



**Winterville**  
GEORGIA • EST. 1866

## 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  
706-613-3440

PUBLIC UTILITIES  
706-613-3440

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

LEAF & LIMB  
PICKUP  
706-613-3501 x 318

# WINTERVILLE GAZETTE

VOLUME XXIV, ISSUE 1

JAN–MAR 2022

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

HAPPY NEW YEAR! That sounds better and better all the time. I hope everyone enjoyed a happy and safe holiday season this year, and I hope it was a little closer to some sort of normal. The Holiday in the Square celebration was a great example of just how much we long for that normalcy. The children of this community seemed to provide that sense of strength and hope as they joyfully sang each Christmas carol at the top of their lungs. (See some photos on p. 19.) Let's all feed off their strength and hope as we head into another year of uncertainty. We are a strong, diverse, tight-knit community, and we have a lot to be thankful for. I'm thankful for everyone who works with me in the city to ensure your safety and wellbeing. We have a hardworking crew, that's for sure. I am also thankful to City Council and the Planning and Zoning Commission for all the work they put in this past year. We accomplished a great deal in 2021, including two major undertakings: the creation of Chandler Park and the installation of the Main Street crosswalks. I'm expecting great things to continue with new members of both the council and P&Z who are eager to get started doing the good work of the people. Lastly, I say this every year, but I am eternally grateful to you. Being your public servant is truly an honor, and I cherish every day that I get to work on your behalf and on behalf of this wonderful city. I wish you all health and prosperity in the new year, and I look forward to seeing you on the streets!



Sincerely,  
Dodd I. Ferrelle, Mayor

## WANT TO READ THE GAZETTE ONLINE?

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 are placed 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.

# CIVIC CALENDAR

**All times and locations of meetings are subject to change due to COVID-19 and will be determined prior to the meetings. Please check with the specific group for updated information on meeting locations.**

Monday, Jan 3	Planning & Zoning, 5:30 p.m., City Hall
Tuesday, Jan 4	Council Workshop, 5:30 p.m., Marigold Auditorium
Wednesday, Jan 5	Downtown Development Authority, 5:30 p.m., City Hall
Monday, Jan 10	Municipal Court, 5:00 p.m., City Hall
Tuesday, Jan 11	City Council, 6:30 p.m., Auditorium
Monday, Jan 17	MLK Day, City Hall closed
	Tree Commission Day of Service, 9:00 a.m., Pittard Park
Tuesday, Jan 18	Historic Preservation Commission, 6:00 p.m., City Hall
Tuesday, Jan 25	Winterville Arts Council, 6:00 p.m., Community Center
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Tuesday, Feb 1	Council Workshop, 5:30 p.m., Auditorium
Monday, Feb 7	Planning & Zoning, 5:30 p.m., City Hall
Tuesday, Feb 8	City Council, 6:30 p.m., Auditorium
Wednesday, Feb 9	Downtown Development Authority, 5:30 p.m., City Hall
Thursday, Feb 10	Firefly Trail Local Action Committee, 7:00 p.m.
Monday, Feb 14	Municipal Court, 5:00 p.m., City Hall
Tuesday, Feb 15	Historic Preservation Commission, 6:00 p.m., City Hall
Sunday, Feb 20	Winterville Arbor Day
Monday, Feb 21	Presidents' Day, City Hall closed
Tuesday, Feb 22	Winterville Arts Council, 6:00 p.m., Community Center
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Tuesday, Mar 1	Council Workshop, 5:30 p.m., Auditorium
Monday, Mar 7	Planning & Zoning, 5:30 p.m., City Hall
Tuesday, Mar 8	City Council, 6:30 p.m., Auditorium
Wednesday, Mar 9	Downtown Development Authority, 5:30 p.m., City Hall
Thursday, Mar 10	Firefly Trail Local Action Committee, 7:00 p.m.
Monday, Mar 14	Municipal Court, 5:00 p.m., City Hall
Tuesday, Mar 15	Historic Preservation Commission, 6:00 p.m., City Hall
Tuesday, Mar 29	Winterville Arts Council, 6:00 p.m., Community Center



## CITY NEWS

### MASK MANDATE

The mask mandate for all city-owned buildings will remain in place through January 11, at which time we will reassess the trends regarding the number and severity of COVID-19 infections before deciding whether to extend the mandate.

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

The Historic Preservation Commission Boundaries and Guidelines were adopted by City Council at the November meeting. We appreciate all of the hard work the HPC put in over the last several years. The city's Comprehensive Plan has called for this commission and these guidelines for decades, and it was no small feat getting it all done. These important steps will ensure the protection of Winterville's historic charm as we navigate future growth. See p. 5 for the full article and a map of the districts.

## SOLAR ENERGY GRANT

Thanks to the hard work of incoming council member Bruce Johnson, the city was awarded a Solar Resiliency grant from the Georgia Environmental Financial Authority. The goal of this grant is to provide funding for solar projects that improve critical facility resilience. The grant will pay for 75% of the cost of installing a solar photovoltaic array and backup batteries at the Winterville Campus for Arts and Culture, which includes the Winterville Community Center and the Marigold Auditorium. These facilities serve as storm shelters in the event of a disaster. This project will allow us to harvest and store clean renewable energy, reduce the amount of power we consume from the grid, save money on our electricity bill, and make our critical facilities more resilient. The city is currently awaiting final proposals and cost estimates. The estimated final cost is \$110,000, of which the city will have to pay only about \$27,500. If all goes well, the equipment will be installed in the next six months. This project is part of the 100% Winterville initiative started by Johnson. The goal of 100% Winterville is the just and equitable conversion of the City of Winterville to 100% clean, renewable energy. You can follow 100% Winterville on FaceBook or email [bruceforwinterville@gmail.com](mailto:bruceforwinterville@gmail.com) for additional information. We will have more to report on renewable energy initiatives in the near future.

## COMPLETE STREETS

Pubic input sessions for the Complete Streets project will take place early this year, so be on the lookout for announcements. This is a community-wide plan to make traveling around the city safe for people of all ages and abilities. There will be several opportunities for you to share your comments and concerns about the proposed maps.

## TSPLOST

Mayor Ferrelle and City Council will meet with the ACC mayor and commission in January to begin discussions pertaining to the 2023 Transportation SPLOST. Winterville must enter into an intergovernmental agreement with Clarke County to receive any funds and to allow the county to collect the full, one-penny tax. SPLOST and

TSPLOST are vital to the City of Winterville for obvious reasons, but we must make sure we are getting our fair share of funding and projects. Currently, the ACC TSPLOST Citizen Advisory Committee has approved a \$2.5 million proposal to alleviate stormwater flooding along Main Street. Winterville could not finance this project on its own. As Winterville’s government enjoys a strong relationship with their ACC counterparts, Mayor Ferrelle says he anticipates their discussions will have “a very good outcome.”

## MAIN STREET PROJECTS

The medians are working! The crosswalks on Main at Henry Meyer and Parkview (across from the Depot) appear to be doing exactly what we hoped they would. This project was scheduled for completion in November, but supply chain issues delayed the installation of the flashing RFID (radio frequency identification device) signals at the Parkview crossing until December.

## WELCOME OFFICER FREESE



Officer Brian Freese has joined the team at our beloved Police Department. Please say hello and welcome him to our community.

## NEW CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS ELECTED

Last November, Winterville elected two new council members. Melissa Metzger, shown at right being sworn in by City Attorney David Ellison, began serving immediately, taking over the seat vacated by Mary Quinn, and Bruce Johnson will be sworn in January 4, replacing outgoing council member Brenda Keen. Ms. Metzger, who was introduced in the previous issue of the *Gazette*, says, “I am truly looking forward to supporting our community in the coming years. The future is bright for our city! Best wishes for a healthy New Year, from my family to yours.” You can keep up with and email Melissa at her website, [metzgerforwinterville.com](http://metzgerforwinterville.com).



Mr. Johnson, who was running unopposed, hasn’t already been introduced in this publication. He and his family lived within a few miles of Winterville for almost 30 years before moving inside the city limits in 2018. He says, “I am honored and grateful to have been elected. I love this community and plan to spend the rest of my life here.” Over the years, he has been involved with a number of local groups, including the Winterville Citizen’s Advisory Committee, the Winterville Civitan Club, SORBA-Athens, Firefly Trail Incorporated, the Winterville Firefly Trail Local Action Committee, and the ACC Trail Ambassadors program. As a council member, Bruce plans to focus on sustainable growth, diversity, bike and pedestrian safety and access, and clean energy. “I want to help improve our community in ways that ensure we don’t lose the small-town charm that makes Winterville special,” he explains. “I look forward to serving you on City Council and welcome your input.” You can reach him at [bruceforwinterville@gmail.com](mailto:bruceforwinterville@gmail.com) or through his website, [bruceforwinterville.com](http://bruceforwinterville.com).

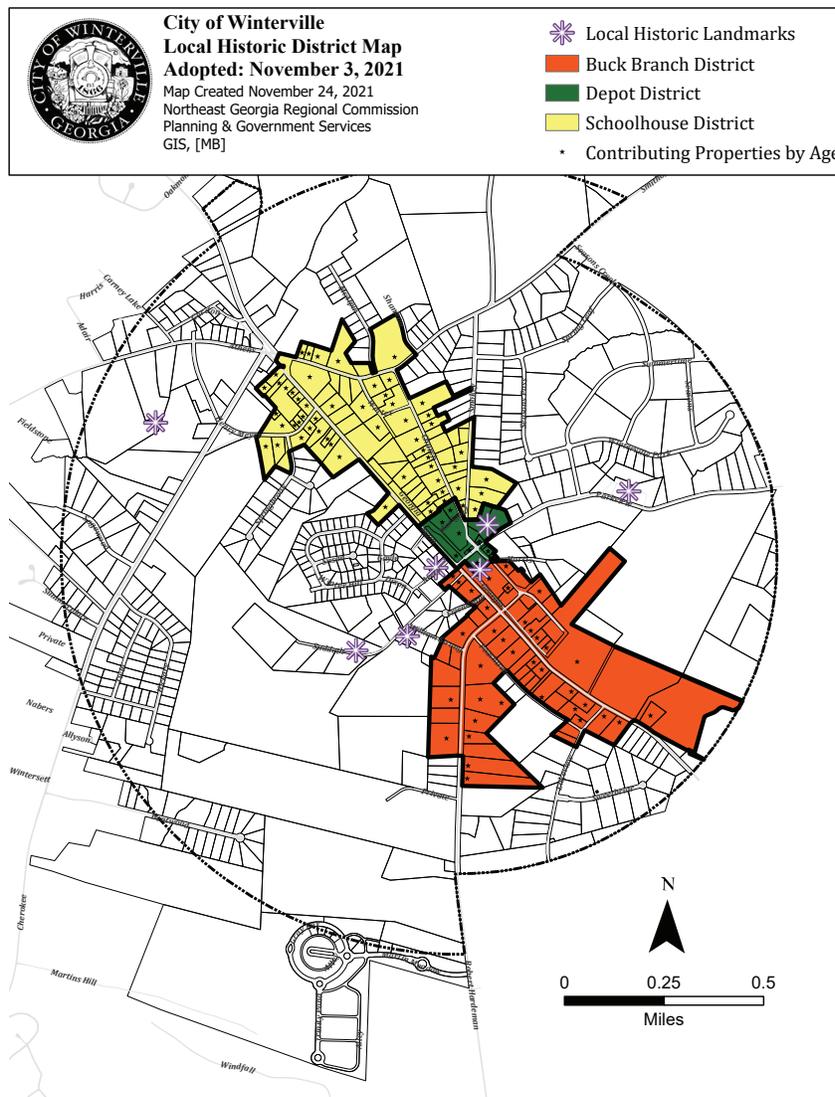
The City of Winterville sends a heartfelt thank you to Brenda Keen, who, in turn, says, “Thank you to the citizens of Winterville for giving me the opportunity to serve.” We appreciate her time in public service and wish her well in the future.

# HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

More than 30 years ago, Winterville’s leadership wrote into the city’s comprehensive plan the desire to create a Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) that would help guide our community through the surge in development they saw coming. The HPC was created through an ordinance in 2018, and this past November 9, the City Council voted to accept the Historic District Boundaries and Guidelines proposed by the commission. After 30 years of dreaming and three years of research and planning, at long last much of the downtown Winterville corridor is now protected from unregulated development that might destroy the historic charm of our little community.

The HPC doesn’t exist to freeze development. Far from it! The group—composed of architects, engineers, and historic preservationists—is tasked with working with property owners who wish to make aesthetic changes to street-visible areas of their homes and businesses and either approving the changes or proposing alternatives that would benefit all parties. Since the HPC is concerned only with certain exterior appearances of a structure, most building questions will still be routed through the Planning and Zoning Committee.

The HPC recognizes that the adoption of historic district design guidelines is a big change in Winterville’s developmental trajectory and welcomes questions from residents. Public meetings are held at City Hall on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m., and the group can always be reached at [WintervilleHPC@gmail.com](mailto:WintervilleHPC@gmail.com).



# WINTERVILLE CAMPUS FOR ARTS AND CULTURE

371 N. Church St. Winterville, GA  
Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
[www.wintervillecenter.com](http://www.wintervillecenter.com)  
706-742-0823



## WINTERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

The Community Center is open with a new roster of class offerings. **The first 50 people to register for one of these classes will receive a free gift.** Sign up now before classes fill up—and bring a friend! Gift certificates are available. For full class descriptions and costs, visit our website.

### Creative Arts and Theatre

**Act Up! Creative Dramatics for Adults**, Room 101. Tuesdays, 6:00–7:00 p.m. January 4 through February 8.  
Instructor: Mary Moseley

**Beaded Jewelry Making Basics**, Room 101. Fridays, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. January 7 through January 28.  
Instructor: JoAnn Snow

**Botanical Sketchbook**, Room 101. Mondays, 10:00–11:00 a.m. January 3 through February 28. Instructor: Nicole Bechill

**Color Theory**, Room 101. Wednesdays, 3:30–4:30 p.m. January 5 through February 9. Instructor: Lauren Adams

**Dot Painting**, Room 103. Mondays, 10:00–11:00 a.m. January 10 through February 14. Instructor: Lorrie Lowe

**Oil Painting**, Room 103. Wednesdays, 1:00–3:00 p.m. Ongoing, starting January 5. Instructor: Dortha Jacobson

**Painting the Winter Landscape**, Room 101. Wednesdays, 1:30–2:30 p.m. January 5 through February 24.  
Instructor: Lauren Adams

### Health and Wellness

**Chair Yoga**, Room 102. Mondays, 9:00–10:00 a.m. January 3 through February 28. Instructor: Nicole Bechill.  
This is a well-rounded, gentle, and accessible yoga practice that focuses on intention and breath. A typical class stretches the connective tissue around the hips, pelvis, and spine, promoting deep breathing, mindfulness, and inward listening. It is great for folks with limited mobility but can benefit anyone, from beginners to experienced yoga students. Chairs are provided and no props are required, but you are free to bring any that you like. Learn more about the benefits of yoga in the article by Nicole on the next page.

**Strategies to Prevent and Fight Aging** (lecture series), Room 101. Wednesdays, 10:00–11:15 a.m. January 5 through February 2. Instructor: Nancy Burnham

# MAKING YOGA ACCESSIBLE IN WINTERVILLE

The reality is that if you have a body and a mind, you can do yoga.

—Jivana Heyman

When I tell people I am a yoga teacher, I often hear, “I would love to try it, but I have never been flexible.” This sentiment often holds people back from starting a yoga practice. Many folks have seen images of thin, able-bodied, “bendy” people and say to themselves, “I don’t look like that, so I must wait until my body looks or feels different.” I am here to say that yoga can be adapted for anybody. *Any body*. Yoga is accessible! Here are five ways to make yoga work for you.

**Look for a class that offers a chair or props.** Chair yoga is a great option for people who don’t feel like they can move from the floor to standing. Most yoga poses can be adapted for chair yoga. Yoga is not just about stretching and flexibility, it’s about being curious, exploring sensations, and noticing breath and thought patterns. Doing some poses in a chair can allow you to experience even more grounding and openness than if you were standing. What might it feel like to practice yoga in a chair even if you can move from the floor to standing with ease? As a culture, we tend to spend a lot of time sitting. Learning some chair yoga practices can help you stretch and feel better at the office or after a long drive. Even if you are fit and flexible, I recommend you try chair yoga. A friend of mine who runs marathons loves it. Almost any form of yoga is an excellent balance for more active types of exercise. Another option is to find a class with “gentle” or “restorative” in its name. These classes use props to “bring the floor to you,” helping with support, stability, and relaxation.

**Seek out a community that encourages curiosity.** When leading any yoga class, I offer an idea or image to explore and then give the participants time to work with it. For instance (feel free to try this at home), imagine you are reaching up to pick an apple from a tree. Once you’ve picked it, cross your hand across your body to put the apple in an imaginary satchel. If you like, inhale when you reach up and exhale when you drop the apple in the satchel. Repeat this a few times. Do you notice movements that you might do in your daily life? Do you notice engagement in the upper back and side muscles? What does it feel like if you exhale as you reach for the apple and inhale as you bring your arm down? Class prompts like this build a community of students that come to class to experience movement in a different way. In these cases, the movements are less about what the poses look like and more about what they feel like. You begin to cultivate a relationship with the sensations in your own body.

**Let go of thinking you need the “right” clothes.** The best clothes to wear to yoga class are the ones you are wearing! It is helpful to choose something that you can move in, but you do not need to have the latest \$90 stretch pants. Wear something that is soft and won’t feel distracting. Most likely you already own your perfect yoga outfit.

**Reap the benefits of mindfulness.** There are many benefits of a mindfulness practice, including feeling less stressed and more relaxed, being more resilient in the face of life’s challenges, and having increased self-awareness, confidence, and well-being. Doing yoga is one way to cultivate mindfulness because it teaches you to become aware of your breath, the present moment, and subtle bodily sensations. The more practice you get, the easier it becomes to maintain that awareness even when you’re not in class. Being able to live in the moment can bring a lot of joy and peace. Sometimes, simply sitting mindfully can be a truly radical act.

**Incorporate yoga into your daily life.** I love sharing how to take this practice out of the class and into your life! The best part about yoga is that it can be done anywhere. One of my favorite tips for bringing yoga into your home is to start your day with a few poses you can do even before getting out of bed. As you wake each morning, try bending your knees in to your chest, hugging your legs, and rocking a bit from side to side. Then, let your knees drop open so you can bring the soles of your feet together. Take five slow, deep breaths. See whether your morning feels a little different when it starts with a few minutes of paying attention to yourself. You can take little breaks like these throughout your day to truly incorporate the practice into your life.

—Nicole Bechill

# DEDICATION OF CHANDLER PARK



On a beautiful—if bittersweet—day last October, community members, dignitaries, and other guests gathered with the Chandler family under the Civitan Flag to dedicate a charming new pocket park to George H. Chandler, who lived in accord with the Civitan Creed and was a friend to everyone he met. Born and raised in Winterville, George served as the city engineer and as a member of the Planning & Zoning Committee for over 20 years and was a member of the Winterville Civitans for 36 years. The park features a sculpture of a penny-farthing, reflecting George’s interest in antique bicycles. It was adorned with a white ribbon for the ceremony. Georgia Civitan District Governor Pamela Brems was on hand to install club officers, and afterward the meeting was called to order. With several hundred people present, it was surely the largest meeting in the Winterville club’s history. George would have been proud! Mayor Ferrelle, as the newly installed president of the Winterville Civitans, led the gathering in the recitation of the Civitan Creed, which is engraved on the granite centerpiece of Chandler Park along with Patsy Chandler’s perfect description of her husband: “He was a good man with a true servant’s heart.” George Chandler continues to serve Civitan International and Winterville through his memory, and we expect the park that bears his name will inspire residents and visitors for years to come.



Clockwise from top left: Civitan District Governor Brems sits with Patsy Chandler and the Chandlers’ son and daughter-in-law, Brett and Tia; Rev. John Merk of Winterville United Methodist Church gives the invocation; Josh Koons of Koons Environmental Design, City Engineer Steve Rice, and Winterville Director of Public Works Tom Doonan received keys to the city from Mayor Ferrelle; Pamela Brems installs Mayor Ferrelle as incoming president of the Civitan Club; memorial display at the reception following the dedication; engraved quote by Patsy Chandler. Photos courtesy of Marigold Solutions, Inc.

# CIVITAN CLUB

The Winterville Civitans were pleased to honor two community members at a recent meeting. Shawanda Johnson received the Citizen of the Year Award, and Steve Rice received the Civitan of the Year Award. Ms. Johnson serves as the Neighborhood Leader for the Winterville Prosperity Zone, a program run by two linked nonprofit organizations, Family Connection–Communities in Schools. As Neighborhood Leader, Ms. Johnson encourages civic engagement and helps Winterville residents gain access to a wide range of services, including education, employment, child care, food assistance, and medical care. Mr. Rice is a Winterville Public Works employee as well as the City Engineer. He works tirelessly and anonymously to help those in need around our community. Mayor Ferrelle described him as “one of many magicians that make Winterville such a magical place to live.” Shawanda and Steve both embody the Civitan Creed, which states, in part, “My hands do the work of the world and reach out in service to others.”

New officers were installed by District Governor Pamela Brems in October at the Chandler Park Dedication: Dodd Ferrelle, President; Michael Law, President-Elect; Ray Marden, Secretary; Caroline Rice, Treasurer. Their terms run until October 2022.



Left to right: Ray Marden, Caroline Rice, Dodd Ferrelle, Michael Law



Mayor Ferrelle with Shawanda Johnson and Steve Rice

# COMMUNITY GARDEN

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR COMMUNITY GARDEN REGISTRATION

The Winterville Community Garden will hold its annual registration event in the Depot at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 21. We don't know yet whether we will resume the traditional potluck but will monitor the Covid situation and announce the decision at a later date. Follow us on Facebook for more information closer to the registration date.

Rental of a 8' x 4' x 1' raised garden bed is \$40 for the period from March 1 until the end of the following February. Boxes have drip irrigation during the warm months, and compost is available. Gardeners must agree to use organic practices, follow garden rules (provided at registration and online at <https://cityofwinterville.com/community-garden/>), and clear out their bed(s) at the end of their rental period if not renewing their membership.

Some tools are available for sharing in the shed, and there are wheelbarrows and watering cans. We have some beds dedicated to growing produce for the local food bank, and anyone in the community who is interested may volunteer to help. We'd love to have you join us!

Send questions to [wintervillecommunitygarden@gmail.com](mailto:wintervillecommunitygarden@gmail.com). Happy gardening!

# WINTERVILLE TREE COMMISSION

## MLK DAY OF SERVICE

On Monday, January 17, join us in Pittard Park at 9:00 a.m. (weather permitting) for Winterville's first Day of Service. We'll tidy up the park and its plants and give it a good start for spring. Some tools will be available but bring them if you have them! Also consider bringing water, a snack, and gloves. Dress to get a little dirty. All ages and ability levels welcome. There's something for everyone!

## TREES COOL THINGS DOWN

A team of researchers with the Institute for Atmospheric and Climate Science, ETH Zurich, has found evidence that indicates that stands of trees can reduce land surface area temperatures in cities. Click here for the full article: <https://phys.org/news/2021-11-trees-surface-area-temperatures-cities.html>.

Even a single tree along a city street or in a backyard can provide measurable cooling benefits, according to a new study from American University (<https://phys.org/news/2021-07-tree-difference.html>). The research shows that "distributed" trees, those that are stand-alone and scattered throughout urban neighborhoods, can help to reduce evening heat.

## WHEN TO PRUNE

The best time to prune trees is when they are dormant in the winter. The next best time to prune is in the fall. The worst times are in the spring and summer, just before or after the buds at the end of branches open. Prune hardwoods when the temperature is below 85 degrees, and evergreens/pines when the temperature is below 55 degrees.

## TREE COMMISSION MEETINGS

Would you like to attend the meetings or join the commission? The dates and locations of public meetings are posted on the Tree Commission's page on the city website, as are applications to join. You can also get an application form from Wendy Bond at City Hall.

## FALL TREE ID EVENT ON THE GREENWAY WITH ATHENS TREE COUNCIL

Our event went smoothly and was very well attended! There were so many door prizes that every attendee got at least one, including a white oak seedling grown from the Tree That Owns Itself. Attendees were also treated to delicious homemade chocolate bark made by Mary Songster of the Athens Tree Council. Several small groups ventured along the Greenway and learned how to identify different tree and plant species. It was a beautiful day and a good time was had by all.

## ASK THE ARBORIST

The Georgia Forestry Commission has a way for you to email a question with a picture to a GFC arborist. Simply go to <https://gatrees.org/urban-community-forestry/ask-the-arborist/> and enter your question. One of GFC's certified arborists will respond shortly.

# LIBRARY NEWS

A new heart for a New Year, always!

—Charles Dickens, *The Chimes*

Thank you to Winterville residents and all of our patrons for your support of the library during 2021. We love to see you arrive by car, foot, bike, scooter, or anything else. Your kind and encouraging words mean the world to us. Thank you for bringing your children, parents, and out-of-town guests. Look for some wonderful special events this spring and lots of new books!

## STORY TIME



Story Time with Miss Hannah (pictured at left leading Story Time outside this past fall) moves inside the library in January. We sure had some fun times playing games, singing, and listening to stories under the dogwood tree, and it'll be nice to have some cozy indoor time this winter. Space is limited inside the library, so Story Time patrons are encouraged to sign up ahead of time in person or by calling 706-742-7735. Watch the Winterville Library Facebook page to see online stories! Story Time will likely move back outside in March or April so that we can host a larger crowd.

## NEW FUN THINGS

The next time you visit the library, be sure to check out the growth chart designed by favorite author/illustrator Christian Robinson. Measure yourself (Yes, even if you're a grown-up!), then fill out the chart with your height and age. It'll be fun to see how Wintervillians of all ages measure up! Library visitors are also invited to share their favorite books of 2021 by posting on the display board listing "Best Books I Read This Year."

## A FOND FAREWELL TO EVAN BUSH

Many of our patrons know Mr. Evan Bush, the long-time and much beloved children's librarian at the Athen-Clarke County library on Baxter Street. *Gazette* readers may remember from the previous issue that Mr. Evan donated over 40 new picture books and graphic novels to the Winterville Library last year. He has now accepted a position as Director of Youth Services for Georgia Public Library Service. Winterville Library is both heartbroken to see him go and thrilled for him to step into this exciting new role. We thank him for his support and wish him the best of luck.

## HOLIDAY MEMORIES

In December, the Winterville Library partnered with the City of Winterville to participate in Christmas in the Square. We were thrilled to have entertainment by popular local musicians Joe and Nelita Willey (at right), a father-daughter duo who also run the Lightnin' Bug Bed and Breakfast (featured in the Jul-Sep 2021 issue), and treats from Alumni Cookie Dough were a real crowd-pleaser.



# FIREFLY TRAIL

There's lots of good news to share about the Firefly Trail, but first we want to take a moment to wish everyone a happy New Year full of peace, happiness, good health, and joyous times with family and friends.

## WALK-A-WEIGH WINTERVILLE

In the first program of its kind on the Firefly Trail, UGA Cooperative Extension Agent and Winterville Local Action Committee Chair Brad Averill continues to lead the "Walk-A-Weigh" program. Each Saturday at 8:00 a.m., the group meets at the Pittard Park Pavilion for 15 minutes of nutrition information before walking (each at their own pace) on the Firefly Trail. It's a fantastic way to meet your neighbors, learn how to boost your health, and move your body. It's free and open to everyone. For more information, email [Bradley.Averill@uga.edu](mailto:Bradley.Averill@uga.edu).

## WINTERVILLE LOCAL ACTION COMMITTEE

The Winterville LAC is discussing amenities that need to be added along the trail. Ideas under consideration include a trail shelter, bike repair stand, benches, restrooms, trash and recycling receptacles, and kiosk benches.

## RACE SERIES 2022

The Firefly Trail 2022 Race Series kicks off at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 29, with the Winterville Snowflake 10K, presented by the Winterville Civitan Club. That date is also the final opportunity to register for the four-race series. Snowflake 10K participants can register for the in-person race or choose to complete their 10K virtually. Start/finish is at the Winterville depot adjacent to the Firefly Trail. Sign up at <https://www.active.com/winterville-ga/running/distance-running/firefly-trail-race-series-2022>. Come run with us!

## 2022 TICKET TO RIDE

Ticket to Ride, the premier event supporting completion of the full 39-mile Firefly Trail, is coming up on Saturday, March 26, 2022. Once again, we plan to host a registration site and rider support stop in Winterville. Sponsors are needed and welcomed, and rider registration will be opening soon. As always, this on-road, fully supported ride highlights the communities that will be connected by the trail, and riders can choose the distance that best fits their interest and riding style, from a few miles to all 87 on the out-and-back route. Watch [www.fireflytrail.com](http://www.fireflytrail.com) for more information.

## DEVELOPMENTS IN ACC AND BEYOND

Athens-Clarke County opened the newest section of the Firefly Trail in October: a 1.8-mile section that extends the trail toward Winterville from Old Winterville Road to Hancock Road. Pre-construction work continues on the section of the trail from Hancock Road to Five Points, and Firefly Trail Inc. has submitted a TSPLOST 2023 project request to ensure funding is available to fully pave the trail in the near future. In addition, contractors are making solid progress on building the new Firefly Trail Bridge over Trail Creek, with completion forecast in about a year. Greene County and the cities of Union Point, Woodville, and Maxeys continue working with the PATH Foundation and other partners to advance completion of the trail in Greene County and Woodville and extension of the trail in Union Point and Maxeys. Project leaders convey that easement acquisition, planning, and other behind-the-scenes work is progressing well. The project is funded by a Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program grant, local funds and in-kind services, and matching funds from Firefly Trail Inc. We'll keep you posted as work advances!

# DOCTORS MUSEUM

It has been six months since the Carter-Coile Country Doctors Museum began its reopening and reimagining project, and what a busy half-year it's been! Aside from the basics such as deep cleaning, building upgrades, and several open house events, we have joined the ranks of several museum organizations as part of a multi-year quest to attain accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums. This "gold standard" of cultural institutions recognizes museums who "operate according to national standards and best practices to the best of their abilities and in accordance with their resources."

Part of this goal revolves around improving our financial health. The vision for the museum requires an influx of capital to update the exhibit space, improve the way we handle and catalog collections, and provide for new public outreach initiatives such as school tours and special events.

Most cultural institutions are perpetually underfunded and depend on the support of their community to succeed. The Winterville Heritage Foundation is a vehicle to provide that support to our city's public historic buildings, such as the Auditorium, Bank Building, and the Doctors Museum. Donations made to the Foundation are 100% tax-deductible and can be designated for specific projects if desired.

We always invite patrons to see the exhibit space at any time via appointment, but we aim to have consistent, weekly hours by May 2022. In the meantime, anyone can reach out through our Facebook page or by emailing [CountryDoctorsMuseum@gmail.com](mailto:CountryDoctorsMuseum@gmail.com). Drop us a line!

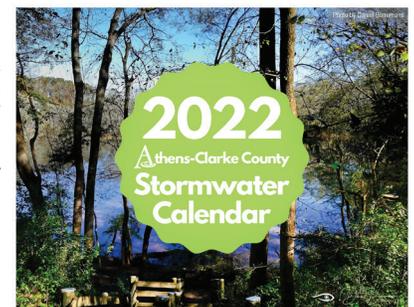


The Doctors Museum was open to visitors during the Christmas in the Square holiday celebration.

## NEWS FROM ACC STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

The Athens-Clarke County Stormwater Advisory Committee is currently reviewing the level and extent of stormwater services in the county and will be recommending any modifications that would serve the public interest to Mayor Girtz and the county commissioners. The public is welcome to attend and/or stream the virtual meetings as well as submit comments for the Committee to consider. More information, including meeting agendas and videos, a public comment form, and list of reference documents, is available at <https://www.accgov.com/10071/Stormwater-Advisory-Committee>.

Also, the 2022 Stormwater Calendars are hot off the press and ready to hang in your home or office! These wall calendars are full of beautiful photos submitted by Athens-area residents. Copies are free and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Stop by Winterville City Hall to pick one up (while supplies last) or request one be mailed to you at [www.accgov.com/stormwatercalendar](http://www.accgov.com/stormwatercalendar).



# WINTERVILLE ARTS COUNCIL

After a slow first half of the year, the Winterville Arts Council (WAC) is happy to be back planning and organizing art events again!

Last summer, we invited community members of all ages to paint yard signs with images reflecting the theme “Life Is Good in Winterville.” Members of Boy Scout Troop 44 helped WAC members place the signs along several blocks of the Firefly Trail. In October, WAC was able to hold its first indoor art show since COVID began. Held at the Winterville Community Center, the show featured art from students enrolled in the center’s art classes. Dortha Jacobson, instructor of Oil Painting, said, “Seeing their artwork on display made the students realize how great their paintings look and just how much they have improved over the years of being in class.” Dortha added that the show also inspired her and boosted her creativity. Lorrie Lowe, who teaches Dot Painting, agreed that in just a few weeks of class she had seen great improvement in her students. As the show was such a positive experience for everyone involved, WAC members unanimously approved plans to arrange an annual exhibition by the Community Center art students each October.

WAC’s Third Annual Holiday Lights Tour and Contest was a big hit once again! This year’s self-guided tour was held from December 12–31. Residents competed in one of the following categories: Traditional, Griswold/Tacky, Most Creative, Business, or People’s Choice. Our little city was glowing!

As we move into 2022, WAC has a few events in the works:

**CALL FOR ARTISTS!** It’s that time again—WAC and the Marigold Festival Committee are looking for the 2022 Festival’s featured artist. The deadline for art submissions is January 31, 2022. (See the graphic on the back page.)

We will once again host the Winterville Elementary School Student Art Show. The date of the opening reception has not yet been decided, but historically the show usually opens in February.

The Arts Council welcomes new members! If you love art (visual art, music, creative writing, etc.) and would like to bring more art events to our community, please consider joining us. We meet the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Winterville Community Center. For more information, contact us at [wintervilleartscouncil@gmail.com](mailto:wintervilleartscouncil@gmail.com).



Photos courtesy of Kenneth Storey

# MARIGOLD MARKET AND COLLECTIVE



With the new year comes a time for reflection and resolutions. The Marigold Market has much to reflect on, celebrate, and learn from our first in-person season. The farmers, vendors, management, and advisory board are extremely grateful for the support Winterville has shown. Every time you purchased from a Marigold Market vendor, you invested in your local economy. Statistically, for every \$100 spent locally, \$68 remains in that city, whereas only \$43 remains when purchases are made at national chain retailers. During 2021, you invested more than \$49,000 back into our local economy through your support of Marigold Market vendors.

Supporting local farmers and small businesses also fosters improvement to community health. The Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy, and Society published a study of over 3,000 counties in the U.S. that found that those counties with a higher percentage of local businesses had lower rates of mortality, obesity, and diabetes. (Find the article here: <https://doi.org/10.1093/cjres/rsr034>.) Buying locally sourced produce lends itself to nutrient-dense food because it is seasonal and fresher than what is available at the grocery store. Additionally, when you support your community's local businesses, you are helping promote a connection between you and your neighbors that is intrinsically rewarding and encouraging.

Environmental benefits to buying local include more productive land use—small farms use their land and existing structures more efficiently than that used for commercial distribution—as well as the obvious reduction in the use of fossil fuels and plastic. Marigold Market encourages buyers to bring your own reusable bag. Local produce does not require the use of plastic bags.

These benefits are only part of the story. In partnership with the City of Winterville and Envision Athens, the Marigold Collective seeks to connect the Winterville and East Athens communities with fresh, affordable food and information on nutrition. By the end of 2021, we had distributed over 1,000 pounds of food to more than 50 families struggling with food insecurity. A compost and Food Recovery grant from the USDA (many thanks to David Matthews-Morgan, our grant writer) will help us build a workspace focused on food recovery efforts, such as creating a nearly zero-waste food system through food recovery, preparation, distribution, and creation of a local composting initiative that will support local growers.



As we move into the 2022 season, January and February will be spent on research, planning, and outreach. We will continue implementing our two-year USDA grant, developing a marketing strategy, and applying for other grants. The 2022 market season will kick off March 12. Be on the lookout for more details. If you are interested in getting involved with us, whether through market vendor participation, volunteering, donations, or community feedback, reach out to us at [marigoldmarketwinterville@gmail.com](mailto:marigoldmarketwinterville@gmail.com). We also have a new website: [marigoldmarketwinterville.com](http://marigoldmarketwinterville.com).



# CITY SPOTLIGHT

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

## ARTIST SPOTLIGHT Christian Montcriol



Christian Montcriol and his wife Cessany moved to Winterville about three years ago. Growing up in France, Christian often went to his town’s traditional music and dance performances. He began playing music himself after his parents gave him an accordion for Christmas when he was a boy. He says, “I began learning only by ear at the beginning, but little by little I became more confident in reading sheet music.”

He went on to have a career in teaching but continued to play music. In the 1970s, traditional music enjoyed renewed popularity in France. He joined a folkloric group and learned the hurdy-gurdy. He also bought an antique accordion (shown below), which he plays to this day. “At first, I was playing what I heard at concerts or on records,” Christian explains, but he was able to expand his repertoire by consulting specialty books and, later, websites where musicians exchange scores. His repertoire is entirely focused on music to accompany folk dances, but his range of instruments

has expanded to include other regional French instruments, including the *épinette des Vosges* (which is similar to a dulcimer), a variety of wooden pipes, as well as drums and other percussion instruments. Now retired, he is able to devote a lot of time to music and recently bought a loop pedal, enabling him to create multilayered tracks with a variety of instruments and harmonies.

“Any place is an opportunity to play: weddings, house-concerts, local markets,” Christian says. “Traditional musicians are not only in the past!” You may have heard him keeping the old tunes alive in Winterville at the Marigold Market, the library, or at the Community Center. He also recently performed at the International Festival and Oktoberfest, both in Perry, Georgia. Victoria Cooper of Little Decisions Podcast interviewed Christian in July of last year; you can listen here: <https://littledecisionspodcast.com/2021/07/10/interview-1-christian-montcriol-of-winterville/>.



Samples from Christian’s collection of antique and traditional instruments. At left, an *épinette des Vosges*, lute, accordion, and a *tambour de Provence* (drum) with its case. The photo on the right shows a hornpipe and wooden flute on top of the drum, another example of an *épinette des Vosges*, as well as two tambourines: one that can be used as a hand drum and one that has only jingles. Below, another photo of the accordion.



## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

### Victoria Cooper, *little decisions* Podcast

Victoria almost always has a smile on her face and a kind word to say if you happen to cross paths with her. Her podcast, *little decisions*, is based in Athens and Winterville, and she has spent many weekends talking about it and recording brief interviews at our very own Marigold Market. In fact, as a recent *Athens Banner-Herald* article explained, *little decisions* was in many ways born at the Marigold Market. “I always knew I wanted my podcast to have a home base, a physical location that was a consistent place to record. As soon as I first visited Pittard Park, I knew it was there.”



Victoria’s podcast released its first episode about kindness, connection, and community on July 1, 2021. Since then, Victoria has released over 40 episodes on those topics. She has interviewed many Wintervillians, including Christian Moncriol, Sandy Bird, Lea Clarke, Deirdre Murray, and Jack Eisenman, to name just a few. Victoria has also interviewed several Marigold Market vendors, including Deijhon “Cozy” Yearby of Cozy Bear Market Farms and Kevin Kardon of Kevin’s Monster Shack. (Deijhon was featured in the Meet Your Maker feature in the Oct–Dec 2021 issue, and Kevin was featured in the Artist Spotlight in the Jul–Sep 2021 issue.) Cozy said about *little decisions*, it’s “a great listen to hear more about the town I grew up in. I truly look forward to who she interviews next!”

Before *little decisions* was officially released, Victoria spent weeks vending at the Marigold Market and talking with patrons about what they would want to hear on a podcast about kindness in the Athens and Winterville area. This was where many of her first interviews came from. “I learned a lot those first few weeks about audio and sound and how there always seems to be a lawnmower running near Pittard Park” says Victoria. In many episode recordings you can hear the happenings of the Marigold Market in the background and, yes, a lawnmower or two. Victoria has several regular visitors when she is recording at the Marigold Market, making her stand a popular place sometimes. Since there is a retro theme to the podcast as well, Victoria sold “retro-inspired” toys and writing materials to help fund special projects on the podcast. One such project was this past election season, when Victoria interviewed City Council candidates Bruce Johnson and Melissa Metzger.



Victoria says, “*little decisions* is about those small choices we make every day to be kind to ourselves and each other. It’s not random at all but rather purposeful. Kindness is a mindset, a way of being, and it’s something everyone can and wants to practice more of!” Victoria is never shy about talking about self-care and other mental health topics, making every episode unique. As her podcast begins attracting more and more listeners, Victoria explains that she wants to keep the focus on Athens and Winterville. “Athens and Winterville are complementary to each other, and they represent modern life in the south, particularly in Georgia. I want to capture that essence of kindness, investigate our connections, and tell the stories of those working hard in our community to make it a little better everyday.”

Victoria is also enthusiastic about pineapples. They are depicted in the podcast’s logo, and the fruit is mentioned in some form or fashion in almost every episode. In fact, Victoria’s ending tagline is her own version of “take care”: Pineapple with care!

You can find *little decisions* on Google Podcasts, Spotify, Audible, Apple Podcasts, and all other major podcast platforms. You can also listen to every episode and get behind-the-scenes information by listening on Victoria’s website: [littledecisionspodcast.com](http://littledecisionspodcast.com). Special interviews come out Tuesdays, and episodes featuring local guests are released every Thursday. Victoria also has an extensive social media following. You can find her on Instagram or Facebook @littldecisionspodcast or on Twitter @littledecpod. Have an idea for a story or want to be interviewed for the podcast? Victoria welcomes ideas and suggestions either through direct messaging on any social media platform or by emailing her directly at [littledecisionspodcast@gmail.com](mailto:littledecisionspodcast@gmail.com).

# NEW MURALS AT FRONT PORCH BOOKSTORE

The Front Porch Bookstore now boasts two new murals to further enhance Chandler Park and the surrounding area. Marisa Mustard created a floral design on the north wall, and David Hale graced the eastern wall with soaring birds. The south wall features the Firefly Trail mural done several years ago by students at Winterville Elementary. It's a delight to see artists with unique visions create designs that stay true to their individual style while still coordinating with each other in a pleasing way, even when viewed together. The new artworks are a must see, so take advantage of the new parking spaces and bike racks at the bookstore to feast your eyes and then feed your brain with some new books.



# SCENES FROM CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK





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**WAC**  
The Winterville Arts Council  
and  
Winterville Marigold Festival

**CALLING ALL ARTISTS**

**MARIGOLD FESTIVAL**  
Winterville, Ga. 2021

Sara Sturges winner for 2018

**Festival Guide**  
Celebrating 70+ Years Back  
Featured Artists: Camille Hayes  
Camille Hayes winner for 2019

Marisa Leilani Mustard winner for 2020 and 2021

We are looking for the 2022 Marigold Festival Featured Artist  
**And it could be You!**  
Deadline to submit is January 31, 2022  
for more information visit  
[www.MarigoldFestival.com](http://www.MarigoldFestival.com)  
"Cash prize awarded to the winner"

Poster by Kenneth Storey

### About the Gazette

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

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