COUNCIL

The month of December was a busy one for WAC. We had so much fun representing our wonderful city of Winterville along with other Wintervillians in the Athens Christmas Parade! Even though it was a super windy and cold night, we all felt the Christmas spirit as we saw how many people had come out to see the parade. And if you stopped in during the Holiday Market to see Santa, the WAC elves were the decorating team that turned the Winterville Train Depot into a Magical Wonderland.

Free Little Art Gallery (FLAG)

You may have noticed that our FLAG (Free Little Art Gallery) is going through a slow season. WAC appreciates the numerous supporters who have created art for our wee little gallery, **but we need more art.** If you'd like to donate something to our gallery, you can either mail your art to (FLAG c/o Winterville City Hall, 125 N. Church St., Winterville GA 30683) or drop it in our drop box on the back of the FLAG. Follow us on Instagram @freeandweewinterville to see all the awesome art we receive because #artisgoodinwinterville.

If you love art and are interested in joining WAC, we meet monthly on the second Thursday at 6:00 p.m. in the Winterville Cultural Center. All are welcome! No fees to join. Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 9, 2025.

Treats on the Trail

This past October, the Winterville Arts Council reached out to numerous community groups and churches to put together our first annual family-friendly Halloween event "Treats on the Trail." We had an overwhelmingly positive response—more than 20 groups and 2 churches participated in giving out candy and treats to the families who came out to trick or treat. Each group was given a designated space to set up tables or tents on the Firefly Trail beginning at Winterville First Baptist Church and ending at the Winterville United Methodist Church. Tom Doonan gave families free rides on the Marigold Express, The WUMC sponsored a hayride through our downtown area, and local musicians, "The Original Screwtops," played

music throughout the event on the Front Porch Bookstore stage. Before the night was over, the place was buzzing with talk about doing this Halloween event every year. A huge THANK YOU to all who participated! It was a truly "spooktacular" night!



Vino and Van Gogh

Our September Vino and Van Gogh was a huge success! Participants painted Van Gogh's "Sunflowers," led by award-winning artist Laura Floyd. The evening was SOLD OUT! So many "frame-worthy" paintings were created that evening! If you haven't had a chance to attend one of our paint and sip evenings, we will be hosting another one Friday, February 21 from 7:00–9:00 p.m. You can register for this event by calling the Winterville Cultural Center at 706-742-0823. The fee is \$35 per person—this includes all paint supplies and the vino.

Join the Arts Council

If you are an artist of any variety or appreciate the arts, consider joining the Winterville Arts Council. Our new meeting time is the 2nd Thursday of every month from 6:00–7:00 p.m. at the Winterville Cultural Center. Guests and new members are welcome.

WINTERVILLE ARTS COUNCIL



WINTERVILLE CULTURAL CENTER



CLASSES



Fitness

CHAIR YOGA ^M
9:15A-10:15A

STRENGTH TRAINING ^{TU & TH}
6P-7P

FLOW YOGA ^W
8:30A-9:30A

TAI CHI ^W
11A-NOON

Art

BOTANICAL SKETCHING ^M
10:30A-NOON

FOLK ART PAINTING ^{TU}
6:30P-8:30P

OIL PAINTING ^W
1P-3P

INTRO TO PHOTOGRAPHY TH
1P-2:30P

VINO & VAN GOGH ^{FEBRUARY 21}
7P

CALL TO REGISTER TODAY!!!



706-742-0823



www.wintervillecenter.com



371 N. Church St.

WINTERVILLE CULTURAL CENTER

MARIGOLD AUDITORIUM SCHEDULE



Killer Beaz comedy show
January 17



Tinsley Ellis + Rick Fowler
January 18



Original Splitz Band
February 14



Spite Marriage + Piano
February 15



Freebird: Lynryrd Syknyrd Tribute
February 22



Vintage Vixens
March 22

373 N. Church St.
Winterville, GA 30683
marigoldauditorium.com



Contact Us:
706-742-0823
wintervillecampus@gmail.com

WINTERVILLE CULTURAL CENTER GALLERY

Since the Grand Opening of the Gallery in June, this beautiful venue continues to draw crowds. We hope that 2025 will continue to provide art lovers and buyers with a local place to see and purchase art they love.

On January 18th, the gallery is hosting five artists who create a wide array of art.

These exhibitions can be seen from January 18th until March 14th. The Opening Reception will be held on Thursday, January 23, 2025, from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Gallery One: Outside the Box

This exhibition will host three local artists: Peter Loose, Leigh Ellis, and Michael Pierce.

Peter Loose celebrates the animal kingdom in his folk creations, painting all manner of birds,

dogs, snakes, and other creatures in palettes that break all conventional bounds.

Leigh Ellis is a watercolorist with finely detailed works and captivating subjects.

Michael Pierce is a painter, potter, sculptor, carpenter, and metalworker. His 3D pieces are created using salvaged and recycled materials.

Gallery Two: Two-Fold

This exhibition hosts a father/daughter duo, Jack Burk and Amanda Jane Burk. Jack creates works in pastels, pen, collage, color pencil, and other mixed media. Amanda is a printmaker. She uses traditional forms of printmaking alongside hand drawn or painted elements.



Peter Loose

WINTERVILLE CULTURAL CENTER GALLERY



Leigh Ellis



Michael Pierce



Jack Burk



Amanda Jane Burk

WINTERVILLE PLAYERS

Winterville Players Will Present Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*

The Winterville Players production of Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap* in October was a great success, with two well-attended performances. Our next production will be *Our Town*, with performances on March 20, 22, and 23. Auditions for the play will be held at Marigold Auditorium on Monday, January 27, and Tuesday, January 28, at 7:00 p.m. at the Marigold Auditorium.

Our Town, by Thornton Wilder, is set in the fictional small town of Grover's Corners, New Hampshire. Set in 1901, it depicts everyday small-town life, love, and death. The play won the Pulitzer Prize and has been called by some critics the greatest American play ever written.

Characters:

- Stage Manager – A narrator, commentator, and guide through Grover's Corners.
- Emily Webb – One of the main characters; we follow her from young girl through her wedding to George Gibbs and her early death.
- George Gibbs – The other main character; the boy next door, a kind but irresponsible teenager who matures over time and becomes a responsible husband, father, and farmer.
- Frank Gibbs – George's father, the town Doctor.
- Julia (Hersey) Gibbs – George's mother. She dreams of going to Paris but never does so.
- Charles Webb – Emily's and Wally's father, Editor of the *Grover's Corners Sentinel*.
- Myrtle Webb – Emily's and Wally's mother.

Secondary Characters:

- Joe and Si Crowell – Local paperboys.
- Simon Stimson – The choir director and church organist.
- Howie Newsome – The milkman, a fixture of Grover's Corners.
- Rebecca Gibbs – George's younger sister.
- Wallace "Wally" Webb – Emily's younger brother.
- Professor Willard – A rather long-winded lecturer.
- Mrs. Louella Soames – A gossip townswoman and member of the choir.
- Constable Bill Warren – The policeman.
- Three Baseball Players – Who mock George at the wedding.
- Joe Stoddard – The undertaker.
- Sam Craig – A nephew of Mrs Gibbs who left town to seek his fortune.

FIREFLY TRAIL

Although 2024 ended without any additional trail completed during the year, the Firefly Trail, Inc. (FTI) Board of Directors has worked diligently over the past twelve months to position the project for big things in 2025.

The City of Maxeys looks forward to constructing an additional 0.9-mile trail segment by this time next year, thanks to a Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant through the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Oglethorpe County graciously submitted the grant application (prepared by FTI), and final details of the \$160,000 award are being addressed this winter. A \$45,000 local match contribution will be split between the City of Maxeys and FTI. The 0.9-mile segment will complete the 2.0-mile Firefly Trail section in Maxeys.

The City of Union Point is awaiting a final determination from Georgia DOT concerning a Transportation Alternatives Program application submitted this past August after preparation by FTI. If awarded, the requested funds will go toward construction of a 0.3-mile Firefly Trail segment into the downtown area plus creation of an attractive trailhead at Firefly's southern terminus. Union Point has been a staunch supporter of Firefly for more than 15 years and used an RTP grant to complete a "Model Mile" trail segment in 2021. We are certainly hopeful that the TA funding will materialize!

As reported in the last issue of the *Gazette*, the ACC Mayor and Commission awarded Backbone Infrastructure, LLC a contract last September to construct another 2.65 miles of the Firefly Trail in Clarke County. This will extend the trail all the way from Hancock Road at Spring Valley Road to approximately 0.7 miles from Winterville's Five Points intersection, and completion is anticipated by the end of 2025.

On the local scene, the Winterville Friends of the Firefly Trail spearheaded a very productive workday on December 14. The result was removal of two trailer loads of briars and invasive plants from trailside, and there are plans for several more such efforts in the coming months!

Since its establishment in 2011, Firefly Trail, Inc. has raised and contributed more than \$350,000 to help local communities build some twelve miles of the 39-mile trail. While much of our work goes toward identifying and assisting in the pursuit of grant opportunities, fundraising is vitally important. Most grant programs require a local match contribution of at least 20% of a project's total cost. Trail planning, design, and construction is very costly...and 22.9 miles of the Firefly Trail remain unfunded. So, as in years past, we have embarked on a Year-End Fundraising Campaign. Readers who are so inclined can find more information about the campaign at www.fireflytrail.com. (Donations will be happily accepted *any* time of year!)

THANKS for all the support Winterville residents have provided over the years, and Best Wishes for 2025!



SILVER HAIR CLUB

Luncheon on January 9th

Everyone is welcome to join the Silver Hair Club for a covered-dish luncheon on January 9th at 12:00 noon at the Winterville United Methodist Church fellowship hall. Let's start off the new year with a great time of fellowship!



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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF WINTERVILLE

CULTURAL CENTER



Coming soon to **The Music Box**
an intimate event space upstairs
at Winterville Cultural Center



Saturday February 1
Shauna & the Jaywalkers Unplugged



Friday February 28
Jim White & Terri Binion



About the *Gazette*

The *Winterville Gazette* is the official newsletter of the Winterville Municipal Government. It is a function of the Winterville Arts Council. To opt out of receiving the print edition, or if you have an idea for a story, contact the editor at Wingazette@gmail.com.

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