



# WINTERVILLE GAZETTE

VOLUME XXIV, ISSUE 3

JUL-SEP 2022

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

### CONTACT INFORMATION

EMERGENCY 911

ANIMAL CONTROL  
706-613-3540

CITY HALL  
706-742-8600

CITY HALL FAX  
706-742-5476

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

It's summertime in Winterville, and it is hot **HOT HOT!** I know you know. I hope you are all doing well and staying cool. I cannot believe that 2022 is already halfway over as I write this. That means the first in-person Marigold Festival in two years is behind us, and what a huge success it was! Kudos to the Marigold Festival Board members for putting on such a great event. Thanks also to all city employees, public safety members, and volunteers for getting everything ready and being there festival day. The festival was quite obviously missed by the masses. This year's turnout was huge, and I was again reminded that our special city truly is the star at every event we host, just as it continues to shine for us everyday. We are fortunate to have such a beautiful city to live in, and I am very appreciative of all the citizens who pitch in to help keep it that way. I see you picking up trash and sticks and doing your part to help out our small staff. Your efforts are the magic that makes this city so special. Visitors tell me they notice the pride our citizens have in Winterville. For example, a new effort to repair and renovate the city fountain is underway by a citizen-led group in coordination with our public works department (see p. 18). This community just keeps getting stronger. Community building and city planning take all of us, and you can find ways to help throughout this issue of the *Gazette*. Our Comprehensive Plan update, Complete Streets proposal, and 2023 budget are all up for review in the coming months, and we need to hear from you. Thank you for all you do, and enjoy your beautiful city. I look forward to working with you and for you, and I'll see you on the streets!



Sincerely,  
Dodd I. Ferrelle, Mayor

Welcome to Winterville, Georgia. 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. We welcome and value the beauty of diversity and strive for equality and inclusivity in all we do.

# CIVIC CALENDAR

**Meetings are held at City Hall unless otherwise stated but are subject to change due to COVID-19; please check with the specific organization for the latest information on meeting times and locations.**

Monday, Jul 4	Independence Day, City Hall closed
Tuesday, Jul 5	Council Workshop, 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Jul 6	Planning & Zoning, 5:30 p.m.
Monday, Jul 11	Municipal Court, 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Jul 12	City Council, 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Jul 13	Downtown Development Authority, 6:00 p.m. Firefly Local Action Committee, 7:00 p.m.
Monday, Jul 18	Community Garden Committee, 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Jul 19	Historic Preservation Commission, 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Jul 26	Winterville Arts Council, 6:00 p.m.
Monday, Aug 1	Planning & Zoning, 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Aug 2	Council Workshop, 6:00 p.m.
Monday, Aug 8	Municipal Court, 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Aug 9	City Council, 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Aug 10	Downtown Development Authority, 6:00 p.m. Firefly Trail Local Action Committee, 7:00 p.m.
Monday, Aug 15	Community Garden Committee, 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Aug 16	Historic Preservation Commission, 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Aug 23	Winterville Arts Council, 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, Sep 1	CAC (SPLOST/TSPLOST)
Monday, Sep 5	Labor Day, City Hall closed
Tuesday, Sep 6	Council Workshop, 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Sep 7	Planning & Zoning, 5:30 p.m. Downtown Development Authority, 6:00 p.m.
Monday, Sep 12	Municipal Court, 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Sep 13	City Council, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Sep 14	Firefly Trail Local Action Committee, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, Sep 15	CAC (SPLOST/TSPLOST)
Monday, Sep 19	Community Garden Committee, 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Sep 20	Historic Preservation Commission, 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Sep 27	Winterville Arts Council, 6:00 p.m.
Monday, Oct 3	Planning & Zoning, 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct 4	Council Workshop, 5:30 p.m.

# CITY NEWS

## MILLAGE RATE AND 2023 BUDGET

It's time to set the millage rate. The millage rate represents the amount per every \$1,000 of a property's assessed value. Assessments have again gone up throughout the county, and we have received the necessary information from ACC Tax Commissioner Toni Meadow to help us make an informed decision. We will hold a public hearing in July before voting to set the 2023 rate. Winterville's 2.9% millage rate has not changed in over 20 years. Once the rate is set we will begin working on the 2023 budget. This process will take a few months, but we hope to have a draft ready for public review by September, with public hearings to follow in October. The 2023 budget may then be adopted by the City Council in November or December of this year.

## QUALIFYING FOR SPECIAL ELECTION

Qualifying for the vacant City Council seat will open Monday, August 1, at 9:00 a.m. and close Wednesday, August 3, at noon. Those wishing to qualify must do so in-person at the Athens Clarke County Board of Elections ([www.accgov.com/160/Elections-Office](http://www.accgov.com/160/Elections-Office)). The special election to fill this seat will be held Tuesday, November 8 at the Depot.

## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Communications Committee has overhauled the city's website, so you can now find more information there and find it more easily. There is even a convenient way to subscribe to the *Gazette*! The committee has also created an Instagram account (@cityofwinterville). As before, you can also like Winterville's Facebook page and watch City Council meetings on YouTube. Do you have more ideas about how the city can improve engagement with all Winterville residents? Please go to the website given below or scan the QR code at right with a smartphone to access a survey about your communication preferences. It takes only a couple minutes: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/68d2b9b945764dcf90dff99063880619>



## PLANNED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE

City Council recently adopted a Planned Development Ordinance to give the city more flexibility and control over future developments throughout the city. Several properties in our commercial district have changed hands recently, and there is currently a lot of interest in that area, so we expect Five Points to undergo some changes and upgrades over the next few years.

## COMPLETE STREETS PROJECT

Please visit our brand new website and check out the Complete Streets proposal diligently drafted with public feedback by our partners at the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission. Thanks to all those who attended the previous public input sessions. We heard your comments and made the appropriate changes. We will hold another public input session in July or August, so watch for that date. City Council will likely adopt this proposal during the August or September meeting.

## 2023 TSPLOST

Way to go, Winterville! You passed the 2023 TSPLOST. In doing so, you made history. This is the most funding we have received from an outside source to complete projects within the city. This particular penny will fund

over \$6 million in projects within the City of Winterville. We presented three projects to the Athens Clarke County TSPLOST Citizen Advisory Committee hoping to get one approved, but they granted all three. These three projects (Main Street stormwater drainage improvement, sidewalks on Smokey Road, and sidewalks on Smithonia Road) will address serious safety concerns but would not have been possible without approval by the Citizen Advisory Committee, Mayor Girtz, and the ACC commissioners! In addition, Winterville will get its own TSPLOST funding based on the percentage of our population within the county. We will use this funding to continue improving roads and pedestrian infrastructure.

## COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

The Comprehensive Plan update is due June 30, 2023, so we now begin the year-long process in accordance with the State of Georgia's regulations. First, Winterville will need to put together a steering committee to guide the process and provide expert community background information. This group will need to attend all of the input meetings and help lead conversation. The Georgia Department of Community Affairs requires all steering committees to have at least one elected official and one business owner or economic development representative. Ideally, the steering committee will consist of seven to ten people. The Comprehensive Plan is the blueprint for the city's future that your elected officials follow. If you are interested in serving on this incredibly important committee, please email Wendy at [cityhall@cityofwinterville.com](mailto:cityhall@cityofwinterville.com).

## WINTERVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Please join your fellow citizens in welcoming Interim Police Chief David Painter. Interim Chief Painter was already serving the Winterville Police Department as a part-time office before stepping in to this new role. A search is underway for a new permanent chief. Thank you to former Chief Jimmy Fulcher for his many years of service and dedication to his community. We wish him well in his retirement!

## POLITICAL YARD SIGNS

This is a polite reminder to take down any political campaign signs from elections that have been decided, per the city's ordinance. Thank you in advance.

## CHARTER DAY

Winterville's charter was signed on August 15, 1904, but this year we will celebrate Charter Day on Sunday, August 14. We have a special day planned with free food and a dessert contest. See back cover for more information.

## MICHAEL LAW RECEIVES KEY TO THE CITY

Congratulations to Michael Law for being awarded a Key to the City of Winterville. Michael exemplifies what the key stands for: outstanding community service. His service as Director of the Marigold Festival Board, as President-Elect of the Civitan Club, and with the Friends of the Winterville Library is without peer. He also helps every week with the Marigold Market and books the bands for the Front Porch Bookstore Concert series. He is definitely a deserving recipient, so next time you see Michael tell him thank you for all of his hard work!



# MARIGOLD MARKET & COLLECTIVE



Let's talk about Marigold Market farmers. This year Marigold Market has more than 13 farms represented. If you have been to the market this season, you may wonder where they are because there are not 13 farmer booths. On any given Saturday, you may find four to eight farms collectively under the co-op table. At Marigold Collective we embrace supporting collaborations among small farms. It's important for farmers to work together, especially in these difficult economic times. Several economic factors are affecting farmers negatively this year. Net farmer income is forecast to decline by 4.5% for 2022. A comprehensive report by

Dr. John Penson, chief economist for the agricultural lending firm AgAmerica, lists supply chain shortages and bottlenecks, inflation, interest rates, and severe weather as the top four reasons for farmers' decreased income.

Marigold Market Farmers are not immune to these adverse impacts. Supply chain disruptions are affecting farmers' access to all sorts of supplies, from seed to tools to machinery. Penson claims supply chain issues are the primary contributor to the spike in farm production costs. Most farmers are forced to rethink their strategy to offset the repercussions. With inflation on the rise, borrowing costs will increase, so it is important for farmers to understand how they can minimize their production expenses while meeting their best practices for sustainability.

Economic variables are not the only consideration. Severe weather is a major hardship. Ongoing drought from 2021, extreme temperatures, and flooding are among top concerns for farmers across the nation. With local temperatures in the high 90s to over 100 degrees already this spring and continuing into the summer, farmers need to protect not only their farms but themselves from heat exhaustion, heat stroke, and dehydration.

There's one other factor not often discussed: the mental stress of these hard times on farmers. One study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reflects a rise of 40% in farmer suicide over the past 20 years in the U.S. alone. Another study in 2017 at the University of Iowa determined farmers are 3.5 times more likely to die by suicide than is the general population.

Marigold Collective aims to support farmers in at least three ways. First, Marigold Market is held weekly on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in beautiful Pittard Park, right off the Firefly Trail. Products are not required to be organic or Certified Naturally Grown (CNG) because the costs associated with those credentials are often cumbersome. However, we do strongly encourage our farmers to use best practices in sustainable farming and promote farmer mentorship and accountability.

Next is Marigold Food Hub. Farmers do not always sell all their produce at the market. Left-over produce often ends up in the farmer's compost pile, which is a net loss. Throughout the 2021 season, farmers had an opportunity to donate their abundance to Marigold Food Hub, which distributes fresh food to more than 60 food-insecure families monthly, as well as to a couple of local women's shelters. However, this only helps the Food Hub. This year, to help minimize financial loss to farmers, Marigold Food Hub has begun a more sustainable practice by compensating farmers for unsold produce at the end of market day. This is currently made possible through funds collected through the market. With a grant from the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, the collective is in the process of building a low-waste initiative that includes enhancing the USDA-certified kitchen with food preservation equipment and creating a composting site for contributing farmers to use.

Lastly, Marigold Collective is creating a stress support program in collaboration with Anna Scheyett, MSW, PhD, professor at the UGA School of Social Work. Anna has been working with farmers in South Georgia for some time. She began her work by examining 106 cases of suicide among farmers and agriculture workers recorded in the Georgia Violent Death Reporting System from 2008 to 2015. She describes farmers as resilient but also very vulnerable. "I think it's really important for the community to feel like we're supporting each other. That's part of the rural culture," Scheyett says. Being a resident of Athens, she wants to offer the same support programs to local farmers. Dr. Scheyett's work is right in line with the mission of Marigold Collective.

All of this is to say, when you shop at Marigold Market, you are supporting local small businesses in tangible ways. You are also buying produce that has been picked only 24 to 48 hours before market, giving your purchase

a longer shelf life. When you speak with your farmers, you are providing moral support and building community. If you want to give more, you can donate to Marigold Collective and designate your donation to the Food Hub, the Market, or the Shared Kitchen. You can also donate your time as a volunteer for food prep, farmer support, market support, or anything else you see as a need you can fill.

## Your 2022 Marigold Market Farmers

**Lydia Engelsen of Sungate Farm** is a military veteran and farmer located in Danielsville. Lydia's father shared his passion for farming with her at a young age, teaching her the value of growing your own food and sharing the abundance with others. Lydia manages our co-op table and brings fresh vegetables and eggs, plus value-added products like jams, cookies, and her famous table sauce every week. **Sarah Hovater of 40 Thistle Farm** in Colbert raises pastured lamb, dairy goats, chickens, and rabbits in addition to growing vegetables and herbs. She brings a variety of goat milk products, including cheese, milk, soap, lotion, and salves, as well as yarn from her sheep, soap savers (a small woolen bag to hold soap scraps), and eggs. Keep an eye out for an occasional sheepskin rug or tanned rabbit pelt. **Frank Fleming, a.k.a. Farmer Frank of The Grove**, is located on Morton Road in Athens. Farmer Frank provided the peaches for our drive-through market in 2020. If you had some, you know they are delicious. In addition to peaches, he brings vegetables, pecans, figs, and melons. Farmer Frank also has a partnership with **Nerraw Foods, Inc.**, and is working with them to grow melons for Martha's Canteloupe Pie, "the best thing you never tasted." You will find Frank's goods at the co-op table or in the gray farm cart that he sometimes brings. **Ty Brooks operates Lazy Summer Farm**, a CNG farm on nine acres of leased land off Morton Road, less than 10 miles from Pittard Park. Ty is most often at our co-op table. His focus is on seasonal and specialty crops, such as peaches, figs, popcorn, pumpkins, and decorative winter squash. Currently, Ty is offering salad mixes, carrots, and radishes at the co-op table. Look for Ty to be in his own booth come October. **Blake Price owns and operates Athens Orchard**, a small farm off Morton Road. Blake started his orchard three years ago and is cultivating 12 different fruits. Currently, he is harvesting blackberries and blueberries. **Kelly Wilder of Little Arrow Farm** in Hull sells USDA-processed chicken and eggs. You will see them at the market about once a month. If you haven't tried one of their roasters, you should. Sherrie Anderson shares that she used the bones to make perpetual broth, "the most nutrient dense broth I've ever made." **Tracie Pollard from Belly Acres Homestead** in Winder specializes in food preservation and brings raw honey, soap, candles, fresh bread, and woodwork to the market weekly. This is her second year with Marigold Market. **Jenny Derevere owns Jenny's Garden**, a micro cut-flower farm and florist in Stephens. A member of the Association of Specialty Cut Flower Growers (ASCFG), Jenny brings lush, seasonal, and environmentally conscious garden-style designs every week. **Daisyfish Farm** is a small, cooperative, model half acre farm in Danielsville that offers diverse salad vegetables and flowers and will soon have mushrooms and fruit. You can find them in the middle of the market weekly. New to Marigold Market this year is **Kathy Howell of Moonflower Farm** in Lexington. Kathy specializes in food preservation, and her goods include jams, jellies, honey, and baked goods. She will have fresh produce and eggs

*cont.*



From left: Lydia Engelsen, Sungate Farm; Sarah Hovater, 40 Thistle Farm; Tracie Pollard, Belly Acres Homestead; Daisyfish Farm; Sara Skinner, Classic City Gourmet Mushrooms)

as available. **Daniel and Seyoung Holte** are backyard gardeners who are crazy about plants and spreading the joy of gardening. They bring seasonal flowering plants about twice a month. **Alison Dean owns Athens Bees** and brings local honey from Oglethorpe and Clarke County to the market. Operated by **Sara Skinner, Classic City Gourmet Mushrooms** grows a variety of mushrooms indoors and out. Most are grown in climate-controlled rooms on supplemented hardwood sawdust. She does not use any chemical herbicides, pesticides, or fertilizers, and none of her mushrooms are foraged. Sara sells fresh and dried mushrooms as well as grow kits. You will find her at the market weekly.

## MEET YOUR MAKER

### ONE-LEGGED EYEBALL

#### Fabienne Mack Makes Guilt-Free Snacks



Fabienne Mack started One Legged Eyeball in January of 2022. After working as a clinical investigator for three years, she was growing bored and had “a brain full of ideas and images of the life I could have,” she said. She wanted to start a snack business but was nervous about leaving a stable job. Finally, she shouted down “that voice in the back of my head telling me that I would fail or that I would never have financial stability in my life.”

To test out her snack ideas, she hosted a party, providing all the food and beverages for her guests. “I had dried mangos, and at the time I was ‘stress eating’ chocolate. I decided to try coating a single slice of mango in some dipping chocolate.” It was a hit! In addition to plain chocolate, she created a small line of different products by adding various spice blends to the chocolate coating.

So, what does a one-legged eyeball have to do with mango snacks? Well, nothing. She wanted an odd name and mysterious logo to intrigue people so that they would come investigate, be pleasantly surprised, and leave with a healthy snack they could enjoy without regrets. Inspiration for the name came from a mishap involving a cheap pair of prescription glasses. “They look like they might break if you so much as blow on them, but my mom refuses to wear anything else.” One morning Fabienne’s mother walked into the kitchen with her glasses askew. “One of the ‘legs’ of the glasses had broken off, but she still proceeded to wear them,” Fabienne relates. “I was already dying laughing, but then she topped it by calling her glasses a ‘one-legged eyeball.’”

Fabienne says her mission is to make it less difficult to use simple ingredients and eat healthfully. A believer in the classic line from *Forrest Gump*—Life is like a box of chocolates: you never know what you’re gonna get—Fabienne is staying open to new ideas for growing her business. Apparel and more snacks are on the way. “Who knows what will come from it?” she muses. “I am beyond thankful for the support I have received from my community and friends. I see this going far, and I plan to take all my kinfolk with me.”



# A NOTE FROM THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S OFFICE

The *Gazette* is pleased to introduce a semi-regular column from District Attorney Deborah Gonzalez updating citizens on the work of the DA’s office on behalf of Clarke and Oconee Counties.

## ART AND JUSTICE

Winterville and I have something in common: a love of art. Your streets are filled with art pieces and your buildings are lined with murals, something I find greatly inspiring. My recent visit to Winterville allowed me the opportunity to walk through the town center and take in each invigorating piece of homegrown artwork. I will tell you the same thing I told Mayor Ferrelle on that day: art and justice have a lot to do with one another.

For those familiar with the work my office does, you already know that my main goal is to help build safer communities for Oconee and Clarke Counties, including Winterville. My office is creating systems in which we go above and beyond for the needs of victims, as well as taking into consideration defendants’ needs so that they may become productive community members rather than casualties of mass incarceration.

Art is intertwined with justice and with the creation of a more effective system. The therapeutic and introspective nature of art can benefit victims and offenders, and even act as a preventative measure. It has been used as a proven and successful tool in restorative justice programs around the country, a concept I am working to incorporate into our justice system. Numerous studies have shown that incorporating art into programs for offenders leads to significant decreases in recidivism rates. I believe that when such program are put into practice here, we will see incredibly positive results.

Using art as a key component of the justice system not only improves the lives of victims and offenders, it creates safer and more beautiful communities. Art is transformative: it can help individuals find their voice, it can help them heal, and it can drive social change for safer communities.

—District Attorney Deborah Gonzalez



What’s this? See pp. 9 and 23!

# WINTERVILLE ARTS COUNCIL

The Winterville Arts Council has had a busy spring and start to summer! In April, we hosted the opening reception for the exhibit of artworks submitted for consideration to become the official design of this year's Marigold Festival. In June, our Free Little Art Gallery (F.L.A.G.) was installed in its permanent home. (See the Artist Spotlight on p. 23.) That same month, WAC hosted its first Summer Art Camp for rising third- through sixth-graders. The campers created life-sized body paintings, puppets, tiny paintings for the F.L.A.G., and learned to use watercolors and do fabric painting. The camp closed with a puppet show and ice cream social at the Pittard Park Pavilion. Many thanks to camp instructors Carli Brownlee, Mary Moseley, and Sherre Watwood. Art Camp was a huge success!



If you love all things art or just want to support the visual, written, and dramatic arts in Winterville, consider joining the Arts Council. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Winterville Community Center. You can find more information and an application form at [www.wintervilleartscouncil.org](http://www.wintervilleartscouncil.org).

## WCC ART STUDENT EXHIBITION

During the months of July and August, the Winterville Community Center art students are invited to display their artwork from any art class they have taken over the past year. Artists can drop up to three pieces of their art off at the center beginning Monday, June 27. Please pop by the Center to see the students' art and on your way out, stop by the office to find out what classes the Center is offering!

## PLEIN AIR COMPETITION AND WORKSHOP

**Save the date!** WAC is very excited to announce its first juried Plein Air Competition and Workshop, The Wonders of Winterville. Plein Air, meaning "open air," is the practice of painting outdoors directly from life. It has a centuries long tradition but was especially popular with the French impressionists and has become popular around the world. This event begins on Friday, September 30, with an all-day workshop led by the very talented Brenda Pinnick. On Saturday, artists will paint throughout the City of Winterville from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The event will end with an awards ceremony and reception that evening. All artists are invited to take part in one or both days. For more information, visit the WAC website given below. We are also seeking sponsors for this event. If you can contribute, please contact us at [WondersofWinterville@gmail.com](mailto:WondersofWinterville@gmail.com).



# SUMMER LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

## SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Summer at Winterville Library is all about the Summer Reading Program. Children (and some adults) read for fun and prizes and to keep their reading skills up. It all ends with a big bash hosted by the Friends of the Winterville Library on July 30 at the library. At the party, readers who read 50 or more books receive a special gift card from a local business. This year, patrons showed great enthusiasm for the program. Events and storytimes were very well attended.

A particular favorite event was a visit from Miso the Pig and our friends Susan and Kat from Sweet Olive Farm. It was a hot day, and Miso sought shade and comfort right on our front porch. She was gentle and sweet, receiving much attention from visitors in a very gracious manner. She took a quick peek inside the library right before she left and discovered something she never knew existed—air conditioning! Thank you to Sweet Olive Farm for sharing your friendship with us!



## GET CARDED!

This September we'll bring back the "Get Library Carded!" program, where we work with our local businesses to offer small discounts for cardholders during the month. This not only encourages people to come to Winterville Library to get a new library card, it also increases customers and publicity for local businesses.

## HAIL AND FAREWELL



We said goodbye to our dear library assistant Hannah Wolff. Miss Hannah is now working at the Madison County Library full time as their children's specialist. This is a great opportunity for her, so although she is already greatly missed, we are happy for her and grateful for her service to Winterville.

We also said hello to our new library assistant, Susan Sellew, seen at left playing her ukelele for an appreciative audience. Miss Susan comes to us from Athens Montessori School, where she has worked nearly twenty years. Miss Susan conducts most of our story times and is a great addition to our team and the Winterville community. Welcome, Miss Susan!

## BUTTERFLY TRAIL

The library has just learned that we will soon be part of the Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail! In partnership with the Trail, Georgia Farm Bureau, UGA Ag Extension, and with a little help from our friends at Georgia Public Broadcasting, we have received a small grant to develop a pollinator garden at the library! On top of that, every library in the state will receive a copy of *A Journey to Plains*. August 18 is Mrs. Carter's 95th birthday. The

Butterfly Trail organization is writing and editing a book about the trail with descriptions and photographs of all of the gardens on the Trail. Winterville Library is excited to be included! We will use our already established raised garden as well as a few hanging baskets. A sign will note that our garden is a stop on the Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail. Stay tuned for more information!



Left to right: A young patron signs up for the Summer Reading Program; the Winterville spirit springs up in the library parking lot, and Joel, age 2, gets a library card.

## FRONT PORCH BOOKSTORE

Come by the Front Porch Bookstore to pick up great books at great prices. We have something for everyone. Remember, all year long, every Saturday you can get a bag of books for \$10!

Our Fall Concert Series starts September 10. Everyone is invited to these FREE Outdoor Concerts from 6:00–7:00 p.m. on Saturday evenings. Bring your friends, family, neighbors, and lawn chairs, and enjoy the show.

September 10	Claire Campbell
September 17	Adam Klein
September 24	Blues Communion
October 1	Oglethorpe Fresh
October 8	Repent at Leisure
October 15	The Artie Ball Swing Band
October 22	Klezmer Local 42



Joe Willey & the Moving Men perform April 30, 2022. Photo by Mike Boyd.

The bookstore is run by Friends of the Winterville Library (F.O.W.L.), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. All donations are tax-deductible.

## F.O.W.L. MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Friends of the Winterville Library is beginning its 2022–2023 Membership Drive. By joining F.O.W.L., you will help support our library and its many programs. It's a chance to be a good neighbor and become a bigger part of the Winterville community. Memberships are \$10 for an individual and \$20 for a family. Members get a free bag of books (\$10 value), refrigerator magnets listing library and bookstore events, and invitations to sponsored library activities such as the celebration of the library's anniversary at the end of the Summer Reading Program. This year, the party is July 31 from 12:00–2:00 p.m. There will be free pizza and awards for summer reading participants. F.O.W.L. meets monthly, usually on third Tuesdays, at 7:00 p.m. at the library. To become a member, please visit the Front Porch Bookstore Monday through Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. or Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Already a member? Now's a great time to renew. Thank you!

# MARIGOLD FESTIVAL A SUCCESS



This year's Marigold Festival saw record turnout and the overwhelming excitement of a return after a two-year absence. Winterville Public Safety estimated that as many as 10,000 visitors came for the festivities. It began as 159 runners came through the finish line of the Marigold 10K race, the second-oldest 10K in Georgia. The staff and students of Coile Middle and Winterville Elementary—celebrating its 125th anniversary—collectively served as the Grand Marshall and led the parade. Kids activities, over 80 vendors, and an extraordinary selection of food, games, and music made the daytime exceptional. Dodd Ferrelle and the Wintervillains opened the evening concert at the auditorium, and The Pink Stones closed it out with an outstanding, Southern-fried set of songs. The Festival thanks everyone who came out for the fun. We hope you had a great day, like we did. We've already begun plans for May 13, 2023. Mark your calendars! If you took pictures at the festival (this year or any other year), add them to our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MarigoldFestival/>. We would love to see them.

We also owe special thanks to our wonderful sponsors:

**Marigold Level:** JW York Properties (Vendor Market), The Commercial Bank (Main Stage), Sporting Arms (Food Court), Fibervisions (Eco Village), Athens Roofing (Parade), Golden Pantry (Kids Area), 5 Points Acupuncture (Auditorium)

**Diamond Level:** Bulldog 93.3, W&A Engineering, LeafFilter North of Georgia, Athens Montessori School, Athens Pet Cremation, Athens Ford, Athens-Clarke County, Classic City Mechanical, DePalma's Italian Cafe

**Platinum Level:** Koons Environmental, Athens Printing, 3 Tree Realty, Akridge Fence

**Gold Level:** Cofers Home & Garden, Winterville Animal Clinic, Chastain & Associates, AAA Sanitation, Winterville Civitan Club, Athens Orthopedic Clinic, Georgia Power, Little City Diner, College Pro Landscaping, Palmore, Boenig & Associates, The Bertis and Katherine Downs Fund (PEGMA), Charles Burch Jr., DMD, Waterman Spring Water, Winterville Dental, Double Helix, Main Street Garage

**Silver Level:** Prince Avenue Primary Care, Badcock Home Furnishings, Loco's Deli and Pub, Firefly Trail Inc., Friends of the Winterville Library, Front Porch Bookstore, Piedmont Provisions, Regions Bank–Todd Cowart

**Bronze Level:** Athens Coca-Cola, D&D Heating and Air Conditioning, Tom & Pam Doonan, Making Strides Equestrian



Left: 10K winner Chandler Goldman checks his watch as he crosses the finish line with a time of 35:30:7. Right: Kaylee Slade, who led for most of the race, was the overall women's winner with a time of 35:47.0.



All photos courtesy of Matt Brewster, Marigold Solutions, Inc.



Even more photos! →



Top, left to right: David Matthews-Morgan, Director of the Winterville Center for Arts and Culture; Parade announcer and concert co-emcee Rob Belton and wife Marija; Daytime music announcer and concert co-emcee Lisa Mende. Bottom, left to right: Dodd Ferrelle and the Wintervillains; the Festival puts the alcohol ordinance to good use; the Pink Stones.

## CHESS CLUB HOLDS CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

The Winterville Chess Club held its First Annual Bolivar Morales Memorial Chess Championship Tournament in April at the Winterville Community Center. Fifteen players from all across Georgia—and one from Nicaragua!—participated in the seven-round Blitz Championship. James Berrigan was crowned Blitz Champion, winning six out of seven games, and Andrew Park took second place with five wins and one draw. Top upset went to Sebastian Caillault (1520 rating), who defeated Nicaragua’s Carlos Avalos (2018 rating). The Reserve Blitz Championship went to club member Noah Polatty.

Twenty-five players participated in the Regular Championship Tournament. James Berrigan (2064 rating) and Danil McQuillin (1775 rating) both scored a perfect four out of four and tied for first place, but since Danil was not a member of the Winterville club at the time, the Club Championship was awarded to James. Top upset went to Chris West (987 rating) for defeating Solomon Caplan (1359 rating). The Reserve Regular Championship went to Noah Polatty with three wins and one loss.

The Winterville Chess Club Annual Championship is named in memory of beloved club member Bolivar Morales, who passed away at the age of 83 earlier this year. For more information on the club or competitions, email [wintervillechessclub@gmail.com](mailto:wintervillechessclub@gmail.com).



Left: Tournament participants (from left) Danil McQuillin, James Berrigan, Noah Polatty, and Chris West



Right: Bolivar Morales (1938–2022)

# WINTERVILLE CAMPUS FOR ARTS AND CULTURE



## MORE STEPS ON THE RENOVATION JOURNEY

Renovating the Marigold Auditorium for Arts and Culture (MAAC) has been a vision of at least two Winterville mayors, Jim Mercer and Dodd Ferrelle. Jim convinced the Clarke County School Board to sell the old Winterville High School and the Winterville Auditorium to the City of Winterville for \$1. The city identified funding to renovate the high school, which has become the Winterville Community Center (WCC). Unfortunately, there was no money at the time to renovate the auditorium.

In September of 2015, while on a bike ride with his family, Dodd peered into a window of the auditorium and saw its potential as a performance space. He enlisted David Matthews-Morgan to write grants that would defray some of the costs of renovating the building. In 2018, David applied for a grant from the Watson-Brown Foundation and received \$10,000 to provide electrical service for the venue. He also wrote a grant application to the Fox Theatre Institute (FTI) to replace the metal roof and install seven heating and air conditioning units. The FTI awarded \$47,500 to the City of Winterville for these items. This was the first phase of the auditorium's renovation.

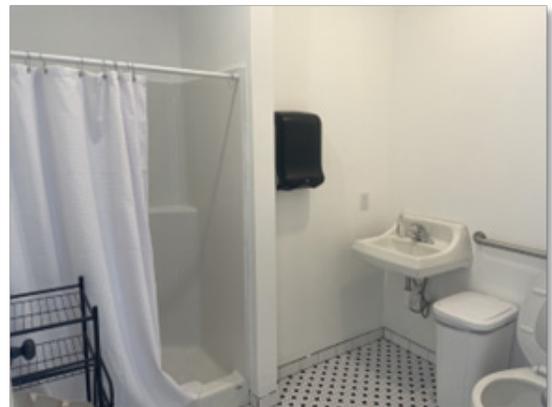
In 2019, David wrote a second grant application to the FTI for state-of-the-art lighting and sound systems. The city received an award of \$55,475 from the FTI along with a \$50,000 donation from Tweed Recording to pay for these systems, which were installed in 2020. This activity constituted the second phase of the auditorium's renovation.

As a result of Clarke County's 2020 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST), Winterville received additional renovation funds for both the WCC and the MAAC. The first allocation was available in April 2021 for the third phase of the MAAC's renovation, which was overseen by Tom Doonan, Winterville's Director of Public Works. To save money, Tom and Steve Rice provided the labor to frame the walls for the public bathrooms and the women's and men's dressing rooms backstage, along with a unisex bathroom containing a shower, often needed by traveling performers who don't have enough time to go to a hotel before performing. Plumbers, electricians, and drywall installers were hired to do their specialty work, and citizens showed up for workdays to paint walls. A fire alarm system and fire-retardant curtains were installed so the city could have beer and wine at the MAAC.

*cont.*



Left: A new public restroom.  
Right: The backstage bathroom.



Additional renovations of the MAAC will be decided by the City's Building Committee, which consists of Dodd, David, Tom, two City Council members (Amanda Mooney and Bruce Johnson), and Bob White (former chair of Winterville's Planning and Zoning Board). Some items to be included as part of future renovations include carpeting for the lobby, the aisles between seats, and the backstage area; a drop ceiling in the lobby featuring a 7' x 7' section of the auditorium's original tin; a bartender area in the lobby; a 20-foot commercial deck outside near the bartender's space; padded, interlocking vinyl flooring for a dance area in front of the stage; and an ADA-accessible ramp to the backstage area for wheelchair-bound performers and for transporting sets for theatrical productions.

## ATHENS CHORAL SOCIETY PERFORMANCE

The Athens Choral Society presents "The Fabulous 50s" as part of their 50th-anniversary celebration. Rock and roll is here to stay as the chorus sings and dances to some of the most popular songs of that era. Join them for a rolling good time at their new location, the beautiful Marigold Auditorium for Arts and Culture in Winterville. Performance dates and times are 7:30 p.m. on Friday, August 19, and 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, August 20. Tickets are \$15.00 and go on sale Wednesday, June 29, at the Athens Choral Society website (<https://www.athenschoralsociety.com/>).



## FREE TECHNOLOGY CLASSES FOR SENIORS

The Athens Community Council on Aging is partnering with Senior Planet from AARP to help people over 50 learn new online skills. When you sign up for the Digital Skills Ready@50+ program, you'll gain the essential skills you need to navigate an increasingly digital world.

Whether you're looking for a job, exploring entrepreneurship, or hoping to stay connected with family and friends, Digital Skills Ready@50+ classes and workshops offer trainings on a wide range of technologies, from video conferencing to online job search tools to office productivity software.

Upcoming Topics:

- Staying Safe Online—Monday, July 25 at 1:00 p.m.
- Affordable Home Internet—Monday, August 22 at 10:30 a.m.
- Finding Information Online—Tuesday, September 13 at 11:00 a.m.

To register for an upcoming workshop, please contact Kellye Morgan at [kmorgan@accaging.org](mailto:kmorgan@accaging.org) or call 706-549-4850. Classes will be held in person at ACCA (135 Hoyt Street, Athens, GA, 30601).

# WINTERVILLE TREE COMMISSION

## ARBOR DAY

The Winterville Tree Commission hosted Arbor Day on Sunday, February 20, 2022. Mayor Dodd Ferrelle read the Arbor Day proclamation and, along with the Tree Commission, two Community Foresters from the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) were on hand to help plant a swamp chestnut oak. The tree was planted in honor of the GFC's Seth Hawkins, who was instrumental in the Tree Commission's formation and has helped the City of Winterville in numerous ways during the years of his recently ended tenure as Community Forester for this area. Lea Clark of GFC gave out tree seedlings and information on planting.



Illustration of a mature swamp chestnut oak in autumn (treemontgomery.org).

## TREE CITY USA AND TREE CITY OF THE WORLD

Winterville was re-certified in both the Tree City USA and the Tree City of the World programs this spring. These programs show our City's commitment to a healthy urban tree canopy. (Athens is now in the Tree City of the World program, too, but we beat them by a year!)

## CITY TREES GET SOME LOVE



Volunteers take a break from mulching during the work day. Photo by Bruce Johnson.

On Saturday, April 23, 2022, the Tree Commission and several city residents added mulch to the commemorative trees along the Firefly Trail. Shortly after, Tom Doonan and his crew finished the work and got all the trees mulched. Watch for information about an upcoming event involving the commemorative trees, tentatively planned for Sunday, October 16.

In other local tree news, the two large cedars by the depot have been professionally identified as Deodar cedars (*Cedrus deodara*). And, thanks to Bruce Johnson, we now have lovely new swings hanging from their enormous limbs. Identification plaques similar to the ones on the commemorative trees will be installed soon. Speaking of tree professionals, Winterville will soon be getting a new part-time arborist, Susan Russell. We'll introduce her in the next issue of the *Gazette*.

## TREE-INSPIRED ART

The Georgia Museum of Art on the UGA Campus will host an exhibit titled "Longleaf Lines," part of artist Kristin Leachman's "50 Forests" project to paint forests (or the sites of former forests) in each state. In an interview with The Forestry Source, Leachman said that the series of paintings of longleaf pine bark are reflective of "the different skin tones of everybody who has been related to the connection between this forest since recorded time." The exhibit opens July 23, 2022, and closes February 3, 2023. For more information on the exhibit, visit <https://georgiamuseum.org/>. For more information on the artist, go to <http://www.kristinleachman.com>.



One of the long-leaf pine bark paintings by Kristin Leachman.

# SUMMER ON THE FIREFLY TRAIL



Summer is here and it's hot out there! Be sure to be heat- and sun-safe when you're on the trail. It's best to walk, run, bike, or skate early in the morning or late in the evening and avoid the hottest, sunniest parts of the day. Bring plenty of water and use sunscreen. If walking with a dog, make sure the pavement is not too hot for its paws. Our grandparents weren't kidding when they said it gets hot enough to fry an egg on the sidewalk in July and August!

Things are hot behind the scenes along the trail, too. Greene County and its partners in Woodville, Union Point, and Maxeys are wrapping up property acquisition for the nearly seven-mile segment that will soon be built in those communities through a Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program grant.

Contractors for Athens-Clarke County have installed the second of two huge steel arches for the Firefly Trail Bridge over Trail Creek. These arches will carry the trail over Poplar Street and Dudley Park Drive. The middle section of the bridge will be formed of timbers to re-create the look and feel of the famous railroad bridge. Construction is expected to be complete by the end of this year.

With the passage of TSPLOST 2023, Athens-Clarke County will soon have funding to complete the trail from Athens Road/5 Points to Hancock Road, where the trail currently ends. Planning and acquisition are in progress under funding from TSPLOST 2017.

Crawford and Arnoldsville have requested the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission conduct alignment studies for the trail within their city limits, a major step in creating a corridor that residents of the two cities will support and enjoy for decades to come. In addition, we are working with a number of local governments and other partners to pursue major grants that could greatly accelerate work on the trail.

Finally, we want to extend our deepest thanks to our Local Action Committees, supporters, and sponsors, especially the Riverview Foundation. Because of their generous contributions of time, talent, and funds, the Firefly Trail is fast becoming a reality for the benefit of our communities and our whole region. Have a wonderful summer, and enjoy the trail!

## FIX OUR FOUNTAIN!

Virginia Ball learned the hard way how Winterville works: if you complain about something enough, you'll find yourself in charge of fixing it. She complained "one time too many" about the non-working fountain in Wesley Whitehead Square, and now she is heading up the fundraising effort for a new fountain. "I am really grateful for all the hard-working Wintervillians who make this place look and feel so great" she says. "But what is missing every time we walk downtown? Our fountain!"

We all miss the beauty a working water feature added to the town square. However, the bowls of the existing fountain are too large, they leak, and they get clogged. The Fix Our Fountain Project has a plan to create a new water feature that will burble nicely while being more manageable over the long term, but removing the old fountain and plumbing a new one will cost around \$8,000. Virginia says, "I have a lot of ideas about bake sales and selling sponsorships to local garden centers, but please let me know your ideas for fundraising. We need to get started!" Maybe your children can start setting aside change to donate. You can also make a donation at City Hall. For more information, email Virginia Ball at [vaball1@gmail.com](mailto:vaball1@gmail.com).

# DOCTORS MUSEUM

What a difference three months can make! When you last heard from the Doctors Museum, our doors were still closed and our exhibits unviewed. Since then, however, we have held regular daily hours and seen hundreds of visitors pay us a visit. We are open, and we have a clear vision for growth.

Earlier this year, the museum applied for two grants to help us better follow through on our mission. In May, we received word that not one but both requests had been accepted and fully funded! First, Georgia Humanities has granted the museum the funding we need to install a Botanical Medicine Garden between the building and the Firefly Trail. The garden will allow us to interpret the story of not only country doctors but country *medicine*. Shortly after that project wraps up, a grant from the Watson-Brown Foundation is funding heavier construction between the museum and Winterville Library: a purpose-built storage facility for our collection of artifacts and archival materials. This will allow us to convert the museum's currently overfilled back room into dedicated rotating exhibit space. With three distinct exhibit areas, we will be able to offer various tours catered to different aspects of our collection. And with a dedicated storage and conservation space, the Doctors Museum will finally become a proper steward of our town's history and heritage.

Our doors may be open, but we are not standing still, and we hope you'll take this journey with us. Come see the new exhibit space, learn new stories about rural medicine and the lives of those who practiced it, and experience firsthand these formative events in our museum's history!

The Carter-Coile Country Doctors Museum is a non-profit entity owned and operated by the City of Winterville, with additional support provided by the Winterville Heritage Foundation. Hours of operation are 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. To reach us with questions or comments, please email [CountryDoctorsMuseum@gmail.com](mailto:CountryDoctorsMuseum@gmail.com) or call 706.389.5151.



Artist's rendition of the museum's Botanical Medicine Garden to be installed this fall.

# 100% WINTERVILLE

It's official! The grant and vendor contracts for Solar Project 1: Winterville Community Center and Marigold Auditorium were approved by the Winterville City Council and signed by Mayor Ferrelle on May 10, 2022. The Solar Resiliency Grant we received from the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority will pay the majority of the cost. Solar Project 1 includes a 39 kW solar photovoltaic array on the roof of the Marigold Auditorium that will help offset power consumption at both the Auditorium and the Community Center. The project also includes a 36 kWh battery backup system at the Community Center, which serves as Winterville's emergency shelter. Installation should be completed by September 2022.

The goal of 100% Winterville is to convert the City of Winterville to 100% clean, renewable energy. The latest updates can be found at the following links:

<https://www.bruceforwinterville.com/100-winterville>

<https://www.facebook.com/100PERCENTWINTERVILLE>

# WVFD GETS NEW VEHICLES

Winterville's volunteer fire department has been busy lately. Training doesn't stop because of the heat, so our guys have been hard at it keeping up-to-date on their training requirements. We also have been working on the inventory of Engine 1, which will soon be leaving us as we transition to the new engine purchased with the latest rounds of SPLOST funding. This will give us one engine for fire calls and our SUV for medical responses. We will also be purchasing a quick-response pickup truck to accent our fleet very soon. The pickup will allow us to run medical calls, carry extra equipment and gear, and access tight areas on the Firefly Trail and elsewhere. These vehicles will last us for many years to come.



## SEPTIC SYSTEM TIPS FROM ACC STORMWATER

A drain field is a crucial part of septic systems. Drain fields are used to help manage impurities and waste from the water that comes out of your septic tank. Drain fields keep your septic tank from overflowing, creating runoff, and causing a bad odor in your yard. All septic systems go through a natural aging process that can lead to drain fields eventually failing.

There are some easy things that you can do to support the longevity and health of your septic system. First, keep stormwater runoff away from your septic field as much as possible! Next, try to have your septic system inspected each year and your septic tank pumped every 3–5 years to ensure that you're aware of any potential issues. It's also important to avoid using more water than is necessary and to make sure that you never flush anything down your toilet or pour anything down your drains that shouldn't be flushed or poured. Things like fats, oils, and grease should be left in a pan to cool, then placed in a disposable container and thrown in the trash. Be especially careful with chemicals such as bleach that could kill the beneficial microorganisms in your septic system. For more information about how to protect your septic system, visit <https://www.accgov.com/septic>.

There are several signs your drain field may be failing: soggy spots or pools of water near your septic tank or drain field; tubs, showers, or sinks draining slowly; toilets not flushing well; gurgling noises coming from your plumbing system; or bright and spongy spots of green grass over your septic tank or drain field. If you notice any of these signs, untreated sewage from your property may be making its way into groundwater or surface water. When untreated sewage enters our waterways, that water is no longer safe for drinking, swimming, or agricultural use because dangerous pathogens and contaminants can make both people and animals sick. Make sure to have your septic system checked so that you know it is working effectively! Below is a list of septic system maintenance or installation companies provided by the Georgia Department of Public Health that you can contact to have your system inspected:

- Advanced Plumbing & Drain Cleaning, Inc., 706-613-9325
- Athens Plumbing & Well Supply, Inc., 706-543-1497
- Bobby Rich Plumbing, 706-546-5838
- D & D Backhoe, 706-549-2843
- Plumber Pro Service, 706-769-7761
- Southland Process Group, 706-342-4160

# WUMC SAYS FAREWELL TO PASTOR

On June 5, Winterville United Methodist Church said goodbye to the Merk family. John Merk had been the minister there since June of 2018, and his wife, Billie, was a teacher at Winterville Elementary. They have both retired and are moving to Lafayette, Georgia, to be closer to other family members and to a medical specialist needed by the family.



Rev. Merk brought his own unique style of compassion and humor to the church and community. He also served as the chaplain of the Winterville Volunteer Fire Department. Given that he arrived one year before the pandemic, he served during some turbulent years, but he kept the church functioning via YouTube and found ways to keep in touch with everyone. During Pastor John’s tenure, WUMC took part in the Marigold Festival, had a pet blessing day, held Easter Egg Hunts, celebrated a Seder meal, went Christmas caroling, and set up a table with greeters every Saturday by the Firefly Trail.

Mayor Ferrelle, who attends WUMC, says, “Pastor John was a true community pastor. He was a vital part of our public safety team, our civic organizations, and our Neighborhood Leader program. His contribution to the physical and mental health of the greater Winterville Community is greatly appreciated and will surely be missed. I, for one, am grateful for all the prayers he offered me during my leadership challenges and all the times he placed his hand on my shoulder. I didn’t have to ask—he knew when I needed him, and he was there. Thank you, John, and thanks to the entire Merk family for their service to the City of Winterville and the wider community.”

Church member Patti Boyd notes that John had a beautiful tenor voice and sang in the choir, where he sat “on the Infamous Back Row and kept the choir in stitches. The Merks are going to be missed greatly.” Winterville wishes the reverend and his family all the best in the next chapter of their lives.

WUMC’s incoming pastor, John Turlington, will begin his ministry here on Sunday, July 10. Michael Gabriel, chairman of the church’s Governance Board, invites everyone to the worship service and a covered dish reception to welcome Pastor Turlington and his family.



Clockwise from top: Rev. Merk gets into the silly side of Easter; Billie Merk as the Easter Bunny at the egg hunt in Pittard Park; Christmas carolers; a children’s sermon; celebrating communion on Pastor John’s last day at WUCM.





## CITY SPOTLIGHT

This column features local businesses, artists, and notable citizens. If you have ideas for Spotlight features, please contact the *Gazette* editor.

### CITIZEN SPOTLIGHT

#### Randy Halstead



Randy Halstead and his wife, Lynn, moved to Georgia four years ago when their daughter decided she was going to stay in the Athens area after graduating from the UGA Law School. Randy and Lynn had visited numerous times and fell in love with the area more with every visit. Still, Randy says the decision to move wasn't easy, as his family had lived in the same Pennsylvania county for six generations. "But," he adds, "immediate family was more important." So, he retired from his position as the director of a vaccine manufacturing company—for which he had worked for 34 years—and moved south. The couple house-hunted in the Athens area for more than a year, wanting to be no more than a 25-minute drive from downtown but also have a place to keep their horses. They eventually chose property in Winterville because it had a barn and the Firefly Trail would soon connect the city to Athens. "Winterville also reminded me of

the area I grew up in," Randy says, "a small town where you knew most everyone and had a feeling of warmth and peace."

The Firefly Trail was a particular attraction as Randy is avid bicyclist. He is looking forward to the Trail's completion not just for the increased safety for cyclists and pedestrians but also for the economic development it will bring. However, he is wary of unchecked growth, which led him to become a member of our city's Downtown Development Authority and the Planning and Zoning Board. Randy explains, "One of the main functions of my old job was to lead troubleshooting teams. This meant many long hours and unpredictable work schedules, making it difficult to get involved with community matters. The area I lived in at the time experienced a growth surge, and the area changed—but not for the better. In hindsight I learned that if you want the change to be positive, you must be involved in it." Randy also works to improve the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians as part of the Athens in Motion Commission (AiMC). In 2018, a citizens advisory committee developed a Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan for Clarke County that was approved by the ACC Mayor and Commissioners. "The plan identifies clear strategies for improving active transportation in the area," Randy says. "In my role on the AiMC I help with the implementation of the strategies, recommending new projects, and representing Winterville in this process."

Be sure to thank Randy for his service to the community—and be sure to share the road!

# ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

## Free Little Art Gallery



Thanks to the Arts Council, Winterville now boasts a Free Little Art Gallery (F.L.A.G.). Inspired by the Little Free Library organization begun in Wisconsin in 2009 by Todd Bol, the Little Free Art Gallery movement is a grassroots effort to create, curate, and distribute original works of art.

The tiny gallery is located near Chandler Park, directly behind City Hall. Many thanks to Tom Doonan and his crew for digging the hole and to David Watwood for building and installing the gallery. If you haven't had a chance to see it yet, please stop by! Feel free to take a piece of art and/or to leave a piece of art. We just ask that you don't take the little people or furniture. If you'd like to contribute a piece of art to our little gallery but cannot physically visit, you can mail it to F.L.A.G. c/o City of Winterville, 125 N Church St., Winterville, GA 30683. You can also follow the gallery on Instagram and Facebook @freeandweewinterville.

To learn more about these tiny galleries or to find others, visit <http://littlefreeartgallery.blogspot.com/>. In the words of Doug Millison, co-founder of the Little Free Art Gallery phenomenon, "When art is free, so are we."



Left to right: Students in the Art Council's Summer Art Camp pose at the F.L.A.G.; the interior of the little gallery; tiny pieces made for the gallery by the campers.

Recognizing that most people rarely if ever engage directly with living artists and new, original works of art due to economic and class barriers and other factors, and seeing how we often fail to realize our own artistic abilities for similar reasons, the Little Free Art Gallery Project seeks to deepen our understanding of art and how to use it to enhance our lives through the practice of making art and giving it away for free.

—Mission Statement, Little Free Art Gallery



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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF WINTERVILLE

## About the Gazette



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