

T H E  
WINTERVILLE GAZETTE

VOLUME XXVII, ISSUE 2

April - June 2025

2025  
MARIGOLD  
FESTIVAL



YOU BELONG.  
WINTERVILLE, GA

Signs of History  
Amanda Burk  
Gallery Director  
Reading with Leaders

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*Cover Photo by Melissa Metzger*  
Backed by the City of Winterville, the Marigold Festival, and the Friends of the Fountain (championed by Virginia Ball), the fountain in the city square was beautifully redesigned by mosaic artist Krysia Ara. #YouBelong #WhereCommunityBlooms

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## The Gazette

The Winterville Gazette is the official publication for the City of Winterville, Georgia. Every effort has been made to offer the most current, correct, and clearly expressed information. Please verify any details before taking action based on the information contained herein. If you have an idea for a story, contact the editor at [wingazette@gmail.com](mailto:wingazette@gmail.com).

### Editorial Board:

Dodd Ferrelle  
Melissa Metzger  
Katrina Ohstrom

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# The Mayor's Corner

**W**OW! We have a lot going on Wintervillians! New bathrooms and renovations at City Hall (Wendy is very Happy), intersection improvements and new crosswalks on Parkview at Pittard Park and on Main Street at Robert Hardeman, renovations beginning at the Blacksmith shop – soon to be Marigold Collective Store, Phase 3 renovations and new sidewalks at the Auditorium, and safety railing at the curve on Smithonia! That was a long run-on sentence, but so many exciting projects are underway in the city. AND, most of these will be completed in time for the Marigold Festival. Visitors will be treated to all of these new amenities during this year's Marigold Festival, and we'll enjoy them year-round. Be sure to check out the newly christened fountain mosaic by artist Krysia Ara! Many thanks to the Friends of the Fountain for helping fund that project and Virginia Ball for not giving up. This is another example of how this strong community works together to create something new and positive in tumultuous



**Dodd Ferrelle**

Mayor, City of Winterville

times. I'm proud to serve all of you and even prouder to work alongside you on these outstanding forward-thinking projects. Working locally to unite communities is where we can all make a difference in this world, and our strong community is getting stronger every day. So, let's all look forward to welcoming visitors and showing off our united community throughout the Festival and 2025. I wish you all a wonderful spring, and until then, I'll see you on the streets!

## City Council Members



**Bruce Johnson**



**Melissa Metzger**



**Jonathan Mosley**

# ARTS & CULTURE

## Cultural Center



*Photo courtesy of Michelle Norris Photography.*

**W**elcome **Amanda Burk**, the new Winterville Cultural Center Gallery Director.

A printmaker in Athens, Amanda received her Master's degree in Printmaking in 2007 and teaches printmaking, bookmaking, and papermaking at the college level. She previously owned printshops in Athens (as the sole owner of Flat File Print Shop and co-owner of Double Dutch Press) and served six years as a master printmaker for the annual Lyndon House Arts Center limited edition artist print series. Amanda now focuses on hand-printing editions for artists and teaching printmaking workshops.

She is also a talented mural painter. In 2022, she was awarded a public art mural opportunity via an ACC SPLOST-funded project to be painted on the Oconee River Greenway.

In her new role as the Gallery Director, she hopes to bring a wide array of artists and artworks to Winterville.

For more information on the Winterville Cultural Center Gallery or the many exhibitions planned for 2025, visit [www.wintervillecenter.com](http://www.wintervillecenter.com)

**T**he popular **Folk Art painting classes**, presented by Sherre Watwood, start on April 22. Classes will be offered on Tuesdays from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Call 706-742-0823 to register!



# Winterville Arts Council



Looking for a fun, affordable **Summer Art Camp**? WAC is excited to announce that we'll offer TWO camp sessions. During the week of June 16th-20th, we'll hold a morning session from 9 AM-12 PM for elementary students ages 8 to 11 years old and an afternoon session from 1 PM-4 PM for students in middle school (rising 6th graders may either session). Our morning session will include a variety of art experiences led by WAC members and guest artists. Our afternoon session will be an architectural design session based on

the idea of "Mouse Mansion." Both sessions promise to be great fun! The fee is \$125 per student (family discounts available) and held at the Train Depot. Call 706-742-0823 to register.

Our first Saturday **"Kids & Art at the Market"** activities are back this year! Join the Winterville Arts Council for a kid's art activity at the Marigold Market on the first Saturday of each month from 9 AM to 1 PM. It's always free and always fun! Thank you to Kim Barnes for planning such amazingly artsy activities each month.

Our FLAG (**Free Little Art Gallery**) is open at all times. WAC appreciates the numerous supporters who create art for our wee little gallery, but we'd love more art! If you'd like to donate, place it in our drop box on the back of the FLAG.

Our February **Vino and Van Gogh** was a huge hit! Award-winning artist Laura Floyd led the painting of Van Gogh's "Almond Blossoms." The results were definitely "frame-worthy."

If you love art and want to join WAC, we meet at the Winterville Cultural Center on the second Thursday of each month at 6 PM. All are welcome, and there are no fees to join!



# Marigold Auditorium

SAT  
April  
**12**

**ARTIE BALL SWING  
BAND**

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SAT  
April  
**19**

**MARIGOLD MINGLE: ATHENS  
COWBOY CHOIR, WET  
MEADOWS & CICADA RHYTHM**

---

FRI & SAT  
April  
**25-26**

**TRACKS: A MAGICAL REALIST  
TRAGEDY IN TWO ACTS**

---

FRI  
May  
**23**

**BAD MOON RIDERS:  
CCR TRIBUTE BAND**

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FRI & SAT  
June  
**6-7**

**TAKE THIS COMEDY  
PRESENTS: LITTLE WOMEN**

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FRI  
June  
**20**

**THE WORLD'S ONLY BIKER  
COMEDY HYPNOTIST**

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[marigoldauditorium.com](http://marigoldauditorium.com)

for tickets and show information



# Library

February was **Love Your Library Month**, and we celebrated love! The Merry Sunshine Band performed a festive Valentine's Day set, including classics such as "L-O-V-E" and "Over the Rainbow," for the storytime crowd. Patrons participated in a "Blind Date with a Book Program," selecting a disguised book based on a short description.



In January, the library hosted an art show featuring works by artists from Our Resilient Community ALC, and in February, the work of local artist Esmeralda Figueroa. The next show, "Discography: A Visual Exploration of Music," by artist Abigail Boylen, will run through April 12th.

In other exciting news, the **Winterville Library is receiving our very own Artemis I Moon Tree!**

NASA's Artemis Program sent seeds into lunar orbit aboard the Orion spacecraft as both a nod to the legacy of the Apollo 14 Moon Trees and a celebration of the future of space exploration. The seeds traveled thousands of miles beyond the Moon, spending about four weeks in space



*"Artemis I Moon Tree" Loblolly pine seedling.*

before returning to Earth. A Loblolly Pine seedling is coming soon, and an event to celebrate will be scheduled for the public to attend. Thanks to Deirdre Murray for applying to be a part of this program.

## Front Porch Bookstore

Spring is here, and that means **Saturday concerts are back!** All concerts start at 6:00 p.m., are FREE, and everyone is welcome! They are located just down from the Train Depot. Remember, there are \$10 'bags of books sales' every Saturday (cash/checks only).

Visit us during the Marigold Festival, and check out the Events & Happenings page for the complete spring concert schedule!

# MARIGOLD COLLECTIVE



## Marigold Farmers Market Returns – Vendor Lineup Announced!

**J**oin us on **Saturday, April 5th, from 9am-1pm** as we kick off our 2025 Saturday Market season! Shop fresh produce, eggs, meat, flowers, and plants from over 20 local family farms including **Athens Orchard, Bubbly Blooms, Classic City Gourmet Mushrooms, Bowen Family Farm, Daisyfish Farm, Friendly Mushroom Farm, Foxwood Farms, The Grove Athens, Holte Gardens, Iron Lion Farm, LavenderBlu Farms, Mayberry Farms, MollyPop Farms, Moonflower Farm, Native Blooms, Sungate Farms, Whitney Farms Natural Soap, Whymss Farm, Wild Acres Farm, Williams Farm, and 40 Thistle Farm.**

Our bakers will take turns bringing their sourdough and sweet treats – keep an eye out for **Bel Home Bakery, Bread Box Bakery, Flossycakes and Desserts, Honeybee**

**Baking, Joba’s Artisan Bread, and Tortillas Mi Sueño.** Coffee lovers rejoice! **Mr. Bill’s Beans** will be available by the bag, and **Finely Ground** will make espresso drinks with them!

Our artists and crafters offer an array of handcrafted jewelry, ceramics, skincare, goat’s milk soap, and gifts. Keep an eye out for **Black Diamond Candle Co., Cadythechef Knife & Tool Sharpening, Down In The Valley Shop, Grands Designs Woodworks, Just Be Nice Jewelry, Leaping Goat Soap, Motivated Mama by Olga, MRose Enterprise, OllieLuxe, PeachyKeen Pottery, Seed Bead Therapy, Sopi Skincare, Two Basketeers, Uniquely Angel, Very Good Puzzle, and Whitney Farms Natural Soap.**

We will be joined again by musicians **David Court, Big Magic, Alys, The Merry Sunshine Band, Kennedy,** and others, our friends from **Winterville Arts Council, Winterville Library, Athens Area Master Gardeners, Athens Land Trust, Young Urban Farmers, and Bike Athens** will share family games and art activities, garden wisdom, bike repairs, cooking demos, a resource booth, and more!







### Marigold Mingle at the Auditorium!

Save the date, **Saturday, April 19**, for an evening of music, munchies, and merriment to benefit the Marigold Collective. The event will feature the far-out frequencies and seasonal sounds of Cicada Rhythm, Wet Meadows, and Athens Cowboy Choir.

Doors open at 6:00 PM and music starts at 7:00 PM. Limited VIP packages include admission and priority seating at the concert, two drink tickets, light refreshments, and a behind-the-scenes tour of the Winterville Cultural Center Galleries and Marigold Auditorium led by Mayor Dodd Ferrelle!

Beverages from Creature Comforts (21+), Figment Kombucha, and New Creation Soda Works, bratwurst from Nature's Harvest Meat Co., and other fabulous farm-to-fork-fare will be available for purchase.

### Call for Recipes to Create a Community Cookbook!

The Marigold Collective and Winterville Elementary Family Staff Partnership are collecting recipes, family jokes, farm stories, kitchen lore, garden wisdom, local history, poems, drawings, & songs to compile into our very first **COMMUNITY COOKBOOK!**

Submissions will be collected through summer, and we aim to print, assemble, and party in fall of 2025! All contributors will receive a **FREE COPY** and an invitation to the release party! Sales of additional copies (and the generous support of our community sponsors) will help us bring Passport For Produce back to Winterville Elementary in 2025!

To submit your recipe, go to [marigoldcollectivewinterville.com/our-programs/community-cookbook](http://marigoldcollectivewinterville.com/our-programs/community-cookbook) or scan the QR code.



## Passport For Produce Connects Winnerbees with Honeybees, Native Fruits, and Farmers!

In the Fall of 2024, farmers from Whymss Farm, Iron Lion Farm, Athens Orchard, and Holte Gardens visited first graders at Winterville Elementary for a series of immersive in-class field trips through our Passport For Produce program!

Students could see, touch, and taste pawpaws and seedless muscadines (native to GA!) grown just 5 miles away. They also learned what it takes to care for honeybees, how farmers create value-added products and the importance of planting pollinator habitat.

our farmers and Winterville Elementary first-grade teachers to enhance classroom lessons on nutrition, agriculture, and budgeting while nurturing lifelong healthy eating habits and an appreciation for our regional food system.



A giant **THANK YOU** to the first-grade teachers and staff at Winterville Elementary and the Winterville Family Staff Partnership for working with us over the past several months to put this excellent program together, to our superstar volunteers Lori of LavenderBlu Farms, Paula of PeachyKeen Pottery, and board member Mark Mann for all of your help, and to Wholesome Wave Georgia for the \$2,500 Innovation Grant that made it all possible!

At the end of each field trip, students were given tokens to “shop” –for free– for fresh fruits and veggies (and popsicles made with fruit and honey!) in our Marigold Mobile Mini Farmers Market. At the end of the program, students each brought home a tote bag featuring their artwork and \$20 in tokens for their families to spend like cash at our Saturday and Monday markets!

Passport for Produce was developed by the Marigold Collective in collaboration with



## Let's Get Growing! A Spring Planting Guide

By Jordan Haynes, Americorps Community Food Fellow

**W**ith the last frost date around April 14, it's time to think about planting warm-season crops — but don't rush it. Most seeds need soil temperatures of at least 60-65°F to germinate, so if the ground is still chilly, hold off a little longer.

Now's the time to plant beans, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, okra, peppers, squash, tomatoes, and melons like cantaloupe and watermelon. If you're growing tall crops like okra, pole beans, or corn, plant them on the north side of your garden so they don't shade smaller plants. Corn does best when planted in clusters of at least two rows for proper pollination. To keep fresh produce coming all season, stagger your plantings.

If you're new to gardening, start small and focus on timing—knowing when to plant is key. A soil test from the UGA Extension Office can help determine what nutrients your garden needs before you get started. Most importantly, enjoy the process—gardening takes patience, but the payoff is worth it. For more tips, reach out to the UGA Extension Office, and visit the Master Gardeners at the Market!



**T**he Marigold Collective is committed to ensuring that all of our neighbors have access to fresh, healthy, locally grown food choices. We work to cultivate a resilient food system vital to our regional economy, while preserving rural land & livelihoods in Northeast Georgia. Our farmers work together to grow a wide selection of fresh produce year-round, available for sale at our farmers markets, and shared with our neighbors - for free - through partnerships with our local schools, community gardens, land trust & community healthcare organizations.

This fall, we will open the **Firefly Farm Stop** - our community grocery store - in the historic Blacksmith Shop, right on the Firefly Trail! We will offer local produce, meat, eggs and cheese alongside our favorite made-in-Georgia snacks and pantry staples. In the meantime, we invite you to join us at our Saturday and Monday Markets, and shop our online grocery store. Every purchase directly supports small family farms and food producers, strengthens our local economy, and helps us to share the abundance of our fields and farms with our neighbors!

[MarigoldCollectiveWinterville.com](https://MarigoldCollectiveWinterville.com)

**MARIGOLD FARMERS MARKET**

**PLANT SALE!**

shop garden starts, flowers,  
fruit trees, & more- grown locally  
by your favorite farmers!

Pick up Saturday 4/5 at Marigold Farmers Market in Pittard Park!

<https://marigold-market.localline.ca/plantshop>

[marigoldcollectivewinterville.com](https://marigoldcollectivewinterville.com)

# HISTORY & MUSEUMS

**W**interville has long held that history and tradition are central tenets of its identity. Whether seen in our annual Marigold Festival, in the Firefly Trail that once carried the railroad that connected our town to the world, or in the same friendly faces that have spent a literal lifetime here, there is no doubt that the past is never truly gone in Winterville. Recently, you may have seen another sign of this fact – the boundaries of the **Winterville Historic District** are marked with new signage!



There are 133 properties in Winterville considered "historic," meaning that they're more than 50 years old and retain enough original features to contribute to the traditional feel of our community. This fact also earned Winterville a spot on the prestigious National Register of Historic

Places and is why, since 2018, the city has recognized the need for a Historic Preservation Commission to advise on developmental changes that would affect our town's character. When we share spaces with the ghosts of our past – the Winters, the Pittards, the Coiles, Suddeths, and Fleemans – we become a part of their story, and they become a part of ours. Living in Winterville makes it hard to forget that even though these places and spaces are technically ours, we are mere custodians. Let's hope we're good ones.

Remember to check out our Carter-Coile Country Doctors Museum if you're ready for more history! The small white building along the town green was once the doctor's office that Wintervillians visited, and why it's the perfect spot to organize and launch the Winterville Museum and Heritage Room (more info coming soon).

In the meantime, watch for the museum during this season's Marigold Market and other events around town. **Parents, that includes a weeklong Archaeology camp this summer, so book a slot for your little adventurer early!**



**Jonathan Scott**

Cultural Heritage Director

I remain honored, as always, to help this wonderful community remember its past.



*Museum volunteer Molly learns how to conduct archaeology at the iron forge, built circa 1860 by D.H. Winter.*



*We love field trips! Whether a group of three kids or thirty, visit the Carter-Coile Country Doctors Museum.*

# 2025 Marigold Festival



It's never too soon to start making plans to attend the Marigold Festival! Gather your family and friends and head to Winterville's Pittard Park on **Saturday, May 10th**. Winterville's premier annual event begins with a 10K race, shifts into parade mode with the Marigold Express train leading the way, then offers presents from over 70 different vendors, a fun kids activity area, a car showcase, and an incredible lineup of live music all day and into the evening!

Events start at 7:30 am with the 50th Annual Marigold 10K race, hosted by Athens Road Runners. At 10:00 am, the Marigold Express train will start the parade. Parade registration is open until Friday, May 2nd. Kids will enjoy a fun-filled activity area open from 11 am-3 pm adjacent to the Front Porch Bookstore. Also, from 11 am-3 pm, enjoy a showcase of cars, including antique cars and classic street, hot, and rat rods. Grab a bite from one of the many food vendors and check out the main stage for an incredible music lineup starting at noon. Everyone's favorite rock star for kids, Sir Crazy Pants, will kick things off, and the Randall Bramblett Band will cap the day off with American roots music at its best.



Mother's Day is May 11th, and we can't think of a better place to find the perfect gift, with over 70 vendors selling art, craft, home, bath, and food products.

**Vendors will be open 9 am-5 pm.**



Each year, the Marigold Festival runs on 100% volunteer energy! If you want to join our volunteer crew, please visit our website to sign up. We would love to have you.



Visit the festival website for registration forms and information at [www.marigoldfestival.com](http://www.marigoldfestival.com).

For updates, follow us on Facebook and Instagram: @marigoldfestival.



Please note there will be rolling street closures on the morning of May 10th for the 10K and the parade.

And special thanks to the Winterville citizens. You are the spirit behind the festival and create the atmosphere that makes the day truly special.



So, mark your calendar, dust off your favorite festival chair, and we will see you in Pittard Park on May 10th.

Photography courtesy of Matt Brewster, Marigold Solutions.

# EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

## April 2025

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April 5	Marigold Farmers Market	Pittard Park	9:00 AM
April 5	Opening Reception for Exhibitions	Winterville Cultural Center Gallery	5:00 PM
April 5	Dodd Ferrelle	Concert, Front Porch Bookstore	6:00 PM
April 7	Marigold Monday Market	Bank Building	10:00 AM
April 12	Marigold Farmers Market	Pittard Park	9:00 AM
April 12	Firewise Landscaping Workshop	Winterville Cultural Center	10:00 AM
April 12	Artie Ball Swing Band	Marigold Auditorium	7:00 PM
April 12	Monsignor Donovan Ram Band	Concert, Front Porch Bookstore	6:00 PM
April 14	Marigold Monday Market	Bank Building	10:00 AM
April 19	Marigold Farmers Market	Pittard Park	9:00 AM
April 19	Marigold Mingle Benefit Concert	Marigold Auditorium	7:00 PM
April 19	Repent at Leisure	Concert, Front Porch Bookstore	6:00 PM
April 21	Marigold Monday Market	Bank Building	10:00 AM
April 25	Tracks (Magical Realist Tragedy)	Marigold Auditorium	7:30 PM
April 26	Marigold Farmers Market	Pittard Park	9:00 AM
April 26	Tracks (Magical Realist Tragedy)	Marigold Auditorium	7:30 PM
April 26	Grassland String Band	Concert, Front Porch Bookstore	6:00 PM
April 28	Marigold Monday Market	Bank Building	10:00 AM

## May 2025

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May 3	Marigold Farmers Market	Pittard Park	9:00 AM
May 3	Scarlet Stitch	Concert, Front Porch Bookstore	6:00 PM
May 5	Marigold Monday Market	Bank Building	10:00 AM
May 10	50th Annual Marigold 10K	Downtown Winterville	7:30 AM
May 10	Marigold Festival	Vendors in Pittard Park	9:00AM - 5:00 PM
May 10	Marigold Festival Parade	Downtown Winterville	10:00 AM
May 10	Marigold Farmers Market	Pittard Park	9:00 AM
May 10	Marigold Festival Live Music	Pittard Park Main Stage	Noon - 8:00 PM
May 12	Marigold Monday Market	Bank Building	10:00 AM



April - June 2025

May 17	Marigold Farmers Market	Pittard Park	9:00 AM
May 17	Folie a Quatre	Concert, Front Porch Bookstore	6:00 PM
May 19	Marigold Monday Market	Bank Building	10:00 AM
May 23	Bad Mood Riders: A CCR Tribute	Marigold Auditorium	7:00 PM
May 24	Marigold Farmers Market	Pittard Park	9:00 AM
May 26	Marigold Monday Market	Bank Building	10:00 AM
May 31	Marigold Farmers Market	Pittard Park	9:00 AM
May 31	Norma Rae	Concert, Front Porch Bookstore	6:00 PM

## June 2025

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June 2	Marigold Monday Market	Bank Building	10:00 AM
June 6	Little Women (Take This Comedy)	Marigold Auditorium	
June 7	Marigold Farmers Market	Pittard Park	9:00 AM
June 7	Little Women (Take This Comedy)	Marigold Auditorium	
June 7	Kristin Meyer	Concert, Front Porch Bookstore	6:00 PM
June 9	Marigold Monday Market	Bank Building	10:00 AM
June 14	Marigold Farmers Market	Pittard Park	9:00 AM
June 14	New Orleans Jazz Stompers	Concert, Front Porch Bookstore	6:00 PM
June 16	Marigold Monday Market	Bank Building	10:00 AM
June 16-20	Summer Art Camp (3rd-5th grade)	Winterville Cultural Center	9:00AM - Noon
June 16-20	Summer Art Camp (6th-8th grade)	Winterville Cultural Center	1:00 - 4:00PM
June 20	Biker Comedy Hypnotist	Marigold Auditorium	7:00 PM
June 21	Marigold Farmers Market	Pittard Park	9:00 AM
June 21	Jim Cook	Concert, Front Porch Bookstore	6:00 PM
June 23	Marigold Monday Market	Bank Building	10:00 AM
June 28	Marigold Farmers Market	Pittard Park	9:00 AM
June 28	Tracey and Jeff	Concert, Front Porch Bookstore	6:00 PM

# CITY NEWS & UPDATES

## SPECIAL ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT

A special election will be held on June 17, 2025, to fill the City Council seat vacated by Tina Mills. Tina stepped down from her seat after officially accepting the Executive Director position at the Winterville Cultural Center.

Qualifying for the Special Election will take place at the Athens-Clarke County Elections Office, located at 155 East Washington Street, Athens, GA 30601 (see dates/times). The fee is \$126.00.

- Tues, April 1, 2025: 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM
- Wed, April 2, 2025: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
- Thur, April 3, 2025: 8:00 AM to Noon

The term of office is June 17–December 31, 2025.

**W**ork continues on the City Hall expansion. This project notably includes **additional public restrooms to serve the Firefly Trail** and visitors to our City Square. The city anticipates this project will be ready for the Marigold Festival.



**O**ur first annual **Winterville Cultural Center Gala will occur on July 12th.** It will be a fundraiser and another way to showcase Winterville as an emerging center for the arts.

The Gala will encompass all the buildings and utilize the lawn for tents. This year, the community will be invited (no tickets required) to build momentum and excitement. The selected theme for this year is "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Mark your calendars, and more information will be coming soon!

**T**he city has invested additional effort into **improving intersections**, starting with a crosswalk on Main Street at Robert Hardeman and a new crosswalk on Parkview and Pittard Park.

The mayor and council are also addressing the curve at Smithonia (between Winter and N. Church), where several accidents have occurred. A steel-enforced wooden railing system, signage, and reflectors will be installed between the sidewalk and the road to keep pedestrians and property safe while calming traffic. Weather permitting, we aim to complete both projects in time for the Marigold Festival.

Winterville is also pursuing a speed limit reduction within the city boundaries. In February, the City Council approved a measure to begin reducing speed limits on Main Street, Smithonia, and Cherokee.

The mayor, council, Chief Colt Young, and GDOT are working to calm our city streets and make them safer for bikers, pedestrians, and motorists.

**T**he **Blacksmith Shop** project will begin soon! The project is ready to move forward after a brief pause due to the federal funding freeze and some contractual issues.

Funded entirely by a Department of Community Affairs USDA Grant, the shop will become the **new home to our beloved Marigold Collective**. It will benefit our community for many years to come. It's an excellent opportunity to salvage an iconic building and provide a space for the important Marigold Collective. Be cautious around the building's construction zone.



**O**ur Athens Clarke County Commissioners approved the **Stormwater Project on Main Street** and funded it entirely with ACC's TSPLOST dollars. Winterville benefits from the generosity and understanding of Commissioners who recognize our city and citizens as vital contributors to the greater Athens community. This project includes new pipes, curbs, and gutters along Main Street to address flooding, a safety issue even after moderate storms and rain. This significant initiative will take a little time to complete, so please be patient as we make these necessary improvements.



*Archer and Charlie 'caught being good' on their leashes in Winterville.*

**A**s the weather warms this spring and more people and pets are outside enjoying the Firefly Trail and all our city has to offer, here's a friendly reminder to our many pet owners about **leash requirements**.

The City of Winterville follows the ACC Animal Control ordinance (Title 4 - Public Health, Chapter 4-1. - Animal Services).

It reads, in part, that all domestic animals must be "On a leash and attended by its owner..." or "Within the property limits of its owner and attended by its owner."

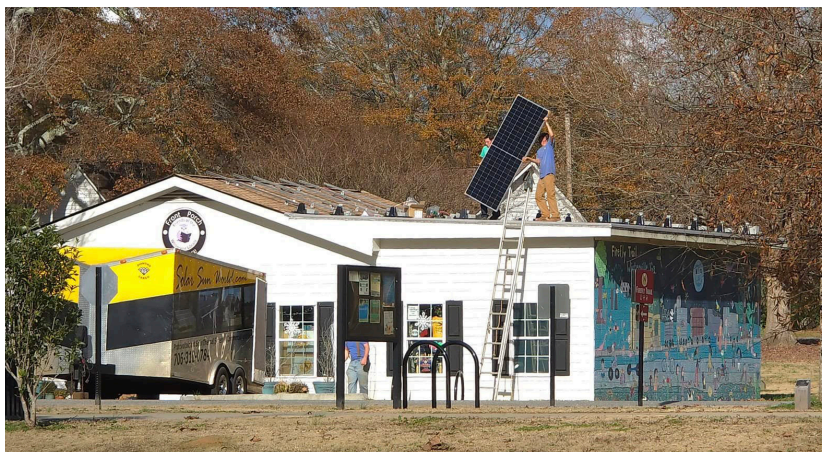
The city appreciates the support from all of our responsible pet owners (and love seeing you around town with your adorable furbabies). Keeping your pet leashed helps keep Winterville citizens, visitors, and animals safe and secure.

**S**olar Project 2 is complete! **The Front Porch Bookstore is now online and generating power with an 11.4 kW solar array.** Part of the 100% Winterville Renewable Energy initiative, this project is a huge step toward the goal of converting the City of Winterville's government to 100% renewable energy. Front Porch Bookstore is our first net-zero building, generating more electricity than it consumes from the power grid each year. It was funded by SPLOST and the IRS's Clean Energy Credit program. Huge thanks to the Mayor, City Council, and everyone who helped make this possible.

For more information, you can follow 100% Winterville on Facebook or email [bruceforwinterville@gmail.com](mailto:bruceforwinterville@gmail.com).



*Solar panel install on the Front Porch Bookstore.*



*Restoring native plant life on the Firefly Trail.*

**F**riends of the Winterville Firefly Trail Committee created a **native plant garden** along the section of the Firefly Trail between Adams Alley and the Winterville First Baptist Church. This project is a collaborative effort between the City of Winterville, the UGA Extension Office, the Winterville Tree Commission, the Athens-East Piedmont chapter of the Georgia Native Plant Society, and Butterflies & Blooms in the Briar Patch.

Years ago, Winterville's Public Works department and former City Arborist Roger Cauthen planted hundreds of native plants. However, invasive plants have overtaken the area.

The recent cleanup removed seven trailer loads of invasive and overgrown plants, and over 60 new native plants were added.

Winterville resident Sarah Hubbard has started a **fundraiser for the Winterville Friends of the Firefly Trail** as part of her 50 Miles for 50 Years birthday ride on April 13th. Thank you, Sarah, and happy 50th birthday! Funds raised will be used for native plant garden supplies, including signs with each plant's common and scientific name,



**K**ee**p Winterville Beautiful** is a litter pickup program that provides resources to groups and individuals looking to organize a litter pickup event in Winterville. Litter grabbers, gloves, safety vests, and trash bags are provided free of charge, and assistance with disposing of the litter collected can also be arranged.

If you would like to schedule a litter pickup event or join one of the regularly scheduled litter pickup events on Main Street and in Five Points hosted by the Winterville Civitan Club and 100% Winterville, please email [bruceforwinterville@gmail.com](mailto:bruceforwinterville@gmail.com) for more information.

to add an educational aspect. You can donate to this fundraiser online via Venmo (@ChickadeeHubb) or at Winterville City Hall. Please mention that your donation is for the Friends of the Winterville Firefly Trail.

For progress updates, meetings, and upcoming workdays, follow Friends of the Winterville Firefly Trail on Facebook or email [wintervillefireflylac@gmail.com](mailto:wintervillefireflylac@gmail.com).



*Working to keep Winterville beautiful!*



**I**nternational Compost Awareness Week is happening May 4-10, 2025. This celebration highlights the benefits of composting for soil health, waste reduction, and water conservation. Stay tuned for announcements from the ACC Solid Waste Department about special events such as compost sales and facility tours.

Several events, including Get Caught Composting, compost giveaways, hands-on composting workshops, an ACC commercial composting facility tour, and a compost happy hour at Creature Comforts, are scheduled throughout the week.

Visit [accgov.com/compost](http://accgov.com/compost) for more info.

**O**n April 12th, the Winterville Tree Council will offer Firewise, a National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) workshop focused on wildfire risk reduction. The workshop will be held at the Cultural Center and will provide techniques for reducing the chance of property loss and/or injury during a wildfire. It will also include tips on landscaping management, flammability ratings for trees, and recommendations for landscaping materials.



**FIREWISE USA™**  
Residents reducing wildfire risks

Pre-registration is not required but is appreciated. Contact City Arborist Susan Russell at [arborvitals@bellsouth.net](mailto:arborvitals@bellsouth.net) for more information.



Clearing is underway for the **final segment of the Winterville portion of the Firefly Trail**, from Hancock Road to the Winterville city limits! Although right-of-way acquisition has yet to be completed along the stretch of trail corridor approaching Five Points, the 2.6 miles from Hancock Road to Oakmont Circle should be completed by early 2026.

Anticipation is high for the day when the Firefly Trail connects Athens and Winterville! We're sure to see more use of the Firefly Trail than ever in 2025 and a continuation of work toward additional trail construction.



For our neighbors in Oglethorpe County, construction of the second mile of the trail should begin relatively soon as well. After a lengthy wait, two federally funded awards for the design and engineering of Oglethorpe County trail segments in Crawford and south of Maxeys to the Greene County line have been approved. The excitement continues to build for the entire Firefly Trail – from Athens to Union Point!



## PUBLIC SAFETY

We are excited to announce two new hires. First, join me in welcoming back Sgt. Ryan Thomas. He brings with him even more professional development experience.



**Colt Young**

Chief, Winterville Police Department

He will serve as our primary training officer, helping to ensure all officers are appropriately trained as required by the state of Georgia. He'll also serve as our evidence custodian to ensure that evidence is safely handled for court cases and criminal trials.

Ofc. Margaret Fowler is a new addition, bringing 23 years of experience, including the Stephens County Sheriff's Office, where she served as a School Resource Officer (SRO), and the Toccoa Police Department, where she received all three levels of Management Training through the Georgia Public Safety Training Center, Supervision 1-3, and FTO Training. With her SRO background, she will closely monitor Winterville Elementary.

If you follow us on social media, check out our new Facebook page (City of Winterville Police Department). Thanks for your continued support as we strive to keep Winterville peaceful. Let's all do our part to keep our city safe as the best place to live, work, and play for everyone.

As temperatures rise, and we spend more time outdoors, yard work increases as well. Don't forget that the outdoor burn ban in Athens-Clarke County, which includes Winterville, makes it illegal to burn brush, leaves, trash, construction material, bonfires, and anything that is not considered cooking fires. Fires, such as ones in grills and outdoor cooking pits, are exempt, as are propane torches and welders. Fifty-three counties in Georgia have this ban in effect year-round. We will extinguish it and issue a warning if we are called out for a burn ban violation. Multiple calls will result in a fine from the Athens-Clarke County Fire Marshall. This ban helps to prevent forest and brush fires. Please contact me at (706) 202-3880 before you light the match.

We look forward to the Marigold Festival in May. The fire department will once again be spread throughout the city, helping with various events and participating in the Marigold Parade. It is always a good time for the city to be showcased and for festival attendees to come out and enjoy lots of good food and entertainment.

Stay safe out there, and we hope to see everyone around the city this spring!



**Michael Gabriel**

Chief, Winterville Volunteer Fire Department



# CIVIC CALENDAR

Meetings are held at City Hall, unless otherwise stated. *Time, date, and location subject to change.*

Tuesday, April 01, 2025	Council Workshop	6:00 PM
Monday, April 07, 2025	Planning & Zoning	5:00 PM
Tuesday, April 08, 2025	City Council	6:00 PM
Thursday, April 10, 2025	Winterville Arts Council (@Cultural Center)	6:00 PM
Monday, April 14, 2025	Municipal Court	5:00 PM
Tuesday, April 15, 2025	Historic Preservation Committee	6:00 PM
Thursday, April 17, 2025	Friends of the Winterville Firefly Trail	6:00 PM
Saturday, April 26, 2025	Gambler Bike Race (Stop @ Doctor's Museum)	All Day
Monday, May 05, 2025	Planning & Zoning	5:00 PM
Monday, May 05, 2025	Tree Commission (@Pittard Park)	6:00 PM
Tuesday, May 06, 2025	Council Workshop	6:00 PM
Thursday, May 08, 2025	Arts Council (@Cultural Center)	6:00 PM
<b>Saturday, May 10, 2025</b>	<b>Marigold Festival (@Pittard Park)</b>	<b>All Day</b>
Monday, May 12, 2025	Municipal Court	5:00 PM
Tuesday, May 13, 2025	City Council	6:00 PM
Tuesday, May 20, 2025	Historic Preservation Committee	6:00 PM
Monday, May 26, 2025	Memorial Day	City Hall Closed
Monday, June 02, 2025	Planning & Zoning	5:00 PM
Tuesday, June 03, 2025	Council Workshop	6:00 PM
Monday, June 09, 2025	Municipal Court	5:00 PM
Tuesday, June 10, 2025	City Council	6:00 PM
Thursday, June 12, 2025	Winterville Arts Council (@Cultural Center)	6:00 PM
Tuesday, June 17, 2025	Historic Preservation Committee	6:00 PM



# READING WITH OUR LOCAL LEADERS

Winterville Elementary School (WES) continued its focus on the importance of reading with several fun events in March.

In addition to National Read Across America week, celebrated March 2-6, another special event was held in partnership with the statewide Mayor's Reading Club, a literacy program created by Georgia City Solutions (GCS), a nonprofit arm of the Georgia Municipal Association.

On March 12th, attendees from across the state visited WES, including Mayor Ferrelle of Winterville, GA, Mayor Perriman of Madison, GA, Clarke County School District Superintendent Dr. Hooker, State Librarian and Vice Chancellor for University System of Georgia Libraries and Archives Madam Julie Walker, as well as representatives from the Georgia Municipal Association.

Thanks to Principal Dr. Pearson and Ms. Spurgeon for hosting the event - and serving as readers themselves. WES students were engaged, inspired, and excited to hear stories read by these incredible leaders!

It was a fantastic day promoting reading and making memorable experiences with Winterville Elementary School students!



*Photos courtesy of Scott Thompson, Director of Communications, Clarke County School District*





P.O. Box 306  
Winterville, GA 30683-0306

ELECTRONIC SERVICES REQUESTED

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT #96  
ATHENS, GA

**THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF WINTERVILLE**

## City Directory

### **EMERGENCIES 911**

City Hall  
706-742-8600  
Fax 706-742-5476

Winterville Cultural Center, Art Gallery, &  
Marigold Auditorium  
706-742-0823

Doctor's Museum  
706-389-5151

Pittard Park Rentals  
706-742-8600

Front Porch Bookstore  
706-372-3928

Library  
706-742-7735

Athens-Clarke County Schools  
706-546-7721

Winterville Police Department  
**Emergencies 911**  
Non-Emergency 706-742-5295

Winterville Fire Department  
**Emergencies 911**

ACC Animal Control  
706-613-3540

Public Utilities  
706-613-3440

Post Office  
706-742-8875

Leaf & Limb Pickup  
706-613-3501 x318

Street & Drainage Repair  
706-613-3465

**[www.CityofWinterville.com](http://www.CityofWinterville.com)**