

THE TOWNE HALL NEWS



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REEVES HOUSE WINS 2023 TRAVELBLAZERS AWARD

Visit Woodstock GA accepted an award on behalf of The Reeves House at Woodstock Arts at the Georgia Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus' 2023 Conference in Albany in February. Georgia Trend selected five projects for the 2023 class of Travelblazers. The Reeves House, an innovative reimagining of a historic homesite into the heart of Woodstock's arts community, was selected because of Woodstock Arts' partnership with City of Woodstock, Woodstock Downtown Development Authority, and John Wieland's JW Collection.

The Travelblazers Awards celebrate destination development projects that demonstrate creative community collaboration and partnership. A "travelblazer" is innovative. Original. A pioneer. Someone who is instantly described as working to create a unique impact within the industry and for their community. The Reeves House will be featured in the July issue of Georgia Trend with the other four recipients: The Market at Visit Statesboro, Gainesville Kayak Vending Machine, Atlanta Dream and Arches Brewing's Collaboration Dream Empire, and Macon's Christmas Lights Extravaganza.

REEVES HOUSE WINS 2023 TRAVELBLAZER AWARD (CONTINUED)

The replica of the century-old Reeves farmhouse in downtown Woodstock features a gallery for rotating exhibits, a classroom, an artist studio, and a coffee and wine bar. The decade-long effort overcame epic challenges. Following the recession, City of Woodstock purchased the property. Arts organization founders approached city officials with the initiative to build a multifaceted arts destination there. City of Woodstock demonstrated crucial leadership early in the project by committing Parks & Recreation Impact Fees. The Revive the Reeves campaign raised \$600,000 from individuals, businesses, and foundations for renovations. Today, the exhibits, classes, and events that take place in this beautiful destination create vibrancy serving locals and visitors through diverse and expansive experiences. In-depth classes and immersive camps at Woodstock Arts provide training in theater, performance arts, and visual arts.

"The Reeves House is such an incredible example of what can happen when private sector giants like John Wieland, city leaders and best-in-class non-profits like Woodstock Arts come together to build community," said Mayor Michael Caldwell. "These entities' dedication to Woodstock, and specifically their efforts in this project, have made a lasting difference for our city and created an asset that generations to come will enjoy."



WHAT DOES A MAYOR DO?

A Message from Mayor Michael Caldwell

One of the most common questions I am asked is some variation of “so what does a Mayor do?” Article IX of Georgia’s Constitution guarantees to our citizens and local government the right of “Home Rule” or the ability for local governments to pass their own laws and govern themselves (within the constitutional bounds and limitations set by the legislature). With more than 500 cities, each possesses a charter granted by the Georgia General Assembly and our right to govern is granted by the Constitution and the legislature. With so many cities, each one created in its own time and by a different variation of the legislature to serve a different community, you have vastly differing charters and structures across the state.

These range from “Strong Mayor-Council” structures where the Mayor serves as the chief executive and runs daily operations (ex. Atlanta) to “Weak Mayor-Council” where the elected officials share daily operations to our city’s form of government: the Council-Manager system. I once heard our City Manager Jeff Moon explain our city’s governing structure by comparing it to that of a publicly traded companies, and to date that has been the best way I have heard to explain it (not to mention the comparison pulled at my private-sector heart strings in all the right ways). Woodstock has an elected City Council of six members and an elected Mayor. For our corporate comparison, consider this body the Board of Directors. In a Fortune 500 company, the Board of Directors is ultimately responsible for the company and sets policy direction, but they do not run daily operations. For this purpose, they hire an experienced professional to serve as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) who will then hire business unit leaders.

Here in the 28th largest city in Georgia, we call that CEO our City Manager. The City Manager serves at the pleasure of the City Council and has complete administrative authority over the city’s operations (including the hiring and firing of department heads). He drafts the budget, administers city functions and advises Council. The City Council, like a board of directors, is responsible for overseeing administrative activities, assessing performance, and setting policies. They adopt law, adopt a budget, and hold the civil servants accountable. (Continued)



WHAT DOES A MAYOR DO? (CONTINUED)

In the same way a board is tasked with looking out for shareholders' interests, it is the Council's duty to keep the citizen and their interests front of mind in all things.

So what does the Mayor do? The charter states that I shall preside over all council meetings, be the official ceremonial head of the city, have the power to administer oaths and take affidavits, and sign all contracts, laws, etc. on behalf of the city. I am also granted a veto power which can be overridden by council with a simple majority vote, and I am granted a vote on Council but only in the case of a tie.

Practically, if we look back to our corporate comparison, I serve as the Chairman of the Board. A quick Google search will tell you that a Board Chair's responsibilities are to head the board of directors, provide leadership to the firm's executives and other employees, lead the charge on big-picture decisions, and set the tone for the corporate culture of the company. These fairly outline the job description in my opinion. My role is that of facilitator. I ensure that the staff has the resources from Council they need in order to execute on the elected officials' vision for the city, and I work to make sure that each Council member's objectives for the city are part of a larger agenda to be executed. It is my job to build coalition and to set the policy agenda for our city moving forward, and it is, in my opinion, the best job in the world.

As I have just completed my first year as Mayor, I want to say thank you for the honor of serving our families. If you ever have ideas for ways that I could be doing this job more effectively, please don't hesitate to call on me.



Mayor Caldwell issued an official proclamation recognizing the River Ridge Girls Basketball Team's State Championship win. It was the first state championship for River Ridge High School in any sport.

Upcoming Events

april

Apr 6 Downtown Development Authority Meeting 5 pm
Apr 6 Planning Commission Meeting 7 pm
Apr 10 Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council 7 pm
Apr 17 Mayor and Council Worksession CANCELLED
Apr 21-23 City Wide Yard Sale
Apr 22 Greenstock Day Recycling & Paper Shredding Event
Apr 24 Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council 7 pm

may

May 4, 11, 18, 25 Brown Bag Concert Series 12 pm
May 4 Downtown Development Authority Meeting 5 pm
May 4 Planning Commission Meeting 7 pm
May 8 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council 7 pm
May 13 Craig Morgan at Woodstock Summer Concert Series 7:30 pm
May 15 Mayor and Council Worksession CANCELLED
May 18 Police Memorial Ceremony 7 pm
May 22 Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council 7 pm
May 29 Memorial Day Ceremony 10 am

We Are Hiring

The City of Woodstock offers challenging career opportunities. Over 200 full-time and part-time employees provide valuable services and programs to the community. City employees receive competitive salaries and benefits as well as opportunities for advancement.

We have positions open in our Finance department, HR department, Community Development department, Parks and Recreation department, Police department and Fire Department.

For details and to apply online, go to woodstockga.gov/jobs

HEART FOR WOODSTOCK EMPLOYEE SERVICE PROGRAM

The City of Woodstock has introduced a new employee service program called Heart for Woodstock. All full-time employees are eligible to spend one full-day or two half-days on volunteer activities in Cherokee County. City employees are encouraged to use their employee service day to support local non-profits that work towards a cause they are passionate about. Heart for Woodstock service days make great department team building events and are also a great way to get together with other co-workers who have similar interests. The program is 100% voluntary and employee participation is not required.

Building Official Duane Helton and Streets Operation Manager Chris Knock volunteered with Special Olympics recently. Human Resources Generalist Sarah Hugart volunteered making blankets with a local nonprofit.



THIGPEN NAMED YOUNG GAMECHANGER

Assistant City Manager Coty Thigpen was selected as one of 45 promising professionals to serve in the GeorgiaForward 2023 Young Gamechangers (YG) program. YG is a unique leadership action program hosted by GeorgiaForward, a non-profit organization administrated by the Georgia Municipal Association. Young Gamechangers brings professionals from across the state to work on the persistent challenges of one Georgia community.

In 2023, Columbus-Muscogee County will host the Young Gamechangers. Columbus leaders have finalized their four "Challenge Questions" that the 2023 cohort will be charged to answer through the eight months they will spend developing specific, actionable recommendations for the community. These questions focus on economic development, community engagement, local entrepreneurship, and more.

Since earning a Master's in Public Administration from Kennesaw State, Coty Thigpen worked with the cities of Canton, Alpharetta, and Sandy Springs before joining the City of Woodstock in 2020. She is passionate about creating communities which inspire people to connect and works every day to make Woodstock a place where citizens are proud to live, work, and play.

"What an honor it is to be chosen to participate in the Young Gamechangers Program," Thigpen said. "I look forward to collaborating with this undoubtedly accomplished group of young professionals from across the state to be inspired by what the City of Columbus has done and what we think it can be."

The 2023 cohort of Gamechangers will meet for the first time in the City of Columbus on April 26th, and their work will culminate with a community presentation of their findings and recommendations on October 19th.

"The professionals who participate in the Young Gamechangers Program in Columbus will bring fresh eyes and an openness to big new ideas," said GMA CEO and Executive Director Larry Hanson. "Many of the innovative recommendations provided by past groups have shown that this fresh perspective can be a catalyst for positive, creative and thoughtful development for the host city. I am confident our next group will find great benefit from the program and leave a lasting impact on Columbus."



WOODSTOCK FIRE CHIEF DAVE SOUMAS RETIRES

The City of Woodstock has announced the retirement of Woodstock Fire & Rescue Chief Dave Soumas. Chief Soumas has served the citizens of Woodstock as a member of the Woodstock Fire Department since 1988. In his 34 years of service, Soumas led the department in significant advancements and milestones.

Dave Soumas was hired in November 1988 as a Firefighter/EMT. He was promoted to Sergeant/Driver Engineer in December 1994 and Captain/Fire Marshal in July 1998. Just four months later, he was promoted to Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal. He has served as Fire Chief for the City of Woodstock since 2009. In his distinguished career in public safety, Chief Soumas earned multiple National Board of Fire Service professional qualifications.

He earned an Arson Investigation Certificate from Georgia Public Safety Training Center where he received an award for academic excellence.

As the longest tenured chief in city history, Soumas has advanced the capabilities of Woodstock's Fire Department by establishing special units including the Swiftwater Rescue Team, the Bike Team, and the Technical Rope Team. In his time as Chief, Soumas ensured every member of the department received Basic Life Support certification with the State of Georgia and introduced two rescue trucks. As Assistant Chief, Soumas oversaw the building of Fire Station 14 in 2001 and the purchase of City of Woodstock's \$1M ladder truck.

In 2015, Chief Soumas secured an Insurance Services Office rating of 1 for the City of Woodstock, the highest score awarded. Of the over 27,000 fire departments nationwide, Woodstock is one of only 456 departments who have earned an ISO rating of 1 indicating the highest level of fire protection for citizens and property owners.

"In this day and age, it isn't common anymore for someone to spend 34 years with the same organization such as Chief Soumas has with the City of Woodstock," said City Manager Jeff Moon. "His dedication to the department and this community have been exemplary. I have enjoyed working with Dave for almost 15 years now and will miss seeing him every day. I certainly wish him many years of happiness and enjoyment and he enters this next phase of his life. Well done, Chief."

(Continued)



WOODSTOCK FIRE CHIEF DAVE SOUMAS RETIRES (CONT.)

Under his leadership, Woodstock Fire Department has implemented a state-of-the-art software system utilizing mobile data terminals in all department vehicles, firefighters have been issued two full sets of gear which protecting them from environmental hazards, and thermal imaging cameras have been deployed with every self-contained breathing apparatus.

“The success of our Fire Department is a product of its fantastic leadership. Chief Dave Soumas has served Woodstock in the Fire Department for more than three decades. His constant dedication to his fire fighters, and to the constituents he serves, is evident in everything he does,” said Mayor Michael Caldwell. “His focus is always on our citizens, and his work bears that fruit in the form of a service-oriented, excellent department. Chief, on behalf of our entire city: We are honored to call you one of our own, and your service to our city will echo in the Woodstock Fire Department for generations of firefighters to come. Thank you for your service, sir.”

Chief Soumas' last day with the Woodstock Fire Department will be April 30th, 2023.





You Are Cordially Invited to a Reception
Celebrating the Retirement of

WOODSTOCK FIRE CHIEF
DAVE SOUMAS

Monday, April 24th
from 6 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

The Chambers at City Center
8534 Main Street
Woodstock, GA 30188

Refreshments will be served. No RSVP required.

CITY OF WOODSTOCK HIRES SHANE DOBSON AS FIRE CHIEF

The City of Woodstock announces the hiring of Shane Dobson as Fire Chief. Dobson's first day with Woodstock Fire & Rescue will be Monday, April 24, 2023. Shane Dobson began his career in firefighting with the City of Woodstock when he was hired as a firefighter in 1993. He returns to the City with 30 years of experience combined with extensive training and education.

Chief Dobson most recently served as the Deputy Fire Chief for Administration with the City of Roswell Fire Department. Prior to that, he held a number of roles with Dekalb Fire and Rescue, including Battalion Chief and Deputy Chief of Operations, rising to the rank of Deputy Fire Chief for Professional Services & Training in 2021. "The Woodstock Fire Department has a long and rich history of which I was privileged to be a part early in my career," stated Chief Dobson. "The City made a lasting impression on me personally and professionally, as it ultimately influenced my career and my successes. I consider it a privilege to represent the department and take it to the next level."

Chief Dobson has a Master of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Management and Leadership from Reinhardt University. He earned an associate degree in Fire Science Technology from West Georgia Technical College and an Intermediate Emergency Medical Technician Certificate from Chattahoochee Technical College. Dobson received his Chief Fire Officer Designation (CFO) from the Center for Public Safety Excellence and his Georgia Chief Fire Officer Certification from Georgia Fire Chiefs Association. He is a graduate of Leadership Dekalb, a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the National Fire Protection Association, and the Metro Atlanta Fire Chiefs Association.

"We're excited to have Chief Dobson come on board. To have started his career in Woodstock and be able to capstone his career as Chief of the department where he started is really special," said City Manager Jeff Moon. "Shane's experience and training have prepared him well to lead the men and women of the Woodstock Fire Department and we are excited about the future. I know that he will be able to build on the outstanding work that Chief Soumas has done in his 34 years with the City of Woodstock."

Woodstock Fire Department has an Insurance Services Office (ISO) Rating of 1, the highest rating, indicating the measure of how well a community is protected from the threat of fire placing the department in the top 1.6% of departments nationwide. The department is currently hiring firefighters and EMTs. Learn more and apply online at woodstockga.gov/jobs.



WOODSTOCK SUMMER CONCERT SERIES 2023 LINEUP

The 2023 Season of Woodstock Summer Concert Series opens on Saturday, May 13th with chart-topping country singer-songwriter Craig Morgan. Hits like “Redneck Yacht Club” and “International Harvester” will have downtown Woodstock rocking.

Saturday, June 10th, Rick Springfield takes the stage at the Northside Hospital-Cherokee Amphitheater. It will be a moment to remember when the Australian-born musician and actor sings his Grammy-winning number one hit “Jessie’s Girl”.

Bruno Mars Tribute, Uptown Funk, will bring that twenty-four-carat magic to the July 8th concert. Concertgoers will want to jump when another great tribute act,

Completely Unchained, performs Van Halen’s greatest hits on August 12th.

The season ends on September 9th as southern rock icons Drivin N Cryin rock the stage with original hits like “Fly Me Courageous” and “Straight to Hell”.

"I hope you were able to join us last year for the Summer Concert Series," said Mayor Michael Caldwell. "From Sister Hazel to Scotty McCreery, Woodstock, you showed up to play," said Mayor Caldwell. "It's not unexpected to find our concerts yielding thousands in attendance, and this year is shaping up to be the biggest ever."

Sponsorships sold out quickly this year.

Additional details will be announced online at woodstockconcertseries.com in the coming weeks.



SPECIAL EVENT FEATURING BRYCE LEATHERWOOD PRESENTED BY CARRIAGE KIA OF WOODSTOCK

Winner of NBC's The Voice Will Perform at Northside Hospital-Cherokee Amphitheater on August 25th

The City of Woodstock and Carriage Kia of Woodstock announce a special performance by local singer/songwriter Bryce Leatherwood in his hometown on Friday, August 25, 2023, in the Northside Hospital-Cherokee Amphitheater in Downtown Woodstock.

Bryce Leatherwood was born and raised in Woodstock, and this is where his passion for music began. Traditional country music by artists like George Jones, Merle Haggard, and Conway Twitty inspired Bryce to become a guitarist and singer/songwriter. He formed a band while attending Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Georgia. In December 2022, Leatherwood was crowned winner of NBC's The Voice. Once Bryce made it to the finals on The Voice, local fans began reaching out to the City of Woodstock to request a local concert appearance.

"After several months under wraps, I am so excited to announce this special event to celebrate Woodstock's hometown hero and "The Voice" winner Bryce Leatherwood," said Mayor Michael Caldwell. "I can't wait to see each of you and your families in the amphitheater this August with Bryce for a show that I know Woodstock won't soon forget!"

Presenting Sponsor Carriage Kia of Woodstock is a full-service dealer offering new Kia vehicles, used cars, service and parts in Woodstock that aims to make every customer feel like a part of the Carriage Automotive Group family. "Carriage Kia Woodstock is proud to sponsor the special homecoming celebration concert of Woodstock's own, 2022 winner of The Voice, Bryce Leatherwood!" said Principal Owner David Basha.

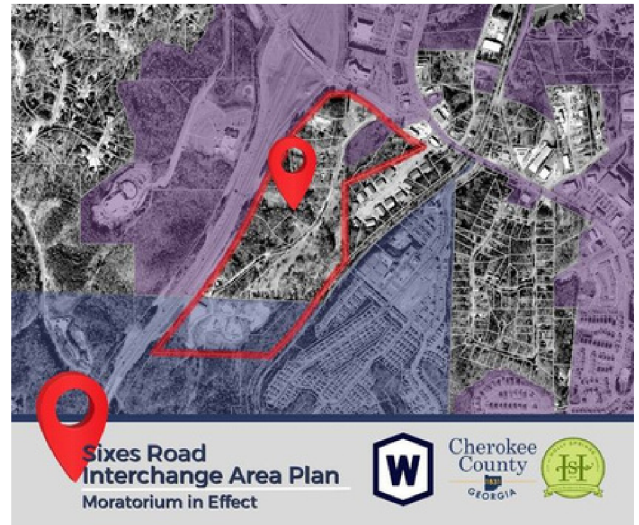
Information on accommodations is available at visitwoodstockga.com/hotels. More information about the event will be published on woodstockga.gov and woodstockparksandrec.com.



SIXES ROAD INTERCHANGE AREA PLAN

Cherokee County and the cities of Holly Springs and Woodstock are coming together to plan for future development near the Sixes Road interchange at Interstate 575. Instead of piecemeal development, city and county leaders want to take a collaborative look and plan together to ensure quality development of the area and lessen the impact of traffic congestion.

Woodstock, Holly Springs, and Cherokee County have approved separate moratoriums on development applications and permits for the area as a joint area plan is developed.



FROM CHEROKEE COUNTY: SAFE STREETS AND ROADS GRANT

Cherokee County and several of its cities have been awarded a \$450,000 action plan grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Safe Streets and Roads for All program.

The USDOT announced the award Feb. 1., which totaled \$800 million in awards for 510 projects through the first round of funding for the program. The grant program provides funding for regional and local jurisdictions to develop a transportation safety action plan aimed at improving road designs to better sidewalks and crosswalks to prevent deaths and serious injuries on the nation's roadways.

"We are thrilled that Cherokee County, together with the cities of Canton, Woodstock, Holly Springs, and Ball Ground, were awarded funds from USDOT to complete a transportation safety action plan," said Cherokee County Community Development Agency Director Brantley Day. "This plan is expected to recommend improvements to the transportation network aimed at increasing vehicular and pedestrian safety. The county and the cities will work together to complete this very exciting project."

The Safe Streets and Roads for All program supports the USDOT's mission of zero roadway deaths and its National Roadway Safety Strategy. The program launched in January 2022 with the goal of making the nation's roadways safer for everyone by stressing responsible driving, safer roadway designs, appropriate speed-limit setting, and improved post-crash care among other strategies.

The USDOT is awarding grants for both planning and implementation projects. Action plan grants assist communities that do not currently have a roadway safety plan in place to reduce roadway fatalities, laying the groundwork for a comprehensive set of actions. Implementation grants provide funding for communities to implement strategies and projects that will reduce or eliminate transportation-related fatalities and serious injuries.

CERTIFIED CITY CLERKS

In February, Mayor Caldwell recognized Deputy City Clerk Sandy Henry and City Clerk Elle Taylor who recently completed 101 hours of required training to become Georgia Certified Clerks. We are so proud of you, Sandy and Elle!



DEVELOPMENT FORUM

On Friday, February 10th, Woodstock Community Development hosted the 2023 Woodstock Development Forum at the Woodstock Arts City Center Theater. The half-day forum brought together decision-makers and experts from around the region to promote knowledge sharing and mutual learning on land use and transportation issues impacting Woodstock and greater Cherokee County.

EVENT GREEN CONSTRUCTION

One of the most welcoming spots in Downtown Woodstock is getting some much-needed TLC. The Woodstock Arts Event Green is undergoing major renovations thanks to the leadership of the Woodstock Downtown Development Authority. At the Woodstock DDA's March meeting, Woodstock Arts Executive Director Christopher Brazelton presented a proposal for Event Green and Stage improvements. The members of the DDA approved the request and the result will be an even more organic and authentic downtown district. The approved improvements included grading and resodding of the greenspace, construction of retaining walls, sidewalks and stairs, installation of monument signs and additional signage, and the addition of stage storage. The cost of the improvements is estimated at \$125,000.00.

Approximately 15,000 people visit the Event Green for Woodstock Arts events annually. Another 13,000 visit for partner events and rentals. Tens of thousands more use the space in non-event times as greenspace. This amenity increases community engagement by building the value of artistic spaces in our city. It is a pivotal part of positioning Woodstock as a leader in the arts in our metro area and region.

Each year, the Lantern Series provides residents and visitors with intentional art experiences curated for connection. Festivals like Art on the Green increase opportunity for local artists while events like Taste of Woodstock and Cadence Fair provide opportunity and exposure for local restaurants and brands. A new LED screen allows Woodstock Arts to engage visitors to downtown Woodstock through indie films, film festivals, family movie nights, and a summer movie series for the community. (Continued)



EVENT GREEN CONSTRUCTION (CONT.)

The landscaping and paving work will make the green more accessible and welcoming to a wide spectrum of visitors. Monument signs will help guests with wayfinding, other signs will allow for more consistent and clear messaging while promoting upcoming events and building awareness of Woodstock Arts' impact on our community. Stage storage will increase the capacity for events and increase sustainability.

The Woodstock Arts Event Green adds to our quality of life in obvious ways: time connecting with friends and family, exposure to arts and culture, access to nature, etc. The space contributes to our community economically in profound ways as well. Only 48% of Woodstock Arts' audiences are local to Woodstock and Cherokee County. Over half are from other locations in Georgia or beyond. That tourism results in an economic impact of nearly \$2.5M annually for Woodstock and Cherokee County. Woodstock Arts' economic impact supports jobs in our downtown core.

The public-private partnership between the City of Woodstock and Woodstock Arts promotes a vibrant and diverse city for the years to come. The organic and authentic encounters taking place on this beloved greenspace enhance our city's energy and spirit. This revitalized space welcomes residents and visitors alike to gather in A CITY UNEXPECTED.



HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS

Attention property owners! The deadline for filing your real estate exemptions is Monday, April 3. Don't miss out on potential savings - make sure you visit the official website of the Cherokee County Tax Assessor's Office at <https://www.cherokeega.com/Tax-Assessors-Office/> for all the information you need.

NEW BUSINESS RECRUITMENT TOOL

Mayor Michael Caldwell has set a goal for the City of Woodstock to attract more small and mid sized employers to our city that bring higher paying jobs that will support the families who already call this place home. As tech entrepreneurs, Mayor Caldwell and his business partner have built a company in the heart of our city that employs nearly 30 full time, the majority of which live a short distance from downtown Woodstock. He knows first hand it can be done.

There are a tremendous number of business owners who live in Woodstock, but own companies in surrounding areas. "It's time to bring those businesses home, to build a sustainable, antifragile, diversified economy here in our home city," says Mayor Caldwell. "It's time that we build a business community that will continue to enhance the sense of place for which our city is so well known."

If you own a business outside of Woodstock, it's time for you to work closer to home. The City of Woodstock is working to bring the physical footprint and infrastructure needed for you to headquarter here. For both new and existing Woodstock businesses, Woodstock Office of Economic Development is intent on making sure our city, like our state, is number one for business. There's a new business recruitment form available online.

Complete the form at <https://share.hsforms.com/1VDx2JV4vSHC6lz1Bt4ZBQge6jgn>

Help us build an economy in Woodstock that can lead the way to an even stronger community.



Rendering of Woodstock City Center

MOTORIST ADVISORY

East Main Street between Wheeler St and Arnold Mill Rd will close the first week of April. Construction fencing will be installed for Phase I construction of Woodstock City Center. The former Ace Hardware parking lot will no longer be accessible. Access to the area is at the intersection of Fowler St and Main St during this phase of construction.

IN WDSTK PRESENTS CHECK TO WPSF

The IN WDSTK mINgle committee presented a check to the Woodstock Public Safety Foundation in January for the funds raised at the Jingle Mingle that took place December 1, 2022.

\$3200.00 was raised during the event and silent auction to benefit WPSF's "Shop with a Hero" event.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Jingle Mingle! It was a fun and successful night!



LITTLE RIVER PARK PROGRESS

In February, City Council approved a contract with Earth Elements for design services for Phase I. Construction drawings should be completed by June. Initial construction for Phase could begin late 2023 or early 2024.

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

The City of Woodstock has restructured its Information Technology Department and named Katy Leggett as the organization's first Chief Information Officer.

Following the announcement of IT Director Jeff Smith's retirement in January, City officials saw the opportunity to combine the IT Department with the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Division and began the process to promote GIS Manager Katy Leggett to Chief Information Officer (CIO).

Leggett will lead the combined department in implementing a more proactive, data-driven strategy while ensuring greater organizational efficiency.

Formerly, City of Woodstock's IT department provided internal service responding to help desk tickets, performing server maintenance, providing training, and ensuring data security. Going forward, the reorganization positions all city departments to collaborate more effectively and utilize more data in policy and decision-making.

"I am honored to have been promoted to the role of Chief Information Officer for the City of Woodstock. This new opportunity allows me to continue serving the city and its residents in a more impactful way, and I am excited to take on this new challenge," said Leggett. "My focus will be on leveraging technology to improve the delivery of city services and enhance the overall quality of life for our residents. I am eager to work closely with the city's leadership team and all employees to achieve our shared goals and provide the best possible experience for the people of Woodstock."

Katy Leggett began with the City of Woodstock as a GIS Analyst in 2013 and was promoted to GIS Manager in 2014. Since then, Leggett has pioneered solutions promoting data-driven decision making for city staff and elected officials, such as server upgrades, full implementation of ArcGIS Online and Field Maps, creation of The Data Hub (an open data portal), and an internal UAV/Drone Program with trained FAA-certified pilots. Katy also cofounded and served as the Co-Project Lead for Smart Woodstock, the city's Internet of Things (IoT) technology initiative that developed and adopted a Master Plan for Smart technology in future city projects.

"This newly combined Information Technology Department will focus on leveraging technology to pursue innovative solutions to enhance service delivery for our residents and business community" stated Assistant City Manager Coty Thigpen. "The fresh take on the department and focus on collaboration will position Woodstock to be a leader in smart strategies and will foster a data driven decision making process."

Key to the success of the restructure was the promotion of Senior Systems Administrator Steve Onufrock to Deputy CIO. Onufrock, who joined the City of Woodstock in 2019, will continue to advance the City of Woodstock's network and information infrastructure while supervising the city's two HD Techs, Ish Bahena and Kris Movalia. GIS Analyst Valentina Fehr will continue to report to Leggett.

For more information including a map and data hub and Smart Woodstock Master Plan, visit woodstockga.gov/it.



2023 STATE OF THE CITY

Woodstock Mayor Michael Caldwell delivered his 2023 State of the City Address on January 20th at the Woodstock Arts City Center Theater.

Mayor Caldwell outlined his top three major policies for the upcoming year: To enhance the quality of life in Woodstock by focusing on parks expansions and establishing Woodstock as a regional trail hub; to build a more sustainable, secure economy in Woodstock by diversifying the commercial base with a concerted effort to recruit high-paying jobs and businesses into the core of the city; and, to concentrate city efforts on building generational wealth for citizens through the largest economic engine in human history, American home ownership.





BROWN BAG CONCERT SERIES

Twenty-Five years of lunchtime, acoustic music in the Gazebo in Park at City Center, the Brown Bag Concert Series returns this May! Every Thursday at noon a local musician or musicians will play an hour-long concert for a great way to spend a lunch break.

- May 4 Danielle McLean
- May 11 Mark Miller
- May 18 Trevor Startt
- May 25 Serpent & Dove

SEIS de MAYO PUB CRAWL

On Saturday, May 6th from 2 to 6 pm, Visit Woodstock GA will celebrate Seis de Mayo in Downtown Woodstock. When you arrive at you first restaurant on the crawl, you will be given an entry form. For each restaurant visited, you will receive a stamp on your entry form. Once you have received five stamps, you may turn in your entry to any participating restaurant to be entered to win event prizes. Winners will be drawn from the entries and announced on Visit Woodstock GA social media on a day following the crawl. More info at visitwoodstockga.com/seisdemayo



GEORGIA CITIES WEEK

Georgia Cities Week is April 23rd through the 29th. The event is sponsored by Georgia Municipal Association and it gives the City of Woodstock the opportunity to share information about the valuable services we provide to residents and businesses, highlight successful community projects and infrastructure enhancements, and connect with citizens.

More information will be published soon on woodstockga.gov and on the City of Woodstock social media.



Greenstock Day Celebration 2023 !

City Wide Yard Sale

Weekend of April 22nd

Please join us as Woodstock continues its journey to "Go Green"!
Reuse ~ Repurpose ~ Recycle ~ Rethink ~ Reduce

Why?

The Great American Cleanup organizes millions of volunteers in locally directed activities that encourage individual stewardship for the environment and care for the community. Efforts in litter prevention and removal, waste reduction, recycling, beautification, and community greening result in cleaner, greener, safer and more beautiful public spaces. In honor of Earth Day and Keep Georgia Beautiful, citizens are encouraged to hold yard sales!

How do I sign up?

Easy sign up! Visit www.WoodstockParksandRec.com Special Events and submit your address online. Only your address and subdivision will appear in the advertisements. Please put up your individual street signs with days, hours, and directions. Be sure to remove the signs immediately after your sale. Reuse them next year!

(Addresses for the Yard Sale Ads will be accepted until 4-4-23)

Is there a Fee?

There is no cost to you! Let us help advertise your sale!

Where will you advertise my sale?

City of Woodstock/Parks & Rec Website
Flyer & Interactive Online Map
The Park at City Center Kiosk
City of Woodstock E-mail blasts
Woodstock Patch

Craigslist.com
City of Woodstock Cherokee Tribune Ad
City of Woodstock Ledger News Ad
Parks and Recreation & City Facebook Pages

What should I do with my leftover garage sale items?

Recycle: After your sale, if you have clothing, bedding, shoes, towels, stuffed animals, belts, hats, purses, and backpacks left over, please donate them for reuse or recycling at any USAgain bins which can be found at www.usagain.com.

Donate: Call your favorite charity, they would love your donations!



105 East Main Street, Suite 142 • Woodstock, GA • 30188 • 770-592-6000 ext. 1952

mstockdale@woodstockga.gov

www.WoodstockParksandRec.com City Sponsored Event www.WoodstockConcertSeries.com



Every Drop Counts

Nearly 1 trillion gallons of water are wasted in U.S. homes each year from easy-to-fix leaks. That's why City of Woodstock is participating in Fix a Leak Week, March 20 through March 26, 2023, and we encourage you to join us.

Sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) WaterSense® program, Fix a Leak Week is an opportunity to improve the water efficiency of your home by finding and fixing leaks. In the average home, household leaks waste nearly 10,000 gallons of water each year. That's the amount of water needed to wash 300 loads of laundry!

Here's how to identify leaks around your home:

- Read your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter changes at all, you probably have a leak.
- Winter months are the prime time to check water use and see if you may have a leak. If a family of four exceeds 12,000 gallons per month in the winter, you probably have leaks!

Here's how you can address leaks found at home:

- Check for leaks. Look for dripping faucets, showerheads, sprinklers, and other fixtures. Also check for toilets with silent leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring into the tank and seeing if it appears in the bowl before you flush. Don't forget to check irrigation systems and spigots too.
- Twist and tighten hose and pipe connections. To save more water without a noticeable difference in flow in your bathroom faucet, twist on a WaterSense labeled faucet aerator.
- Replace the fixture if necessary. Look for WaterSense labeled models, which are independently certified to use 20 percent less water and perform as well as or better than standard models.

As a WaterSense partner concerned with preserving our nation's water supply, City of Woodstock and the Environmental Protection Agency can help you learn more.

Get Involved

Grab a wrench or contact your favorite handy person, plumber, or certified irrigation professional to address leaking toilets, faucets, showerheads, and irrigation systems around your home.

- Take the WaterSense pledge
- Visit www.epa.gov/watersense to learn more



Memorial Day Ceremony

May 29, 2023 10:00 am

The Park at City Center

101 Arnold Mill Rd., Woodstock, GA 30188

The City of Woodstock along with the American Legion Post 316, Marine Corps League Detachment 1311, and other local veteran's groups, honor those who fought and died to keep us free.

Join us on Memorial Day for a special service of remembrance.

Highlights include the POW/MIA Remembrance, the reading of Woodstock's Honor Roll, placing of the memorial wreath, dove release, rifle honors and playing of Taps.

Making the event even more special are performances by the Cobb New Horizons Band and bagpiper, Robert Kaus.

Heartfelt and meaningful readings of the *Memorial Day* and *Red Poppy Proclamations*, *The Other Side of the Wall*, *In Flanders Field*, *Keep the Faith*, *Marine Corps Memorial Ritual*, and *Dedication of the Dove Release* will emphasize the importance of this day.

Please check our website for updates *before* heading out to any event.



Honoring All Those Who Have Given the Ultimate Sacrifice, Life Itself.



City of Woodstock Parks and Recreation

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FARM FRESH MARKET



The Woodstock Farm Fresh Market is preparing for the upcoming 2023 market season. Market managers are ensuring the best vendor lineup possible at this year's market.

This year, the Woodstock Farm Fresh Market will be celebrating the 15 year anniversary of the farmers market in Downtown Woodstock! In 2023, the market will be open every Saturday from April 22nd to December 30th. Market hours are 8:30am to noon on Market Street. The Woodstock Farm Fresh Market is sponsored by Synovus.

MILESTONES IN THE CITY OF WOODSTOCK



IN WDSK held a ribbon cutting to celebrate the grand opening of Theory Salon's new location in Woodstock on February 2nd.



On January 20th, IN WDSK held a ribbon cutting celebrating Jubilee Church's Grand Re-Opening and Expansion.

CITY OF
WOODSTOCK
GEORGIA

Towne Hall News is a quarterly publication.
The next issue will be in June 2023.

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