

CONTACT INFORMATION

EMERGENCY 911
 CITY HALL
 706-742-8600
 CITY HALL FAX
 706-742-5476
 POLICE
 706-742-5295
 POST OFFICE
 706-742-8875
 LIBRARY
 706-742-7735
 ANIMAL CONTROL
 706-613-3540
 STREET LIGHT REPAIR
 888-655-5888
 PUBLIC UTILITIES
 706-613-3470
 STREET, POTHOLE, OR DRAINAGE REPAIR
 706-613-3465
 LEAF & LIMB PICKUP
 706-613-3501

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Wintervilleans,

The message is simple this time, and I hope it finds you well.

1. Mask up.
2. Vote!
4. Mask up.

I'll see you on the streets...

Sincerely,

Dodd I. Ferrelle, Mayor



Lucas and Dodd Ferrelle. Photos: David Noah

CIVIC CALENDAR

Monday, Oct 5
 Tuesday, Oct 6
 Tuesday, Oct 13
 Monday, Oct 19
 Tuesday, Oct 20
 Monday, Nov 2
 Tuesday, Nov 3
 Tuesday, Nov 3
 Tuesday, Nov 17
 Thursday, Nov 26
 Friday, Nov 27
 Tuesday, Dec 1
 Monday, Dec 7
 Tuesday, Dec 8
 Monday, Dec 14
 Tuesday, Dec 15
 Thursday, Dec 24
 Friday, Dec 25

Planning & Zoning, 5:30 p.m., City Hall
 Council Workshop, 5:30 p.m., Winterville Auditorium
 City Council, 6:30 p.m., Auditorium
 CVIQG Visioning, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Auditorium
 Historic Preservation Commission, 6:00 p.m., Auditorium
 Planning & Zoning, 5:30 p.m., City Hall
 ELECTION DAY, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Train Depot
 Council Workshop, 5:30 p.m., Auditorium
 Historic Preservation Commission, 6:00 p.m., Auditorium
 Thanksgiving Holiday, City Hall closed
 Thanksgiving Holiday, City Hall closed
 Council Workshop, 5:30 p.m., Auditorium
 Planning & Zoning, 5:30 p.m., City Hall
 City Council, 6:30 p.m., Auditorium
 Municipal Court, 5:00 p.m., City Hall
 Historic Preservation Commission, 6:00 p.m., Auditorium
 Christmas Holiday, City Hall closed
 Christmas Holiday, City Hall closed



CITY NEWS

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

All public hearings and meetings of the Winterville City Council will take place in the Winterville Auditorium through the month of December. We will assess current conditions with regard to COVID-19 before determining whether to return our meetings to City Hall in January. We will continue to update you as we make these decisions. Thank you for your patience, and please visit the city website for more information.

CARES ACT FUNDING

The City of Winterville has received the first round of funding from the State through the CARES Act, and the city council has designated these funds be spent on the following items needed for dealing with the coronavirus: personal protective equipment; ionization filters, Chromebooks, and hotspots for the library; electrostatic sprayers and disinfectants for general use throughout city-owned buildings; audio-visual equipment with streaming capabilities to broadcast public meeting to our citizens sheltering in place; a pressure washer to clean playground and outdoor equipment. More funding is possible as negotiations continue with the Governor's office and the state. We will continue to focus on needs related to the pandemic while preparing the city for future emergencies. We also hope to set funding aside for local businesses through the soon-to-be-established Downtown Development Authority (see below). Additional funding in 2021 may go toward alleviating food insecurity by incorporating a commercial kitchen to work with our Marigold Market and local growers/producers to offer affordable fresh food on the East Side. Lastly, we continue to have discussions with our local school administrators to improve remote learning by providing enhanced wi-fi and hot spots and to bridge the gap between online and in-person learning by holding classes in the city's green spaces. Future funding will be addressed in city council meetings over the next several months, so please attend as you are able and stay engaged.

2021 BUDGET

The Winterville Finance Committee has been working diligently in recent weeks to prepare a draft budget for approval and adoption by the city council at the November meetings. The Committee had a difficult task this year given both the pandemic and new amenities like the Firefly Trail. A draft copy of the budget will be available to the public the second week of October, and the public hearing will be scheduled in November. Please check the city website for more information and specific dates and times.

VRBO ORDINANCE/MORATORIUM

The city council recently placed a moratorium on issuing business licenses to Air B&Bs, Vacation Rentals by Owners (VRBOs), bed and breakfast inns, and hotels/motels. This was done so that we can update the Code of Ordinances and place appropriate regulations on all of the above. Recent purchases of private homes by outside agencies for the purposes of short-term rentals have necessitated gaining control over that industry. The public hearing for this update to our code will most likely take place in November. A copy of the draft ordinances will

be placed on the website in October. Please see the city website for more information as well as specific dates and times.

ALCOHOL ORDINANCE

The Charter has been amended to release the city from the prohibition of beer and wine, so work has begun on an ordinance to allow the sale and manufacture of beer and wine within the city limits. The mayor and council have received a draft ordinance from the city attorney and we will begin discussing this ordinance at the October workshop. Once we have the final draft a public hearing will be scheduled. The draft will be available on the city website, along with the date of the public hearing, tentatively scheduled for December.

WINTERVILLE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The City of Winterville will re-establish a Downtown Development Authority (DDA) with help from the Georgia Municipal Association and their DDA Pilot Program. As part of their Placemaking Initiative, the GMA picked three cities to participate in their program, and, as reported in a previous issue of the Gazette, Winterville was lucky enough to be included. The program was developed to help cities like ours get their DDAs up and running for the benefit of business development. The mayor and council have been looking over all of the very qualified applications to serve on the DDA, and we hope to have the boundaries of the downtown area defined and have directors in place in October.

FIREFLY TRAIL GRAND OPENING

A dedication ceremony for the Firefly Trail will be held Friday, October 16, at 4:30 p.m. in front of the Firefly Trail Mural in the area next to City Hall that will soon become a rest area plaza. A small group of public officials and staff will be on hand to celebrate this wonderful new amenity. We ask that citizens who plan to attend practice social distancing and wear a mask. The Winterville section of the Firefly Trail will officially open in October once work is completed in full. Please see this issue for more information on the trail here and in nearby cities.

CROSSWALK ON MAIN STREET

The Georgia Department of Transportation 2021 Local Maintenance Improvement Grant application period is open, and Winterville has requested funding to enhance the crosswalk at Main Street and Parkview in front of the Depot. As part of our continued quest to improve safety and encourage traffic-calming throughout the city, we will follow recommendations from the TSPLOST Citizens' Advisory Committee as they prioritize those needs. The crosswalk will include flashing lights, new signs, stamped cement, and possibly a center island.

WINTERVILLE AUDITORIUM COMMUNITY INPUT

The UGA Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIOG) led a community discussion on September 14 at the Winterville Auditorium to discuss the future of the facility, including potential events and operational and management issues. The CVIOG will host a drop-in Zoom call to gather more feedback from the community sometime during the week of October 5. A link to the Zoom session can be found at <https://bit.ly/3cWciVr>. Additionally, a survey will be made available to the public. On October 19, CVIOG staff will meet with the mayor and city council to discuss community input and to start a dialogue about creating a strategic plan for the venue.

cont.

EVENT CANCELLATIONS

Sadly, the Georgia Arborist Association 2020 Tree Climbing Event had to be moved to a private location this year, and Christmas in the Park will be cancelled due to the coronavirus. The Georgia Arborist Association event will certainly be back at Pittard Park in the future, as will all of the beloved festivities of Christmas in the Park. Let's all look forward to those events in 2021!

COVID-19 TESTING

As of September, the Northeast Health District is offering **free** COVID-19 testing on Saturdays at the Winterville Center. Testing is drive-through, so you don't even have to get out of your car! Enter the Winterville Center parking lot via Winter Street, off Athens Road. You can schedule a test online at <https://publichealthathens.com> or call 706-340-0996. There will no longer be any testing available at the Mitchell Bridge Road site on Saturdays. For more information on the coronavirus, go to <https://bit.ly/NEHDCOVID19>.

NEW WINTERVILLE POLICE OFFICER



Welcome to Officer Mike Haler! Officer Haler and Chief Fulcher attended the Police Academy together in 1978. Officer Haler brings a great deal of experience in everything from firearms to radar and will add another level of expertise to an already incredible group of community-minded police officers.



ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 3

THE LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION IS MONDAY, OCTOBER 5.

In-Person Voting on November 3

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

Absentee Voting

Request your absentee ballot online at www.ballotrequest.sos.ga.gov, download an absentee voter application at the Clarke County Board of Elections website accgov.com, or call 706-613-3150. Completed requests may be submitted three ways:

- by mail to Athens-Clarke County Board of Elections, P.O. Box 1828, Athens, GA 30603
- by fax to 706-613-3840
- by email as an attachment to paula.williams@accgov.com



A drop box for absentee ballots has been placed at Winterville City Hall.

The site is monitored by video recording devices, and ballots will be collected at least once every 72 hours in teams of two people who have sworn an oath in the same form as poll officers. Ballots are immediately transported and processed and stored in the same manner as absentee ballots returned by mail. The drop box will close at 7:00 p.m. on Election Day. *It is strongly recommended that you submit your absentee ballot by drop box rather than by mail.*

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

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

cont.

Advance Voting Locations and Times

Week 1: October 12-16

Location	Address	Days and Hours
Board of Elections Office	155 E. Washington St. Athens, GA 30601	Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Week 2: October 19-23

Location	Address	Days and Hours
Board of Elections Office	155 E. Washington St. Athens, GA 30601	Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Weekend Voting: October 24-25

Location	Address	Days and Hours
Board of Elections Office	155 E. Washington St. Athens, GA 30601	Saturday, 9:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m., Sunday, noon – 7:00 p.m.
Athens Regional Library	2025 Baxter St. Athens, GA 30606	Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Miriam Moore Community Center	410 McKinley Dr. Athens, GA 30605	Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
ACC Extension	275 Cleveland Rd. Bogart, GA 30622	Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
ACC Tennis Center	4460 Lexington Rd. Athens, GA 30605	Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Week 3: October 26-30

Location	Address	Days and Hours
Board of Elections Office	155 E. Washington Athens, GA 30601	Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Athens Regional Library	2025 Baxter St. Athens, GA 30606	Monday – Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Miriam Moore Community Center	410 McKinley Dr. Athens, GA 30605	Monday – Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
ACC Extension	275 Cleveland Rd. Bogart, GA 30622	Monday – Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
ACC Tennis Center	4460 Lexington Rd. Athens, GA 30605	Monday – Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
UGA Stegeman Coliseum	100 Smith St. Athens, GA 30602	Tuesday – Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

WINTERVILLE CENTER FOR COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

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

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

COMMUNITY COOKBOOK FUNDRAISER

The Winterville Community Cookbook is the perfect way to acquire new recipes, preserve old ones, and share cultural recipes while raising money for the Winterville Center and its programs. We would like to have the cookbook available for gift-giving by November 27, depending on how the pandemic affects the publisher. The final cost per book will be based on the number of recipes submitted but is estimated to be no more than \$20.00 a book. (Availability and pricing is subject to change due to publisher issues, final printing costs, or circumstances beyond our control.)

Thanks to our generous sponsors—The Commercial Bank, Koons Environmental Landscape, Winterville United Methodist Church, Winterville Family Dental, and Winterville Animal Hospital—the cookbooks will have the best quality materials, such as wipeable 60# offset paper, a custom-designed, full-color cover, and a binding that will allow the book to lie flat.

Approximately 6" x 9" inches, the cookbook will contain approximately 100 pages with 80 recipes in 10 categories: Appetizers, Beverages, Bread & Rolls, Breakfasts, Condiments & Sauces, Desserts, Cookies, & Candy, Main Dishes, Vegetables, Salads & Sides, and Soups & Sandwiches. Recipes from dairy-free, gluten-free, Keto, vegan, vegetarian, and other diets will be included.

Go to www.wintervillecenter.com for details. You can also keep track of events by following the Winterville Center on Facebook, where you can also opt-in to receive our newsletter.

FREE COVID-19 TESTING

Free COVID-19 testing is now available on Saturdays at the Winterville Center. See the City News section in this issue or the graphic on the last page for more information.

LIBRARY PARTIALLY REOPENS

The Winterville Library is now open for computer use. Due to social distancing requirements, only two patrons are allowed in the building at any given time. In order to accommodate as many people as possible during open hours, “we ask that you limit your library visit to one hour or less,” says Winterville Library Branch Manager Deirdre Murray. At this time, no appointments are needed; computers are available on a first-come, first-served basis. This could change if demand increases. Children with parents are welcome to visit for computer use as well. Anyone entering the building must wear an unvented facemask covering their nose and mouth and maintain a distance of six feet between persons.

Starting October 5, the library will open for “Grab and Go” service. That is, library visitors will be able to browse parts of the collection, pick up holds, and check out items using self-service stations. Library capacity will be limited to 25% of official capacity as determined by the fire department, which is four patrons at a time. Watch the video at athenslibrary.org to see what to expect. The library will be closing 30 minutes early each day to allow time to disinfect the building, so hours will be 10:00 a.m to 1:30 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, and 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Thursday.

A special air filtration/ionization system was added to the library’s HVAC system in September. The device advertises that it traps COVID-19 virus particles and removes them from the air. “We will continue to do all we can to ensure the safety and well-being of our beloved Winterville Library patrons,” says Mayor Ferrelle. In addition to the filtration system, the city is deploying electrostatic disinfecting sprayers on all surfaces and touch points. “We at the library are extremely grateful for these additional safety measures to protect both staff and patrons,” Murray says.

Note that the ability to remain open for Grab and Go depends on the rate of COVID-19 infections in Clarke County continuing to decline. As this situation is fluid, be sure to check the library website before visiting. Curbside service for holds and printing pickup will remain available. Staff will notify you when your items are ready to pick up.

“I would like to thank all of our communities for their support, patience and understanding these last several months,” says ARLS Executive Director Valerie Bell. “We have missed our patrons! We have been working to welcome the public back into our buildings in a way that’s safe for both patrons and staff.”

All programs and events will continue to be hosted online. A calendar of virtual events is available at the library website. Online services include digital collections of e-books, audiobooks, and magazines for all ages, live programming on social media, interactive reference chat, and more.



Library patrons make use of curbside pick-up.



WINTERVILLE LIBRARY BOOK CLUB

The book club has had three very successful meetings under the outdoor pavilion at Pittard Park. Conversation and fellowship are especially cherished at this time! The book club meets the last Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. and usually goes for about an hour. All are welcome! Call the library at 706-742-7735 with any questions.



Library Book Club members meet for a distanced, outdoor literary discussion at Pittard Park.

WINTERVILLE BAPTIST OFFERS FOOD PANTRY

To help alleviate food insecurity, Winterville First Baptist Church will provide citizens with a free food pantry on October 17, November 14, and December 12 from 9:00–10:00 a.m.

In other news, the church will celebrate 134 years at its Homecoming Service on Sunday, October 11. The Kingsmen will sing during the 10:30 a.m. service. A love offering will be received.

The Worship Choir will present its Christmas Musical on Sunday, December 13 at 6:00 p.m., and a Carols and Candles Service will take place on Sunday, December 20 at 6:00 p.m.

Please visit www.wintervillefbc.org for updated information.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

For the past year and a half, the Winterville Historic Preservation Commission has been working on mapping out a new Historic District and developing guidelines for the preservation of historic properties and neighborhoods. The designation of a historic district will help in retaining the unique and period-accurate architectural details that many of our homes in Winterville display. Enjoy some examples in the photos below by Mike Boyd.

Currently the mayor, city council, and the Planning and Zoning Board are reviewing these documents. Once the review process is complete, the Historic Commission will hold three public meetings to inform citizens about the work. Great care will be taken to conduct the meetings in a safe manner, in accord with the best safety practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

If your home is in the designated Historic District, you will receive a letter within the next two months informing you about the district and providing a link to the complete set of guidelines. There will also be copies available at City Hall.

The HPC is excited to help Winterville retain its charm while increasing home values. For more information, visit <https://cityofwinterville.com/historic-preservation-commission> or contact Commission Chair Kim Burch at kimlimardo@gmail.com.



WINTERVILLE ARTS COUNCIL

Last month, the Winterville Arts Council (WAC) held its first in-person, socially distanced meeting since March at the Pittard Park pavilion. Most of WAC's planned events for this year have been cancelled due to the pandemic, but we are busy putting together a couple of activities/events that can be enjoyed without gathering in person.

The first activity we are hosting is an online art scavenger hunt! Using Facebook and Instagram, WAC will post pictures of art pieces found within the Winterville City limits. Individuals and families are encouraged to then "hunt" for the art pieces posted on the social media sites. If you find a piece, we would love for you to post a picture of the art (you can be in the picture also!) either on Facebook or Instagram and tag it with #WINartfound. Further details of the scavenger hunt will be posted soon on Facebook @Winterville Arts Council and on Instagram @wintervilleartscouncil.



The nip in the air has gotten WAC excited about the upcoming Winterville Holiday Lights Tour! Anyone who lives within a two mile radius of Winterville City Hall and who would like to decorate their homes with lights for the tour can send their name and address to wintervilleartscouncil@gmail.com. The tour map will be posted to WAC's Facebook page and on Instagram. Hard copies of the map can also be picked up at Winterville City Hall. Due to COVID-19, the tour will be self-guided. The deadline to submit your name and address for the tour map is December 1, and the deadline to have your home decorated with lights is December 16. Tour dates will run from December 16 through 31. Let's all light up Winterville!

Lastly, WAC recently met with several community stakeholders to discuss adding amenities to our Firefly Trail, such as a water fountain, a bike rack, a shelter with seating, etc. In addition to these proposed amenities, WAC is very interested in adding art pieces to the trail. If you are a sculptor or know of a local sculptor who might be interested in submitting a bid for this project, please contact us at the email address given above.

WINTERVILLE TREE COMMISSION

Fall is a lovely time of year. The leaves of trees change colors and the weather cools. Did you know we are approaching one of the best times of the year to plant trees? Please join Winterville Tree Commission members and our speakers to learn more about tree planting through the following free webinar. Please note that you need to register via the following weblink to join.

Planting with a Purpose: Right Tree, Right Place, Right Objective

October 7, 2020, 6:00–7:00 p.m.

To register: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJItcO-srT0vG9FtYMyf69rqONtt-waK9J65>

Late fall to early spring (approximately December to February) is the best time to plant a tree. For a long-lived and healthy tree, however, the most important steps in choosing the best yard tree are (1) choosing the right species to match conditions in your yard, (2) preparing the site for planting, and (3) proper planting. The Winterville Tree Commission invites you to this free, online educational program about how best to choose a new yard tree. Speakers include Seth Hawkins, Community Forester with the Georgia Forestry Commission, and Holly Campbell, faculty member of the new Community Forestry and Arboriculture degree program at the UGA Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources.



COMMUNITY GARDEN

When the annual registration event was held in February, there were quite a few boxes left open, and the WCG Committee allowed existing gardeners to sign up for extras. No one expected things to shut down in March, and suddenly more people wanted boxes. Unfortunately, by that time, all the boxes had been planted and none were available.

Do you want a box next year? Anyone (other than current gardeners) wanting to join the community garden for the 2021 season (March 1, 2021 through February 2022) should send an email to wintervillecommunitygarden@gmail.com and ask to be put on the waiting list. There will be a limited number of boxes available at no or reduced cost for those facing financial difficulties. Please send us an email to apply.

Because of the pandemic, we won't be able to have our customary registration potluck, and we'll need to do more advance planning. Initially, new and current gardeners will be limited to two boxes. If there are any boxes left after registration, gardeners will be given the opportunity to get another box.

There will be a masked, socially distant registration event on Saturday, February 20, from 10:00–12:00 in the large pavilion in Pittard Park. Cash or checks must be submitted with the registration and rules-agreement forms. The rental fee is \$40 per year for a 4' x 8' x 1' box. (Drip irrigation is included during warm months.) Box numbers will be assigned and emailed afterwards. If there are more applications than available boxes, fees will be returned to anyone who didn't get a box. Current gardeners will need to notify the WCG committee whether or not they want to keep their boxes (and which ones, if they have more than two) no later than January 15.

The rules of the organic garden will be updated prior to next year's registration to clarify the timeframe in which those who violate the agreement must respond, but the current version is available under Community Garden Rules & Guidelines at <https://cityofwinterville.com/winterville-community-garden>.

This year five boxes were dedicated to growing donations for the Athens Emergency Food Bank. More than 200 pounds of organic vegetables, including greens, beans, cucumbers, tomatoes, and okra, have been taken to the Food Bank.

The garden has been particularly beautiful this year, and neighbors are welcome to visit. We love dogs and other pets, but they are not allowed in the garden. We hope to see you around!

WINTERVILLE CIVITANS

The Civitan club hasn't met for over six months as we continue to monitor the COVID-19 crisis. Concern for members' health has been President Bill Chrisohn's primary concern. State and International conventions have been held online, and Camp Big Heart has been conducting a Virtual Camp via Facebook and Instagram, finding success in communicating with special needs participants and laying a foundation for the future. All local clubs have continued to support the financial needs of the Civitan International Research Center.

We look forward to an anticipated recovery and the possibility of the Snowflake 10K taking place on schedule. Be on the lookout for information regarding our holiday fundraising campaign through the sale of Claxton fruitcakes.

UNPRECEDENTED PROGRESS ON THE FIREFLY TRAIL



From Winterville to Athens and Union Point to Maxeys, progress is happening on the Firefly Trail like never before.

In Winterville, some 1.6 miles of the trail were all but finished at the time of this writing, with a grand opening date to come soon. The trail is beautiful and is already starting to serve the people of Winterville and beyond.

In Athens, clearing has begun for a segment of trail that will extend the existing trail from Old Winterville Road to Hancock Road. Leisure Services and the SPLOST office are also working on the trail alignment from Hancock Road to Athens Road in Winterville, and several methods of gathering public opinion generated considerable input. Finally, the Athens-Clarke Mayor and Commission are expected to award a contract for construction of the Firefly Trail Bridge over Trail Creek at their October meeting.

At the southern terminus of the trail, Union Point is well along in construction of a 0.6-mile “Model Mile” from North Rhodes Street to the north side of the Greene County Primary School property. And in Maxeys, work is underway to extend an existing paved segment north and south to create a mile or more of trail. Work should be done well before the end of the year on both projects, thanks to the active engagement of property owners, the cities of Maxeys and Union Point, and the Local Action Committees in Greene County and southern Oglethorpe.

Meanwhile, Firefly Trail, Inc., the nonprofit created to foster creation of the entire 39-mile trail, is working with Maxeys, Woodville, and Oglethorpe and Greene Counties to apply for a Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program grant, with technical assistance from the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission. If approved, this grant will provide up to \$3 million, with up to another \$1 million in local and FTI matching funds, to create several miles of trail and potentially connect Union Point to Maxeys.

To help raise more matching and operating funds, FTI is holding two fund-raisers this fall. The first will be a virtual bicycle relay race/time trial starting and ending at Robert Hardeman Road and Main Street. Riders will complete one or three laps on a 12-mile course during daylight hours anytime between October 30 and November 8 and then upload their time to Strava. Riders can ride as individuals and/or form virtual teams of three. Registration is \$25, with additional race options for \$10 each. For full details go to **Fireflytrail.com** or directly to the registration page at Active.com. Non-racers are welcome to participate, too, just for fun and to support the trail.

The second fundraiser will be a year-end campaign to raise funds for operations and grant matches. Watch for details coming soon.

Thank you for your support of the Firefly Trail and for the opportunities it will provide for safe outdoor recreation, economic development, active transportation, and community pride.

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

We are in a trying time right now. The pandemic has made things at the fire department very interesting to say the least. While we are still meeting on Monday nights, our hands-on training has been stopped for the time being. We are taking extra precautions on calls these days, making sure to wear the necessary personal protective equipment (PPE), such as gloves, masks, and face shields as needed. Thanks to the mayor and council, anything needed for the firefighters' safety has been provided.

For example, we have acquired eight new air packs to replace ones that were out of compliance. The packs, built by the MSA Company and purchased from Fireline, Inc., in Winder, have already been installed on the engine for use on calls.

Our call volume has seen a slight increase, not only medical in nature, but in general. This could be attributed to more people working from home during the pandemic. Our great group of men and women have responded to all the calls efficiently.

We ask everyone to do your best to stay safe. Please do not hesitate to call on us for any fire-related issues or questions.



The backpacks use self-contained breathing apparatus technology (not unlike SCUBA tanks for underwater diving) to provide clean air to the firefighters, enabling them to stay safer in burning buildings.



Hien Nguyen of the Fireline Corporation displays some of the protective equipment purchased for the WVFD.

ADVICE FROM THE ACC STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

With the arrival of Fall, the Athens-Clarke County Stormwater Management Program would like to remind everyone about properly disposing of leaves, grass clippings, brush, tree limbs, and other landscape materials to prevent debris from clogging storm drains, flooding the roads, or polluting our waterways. We want all homeowners and landscape/lawn care businesses serving the Winterville areas to be informed of relevant county ordinances so you can avoid costly fines that may otherwise result from a simple lack of awareness. Community Protection Officers and the Stormwater Inspector actively monitor for illicit discharges.

Athens-Clarke County ordinances concerning the disposal of leaf and limb debris include:

- **ACC Ordinance Sec. 5-2-7(d):** Limbs cut and placed near the street for collection by any person other than the owner of the property shall not be collected or hauled by Athens-Clarke County. Individuals or companies under contract to collect leaves and limbs shall haul and dispose of all such refuse.
- **ACC Ordinance Sec. 7-3-1:** It shall be unlawful for any person to throw paper, organic waste, grass cuttings, or any other trash or garbage onto another person's property, or on any of the streets, sidewalks, and rights-of-way, or any public or semipublic parking facility within Athens-Clarke County.
- **ACC Ordinance Sec. 7-3-2:** It shall be unlawful to throw, place or otherwise cause to be placed any tree limbs or leaves in or on any public street inside the curblineline or on the sidewalks in Athens-Clarke County.
- **ACC Ordinance Sec. 5-4-22(a), Prohibition of Illicit Discharges:** It shall be a violation of this Article for any person to throw, drain, or otherwise discharge, cause, or allow others under its control to throw, drain, or otherwise discharge into the county separate storm sewer system any pollutants or waters containing any pollutants, other than stormwater.

Remember that clippings, pine straw, small brush, and leaves should be mulched or composted on site or hauled to a composting site or landfill. If lawn material needs to be removed from the site, they should be bagged in paper lawn refuse bags. For more information on county ordinances, go to www.accgov.com and search for "ACC Ordinances." If you have any questions, please contact the Stormwater Management Program at 706-613-3440.



CITY SPOTLIGHT

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

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Expert Eye Editing



Hello! I'm Lee Ann Pingel, the expert eye behind the business name (and, full disclosure, the editor of your friendly hometown *Gazette*). Although I earned a Bachelor's degree in creative writing, I didn't foresee a career as an editor. Rather, it found me as I pursued studies in Russian language and political science, always winding up as the editor of the departmental newsletters. I decided to make things official when I accepted a position as the editor for UGA's Independent and Distance Learning department, where I worked for 17 years. After the university abolished that department, I decided to open a freelance business, which I've run for about five years now. In that time, I've been privileged to help a wide variety of writers in and outside of academia with projects ranging from scholarly papers and books to novels, memoirs, short stories, and even a cookbook.

I offer several types of editing services: proofreading, line editing, and developmental editing. Proofing is the most basic service. In line editing, I correct not only grammar but restructure sentences for clarity and style. Developmental editing involves an extensive assessment of a book, looking for ways to strengthen plot lines, character development, dialogue, and other structural elements.

The work interests me for several reasons. The topic is always changing, for one, and I frequently learn a lot, especially from my academic clients. Editing can also be fun—I often feel like I'm putting together a jigsaw puzzle, moving words and ideas here and there until I find the perfect fit. Plus, I simply enjoy helping other writers produce their best work.

In my spare time, I try to do writing of my own, which is mostly poetry, but I have a few book ideas rattling around in my head. If you're curious, you can find some of my poems here:

<https://rascaljournal.com/addie/a-dream-of-rain/>

<http://hobocampreview.blogspot.com/2017/10/lee-ann-pingel.html>

http://www.musepiepress.com/fibreview/issue20/lee_ann_pingel1.html

If you've got a book idea or a manuscript languishing in a desk drawer and aren't sure what to do next, I'm happy to help. Check out my website at <http://www.experteyeediting.com> or email me at leann@experteyeediting.com.



A few of my clients' books.

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

David Noah



David Noah has lived in places as diverse as Lubbock, TX and Berkeley, CA. His sense of home, though, is Austin, TX, where he spent his formative years. He started doing photography in his mid-twenties. At that time he was working in a campus bookstore in Austin, struggling to be a writer. Photographer friends would sometimes drop by and invite him on photo expeditions, and “that sounded like a lot more fun than the agonies of writing. That’s when I started getting interested in photography.”

He grew especially interested in street photography, which involves candid shots of people in public spaces. Many of his early photos explored this theme, which has deep roots in the history of photography. Though he has expanded his field of photographic interest since then, he still gets excited about visiting large urban spaces and practicing street shooting.

About the time he was getting started with photography, he met Sandy Bird, now his wife, and once she had finished her graduate work at UT they moved to Vicksburg, MS. While living there he completed an undergraduate degree in Art Education. When he finished, they moved again to the Athens area, where he worked as a middle school art teacher for three years in Elberton. After that he became a stay-at-home father to their second child, and entered graduate school at UGA to eventually receive a Ph.D. in Educational Technology. He taught a number of university undergraduate courses during this time. He retired from the University in 2012.

Most of his work has been in black and white, which is consistent with his interest in historical street photography. “Black and white is the truth, color is the temporary surface,” David says. He published a collection of his street photographs, *Everything Mad with Love*, in 2019. Contact him if you are interested in purchasing a copy.

His most recent photography project arose from the current pandemic. “Sandy and I had both gotten masks,” he explains, “and I took a picture of her with and without her mask and had her do the same with me. We realized how different our expressive capabilities were, both masked and non-masked.” As he pondered this, he began to gain some insight into why masks had become controversial, despite their effectiveness at preventing the spread of a potentially deadly disease. “We wear masks to conceal and reveal, to express and deny, to pretend and to become. Good guys and bad guys both wear masks: Batman, the Beagle Boys, Jason, the Lone Ranger. A mask is intimate but public, individual but part of a community. The face is where the action is, and a mask invites the world onto that bit of property and makes it an arena.”



Curious to see how masks changed facial expressiveness in more people, David recruited volunteers to participate in a new series of photographs, *Masked/Unmasked*. (See two examples in the “Mayor’s Message” on the first page of this issue.) “I found that a mask radically changed some faces, but not all. What does that say about a person? I don’t know. But the effect was sometimes quite intense,” he says. “Hiding the mouth puts all the emotional expression in the eyes, and sometimes the eyes are at odds with the mouth. It’s as though the eyes and the mouth play contrapuntal melodies, and while we normally perceive them as in harmony with each other, hiding the mouth shows just how differently they sound.”

David invited his subjects to write about their experiences wearing a mask, and he came to find their comments as interesting as the photos. “Most of them were happy for a chance to speak out about the virtues of mask-wearing.

cont.

I expected that sentiment, but I was charmed by the individual experiences, the deeply thoughtful rationales, the humor, and good sense. I felt honored to be working with these people.”

Wearing a mask and observing others who choose to wear one—or not—has made David “more aware of just the general way that faces are masks. That we compose a persona in order to show something to the world that reveals who we are. And once you wear the mask are you free then, inside? Authentic or not? I don’t know.”

The Athens art gallery ATHICA has created a virtual exhibit from some of the Masked/Unmasked portraits. As only about half of the photographs he took for the series are included, David is considering publishing the entire collection as a book. Until then, you can view the virtual exhibit at <https://theexhibit.io/exhibition/maskedunmasked-photographs-by-david-noah> and explore more of David’s photography at his website, <https://davidnoah.squarespace.com/athens-georgia>.





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About the *Gazette*

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