



**Winterville**  
GEORGIA • EST. 1866

# WINTERVILLE GAZETTE

VOLUME XXIII, ISSUE 3

JUL–SEP 2021

## CONTACT INFORMATION

EMERGENCY 911

CITY HALL

706-742-8600

CITY HALL FAX

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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

## HOW DO YOU WANT TO READ THE GAZETTE?

I know that most of you enjoy reading the *Gazette*, but how do you like to read it, in print or online? The City of Winterville generously covers the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter to your door, but if you would prefer not to receive a print copy, I can trim the mailing list and the city's budget a little, too. A digital version of each issue is made available immediately on the city's website, and past issues are archived there, as well. In addition, a limited number of copies will be available in the news box at City Hall. If you would like to opt out of receiving the hard copy, please email your name and address to [wintervillegazette@gmail.com](mailto:wintervillegazette@gmail.com). To ensure that you receive notification when a new issue goes online, follow the *Winterville Gazette* on FaceBook and/or subscribe to the NextDoor email list for Winterville. If you want to continue to receive a print copy, you need do nothing.

Thank you,  
Lee Ann Pingel, Editor

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Wintervillians,

Summer is here, and the new normal seems to be peeking out from the fog of the pandemic. We are cautiously reopening the city, and it's wonderful to see so many new and old faces out and about. The Front Porch Bookstore concerts have been more popular than ever, evidence that we are all ready to gather safely and enjoy our community together. Another Marigold Festival was successfully held virtually, and we are already looking forward to an exciting in-person festival in 2022. The virtual festivals, made possible by the Marigold Festival board and the city, are a reminder of our steadfast commitment from the very beginnings of the pandemic to provide some comfort and normalcy during a time that was neither normal nor comfortable. I hope you all, as citizens of this beloved town, felt that commitment. Now we can focus on rebuilding and repairing what has been compromised. You might have seen teachers and children from Winterville Elementary filling the town square or the park as part of the effort to close the education gap created by the pandemic (see pp. 10–11). More infrastructure projects are on the way, as well. The town is coming alive again, so bring on the new normal! But let's continue to look out for each other as we work to strengthen our community even further: the pandemic is not over and could worsen again as new variants of the virus emerge. For the sake of young children and other vulnerable people, continue to wear masks in indoor public spaces and GET VACCINATED if you have not already. I'll see you on the streets!



Sincerely,  
Dodd I. Ferrelle, Mayor

# CIVIC CALENDAR

**All times and locations of meetings are subject to change due to COVID-19 and will be announced prior to the meetings. Check the city website or each committee's FaceBook page for updates.**

Wednesday, June 30	Public Hearing, Historic Preservation, 6:00 p.m., Auditorium
Friday, July 2	Independence Day (observed), City Hall closed
Monday, July 5	Planning & Zoning, 5:30 p.m., City Hall
Tuesday, July 6	Council Workshop, 5:30 p.m., City Hall
Monday, July 12	Municipal Court, 5:00 p.m., City Hall
Tuesday, July 13	City Council, 6:30 p.m., City Hall
Wednesday, July 14	Downtown Development Authority, 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, July 14	Firefly Local Action Committee, 7:00 p.m.
Monday, July 19	Community Garden Committee, 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, July 20	Historic Preservation Commission, 6:00 p.m., City Hall
Tuesday, July 27	Winterville Arts Council, 6:00 p.m.
Monday, August 2	Planning & Zoning, 5:30 p.m., City Hall
Tuesday, August 3	Council Workshop, 5:30 p.m., City Hall
Monday, August 9	Municipal Court, 5:00 p.m., City Hall
Tuesday, August 10	City Council, 6:30 p.m., City Hall
Wednesday, August 11	Downtown Development Authority, 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, August 11	Firefly Local Action Committee, 7:00 p.m.
Monday, August 16	Community Garden Committee, 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, August 17	Historic Preservation Commission, 6:00 p.m., City Hall
Tuesday, August 24	Winterville Arts Council, 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, September 1	Planning & Zoning, 5:30 p.m., City Hall
Monday, September 6	Labor Day, City Hall closed
Tuesday, September 7	Council Workshop, 5:30 p.m., City Hall
Wednesday, September 8	Downtown Development Authority, 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, September 8	Firefly Local Action Committee, 7:00 p.m.
Monday, September 13	Municipal Court, 5:00 p.m., City Hall
Tuesday, September 14	Historic Preservation Commission, 6:00 p.m., City Hall
Tuesday, September 14	City Council, 6:30 p.m., City Hall
Monday, September 20	Community Garden Committee, 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, September 28	Winterville Arts Council, 6:00 p.m.



## CITY NEWS

### BUDGET AND MILLAGE RATE

It's that time of year. We will hold a public hearing in July to set the millage rate. The rate has not changed in a number of years, and we don't anticipate raising or lowering it this year. Details regarding the public hearing can be found on page 6.

### LIVE-STREAMED CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

The city recently purchased equipment to enable live streaming of city council meetings. We have created a Youtube channel where live and archived meetings can be viewed. See the city website for details and the link to the channel. We have resumed in-person meetings at City Hall, so please attend (wear a mask if you have not been vaccinated). If you are unable to attend, please tune in online to remain informed on all city issues. If you wish to comment during meetings, you will need to attend in-person.

### MAIN STREET CROSSWALKS

This project addresses safety and traffic calming at two locations along Main Street. The crosswalk at Parkview near the Depot will see major improvements, including flashing beacons, to provide increased pedestrian safety. At the intersection of Main and Henry Meyer, the middle turn lane will be replaced with a pedestrian island. The contract has been awarded to Cold Branch Construction; look for work to begin very soon.

### OLD BANK BUILDING



With help from the Georgia Municipal Association and Commercial Bank, the city has purchased the iconic Bank Building in Pittard Park. Usage plans so far include more space for meetings, offices, and storage. The purchase was made possible by 2020 SPLOST funds originally budgeted for City Hall renovations. Purchasing the Bank Building obviates the need for immediate renovations to City Hall while ensuring the preservation of this charming little piece of history. Upgrades to City Hall will be accommodated in a future budget.

### FREE WiFi IN PITTARD PARK

By the time you receive this issue, Pittard Park will be covered by a public wireless network sponsored by the city. If you're in or around the park, look for the network called "Pavilion-guest." No password is required.

### NEW FIRE ENGINE

The Winterville Volunteer Fire Department will soon take delivery of a brand new fire engine. Chief Gabriel and Assistant Chief Durie worked hard to find the perfect truck to protect the city, and the city council approved the purchase at its June meeting. As with the bank, this purchase was made possible by the 2020 SPLOST monies. Visit the Fire Hall on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. for tours and a chance to see the truck up close when it arrives.

*cont.*

## CHANDLER PARK

This new amenity has already created a great deal of excitement! Cultivation Landscapes has done a great job as the contractor for this project so far. Originally envisioned as a rest stop for trail users, the park dedicated to George Chandler has turned into a multilevel project providing storm water retention, the opportunity for another performance stage, new art installations, and a destination for picnics and family gatherings. We hope the majority of the work will be completed in August, with trees and flowers to be planted in season. The official dedication will be October 14.



Photos courtesy of Marigold Solutions, Inc.

## PLANNING AND ZONING/CITY COUNCIL RETREAT

The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NEGRC) facilitated a retreat with the Winterville City Council and the Planning and Zoning Commission. Topics discussed included smaller square-footage requirements for new homes, pocket neighborhoods, planned mixed-use developments, and the need to clean up our code. Eva Kennedy from the Planning and Government Services Division of the NEGRC served as facilitator and has created a program of work for us to follow. Members of the city council and P&Z commission will be working to protect Winterville's charm while balancing the rapid growth in the housing market.

## WINTERVILLE CHARTER DAY

Save the date! August 15 is Charter Day in the City of Winterville. We will celebrate this historic day with a community potluck on Sunday, August 15, 2021. Everyone is invited to the gathering, at which we will honor our public safety personnel as well as outstanding community servants. The Winterville Civitan Club will host the event on behalf of the city, supplying plates, cups, napkins, utensils, and drinks and being on-hand to help clean up afterwards. Keep an eye on the city's website and social media for more details as the date draws closer.

## LET'S KEEP IT CLEAN!



The Firefly Trail is a great place for walkers. If you walk with a four-legged companion, please clean up after them, even if the doggie business is done in the grassy areas.

There have also been problems (again!) with trash and other inappropriate refuse being left at the recycling bins on Harris Lane. The bins are there at the pleasure of the ACC government; abuse could result in their being removed. Having easy access to recycling in Winterville is wonderfully convenient, and it would be a shame to lose it. If you witness dumping, call the police or make a note of the vehicle model and plate numbers to report later.

*cont.*

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

The HPC will hold another public hearing on the boundaries of the various historic districts identified by commission members. The boundaries changed after the last meeting to include additional homes in some districts. The Winter Hills neighborhood has been removed from all district boundaries. If your home lies within one of the revised boundaries, you should have received a postcard inviting you to the hearing, which will be held in the Auditorium on June 30 at 6:00 p.m. All Winterville residents are welcome to attend.

## CHANGE IN WCCC DIRECTORSHIP

JoAnn Snow will be retiring at the end of July. Many thanks to JoAnn for the incredible job she has done moving the Center forward over the last several years. Winterville is grateful for her service to the city. Congratulations on your retirement, JoAnn! Now, please welcome David Matthews-Morgan as interim director. David will manage the WCCC while the city evaluates needs and looks to fill the new position permanently in 2022. In the meantime, the Center is open and adding back programming this summer. See the schedule on page 8 and visit their website to find classes and events that might interest you.



Left: JoAnn Snow;  
Right: David Matthews-Morgan.



## IN MEMORIAM

### KENNETH HODGES



Long-time Winterville resident Kenny Hodges, 72, died Monday, May 17, 2021, at his home. Kenny's large extended family and an equally large array of friends and acquaintances will miss him, but we are consoled by many, many memories of his kind-hearted and selfless gestures. He fed us well—Hodges' Bar-B-Q served Winterville's churches, festivals, politicians, veterans, UGA Law School students and faculty, and a long list of others who simply loved his barbecue. Kenny frequently offered his cooking talents to raise charitable funds, often quietly and without seeking recognition. Through his lawn-service business, he also helped kept the city looking tidy by donating mowing services to the Winterville Cemetery and Winterville United Methodist Church.

The City of Winterville is appreciative of Kenny's service as a Councilmember, a caretaker of the cemetery, and many years as a LIONS volunteer. Our sincere sympathy is extended to his family and friends.

# QUALIFY TO RUN FOR CITY COUNCIL

Two seats on the City Council have terms ending on December 31 of this year. All Winterville residents are eligible to run for City Council provided the qualifications described below are met. *The City Council is dedicated to representing all Winterville residents and encourages any citizen interested in serving to pursue qualifying to run for election.* Council members are elected for a four-year term and receive a stipend of \$200 per month. Duties will begin January 1, 2022, and include attendance at two mandatory meetings each month as well as performing other tasks as required.

The election will take place at the Depot on Tuesday, November 2, 2021. The qualifying period begins Monday, August 16 at 9:00 a.m. and will continue daily from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. until Wednesday, August 18, 2021. To qualify, go to the ACC Board of Elections Office at 155 E. Washington Street in Athens to file the necessary paperwork and required fee of \$72.00.

# PUBLIC HEARINGS ON PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The City of Winterville announces its intention to increase the property taxes it will levy this year by 5.00 percent.

Each year, the board of tax assessors is required to review the assessed value for property tax purposes of taxable property in the city. When the trend of prices on properties that have recently sold in the city indicate there has been an increase in the fair market value of any specific property, the board of tax assessors is required by law to re-determine the value of such property and increase the assessment. This is called a reassessment.

When the total digest of taxable property is prepared, Georgia law requires that a rollback millage rate must be computed that will produce the same total revenue on the current year's new digest that last year's millage rate would have produced had no reassessments occurred.

The budget tentatively adopted by the City of Winterville requires a millage rate higher than the rollback millage rate. Therefore, before the City of Winterville may finalize the tentative budget and set a final millage rate, state law requires that three public hearings be held to allow the public an opportunity to express their opinions on this increase.

All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearings to be held at the Winterville City Hall, 125 N. Church Street.

- Hearing #1 – Tuesday, July 6, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.
- Hearing #2 – Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.
- Hearing #3 – Tuesday, July 13, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

# **WINNER-VILLE**

## **WINTERVILLE CITIZENS WIN GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARDS**

Envision Athens has declared 2021 as The Year of the Good Neighbor. The goals of this year-long campaign are to inspire all Athenians to be good neighbors and to celebrate individuals and businesses that exemplify the four core values of unity, equity, prosperity, and compassion. Each month, Envision Athens focuses on a particular topic that plays a role in being good neighbors to each other, such as improving public health, supporting the arts, and protecting the environment. The theme for May was promoting agriculture, and in this category two Winterville citizens received Good Neighbor Awards: Neighborhood Leader Shawanda Johnson and Marigold Collective Manager Sherrie Anderson. The award committee stated that both women “were cornerstones in the progress made to open the Marigold Market safely in 2020 and to increase fresh food access in Winterville and beyond by sharing surplus food with neighbors in need.” Shawanda was featured in the January–March 2021 issue of the *Gazette*, and you can read more about Sherrie in the Citizen Spotlight column on page 19.

To nominate an individual or a business for a Good Neighbor Award, go to <https://envisionathens.com>. You can also find links there to follow the campaign on Face Book or Instagram.

## **MAYOR FERRELLE WINS NEGRC AWARD**

Mayor Dodd Ferrelle is the recipient of the 2021 Local Government Administrator of the Year Award from the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NEGRC). The awards committee selected Mr. Ferrelle for his management of the many improvements and activities on which this *Gazette* has reported over the last several years, including the construction of the Firefly Trail and Chandler Park, the renovations of the library and auditorium, and working with the Tree Commission to have the City of Winterville recognized as a Tree City of the World. NEGRC notes that “many of these functions are traditionally left to city staff or a city manager, [but] Winterville, as a small town, is without this position.” In bringing these projects to fruition, Mayor Ferrelle “embraced new partners and shared the community’s success with other elected officials and community members.” Mr. Ferrelle accepted the award also on behalf of the many community members and city employees with whom he has worked side by side throughout the last several years.



## **WINTERVILLE ARTS COUNCIL**



It's been difficult to plan public art events when the pandemic has redefined what it means to be in public, but WAC members have been busy behind the scenes brainstorming about future shows. In the meantime, we've sponsored the Firefly Trail Community Art Show featuring work by Wintervillians of all ages and skill levels. The Arts Council obtained blank yard signs and made them available for a small donation to interested artists, who decorated the signs in accord with the theme “Life Is Good in Winterville!” The art was installed along the trail in late June and will remain on display through July.

We will be hosting a second WACKy Sidewalk Chalk Art competition in Pittard Park in October. In the meantime, we've purchased chalk for kids to use at the Marigold Market while their parents shop. Plans are also in the works for a fall show in the WCCC's Gallery in the Hall featuring works by students in the WCCC art classes. To stay abreast of all the arty news, follow us on FaceBook and Instagram.

# WINTERVILLE CENTER FOR COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

371 N. Church St. Winterville, GA

Current Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**www.WintervilleCenter.com**

706-742-0823

## JULY

DAY	TIME	CLASS
<b>Tuesdays</b>	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Coffee with a Vet. For Veterans and those who support them. Donations encouraged. Threadworks. Bring your crochet, knitting, or needlework. Donations encouraged. Oil Painting with Dortha Jacobson. \$10.00 per person per class. Beginning Drawing. Starts July 6. \$10.00 per person per class.
<b>Wednesdays</b>	6:00 p.m.	ACT UP! Creative Dramatics for Adults. Starts July 7. \$10.00 per person per class.
<b>Thursdays</b>	All Day	Firefly Homeschool Community (private)
<b>Fridays*</b>	1:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Mah Jong for Beginners and Experienced Players. \$1.00 per person per class. Happy Feet Social Ballroom Dancing & Dinner. <b>Bi-weekly</b> beginning July 9 & 23. \$17.00 per person per event.

## AUGUST

DAY	TIME	CLASS
<b>Mondays</b>	9:00 a.m.	Chair Yoga. Starts August 9. \$10.00 per person per class.
	10:00 a.m.	Dot Painting. Starts August 16. \$10.00 per person per class.
<b>Tuesdays</b>	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Coffee with a Vet. For Veterans and those who support them. Donations encouraged. Threadworks. Bring your crochet, knitting, or needlework. Donations encouraged. Oil Painting with Dortha Jacobson. \$10.00 per person per class. Poets of Winterville with Jack Eisenman. Beginning Drawing. \$10.00 per person per class.
<b>Wednesdays</b>	6:00 p.m.	ACT UP! Creative Dramatics for Adults. \$10.00 per person per class.
<b>Thursdays</b>	All Day	Firefly Homeschool (private)
<b>Fridays*</b>	1:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Mah Jong for Beginners and Experienced Players. \$1.00 per person per class. Happy Feet Social Ballroom Dancing & Dinner. Aug 6 & 20. \$17.00 per person per event.

## SEPTEMBER

DAY	TIME	CLASS
<b>Mondays</b>	9:00 a.m.	Chair Yoga. \$10.00 per person per class.
	10:00 a.m.	Dot Painting. \$10.00 per person per class.
<b>Tuesdays</b>	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Coffee with a Vet. For Veterans and those who support them. Donations encouraged. Threadworks. Bring your crochet, knitting, or needlework. Donations encouraged. Oil Painting with Dortha Jacobson. \$10.00 per person per class. Poets of Winterville with Jack Eisenman. Beginning Drawing. \$10.00 per person per class.
<b>Wednesdays</b>	6:00 p.m.	ACT UP! Creative Dramatics for Adults. \$10.00 per person per class.
<b>Thursdays</b>	All Day	Firefly Homeschool (private)
<b>Fridays*</b>	1:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Mah Jong for Beginners and Experienced Players. \$1.00 per person per class. Happy Feet Social Ballroom Dancing & Dinner. Sept 3 & 17. \$17.00 per person per event.

**NOTE:** Schedule subject to change at any time. Check the website for the latest information.

\*First Friday Potluck Luncheons are held on the first Friday of every month from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 pm. See website for details.

# LIBRARY NEWS

The Library is now open on its regular, full-time schedule:

- Sunday and Monday: closed
- Tuesday and Thursday 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, Friday, Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

We have been thrilled to see so many of our patrons returning! Please remember that masks are encouraged and requested inside the building. We have been adding dozens of new books to our collection each month in 2021. There is something for everyone in fiction, non-fiction, juvenile, young adult, graphic novels, audiobooks and large print.



The Summer Reading Program is underway and is open to patrons of all ages. This year's theme is "Tails and Tales," so be on the lookout for lots of fun animal-themed events. While most of the performers and events will be virtual, several will be held in-person, outside. Miss Hannah will bring out the cushions and host two outdoor story-times. The first will be "Hello!" on Wednesday, June 30, at 11:00 a.m.; the second, "Camouflaged Critters," will be Wednesday, July 21, at 11:00 a.m. Please visit the library's website at <http://www.athenslibrary.org/winterville> for a full listing of our events.

In-person story time is on hold until later this fall. In the meantime, Miss Deirdre is happy to read stories one-on-one for individual children. We simply space out on our two sofas.

The Book Club for adults is thriving and meets each month at Pittard Park. Newcomers are always welcome. Call the library at 706-742-7735 for times and to find out the current book selection.



Left: Cecily attended the first summer activity on June 8, Creating Bottle Cap Pins (an old favorite); Right: Khali and Ezekiel signed up for the Summer Reading Program.

# NEW SUMMER PROGRAM FOR ELEMENTARY KIDS

This year, Winterville Elementary launched a new summer program, Camp Winnerbee, designed to close the learning gap created by the pandemic and online learning as well as to expose students to fun activities in an effort to build their background knowledge. During the last three weeks in June, students engaged in math, reading, and social-emotional lessons. They also enjoyed enrichment activities, including learning about gardening, technology, conservation, wildlife and their habitats, and giving back to others. In addition, they participated in organized play, art, music, and physical education. Area partners who helped with the enrichment activities included Mayor Ferrelle and the City of Winterville, Mr. Will Dodd of Northeast Georgia RESA, the State Botanical Garden, the Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center, the Athens-Clarke County Water Conservation Office, and Sandy Creek Nature Center. Students met at WES Mondays through Wednesdays, and Thursday activities were held in various places around Winterville, such as the park pavilions, auditorium, community center, and train depot. Students and staff had a great time!

Funded by the American Rescue Plan Act passed by the US Congress in March of this year to help the country recover from the effects of the pandemic, Camp Winnerbee is free for all students. Through at least 2024, Camp Winnerbee will replace traditional summer school and will allow more students to participate. The camp will serve as the blueprint for a couple of initiatives. First, the program will serve as an enrichment program to prevent summer learning loss. Second, the program will serve as a backup plan if we ever need to shelter in place again. Winterville's government and local schools are dedicated to providing uninterrupted education for the children in our community. It is hoped that Camp Winnerbee will serve as a template for other schools and districts to follow in the future.



Photos courtesy of Susan Bolin, Carlin Brownlee, Melanie James, Anna Lambert, and Julie Sayer.





# BIG NEWS FROM THE DOCTORS' MUSEUM

In the winter of 2013, then-curator of the Carter-Coile Country Doctors' Museum Lee Hartle oversaw the restoration of the deteriorating building on Marigold Lane. With the help of many volunteers, he catalogued and boxed everything in the collection and moved it out of the museum so that Mike Todd (who also helped restore the historic Fitzpatrick Hotel in Washington, Georgia) could proceed with the renovation. Made possible by Marigold Festival funds, the major renovation was "a labor of love that has added greatly to the uniqueness, charm, and beauty of our city," Mayor Ferrelle says. When it was complete, Lee unpacked everything and single-handedly created displays for all the artifacts. The grand re-opening was held in December 2015. Winterville owes him a debt of gratitude for that wonderful work. Recently, Lee decided it was time to step back from curating the museum—just in time for Jonathan Scott to offer his services for reopening and further updating the museum. The mayor and council voted to install Jonathan as the new director on June 8.



"I'm very happy that Mr. Scott is willing to take over what I began," Lee says (pictured at left). The museum is a "wonderful treasure that makes Winterville such a special place to live."

Scott brings an extensive museum background with him. He has served as curator at the Smithsonian-accredited Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History, as a lead curator at the Atlanta History Center, and as a collections manager at RMS Titanic, Inc. He also founded Yorktown Curation and Consulting, an exhibit consulting business he operates from his home here in Winterville. In addition, he serves on the Historic Preservation Commission and the Library Advisory Board, and you've probably also seen him (and his three-year-old son) keeping the city marquee updated.

Jonathan (pictured at right) said of the museum, "It's a marvelous space that tells a rich story supported by an excellent collection of both artifacts and archival materials. I can't wait to lead the museum through this next stage of its life, and I hope you're as excited as I am!" Jonathan has plans to reopen the museum this summer and is looking forward to creating special exhibits curated from specific collections in the museum's holdings. His immediate plans include guiding the museum through professional accreditation processes and putting together a Museum Friends Group overseen by a board of directors. "It is impossible for any museum, especially smaller local ones, to exist without the dedication and support of its community," he said. "If you would like to help us out in any way by volunteering time, services, or financial support, please do not hesitate to reach out to the museum via Facebook, Instagram, or email at [CountryDoctorsMuseum@gmail.com](mailto:CountryDoctorsMuseum@gmail.com)."



We look forward to big things happening in that little building!



Left: Diana Hartle and Barry Scott help package items for storage during the renovation.

Right: Visitors examine the collection during the grand re-opening in 2015.



# AN “OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT”



It's been drawing rave reviews and attracting scores of daily users since last fall's ribbon cutting, and now Winterville's segment of the Firefly Trail has been declared an "Outstanding Achievement" by Historic Athens.

This year marked the 52nd Annual Historic Athens Preservation Awards event, and a week-long series of live FaceBook presentations afforded award recipients opportunities to discuss their projects virtually. Sharing award honors for Winterville's Firefly Trail segment were the City of Winterville, represented by Mayor Dodd Ferrelle, and Firefly Trail, Inc., represented by its president, Mark Ralston. The pair fielded questions from Athens architect David Matheny, a long-time supporter and former board member of Historic Athens.

While the trail itself is new, it occupies the corridor of the historic Athens Branch of the Georgia Railroad, completed from Union Point to Athens in 1841. Winterville, incorporated in 1904, began in the 1840s as a small cluster of houses around what was then known as "Six-Mile Station." CSX Railroad took the line out of service in 1984, and now the Firefly Trail is reestablishing the 39-mile corridor as a vital resource for Athens-Clarke, Greene, and Oglethorpe counties and six communities between Union Point and Athens, all of which owe their existence to the Athens Branch.

Both Ferrelle and Ralston spoke of the importance of the rail line's history and how the Firefly Trail is bringing it alive.

"As soon as the trail was laid down," remarked Ferrelle, "you felt like it had been there for a long time. And obviously that's because of the feel of the railroad; the trail just gives you that sense of history."

"If it weren't for this project," Ralston noted, "the trail corridor would eventually disappear and there would only be paper records of the railroad. So, this is an adaptive reuse and also an act of preservation of the corridor itself. We really want to highlight the role of the railroad and what it meant to the communities it helped create back in the 1800s."

Ferrelle brought the discussion back to the present by describing interactions he sees regularly from his office in the historic Winterville depot. "It's turned us more into the city that we've always been—it's pulling everyone out of their neighborhoods and communities and putting them onto the trail. Some neighbors, who have lived next to each other for a very long time, are meeting each other for the first time."

In other news, the Firefly Trail Winterville Local Action Committee (LAC) has been holding monthly meetings since last fall to discuss issues, opportunities, and needs related to the trail in Winterville. Chaired by FTI board member Bruce Johnson, the committee is currently composed of members Bradley Averill, Katie Bermisderfer, Robert Bonsall, Paul Bunce, Laura Carmichael, Jennifer Crane, Diane Harris, and David Matthews-Morgan, plus FTI Trail Development Coordinator John Kissane in an ex-officio capacity. Several LAC members recently received training by ACC Leisure Services and are now putting in volunteer time as Trail Ambassadors. In this role they offer assistance to trail users and work with Leisure Services to keep an eye on trail conditions and possible hazards. Winterville LAC meetings are open to the public and are held at 7:00 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month at the Pittard Park pavilion.



## MARIGOLD MARKET

The Marigold Market is up and running every Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Those of you who aren't early risers, take note of our sleep-in friendly schedule! When you arrive at Pittard Park, you'll find fresh produce of all sorts as well as a variety of prepared foods and artisanal crafts. Plus, you can enjoy live music while you shop.

Participating farms selling seasonal veggies include Harvest Moon Garden, Cozy Bear, Troublesome Creek, Lazy Summer, Sungate, and Burnell Farms. You can get fresh flowers and landscape plants from Jenny's Garden, Wolfsong Flowers, and Sunrise Nursery. Meat is available from Eden Pure Beef, peaches and pecans from Pearson Farm, and blueberries from HEMI.

Prepared items include cantaloupe pie from Nerraw Foods, coffee from Mr. Bill's Beans, preserves from Piedmont Provisions, hand-blended teas from MEplusTEA, homemade macarons from Aisha's Bakery, raw honey from Belly Acres Homestead, and pet treats from Fur Baby Bakery and Design. You can also grab a picnic table in the pavilion and enjoy hot, ready-to-eat Sri Lankan treats from Ceylon Snack Hut or Trinidadian meals from Abraham's Parlor.

Finally, you can check out the work of these artists and artisans: Little Decision Podcast, Kevin's Monster Shack, Flowers 'n Stars, Saylor Scents, Ghosts of Athens, and Sam I Am Studio.

## CIVITAN CLUB

The Winterville Civitan Club has resumed meeting in-person at the Depot on the second Thursday of each month. In efforts to do more work in the community, we will reserve the second meeting each month for completing projects that come our way. The addition of several new members only adds to our ability to reach out in meaningful ways.

The Annual Georgia Civitan District Meeting was held last month. All the attendees came to see the Chandler Park site, and many made donations in his honor. The event was catered by ESP Java Joy, which hires special-needs individuals to run the business. The granite monument engraved with the Civitan Creed has arrived and will soon be installed in the center of the park. The dedication ceremony this fall will include installations of new Civitan officers for the coming year, and we hope to have the CEO of Civitan International, the International Area Director, and the current Governor of the Georgia District in attendance.

The club has been and continues to be busy: Planning is underway to celebrate Winterville's Charter Day on August 15 with a community potluck. The annual scholarship winners have been selected and a presentation celebration will be scheduled in near future. Camp Big Heart, a week-long, sleep-away camp for special-needs children, was held June 20 through July 2 at Camp John Hope in South Georgia. Our club donated \$1,000 to sponsor two campers.

Additionally, the National Veteran Quilt of Honor Organization bestowed quilts on several Civitans who have served in the armed forces: Nancy Tucker (Navy), Ray Marden (Air Force), Sam Alvarez (Army), Doug Shover (Marines), and Ben Shover (Marines).

As you can see, there are many opportunities for fun and fellowship with the Civitan Club. Come join us for our next meeting on July 8 at 6:00 p.m.

# FRONT PORCH BOOKSTORE

Come get your summer reads at the Front Porch Bookstore! Don't let all the construction deter you; we are open and waiting for you. Summer hours are 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday. Remember, every Saturday is a \$10 Bag Sale! Fill a bag provided by our volunteers with as many books, CDs, and DVDs as you can fit into it.

The Front Porch Bookstore is run by the Friends of the Winterville Library. All books are donated, and all proceeds support the Winterville Library. Come visit us!

## MARIGOLD FESTIVAL

The Marigold Festival was again held virtually due to the pandemic. Wintervilleians did turn out to plant real marigolds late last spring, however. On what would have been festival day, Saturday, May 8, Mayor Ferrelle and Athens Mayor Kelly Girtz kicked off a live-streamed concert. Local favorite Jim White played a set featuring Marlon Patton on drums and Jim's daughter Willow as a special guest vocalist. Next on stage was Athens' newest touring band, The Pink Stones. You can watch video of the event at [https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=249978783577950&ref=watch\\_permalink](https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=249978783577950&ref=watch_permalink).

Thanks to David Matthews-Morgan, who enabled the streaming, and to Jay Rogers of Full Moon Studio, who ran sound. Festival vendors shared their online store or contact information on the Marigold Festival's Facebook feed. Tee-shirts designed by Marisa Leilani Mustard, the featured artist for both 2020 and 2021, were printed by Old Guard Graphics. You can buy one at <https://oldguardgraphics.myshopify.com/collections/featured/products/winterville-marigold-festival-2021>, and you can see more of Marisa's work on Instagram (@m.leilaniart). You can listen to and buy Jim White's music at <https://jimwhitemusic.net> and follow him on FaceBook (@jimwhiteofficial). Follow The Pink Stones on Instagram (@thepinkstoners) and go to [www.thepinkstones.com](http://www.thepinkstones.com) to buy their new album. Be sure also to patronize our loyal sponsors: JW York Homes, The Commercial Bank, Golden Pantry, Sporting Arms, Fibervisions, Bulldog 93.3, Georgia Power, LeafFilter North, Athens Montessori, James Neves—Edward Jones Investments, Winterville Dental, Koons Environmental, Cofers Home & Garden, Winterville Animal Clinic, Chastain & Associates, Classic City Mechanical, Winterville Civitan Club, Medical Rehabilitation Systems, AAA Sanitation, W&A Engineering, Prince Avenue Primary Care, D&D Heating & Air, Badcock Home Furnishings, and Palmore, Boening & Associates. The Winterville Marigold Festival will be back in Pittard Park in 2022, and we can't wait to see all of your faces!



Photo courtesy of Bruce Johnson



Willow and Jim White (left); The Pink Stones (right). Photos courtesy of Marigold Solutions, Inc.

# WINTERVILLE TREE COMMISSION



## FALL EVENT: TRICK OR TREES

On Saturday, October 30, the Winterville Tree Commission will partner with the ACC Community Tree Council for a Fall Tree ID Walk and Talk at Sandy Creek Nature Center from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Please join us as we enjoy the fall colors and learn some new tree names and facts. More details will be posted on the Tree Commission's webpage and in future *Gazette* articles as the date approaches.

## INTERESTED IN WINTERVILLE'S TREES?

The Winterville Tree Commission has 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 on Commissions, then Tree Commission). To apply, contact City Clerk Wendy Bond by email at [cityhall@cityofwinterville.com](mailto:cityhall@cityofwinterville.com) or drop by City Hall for an application.

## COMMEMORATIVE TREE UPDATE

We added about 50 new commemorative trees in the planting season just ended. Most of them now line Main Street. Thank you to donors for sponsoring the trees and helping to beautify Winterville! Would you like to honor or memorialize a special person with a commemorative tree? Look for an application on the city website.

## EDUCATION CORNER: WHY IS SOIL IMPORTANT FOR TREES?

Soils provide water, nutrients, and root anchoring for trees. Various characteristics of soil make it able to maintain tree health in harsh urban environments: texture (what it feels like and is made of), pH (ideal is between 6.5 and 7.5), organic matter (5% organic matter in the soil is ideal), and the nutrients that trees need to thrive. Soil is the largest carbon sink by category, storing even more carbon than trees do.

Soil is a living, changing ecosystem. Soil organic matter is made up of microbes and decomposing plant and animal debris, such as bacteria, actinomycetes, fungi, protozoa, and nematodes. Microbes eat and digest organic matter, which converts it into essential elements that trees use for nutrients. To feed the soil, feed the microbes: add compost, manure, plant cuttings, and wood chip mulch to your soil. There are more microbes in a teaspoon of soil than there are people on earth!



# STORMWATER BEST PRACTICES FOR SUMMER

Summer is officially here! Temperatures are rising, and many of us are spending more time thinking about lawn care and home improvement projects to tackle over the next few months. The Athens-Clarke County Stormwater Management Program urges homeowners to keep in mind some simple best management practices when working outdoors this summer.

- **Car washing.** Consider washing your car in your yard instead of in your driveway. This allows soapy, dirty water to absorb into the ground instead of going down a nearby ditch or storm drain.
- **Garden care.** Install a rain barrel to save water while keeping your plants looking good. Sign up for our Stormwater e-Newsletter to be notified when we schedule a Rain Barrel Workshop or sale, or check out our DIY Rain Barrel Build Guide if you're interested in making your own at home.
- **Lawn care.** If your neighborhood association allows it, let your grass grow to at least three inches before cutting it. Rather than bagging your lawn clippings for leaf and limb pickup, let them remain where they lie to feed your lawn and provide habitat for beneficial bugs like fireflies. Pull weeds by hand rather than using pesticides.
- **Composting.** Start using compost in your garden instead of fertilizer or pesticides. Compost is nutritious for plants and helps you cut back on your food waste. Learn more at [www.accgov.com/compost](http://www.accgov.com/compost), and purchase a compost bin from Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful when you're ready to get started.
- **Follow ACCGov's Outdoor Watering Schedule.** Conduct any outdoor watering during the evenings to minimize water loss due to evaporation. Find out more at [www.thinkatthesink.com](http://www.thinkatthesink.com).
- **No dumping anything down the storm drain!** Properly dispose of household hazardous wastes, including paint and oil. Both can be recycled at the Athens-Clarke County Center for Hard to Recycle Materials (CHaRM) at 1005 College Avenue. Read through their list of accepted items and fees at [www.acgov.com/charm](http://www.acgov.com/charm).
- **Thinking of repaving your driveway?** Consider installing permeable pavers to reduce the amount of stormwater runoff on your property.

If you have any questions, please contact the ACCGov Stormwater Management Program at 706-613-3440 or email [stormwater@acgov.com](mailto:stormwater@acgov.com).



It's almost time to start putting together the 5th edition of our Stormwater Calendar, and we are looking for photos of water or nature scenes around Athens and Winterville. To submit a photo to be considered for the 2022 Calendar, email the image to [stormwater@acgov.com](mailto:stormwater@acgov.com) with the name of the photographer and a description of when, where, and why it was taken. It could end up featured!

# METHODIST CHURCH CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the red brick building that is home to the Winterville United Methodist Church. Located prominently on the south side of the town square, the church was designed by architect John William Barnett and constructed in 1921. It is the third church building on the site. The top floor housed the sanctuary, pastor's study, and choir room, and a fellowship hall, classrooms, and kitchen were in the basement. The current educational wing was added in 1963. In 2012, the brick parapets of Mr. Barnett's design were removed (an alteration deemed necessary for the continued structural integrity of the building) and the shingled roof was replaced with metal.



## WINTERVILLE'S WANDERING PEACOCK

Have you spotted Winterville's colorful new resident? That's right, a peacock has been strutting the streets of town. While officially a denizen of Sweet Olive Farm on Parkview Road (<https://sweetolivefarm.org>), this free-ramblin' bird has been spending a lot of time with Jack and Emily Eisenman, who have dubbed him "George." For a member of a flight-impaired species, George gets around. He's been seen strolling through yards and stretching his legs on the Firefly Trail. He has even volunteered to serve as another element in Winterville's traffic-calming plan, having stopped traffic on Main Street for several minutes before drivers left their cars to usher George out of the road. So if you've been seeing strange things lately, don't worry: you're fine...as long as all you've been seeing is a peacock!





## 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

#### Sherrie Anderson

Sherrie Anderson was born and raised in Miami, where the diversity of cultures became an integral part of her life, and that broad sense of community still fuels her today, underpinning her drive to create and sustain the Marigold Market. She is concerned that “social media, technology, and the typical American lifestyle” have brought the experience of community to the verge of extinction.

Though her primary employment is in life insurance, in 2019 Sherrie was also serving as the manager for the West Broad Farmers’ Market and looking for opportunities for the vendors there to further develop their businesses. Having heard about the initiative in Winterville, she attended the exploratory meeting at the Depot, wondering if the new market might allow the West Broad vendors to expand their reach.

“When I met Mayor Dodd Ferrelle and local producers at the train depot back in February 2020,” she says, “I knew I had found my people. I was only there in a support role, but this was an opportunity to follow my passion with people of like mind.” It turned out to be a luckier break than she realized. Two days after the meeting, the West Broad market lost funding for Sherrie’ position and she was released from her contract. A week after that, the county went into quarantine. But Sherrie is tenacious.

In 2012, finding herself newly single after 23 years as a stay-at-home mom to eight kids, Sherrie went back to college in 2015 after her supervisor at a temporary job encouraged her to continue her education. She earned a degree in business administration, with concentrations in leadership and accounting, in 2018.

When the pandemic hit, Sherrie came up with the ingenious idea of launching the Marigold Market as a drive-through. “When I reached out to Dodd, he said he believes in fate and had known at the Depot meeting that I was the person for the job.”

Since Sherrie has been at the helm, the original vision has grown to become the Marigold Collective, which will further the mission of providing local, affordable, fresh food for the community by creating a food hub and a shared commercial kitchen that will allow local cooks to increase their production of prepared foods to sell.

“Working to create the Marigold Market has been such a satisfying experience,” she says. “Everyone deserves fresh, affordable food. My favorite part of what I do is witnessing the community connections grow between producers and their customers while providing access to local fare.”

Some of Sherrie’s favorite motivational phrases are *keep moving forward, do the next thing, and treat people the way you want to be treated*. It certainly sounds like Winterville can have every expectation that Sherrie will help our city *keep moving forward* in building the foundational community connections that will bring about Sherrie’s goal: “a sustainable local food system that will serve the Winterville and East Athens communities for years to come.”



## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

### The Lightnin' Bug Bed & Breakfast

Winterville is home to a new bed and breakfast, The Lightnin' Bug at 455 N. Main Street. The idea of starting a bed and breakfast on the new Firefly Trail came to Joe Willey in 2019 while cycling down a long hill on the back roads of Athens' west side. He was contemplating changing his profession, having worked at the University of Georgia for 20 years as a cabinet maker, then as an IT expert after earning a professional degree from the Terry College of Business. Joe discussed this idea with his daughter, Nelita (pronounced *neh-light-ah*) who was taking a gap year after graduating from Clarke Central. With the advent of the pandemic, it seemed the right time to embark on a new venture.



By May 2020, they had sold their home in Forest Heights and were doing demolition to bring the house closer to the original built around 1900 by William Whitehead. Nelita and Joe feel strongly about historic preservation. Joe spent years restoring a historic family home in Stephens, Georgia, many years ago and had worked for a time for Smith Wilson, one of Athens' most well known historic renovation contractors. Nelita is interested in historic color schemes and decorative arts. Father and daughter have striven for historical accuracy in the décor and period furniture. Some elements, such as the bead-board walls and ceilings and the heart pine floors, are original to the house. Other architectural elements were chosen from the salvage shop Neat Pieces in Carlton, including the 1920s Art Deco chandelier, most of the interior doors, and the unusual 1920s pedestal sink. The front door frame was constructed around a salvaged door from a Lexington home that could not be saved.

By the end of phase one of the renovation in March 2021, the house was close enough to the desired style and function to start hosting guests. Phase two will be the restoration of the exterior, as money and time allow. The two front rooms are designated guest rooms and can be rented together or separately. To see additional photos and learn about room rentals, visit their website at [lightninbug.org](http://lightninbug.org). So far, The Lightnin' Bug has received nothing but five-star reviews. With the completion of the Firefly Trail from Athens to Winterville in 2022, The Lightnin' Bug hopes to cater to cyclists who would like a place to stay while exploring Winterville, Athens, and Oglethorpe County. Joe has started cycling back roads in the area and making notes to share with fellow cycling enthusiasts.



William E. Whitehead





Main hall, before and after

Nelita and Joe hope to continue serving guests for many years to come as they continue writing and recording songs with their band, Joe Willey and the Movin' Men. They recently performed at the Front Porch Bookstore under their duo name, Rose & Joe, and Nelita is looking forward to resuming acting as well as music performances. You can find Joe Willey and the Movin' Men on Amazon Music, Spotify, and Apple Music, as well as on YouTube. Follow this link to see their video entry for NPR's 2021 Tiny Desk Concert contest: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W-A1mv-93z0>.



Nelita and Joe Willey

## ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

### Kevin Kardon

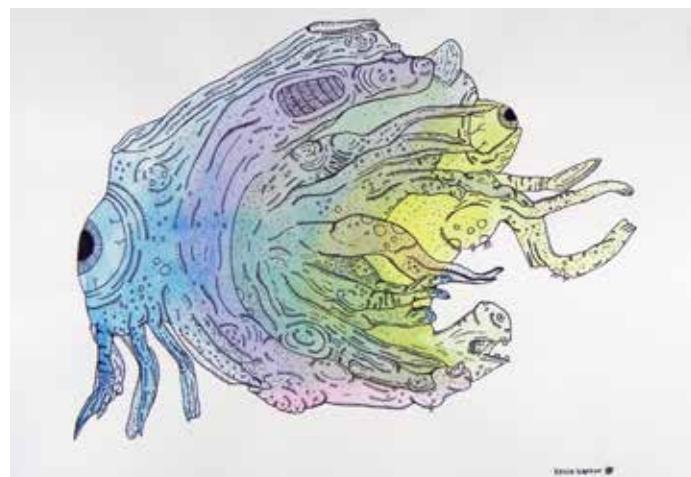


Kevin Kardon grows monsters. How do you grow a monster? Well, first you need some imagination, and then you need a shack to grow the monsters in. The location of Kevin's Monster Shack is a secret—because MONSTERS—but you can sometimes find Kevin and a few of his favorite monsters (all on their best behavior) at his booth at the Marigold Market on Saturdays. Kevin will even draw you your own personal monster right there, on-the-spot. How cool is that?

Kevin says his art career started early, when his parents found to their dismay that Kevin had toddled around the house and written “what could only be described as hieroglyphics” on the walls—in permanent marker. His parents convinced him to transfer his oeuvre to paper and other surfaces that were easier to transport (and clean).

“As I grew older, I became fascinated with monsters,” Kevin says. He drew them constantly, including on his school papers. His teachers reacted variously to the margin monsters, but most were intrigued. You might be, too.

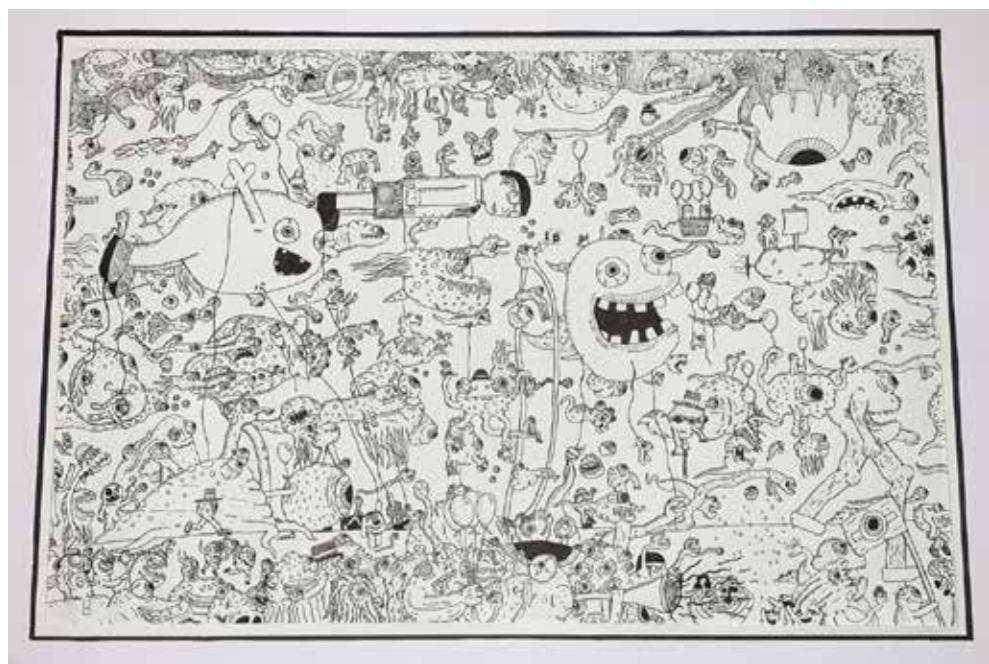
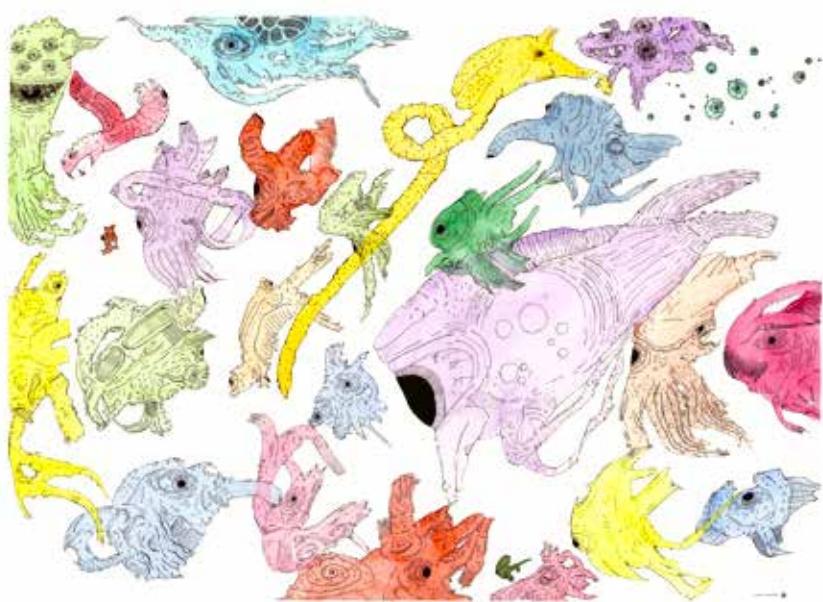
Kevin explains that his deep interest in monsters arises from questions about what they represent in the human psyche. They “have been alongside us for the entirety of our history. Their twisted and macabre forms are an intense expression of emotion.” Kevin’s monsters are organically grown, coming to life in the process of his drawing. “I almost never plan my monsters ahead of time, and I almost never know what one will look like until it is done,” he says, noting that while he *can* plan a monster, they usually come out better if he lets each monster decide what it wants to look like. One technique Kevin uses is to apply watercolor to the paper absent-mindedly or even to close his eyes while painting. He then goes back with a pen and turns the blobs and shapes into monsters. “It’s fun finding the monster in the shape,” he says, adding, “I also really enjoy...imagining the world they live in and how they interact with it and the others that live there.”



To get a glimpse inside Kevin’s Monster Shack, go to [www.kevinsmonstershack.com](http://www.kevinsmonstershack.com), where there are some monsters available for adoption. (You can even get monster puzzles!) Kevin’s Instagram account (@kevinsmonsters)

displays all of his work, and you can request a print of any image that wants to belong to you. To learn more about ordering a custom monster, contact him through the website, call 706-540-0429, or find him at the Marigold Market (Saturdays, in season, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.).







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## Athens Community Council on Aging Fundraiser

The ACCA is hosting a one-night-only event recreating the legendary 1970s night spot, The Station! Featuring the telling of the storied history of T.K. Harty's Saloon and Somebody's Pizza with Cameron Jay from Classic City Crime Podcast, Lee Epting, and special guests, it's sure to be a night to remember! Tickets include a recreated dinner from the Valdosta and can be purchased at <https://bit.ly/3ifsiGm>. July 30 at 135 Hoyt Street.

## About the *Gazette*

The *Winterville Gazette* is the official newsletter of the Winterville Municipal Government.

Have an idea for a story? Contact the editor at [WintervilleGazette@gmail.com](mailto:WintervilleGazette@gmail.com).

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Look for the *Gazette* online under the News tab at <http://www.cityofwinterville.com>