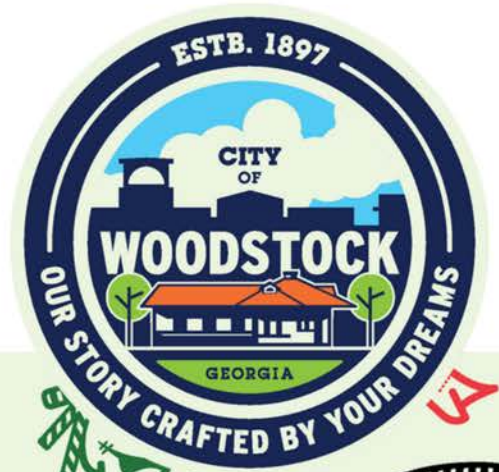


# THE TOWNE HALL NEWS



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## FALL IS COMING TO DOWNTOWN WOODSTOCK!

It's Fall, y'all! Fall is coming to Georgia, and there is no better way to celebrate the season than by staying right here in Downtown Woodstock! Mark your calendars for these great events coming up or check [visitwoodstockga.com/autumn](http://visitwoodstockga.com/autumn) for even more fall-themed events.

To kick off the season, save the date for the 11th Annual Taste of Woodstock, held Thursday, September 15th at the Woodstock Arts Green in Downtown Woodstock.

At Taste of Woodstock, Woodstock-area restaurants will serve delicious tastes of their best dishes and compete in a variety of categories. While guests enjoy the great tastes of Woodstock restaurants, they will also have the opportunity to enjoy great local music! Admission is free, and tickets cost \$0.50 each. Ticket packages will start at \$5. Restaurants may not accept cash, and tastes are priced between two and eight tickets each.

All event proceeds will benefit the Woodstock High School Band program. For more information visit [tastewoodstock.com](http://tastewoodstock.com).

## FALL IS COMING TO DOWNTOWN WOODSTOCK, CONT.

Next up, from Saturday, September 24th until Sunday, October 2nd, Visit Woodstock GA will celebrate Oktoberfest, or actually, Wdstktoberfest, in Downtown Woodstock.

Wdstktoberfest will kick off on Saturday, September 24th with a keg tapping event featuring Woodstock Mayor Michael Caldwell. On Saturday, October 1st, there will be a pub crawl from 2pm to 6pm. Participating restaurants will offer Bavarian food and beverage specials during the event and Visit Woodstock GA will give away \$50 gift cards in prize drawings. Some restaurants will offer specials during the week and on the weekends, and others will offer specials only on the weekends. On pub crawl day, when participants arrive at their first restaurant, they will be given an entry form. For each restaurant visited, they will receive a stamp on their form. Once they have received five stamps, they may redeem their form at the Visit Woodstock GA tent for a boot glass with the event logo. The tent will close at 7pm. See the participating restaurants and their specials at [visitwoodstockga.com/wdstktoberfest](http://visitwoodstockga.com/wdstktoberfest).



To finish out the Fall Festivities, Woodstock will be invaded – by scarecrows that is. The Woodstock Visitor's Center is happy to announce that the Wdstk Scarecrow Invasion will begin this year on October 1st and run through the 31st.

As you drive down Main Street, you will be welcomed by dozens of scarecrows lining the way. Just in time for Halloween, bring the family to Downtown Woodstock to see the scarecrows and stop into the Woodstock Visitor's Center to participate in the scarecrow scavenger hunt. Those who find all of the clues get a Scarecrow Invasion decal. The public gets to vote for their favorite scarecrow in the event. Voting takes place at the Visitor's Center (8588 Main Street) - just drop by any time during the month of October to vote for the scarecrow that you like the best. The votes are \$1 each, and businesses with scarecrows may have voting set up in their store for their scarecrow. The winner will receive bragging rights and an awesome trophy.

For more information on the event, call the Woodstock Visitor's Center at 770-924-0406 or email [kbennett@woodstockga.gov](mailto:kbennett@woodstockga.gov).



# WOODSTOCK ANNOUNCES PARTIAL PROPERTY TAX ROLLBACK

The City of Woodstock Mayor and Council considered a partial property tax rollback at three public hearings at meetings during the month of August. The public hearings took place on Monday August 8, Monday August 15 and Monday August 22, 2022 at the Chambers at City Center.

The public hearings were held in compliance with state legal requirements for a partial millage rate rollback. The fiscal year 2023 budget which took effect on July 1, 2022 was originally based upon a full rollback of the millage rate to 5.198 mills. Recent essential increases to police, public works, and parks and recreation compensation have resulted in a proposed partial rollback from the 2021 rate of 5.981 mills to 5.693 mills. These adjustments, approved on July 18, 2022 were necessary to remain competitive in a shrinking labor market while combatting increasing national inflation. This will be the tenth year in a row the City Council has held steady or reduced the millage rate.

“Our Council is once again lowering our property tax rate to protect our taxpayers from the effects of increasing property values. This year’s proposed reduction to 5.693 mills from 5.981 mills represents the lowest rate possible while also making an important investment in our city’s police officer pay,” said Mayor Michael Caldwell. “I am proud of Council for balancing these vitally important priorities to ensure we maintain some of the lowest taxes and remain one of the safest communities in the State of Georgia.”

Eligible property owners can file for a Homestead Exemption through the tax assessor’s office. This exemption provides a freeze on inflationary increase in value on certain taxes after the base year. For information on this exemption, please visit <https://www.cherokeega.com/tax-assessors-office/homestead-exemptions/>.

The estimated annual tax relief due to the proposed partial rollback to 5.693 mills compared to the tax valuations and estimated tax assessments property owners received based upon the current millage rate are as follows:

- Property owners with a fair market value of \$350,000 can expect a \$40.32 reduction compared to their received assessment estimates.
- Property owners with a fair market value of \$575,000 can expect a \$66.24 reduction compared to their received assessment estimates.

# Upcoming Events

september

- Sept 1 Downtown Development Authority Meeting 5 pm
- Sept 1 Planning Commission Meeting 7 pm
- Sept 5 Labor Day - CITY OFFICES CLOSED
- Sept 10 WSCW - Scotty McCreery 7:30 pm
- Sept 11 9/11 Day of Remembrance 7 pm
- Sept 12 Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council 7 pm
- Sept 19 CANCELLED Mayor and Council Worksession
- Sept 26 Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council 7 pm

- Oct 6 Downtown Development Authority Meeting 5 pm
- Oct 6 Planning Commission Meeting 7 pm
- Oct 10 Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council 7 pm
- Oct 14 Sunset Symphony 7 pm
- Oct 17 Special Called Meeting of the Mayor and Council 7 pm
- Oct 24 Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council 7 pm
- Oct 31 Halloween Trail of Tricks and Treats 5 pm

october

november

- Nov 3 Downtown Development Authority Meeting 5 pm
- Nov 3 Planning Commission Meeting 7 pm
- Nov 11 Veteran's Day Ceremony 7 pm - CITY OFFICES CLOSED
- Nov 14 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council 7 pm
- Nov 19 Tis the Season to be Green Recycle & Paper Shredding Event 9 am
- Nov 21 CANCELLED Mayor and Council Worksession
- Nov 24 Thanksgiving Day - CITY OFFICES CLOSED
- Nov 24 CITY OFFICES CLOSED
- Nov 29 Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council 7 pm

## We are Hiring!

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

## Holiday Trash Schedule

Waste and recycling services will be provided with no delay the week of Labor Day

# WOODSTOCK PUBLIC SAFETY FOUNDATION 7TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Woodstock Public Safety Foundation is excited to announce its 7th Annual Charity Golf Tournament.

The tournament will take place on Thursday, October 6, 2022 at BridgeMill Athletic Club. We are looking for sponsors and players to complete the day's charitable event. Proceeds from this year's event will go towards the general programs that support the mission of the WPSF. Those programs are:

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

This program promotes awareness, improves relationships, and builds partnerships between citizens and the Woodstock Police and Fire Departments via educational initiatives like the Citizen's Public Safety Academy, community safety events, public safety seminars, etc.

## EMERGENCY AID:

This program provides aid and support to Woodstock public safety personnel (Police, Fire, and EMS) and their families in times of need. On occasion, this program may provide nominal assistance to first responders in other jurisdictions within the state of Georgia.

## SHOP WITH A HERO:

This annual program, in partnership with Woodstock police and fire departments, provides aid to Woodstock families by purchasing gifts for children in need during the holiday season.

## EQUIPMENT, TRAINING AND SUPPORT:

This program helps fund the acquisition of supplemental equipment and training for the Woodstock Police and Fire Departments. It may also be utilized to provide immediate assistance during critical or emergency public safety situations.

For more information, including player registration and sponsorship opportunities, please visit the event website at <https://wdstk.ga/golf>

Should you have any questions, please reach out to Brittany Page at [bpage@woodstockga.gov](mailto:bpage@woodstockga.gov)



# INCREASE IN PAY FOR POLICE, PUBLIC WORKS, AND PARKS & RECREATION

At the Special Called Meeting of Mayor and Council on July 18th, 2022, the Woodstock City Council unanimously approved an overhaul of the city's compensation plan that includes raises for police, public works, and parks & recreation employees.

"This increase represents the largest single pay increase for our officers in Department history, and accounts for nearly a 25% increase since the start of the calendar year," Mayor Michael Caldwell said. "The City of Woodstock is investing in the men and women who keep our city safe and we are actively competing for the very best officers in Georgia."

The compensation plan plan is to help address the monetary compensation issues that are impacting the Woodstock Police Department in recruiting and retention, according to City Manager Jeff Moon.



"We are grateful to the Mayor, City Council, and City Manager for their unanimous support in approving a compensation plan that offers more money to our current and future officers," Chief Robert Jones said in a statement. "Woodstock Police Department has always been a top agency in the metro-Atlanta area. This new plan will keep us competitive amongst other agencies; thus, retaining and recruiting the best in the business to serve and protect Woodstock."

All raises and changes to the compensation plan took place with the July 28 payroll period.

## HALLOWEEN KIDSFEST & CHRISTMAS JUBILEE

The Halloween Trail of Tricks & Treats KidsFest Vendor and Sponsorship Application is now open! Come join us on October 31st for a night of tricks and treats along the Rubes Creek Trail from 5 - 9pm.

The Christmas Jubilee and Parade of Lights Vendor and Parade applications are also now open! All events will occur on December 3rd.

More information can be found at [woodstockparksandrec.com](http://woodstockparksandrec.com)

## SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

National Preparedness Month is an observance each September to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time. The Federal Emergency Management Agency encourages all Americans to protect themselves by making a plan for emergencies.

This year's campaign is committed to putting people first and reaching communities where they are. To continue these efforts, this year's National Preparedness Month campaign will feature a call to action for the Black and African American community. The 2022 theme is "A Lasting Legacy" - "The life you've built is worth protecting. Prepare for disasters to create a lasting legacy for you and your family."



## FIRE PREVENTION WEEK: OCTOBER 9TH - 15TH

This year, the National Fire Protection Association is celebrating 100 Years of Fire Prevention Week (FPW)! This year's FPW campaign, "Fire won't wait. Plan your escape", works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe from home fires.

Today's homes burn faster than ever. You may have as little as two minutes (or even less time) to safely escape a home fire from the time the smoke alarm sounds. Your ability to get out of a home during a fire depends on early warning from smoke alarms and advance planning.



# OCTOBER IS NATIONAL COMMUNITY PLANNING MONTH

Planners work to improve the well-being of all people living in our communities by taking a comprehensive perspective. This approach leads to safer, resilient, more equitable, and more prosperous communities. We celebrate the role that planning plays in creating great communities each October with National Community Planning Month.

The goal of planning is to maximize the health, safety, and economic well-being of all people living in our communities. This involves thinking about how we can move around our community, how we can attract and retain thriving businesses, where we want to live, and opportunities for recreation. Planning helps create communities of lasting value. A planner's job is to work with residents and elected officials to guide the layout of an entire community or region. Planners take a broad view and look at how the pieces of a community – buildings, roads, and parks – fit together like a puzzle, and then make recommendations on how the community should proceed. One of the greatest challenges for planners is to imagine what can and should happen to a community: how it should grow and change, and what it should offer residents in the future.

The City of Woodstock's Community Development Department is responsible for managing the current and long-term growth of the city through the administration of the zoning code and the comprehensive town plan. The department is made up of the Planning and Zoning Division, the Land Development Office, the Building Department, Code Enforcement, and the Development Services Office. The City of Woodstock's Economic Development Department works with its private and public partners to continue to identify and develop the types of product it wants to attract to the City, retain its existing business and industry, support the growth of entrepreneurs and startups and market its assets to those it wants to attract and retain.

## NOVEMBER 16TH IS GIS DAY

On November 16th, 2022, the City of Woodstock will celebrate innovative applications of geographic information system (GIS) technology in analysis, visualization, gaining insights into geospatial data, and thought leadership in local government.

The City of Woodstock's GIS Department is responsible for creating, analyzing, updating, and maintaining a current and accurate spatial inventory and mapping service for the City of Woodstock's departments and its citizens.

For more information on our GIS team, as well as for examples of their work, check out their website: <https://data-woodstockga.opendata.arcgis.com/>



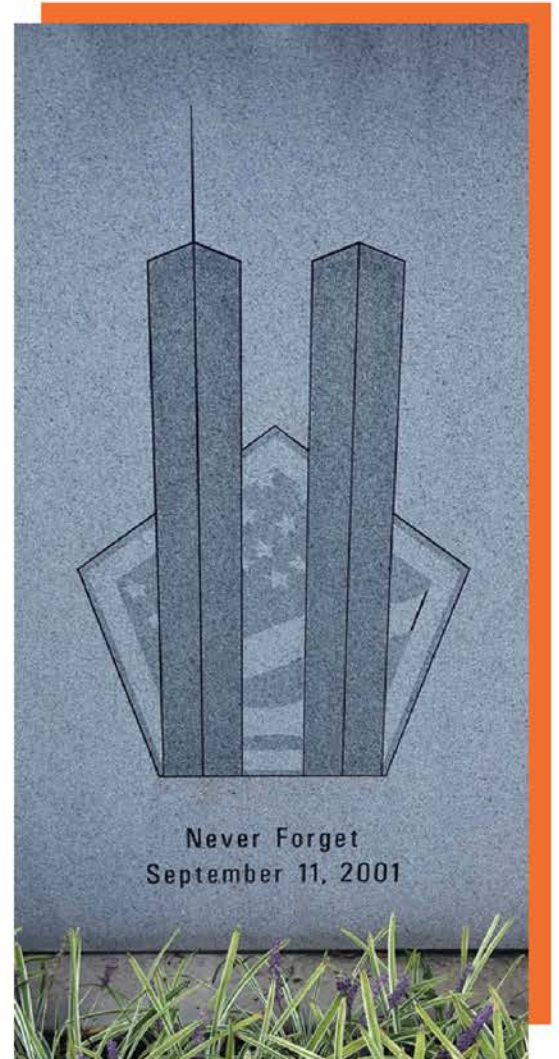
## 9/11 DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Please join us as we remember, and honor, those we have lost; police, fire, rescue, emergency personnel, and the service men and women, who continue to fight for our freedom. Visit our 9/11 Memorial that features two subway tracks recovered from beneath the crumbles of the World Trade Center. We will also be giving out a limited supply of 9/11 Remembrance lapel pins. Ceremony begins at 7:00 pm in The Park at City Center.

## VETERAN'S DAY CEREMONY

Please join us, in celebration, to honor our veterans for their patriotism, love of country, willingness to serve, and sacrifice for the common good. The City of Woodstock Department of Parks and Recreation, with Semper Fi Bar and Grille, the Marine Corps League Woodstock Detachment 1311, the American Legion Post 316 South Cherokee County, and the Warrior's Watch Riders, will host a Veteran's Day Candlelight Ceremony at the Park at City Center at 7:00 pm on November 11th, 2022.

A coffee and cookie social will be provided following the ceremony.





## SUNSET SYMPHONY

Enjoy a night of swing music and a sunset symphony! The Cobb New Horizon's Symphonic Band will play at the Northside-Cherokee Hospital Amphitheater on Friday, October 14th at 7:00 pm. Free Admission. Lawn chairs & coolers encouraged.

The Cobb New Horizons Band offers senior adults, with musical instrument experience, the opportunity to join an actively performing concert band. The band is a member of the New Horizons International Music Association. This international association has over 170 member groups throughout the United States, Canada, Australia and Ireland.

## DISCOVERING RECREATION

Woodstock Parks and Recreation's Discovering Recreation Series is growing!

- Discovering Pickleball (9/7/22, 9/21/22)
- Discovering Tennis for Kids (9/10/22)
- Discovering Tennis (9/12/22)
- Discovering Ultimate Frisbee (9/14/22)

Fees vary. Registration is required at [woodstockparksandrec.com](http://woodstockparksandrec.com).



## STORYTIME LIVE

Join us at the Gazebo in the Park at City Center on Saturday, October 15, 2022 at 11 am as Spider Gwen reads a story, poses for photos and more!

Presented by the FoxTale Book Shoppe and Woodstock Parks and Recreation.

## THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW

October 14 - 30, 2022 | Friday & Saturday at 7:30 pm, Sunday at 3:00 pm. "Midnight" showings Saturdays at 11:00 pm.

Tickets available July 1st at [elmstreetarts.secure.force.com/ticket](https://elmstreetarts.secure.force.com/ticket)

In this cult classic, sweethearts Brad and Janet, stuck with a flat tire during a storm, discover the eerie mansion of Dr. Frank-N-Furter. As their innocence is lost, Brad and Janet meet a houseful of wild characters, including a rocking biker and a creepy butler. Through elaborate dances and rock songs, Frank-N-Furter unveils his latest creation: a muscular man named "Rocky." Featuring "Midnight" Double Features that recreate the audience participation of this cult classic in cinemas complete with audience in costume contest, props, and shouting that creates the full Rocky experience.



## AMPED IN THE PARK

AMPED in the Park is a FREE monthly fitness series presented by Woodstock Parks & Recreation and a monthly community partner at the Northside Hospital-Cherokee Amphitheater. **On Saturday, June 18 at 9 am, Twisted Cycle will conduct the outdoor workout. On Saturday, July 16th at 9am, Strive Fitness will conduct the outdoor workout.** Registration is required at [woodstockparksandrec.com](https://woodstockparksandrec.com).

All workouts are fitness friendly (meaning you don't have to be super fit to participate).

## SKILLS & EDUCATION

SKILLS - First Aid is a basic class designed to give practical, life-saving steps you can implement in an emergency with injury. The Woodstock Fire Department will guide this class and give the participant the tools to respond with first aid. SKILLS - First Aid is perfect for a teen preparing to babysit or for their first job, a person looking to explore the field of emergency medical training or an individual hoping to stay up-to-date with current first aid procedures. Participants will earn a certificate upon completion of the class. (This is NOT an American Red Cross First Aid certification) Thursday, September 15th at 6:30pm at the Senior Center Expansion. Registration fee is \$5 payable at [woodstockparksandrec.com](https://woodstockparksandrec.com)



## POLLINATION ROCKS!

Pollination ROCKS! is a summer offering of the ROCKS! series where folks gather together in the Park at City Center to paint river rocks and distribute them throughout the city. Let's encourage our citizens to help pollinators by bringing awareness through painting bees, butterflies, moths, hummingbirds and moths on rocks and distributing them throughout Woodstock! Rocks, paint and supplies provided. Event is at 9:30am in the Park at City Center Pollination ROCKS! is free, but registration is required as supplies are limited.

Cost: FREE! But Pre-Registration is Required  
Register here: <https://bit.ly/3xa797C>



**Pollination ROCKS!**  
**September 3 at 9:30 am**



## WILLIAM G LONG SENIOR CENTER NEWS

October 21st 12-2pm: Fall Carnival Luncheon, \$10 for members

November 18th 12-2p.: Thanksgiving Luncheon, \$10 for members

October 15 DAY TRIP: Atlanta Botanical Garden

Activity Memberships for the Senior Center are \$25 annually, and members must be active and 55 or older to be eligible to participate in programs. For registration and membership information visit [www.woodstockparksandrec.com](http://www.woodstockparksandrec.com).

## TIS THE SEASON TO BE GREEN!

Please join us as Woodstock continues its journey to "Go green"! The annual Recycle and Paper Shredding event will take place Saturday, November 19th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Clean house the environmental way! Recycle, Reuse, Reduce, Repurpose, and Rethink! The City of Woodstock, Premier Surplus, Waste Management, and A1 Shredding and Recycling bring you a morning of recycling! Drive through, we'll unload for you.

For more details and a list of accepted items, please visit [www.woodstockparksandrec.com](http://www.woodstockparksandrec.com).



## WPD LIFESAVING AWARDS

**LIFE SAVING AWARDS:** At last night's meeting of the Mayor and City Council, Command Staff recognized the following officers for life saving actions which met the department's standard to receive the meritorious WPD's life saving award.

Incident on April 26, 2022: Officer Hinkle and Officer Brown

Incident on May 5, 2022: Officer Dixon

Incident on June 9, 2022: Officer Dixon, Officer Bitzer, and Officer Gross

On April 26th, Officers Justin Hinkle and Robert Brown responded to a domestic dispute at an apartment complex off Arnold Mill Road. While conducting their investigation, the alleged suspect jumped out of the bedroom window of the second-floor apartment. During the subsequent fall to the ground, this individual struck the first-floor window of the apartment below before striking the ground and sustained life-threatening injuries. Both officers immediately ran to where the victim was and began treating the injuries. Officer Hinkle placed a tourniquet on the left leg of the victim while Officer Brown tried to talk to and keep the victim from losing consciousness. For their actions on April 26th, 2022, Officers Hinkle and Brown are hereby awarded the Woodstock Police Department's Life Saving Award.

On May 5th, 2022 a call came out in reference to a 2 year old child not breathing at an apartment complex. Officer Barron Dixon was on his way home, off duty, and heard the call. He immediately responded to the apartment where the young child was in distress and made contact with the mother and child. The child was lying on his back, not breathing, and appeared lifeless. The mother was on the phone with 911. Officer Dixon began chest compressions while the mother was attempting to breathe life back into the child. Moments later, the child opened his eyes and was conscious. For his actions on May 5th, 2022, Officer Dixon is hereby awarded the Woodstock Police Department's Life Saving Award.

On June 9th, 2022, Officers Barron Dixon, Ben Bitzer, and Scott Gross responded to a stabbing call at a residence off of Hwy 92. When they arrived on scene, they discovered the suspect who was taken into custody without issue. These officers then located two victims, both with multiple, critical wounds. These officers worked together, providing extensive medical care to both victims, and assisted Fire and EMS personnel with getting the victims to the ambulance. For their actions on June 9th, 2022, Officers Dixon, Bitzer, and Gross are hereby awarded the Woodstock Police Department's Life Saving Award.



# **brown** **bag**

## **Concert Series**

**9/1 - Scott Puckett**

**9/8 - Mark Miller**

**9/15 - Matt Jackson**

**9/22 - Kurt Thomas**

**9/29 - Mitchell Phillips**

Every Thursday in May at Noon in the Gazebo at Park at City Center  
[woodstockparksandrec.com](http://woodstockparksandrec.com)



# WOODSTOCK FIRE AND RESCUE OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8 | 10AM - 2PM  
HEADQUARTERS/STATION 14 (225 ARNOLD MILL ROAD)



Live Extrication Demos | K-9 Demos  
Firefighter Drills | Fire Truck Displays  
Station Tours | Kids' Hose Line Experience  
Free Lunch Provided | Free Bounce Houses  
Free Parking at Allen Temple AME Church

# MILESTONES IN THE CITY OF WOODSTOCK



On June 22nd, IN WDSTK held a ribbon cutting to celebrate the 1 year anniversary of Kilwins opening in Downtown Woodstock



On July 12th, IN WDSTK held a ribbon cutting to celebrate the opening of TEN Sushi Lounge in Downtown Woodstock!



IN WDSTK held a ribbon cutting for Jéa Salon and Spa on July 22nd to welcome them to Woodstock and celebrate their grand opening.



IN WDSTK held a ribbon cutting on August 10th to celebrate the opening of Beyond The Spotlight Dance Studio in Downtown Woodstock!

CITY OF  
**WOODSTOCK**  
GEORGIA

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

MAYOR MICHAEL CALDWELL  
COUNCIL WARREN JOHNSON  
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COLIN AKE  
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