



WINTERVILLE GAZETTE

VOLUME XXIII, ISSUE 2

APR-JUN 2021

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

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

Dear Wintervillians,

We are getting closer to the new normal but my message remains one of vigilance regarding public safety. I hope to return to the lighthearted reflections on all that we have to enjoy as citizens of Winterville, but for now I send a thank you to the Clarke County Health Department for my COVID-19 vaccine and urge you to schedule yours. As someone with underlying medical conditions, I've waited anxiously for my turn and jumped at the chance to get my shots, but I did not get the vaccine only for myself. I got it for every Wintervillian, every American, and every citizen of this planet. To me, getting vaccinated is the same as wearing a mask: protecting yourself protects someone else, and we should all be in the business of protecting each other. We are *all* neighbors. We are all one. So, get the vaccine, and I'll see you on the streets...very soon!

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.

Monday, April 5	Planning & Zoning, 5:30 p.m., City Hall
Tuesday, April 6	Council Workshop, 5:30 p.m., Winterville Auditorium
Monday, April 12	Municipal Court, 5:00 p.m., City Hall
Tuesday, April 13	City Council, 6:30 p.m., Auditorium
Wednesday, April 14	Downtown Development Authority, 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 14	Firefly Local Action Committee, 7:00 p.m.
Monday, April 19	Community Garden Committee, 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 20	Historic Preservation Commission, 6:00 p.m., WCCC
Tuesday, April 27	Winterville Arts Council, 6:00 p.m.
Monday, May 3	Planning & Zoning, 5:30 p.m., City Hall
Tuesday, May 4	Council Workshop, 5:30 p.m., Auditorium
Monday, May 10	Municipal Court, 5:00 p.m., City Hall
Tuesday, May 11	City Council, 6:30 p.m., Auditorium
Wednesday, May 12	Downtown Development Authority, 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 12	Firefly Local Action Committee, 7:00 p.m.
Monday, May 17	Community Garden Committee, 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 18	Historic Preservation Commission, 6:00 p.m., WCCC
Tuesday, May 25	Winterville Arts Council, 6:00 p.m.
Monday, May 31	Memorial Day (observed), City Hall closed
Tuesday, June 1	Council Workshop, 5:30 p.m., Auditorium
Monday, June 7	Planning & Zoning, 5:30 p.m., City Hall
Tuesday, June 8	City Council, 6:30 p.m., Auditorium
Wednesday, June 9	Downtown Development Authority, 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, June 9	Firefly Local Action Committee, 7:00 p.m.
Monday, June 14	Municipal Court, 5:00 p.m., City Hall
Tuesday, June 15	Historic Preservation Commission, 6:00 p.m., WCCC
Monday, June 21	Community Garden Committee, 6:00 p.m.
Monday, June 22	Winterville Arts Council, 6:00 p.m.



CITY NEWS

MASK MANDATE EXTENSION

Due to the current rate of the COVID-19 infections as well as concerns regarding variant mutations, the Winterville City Council voted to extend the Mask Mandate Ordinance through May 11. The mask mandate is in accordance with guidelines recommended by the CDC. We will follow the science and the data when revisiting this ordinance in May. Your safety and the safety of the greater community is our top priority.

MAIN STREET IMPROVEMENTS

The Main Street crosswalk upgrades at the Depot and the improvements to the intersection of Main Street and Henry Meyer were both approved by City Council and bundled together in one bid package by WA Engineering. They are currently receiving bids and hope to recommend a contractor in time for our April voting session. These projects were recommended by the TSPLOST Citizens Advisory Committee to improve pedestrian safety and calm traffic on Main Street.

PLANNING AND ZONING/CITY COUNCIL RETREAT

A retreat facilitated by our partners at the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission has been scheduled for Friday, June 4. The Winterville Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council will meet jointly to look at the city's Code of Ordinances and address needed revisions, and deletions. We will also consider reducing the minimum square footage requirements for homes in order to maintain options for affordable housing.

COMPLETE STREETS PROJECTS

Be on the lookout for a Public Input Session to help us prioritize needs with regard to streets, sidewalks, trails etc. The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Planning and Government Services Division will steer the city through this project as we look to safely connect all of our neighborhoods to the commercial district and city center. This project is another piece of the large puzzle that works to calm traffic throughout the city. Stay tuned for the meeting date and help us with this important project!

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED

A public hearing will be held during the City Council's work session on April 6 at 5:30 p.m. in the Auditorium. The hearing is seeking comment from citizens about the method of financing to be used in the acquisition of land to extend City Hall.

EDUCATION TASK FORCE

The city is working with Winterville Elementary and Coile Middle School to address concerns over learning gaps stemming from the switch to online education due to COVID-19. Dr. Elder (WES Principal) and Dr. Ford (Coile Principal), along with 14 teachers from both schools, have joined the Winterville Education Task Force to create a plan that closes these learning gaps by opening up city infrastructure for in-person learning during a Summer Enrichment Camp. The meetings have been incredibly positive, and we look forward to sharing some of the specific initiatives put forward. The model, if successful, could also serve as a backup plan for in-person learning in the event of a similar emergency.

CITY RENTALS OPENING IN JUNE

We remain cautious but optimistic that outdoor venues throughout the city can be safely reopened to the public in the beginning of June. Please call City Hall for more information.

COILE STAKEHOLDER OF THE MONTH

The City of Winterville was named Stakeholder of the Month in March by W. R. Coile Middle School for the outstanding support this community provides students, teachers, and administrators at the school. Thank you, Coile Middle School! We will continue to support you as you work for a positive future for our community.

NEW POLICE OFFICER

The Winterville Police Department has a new member. Please help us welcome Officer David Painter!

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL ELECTION

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 citizens 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 include attendance at two mandatory meetings each month and performing other tasks as required.

NOTICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF WINTERVILLE, GEORGIA

PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. 21-2-132(d)(4)(B), you are hereby notified that there will be a General Municipal Election held by the Athens-Clarke County Board of Elections on Tuesday, November 2, 2021 for the purpose of electing 2 Council Members for the City of Winterville.


You are further notified that qualifying for said seats will open on Monday, August 16, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. and will continue daily from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., with said qualifying period ending on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. Qualifying will be conducted in the Athens-Clarke County Board of Elections Office, 155 East Washington Street, Athens, Georgia. The qualifying fee, as prescribed by law, will be required upon qualifying and is as follows:

WINTERVILLE CITY COUNCIL \$ 72.00 (2 seats)

All offices will be elected for a four-year term that will begin on January 1, 2022. A run-off, if necessary, will be held on Tuesday, November 30, 2021. The polling place for holding said General Municipal Election shall be the Winterville Train Depot and will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Anyone desiring to vote in this election and who is not a qualified voter must register no later than Monday, October 4, 2021, at any of the approved voter registration sites in order to be eligible to vote. Inquiries regarding voter registration may be directed to the Board of Elections Office, 155 East Washington Street, Athens, Georgia, 30601, or by calling (706) 613-3150.

This 4th day of January, 2021.


Charlotte Sosebee, Director of Elections,
for the Athens-Clarke County Board of Elections

WINTERVILLE CENTER FOR COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

371 N. Church St. Winterville, GA
Current Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
www.WintervilleCenter.com
706-742-0823

POSSIBLE JUNE REOPENING

We are hoping for a reopening of Center activities by Tuesday, June 1. We will start with a few of our social activities as listed below and gradually add more as instructors become available.

RENTALS

Venue rentals will be scheduled for events beginning in June. Please go to our website to download our Venue Information Packet or stop by our office during office hours.

WANTED

We are currently in need of instructors for classes and lectures on all topics, including exercise, art, dance, cooking, and more. Please contact JoAnn Snow at 706-742-0823 for more information or to suggest a class.

COFFEEHOUSE AND THREADWORKS

Beginning Tuesday, June 1, we will resume the Coffee with a Vet and Threadworks Group social activities. Both groups will meet from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. The Veterans gather in Room 102. Coffee and donuts will be available but will no longer be self-serve. Instead, a staff member will be honored to serve you from behind the counter using disposable, single-use supplies. It will be great to have our veterans back!

The Threadworks Group shares a love for all things thread, yarn, hooks, needles, etc. We hope you can join us for stitches of laughter and conversation while we work on individual projects.

FIRST FRIDAY POTLUCK LUNCHEONS

First Thursday Potluck Luncheons are being replaced by First Friday Potluck Luncheons, with the first luncheon on June 4 from 12:00 p.m. until 1:00 p.m. Our theme will be “Summer Break.” Schools close and vacations begin in June, so let’s pretend we are going to Hawaii! Our Hawaiian-themed menu might include some pork or chicken kabobs, pineapple or mango salsa, luau meatballs, Hawaiian roll sandwiches, or your favorite Hawaiian dish. Don’t forget about desserts!



COOKBOOKS

Our cookbook sales are doing great—you won’t want to miss out on owning one. You can buy one by credit card over the phone during office hours, and your copy will be set aside for you to pick up. The cost is \$20, or you may order a paper (\$27.50) or digital copy (\$15.95) from our cookbook store at https://createmycookbook.com/products/307155_322287_R.

MARIGOLD MARKET



The Marigold Market had a successful 2020 pilot season thanks to the active participation of local farmers and producers as well as the remarkable support of the Winterville community. Due to COVID-19, we did not have an in-person market. Rather, we created a drive-through market where customers ordered online ahead of time and picked up their fresh produce on Saturday mornings. Due to the success of this initiative, the Marigold Market team has been working toward creating an in-person market at Pittard Park set to begin May 1, 2021, inaugurating the market's first full-scale season. This process has included the application for and approval of a small grant from Georgia Organics that will help provide marketing support, personal protective equipment (PPE), and other necessary supplies to get the market up and running. The primary purpose of the Marigold Market is to improve access

to affordable fresh food on the east side of Athens, while creating an inviting space that encourages people to eat fresh, local food. We are rethinking the typical farmers' market model in order to cultivate a spirit of inclusion.

Market hours will be Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. In addition to local produce and value-added items, there will be live music and family activities on a regular basis. There will also be weekly cooking demonstrations on fresh food preparation and storage. Along with produce and other fresh foods (such as eggs, meat, and honey) from a variety of producers in the Athens area, the market will offer goods reflecting a variety of cultures and backgrounds. Although the Marigold Market will kick off on May 1, our official grand opening will be the following Saturday, May 8, and will feature Mayor Dodd Ferrelle performing live onstage.

With affordability and inclusion being a primary focus of the market, our vision has grown to include more than a weekly market. The City of Winterville, Envision Athens, and UGA Extension are currently working to create a collective comprised of the Marigold Market, the Winterville Kitchen, and the Winterville Food Hub. The Marigold Collective exists to connect the Winterville and East Athens communities with fresh, affordable food, provide information on nutrition, support local food producers, and distribute to those who need it food that would otherwise go to waste. In conjunction with Georgia Organics, the Marigold Market and City of Winterville are now part of the Georgia Food Oasis Network, connecting the market with more organizations working to overcome food insecurity in the state.

Two important components of supporting a thriving, inclusive, local food system is access to a commercial kitchen and food hub. Renovating the BBQ pit at Pittard Park will help meet this need. Thanks to the generosity of the City of Winterville, this space offers a walk-in cooler that will be operational by the start of the market season. The combination of cool storage and a prep kitchen will allow the Marigold Collective to work with Campus Kitchen, UGArden, the Foodbank, and others to capture food abundance produced by the Marigold Market, gleaned from trees and farms (in partnership with Concrete Jungle), or donated by other organizations. This food will be stored for direct redistribution under the guidance of Shawanda Johnson, the Winterville Prosperity Zone Neighborhood Leader. (See the article on Ms. Johnson in the Jan–Mar 2021 issue of the *Gazette*.)

Once the renovation is complete, the Winterville Kitchen and Food Hub will be used to prepare fresh produce into ready-to-cook, vacuum-sealed or frozen packages. These prepared foods can be better stored until distribution is possible, while maintaining quality and creating an easy-to-use product for the recipients. As funding becomes available, the Marigold Collective hopes to become functional in time to help meet the exacerbated food needs of the surrounding community due to COVID-19 and to remain an active resource for Athens' east side for many years to come.

Another exciting opportunity for the Winterville Kitchen is the addition of a honey house created in partnership with the Beekeepers Association. The Winterville Kitchen will also provide a place for our small producers and growers to expand efficiently, while providing more opportunity for our patrons to have access to locally made, sustainably grown, healthful foods.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



The newly re-established Downtown Development Authority for the city of Winterville has a new Facebook page and invites all business owners and anyone interested in the commercial district to follow it at Winterville DDA. Also, be thinking about what you would like to see happen in our city with regard to future retail shops, restaurants, and other businesses. The DDA wants to work with residential neighbors and local business leaders to create and promote the type of economic and commercial district we all want to have.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Since its creation in 2018, the Winterville Historic Preservation Commission has been working toward one goal: the creation of historic districts throughout our city and the adoption of guidelines to ensure that Winterville grows in a thoughtful, consistent manner. Today the HPC is one step closer to this, having completed the several public input forums necessary to formally create districts. Over four separate sessions, more than 100 of you came out to express your thoughts on the creation of districts, to ask questions, and (in many cases) finally meet the five members of the HPC face to face. We are all your friends and your neighbors, and we were delighted to be able to share what we have been working on over the past three years.

After an initial survey was conducted by Dr. Scott Nesbitt's Historic Preservation class at UGA, we set out to firmly identify the style, type, and age of every structure in Winterville. We used publicly available tax information, land records, and other histories to match each historic structure to a character area representative of its particular phase in Winterville's history. After making sure that more than half of the buildings in each area were at least 40–50 years old, we decided on five distinct districts within the city:

- the Depot District, encompassing the area around downtown and Pittard Park
- the Schoolhouse District, encompassing a northern swath of the city centered around the historic Winterville school and auditorium buildings
- the Five Points District, centered on the commercial and residential structures along the eastern part of Athens Road
- the Buck Branch District, which runs south from downtown Winterville along Main Street and Robert Hardeman Roads
- the Winter Hills District, which is defined by the Winter Hills neighborhood just east of downtown

These five areas each represent unique moments in Winterville's history, stretching from the town's founding all the way to the creation of our first planned residential development in the 1970s. These districts were each included in the Historic Preservation Commission's recommendation to Mayor Ferrelle and the City Council, upon whom the final authority rests for the creation of districts and the adoption of guidelines.

If you have any questions or would like to know more about these exciting developments in our city, please let us know by emailing WintervilleHPC@gmail.com. You can also find links to the proposed guidelines and district maps at <https://cityofwinterville.com/historic-preservation/>. We look forward to hearing from you!

GROUNDBREAKING FOR CHANDLER PARK

The city held a groundbreaking ceremony March 24 for the new pocket park in memory of George Chandler. It was a magical beginning to the construction of Chandler Park, and we cannot wait to celebrate the dedication once the park has been completed. We appreciate all of the help and support we have received from the Winterville Civitan Club, Koons Environmental Design, and many more who have taken on this project as a labor of love. We also thank Mayor Girtz, Commissioner Davenport, and County Manager Williams for attending this special event.



At top: Artist's rendering of the future park. At right: The Chandler family stands with the ceremonial shovels; Rev. John Merk of WUMC gives an invocation.



Above: Mayor Ferrelle and Patsy Chandler share an embrace; The groundbreaking begins with Brett and Patsy Chandler, Lucas and Dodd Ferrelle, and Steve Rice of the Civitan Club. At left: The ceremony was attended by a number of city and county representatives (l to r: Claire Jarvis of Koons Environmental, Council members Brenda Keen and Gary Snow, Andrew Wahlers of Cultivation Landscapes, Josh Koons of Koons Environmental, Civitan Bill Chrisohon, Mayor Ferrelle, County Commissioner Patrick Davenport, Athens Mayor Kelly Girtz, Council members Mary Quinn and Amanda Mooney, ACC Manager Blaine Williams).

LIBRARY NEWS

The Athens Clarke County Library System has a new assistant director for Regional Services. Many of you may remember Toby Mayfield from when she was Branch Manager at Winterville Library. Welcome, Toby, and congratulations on your new position!

Winterville Library expects to resume pre-lockdown hours by mid-April. View our Facebook page or call the library at 706-742-7735 for current hours.

Because of an increase in the libraries' materials budgets and as well a surprise grant, we are adding new DVDs as well as dozens of new board books for the very youngest readers. Look for more details in the near future!

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Many have asked about the Summer Reading Program. Beginning in June, the theme for this year is Tails and Tales. The program will again be mostly virtual. As of this writing, committees are still working to determine the extent of in-person involvement. All are invited to participate. Early literacy helps young children build reading and language skills, preparing them for success in school and beyond. We also strive to motivate teens to experience the joy of reading and discussing literature by joining the program. And, of course, there are prizes for all!

FREE TUTORING SERVICE

If your student needs a little help with homework, the library has a new online service that can help. Winterville Library now offers free online tutoring through tutor.com. Library card holders can log on for free one-on-one help with a live tutor for homework help, test prep assistance, cover letter or résumé review, and more! This service is great for learners of all ages: K-12, college, and even adults. Whether your second grader needs live assistance with social studies or your high school senior wants an expert to review a research paper, skilled and vetted tutors are available for live assistance every day from 2:00 to 9:00 p.m. You can even drop off your résumé or essay to be proofread and picked up later. Visit athenslibrary.org to try it out.



Library staff gathered with members of the City Council to hear the mayor read a proclamation in celebration of National Library Week (the second week in April). Left to right: Amanda Mooney, Deirdre Murray, Mary Quinn, Mayor Dodd Ferrelle, Brenda Keen, Hannah Wolfe, and Gary Snow.

FRONT PORCH BOOKSTORE

The Front Porch Bookstore is now open for business! After being closed for a year because of the pandemic, the bookstore reopened on March 20, 2021, so come see what is new in the stacks. Run by the Friends of the Winterville Library, all proceeds from book sales go to the Winterville Library. The Friends would like to thank everyone who continued to make donations to the store. If you are wondering what to do with the books you have collected in the past year, please consider donating them to help support our library. Store hours are Monday through Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Remember, masks and social distancing are required. Spring concerts begin Saturday, April 3, at 6:00 p.m. with Dodd Ferrelle and the WinterVillains.

MARIGOLD FESTIVAL



The 2021 Marigold Festival is going virtual again with a livestream concert from the Winterville Auditorium on Saturday, May 8. Jim White will be up first, followed by The Pink Stones. This free virtual show—with some special guests introducing our musical acts—is not to be missed. Marigold Solutions will be helping us thank our generous sponsors by including some information about each of them during the livestream.

This year, the festival includes many of our regular vendors. From now through the virtual concert, the Marigold Festival Facebook page will feature links you can use to shop online for vendors' products. Please help support all those who make the festival what it is.

Some elements of the festival remain tangible, however. Old Guard Graphics will be printing the 2021 Marigold Festival tee shirts, which will be available for purchase the night of the concert. We will also be planting marigolds on April 17, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Look for additional announcements and instructions on our social media pages. In the meantime, we'll look forward to seeing you all for our big in-person return to Pittard Park in 2022!



Jim White



The Pink Stones

LITERARY AND ARTS EVENTS ON AGING WELL



From April 15 through May 31, 2021, the University of Georgia will host a unique literary event featuring the graphic memoir *Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?* by Roz Chast, the famous *New Yorker* cartoonist. The book, which combines cartoons, text, and photographs to tell the story of an only child helping her elderly parents navigate the end of their lives, will provide a springboard for community-wide conversations around aging, parenting, caregiving and what it means to live and age well.

The event is sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts' Big Read program in partnership with Arts Midwest and features a unique lineup of book clubs, art exhibits, dance performances, virtual poetry readings, and more. Much like Chast's book, the Big Read series infuses humor and art into topics that aren't always pleasant but are worthy of conversation. This year, events in the series will help us dance, draw, and talk about aging, parenting, caretaking and the poetry of all of it.

For example, local dancers will present *Can't We Dance About Something More Pleasant? Pleasant Dances about Death and Dying*. This virtual performance can be viewed at www.instagram.com/pleasantdances/ on Thursday, April 15, until 12:00 a.m.

Also among the many events is "My Aging Face: A Conversation on Aging, Beauty and Redefining Norms for Women Over 40." From April 15 through May 31, 2021, those who wish to participate are invited to post a photograph of their face on Instagram (or submit to www.theagingus.com) with a short description and using the hashtag #myagingface. Select portraits will be displayed in a pop-up-style exhibit in Athens. The project will culminate on May 26 with a live, virtual conversation hosted by artist Allyn Rippin and special guests.

To learn more about the Big Read event schedule and how to obtain a copy of Chast's book, visit <https://coe.uga.edu/events/big-read>.

The Athens Community Council on Aging is pleased to be a Big Read partner. Throughout the month of May (Older Americans Month), ACCA's Center for Active Living will host a series of "lunch and learn" webinars focused specifically on the needs of adult children caring for aging parents. From legal planning for families to navigating "difficult" conversations with loved ones, the series offers essential resources to families.



To register for ACCA's webinars, visit <https://www.accaging.org/services/health-wellness/center-for-active-living/big-read/>.

WINTERVILLE ANIMAL CLINIC FUNDRAISER

The Winterville Animal Clinic is organizing “PAWSTA with a Purpose,” a drive-through dinner pick up to raise money for the clinic’s Angel Fund that helps veterans and senior citizens afford to give their pets the care they need. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at the clinic or over the phone at 706-742-5108. Once you have your ticket, simply go through the drive-through at Off The Vine Produce on Friday, May 14, to pick up a hot meal for two that you can take home and enjoy. Off the Vine will provide the delicious pasta, Olive Garden will be providing the salad and breadsticks, and some of our gracious clients are talented bakers who will be providing delicious cookies for dessert! We hope you can help us out and enjoy a great meal at the same time!



LET'S MAKE SOME ART!

The Winterville Arts Council is planning a public art event for the Firefly Trail. The council will purchase blank yard signs (like the ones used for political campaigns). Everyone is invited to pick up a sign and improve it with a painting or drawing of your own. Members of the WAC will display the signs along the length of the trail. This outdoor “gallery” will be on display for about one month beginning in mid-April, after which artists can retrieve and reuse their signs. Follow the Winterville Arts Council on Instagram or Facebook for details.

Also be sure to watch the WAC social media accounts for an upcoming call for artists to design a large bench or seating area for the south end of the Firefly Trail.

UPDATE FROM THE CIVITAN CLUB

The Winterville Civitan Club has begun meeting in person, keeping distance and using masks. Meetings are held at 6:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month, currently in the Auditorium. Club projects have been proceeding with caution. The Snowflake 10K and Claxton Fruit Cake Sales had very successful outcomes, and ground was broken for Chandler Park in the center of Winterville on March 24, with many Civitans and other dignitaries in attendance. Refreshments were served in the Depot at the conclusion of the ceremony, allowing everyone to get a close look at the restored mural. Additional ceremonies are planned for the completion of the park this fall. Donations in honor of George Chandler and Winterville would be very much appreciated, please mail them to Winterville Civitan Club, PO Box 62, Winterville, GA 30683.

WINTERVILLE TREE COMMISSION

TREE CITY AWARDS

Winterville has received exciting recognitions recently. We have been recertified by the Arbor Day Foundation Program as a Tree City USA for the fourth year and, for the first time, Winterville has received the Tree City Growth Award for “above and beyond” activities, such as planting and caring for city trees and adding to the tree inventory. We are now the 4th city in Georgia to become a Tree City of the World, joining 120 cities in 23 countries on six continents in this achievement.



ARBOR DAY

The Arbor Day celebration on February 20 in the Wildlife Park was a great way to enjoy a beautiful day, as Mayor Ferrelle read the Arbor Day proclamation and we planted a beautiful donated bald cypress tree in the Wildlife Park. Please stop by and welcome the tree to its new home in Winterville.



Left: Mayor Dodd Ferrelle, Winterville Arborist Mateo Fennell, Seth Hawkins of the Georgia Forestry Commission, and Bob Bonsall of the Winterville Tree Commission plant the bald cypress.

Right: Bob Bonsall with the new Arbor Day tree.



TRICK OR TREES

On Saturday, October 30 (10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.), the Winterville Tree Commission will partner with the Athens Tree Council for a Fall Tree I.D. Walk and Talk at Sandy Creek Nature Center. 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.

JOIN THE COMMISSION

The Winterville Tree Commission currently 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 at cityhall@cityofwinterville.com or drop by City Hall for an application.

SPONSOR A COMMEMORATIVE TREE

Would you like to honor or memorialize a special person with a commemorative tree planted in Winterville? It’s only \$100, and the city will match that toward the cost of purchase, planting, and maintenance. Visit the Tree Commission’s website for an application.

MORE FIREFLY TRAIL TO LOVE IN 2021 AND BEYOND!



Each of the Firefly Trail's four completed segments is unique, but all currently have one characteristic in common: lots and lots of users! Throughout the rather wet, chilly winter, pedestrians of all ages and varying modes of travel regularly used the trail in Athens, Maxeys, Union Point and—especially!—Winterville. Now that warmer, longer days have arrived, trail use should see an upward trajectory. The same goes for trail construction.

On March 3 the ACC Commission voted 7-3 in support of using the historic railbed for Firefly Trail's full approach to Winterville. Several property owners in the Carney Lakes and Oakmont Circle neighborhoods raised opposition last year, and an extensive period of community information sessions and opportunities for public input followed. Two alternative routes were put forward that routed the trail away from the residential areas and toward Moores Grove Road just north of Oakmont Circle. From there the alternatives had the trail running along one side or the other of Moores Grove southeast to Five Points. Prior to their vote, Commissioners discussed several issues, including property rights concerns, stormwater management needs and costs, and the safety of trail users crossing Moores Grove. The Commission's decision to have Firefly Trail remain on the railbed came from a vote on a "Commission-defined option" that addressed some owners' concerns. Considerable work remains for pre-construction of the section from Spring Valley Road to Winterville, including property appraisals, right-of-way acquisition, and aspects of design/engineering.

Progress continued through the winter along the 1.8 mile segment from Old Winterville Road in Athens northeast to Hancock Road. ACC SPLOST Project Manager Derek Doster reports that this work remains on schedule for an early fall completion. Georgia DOT has approved construction documents for the Firefly Trail bridge over the planned new Loop 10 on-ramp, and work on bridge abutments has begun. Keep your eyes on the site of this particular trail feature, as once the bridge structure is fabricated it will be put into position quite quickly. Derek also reports that work on the Trail Creek Bridge (a.k.a. "Murmur" trestle) should begin by the end of April.

Winterville's Firefly Trail Local Action Committee is now up and running. The inaugural meeting was held January 19, and Bruce Johnson was selected to chair the group, which will regularly address matters related to the trail in Winterville and west toward Hancock Road. In addition to Bruce, members currently include Bob Bonsall, Paul Bunce, Laura Carmichael, Jennifer Crane, Diane Harris, Brenda Keen, David Matthews-Morgan, and Mary Quinn. Also participating in a non-voting ex officio capacity is John Kissane, Trail Development Coordinator with Firefly Trail, Inc. For the near future, Zoom meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month, and they are open to the public.

Exciting news came in February, when the Georgia Department of Natural Resources announced that a \$2.1 million Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program grant pre-application submitted by Greene County has been advanced to the Second Level stage. Completed in partnership with the cities of Maxeys, Union Point, and Woodville, as well as Firefly Trail, Inc., and the Southern Off-Road Bicycling Association's Athens chapter, the application proposes construction of 6.75 miles of the Firefly Trail. Project partners received key technical assistance from the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission in preparing the application.

During the next two months, project partners will assemble additional plans and financial information and comply with environmental review requirements. Execution of a project agreement between Greene County and Georgia DNR should occur by August, opening a 24-month grant term. In addition to the \$2.1 million coming from DNR, project partners are chipping in more than \$700,000 in cash and in-kind donations to the project. Firefly Trail, Inc., was able to make a sizeable contribution thanks to its many generous supporters and the Riverview Foundation.

Last, though certainly not least, the 2021 Firefly Trail "Ticket to Ride" (T2R) cycling extravaganza has been scheduled for Saturday, October 9. Much planning for the event lies ahead, but the day will be a joyous celebration of amazing progress since the 2019 T2R. Several cycling distances will be offered to appeal to riders of varying experience and ability levels. And this will be the first organized cycling event to offer participants the opportunity to ride on completed trail segments in all three counties! More information to come soon.



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.

CITIZEN SPOTLIGHT

Patrick Davenport



Many of you will recognize Patrick Davenport as the County Commissioner for District 1, which includes Winterville. Elected in 2018 for the term beginning January 8, 2019, Mr. Davenport says he is “excited to be a civil servant.”

Raised in Winterville off of Robert Hardeman Road, he currently resides on Morton Road, not far from his childhood home. He attended Gaines School Elementary “during the Dr. Maxine Easom years,” Hilsman Middle School “when Patricia Clifton presided,” and Cedar Shoals High School “when Charles Worthy was principal.” He went on to study political science and business management at UGA. He is proud to be the only commissioner who is from Athens-Clarke County.

Patrick notes that Athens and Winterville are “beautiful historic towns full of possibilities and creativity!” As such, he strives to keep the county green, its streets cleaned, its neighborhoods safe and livable, and its economy thriving. However, he states, his “main focus is on affordable housing and poverty.” In that vein, he has worked with the Economic Justice Coalition for many years, fighting for living wages. Through that Coalition, he co-founded and runs Peachy

Green Clean Co-Op to help provide entry-level living wage jobs in Athens. He is also involved with many non-profits that focus on voter rights and free legal services.

A self-professed family man and former youth minister, Patrick shares that “I love my church, Billups Grove Baptist, which, as you might guess, is also in Winterville.” In his free time, he likes to draw and write, and he also enjoys hiking, camping, and football.

Commissioner Davenport says, “I am very eager to hear from all of you, even though we may not share the same vision. I am very flexible and open to new ideas but, more importantly, I want to listen to and learn from you. Life can get busy, and I can get bogged down with obligations, but please feel free to reach out to me anytime to let me know your thoughts and concerns. And as always, God bless you all!”

You can reach Mr. Davenport by phone at 706-202-4339, by email at patrick.davenport@accgov.com, or by mail at P.O. Box 1868, Athens, GA, 30603-1868.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Georgia Energy Homes, Inc.

If Winterville gave an award for excellence in the beautification, restoration, or repurposing of an old building, Brantley Colbert would be a winner! Mr. Colbert purchased the LIONS Club property on South Main Street and renovated it for his residential contracting and weatherization business, Georgia Energy Homes, Inc. The original cinder block exterior now has a brick veneer front and a welcoming entranceway, and the old barbecue pit has been enclosed to create storage.



Georgia Energy Homes builds, remodels, and retrofits homes with energy-efficiency measures that protect it from the elements, particularly from sunlight, precipitation, and wind, and modifies buildings to reduce energy consumption and optimize energy efficiency. Much of his work is in conjunction with the Department of Energy's weatherization program, WAP—the nation's largest single "whole-house" energy efficiency program, in existence now for over 40 years. In partnership with various community action agencies, local governments, and other non-profits, Georgia Energy Homes strives to accomplish the program's primary purpose, established by law: "to increase the energy efficiency of dwellings owned or occupied by low-income persons, reduce their total residential energy expenditures, and improve their health and safety, especially low-income persons who are particularly vulnerable, such as the elderly, the disabled, and children." Upgrading homes for ADA compliance includes wheelchair

ramps, widening doorways, and retrofitting bathrooms. The business is not limited to low-income and ADA homes, however. Winterville residents Tom and Pam Doonan hired Mr. Colbert to oversee the building of their "retirement" home. "Brantley is very professional and delivered what he promised," Tom says. "We love our new home!"

A native Athenian, Brantley and his wife Yesenia attended Winterville Elementary School and graduated from Cedar Shoals High School, as did his father, Larry "Cowboy" Colbert, who works with his son doing estimates and quality control. Visitors to the business's newly renovated premises are greeted by a delightful first cousin, Shawlyn Colbert, also an Athens resident and Winterville Elementary/Cedar Shoals alumna, who handles all aspects of running the office.



We appreciate Mr. Colbert's respectful revitalization of the historic building that was home to the Winterville LIONS Club for at least 50 years and is remembered by many as the venue for family reunions, birthday parties, baby showers, and perhaps most

Updated original fireplace in the former meeting room.



of all, frequent chicken and pork barbecue fund-raisers held by the LIONS to support their civic work. (Why LIONS? It's an acronym for Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nation's Safety.) Unfortunately, the three graceful oak trees in front of the building were sickly, aged, and had to be removed. In the lovely wooded area on the property are several graves adjacent to where formerly stood an African-American Methodist Episcopal Church. The resting places for these souls were not disturbed.

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

Robert Gadd



Bob Gadd has always enjoyed making and building things. He got a degree in industrial arts from UGA and planned to be a shop teacher. Instead, he ended up becoming a paramedic and serving the community as an emergency responder for 43 years. But he has put his degree to good use, building everything from Little Free Libraries to furniture to outbuildings. He even built the house he lives in.

He's also an avid cyclist, completing a cross-country ride from Savannah to Los Angeles in 2000. Many years ago, in his rides around Clarke and surrounding counties, he noticed a number of wind sculptures made from bicycle wheels. These piqued his interest immediately as they represented a perfect combination of design, building, and cycling. After learning that the whirligigs were made by Archie Peck, an Oconee County farmer who sold his art at the Farmington Depot Gallery, Bob phoned Mr. Peck to talk about the sculptures. "So, full disclosure," Bob says, "I didn't come up with the original design but took his idea and made it my own by adding my personal touch."

He headed to some area bike shops for scrap wheels and gathered the other materials required, and then set about making a few of these unique, wind-powered art objects for himself and as birthday presents for friends. He was also asked to create some as memorials, including for two local cyclists, Roger Baruch and Ashley Block, who were tragically killed after being struck by cars while out riding.

But the whirligigs have also been commissioned for happier places. "One time, I had a whirligig in the back of my truck, and a guy asked me if I'd make one for him," Bob relates. That guy turned out to be Charlie Mustard of Jittery Joe's Coffee, which resulted in Gadd making the kinetic sculptures for some of their coffee shops. Upon learning that Charlie's daughter, Marisa Leilani Mustard, is an artist, it seemed natural to collaborate with her on the whirligig for the Roastery on Barber Street. (Ms. Mustard, also a Winterville resident, was featured as the Spotlight Artist in the Apr–Jun 2020 issue after her design was selected for that year's Marigold Festival tee shirt.) That collaboration led to working with a number of other local artists. "They paint the tail fin, and I build the wheel and put it all



The 'gig at the Jittery Joe's Roastery



The 'gig at Sandy Creek

together," Bob explains.

Peter Loose painted the fin of the whirligig at the entrance to Sandy Creek Park, Lanie Barlow lent her talents to the one at the Madison Oglethorpe Animal Shelter, and Cameron Bliss Ferrelle added her now-iconic Sunny Marigold Face to the one that graces the Winterville Community Garden. Bob and Marisa will be teaming up again on the forthcoming whirligig to be placed along Winterville's section of the Firefly Trail.

"Whirligigs are fun for me to make, and watching them makes people happy," Gadd says. "And I believe they enrich the community. What could be better?"

WVFD NEWS

We are once again meeting and training on Monday nights. Our fingers are crossed that we can continue this without stopping for any length of time, assuming the number of positive COVID-19 cases do not go up once again. Our calls are still being run as they come in, so no break in that action. Given the hardships placed on some families during the pandemic, we have decided to hold off on our annual fundraiser this year, at least for the time being. Anyone still interested in making a contribution can stop by the fire station on any Monday night between 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., during our regular meeting times. We thank the citizens for their continued support.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Mike Hembree (pictured at right) is our newest certified firefighter. He lives with his wife and daughter on North Georgia Avenue in Winterville. He has been with the department for a little over a year now. A hard worker, Mike attends almost every meeting and training session that we have and responds to as many calls as possible. We are very proud to call him one of our own.



LOCAL CHURCHES RESUME REGULAR SERVICES

WINTERVILLE UNITED METHODIST

After a year without in-person worship, WUMC will be back in the sanctuary for Easter Sunday. The service will begin at 10:30 a.m., April 4. Masks are required, social distancing will be observed, and hand sanitizer dispensers have been installed on the walls. Bring your own bible. No nursery care will be available.

WINTERVILLE FIRST BAPTIST

WFB will be observing Good Friday at 7:00 p.m. on April 2 and Easter Sunday at 10:50 a.m. on April 4. Both services will be held in the sanctuary. Masks must be worn when entering or exiting the building or when engaged in close interaction with others. Seating is limited to every other row to create space. The church is sprayed professionally each week with a disinfectant treatment, and hand-sanitizing stations are available.

The Flowering of the Cross will take place outside on Easter Sunday. You are welcome to bring flowers to add and take pictures with your family on the chapel lawn.

A yard sale to benefit the Missions Committee will take place Saturday, April 10, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Vacation Bible School will be held June 4–6. Visit www.wintervillefbc.org for more information.

KEEP WINTERVILLE SAFE



**WEAR A MASK
WASH YOUR HANDS**

#GoTheDistance



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.

Editor: Lee Ann Pingel

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

Contributors: Sherrie Anderson, Wendy Bond, Matt Brewster, Lea Clark, Patrick Davenport, Dodd Ferrelle, Michael Gabriel, Robert Gadd, Amy Hawkins, John Kissane, Amy Lancaster, Michael Law, Ray Marden, Jan Mazzucco, Amanda Mooney, Deirdre Murray, Mary Quinn, Jonathan Scott, Kristy Smith, JoAnn Snow

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