

T H E
WINTERVILLE GAZETTE

VOLUME XXVII, ISSUE 4

October – December 2025

**Leadership, Spirit, &
Community at Winterville
Elementary School**

Holiday Edition
We have an event for everyone!

Table of Contents



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- 4 Arts & Culture
- 10 Marigold Collective
- 12 History & Museums
- 14 Celebrating the holidays in Winterville
- 18 Events & Happenings
- 20 City News & Updates
- 22 What's That Flag All About? Leadership, Spirit, & Community at Winterville Elementary School
- 24 Public Safety
- 26 Civic Calendar

The Gazette

The Winterville Gazette is the official publication for the City of Winterville, Georgia. Every effort has been made to offer the most current, correct, and clearly expressed information. Please verify any details before taking action based on the information contained herein. If you have an idea for a story, contact us at wintervillenews@gmail.com.

Editorial Board:

Dodd Ferrelle
Melissa Metzger



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The Mayor's Corner

Hello Wintervillians! I hope all is well in every household throughout this beautiful city. Summer doesn't want to let go, but fall temperatures are slowly rolling in. Our crews definitely need a break from the heat. As always, we have a lot to be thankful for in the city. The recent renovations at the Auditorium and Cultural Center are complete and looking fantastic. More and more citizens are visiting, using, and enjoying these amenities, and it is always exciting to see the joy in their faces and hear the kind words and compliments as they walk around. The Blacksmith Shop experienced some unfortunate delays, but we should be back to work soon. Once completed, the building will become the Firefly Farmstop, serving both food-secure and food-insecure individuals for years to come. We're targeting a January Grand Opening. Also, make sure you walk over to the Fountain to see the additions to the art installation created by Krysia Ara. Winterville Historian, Jonathan Scott, was an excellent resource for Krysia as she sought to depict Winterville's unique history. It looks beautiful and tells a nice story across the 3 panels.



Dodd Ferrelle

Mayor, City of Winterville

We also have fun fall events coming up, such as Treats on the Trail, Bookstore Concerts, and Christmas in the Park. And thank you to all of those who volunteer to help make these events possible. Lastly, I am sure you have seen the Firefly Trail making its way closer to us. We hope to connect to Athens very soon, and allow more people to visit our Destination City and enjoy all that we know and love. Much to be thankful for, and I am grateful you have allowed me to be a part of the magic. Sometimes I imagine a future Winterville 20 years from now, and it looks even more magical. Take care, and I'll see you on the streets, now or 20 years from now!

City Council Members



Bruce Johnson



Heidi Spratlin



Jonathan Mosley



Timothy Pierce

ARTS & CULTURE

Cultural Center

The Winterville Arts Council hosted another successful paint and sip evening. Our "Vino and Van Gogh," led by **award-winning artist Laura Floyd**, was sold out! Participants painted Van Gogh's "Olive Trees with Yellow Sky" while sipping on a glass of wine. It was the perfect way to spend a Friday night!

Our next paint and sip evening will be in February. Follow us on Instagram and Facebook @wintervilleartscouncil to keep up with all things art that we have planned! #artisgoodinwinterville



Winterville Arts Council

By Sherre Watwood

When the Winterville Cultural Center Gallery opened last summer, we decided to be more sustainable, but renting plates and glasses instead of disposables was pricey. So, we asked WAC members to donate wine glasses and dessert plates from local thrift stores, and only rented to supplement our tiny collection. Then we received a very generous offer. WAC member Eden DeGeorge mentioned our needs to her husband Paul, who works in the food and beverage business. They not only donated plates and glasses from their business but also offered us a deep discount on the crates to store them all.

By April, we no longer needed to rent glasses or dishes, but we realized that the Winterville Center's residential dishwashers could not quickly clean the volume of dishes used during a reception. A commercial-grade dishwasher was needed to handle the demand. City Council agreed that a commercial dishwasher would benefit the Winterville Cultural Center as a whole, and WAC agreed to pay one-third of the cost. But once again, WAC received an anonymous and generous monetary donation to help with WAC's portion of the cost and installation.

Now installed, the commercial dishwasher has been used at our opening art reception this past August! And WOW, what a difference it has made in the time it takes to perform cleanup after events!

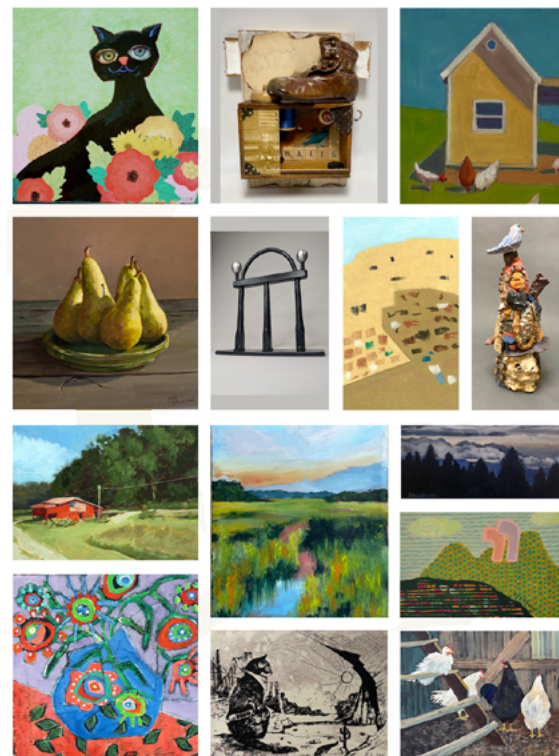
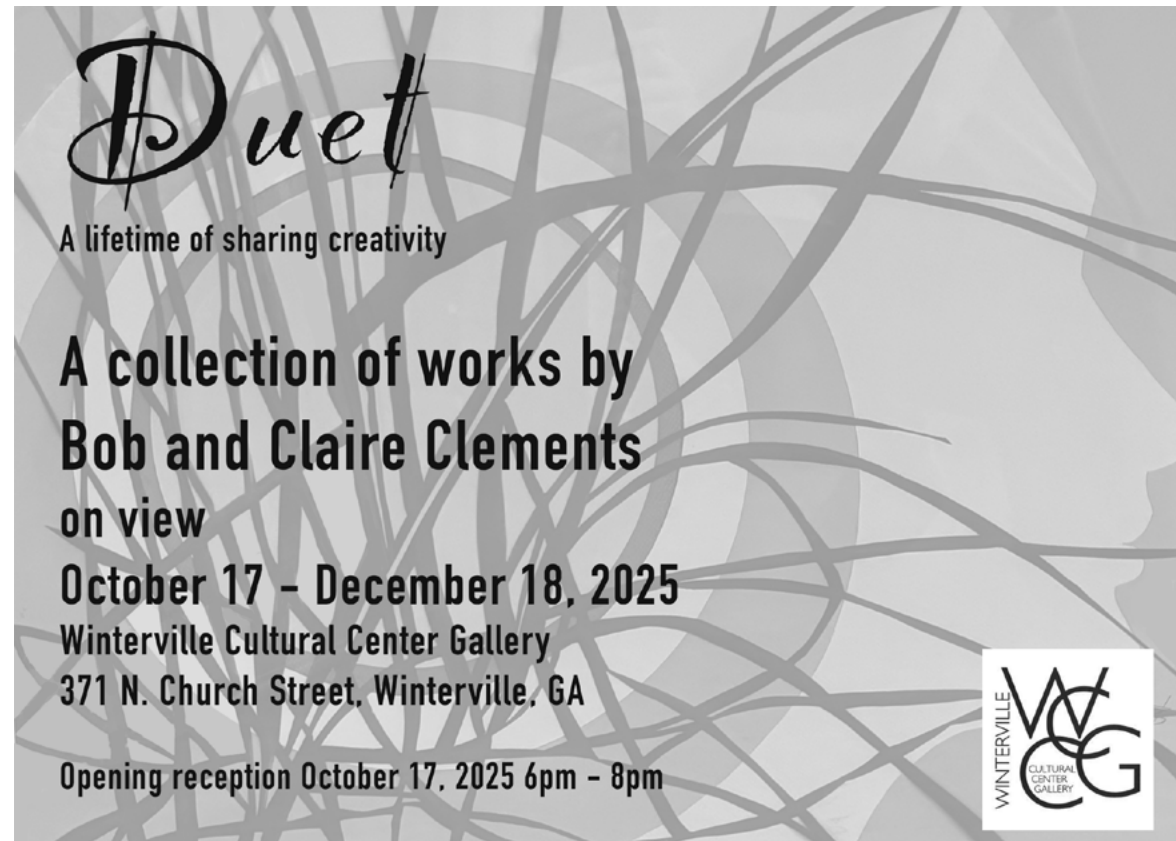
WAC holds monthly meetings, the 2nd Thursday, from 6-7 PM at the Winterville Cultural Center. We welcome new members, with no fee to join. And also, don't forget...

- WAC hosts **Kid Art at the Marigold Market** the 1st Saturday of every month (during market season).
- WAC hosts **Vino and Van Gogh** paint and sip events in February and September at the Winterville Cultural Center.
- WAC designed, installed, and maintains our **Free Little Art Gallery** located behind City Hall.
- WAC offers two **Summer Art Camp** sessions for elementary-middle school children each June.
- WAC organizes and participates in **Treats on the Trail** for Halloween.
- WAC members offer **Art Classes** through the Winterville Cultural Center.
- WAC participates in the Marigold Festival Parade, the Winterville Christmas Festival, the Athens Christmas Parade, and Winterville Charter Day.
- WAC updates the city on events through our various social media platforms and the Winterville Gazette.

If you don't already follow us, look us up on Facebook and Instagram @wintervilleartscouncil or visit us online at www.wintervillecenter.com



Winterville Gallery



SMALL WORKS 2025

85 WORKS BY 60 ARTISTS

OCTOBER 17 - DECEMBER 18

WINTERVILLE CULTURAL
CENTER & GALLERY



Marigold Auditorium



wintervillecenter.com/marigold-auditorium
for tickets and show information

Library

By Sam Watson

Front Room Art Gallery

Our Front Room Gallery has been bursting with beautiful artwork the past couple of months, including vivid floral illustrations by **local artist Allison Ward**, and a lively group **Folk Art Show** created during the July Folk Art session hosted at the Winterville Cultural Center. This show featured pieces inspired by Americana and literature.

We're excited to welcome back local **artist and writer Jack Eisenman** in October. Jack's artwork and writing have been displayed in the library previously and are always a lovely addition to the Front Room. This will be followed by a group art show created by students from Sardis, which will be on display throughout November. The students have been working on these pieces in art class since the beginning of the year!

Fall into Reading

We're ready for cooler weather and fall events here at the Winterville Library! Join us for several fun programs this October, including a **Pumpkin Painting Party** on Saturday, October 18th at 11:00 a.m., and a **Creepy Craft Night** on Thursday, October 23rd at 5:00 p.m. We're also excited to welcome **local author Eddie Whitlock** for a reading and signing of his latest book, *Terrible Tales of Horror*, on Tuesday, October 28th at 6pm. Be sure to stop by the library during **Winterville's Treats on the Trail** event on Halloween Night!



In November, we'll be enjoying the cold weather with a **Cozy Board Game Night** on Thursday, November 6th at 5:00 p.m. Come by the library to enjoy warm refreshments and play a quick round of Bananagrams or settle in for a game of Clue! We're also excited to host our first meeting of the **Kid Authors Club**, which is all about writing for kids by kids! Elementary-aged writers will be able to share their work, gain inspiration, and hang out with other kid authors at the Kid Authors Club on Saturday, November 15th, at 12:00 p.m.!

Join us in December for a **Christmas Craft Night** on Thursday, December 11th, at 5:00 p.m. for snacks and holiday crafting. Our **Polar Express Party** will be on Tuesday, December 16th at 5:00 p.m., complete with a screening of the "Polar Express," holiday treats, warm drinks, and crafts.

We hope everyone has a lovely fall, and we look forward to helping you find your perfect cozy read!

Winterville Players

By Kelly Flanders

Once again, the Winterville Players produced a masterpiece, opening the Halloween season with F. Andrew Leslie's adaptation of Shirley Jackson's *The Haunting of Hill House*. The production featured doors that moved away from their hinges, restraining the spirits that infested the house, books pushed off shelves by angry poltergeists, braying wind rushing down the upper hallways, and lights that flickered and flared with the passage of the spirits trapped in the house.

Brilliant performances by a cast of mostly Winterville actors were the highlight of the show. Hannah Orsag played the frazzled Eleanor Vance, who, during her week at



the mansion, descends into madness. Her performance was bolstered by Frank Wynne, who played the psychic researcher, Dr. Montague; Megan Sullivan as the psychic-empath Theodora; Matthew Orsag as Luke Sanderson, heir to the mansion; Jessica Parker portraying Mrs. Montague, the dauntless medium; James Cook as the meek and nervous Arthur Parker, and Catherine Littlepage as the unnerving housekeeper, Mrs. Dudley.

Aside from an array of local acting talent, the production brought out many other talents. Frank Wynne dressed the set from his Lexington (soon-to-be) event venue, James West lit the set with a panoply of throbbing color changes, and Tania Marler sent wind and storm through the auditorium while stage crew, Jamie Mendenhall-Turner and David Matthews-Morgan, made Hill House come alive. The auditorium lobby was transformed for the season of goblins and ghosts and featured mimes Millie Parker and Paige Dixon as live mannequins before the show and during intermission.

Director Kelly Flanders and Assistant Director Anita Turlington are grateful for the Winterville talent and enthusiastic Winterville audience that allows such explosive and vibrant performances to come alive in the Marigold Auditorium.

The next performance of the Winterville Players is **A Sherlock Carol** by Mark Shanahan, a hilarious mash-up of Scrooge and Holmes. Performance dates are December 12-14, with auditions on October 14 and 15, at 7 p.m. in the Marigold Auditorium.

MARIGOLD COLLECTIVE

Eat Well, Live Well: Marigold Collective Supports Community-Focused Nutrition Outreach

By Sarah Hovater

This summer brought an abundance of fresh, local produce to the Marigold Market—but behind the scenes, the Marigold Collective has been hard at work ensuring that everyone in the community can share in that bounty.

“Healthy, beautiful meals are possible on a budget.” That’s the takeaway from a participant in *Get Fresh*, one of the Collective’s cornerstone nutrition education programs. Developed and led by UGA Family and Consumer Science Agent Brad Averill and supported by Piedmont Athens Regional, *Get Fresh* teaches



chronic disease prevention through hands-on wellness training. Held bi-weekly at the Winterville Depot, the program covers topics such as strategic grocery shopping, food preparation, and food preservation. Participants are encouraged to eat locally and seasonally to boost nutrition—and after each session, they receive a bundle of locally grown fruits and vegetables to take home and prepare for their families. As one participant shared, “I’m learning how to make the most of what’s available.”

Beyond *Get Fresh*, the Marigold Collective is also partnering with local farmers to promote “food as medicine” through a Prescription Produce Program. Funded by **Wholesome Wave Georgia** and facilitated by St. Mary’s Hospital, this initiative uses the CDC’s Diabetes Prevention Program curriculum. It currently supports two active cohorts, with registration now open for three additional groups launching this fall.

This year-long program begins with weekly classes, each accompanied by a prescription bag of nutrient-dense produce to help participants make lasting, measurable dietary changes.



Food is our most powerful tool—to prevent chronic disease, build strong communities, and support local economies. That belief drives the Marigold Collective’s work.

Earlier this summer, the Collective was awarded an AgGeorgia Credit Union Farmers Market marketing grant, which will fund the reconstruction of three garden beds in the Winterville Community Garden. These beds, planted with seeds donated by the Collective, will be dedicated to growing produce for community members in need.



Programs like these thrive thanks to community support. When you shop at the Marigold Farmers Market, you’re not just buying food—you’re supporting local farmers and small businesses that make these initiatives possible.

Our newest project, **The Firefly Farmstop**, is a step toward long-term sustainability. Revenue from the storefront will directly support our programs, helping us move closer to becoming a fully community-funded nonprofit.

Curious about what Firefly Farmstop will offer? Visit the historic bank building during market hours on Mondays or Saturdays for a sneak peek. Have a request

for locally sourced goods? Reach out to bradley@marigoldcollectivewinterville.com.

Join Us in Our Mission

The Marigold Collective welcomes all community members—whether you’re a farmer, a volunteer, or someone who simply believes no neighbor should go hungry.

To get involved, make a donation, or learn more: marigoldcollectivewinterville.com or follow @marigoldfarmersmarket on social media.

For more information or to register for one of the St. Mary’s DPP Cohorts, see the information below.



**ST. MARY’S CAN
HELP PREVENT
TYPE 2 DIABETES.**

**JOIN THIS FREE PROGRAM TO LEARN THE SKILLS
YOU NEED TO PREVENT TYPE 2 DIABETES!**

**YOU MAY BE AT RISK OF TYPE 2
DIABETES IF YOU ARE:**

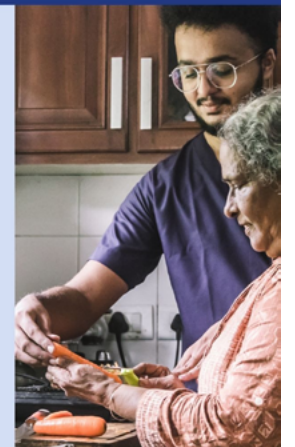
- 45+ YEARS OR OLDER
- OVERWEIGHT
- HAVE A FAMILY HISTORY OF TYPE 2 DIABETES
- PHYSICALLY ACTIVE FEWER THAN THREE TIMES PER WEEK
- EVER HAD DIABETES WHILE PREGNANT OR GIVEN BIRTH TO A BABY THAT WEIGHED MORE THAN NINE POUNDS

If you have difficulty purchasing groceries, you can receive **free**, fresh, locally grown produce during each class.

Questions?

Contact Joe to learn more:
Joseph.Blaney@stmarysathens.org

Tuesdays at 5:30 pm
The Peach Room
St. Mary’s Hospital
1230 Baxter St.
Athens, GA 30606



SCAN HERE TO LEARN MORE:



HISTORY & MUSEUMS

If there's one sentence I've heard most over the years, it has been "you should do a ghost tour!" Even though paranormal programs are more entertainment than history, we can still get into the spooky spirit of the season anyway! Fortunately, our little city has the perfect resource for this.

The Winterville Cemetery, located on Parkview Road just past Pittard Park, is the final resting place for hundreds of Winterville's former citizens. Walking past the gravestones, you see names that are immediately familiar. Whether it's Diedrich Heinrich "Henry" Winter (1817-1891) who was the first of that family to settle here, John T. Pittard (1856-1965) whose general store once stood near the entrance to our present-day park, or William M. Coile (1852-1942) who founded both our Baptist Church

and the Winterville School, the cemetery hosts a roster of famous Wintervillians.

There are also names here that you probably won't immediately recognize. There's Dr. Thomas Anthony (1810-1882), our town's first physician; Henry "Hal" Johnson (1850-1899), an architect who designed some of Winterville's most recognizable homes; Jennie Murrell (1875-1892), a young woman beloved by our town but struck down before even reaching adulthood.

This fall, the museum is launching a long-term initiative to commemorate those interred in the Winterville Cemetery. **October 18 is a cemetery clean-up event** from 9:00 am to noon. We will provide professional preservation supplies and training to ensure that the stones and markers that dot the landscape are well protected and readable for years to come.

Our program on **November 1** is of a different sort. In partnership with the Winterville Players, we are proud to present a cemetery walk that evening, where you can "meet" some of the denizens who once walked our streets. This tour involves moderate walking and lasts approximately 40 minutes, then repeats at 5:30, 6:00, and 6:30 pm. Spots are limited to 20 people per tour, though, so register early!

Thank you for your continued support as we strive to preserve and promote the memory of our town!



Jonathan Scott

Cultural Heritage Director

Headstone Cleaning Day

Winterville Cemetery
Saturday, October 18
9am-12pm

Supplies and instruction will be provided by the Winterville Cultural Heritage Department



All are welcome!

THE
PAST
Is
NEVER
DEAD...



A WALK THROUGH WINTERVILLE CEMETERY

Adults \$15
Children \$10

*Spots are limited
Pre-registration required*

November 1
Tours start at
5:30 6:00 6:30

For more info or
to purchase tickets call

706.389.5151

or email

wintervillehistory@gmail.com

PRESENTED BY THE WINTERVILLE CULTURAL HERITAGE DEPARTMENT AND THE WINTERVILLE PLAYERS

Come and Celebrate the Holidays *in Winterville*



Back by popular demand, our annual Treats on the Trail! Over 20 groups and organizations will provide a fun, family-friendly event on Halloween night. Live music by The Original Screwtops and food available for purchase from Chibugan and Joe Bowman. The route follows the Firefly Trail from Winterville First Baptist Church to Winterville United Methodist Church, including downtown Winterville. Come join us!!



**MARIGOLD COLLECTIVE
PRESENTS:**

WINTERVILLE WONDERLAND CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

100 Marigold Lane, Winterville GA, 30683

DECEMBER 13, 2025

9 AM TO 9 PM

Christmas Market 9-4
(Pittard Park)

Free Photos with Santa: 10-12
(Train Depot)

Community Partner Highlights: 12-2
(Marigold Lane)

Winterville Polar Express 2-4
(Downtown City Square)

Christmas Concert 4-6
(Front Porch Bookstore)

A Sherlock Carol 7-9
(Marigold Auditorium)

Join us for a magical day in the park with Santa Claus and friends! Delight yourself with a warm cup of hot chocolate, cider, artisanal snacks and festive treats. Step aboard our very own Polar Express for an enchanting train ride through historic Winterville. Throughout the day, enjoy live holiday performances that fill the air with cheerful melodies, seasonal storytelling and holiday skits. Celebrate the spirit of the season with joy, warmth, and timeless holiday magic.



SPONSORED BY:
WINTERVILLE
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EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

October 2025

October 4	Marigold Farmers Market	Pittard Park	9:00 AM
October 6	Marigold Monday Market	Bank Building	10:00 AM
October 11	Marigold Farmers Market	Pittard Park	9:00 AM
October 13	Marigold Monday Market	Bank Building	10:00 AM
October 14	City Council Candidate Forumn	Pittard Park Pavillion	7:00 PM
October 17	Opening Reception for Exhibitions	Winterville Cultural Center Gallery	6:00 PM
October 18	Marigold Farmers Market	Pittard Park	9:00 AM
October 18	Pumpkin Painting Party	Winterville Library	11:00 AM
October 18	Headstone Cleaning Day	Winterville Cemetery	9:00 AM
October 20	Marigold Monday Market	Bank Building	10:00 AM
October 25	Marigold Farmers Market	Pittard Park	9:00 AM
October 24	Night at the Museum Improv	Marigold Auditorium	8:00 PM
October 25	Night at the Museum Improv	Marigold Auditorium	8:00 PM
October 25	Kid Party with Sir Crazy Pants and Daniel Rainmaker	Marigold Auditorium	10:00 AM
October 27	Marigold Monday Market	Bank Building	10:00 AM
October 31	Treats on the Trail	Winterville Firefly Trail	6:00 - 8:30 PM

November 2025

November 1	Marigold Farmers Market	Pittard Park	9:00 AM
November 1	Guided Walk Through the Cemetery <i>(pre-registration required)</i>	Winterville Cemetery	5:30, 6:00, & 6:30 PM
November 3	Marigold Monday Market	Bank Building	10:00 AM
November 6	Cozy Board Game Night	Winterville Library	5:00 PM
November 8	Marigold Farmers Market	Pittard Park	9:00 AM
November 10	Marigold Monday Market	Bank Building	10:00 AM
November 15	Marigold Farmers Market	Pittard Park	9:00 AM
November 15	Kid Authors Club	Winterville Library	12:00 PM

November 17	Marigold Monday Market	Bank Building	10:00 AM
November 22	Marigold Farmers Market	Pittard Park	9:00 AM
November 24	Clarke County Schools	Start of Thanksgiving break week	
November 24	Marigold Monday Market	Bank Building	10:00 AM
November 28	Author Signing: Eddie Whitlock	Winterville Library	6:00 PM
November 29	Marigold Farmers Market	Pittard Park	9:00 AM

December 2025

December 1	Marigold Monday Market	Bank Building	10:00 AM
December 5	Strung Out Like the Lights on Christmas	Marigold Auditorium	7:00 PM
December 6	Marigold Farmers Market	Pittard Park	9:00 AM
December 8	Marigold Monday Market	Bank Building	10:00 AM
December 11	Christmas Craft Night	Winterville Library	5:00 PM
December 12	Sherlock Christmas Carol	Marigold Auditorium	7:00 PM
December 13	Winterville Wonderland (see page 16 for full schedule)	Pittard Park	all day
December 13	Sherlock Christmas Carol	Marigold Auditorium	7:00 PM
December 14	Sherlock Christmas Carol	Marigold Auditorium	7:00 PM
December 15	Good Grief Trio	Marigold Auditorium	7:00 PM
December 16	Polar Express Party	Winterville Library	5:00 PM
December 22	Clarke County Schools	Start of winter break	

CITY NEWS & UPDATES

ELECTION UPDATE

City Council Seats – There will be 2 City Council seats up for election this November. A candidate forum will be hosted by the Winterville Civitan Club and held in the Pittard Park Pavilion on **Tuesday, October 14th**, following the regular meeting of City Council. See this Gazette for more information and come hear from the candidates.

ALCOHOL BY THE DRINK

Liquor by the drink will be on the November Ballot. If passed, this would allow for local establishments and restaurants to serve distilled spirits by the drink Monday through Sunday. The city has followed a very careful timeline to offer the citizens opportunities to purchase beer, wine, and now distilled spirits, encouraging citizen input throughout. Your vote will also determine this outcome.

SUNDAY SALES

Package Sales Sales on Sunday will also be on the November Ballot. Please note that this does not mean package stores will be allowed. Package Stores are not an allowable use under our City code, so you will not see a liquor store in the City of Winterville. This would simply allow packaged beer and wine to be sold on Sunday in convenience stores or grocery stores (e.g., the Golden Pantry or Dollar General).

WINTERVILLE'S 2026 BUDGET

We are getting close to completing a draft 2026 balanced budget to share with the public. The finance committee and City Council have worked diligently to balance a budget that is becoming increasingly difficult to balance. The draft budget should be available on the city website soon. We plan to adopt the 2026 Budget during the November or December regular meeting, so make sure you look it over and let us know your thoughts and concerns. It's your money!

STORMWATER PROJECT ON MAIN STREET

Stormwater Project on Main Street: The Stormwater Project on Main Street, funded by the 2023 ACC TSPLOST, is tentatively scheduled to begin in early 2026 with a targeted completion date of December 2026. This project will provide larger piping under Main Street and improved facilities leading to outfalls, so stormwater will be removed quickly and more efficiently from Main Street.

CURVE FROM ATHENS RD TO SMITHONIA

WA Engineering has been surveying the dangerous curve between Winter Street and Church Street. We should have a design solution for that area very soon so that we can determine the best way to protect pedestrians, homes, and drivers along that stretch. This is part of our ongoing effort to calm traffic throughout the city.

What's That Flag All About?

Leadership, Spirit, & Community at Winterville Elementary School

By Jemat Perry, Family Engagement Specialist, Clarke County School District

If you've driven past Winterville Elementary lately, you may have noticed a brightly colored flag waving proudly outside the school. That flag isn't just decoration—it's a symbol of leadership, teamwork, and the spirit of our students.

Winterville Elementary is a **Leader in Me** school, a Franklin Covey program inspired by Stephen Covey's "7 Habits of Highly Effective People." Through this approach, students learn how to set goals, take responsibility, show initiative, and work together—skills that will benefit them for a lifetime. To bring these habits to life, our school is structured into four colonies that form one hive.

Each colony represents a powerful leadership quality and is symbolized by its own color:

- **Purple Colony of Integrity** – Leading with honesty, responsibility, and strong character.
- **Orange Colony of Vision** – Dreaming big, setting goals, and inspiring others to see what's possible.
- **Green Colony of Harmony** – Building unity, peace, and teamwork in everything they do.
- **Red Colony of Empowerment** – Encouraging themselves and others to be confident, capable, and take action.

Every month, the colonies participate in a variety of fun challenges that include

attendance, school spirit, and other initiatives designed to strengthen both academic and social skills. The colony that rises to the top earns the honor of having its flag raised high, reminding everyone that leadership isn't just something you talk about—it's something you live out. But the vision doesn't stop with our students. Imagine if the principles of Leader in Me spread beyond the classroom walls into the wider community. What if families, businesses, and neighbors embraced these same values of integrity, vision, harmony, and empowerment? Together, we could create not just a Leader in Me school, but a Leader in Me community. The flag outside our school may change from month to month, but the message remains the same: **EVERYONE** is a leader, **EVERYONE** has purpose, and together, our hive is stronger.



SEPTIC SYSTEMS, WATER QUALITY, AND YOU

By Katie Kenerly, Athens-Clarke County Stormwater Management

Are you among the 25% of Athens-Clarke County residents with a septic system at home? If so, how often do you think about your tank and its maintenance? For your family's health, and the health of the environment, there are a few things you should know when it comes to properly caring for your septic system.

First, it is absolutely crucial to know your system, which includes a drain field and an underground tank. Septic tank sizes vary, and the first step towards proper maintenance is being aware of how many gallons your tank holds. It is also important to know where your system is located so that you do not drive, install plants, add new construction, or direct downspouts over your septic system. Finally, you should know how old your septic system is – according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the average life of a septic system is 20 years. Continuing to use an out-of-date septic system could have catastrophically messy results and require expensive repairs!

Another way to protect your septic system is to use water wisely when at home. Under no circumstances should you overload the system – using more water than the soil can absorb leads to system failure. The best way to avoid this problem is by conserving water: fix leaks and drips, replace old fixtures with newer “low flow” types, and be aware of your personal water use. Reducing the flow through the tank allows more time for solids to settle out. It is also wise to limit water use

during rain events, as saturation of the drain field reduces its absorption rate.

Have you heard of the “3 Ps of Flushing”? This refers to the only four things that should ever go down the toilet: pee, poop, and (toilet) paper. Septic systems treat human waste and wastewater from showers, sinks, dishwashers, etc., so don't use your toilet or sink like a trash can! The use of garbage disposals is not recommended, as they can double the amount of solids in wastewater. It is also important to note that additives and enzymes do not prevent the need for recommended maintenance and pumping schedules.

Speaking of pumping schedules, regular and preventative maintenance of your septic system is key. The EPA recommends that septic systems be inspected and pumped every three to five years – many people find it helpful to keep their maintenance on schedule with the presidential election cycle! Allowing your septic system to fail should never be an option, so do not wait for this to happen before having it pumped. By then, it is usually too late, and repairs are more costly. To avoid further issues, make sure to hire only certified professionals to inspect, pump, and repair your septic system. For a list of professionals, visit dph.georgia.gov/environmental-health/onsite-sewage.

HOW DO I KNOW IF MY SEPTIC TANK IS FAILING?

With all of that said, how do you know if your septic system is failing? Warning signs to recognize before it's too late include a wet area or standing water present above



the drain field. You may also see a very lush growth of grass in one location, or notice septic odors in the house, above the tank and drain field, or escaping from the vent pipe. During system failure, toilets may run slowly or back up, causing raw sewage to flood into your home and impact the health of you and your family.

On a larger scale, septic tank failure also has environmental implications. Septic systems that are poorly designed, installed, and maintained can cause serious problems when it comes to the quality of our local waterways. The most serious cases of septic failure can result in contamination of surface water and groundwater with disease-causing pathogens, such as fecal coliform (or E. coli), and nitrates, both of which are harmful to humans and wildlife alike. Other issues include excessive nitrogen discharge and phosphorus pollution, leading to harmful algal blooms (HABs) and lowered dissolved oxygen levels. HABs often result in the closure of recreational areas and have been known to harm pets.

In Athens-Clarke County, our drinking water (excluding individuals on well water) is sourced from our local waterways; therefore, it is absolutely crucial to do our part in protecting their quality – for all of our sake!

As a homeowner on septic, it is your responsibility to properly manage your wastewater. Regular maintenance can prevent backups into your home, costly repairs, and harm to your family and the environment.

For general information about septic system education, referral to agencies that deal with septic system issues, and waterway testing, contact Athens-Clarke County Septic System Education at (706) 613-3795, or visit accgov.com/septic.



PUBLIC SAFETY

As the year draws to a close, the Winterville Police Department takes this opportunity to reflect on the past few months and express our gratitude to the community we serve. Your continued support is vital in helping us maintain a safe, thriving Winterville.

We'd like to extend a **heartfelt thank you to Sgt. Ryan Thomas** for his quick and heroic actions during a recent mutual aid call to Oglethorpe County. While assisting on an overdose call, Sgt. Thomas' timely intervention helped save a life. His quick thinking and calm response in a high-pressure situation exemplify the dedication of our officers and the level of care they show, not only within our city but across the region. Thank you, Sgt. Thomas, for your commitment to protecting and serving.

As we enter the holiday season, we urge all residents to take extra precautions to ensure a safe and joyful time with loved ones. The holiday months can bring about increased travel, shopping, and social events, but also an increase in risks such as theft and accidents. Here are a few helpful tips to keep in mind:

- **Lock Your Vehicles and Secure Packages** – Make sure your vehicle is locked, and never leave valuables visible. If you're receiving deliveries, track packages, and consider requesting delivery alerts or using a secure drop-off option.

- **Stay Vigilant Against Scams** – Be cautious of emails, phone calls, or online messages promising special holiday deals. Scammers often prey on the rush of holiday shopping,

so always double-check the legitimacy of deals and transactions.

- **Plan Ahead for Travel** – Whether you're heading out of town or just attending a holiday gathering, never drive under the influence. If you're planning to drink, arrange for a designated driver or use a rideshare service.

- **Look Out for Each Other** – Winterville is a close-knit community, and checking in on your neighbors—especially elderly or vulnerable residents—can make a big difference, especially during colder weather.

In the coming months, our officers will continue to patrol and engage with the community to ensure that everyone has a safe and enjoyable holiday season. We encourage everyone to remain alert and follow safety precautions to help reduce risks. We are proud to serve Winterville, and we wish all our residents a joyful and safe close of 2025.

From all of us at the Winterville Police Department, thank you for your trust and support. Together, we can keep our community strong and safe!



Colt Young

Chief
Winterville Police Department

We are currently preparing for Fall at the fire department. This season brings cooler weather and the urge to start the fireplaces and break out the space heaters. We recommend that you have a professional service clean your chimney, removing any buildup that may cause chimney fires. We also recommend that any space heaters DO NOT use ripped or spliced electrical cords. Keep them a safe distance from bedding, curtains, furniture, and any other flammable materials. Ensure they have a built-in safety device to shut off the heater if it tips over. The shift in season is a good reminder to test and change batteries in all smoke detectors.

It would also be a good time to have a fire safety plan if you don't already have one in place. If you need our assistance to inspect and help make a safety plan, please call City Hall, and we can schedule a visit. Safety is key, and we push that as much as possible. We hope everyone has a fun and safe holiday season. If you would like to know more about us, please feel free to visit the fire station on Monday evenings at 7 pm to tour the station and see our equipment in action.



Michael Gabriel

Chief
Winterville Volunteer Fire Department



CIVIC CALENDAR

Meetings are held at City Hall, unless otherwise stated. *Time, date, and location subject to change.*

Monday, October 6	Planning & Zoning	5:00 PM
Tuesday, October 7	City Council Workshop	6:00 PM
Thursday, October 9	Winterville Arts Council (@Cultural Center)	6:00 PM
Thursday, October 14	City Council	6:00 PM
Thursday, October 16	Friends of the Winterville Firefly Trail	6:00 PM
Monday, October 20	Municipal Court	5:00 PM
Tuesday, October 21	Historic Preservation Committee	6:00 PM
Friday, October 31	Treats on the Trail Halloween Event	6:00 – 8:30 PM
Monday, November 3	Planning & Zoning	5:00 PM
Tuesday, November 4	Council Workshop	6:00 PM
Tuesday, November 4	Election Day (@Cultural Center)	7:00 – 7:00 PM
Monday, November 10	Municipal Court	5:00 PM
Tuesday, November 11	Veteran's Day	City Hall Closed
Tuesday, November 11	City Council	6:00 PM
Thursday, November 13	Arts Council (@Cultural Center)	6:00 PM
Thursday, November 13	Tree Commission (@Pittard Park)	6:00 PM
Tuesday, November 18	Historic Preservation Committee	6:00 PM
Tuesday, November 27	Thanksgiving Day	City Hall Closed
Friday, November 28	Day After Thanksgiving	City Hall Closed
Friday, November 28	Buddy Christian Run (@Pittard Park)	Morning
Monday, December 1	Planning & Zoning	5:00 PM
Tuesday, December 2	Council Workshop	6:00 PM
Monday, December 8	Municipal Court	5:00 PM

Tuesday, December 9	City Council	6:00 PM
Tuesday, December 16	Historic Preservation Committee	6:00 PM
Thursday, December 25	Christmas Day (obs.)	City Hall Closed
Friday, December 26	Holiday Observation	City Hall Closed
Monday, December 29	Holiday Observation	City Hall Closed
Tuesday, December 30	Holiday Observation	City Hall Closed
Wednesday, December 31	Holiday Observation	City Hall Closed
Thursday, January 1	New Year's Day	City Hall Closed
Monday, January 5	Planning & Zoning	5:00 PM
Monday, January 6	Council Workshop	6:00 PM
Monday, January 12	Municipal Court	5:00 PM
Tuesday, January 13	City Council	6:00 PM





P.O. Box 306
Winterville, GA 30683-0306

ELECTRONIC SERVICES REQUESTED

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #96
ATHENS, GA

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF WINTERVILLE

City Directory

EMERGENCIES 911

City Hall
706-742-8600
Fax 706-742-5476

Winterville Cultural Center, Art Gallery, &
Marigold Auditorium
706-742-0823

Doctor's Museum
706-389-5151

Pittard Park Rentals
706-742-8600

Front Porch Bookstore
706-372-3928

Library
706-742-7735

Athens-Clarke County Schools
706-546-7721

Winterville Police Department
Emergencies 911
Non-Emergency 706-742-5295

Winterville Fire Department
Emergencies 911

ACC Animal Control
706-613-3540

Public Utilities
706-613-3440

Post Office
706-742-8875

Leaf & Limb Pickup
706-613-3501 x318

Street & Drainage Repair
706-613-3465

www.CityofWinterville.com