



Winterville
GEORGIA • EST. 1866

WINTERVILLE GAZETTE

VOLUME XXIII, ISSUE 1

JAN–MAR 2021

CONTACT INFORMATION

EMERGENCY 911

CITY HALL
706-742-8600

CITY HALL FAX
706-742-5476

POLICE
706-742-5295

POST OFFICE
706-742-8875

LIBRARY
706-742-7735

ANIMAL CONTROL
706-613-3540

STREET LIGHT
REPAIR
888-655-5888

PUBLIC UTILITIES
706-613-3470

STREET, POTHOLE,
OR DRAINAGE
REPAIR
706-613-3465

LEAF & LIMB
PICKUP
706-613-3501

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Wintervillians,

And so passes a year more trying than most of us have ever seen. I want to express my sincere gratitude to each one of you as the holiday season comes to an end and we thankfully welcome the new year. I am grateful everyday for what you entrust to me, and I am thankful for all of those who have helped me this past year and in every previous year, and for those of you who will stand up to serve in years to come. I want to give thanks in particular for my dear friend, the late George Chandler. This pandemic dealt our city a mighty punch with the passing of a favorite son and a pillar of the community. The relationship George and I shared benefited the City of Winterville greatly, and I could not have performed the duties of my office at the level that I have so far without his help. I write this simply to share my heart. It belongs to each of you and to this city for as long as I serve, and far beyond that. We will carry on: each of us will be needed in the brighter days ahead as the sun appears and disappears and the light grows longer in the coming season. So, **HAPPY NEW YEAR!** Stay safe, wear a mask, and look out for your neighbors here and around the world. I want to see you *all* on the streets this year!



Sincerely,
Dodd I. Ferrelle, Mayor



George Chandler receiving the Key to the City in January 2020.

CIVIC CALENDAR

Monday, Jan 4	Planning & Zoning, 5:30 p.m., City Hall
Tuesday, Jan 5	ELECTION DAY Council Workshop, 5:30 p.m., Winterville Auditorium
Monday, Jan 11	Municipal Court, 5:00 p.m., City Hall
Tuesday, Jan 12	City Council, 6:30 p.m., Auditorium
Monday, Jan 18	MLK, Jr., Day, City Hall closed
Monday, Feb 1	Planning & Zoning, 5:30 p.m., City Hall
Tuesday, Feb 2	Council Workshop, 5:30 p.m., Auditorium
Monday, Feb 8	Municipal Court, 5:00 p.m., City Hall
Tuesday, Feb 9	City Council, 6:30 p.m., Auditorium
Monday, Feb 15	Presidents' Day, City Hall closed
Tuesday, Feb 16	Historic Preservation Commission, 6:00 p.m., Auditorium
Saturday, Feb 20	Winterville Arbor Day
Monday, Mar 1	Planning & Zoning, 5:30 p.m., City Hall
Tuesday, Mar 2	Council Workshop, 5:30 p.m., Auditorium
Monday, Mar 8	Municipal Court, 5:00 p.m., City Hall
Tuesday, Mar 9	City Council, 6:30 p.m., Auditorium
Tuesday, Mar 16	Historic Preservation Commission, 6:00 p.m., Auditorium



CITY NEWS



The end of the year found City Council considering many important issues. We urge citizens to tune in to the meetings and keep up with all the current events through the city website, this *Gazette*, and social media. City Council is streaming their meetings live on the City Facebook page so that all citizens can participate and stay up to date from home. The city has improved the technology in the Auditorium to enhance communication throughout this difficult year and beyond. We try our best to connect with all of you and will continue to work toward that goal in 2021.

NO THROUGH TRUCKS ON MAIN STREET

An ordinance to prohibit “through trucks” on Main Street was voted on and adopted by City Council at our December meeting. Basically, this means that any truck over 6 wheels without a beginning or ending destination in Winterville will be prohibited from traveling down Main Street as a cut through to a destination outside of the city limits. Citizens have long been concerned about the amount of heavy truck traffic on Main Street, and the addition of our Firefly Trail has only added to concerns about safety. We continue to add traffic calming measures and increase the safety of all streets in the city. Passing this ordinance was a big step forward in that endeavor.

ALCOHOL ORDINANCE

The recent amendment of our City Charter to remove the prohibition of beer and wine in the city limits cleared the way for the Winterville City Council to consider an ordinance allowing the sale and/or manufacture of beer and wine within the City of Winterville. An alcohol ordinance was considered at our December meeting after a public hearing was held to hear comments from citizens. The ordinance was voted on and adopted. Licenses and permits for the sale and/or manufacture of beer and wine can now be obtained at City Hall. Distilled spirits are still prohibited under the City Charter.

VRBO ORDINANCE

This might be the most important ordinance adopted by City Council in 2020. After seeing the purchase of homes in the city for the sole purpose of short-term rentals or Vacation Rental By Owner (VRBO), City Council imposed a moratorium on the issuance of licenses to such businesses, allowing time for our city code to be updated to address this type of use. Cities with a disproportionate amount of short-term rental versus residential property can quickly lose their identity, which is why the mayor and councilmembers felt the need to act fast. The update to our code was presented, voted on, and adopted. The language of the ordinance requires those operating an AirBnB, VRBO, or Bed and Breakfast on their property to reside on the premises. Find this and all recently adopted ordinances at www.cityofwinterville.com.

OCCUPATIONAL/BUSINESS TAX ORDINANCE

The need for this update to our Code of Ordinances arose from the short-term rental issue, as it brought to light deficiencies that needed to be remedied. Specifically, in order to regulate businesses, we have to define those businesses. This was done through an update to the Occupational/Business Tax Ordinance. The council also voted to adopt a new fee schedule, but as businesses are already struggling, it was decided to freeze the fee schedule and any increases until 2022. Local businesses will pay the same business license fee in 2021 that they paid in 2020, but we urge all business owners to look at the new fee schedule as they prepare their budgets for 2022.

CROSSWALK AT MAIN STREET AND PARKVIEW

We are very happy to report that work should begin soon on a much safer crosswalk at Main Street and Parkview. The current crosswalk in front of the Depot on Main Street does not provide a safe enough crossing for that site. After receiving a recommendation from the TSPLOST/SPLOST Citizen Advisory Committee, City Council immediately voted to fund this project using TSPLOST dollars. The surveying has been done, and the plans are being drawn up. Once plans are approved, bids will be submitted to the council for approval and a contractor will be chosen. Construction should begin in the first quarter of 2021. This is another major step toward traffic calming in the city.

WINTERVILLE DDA

The Winterville Downtown Development Authority is up and running! This is exciting news, as city businesses will benefit immediately and for years to come. The Georgia Municipal Association picked Winterville as one of three pilot cities under their “Place Making Program” designed to help Georgia cities revitalize their downtown/commercial districts and strengthen their communities. Thank you to all the directors of the Downtown Development Authority and the officers recently elected to lead the it. Look for an introduction to members of the WDDA in the next issue of the Gazette.

ARBOR DAY 2021

The Winterville Tree Commission will host a virtual Arbor Day celebration on February 20, 2021, when a new bald cypress will be planted in the natural area of Pittard Park that day. Thank you to the Tree Commission for all of their hard work this year and every year! Our city becomes more beautiful each year with your help.

INCLUSIVITY STATEMENT

The City of Winterville has adopted an Inclusivity Statement to ensure that both residents and visitors know that we are a city that welcomes all people. The statement will be added to the city website and will also be incorporated into a future art piece within the city. It reads as follows: 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.

CHANDLER PARK

The City of Winterville will have a new pocket park in 2021 dedicated to George H. Chandler, who we lost this year to COVID-19. The park will serve as a rest area for citizens and visitors using the Firefly Trail. Designed to be a “mindfulness garden,” it will celebrate inclusivity and diversity. Partnerships with the City of Winterville, the Winterville Civitan Club, and other organizations will make the park possible. George was Winterville. George was Civitan. His passion for this city and his dedication to service and community will be forever enshrined by Chandler Park. The park will be located on the green space bounded by the Front Porch Bookstore’s mural wall, City Hall, and the Blacksmith Shop. Donations are welcome; look for information soon on how to contribute to the park fund.



HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST

The Winterville Arts Council did a great job again this year with the Holiday Lights contest. The map of participating homes caused a great deal of excitement among citizens and visitors alike at the end of this extremely difficult year. As of this writing, the map had over 300 shares and 47,000 views on social media. All of our committees and organizations do such good work on behalf of our city and greater community, and for that we are grateful.

WINTERVILLE CIVITANS

The Winterville Civitan Club has been working on preserving the newly restored mural in the Depot by designing a frame to hold protective glass that will prevent further damage. This project is turning out to be more expensive than planned but will add more historical value to the building.

The Civitans are also involved in planning George Chandler Park, which will be established in the open space bordered by City Hall, the Front Porch Bookstore, and the old blacksmith’s workshop. An engraved stone at the site will display the Civitan Creed, and an antique bicycle that George found will become another piece of art along the Firefly Trail. Detailed plans for the park will need approval from the City of Winterville and the Firefly



Trail engineers, and the necessary meetings have been delayed by the need to avoid public meetings as much as possible. However, fundraising has already begun for both the park and the mural preservation, and donations can be sent to Winterville Civitan Club, PO Box 62, Winterville 30683.

The SnowFlake 10K will be a “virtual run” this year to help protect our community and first responders. During the week before “race day,” participants will run on their own, following predetermined routes and calling in their times to race officials at Classic Race Services, who will tabulate results.

The Civitans were also happy to help feed our neighbors during the Thanksgiving Giving and would like to express our thanks to the organizers, participants, and to First Lady Cameron Ferrelle, who hosted the event at the “Winterville White House.” We encourage all Winterville citizens to help us help others by supporting and participating in our work, and we look forward to being able to meet in person again some time this year.



RUN-OFF ELECTION JANUARY 5

On January 5, Georgia is holding a run-off election for its two U.S. Senate seats as well as for the state Public Service Commissioner.

IN-PERSON VOTING ON JANUARY 5

The polling place for most Winterville residents is the Depot. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

ABSENTEE VOTING

A drop box for absentee ballots has been placed at Winterville City Hall. The site is monitored by video recording devices, and ballots will be collected at least once every 72 hours in teams of two people who have sworn an oath in the same form as poll officers. Ballots are immediately transported and processed and stored in the same manner as absentee ballots returned by mail. The drop box will close at 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

To check on the status of your absentee ballot request or status, go to the My Voter Page at www.mvp.sos.ga.gov.

If you have additional questions, please contact the Elections Office Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 706-613-3150.

Dropbox Locations



You may drop your completed ballot in any of the following locations:

- Athens-Clarke County Elections Office, 155 E Washington Street, Athens, GA 30601
- Athens-Clarke County Library, 2025 Baxter Street; Athens, GA 30601
- Athens-Clarke County Multimodal Transportation Center, 775 E Broad Street, Athens, GA 30601
- Fire Station #7, 2350 Barnett Shoals Road, Athens, GA 30605
- ACC Extension, 275 Cleveland Road, Bogart, GA 30622
- Winterville City Hall, 125 S. Church Street, Winterville, GA

FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS

ATHENS EATS TOGETHER

Si necesita comidas, llame a la línea de admisión de Athens Eats al 888-420-7798 para obtener más información.

Winterville residents are coordinating with the wider Clarke County community to help provide food to families in need. Athens Eats Together is a county-wide initiative created to provide emergency food relief to any Clarke County resident facing food insecurities due to COVID-19. Funded by the Athens-Clarke County Unified Government (ACCGov), this collaborative effort is being led by the Athens Community Council on Aging (ACCA) and brings together expertise and resources from the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia, Epting Events, the Athens Farmers Market, and Family Connection–Communities in Schools of Athens.

“One of ACCA’s core values is imagination and innovation. We embrace change and look for creative ways to increase our value to the community that we serve,” says Eve Anthony, ACCA President and CEO. “COVID-19 presents no better time for ACCA to use our talent and innovation to respond to our community’s most urgent needs. Today, that is food access.” Anthony explains that ACCA has the “experience, infrastructure, logistical know-how, and collaborative partner relationships” necessary to create and support such a distribution program. Athens Eats Together is open to any Clarke County resident who is unable to obtain enough food for themselves and their families.



The program is funded by the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act passed in March and by the Clarke County Resiliency Package approved by Mayor Girtz and the Commission in July of this year. This monetary support combined with collaboration among community partners “gives us the needed resources to expand our capacity” to meet the much greater need created by the pandemic, Anthony states. “All of us involved feel fortunate that we can be on the front lines when our community needs us the most.”

Food is being distributed through January 31, 2021, in a variety of ways: ACCA’S traditional door-to-door delivery method as well as weekly drive-thru grocery pick-ups at their campus every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. In partnership with the Clarke County School District, weekly bulk distributions are taking place at area schools. To continue outreach to area residents who may not have the chance to visit one of Athens Eats Together’s weekday distributions, Saturday distributions will take place until the end of January 2021.

Safety measures are taken very seriously. Delivery is contact-less, and all volunteers wear masks, respect social distance, and maintain proper hand sanitation throughout the delivery process.

Those enrolled in the Athens Eats Together program will receive a combination of shelf-stable foods, produce, and prepared frozen meals. If you require meals or have questions, please call the Athens Eats Together intake line at 888-420-7798 or visit <https://www.accaging.org/athenseatstogether> for more information.

See the next page for distribution information.

Weekly Distributions

Athens Community Council on Aging, 135 Hoyt Street

Mondays 10:00 am – 6:00 pm, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

*Closed December 25 and January 1

Hilsman Middle School, 870 Gaines School Rd.*

Every Monday from 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

H.B. Stroud Elementary School, 715 Fourth St.*

Every Tuesday from 2:00–4:00 p.m.

Clarke Middle School, 1235 Baxter St.*

Every Wednesday from 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Fowler Drive Elementary, 400 Fowler Dr.*

Every Thursday from 2:00–4:00 p.m.

Whitehead Road Elementary, 555 Quailwood Rd.*

Every Friday from 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

*School distributions follow the CCSD Academic Calendar

Saturday Distributions

Call 1-888-420-7798 with questions related to Saturday distributions.

January 2

ACCA, 135 Hoyt St.

9:00–11:00 a.m.

January 9

Winterville UMC, 101 Parkview Rd., Winterville

9:00–11:00 a.m.



MEET WINTERVILLE'S NEIGHBORHOOD LEADER

SHAWANDA JOHNSON



Family Connection–Communities in Schools are two linked nonprofit organizations working to support Georgia's children and their families. Family Connection, which has a presence in every county in the state, works to ensure children's health and to prepare them for success in school. Families also receive help in becoming self-sufficient. Communities in Schools is a nationwide group that coordinates with schools, social services, and businesses to provide at-risk children with mentors, tutors, and after-school help, as well as family services to stabilize their home environment. Together, FC–CIS work at the local level to identify needs and the resources to meet those needs, and then set goals and implement programs to strengthen communities.

One such program is Neighborhood Leaders: local residents who each head a Prosperity Zone. Winterville is one of the sixteen Prosperity Zones in ACC, and our Neighborhood Leader is Shawanda Johnson. Ms. Johnson's job is to help Wintervillians gain access to a wide range of services, including education (such as GED and English-language classes), job training and employment opportunities, quality child care, programs that help combat hunger, physical and behavioral health services, and help for senior citizens. If that weren't enough, Neighborhood Leaders also encourage civic engagement, such as helping citizens register to vote, get to the polls, and participate in the Census.

Shawanda Johnson was born in Chicago. She moved to Athens in 1987, spending eight years here until returning to Chicago, where she graduated from Senn High School. After graduating, she established and ran a State of Illinois family home childcare center that provided schooling and shelter 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Shawanda came back to Athens in 2012 and worked in the University of Georgia's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-ED) program and volunteered for what was then known as the Whatever It Takes initiative, helping to improve resources and access to education for families in underserved communities. She lives in Winterville with her daughters Nadia—a recent graduate of the University of West Georgia with a B.S. in Social and Behavioral Health—and Janiah, who attends Coile Middle School and loves to play basketball and run track. Her son, Sincere, is currently visiting from North Chicago. He is 14, loves to wrestle, and is interested in video editing. Ms. Johnson became our FC–CIS Neighborhood Leader in January 2020.

Shawanda describes herself as someone who loves a good deal and is very good at finding them. She teaches her money-saving skills to others so they can better afford the things they need. "I love that I am definitely able to help people," she says. "I already have the passion to help, but getting paid to do what I love is even more rewarding. I'm able to assist families in getting food, diapers, blankets...I think of myself as a resource hub." For example, Ms. Johnson facilitated Winterville's Thanksgiving Giving, where residents donated cooked food for families in need. "We were able to help over 25 families have a complete Thanksgiving meal," she says. "Thank you to everyone who donated!"

Mayor Ferrelle says, "I began addressing Shawanda as 'Superhero' not long after we began working together. We are fortunate that Superhero Shawanda is Winterville's Neighborhood Leader. She has worked tirelessly by my side all year and has been instrumental in helping us connect with community members who are suffering the most through this difficult time. From feeding thousands in April and May, to helping families pay rent and bills through the summer, to helping organize the Thanksgiving Giving, she has been a force of good will for those most in need. When you see her, thank her—if she stays still long enough for you to do so!"

Expanding her work in supporting the community, Shawanda plans to open an After 6 Family Home Childcare in "the near future—so be on the lookout!" Winterville is grateful for Ms. Johnson's hard work and will look forward to whatever comes next for her.

WINTERVILLE CENTER FOR COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

371 N. Church St. Winterville, GA
Hours: Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
www.WintervilleCenter.com
706-742-0823

The Winterville Center for Community and Culture remains closed until further notice.

COMMUNITY COOKBOOK AVAILABLE

They're here! The long-awaited community cookbooks are available now.

The Winterville Community Cookbook is the perfect way to acquire new recipes, preserve old ones, and share cultural recipes while raising money for the Winterville Center. All proceeds go to support the programs and activities offered by the Winterville Center.

The cookbooks are priced at \$20. You can order one through PayPal on our website, and we will deliver it to your door as long as pandemic protection efforts are still in effect. Call 706-410-4073 to make arrangements. Once we have reopened the Center, the cookbooks can be bought and picked up there.

You can also buy a spiral-bound or eCookbook online directly from our publisher. For the spiral-bound cookbook alone, the cost is \$27.95. For the eCookbook, the cost is \$14.95. You are welcome to purchase the cookbook directly from us for \$20 and also buy the eCookbook separately online (link below).

To buy a book from us online, please visit our website and use the PayPal payment button on the left side of the home page: <https://wintervillecenter.com/>. To purchase directly from the publisher, go to https://createmycookbook.com/products/307155_322287_R.



COVID-19 TESTING

KEEP WINTERVILLE SAFE



**WEAR A MASK
WASH YOUR HANDS**

#GoTheDistance



Due to space constraints, testing for COVID-19 at the Winterville Center will likely end by January 1. Demand for testing is such that two drive-through lanes are required. For information on testing sites and on the virus in general, contact the health department at 706-340-0996 or PublicHealthAthens.com.

SCHOOL NEWS

WINTERVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Here's what's buzzin' at WES:

Congratulations to Lily Russell, a 4th grader in Mrs. Caldwell's class. Lily entered the National Scholars Society's 18th Annual Student Poetry Contest. Her poem, printed below, will be published in the annual student anthology.

Autumn Leaves

by Lily Russell

Autumn leaves, Autumn leaves,
how could you leave your tree?
I understand you have to go,
but stay for winter snow!
Over the river and through
the woods you fly,
Leaving me to question;
how and why?

In other artistic news, the Winterville PTO commissioned Athens artist Will Eskridge to paint a mural in our common hallway. Eskridge's original design was created using our mascots Bizzie and Buzz.



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Calendar of Events

January 6: Return from Winter Break
January 9: School Spelling Bee
January 17: 3rd Grade Parent Breakfast
January 20: MLK Day holiday
January 23: Kindergarten Parent Breakfast
January 24: Class pictures and 2nd Grade Parent Breakfast
January 30: 5th Grade Parent Breakfast
January 31: 4th Grade Parent Breakfast
February 6: District Spelling Bee and Student Art Reception at Winterville Community Center
February 7: 1st Grade Parent Breakfast
February 20: Arbor Day Tree Planting
March 4: Early Release, Parent/Teacher Conferences
March 5: Parent/Teacher Conferences
March 6–13: Spring break
March 31: Multi-Cultural Night
April 3: Spring Pictures
April 24: Movie in the Park
April 30: Field Day, 3–5
May 1: Field Day, K–2
May 6–8: 5th Grade Tybee Island Trip
May 7: K–2 Musical
May 21: Last Day of School

COILE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Coile Middle School teachers continue to innovate and expand their practices with technology and virtual learning. All Coile teachers are participating in a Digital Learning Professional Learning seminar that allows them to provide engaging instruction whether face to face or virtually. The use of numerous platforms has made it possible for teachers and students to stay connected in these unprecedented times.

Coile was pleased to add a Little Free Library to the front of the school that provides not just new or lightly used books free to students but also pantry and personal care items. The Little Free Library was built by Oneta Woodworks in Athens and paid for by a grant from the Local School Governance Team.

The school library media center is calling for student submissions for the next edition of *The Coile Review*. Students may submit prose, poetry, memoir, essays, or artwork addressing the theme “Reflections on 2020.” Earlier in the year, students submitted scary stories for All Hallows Read and participated in NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month).

LIBRARY CONTINUES CAUTIOUS OPENING



Winterville Library embraced the holiday spirit in December. We lit a Hanukkah menorah, displayed Christmas ornaments, and put candles in our Kwanza kinara. The City of Winterville contributed by wrapping our front porch with colorful Holiday lights and hanging a lighted wreath on the front door. Miss Hannah and Miss Deirdre created seasonally themed word searches and word scrambles to distribute to patrons. COVID-19 did not dim our festive mood.

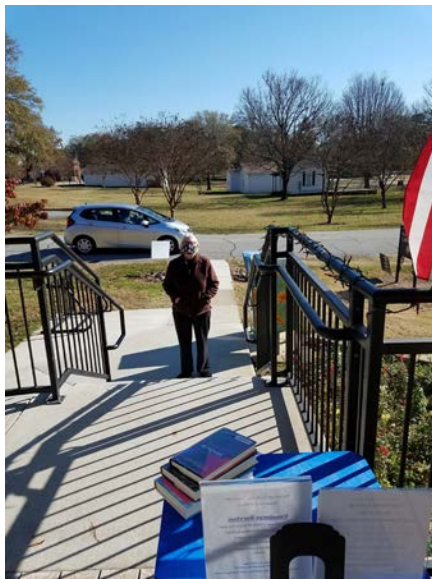
The library received a wonderful collection of books for all age groups. Funding for these books was provided by Georgia Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities as part of the CARES Act economic stabilization plan of 2020.

2020 brought us our first copies of the Great Courses series on CD. The Great Courses are college-level classes and greatly contribute to lifelong learning. In our current collection are topics in Fine Arts, Religion, and History. Titles include *Great Music of the 20th Century*, *Great World Religions*, and *The History of the United States*. Patrons can check out these CDs like any other CD or book.

We continue to follow protocols to keep our staff and patrons safe from the COVID-19 virus, limiting entry to the library to four patrons at a time, offering self-check-out for materials, and wearing our masks at all times. Returned books are quarantined for seven days. We are grateful that not a single patron has refused to wear a mask. Winterville is a great community!

We continue to encourage old and new patrons alike to use Winterville Library.

Current hours are 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Monday through Wednesday and Friday. Curbside pick-up is available until 2:00 p.m. on those days. On Thursday, we are open from 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. for inside use and until 7:00 p.m. for curbside pick-up.



New patron Rebecca Baggett uses curbside pick-up.



Miss Hannah welcomes back much-adored Martha, who also brought her person, Bob Gadd, but he did not rate a photograph.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Winterville Community Garden is a peaceful oasis in the center of our city. The gardeners have been able to enjoy companionship while maintaining a good distance and wearing masks. The shelter built in 2019 has become a safe meeting place for gardeners and visitors alike.



Food Bank Donations

The garden has donated over 300 pounds of produce to the Athens Area Emergency Food bank this year. Fresh vegetables are always particularly welcome. Our collard initiative, whereby some gardeners volunteered to grow donated collard transplants, produced over 50 pounds of collards just in time for Thanksgiving. We should have another batch ready in time for the New Year holiday. Many thanks to all the volunteers that participated—especially to Bill Turner, who spearheads this effort and does most of the organizing and deliveries.

Garden Upkeep and Workdays

We have continued to use a mowing service for the pathways, and a few enthusiastic gardeners have continued to show up on workdays to do whatever has been necessary to maintain the appearance of the gardens. And the gardens are beautiful as a result!

Organic methods are used for pest control, and the gardens were recently treated with milky spore preparation, which destroys the grubs of the Japanese beetles that have been feasting on our vegetables—green beans in particular. As we are southern gardeners, fire ants will always be with us. But we can keep them under control in the garden using two organic methods. The first is baiting with Ferti-Loam brand “Come and Get It” (Spinosad), which we apply in late spring when the colonies are at their most active; the second is the direct application of diluted orange oil (4 oz per gallon of water) to the nests throughout the warm season. A supply of diluted orange oil solution is kept on hand so that gardeners can treat their own plots.



Except for the week when the well pump had to be replaced (thanks to Tom Doonan and his City Works crew for getting this done speedily), we kept the irrigation system fully functional throughout the growing season. It is now turned off for the winter but will be working again next spring as soon as the risk of heavy frosts is past.

Registration for the Upcoming Year

We cannot hold our usual potluck registration event. Instead, we will have a masked, socially distant event on Saturday, February 20, from 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. in the large pavilion in Pittard Park. This will be for all gardeners, new and returning. The rental fee is \$40 per year for each 4' x 8' garden box. Cash or checks must be submitted with the signed registration forms, in which you agree to abide by the garden guidelines. Returning gardeners will have the option of keeping their current box(es). Box numbers for new gardeners will be assigned and emailed.

All gardeners are allowed two boxes per year, depending on availability, and boxes are assigned to new gardeners on a first-come, first-served basis, with priority given to those who were on the 2020 waiting list. After new gardeners are assigned one box, second boxes will be assigned as requested. All returning gardeners who have two boxes will be permitted to keep them.

cont.

To save you time, registration forms and the Community Garden Guidelines will be available before this event at City Hall and online at the city website, <https://cityofwinterville.com/winterville-community-garden>. They will also be available at the event. If you cannot attend the February registration, you may drop off your application at City Hall after this date.

Volunteers

There is always room for volunteers! Almost everything that happens at the garden is done by volunteers, the one exception being keeping the pathways free of weeds. Even if you have gardening space at home and don't need one of our garden boxes, we would welcome your time! We have six adopted Food Bank boxes, but we could always do with extra help (for example, delivering our produce to the Food Bank); the pollinator and herb gardens are great places to garden; we have fruit bushes that need TLC...and more! Fresh air, exercise, camaraderie—what could be better? Come join us. We invite you to come to the registration meeting and find out more about us.

WINTERVILLE ARTS COUNCIL

Things have been quiet for the Arts Council due to COVID-19. Like most other groups, the WAC has had to cancel events, such as the quarterly art exhibits and poetry readings and a planned reprise of the WACKy Chalk Art Festival. However, the creative members of the committee did come up with one pandemic-safe activity: a scavenger hunt for art. In November, participants obtained a BINGO-style card containing photos of various artworks around town, then hit the streets to enjoy the beautiful fall weather and scout out the images. When one of the pieces of art was found, the artsy scavengers took a selfie with it to share on Instagram or Facebook with the hashtag #WinArtFound. Hunters who got “BINGO” (5 images either horizontally, vertically, or diagonally) were entered into a drawing to win prizes. Congratulations to Ellen Baker Derwin, Anna Ray, and 260 Bee Co., who each received a \$5 gift certificate to Off-the-Vine Produce. Another art scavenger hunt is planned for spring.

Also ahead this spring, WAC will be soliciting designs for an “art bench” to be placed on the southern section of the Firefly Trail. Be sure to follow WAC on FaceBook or Instagram to find out about this project and other upcoming activities.

The Arts Council also sponsored the second annual holiday lights contest. Residents living within a two-mile radius of City Hall were invited to put their cheer into hyperdrive and enter to win bragging rights for People's Choice for best display. As of the time of publication, the lights are still up, so go to the following site to download a map of all the decorated houses and to vote for your favorite: <https://wintervilleartscouncil.org/holiday-lights-2020/>.



HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION



In 1841, Six Mile Station was built half a dozen miles from the Georgia Railroad terminus at Athens, GA. Like most rail towns, the settlement grew around the station, eventually becoming known as Winterville in 1866. Now in 2020, Winterville has taken the next steps to ensure its historic character remains intact for years to come.

Any visitor to Winterville will note the extensive historic buildings dotting our community. Victorian, Craftsman, and Georgian homes line our streets, and our civic structures (ranging from the 1890s train depot to our newly renovated 1953 auditorium) provide a centering experience that keeps Winterville feeling familiar over time. After the creation of the city's Historic Preservation Commission in 2018, the next major step

for Winterville was to gain the status of "Certified Local Government" (CLG) from the National Park Service. As HPC chair Kim Burch explains, "By being named a CLG, Winterville can now apply for federal funding as well as assistance in furthering preservation matters in our community. It's an important and notable moment in our quest to guide our city's future without forsaking its past."

There are more than 200 historic structures within the city limits, which has prompted the proposed creation of Historic Districts throughout Winterville. If approved by the Mayor and Council, buildings within these districts will be subject to guidelines governing changes to their external appearance in order to maintain the historic character of their neighborhood. Homeowners within districts may qualify for state and federal tax benefits if they conduct appropriate work that restores a structure's appearance or adapts it to a new, sustainable use. Property values within historic districts also tend to trend upward, maintaining or enhancing home values.

Winterville's Historic Preservation Commission welcomes public comment on the proposed creation of these districts. All HPC meetings are open to the public, and the group will hold three sessions dedicated to feedback from citizens. These sessions will be held in the Winterville Auditorium (located at 373 N Church St.) on:

- Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.
- Saturday, February 20, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Residents will also receive notification of these meetings by mail in January. In the meantime, the proposed Historic District Design Guidelines can be found on the city's website at <https://www.cityofwinterville.com/historic-preservation-commission>. Any questions or concerns should be directed to WintervilleHPC@gmail.com.

MARIGOLD FESTIVAL

The Marigold Festival Board would love to thank our festival sponsors. While the 2020 festival didn't get to happen, our generous sponsors continued to support us, and that generosity led to the Marigold Festival Board working with the City of Winterville, Bulldog Radio 93.3, and local schools and school principals to help provide needed school supplies, masks, school uniforms, toiletries, and more for our amazing students, teachers, and families.



WINTERVILLE TREE COMMISSION

TIME TO PLANT!

Now is the time to plant young trees. The cooler temperatures give them a better start, giving them time to develop a strong root system before the summer heat arrives. You can find a great video from The Georgia Forestry Commission about planting containerized trees at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5QR5-8Q2nPE&feature=youtu.be>, and you can download a written step by step guide for homeowners at <https://gatrees.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/How-to-Plant-Trees-A-Homeowners-Guide.pdf>.

For a long-lived and healthy tree, however, the most important steps are (1) choosing the right species to match conditions in your yard, (2) preparing the site for planting, and (3) proper planting. The Winterville Tree Commission offered a webinar covering these topics last year, and you can watch a recording of it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K--EOIBSSqA&feature=youtu.be>. Speakers included Seth Hawkins, Community Forester with the Georgia Forestry Commission, and Holly Campbell, faculty member of the new Community Forestry and Arboriculture degree program at the UGA Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources.

There are many reasons to add trees to your landscaping:

- Research shows that urban trees can increase home values by 15 percent.
- Houses with tree cover have lower indoor air temperatures in summer, translating into as much as a 30 percent savings on air conditioning bills.
- Planting a group of trees on the west side of your house, along with a shrub barrier along the northern side, can create an insulation zone that prevents heat loss from winter winds, resulting in 23 percent less fuel use.

ARBOR DAY

Winterville's next Arbor Day celebration is Saturday, February 20, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. Join the Winterville Tree Commission as we read Mayor Ferrelle's proclamation and plant a tree in the Wildlife Park off Parkview Road, near the Scout cabin and multi-use courts. More details will be posted on the Tree Commission's webpage as the date approaches.

JOIN THE TREE COMMISSION

There are currently two openings for community members interested in serving. More information and great pictures of the fun things we do can be found on the City of Winterville's website under the Government tab, click Commissions then Tree Commission. To apply, contact Wendy Bond at cityhall@cityofwinterville.com or drop by City Hall for an application.

A special thank you to Holly Campbell, the outgoing President, and Averil Bonsall, the outgoing Secretary, for all your contributions toward making Winterville a beautiful city with tree-literate residents. The new officers for 2021 for the Tree Commission are Lea Clark, President; Brian Binder, Secretary; Bob Bonsall, Treasurer.

SPONSOR A COMMEMORATIVE TREE

Honor or memorialize a special person with a Commemorative Tree planted in Winterville. It's only \$100, and the City will match that toward the cost of purchase, planting, and maintenance. Go to the city website for an application.

FIREFLY TRAIL MOMENTUM KEEPS BUILDING

Though it was undeniably a year of challenges, 2020 saw the Firefly Trail reach several milestones, and the project is poised to take additional big steps in 2021.

A true highlight of the past year was completion of the beautiful 1.6 mile Winterville segment, from Five Points southeast nearly to the Oglethorpe County line. The October 16 ribbon-cutting brought out scores of area citizens as well as several elected officials and other dignitaries, all socially distancing in order to safely share the big moment together.



Construction activity has picked up along the 1.8-mile trail segment from Old Winterville Road in Athens northeast to Hancock Road. Grading has been completed and one section of concrete has been put down. Soon a Firefly Trail bridge that will eventually span a new on-ramp from Lexington Road to Outer Loop 10 will be moved into position. And, near the Dudley Park trailhead in Athens, 2021 will see initial stages of construction of a bridge over Trail Creek. The agreed-upon design will creatively combine a restored wooden section of the historic “Murmur” trestle with dramatic new steel design elements.

Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services has conducted a number of public information sessions to share citizen comments regarding the segment of the trail from Winterville’s 5-Points to Hancock Road—the last segment of the trail connecting Winterville to Athens. Citizen input will be accepted until January 10, 2021, after which time a recommendation will be formulated and presented to the ACC Mayor and Commission. Three different options for the trail’s location can be found on the ACC Leisure Services website along with a citizen survey, and we strongly encourage everyone to study the options and provide your input.

Firefly trail towns Maxeys and Union Point marked the end of 2020 by completing their “Model Mile” trail segments. Both cities successfully combined grant support from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources with locally raised funds and donated labor, resulting in a big boost to Firefly’s momentum toward the trail corridor’s southern terminus.

In October, Greene County plus the cities of Maxeys, Union Point, and Woodville teamed up with Firefly Trail, Inc., to prepare a major grant application submitted to the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program. Aably assisted by the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission, the submission proposes completion of nearly six miles of trail in Greene County plus an additional mile of trail construction in the Maxeys vicinity. If the application is successful, a two-year, \$3 million project will begin next fall.

Tentatively set for Saturday, March 27 is the annual Firefly Trail Ticket to Ride. A non-competitive, on-road bike ride that attracts well over 200 participants each year, the event offers registration/starting points in Winterville, Athens, and Union Point. Cyclists may choose to ride from one mile up to 87 on the out-and-back course, making this a good choice for riders of all abilities. Last year’s event was cancelled due to COVID-19, and Firefly Trail, Inc., will make a decision about the 2021 ride soon. Please keep an eye on www.fireflytrail.com or the Firefly Trail Facebook page for updates.

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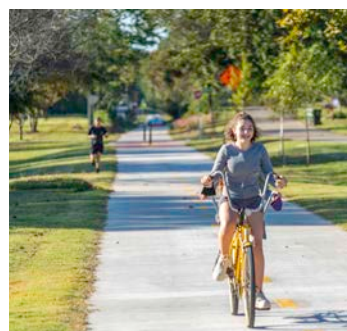
The inaugural Firefly Trail Race Series was a big hit with runners and walkers in 2020 and a boost to four trail towns. Event organizers have completed planning for the 2021 Series, which will begin with the virtual Snowflake 10K in Winterville the final week of January. 5Ks are scheduled later in the year in Maxeys, Crawford, and Union Point. Participants wishing to complete the Series must register no later than January 30 and will save \$15 on the cost of registering for the races individually. All Series registrants who finish at least three of the four races will be eligible for awards, and a 2021 Firefly Trail Race Series t-shirt will be presented to each and every registrant! Online registration is available at [active.com](https://www.active.com), and more information may be found at www.fireflytrail.com.

Firefly Trail, Inc., closed 2020 with a successful campaign to raise funds for operations during the new year. We appreciate the support received and look forward to continued progress with this wonderful project during 2021.



Left: ACC Commissioner Andy Herod, Winterville Mayor Dodd Ferrelle, and ACC Mayor Kelly Girtz officially open Winterville's section of the trail.

All photos by Matt Brewster.





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About the Gazette

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Editor: Lee Ann Pingel

Editorial Board: Dodd Ferrelle, Lee Ann Pingel, Mary Quinn

Contributors: Samantha Barnam, Wendy Bond, Averil Bonsall, Matt Brewster, Lea Clark, Emily Eisenmann, Donna Elder, Cameron Ferrelle, Dodd Ferrelle, Shawanda Johnson, Amy Lancaster, Ray Marden, Amanda Mooney, Deirdre Murray, Mary Quinn, Jonathan Scott, JoAnn Snow

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