



# WINTERVILLE GAZETTE

VOLUME XXIV, ISSUE 2

APR-JUN 2022

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

### CONTACT

### INFORMATION

EMERGENCY 911

CITY HALL

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CITY HALL FAX

706-742-5476

POLICE

706-742-5295

POST OFFICE

706-742-8875

LIBRARY

706-742-7735

ANIMAL CONTROL

706-613-3540

STREET LIGHT

REPAIR

706-613-3440

PUBLIC UTILITIES

706-613-3440

STREET, POTHOLE,

OR DRAINAGE

REPAIR

706-613-3465

LEAF & LIMB

PICKUP

706-613-3501 x 318

The most beautiful cardinal was perched on the old train signal just outside my office window as I sat down to write my entries for this Marigold Festival edition of the Winterville Gazette. I'll take that as a sign and a symbol: a sign of spring and a symbol of gratitude. The scenery in our beautiful town is something I am grateful for, per the current daily request on the Methodist church's sign. I am also grateful for the decreased cases of COVID-19 and some semblance of normality that seems to be returning, if only temporarily, to our community and beyond. We should all stay vigilant—this virus seems to be here for the foreseeable future. We will continue to monitor the data and take the necessary precautions for the safety of all citizens living here or passing through, but this little break is nice.



Moreover, spring is in the air, and that means the Marigold Festival will be back soon. The festival will be live and in-person after a two year semi-hiatus. The board has been very busy making sure this year's event is bigger and better than ever. Exciting changes and additions have been announced, and vendors, musicians, artists, farmers, producers, etc., are all excited to set up shop in the park and throughout the city. You can find more details in the Marigold Festival article on p. 5. With all of our new amenities and the increase in pedestrian traffic already enjoying our parks, trails, and sidewalks, I am especially excited about the Festival and the year to come. Winterville is a wonderful city, and I am grateful to be your public servant during such an amazing time. Look for ways to get involved and become one of our many "Winterville magicians," as I like to call them. There are a number of opportunities to serve or volunteer on behalf of your neighbors. Read through this issue to learn about some, or visit City Hall and ask Wendy! Have a great spring and enjoy the Marigold Festival, and I will see you on the streets.

Sincerely,

Dodd I. Ferrelle, Mayor

## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE FORMED

The newly established Winterville Communications Committee is tasked with helping the city government reach as many residents as possible. To that end, the committee is brainstorming ideas about how the city can improve communication and community engagement with all Winterville residents. The committee would appreciate your feedback. Please use the URL below or scan the QR code at right with a smartphone to access a survey about your communication preferences. It takes only a couple minutes and will help the committee make recommendations to the mayor and city council.



<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/68d2b9b945764dcf90dff99063880619>

# CIVIC CALENDAR

**Meetings are held at City Hall unless otherwise stated but are subject to change due to COVID-19; please check with the specific organization for the latest information on meeting times and locations.**

Thursday, Mar 31	Public Input Session: Complete Streets, 6:00 p.m., Depot
Saturday, Apr 2	Public Input Session: Complete Streets, 10:00 a.m., Pittard Park Pavilion
Monday, Apr 4	Planning & Zoning, 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Apr 5	Public Hearing: Municode, 11:00 a.m. Public Hearing: Municode, 5:30 p.m. Council Workshop, 6:00 p.m.
Monday, Apr 11	Municipal Court, 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Apr 12	Public Hearing: PD District, 5:00 p.m. Public Hearing: Municode, 5:30 p.m. Public Hearing: Overlay District, 6:00 p.m. City Council, 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Apr 13	Downtown Development Authority, 6:00 p.m. Firefly Local Action Committee, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Apr 19	Historic Preservation Commission, 6:00 p.m. Community Garden Committee, 6:00 p.m., Pittard Park Pavillion
Tuesday, Apr 26	Winterville Arts Council, 6:00 p.m., Pittard Park Pavillion
Monday, May 2	Planning & Zoning, 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 3	Council Workshop, 6:00 p.m.
Monday, May 9	Municipal Court, 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 10	City Council, 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 11	Downtown Development Authority, 6:00 p.m. Firefly Trail Local Action Committee, 7:00 p.m.
Friday, May 13	Pre-Marigold Festival Event, TBD, Auditorium
Saturday, May 14	Marigold Festival, starts 10:00 a.m., Pittard Park; Concert, 7:00 p.m., Auditorium
Tuesday, May 17	Historic Preservation Commission, 6:00 p.m. Community Garden Committee, 6:00 p.m., Pittard Park Pavillion
Tuesday, May 24	Winterville Arts Council, 6:00 p.m., Pittard Park Pavillion
Monday, May 30	Memorial Day, City Hall closed
Monday, Jun 6	Planning & Zoning, 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jun 7	Council Workshop, 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Jun 8	Downtown Development Authority, 6:00 p.m. Firefly Trail Local Action Committee, 7:00 p.m.
Monday, Jun 13	Municipal Court, 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Jun 14	City Council, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jun 21	Historic Preservation Commission, 6:00 p.m. Community Garden Committee, 6:00 p.m., Pittard Park Pavillion
Tuesday, Jun 28	Winterville Arts Council, 6:00 p.m., Pittard Park Pavillion



## CITY NEWS

### CITY COUNCIL MEETING TIME CHANGE

The current City Council members voted to change both the workshop and regular meeting times to 6:00 p.m. on the first and second Tuesdays of the month. The council hopes the new schedule will make it easier for the public to participate. Also, in-person meetings have resumed, so please attend when you can. (Martha Beach, this means you!)

### COMPLETE STREETS PUBLIC INPUT SESSIONS

We have preliminary designs from the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission detailing our Complete Streets Proposal/Plan for the City of Winterville, and now we need your input. Traffic calming, parking, sidewalks, and other pedestrian infrastructure are all part of this long-term blueprint future administrations can follow on your behalf. Please plan to attend one or both of the input sessions and share your comments (see the Civic Calendar on p. 2).

### TRAFFIC STUDY

WA Engineering will be conducting a comprehensive study of the the intersection at Robert Hardeman and Main Street, after which they will make recommendations for increasing safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers. Possible changes include traffic routing and/or a new crosswalk with flashing beacons. Stay tuned for public input sessions.

### MUNICODE PUBLIC HEARINGS

City Council has taken the first step in the difficult task of updating the City of Winterville's Code of Ordinances. The Municode firm was hired to clarify the language. You can find a PDF version of the improved code on the city website. Please attend the public hearings to comment on the draft (see the Civic Calendar on p. 2). Once the cleaned up version of the ordinances has been adopted, the council will undertake the arduous task of making the substantive changes needed to update the code for the contemporary, real-time protection of our city. We will hold three public readings of the adoption ordinance.

### PLANNED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE

The City of Winterville has been approached by several developers over the past few years, some of whom have proposed projects that could benefit our community. What we do not have is an ordinance that will allow the city to look at each proposal on a project-by-project basis. A Planned Development (PD) Ordinance will do just that. The city can look at each project, determine whether it will benefit the city, and then, if approved, make the developer adhere strictly to the plans. You can read the proposed ordinance on the city website, and please plan to attend the public hearing (see the Civic Calendar on p. 2).

## OVERLAY DISTRICT AND DESIGN GUIDELINES FOR 5 POINTS

To ensure proper development in our commercial district, City Council will consider approval of an “overlay” business district with design guidelines. This action will give the city more oversight over any restoration or new construction in the commercial district—another step in protecting Winterville’s charm while keeping up with the growth in and around our community. Yet another public hearing will solicit input from residents (see the Civic Calendar on p. 2).

## TSPLOST 2023

Please make plans to vote Tuesday, May 24. This year, Clarke County’s TSPLOST ballot includes over \$6 million for three projects Winterville has requested: improvements to stormwater drainage, curbs and gutters along Main Street, and new sidewalks on Smithonia and Smokey Roads. Our city will also benefit from our own allocation of TSPLOST dollars for additional roadway and pedestrian infrastructure improvements over the next five years.

## AUDITORIUM UPDATE

Public Works Director Tom Doonan and City Engineer Steve Rice have done an incredible job working with the building committee to construct bathrooms in the auditorium. The project is still underway, and a community workday is very likely in the not-too-distant future, but we hope to have this phase finished in time for the Marigold Festival evening concert, May 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. (See next page.)

## MASK MANDATE

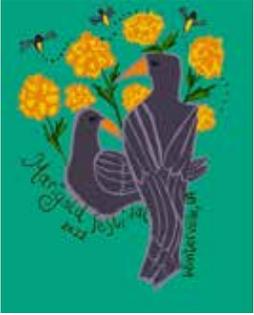
The mask mandate expired March 8, and City Council voted not to renew it in accordance with the latest CDC guidelines. We do urge citizens to continue masking in close quarters, especially around children under the age of 5, but there is no mandate in the city at this time. Thanks to everyone for following the mandate in our buildings. We like to keep our employees safe so they can keep working hard for you!

## NEW ART GRACES THE CITY

Got a good eye? Know your way around Winterville? There’s a new public art installation, courtesy of



# MARIGOLD FESTIVAL



The Winterville Marigold Festival **returns live-and-in-person on May 14**. Visit Pittard Park throughout the day for fun, food, music, crafts, and community. The day starts at 7:30 a.m. with the Marigold 10K, hosted by the Athens Road Runners. Following the race, we'll have the annual Marigold Parade at 10:00 a.m. As the parade finishes up, the food, crafts, farmers' market, and live music will begin and go on until 5:00 p.m. Bring friends, family, a big appetite, and a lot of energy. Among the attractions will be the music on the main stage in the park, games and inflatables in the kids area, the "Cruise In" car show along Main Street, the Front Porch Book Store, Carter-Coile Doctors Museum, and an array of craft and food vendors. After a two-year hiatus, it is an event you don't want to miss!

## MARIGOLD PLANTING DAY

Please join the Festival Committee on April 16 as we brighten the city with thousands of marigolds. Individuals, families, and groups are encouraged to take part in this fun community effort. The planting is easy and really brings Winterville to life each spring. After a brief walk-through (with coffee provided), planting begins at 8:00 a.m. Plants will already be set out in designated areas, and supplies (shovels, gloves) will be available for all who need them. Depending on the number of volunteers, it will likely take only a few hours—give as much or as little time to the project as you like, and enjoy the beautiful results for months to come.

## FEATURED ARTIST

Congratulations to Sherre Watwood, whose artwork (shown at top) was selected as the official design for this year's festival. (Learn more about Sherre in the Artist Spotlight on p. 18.) The Winterville Arts Committee received more than 45 entries, with 19 artists submitting up to three entries each. The upcoming Marigold Festival Art Show will feature many of the pieces submitted. The exhibit will open at the community center with a reception on Friday, April 15 from 6:00–7:30 p.m., and will run through June. Thank you to all the artists who submitted their work!

## MAIN STAGE AND EVENING CONCERT

The Main Stage, sponsored by Commercial Bank, will have free live music from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. See the back cover for the line-up. This year, we'll also celebrate the renovation of the historic Marigold Auditorium for Arts and Culture by hosting evening music indoors. After the activities in the park wind down, head over to the auditorium at 373 N. Church Street for the first-ever Marigold Festival Concert. Doors will open at 7:00 p.m. Dodd Ferrelle and the Wintervillians will open the show at 8:00 p.m., followed by rising Athens stars The Pink Stones at 9:00 p.m. We're bringing the festival back in style! Tickets are \$8 online or \$10 at the door. Seating is limited, so get your tickets early: [http://marigoldfestival.com/festival\\_music](http://marigoldfestival.com/festival_music).

# MARIGOLD MARKET RETURNS



The 2022 Marigold Market season will hold its Grand Opening on April 9 and will run through December 17, every Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. 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 buy local goods. We are working toward this goal by rethinking the typical farmers market model to cultivate a spirit of inclusion. This season we are partnering with local businesses as co-hosts of the market with the intention of creating themed markets full of family-friendly activities, performances, cooking demonstrations, and more. If you know of a business that would like to be involved, have them reach out to Sherrie Anderson at 706-308-0185.

This year, the Marigold Market will be offering meat and produce from fourteen farms as well as prepared foods and other goods from over twenty artisans. Come meet the vendors and enjoy the fresh air, music, food, and sunshine!

Our first themed market will be April 16. Our partners for this Easter-themed market are Winterville United Methodist Church, Winterville Arts Council, Marigold Festival, Shawanda's Kitchen, FC-CIS Neighborhood Leaders, and the Winterville Library.

Don't forget to shop for the beautiful and strong mothers in your life on May 7, Mothers' Day weekend. Select a gift from a wide selection of jewelry, pottery, natural soaps and lotions, books by local authors, and other arts and crafts.

May 14 is the Marigold Festival, and the market will be part of it: find us in the middle of the circle where the Eco-village has been in previous years.

On June 11, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., we will be hosting a Taste the Season cooking competition in partnership with UGarden, Concrete Jungle, FC-CIS Neighborhood Leaders, and Athens-Clarke County Extension Office. Competitors will have an opportunity to create a dish using locally sourced produce, some of which will be unusual. Form a team and show off your culinary creativity!

Mark your calendar for these special days and keep your eyes and ears alert to more information as we get closer to each.

## COMMUNITY GARDEN

On Saturday, February 26, the Winterville Community Garden held a work session to accept late registrations and get ready for the new rental season. The garden usually has group work sessions on the last Saturday of each month, with times varying according to the weather. Due to the Ticket to Ride event, the March workday was rescheduled for Saturday, April 2 at 10:00 a.m. There will be a breakfast potluck, with the steering committee providing plates, cups, utensils, and a large caraffe of coffee with fixings. Anyone who is interested is welcome to come and work in the common areas of the garden. Volunteers are also welcome to help with boxes dedicated to growing vegetables for donation to the local Food Bank. If you'd like to volunteer, please email [wintervillecommunitygarden@gmail.com](mailto:wintervillecommunitygarden@gmail.com). To keep up with the latest news, follow us on Facebook at Winterville Community Garden.



## DOCTORS MUSEUM TO HOLD REGULAR HOURS

In May 1972, the Carter-Coile Country Doctors Museum first opened its doors here in Winterville, cementing our city as home to one of only three institutions like it in the country. The occasion was celebrated by the Second Annual Marigold Festival, and since then the little white building near the square has become an icon of Winterville's cultural heritage.

Nothing lasts forever though, and as you all know the Doctors Museum has seen its share of good times and bad. Throughout its life, the museum has mostly operated on a "by appointment" basis, opening its doors only a few times per year to those interested enough to schedule a visit in advance. With no dedicated staffing, the facility and collection have fallen into disrepair multiple times, only to be restored in temporary flurries of activity.

That all changes now. Fifty years after welcoming our first guests, the completely reimagined Country Doctors Museum is proud to announce a grand reopening celebration at the 2022 Marigold Festival on May 14. Then, beginning on May 17, the museum will be open for regular weekly hours for the first time in its history! Every Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the museum will be open and staffed by citizens ready to let you experience Winterville's history through the lens of its 150-year-old doctor's office.

But we aren't done yet. Work is underway to open up more of the historic building as public space, install new exhibits, and expand the scope of storytelling at the museum so that all Wintervillians can find their history reflected within our walls. Big things are happening, and even bigger things are ahead.

We'd love for you to take this journey with us. Anyone interested in volunteering their time or their collections should reach out to us by calling City Hall or emailing [CountryDoctorsMuseum@gmail.com](mailto:CountryDoctorsMuseum@gmail.com). No experience is required—all we ask is that you love our city as much as we do!

We can't wait to share this new era in the museum's history with all of you. We'll see you on May 14!

## LIBRARY GEARS UP FOR SUMMER

Athens Regional Library System Summer Reading Program presents "Oceans of Possibilities!" Though the program runs June through July, patrons can register during Winterville's Marigold Festival on May 14, 2022. Come to the library's front porch, sign up, and start reading!

Summer reading programs are designed to develop interest in reading and library use. The programs help students prevent learning loss caused by the "summer slide." Students also develop and improve reading skills while being creative, developing social skills, and simply having fun!

We also have performers and programs scheduled. Following is the Winterville Library schedule, though more activities may be added.

- Tuesday, June 7 at 5:30 p.m.: Out of the Box: Science & Stories
- Tuesday, June 21 at 5:30 p.m.: Magician Keith Karnock
- Tuesday, July 19 at 5:30 p.m.: Puppet show by Lee Bryant and Niko Carleo
- Tuesday, July 26 at 5:30 p.m.: Kids' music by the Rebecca Sunshine Band
- Saturday, June 11 at 11:00 a.m.: Miso the Pig from Sweet Olive Farm
- Saturday, June 18 at 11:30 p.m.: Science activity on water with Catherine Reuter

We will continue to host a weekly Wednesday Story Time at the library as well as the occasional Saturday story time at the Marigold Market.

# LOCAL SCHOOLS CELEBRATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## WINTERVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MARKS ANNIVERSARY

This year, Winterville Elementary School is celebrating its 125th anniversary! This year's theme is "Rebuilding, Reconnecting, and Reimagining." The school planned various activities to celebrate, including an entire week of celebration February 28 through March 4, which was Read Across America Week. Because February 28 was the 125th day of school, interim Principal Melanie James accepted the challenge of staying on the roof of the school until the students read 125 books. It took one hour and 40 minutes before Dr. James could come down. The week concluded with a storybook character parade in which classes chose a book to represent and marched around the school. Mayor Dodd Ferrelle served as grand marshal. The parade ended in the school gym, where the parade winners were recognized. This was the first time the school has come together in one space in nearly two years!



Left: WES Principal Melanie James waits on the school roof.

Right: The storybook character parade.



Celebrations for the 125th year will continue on Friday, April 22, with activities at Pittard Park beginning at 5:30 p.m. Later that evening the school will show a movie in the park. The community is invited to come out to the park and help the school celebrate 125 years of educating students in the Winterville Community.

## FIRST CONCERT BY STRING ENSEMBLE

The Winterville Strings Program is proud to announce its spring concert will be held Thursday, April 21, at 6:00 p.m. in the Marigold Auditorium. Composed of third, fourth, and fifth graders, the ensemble will perform under the direction of Jan Spurgeon and Julie Malone. The Strings Program, which teaches students to play violin or viola, was launched in the spring of 2019 as part of a Clarke County Local School Governance Team. This will be the group's first concert! Please join us as we share our love of music.

*cont.*

## ARTISTS AND SCHOLARS AT COILE MIDDLE SCHOOL

### REACH Scholarships



The mission of the REACH Georgia Foundation is to be the most effective champions for Georgia’s children in need and to unlock the full potential of our future workforce by providing promising students with a mentor and scholarships to support them in graduating from high school and achieving postsecondary success. REACH serves all 180 school systems across Georgia and provides over \$36 million in scholarships to more than 3,600 scholars. W. R. Coile Middle School scholars for the 2021–2022 school year are (left to right) Cesar Castro, Tanya Calderon-Salazar, and Deylin Vilchiz-Alvear.

### Black History Program and Mural

In February, students collaborated with local artist Will Eskridge to paint a mural celebrating the arts and featuring African American figures from Athens’ history. In addition, students in the 21st Century after-school program did an amazing job for the Black History Month program on February 24. They designed artwork to decorate doors, served as models for a fashion show, and performed dances. To watch a video of the program, go to <https://youtu.be/HVon-BkaCTU>.



Students paint a mural designed by Will Eskridge that celebrates local African American history.



A student-designed portrait of Claudia L. Gordon enlivens the door of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing classroom.

# CIVITAN CLUB SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

The Winterville Civitan Club needs you! Membership in organizations like the Civitan Club is down across the country, and our club is no exception. The club contributes much to this community and we need new members to continue that legacy. Chandler Park is a daily reminder of all that Civitan stands for and all that it contributes to this great town. The Snowflake 10K Road Race is getting more popular every year, but the small number of members is making it difficult to continue putting on events of this kind. The Civitans are sponsoring the first Front Porch Book Store concert on April 2 (see below). That will be a great opportunity to enjoy some music, grab some free food, and talk with our members about the club's activities. Currently, the Civitan Club is offering free Snowflake Race registration to all members, but that is far from all you will gain by joining.

We meet on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Depot. Over dinner provided by a local restaurant, we enjoy fellowship and great educational guest speakers before we turn our attention to planning a variety of charity events and fundraisers. The club generously supports local citizens and organizations both financially and with the physical labor required to make various projects a reality. Feel free to join us at one of our upcoming meetings to see what we're all about. In April the guest speaker will be ACC Mayor Kelly Girtz.

If you want to discover a whole new way to help your neighbors near and far, go to the Winterville Civitan Club's webpage for more information and an application: <http://wintervillecivitan.com/>.

## CHANDLER PARK MEMORIAL BRICKS

You can help underwrite the cost of constructing the new Chandler Park and commemorate a loved one or special event by purchasing a memorial brick to be placed in the park's walkways. For a donation of \$50, you will get one 4" x 8" paver with up to three lines of text. To purchase a customised brick, use the form on the inside back cover of this issue or download it from <https://cityofwinterville.com/chandler-park/>.

## FRONT PORCH BOOK STORE

The Spring Concert Series at the bookstore begins April 2. All concerts are on Saturdays and start at 6:00 p.m. They are FREE and open to all. Bring your lawn chairs, family, and friends. The series will kick off with Dodd Ferrelle & the Wintervillains with free hot dogs, chips, and drinks provided by the Civitans. Come out and join the fun.

- April 2, Monsignor Donovan Ram Band followed by Dodd Ferrelle & the Wintervillains
- April 9, Dixieland Five
- April 1, Kate Morrissey Band
- April 23, Making Strange
- April 30, Joe Wiley and the Moving Men
- May 7, Janet & the Bluedogs
- May 21, Roadside Attractions
- May 28, Norma Rae
- June 4, Scarlett Stitch
- June 11, Welfare Liners
- June 18, Free Concert

Visit us during the Marigold Festival, May 14, for our huge book sale. Stock up on your summer reads. Store hours are 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. On concert Saturdays, the the book store is open an extra half-hour, until 7:30 p.m. And remember, every Saturday is a \$10 bag of books sale!

# WINTERVILLE CAMPUS FOR ARTS AND CULTURE

371 N. Church St. Winterville, GA

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

[www.wintervillecenter.com](http://www.wintervillecenter.com)

706-742-0823



## UPGRADED HVAC IN COMMUNITY CENTER

The heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system in the Winterville Community Center (WCC) was upgraded in late February. This upgrade included separate thermostats in the office area, the three rental rooms, and the catering kitchen, as well as repairs to the air intake handler. Preliminary data indicates that this much-needed upgrade will reduce energy consumption by a factor of six (from \$800 to \$140 per month).

## SALES AND MARKETING ASSOCIATE

After six weeks of due diligence starting in early January, the WCC has hired a new sales and marketing manager, Josh Matthews-Morgan. Josh has several years of marketing experience and has also served as the Chair of the Athens Young Professionals Network. He earned a dual degree in International Relations and Spanish from Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida.

## NEW EVENTS IN THE WCAC

The Winterville Campus for Arts and Culture (WCAC), which consists of the Winterville Community Center and the Marigold Auditorium, is expanding the types of events it hosts. On February 27, the Auditorium was the venue for a dance recital featuring participants ranging in age from seven to seventeen. A bar mitzvah will utilize both buildings in the WCAC in early May.

## CLASSES OPEN

There is still time to join some classes at the WCC, including Oil Painting and a Yin Yoga workshop on April 9. Please visit the website for more information and to register.

# WINTERVILLE TREE COMMISSION

“An oak tree grows for a hundred years, stands proud for a hundred years, and gracefully expires for another hundred years.”

Most people think dead trees should be removed immediately; however, if they pose no threat to people or property, then they should be left in place to help wildlife. It might surprise you to know that a dead tree offers more habitat for wild creatures than a living one. The term “climax forest” conjures up visions of healthy trees all growing and reaching up for the sky. In reality, a mature forest is filled with trees of varying stages of growth and decay. Approximately 20 percent of the entire forest fauna relies on dead and dying wood for food and habitat. Standing dead and dying trees, called “wildlife trees” or “snags,” are typically used for nests, nurseries, storage areas, foraging, roosting, and perching. In the United States, more than 1,000 species of wildlife use snags. Some of these species are game animals, but many others help control forest pest populations by eating insects or rodents. Wildlife trees support communities of decomposers like insects, fungi, and other invertebrates, which, in turn, support the more charismatic forest dwellers like owls, woodpeckers, and bears. Next time you hear the echoing machine gun sound of a pileated woodpecker or maybe a barred owl calling out *Who cooks for you?* on a quiet night, appreciate that those are the indirect sounds of decay transmuted into life.

If you take a stroll at the Pittard Park Habitat Garden below the basketball court, you can see an old red maple (pictured at right) now standing proud as a habitat snag. If you stop for a few minutes and watch, you might see a brown headed nuthatch or Carolina chickadee coming back home with a mouthful of food.



The red maple “snag” in Pittard Park. When you look closely, you can see many woodpecker holes (left) and new life beginning in a cavity left by a dropped limb.



# FIREFLY TRAIL



2022 is off to a very positive start for the Firefly Trail in Winterville and beyond! With the pandemic easing its grip and another beautiful spring just now beginning, more and more people are finding the trail to be an especially inviting place to get some exercise, enjoy the outdoors, and meet friends old and new.

## WINTERVILLE SNOWFLAKE 10K KICKS OFF FIREFLY TRAIL 2022 RACE SERIES

We certainly hope everyone who participated in and/or volunteered at the Snowflake 10K on January 22nd is thawed out by now. Sub-freezing temperatures and a stiff, relentless wind made the event extra challenging, but spirits ran high and the morning was a tremendous success. Presented by the Winterville Civitan Club, the Snowflake 10K was the first of four events that compose the 2022 Firefly Trail Race Series. Next up in the series is the Maxeys Model Mile 5K on May 21, to be followed by events in Crawford and Union Point in September. Visit [www.fireflytrail.com](http://www.fireflytrail.com) for more on the race series.



Photo: Marigold Solutions, Inc.

## LOCAL ACTION COMMITTEE

The Winterville Firefly Trail LAC meets at 7:00 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month (currently via Zoom) and welcomes the attendance of non-members. Discussions during recent meetings have focused on recommendations for needed trail amenities. The City of Winterville has decided to repurpose the caboos from the old Marigold Express trackless train as a trail shelter. When work on the caboos is completed it will be located at the southern end of Winterville's trail section. The city has also decided to place a bike repair station near the Winterville Depot.

## TSPLOST 2023 REFERENDUM MAY 24

Voters in Athens-Clarke County will determine the fate of the next TSPLOST (Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) Program in the May 24 general primary election. If the referendum passes, TSPLOST will fund completion of the Firefly Trail from its current end at Hancock Road all the way to Winterville, with construction of this final ACC trail segment beginning next spring.

## FIREFLY TRAIL DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Construction of the new Firefly Trail Bridge over Trail Creek is about to become quite visible and dramatic. The erection of steel bridge members got underway the last week of March, and the ACC SPLOST office projects the project will be completed in December. At the southern end of the Firefly Trail corridor, construction of six miles of trail in Greene County, Union Point, and Woodville, plus another mile in Maxeys, is slated to begin this summer and has a target completion date of August 2023.

# CHURCHES PREPARE FOR EASTER

## WINTERVILLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Each Sunday at WFBC begins with the Men's Prayer Breakfast at 8:30 a.m., followed by Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. and the worship service at 10:50 a.m. We have Sunday School classes for every age, and we offer special activities for children, youth, senior adults, widows, and women. Please visit our website at [www.wintervillefbc.org](http://www.wintervillefbc.org) for more information. Upcoming events include:

- April 1, Senior Adult Ministry Supper and Singing, 3:30 p.m.
- April 15, Good Friday Service in the Sanctuary, 7:00 p.m.
- April 16, Easter Egg Hunt on the gymnasium lawn, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- April 24, Southern Gospel Singing in the Sanctuary, 6:00 p.m.
- April 23, Food Pantry Distribution at the gymnasium, 9:00 a.m.
- May 6, Senior Adult Ministry Supper and Singing, 3:30 p.m.
- May 21, Food Pantry Distribution at the gymnasium, 9:00 a.m.
- June 3, Senior Adult Ministry Supper and Singing, 3:30 p.m.
- June 5–9, Vacation Bible School, 6:00–8:30 p.m. Visit the church website to register.
- June 25, Food Pantry Distribution at the gymnasium, 9:00 a.m.

## WINTERVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Winterville United Methodist Church invites you and your family to join us for Easter. Here are the activities we have planned:

- April 10 at 10:30 a.m. On Palm Sunday we celebrate the beginning of Holy Week with children waving palm branches. There will be a special Children's Church time about mid-way through the service. This is a casual and festive service with traditional hymns.
- April 14 at 7:00 p.m. On Maundy Thursday we remember the night Jesus's betrayal and arrest, as well as his giving us a new commandment to love one another. The mood of this service is more subdued.
- April 17 Easter Sunday services begin with a sunrise service at 7:30 a.m. on the front lawn (weather permitting), followed by a traditional Easter service at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.

All of our worship services are both in-person and live-streamed. You can view the livestream either on our website ([www.wintervilleumc.org](http://www.wintervilleumc.org)) or our Facebook page (@wintervilleumc).

### Easter Egg Hunt

Ready for some *eggcitement*? WUMC will sponsor a community Easter egg hunt at Winterville's Pittard Park Pavilion on Saturday, April 16, 2022 beginning at 10:00 a.m. Egg hunters will be separated into age groups to search for eggs filled with sweet treats, small prizes, and one special Golden Ticket Egg per group. Each Golden Ticket will entitle the finder to an age-appropriate hand-prepared Easter basket. Petra Bunny will be on hand to share the reason she loves Easter and interact with the children, giving parents plenty of photo opportunities. Adam Lowe of Lowe Quality Entertainment will be juggling, doing magic tricks, stilt walking, and more.

Children under the age of ten must be accompanied by an adult. Children three and under may get help during the hunt from one adult. All other children are expected to participate without assistance. Children should bring their own baskets for egg gathering.

# WINTERVILLE ARTS COUNCIL

## HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST WINNERS

In December, WAC sponsored a contest for the best holiday lights decorations. Participants could compete in the business category or three residential categories: traditional, “Griswold” (tacky), and most creative. Any category could also win the people’s choice award. The Front Porch Book Store at 100 Marigold Ln won the business award (shown at right). The winner in the traditional category, 395 S. Main St., also won people’s choice; 154 Winding Brook Trail earned the Griswold award, and 110 Sweetbriar Ct. was deemed most creative. Photos of all the winners can be found on the Art Council’s website: <https://wintervilleartscouncil.org/>.



Photo: Kenneth Storey

## WES STUDENT ART EXHIBIT

This past February we had our first Winterville Elementary School art show since COVID-19 began. The opening reception for the art show was held on Friday, February 25 in the Winterville Community Center. The young artists and their families were all very excited to see student work on display in the community center again. This year’s show featured work around two themes: landscapes and portraits. Landscapes were inspired by contemporary artist Grant Haffner. WES art teacher Carli Brownlee noted, “Their large scale and bold colors made this project a favorite display in our school this year.” Before beginning work on portraiture, students compared work by two portrait artists, Kehinde Wiley and Amy Sherald. Students then spent several days learning and practicing portrait techniques. Ms. Brownlee proudly exclaimed, “Our students spent many hours on these projects, and their effort shows!”

## FLAG INSTALLATION

The WAC will soon install a FLAG—Free Little Art Gallery—in the town square. Based on the concept of the popular Free Little Library, the FLAG will be a be a spot to “Leave a piece of art; take a piece of art.” Many thanks to Ellen Derwin for bringing this idea to us and to David Watwood for building Winterville’s first FLAG. The exact location of the miniature gallery is not yet finalized, but we plan to have the first installation of beautiful, tiny art pieces in place for the Marigold Festival on May 14. Follow our progress on Instagram @freeandweewinterville.

## SUMMER ART CAMP

Do you have a budding artist? WAC is excited to announce our first summer Art Camp! The camp will be open to rising students in the third through sixth grades. The camp will be held at the Winterville Community Center the week of June 6 from 1:00–4:00 p.m. Cost is \$75 per student. Please go to [www.wintervillecenter.com](http://www.wintervillecenter.com) to enroll your child.

## JOIN THE ARTS COUNCIL

If you are interested in art, why not consider joining the Winterville Arts Council? See p. 3 for meeting dates and times. An application form can be found on the WAC website: <https://wintervilleartscouncil.org/>.



# CITY SPOTLIGHT

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

## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

### Main Street Garage



Main Street Garage has been providing automotive service and repair to Winterville and the surrounding community for over 18 years.

After graduating from North Georgia College in Dahlonega, owner Bryan Vaughn decided to try to make a career in the Automotive Service Industry. Starting at a small shop in Snellville, Bryan soon realized that he eventually wanted to own a shop and be a part of a community. In 2004 things worked out for Bryan to start that process, and Main Street Garage opened in the old “Red Brick Garage” at Winterville’s Five Points. The business grew, and in 2020 Bryan had a new, eight-bay garage constructed at their current location at 320 Henry Meyer Road by Winterville’s own Ingram Construction. In addition to Bryan, there are five employees: George Hill (15 years), Cara Huff (12 years), Chris Dominguez (5 years), Collin Skahan (5 years), and Blayne Smith (1 year). There are also two shop dogs: old-timer Lug Nut and new addition Jole Blon.

The crew works hard keep up with the never-ending advances in the automotive repair industry, and the garage services about 50 cars per week. “The decision to open a shop in Winterville has turned out to be a good one,” Bryan says. “The people of Winterville and the surrounding communities have supported Main Street Garage from day one.”

Main Street Garage is open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You can reach the shop at 706-742-2300.



Senior Shop Dog Lug Nut (left);  
Bryan Vaughn with Junior Shop  
Dog Jole Blon (right).



# CITIZEN SPOTLIGHT

## A Fond Farewell to Gary and Joann Snow

Gary and JoAnn Snow came to the Athens area in 1998 when Gary accepted the position of assistant corporate controller for Community Newspapers, Inc., where he was responsible for the accounting and financial reporting of 28 newspapers and four printing plants. While living on Athens' east side, the Snows began attending Winterville United Methodist, attracted by its active, friendly congregation and good music. JoAnn, who had a small business doing web design, created WUMC's website (which she maintained until March of 2022). She was charmed by the "pristine beauty" of our little city, where, as Gary says, "people are friendly, and doors don't need to be locked tight." They moved to Winterville in 2004.



Through the church, the Snows met George Chandler, who immediately invited them to attend Winterville Civitan meetings. Intrigued by the Civitan purpose, they decided to join and soon became key members. In 2005, George encouraged Gary to be a director, then to follow him as club president in 2008 and again in 2015. Through Civitan, Gary and JoAnn met and befriended then-Mayor Jim Mercer, although JoAnn recalls that her first meeting with Mayor Mercer was inauspicious: he yelled at her about needing to sweep the Depot after Civitan meetings. The Snows began attending city council meetings regularly. When Mercer learned that JoAnn designed websites, he asked her to build a site for the city, which, like that for WUMC, she maintained until March of 2022. Being known now to both the mayor and City Clerk Wendy Bond, JoAnn began to fill in at City Hall when Wendy had to be away.

In 2010, Mayor Mercer asked Gary to assist JoEllen Mercer in drafting the 2011 SPLOST grant request. Later that same year, a seat on city council opened, and Jim encouraged Gary to run for the position. Much to Gary's surprise, he won the election. ("Actually," Gary confides, "no one else ran.") Gary served as a council member for over ten years, sometimes as mayor pro-tem. During his tenure, Gary sat on the Finance Committee, Safety Committee, and many ad-hoc committees and projects. Gary and JoAnn were also founding members of the Winterville Community Garden. Always willing to lend his financial expertise to any group who asked, Gary served as that organization's treasurer for two years.

As the Winterville Center for Community and Culture (now the Winterville Campus for Arts and Culture) became a reality, Director Jack Eisenman asked JoAnn for some help getting the center up and running. She responded in her usual style by putting in twenty or more hours per week as a volunteer. Eventually, the city found some funds to hire her as the Center's office manager. After Jack retired in March of 2015, Mayor Ferrelle proposed JoAnn for the director's position. For the next two-plus years, she put her organizational skills to good use expanding programming and cultivating new reasons for people to visit the center. JoAnn retired as director on July 30, 2021. Since then, she has spent her time making and selling jewelry.

Now, the Snows are preparing for a new adventure: moving to be near family in Auburndale, Florida. Gary resigned his seat on the city council, which he describes as "a very difficult decision," but, as he says, "being near family overshadowed all else."

"How do we adequately say thank you and goodbye to these two local treasures?" Mayor Ferrelle asked. "I cannot fully express my appreciation either for Gary's work on council and as a Civitan or for JoAnn's willingness to further Jack's work to turn the Community Center into the beloved meeting place it is today." The city offers its sincere thanks to JoAnn and Gary for their many contributions to improving the quality of life for residents in and around Winterville. Our loss is Auburndale's gain, but we wish them both nothing but happiness as they embark on this new phase in their lives.

# ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

## Sherrie Watwood



Sherrie Watwood, the Featured Artist for this year’s Marigold Festival, moved to Winterville in June 2019. She and her husband, David, bought the old Winter family farmhouse located directly behind the Winterville Community Center. The house had once been rented by her younger brother and his wife and then later by her two older sons while they attended UGA. David and Sherrie had always dreamed of one day owning a small farmhouse on a little piece of land, so when they bought this property, it felt like they had truly come home. The couple spent the next two years renovating and restoring the house. Today, all of their children and ten grandchildren live in the Winterville area.

Sherrie comes from a family of artists. Her father, Gary Garner, is a master woodworker who designs and carves religious articles and builds furniture for churches. Her paternal aunt and grandfather were both self-taught artists who made their living painting. Her grandfather, Lee Garner, owned an antique store with a workshop in Kennesaw, Georgia, for most of his life. Sherrie vividly remembers visiting her grandfather’s shop as a young girl—Gramma would be sewing and minding the front of the store while Grampa painted in the back. Sleepovers at their house consisted of eating dinner, clearing the table, and pulling out the art supplies. For as long as she can remember, Sherrie has always done something artistic.

“I really don’t consider myself an artist. I just love art and always have had a need to create something,” Sherrie says. “I guess you could say that I dabble in a lot of things: cooking, gardening, sewing, and painting.” She notes that she has always been very drawn to colorful, whimsical paintings. “I feel compelled to fill my house with color and art; so, since we don’t have an unlimited budget, I began to paint to fill up my house! Thankfully, I have a wonderful husband who encourages me.”

Before the Marigold Festival art contest, Sherrie had never submitted her work to a show. But, as a member of the Winterville Arts Council, she wanted to produce a piece for WAC’s upcoming exhibit. The festival’s call for artwork prompted her to create a new painting. “I felt this might be a great way to encourage me to start painting on a regular basis,” Sherrie says. “No one was more surprised than me that my submission was actually chosen for the featured art piece for the Marigold Festival!” See the winning design on p. 5.





# Winterville Civitan Club Memorial Brick Donation Form

IN SUPPORT OF



## 4" x 8" pavers

Price is \$50.00 per brick which includes up to 3 lines of text with 14 spaces per line.

*Please enter the text below, exactly how you would like it to appear.*


Cash/checks\* can be mailed with this form to:

Caroline Rice, Treasurer  
Winterville Civitan Club  
PO Box 62  
Winterville, GA 30683

*\*Make checks out to Civitan Club of Winterville.*



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WintervilleArtsCouncil@gmail.com

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF WINTERVILLE

**2022  
WINTERVILLE  
MARIGOLD  
FESTIVAL  
DAYTIME MUSIC**

**11AM-5PM  
FREE LIVE OUTDOOR MUSIC**

11:00 Sir Crazy Pants  
12:15 Lighthearted  
1:30 Liquid Dynamite  
2:45 Creemo  
4:00 Bloodkin with  
Betsy Franck

**SATURDAY  
MAY 14TH, 2022**

DITTARD PARK

The poster features a stylized orange acoustic guitar on the left side. The text is in bold red and black fonts. The background is a light beige color.

## About the Gazette

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

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