

# THE TOWNE HALL NEWS



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## 25TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS JUBILEE PARADE OF LIGHTS

Over 7,500 visitors viewed the Christmas Jubilee Parade of Lights on Saturday, December 4th at 5:30 pm in Downtown Woodstock. Seventy-three floats participated in the parade and they were decked out in their Christmas finest.

Around 3,000 visitors attended the festivities in the Park at City Center following the parade. At the festival, the tree above the fountain was lit and Mayor Henriques presented a plaque to Preservation Woodstock's Citizens of the Year, Sean and Anna Daily. The Daily's were honored for their preservation of the building that houses their restaurant, Rootstock.

Woodstock Parks and Recreation appreciates the support of Bug Busters, Inc. and the Downtown Woodstock Office of Harry Norman for their sponsorships of the parade and festival.

Council Members Colin Ake and Warren Johnson served as emcees for the parade. Prior to the start of the parade, they held a [CONTINUED]

# 25TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS JUBILEE PARADE OF LIGHTS

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1] karaoke contest to select additional judges for the parade float contest. Along with Woodstock Elementary School Principal Ann Jordan, the group selected the best floats for a variety of categories.

The winners of the parade float contest were announced at the Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council that took place at The Chambers at City Center on Monday, December 13th. Mayor Donnie Henriques presented awards for People's Choice, Most Original, History & Heritage, and Best Holiday floats.

Here are the parade float winners for 2021!



People's Choice Let's Pretend Publishing



Most Original Nocturnal Pirates of Atlanta



History & Heritage Bug Busters, Inc.



Best Holiday Power Taps Clogging

## **SWEARING-IN CEREMONY FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS**

The swearing in ceremony for Mayor-Elect Michael Caldwell and Councilmembers Warren Johnson, Colin Ake and Brian Wolfe will take place at the first regular meeting of the Mayor and Council on January 10. Join us to celebrate our new and returning elected officials at a reception at 6 PM, followed by the swearing in at the beginning of the meeting at 7 PM.

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## **STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS**

Mayor Caldwell will deliver the State of the City Address at two events in January. On Friday January 21, IN Wdstk hosts a breakfast version of the address to investors of the organization at Woodstock Arts' City Center Theater. Event details and tickets can be found at [inwdstk.org/events](http://inwdstk.org/events).

The Mayor will present the official State of the City address to the City Council at their January 24 meeting.

The city will release a recorded version of the address on the website and social media channels following these events.



## **GROUNDBREAKING FOR HUB PROJECT**

The City of Woodstock held a groundbreaking ceremony on September 27th in Downtown Woodstock for the HUB Transformation Project. The traffic improvement project encompasses several improvements throughout the downtown area that, when finished, will significantly improve traffic movements, and dramatically improve pedestrian mobility throughout the central business district. For more info on this project, visit [woodstockga.gov/hub](http://woodstockga.gov/hub)



## SCARECROW INVASION HAS RECORD YEAR IN 2021

IN WDSTK announced the 2021 Scarecrow Invasion held in October raised over \$25,000 through entry fees and donations. This money is directly re-invested into downtown beautification projects through IN Season, the design committee arm of IN WDSTK.

This years winners include:

1st place voting : Robert Fitzgerald Insurance

2nd place voting : Atlanta Communities Real Estate

3rd place voting : Realty One Group Edge

Most Creative : Anthony Quillian Agency (State Farm)

Tourism Manager Kyle Bennett had this to say about the event, "This year's Scarecrow Invasion featured some of the most creative and unique scarecrows I have ever seen in the event. The creativity of the entrants is a huge reason the event draws thousands of visitors to Downtown Woodstock during the month of October." Bennett continued, "This results in a huge positive economic impact on area businesses as people shop and dine in Downtown Woodstock while they are in town to see the Woodstock Scarecrow Invasion."

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## HOLIDAY TRASH SCHEDULE

Since Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall on Saturdays this year, there will be no delay in Waste Management trash and recycling service. Weekday holidays typically delay trash collection by one day.

## CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Throw away your Christmas tree the environmental way! Bring your Christmas trees to Olde Rope Mill Park starting the day after Christmas to be fed into the chipper. The following week, bring a shovel to the park and "dip" into the free mulch. Please, no flocked, painted, or decorated trees (they poison our waterways). This event is sponsored by Keep Georgia Beautiful and the City of Woodstock Storm water Department. On January 8 from 9:00am-4:00pm, free tree seedlings, coffee, and donuts will be offered. 8:00am to dusk, Olde Rope Mill Park is located at 690 Olde Rope Mill Park Road, Woodstock.



## RECEPTION FOR MAYOR HENRIQUES

On Monday, December 6th, local officials gathered at the William G. Long Senior Center to recognize Mayor Donnie Henriques for his vision, dedication, and service to our community.



Mayor-Elect Caldwell presented Mayor Henriques with a key to the city. Proclamations were read by Senators Beach and Albers and Representative Byrd. The American Legion and the Woodstock Police Department presented the Mayor with awards expressing their appreciation as well. Mayor Henriques will retire December 31st after sixteen years as Mayor of Woodstock.



## MAYOR HENRIQUES' FINAL COUNCIL MEETING

At Donnie Henriques' last Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council as Mayor of Woodstock, the Marine Corp League presented an award and two challenge coins to Mayor Henriques as thanks for his support for veterans during his four terms as Mayor. Mayor-Elect Caldwell presented him with an American flag and a Georgia flag flown over the State Capitol in his honor.





invites you to

Bring One for the Chipper!

Saturday, January 8th  
9AM to 4PM

Olde Rope Mill Park  
690 Olde Rope Mill Park Rd

Tree Drop Off | Free Seed Packets



Trees should be unbound and free of decorations.  
They will be recycled into mulch or used for fish habitats.



For more information, visit [www.kgbf.org](http://www.kgbf.org)

# TASTE OF WOODSTOCK RAISES FUNDS FOR WOODSTOCK HIGH BAND PROGRAM

Visit Woodstock GA staff presented the Woodstock High School Band Program with a check for \$7,000 from funds raised at the Taste of Woodstock in September. The event was started in the school's cafeteria by the booster club before relocating to downtown and partnering with the Visit Woodstock GA organization. These funds are used by the booster club to offset equipment and operational costs for the bands.

We look forward to seeing everyone next September for this great event!



## WPSF GOLF TOURNEY

Thanks to the generosity of sponsors and participants, the Woodstock Public Safety Foundation's annual golf tournament was a huge success.

23 teams took place in the tournament on November 16th at Woodmont Golf Club with winners taking home great trophies and prizes.



[www.woodstockga.gov/psfoundation](http://www.woodstockga.gov/psfoundation)

[wpsf@woodstockga.gov](mailto:wpsf@woodstockga.gov)

## Coffee with a Cop

Join the men and women of WPD for coffee and conversation each month at the following locations:

January 11 - Leaning Ladder - 8:30-10:00 AM  
 February 8 - Circle of Friends at the Circuit - 8:30-10:00 AM

# Upcoming Events

december

- Dec 1 Downtown Development Authority Meeting 6 pm
- Dec 2 Planning Commission Meeting 7 pm
- Dec 4 Christmas Jubilee and Parade of Lights 5:30 pm
- Dec 13 Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council 7 pm
- Dec 20 CANCELLED Mayor and Council Worksession
- Dec 23 and 24 CITY OFFICES CLOSED
- Dec 27 CANCELLED Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council
- Dec 31 CITY OFFICES CLOSED

- Jan 6 Downtown Development Authority Meeting 6 pm
- Jan 6 Planning Commission 7 pm
- Jan 7-9 Mayor and Council Planning Retreat (Columbus, GA)
- Jan 10 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council 7 pm
- Jan 11 Coffee With a Cop @ Leaning Ladder 8:30 am
- Jan 17 Worksession CANCELLED // CITY OFFICES CLOSED for MLK Day
- Jan 24 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council 7 pm

january

february

- Feb 3 Downtown Development Authority Meeting 6 pm
- Feb 3 Planning Commission 7 pm
- Feb 8 Coffee With a Cop @ Circle of Friends 8:30 am
- Feb 14 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council 7 pm
- Feb 21 CANCELLED Mayor and Council Worksession
- Feb 28 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council 7pm

## Mayor & Council Planning Retreat

The Mayor and City Council will hold their annual strategic planning retreat in Columbus, GA from January 7-9.

The location will allow attendees the opportunity to learn about how the City of Columbus leverages natural resources to encourage sustainable private development.

Retreat details will be posted to [woodstockga.gov/meetings](http://woodstockga.gov/meetings).

## We are Hiring!

Check out [woodstockga.gov/jobs](http://woodstockga.gov/jobs) to see available positions



## WPSF SHOP WITH A HERO

On Saturday, December 11, 2021, the Woodstock Public Safety Foundation held its annual Shop with a Hero event. 125 children from the Woodstock community went shopping for Christmas presents with Woodstock police and fire personnel. The event lasted approximately 3 hours and the Woodstock Public Safety Foundation funded approximately \$13,000 in Christmas presents.

Shop with a Hero program is an annual event where Woodstock Police Officers and Firefighters volunteer to accompany children on a shopping trip for Christmas presents. Each December, Wal-Mart, 12182 Highway 92 in Woodstock, hosts this program which is primarily funded by generous donations to the Woodstock Public Safety Foundation's Shop with a Hero program.

The program started more than 20 years ago when a family in Woodstock wanted to donate money to the police department to assist in making a difference in the community. At the same time, former Officer Richie Rich learned of a local boy whose house was destroyed by fire. He used the donated funds to take the boy Christmas shopping. The boy only wanted to buy a jacket for each person in his family instead of toys. When other officers and firefighters learned of the boy's desire to provide jackets to his family in lieu of toys, officers and firefighters put their money together to take the boy shopping for Christmas presents and toys. Since then, Shop with a Hero Program has served over 1,700 children and continues to grow every year.

To learn more about the Shop with a Hero program or the Woodstock Public Safety Foundation, please visit [www.woodstockga.gov/psfoundation](http://www.woodstockga.gov/psfoundation)



A special thank you to Cherokee County E-9-1-1 and Woodstock High School's Law and Justice students and Spanish Honor Society for their assistance.



# NEW YEAR'S EVE

W O O D S T O C K P O L I C E

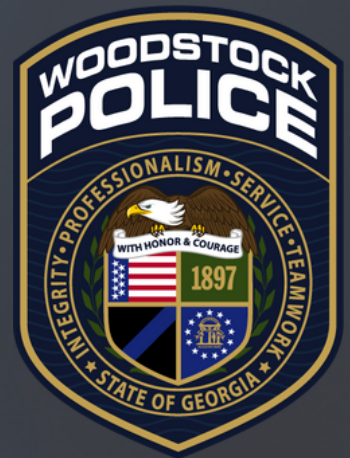
# SAFE RIDE



CALL US FOR A SAFE & FREE LOCAL RIDE HOME

404-740-4502

10p.m. - 2a.m.



This annual initiative is in partnership with the Governor's Office of Highway Safety



## ESSENTIAL GARDENING

Want more BANG FOR YOUR BUCK out of your garden? Join UGA Cherokee County Extension Agent Josh Fuder and the Cherokee Master Gardeners for a garden planning session that will supercharge your garden with fruits, vegetables and herbs that will thrive in our north Georgia growing zone. Participants will receive a garden planning journal with registration.

When: Saturday, January 15, 2022 at 10 am

Where: William G. Long Senior Center Activity Expansion

Registration is \$5 at [woodstockparksandrec.com](http://woodstockparksandrec.com).

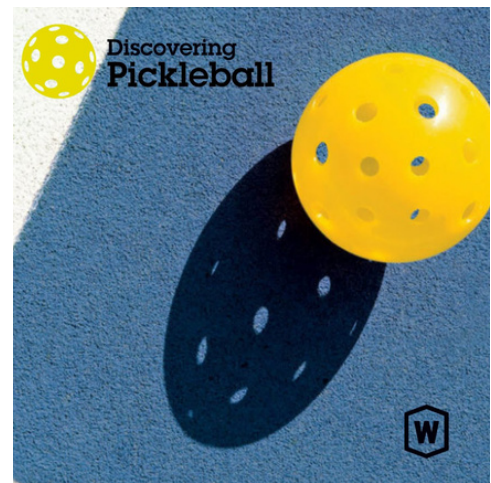
## DISCOVERING PICKLEBALL

Pickleball is a sport that can be played by anyone, regardless of age or sports background. Want to learn? Discovering Pickleball is an hour-long class devoted to getting you ready play Pickleball, and you will by the end of the session! Taught by USA Pickleball Ambassador Jerry Fonger, this introduction to the sport is taught at the Dupree Park Pickleball Courts 1 & 2. Equipment is provided.

When: Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at 6:30pm

Where: Dupree Park Pickleball Courts 1 & 2

Free, but registration is required at [woodstockparksandrec.com](http://woodstockparksandrec.com)



Woodstock Parks and Recreation is a proud partner of Leave No Trace! Look for new programs and workshops in 2022!

For more information on Leave No Trace and the 7 Principles, visit <https://lnt.org>

CITY OF  
**WOODSTOCK**

PARKS AND RECREATION

## NEW PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBER

City Clerk Rhonda Pezzello administered the swearing in of Shawn Miller to the Woodstock Planning Commission at the Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council on Monday, December 13th at 7 p.m. at The Chambers at City Center.



## RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONIES WITH IN WDSTK



On September 1st, IN WDSTK held a ribbon cutting to celebrate the grand opening of The Blue Ghost Arcade on Towne Lake Parkway in Downtown Woodstock.



On October 5th, IN WDSTK held a ribbon cutting to celebrate the grand opening of Cultured Brilliance in Downtown Woodstock.

# BUSINESSES CELEBRATE MILESTONES IN THE CITY OF WOODSTOCK



On October 15th, IN WDSTK held a ribbon cutting to celebrate the grand opening of Honey Bee Salon & Spa on Highway 92 in Woodstock.



On October 29th, IN WDSTK held a ribbon cutting to celebrate the grand opening of Woodstock Beer Market on Chambers Street in Downtown Woodstock.



IN WDSTK held a ribbon cutting for Days of Hope Counseling and Behavioral Health on November 3rd. Days of Hope is located in River Park off Highway 5 in Woodstock.



IN WDSTK held a ribbon cutting on November 30th for Mattress Clearance of Woodstock on Highway 92.

**CITY OF  
WOODSTOCK**  
GEORGIA

Towne Hall News is a quarterly publication.  
The next issue will be in March 2022.

MAYOR DONNIE HENRIQUES  
MAYOR-ELECT MICHAEL CALDWELL  
COUNCIL WARREN JOHNSON  
DAVID POTTS  
COLIN AKE  
TRACY COLLINS  
BRIAN WOLFE  
ROB USHER

CITY MANAGER JEFF MOON  
EDITOR STACY BROWN  
sbrown@woodstockga.gov

Offices located at 12453 Hwy 92.  
Public Meetings take place at 8534 Main St.  
Dates subject to change; check  
woodstockga.gov for updates.  
PHONE 770-592-6000