



August 2024 E-Newsletter

Volume XVI Issue VIII

New playground equipment at Wheeler Park

AUGUST CALENDAR

- Land Bank Authority – Aug. 8, 2 PM, City Hall
- City Commission—Aug. 12 & 26, 6 PM, City Hall
- Air Base Preservation and Development Committee – Aug. 12, 12 PM, Airport
- Recreation Commission – Aug. 13, 11:45 AM, Central Square Complex – Magnolia Room
- Keep Douglas Beautiful – Aug. 13, 9 AM, City Hall
- Planning Commission – Aug. 15, 6 PM, City Hall
- Mayor’s Youth Council – Aug. 20, 6 PM, City Hall
- Downtown Development Authority – Aug. 21, 8:30 AM, Chamber Office
- Veterans Park Committee – Aug. 21, 10 AM, Airport
- Historic Preservation Committee – Aug. 22, 4 PM, City Hall

WE ♥ OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Wheeler Park has received several improvements in the last few months. Most recently, the new playground equipment arrived and has been installed. Other improvements include refurbishment of some equipment and additional sidewalks to make mobility easier in the playground section of the park. We would like to give special thanks to the Community Foundation of Coffee County for providing assistance with the equipment project.



The Georgia Department of Community Affairs Historic Preservation division announced on Monday, July 29, 2024, that Douglas is one of 8 Certified Local Government (CLG) Authorities in Georgia. Douglas will receive \$12,009 to help support the historic resource survey for the Downtown Douglas Historic District.



Project Updates Around Douglas



Top Photo: The Douglas-Coffee County Veterans Park roundel received new stain recently and it looks fantastic!
Photo Left: Mr. Arnold Parsons, the chair of the original Veterans Park Committee, stopped by to look at the fresh stain. For years, Mr. Parsons, personally kept new service flags flying over the park. He also championed the brick fundraiser project to honor our veterans.



The Douglas Cemetery drainage and road improvement project has begun. Plans are to improve drainage, pave the dirt roads in the new section, and resurface some of the existing roads.



The City/County/action pact joint project for HeadStart/Early Head-Start new classrooms and kitchen addition is nearing completion.



Hiring is taking place at King Claw Juicy Seafood & Bar, located at 1312 S. Madison Avenue. Tentative opening date is the end of August/first of September 2024.



Activity is taking place at the newest restaurant to begin construction, Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers. Pictured above: Mayor Paulk and Danny Demersseman, owner of Zaxby's & Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers.



Photo credit: Daily Coffee Press, Kristen Kitchens

Longhorn construction is moving quickly. The signage has been hung, stonework is nearing completion, and interior construction is nearing an end. Soon, the contractor will turn over the building and final touches will be added along with hiring of staff.

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARY SPOTLIGHT

Thank you for your service to the citizens of Douglas! Here's our **OUTSTANDING** employees that are celebrating employment anniversaries of 5 years or more with the City of Douglas during the month of August!

- Eric Lott—7 yrs. (Fire)
- Tonjaneka Simpson—18 yrs. (Municipal Court/Finance)
- Ronnie Bullock—19 yrs. (Parks & Recreation)
- Stacey Williams—24 yrs. (Police)
- Rex Harper—26 yrs. (Fire)
- Georgia Henderson—29 yrs. (Community Development Department Director)

Milestone Anniversaries



Linda Phillips
10 yrs. (Finance)



Tony Thompson
15 yrs. (Fire)



HAVING
NON-EMERGENCY
UTILITY ISSUES?
DIAL 3-1-1 OR
912-384-3302



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Apply in person at City Hall or online at www.cityofdouglasga.gov/jobs.
For more information: (912) 389-3494



LAW ENFORCEMENT

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Make an Impact
in Your Community.
Now hiring Police Officers.

Apply online at www.cityofdouglasga.gov/jobs or stop by City Hall located at 302 S. Madison Avenue. (912)389-3494



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A Bright Career.
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Now hiring
Maintenance Workers
in Parks & Recreation.

Apply in person at City Hall or online at www.cityofdouglasga.gov/jobs.
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PARKS & RECREATION

NOW HIRING
PART-TIME
SEASONAL
EMPLOYEES

Field Supervisors,
Scorekeepers,
Concession, & Stadium
Workers in Parks &
Recreation.

Apply in person at City Hall or online at www.cityofdouglasga.gov/jobs.
For more information: (912) 389-3494



WELCOME TO *The City of Douglas*

NEW BUSINESSES

Blaze Barber Academy, 909 S. Gaskin Avenue

Security Self Storage, 1026 E. Ward Street

Community Champs Corp, 242 Miller Rd.

Elite Real Estate Partners, 122 E. Ashley Street

Golden Eagle Cargo Sales, 1515 Perrin Dr.

Carewell Home Health Agency, 1101 N. Gaskin Avenue

Magnolia House PCH, 504 N. Gaskin Avenue

BT Trade, 401 Shirley Avenue

Business License

Questions?

[CLICK HERE](#)



*Thank you for doing business in
Douglas & Coffee County!*



Georgia Dermatology & Skin Cancer Center located at 110 Bowens Mill Rd.



Blaze Barber Academy located at 909 S. Gaskin Avenue.



Elite Real Estate Partners located at 122 E. Ashley Street.

Residential Junk **Drop-Off** Day

August 17, 2024 - 8:30am - 11:45am

@ 1011 Shirley Avenue (corner of Shirley and College Park Dr.)

Customers must be in the drop-off line prior to 11:30 am and must unload any items that the clam truck cannot pick up.

For more information, call (912)384-3302 or dial 311.



Public Safety Updates



From the Douglas Fire Department...



Annual Hose Pressure Testing—to ensure the reliability of each hose when called upon.



Breakfast with the Coffee and Bacon County Young Farmers Association

SMOKE ALARMS

Make Them WORK For You!™



fpw.org

©2024 National Fire Protection Association | Sparky™ is a trademark of NFPA.

Fire Prevention Week is coming up October 6-12, 2024. To schedule a visit to our fire department or to schedule a fire safety class for your school or business, call (912) 384-4815.

From the Douglas Police Department...



Congratulations Corporal Austin Merritt! Employee of the Quarter for April, May, and June 2024



Thanks to the Douglas Lions Club and many others who donated to our Back 2 School Supply drive.



We had a BLAST at Southwire's Back 2 School Event! If you would like the DPD to visit your school, call us at (912) 384-2222.

SPOTLIGHT ON *City of Douglas Businesses*

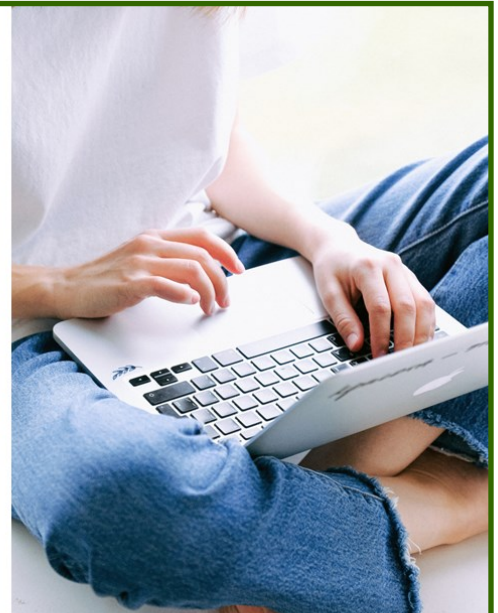


BLAZE BARBER ACADEMY

1909 S. GASKIN AVENUE

**CURRENTLY OPEN AND TAKING
APPLICATIONS FOR NEW STUDENTS!
DEADLINE TO APPLY: AUGUST 5, 2024
(912) 501-9035**

**THANK YOU AND WE APPRECIATE YOU FOR YOUR
INVESTMENT IN DOUGLAS AND COFFEE COUNTY!**



Pay your way | Pay by phone, text,
online or on our app.

833-241-1959



<https://douglasga.municipalonlinepayments.com/douglasga>



Mobile App



SPECIAL ELECTION INFORMATION FOR WARD 2 CITY COMMISSIONER SEAT

ALL PERSONS WHO ARE NOT REGISTERED TO VOTE AND WHO DESIRE TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN THE SPECIAL ELECTION MAY REGISTER TO VOTE THROUGH THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON OCTOBER 7, 2024, AT THE ELECTIONS OFFICE (321 S. PEARL AVENUE) OR ONLINE BY 12:00 MIDNIGHT ON OCTOBER 7, 2024.

EARLY VOTING WILL BE OCTOBER 15, 2024 – NOVEMBER 1, 2024, 8:30AM-4:00PM IN THE DOGWOOD ROOM AT CENTRAL SQUARE COMPLEX (200 S. MADISON AVENUE).

THE SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL THE WARD 2 CITY COMMISSION SEAT IS NOVEMBER 5, 2024.



FOR MORE INFORMATION,
WWW.CITYOFDOUGLASGA.GOV



City of
Douglas
Georgia

PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Douglas has received a conditional use application for 416 E. Bryan Street, Douglas, Georgia, 31533. The property owner, Malinda Graham, seeks permission for single-family residential use in the Town Center (TC-C) District.

Public Hearing:

Monday, August 12, 2024, at 6:00 PM at City Hall in the Commission Chambers, 302 S. Madison Avenue.

Anyone interested in the above proposed conditional use application should be in appearance at the said meeting on the above-stated date. FMI: Call (912) 383-0277 or visit the City Planner's office located at City Hall, 302 S. Madison Avenue.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
GRPA STATE CHAMPS
DOUGLAS STINGRAYS SWIM TEAM!!**

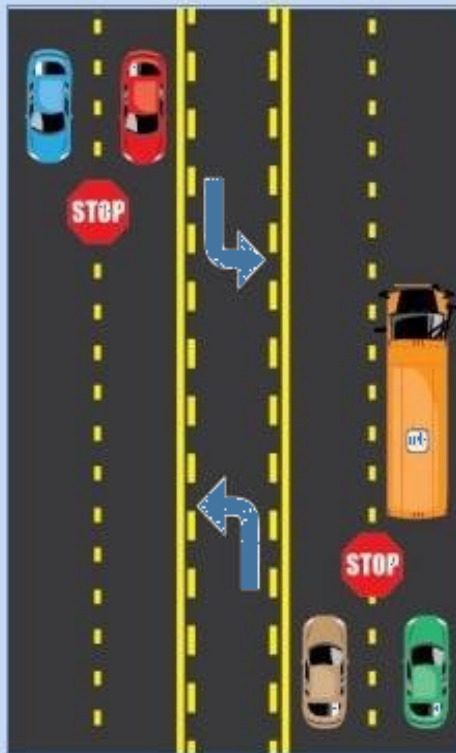


It's back to school time in Coffee County. Please remember to slow down in the school zones and look for children at bus stops.

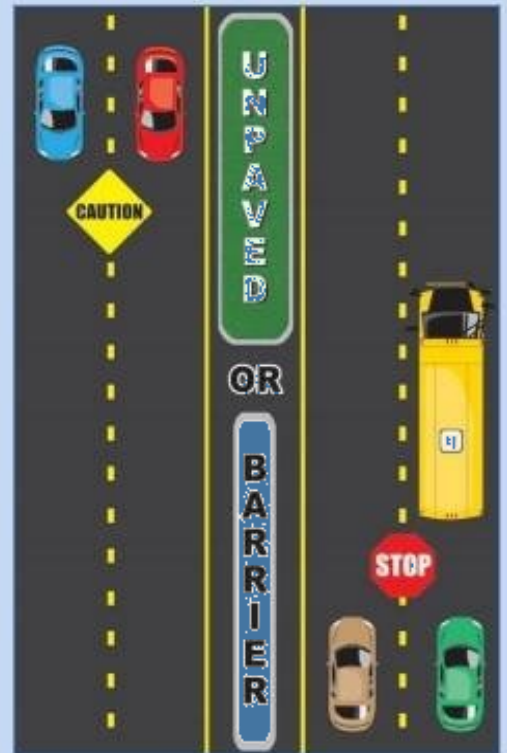
What is the Law?



TWO LANE
Vehicles traveling
In both directions
MUST STOP.



MULTI-LANE – Paved Across
Vehicles traveling in both directions
MUST STOP.



**DIVIDED HIGHWAY – With dirt, grass
or barrier median – Vehicles behind
MUST STOP. Vehicles traveling in
opposite direction must use caution.**



ENTERPRISE ZONE MUNICIPAL TAX ABATEMENT PROGRAM

The Enterprise Zone Municipal Tax Abatement Program was established by the City of Douglas, in accordance with the State of Georgia Enterprise Zone Employment Act of 1997, to incentivize revitalization of geographic areas experiencing high levels of disinvestment, underdevelopment and economic decline. The program offers abatement of municipal ad valorem (property) taxes for a ten-year period on business, commercial, and residential properties located within the designated geographic area, when property owners successfully achieve and maintain one of the following criteria. (See back for *Douglas Enterprise Zone Areas* or <https://www.cityofdouglasga.gov/304/Enterprise-Zones>)

- ◆ **Job Creation** – A business or service enterprise within an EZ must create and maintain a minimum of five (5) new full-time equivalent jobs at the time of application to receive tax abatement. The five jobs must be new positions above and beyond the existing/prior positions employed by the business, thereby reflecting the creation of five “additional jobs.” The five new jobs must not have a pre-determined end date, include a regular work week of 30+ hours or more, and have the same benefits provided to similar employees. The five jobs must be maintained throughout the ten-year period of abatement in order to maintain tax exemption. Additionally, qualifying business or service enterprises must make improvements to the property.
- ◆ **Land Improvement (Construction/Rehabilitation)** – A business, service enterprise, or other party carrying out new residential construction, residential rehabilitation, or other rehabilitation of an existing structure within an EZ such that the value of the improvement(s) exceeds the value of the land by a ratio of five to one by the Coffee County Tax Assessors valuation.
- ◆ **EZ-Approved Residential Property - Home Ownership Purchase** – To encourage home ownership in EZ areas, initial home buyers purchasing EZ-approved residential properties for primary residency, and where the property developer has met the five to one increase in value of the property, shall be eligible to obtain tax abatement for this same property. A Notification of Sale of EZ Approved Residential Property/Home Owners Application form with new home owner information and necessary proof of sale documentation is required.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Once property tax abatement is granted, the incentive remains in effect for the full ten-years, regardless of the expiration of the Enterprise Zone area designation. However, failure of EZ applicants to accomplish the applicable criterion stated above can result in revocation of the tax abatement and recapture of any and all abated taxes or other incentives granted. EZ applicants must show verifiable proof to document compliance with EZ program requirements. Applicants approved for EZ Job Creation incentives must provide proof annually of the maintenance of these jobs to the City of Douglas’ Office of Community Development no later than 30 days following the close of each calendar year in which taxes were abated.

TO BE CONSIDERED FOR TAX ABATEMENT INCENTIVES IN THE UPCOMING CALENDAR YEAR, THE APPLICATION MUST BE COMPLETED AND RECEIVED BY THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LOCATED AT CITY HALL, 302 S. MADISON AVE. NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2024, 5 PM.

Applications will be accepted from January 1st September 27, 2024 for Enterprise Zone designation commencing in the following year (2025) Applications received after this date may be submitted, but will not be considered for the upcoming year.

For more information, please call the Office of Community Development at (912) 383-0277 or email ghenderson@cityofdouglasga.gov.



Little Libraries Initiative

BOOK DRIVE

DROP OFF LOCATION: CITY HALL, 302 S. MADISON AVENUE, MONDAY-FRIDAY, 8AM-5PM

The Keep Douglas Beautiful Little Libraries Initiative provides books for children at community parks throughout the city. Become a part of this incredible contribution of learning, growth, and inspiration for kids. We are in need of children's books for the little Free Libraries located at Emma Ward Park, Wheeler Park, Eastside Park, and North Madison Avenue Park. For more information please contact, Christian Mikell (912) 383-0277 or Email cmikell@cityofdouglasga.gov.

www.cityofdouglasga.gov/kdb





READING WITH LILY THE LITTER OFFICER

Pre-K, Kindergarten, & 1st Grade Education

OUR PROJECT

- ✓ Environmentally Conscious
- ✓ Encourages students to seek different disposal options.
- ✓ Teaches how we can all help keep our community CLEAN & GREEN.

This youth education program focuses on Pre-K, Kindergarten, and 1st-grade students, teaching them about responsible behavior towards waste disposal. The curriculum addresses the importance of properly disposing of trash rather than littering. Students learn about the impact of litter on oceans and waterways, emphasizing their role as environmental stewards. They are educated on making informed choices such as using the three R's: Recycle, Reduce, Reuse, to contribute positively to environmental conservation efforts.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Reading with Lily the Litter Officer is presented at no charge. A Keep Douglas Beautiful member will read a book and Lily will visit with the children. Public/private school presentations can be scheduled during the school year.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Keep Douglas Beautiful
Christian Mikell
(912)383-0277
www.cityofdouglasga.gov/kdb



IS TRASH REALLY TRASH??

THIRD GRADE EDUCATION

OUR PROJECT

- ✓ Environmentally Conscious
- ✓ Re-examines what is perceived as trash and to seek different disposal options.
- ✓ Reuse Activity - Water Bottle Bird Feeder
- ✓ Participating classes receive activity books, pencils, and crayons.

This youth education program targets third grade students. It examines landfill waste reduction via the 3-Rs: Recycle, Reduce, Reuse. Students are taught about dump vs. landfills, products, product life spans, environmental stewardship and are equipped with tools to make smart consumer decisions before "throwing away" trash. Students will have a hands-on reuse activity by making a Water Bottle Outdoor Bird Feeder.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Is Trash Really Trash? is presented at no charge. The presentation is about 45 minutes. Public/private school presentations can be scheduled January/February and September/October.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Keep Douglas Beautiful
Christian Mikell
(912)383-0277
www.cityofdouglasga.gov/kdb



STEAM GARDENING

Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics.



5TH GRADE ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

Limit of 2 per school. Only available during the months of September-Early October each year so the vegetables are picked and beds are clear before school releases for the summer.

OUR PROJECT

- ✓ PLANT
- ✓ WATER
- ✓ GROW

This youth education program centers on 5th-grade STEAM gardening, offering students a hands-on experience in various disciplines:

- Delve into the science of germination through observing seeds sprouting.
- Utilize technology with planters, watering cans, and digging tools.
- Engage in engineering by designing trellises for tomatoes.
- Incorporate creativity by cultivating a range of colorful vegetables.
- Foster mathematical skills through activities like counting, matching, and sorting.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Keep Douglas GA Beautiful Committee
Christian Mikell, Executive Director
(912)383-0277 ~ www.cityofdouglasga.gov/kdb



To learn more about Keep Douglas Beautiful, sponsoring a cleanup event, beautification projects, recycling efforts, or making a donation contact us at (912)383-0277. Visit our website: www.cityofdouglasga.gov/KDB Like and follow us!

 /KeepDouglasGABeautiful



Keep Douglas Beautiful
302 S. Madison Avenue
PO Box 470
Douglas, GA 31533
(912)383-0277



Photo courtesy of the Douglas-Coffee County Chamber of Commerce

CONGRATULATIONS to the Coffee Board of Education on the groundbreaking for the construction of their new offices at Coffee High School, 159 Trojan Way.

visit DOUGLAS COFFEE COUNTY • GEORGIA		AUGUST					visit DOUGLAS COFFEE COUNTY • GEORGIA	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
28 Want to add your event to our calendar? Email schilders@douglasga.org	29 Follow us on Facebook for all the details!	30 Bingo - each Wed. at CowTippers Trivia - each Thurs. at CowTippers Karaoke - each Thurs. at Fireside Pizza Live Music	31	1	2	2	3 912 Meets Car/Truck/Bike Show Southern GA Tire 10 am - 5 pm VFW-Last Chance Band	
Check out www.visitdouglasga.org for where to eat, shop, play!								
4	5	6 Schools Start Groundbreaking for Airport Circle Projects Airbase Grounds 10 am	7	8 Hometeam Ortho Ribbon Cutting 9 am Blood Drive Williams Inst. Foods 10 am - 3:30 pm Back to School Bash Chick-fil-A 5 pm	9 First Baptist Church Back to School Splash Davis Wade/City Pool 6 - 8 pm	9	10 Back to School Bash Downtown Shopping 10 am - 3 pm VFW-Lauren Marie	
11 Blood Drive St. Paul's Catholic Church 9 am - 2 pm	12 CCA School Starts	13 Moo & Make Chick-fil-A 5 pm	14	15 Dinner & Blues Hardware House 6 - 9 pm	16	16	17 VFW-Cade Beecher	
18	19	20 Blood Drive Southwire 10:30 am - 4 pm	21	22 Blood Drive Coffee Correctional Facility 10:30 am - 4 pm Chamber Power Lunch Douglas Golf & Country Club - 12 noon Taste of the Town Restaurant Crawl 5 pm - 9 pm	23	23	24 Corey Smith Martin Centre 8 pm VFW-Karaoke	
25	26 Blood Drive CRMC 11 am - 4:30 pm	27 Blood Drive Zaxby's 2 - 7:30 pm	28 History at High Noon Brian & David Norris Heritage Station Museum 12 noon	29	30	30	31 Muscadine Festival Paulk Vineyards 10 am - 6 pm VFW-Kristin Powell	



Downtown Douglas
Back to School Bash

Saturday, August 10 | 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Shop BIG discounts.

Wear your best school spirit outfit downtown, take a selfie, and tag us @DowntownDouglasGA to enter to win a prize!



Downtown Douglas

2024-2025 Promotions Calendar

August 10, 2024 | *Back to School Bash*

Come on in to Downtown Douglas for our Back to School Bash for great deals and discounted school clothes for fall! Shop Local for better styles at better prices. Wear your best school spirit outfit and tag us @DowntownDouglasGA for a chance to win a prize!

★ **August 22, 2024** | *Taste of the Town*

Join us in Downtown Douglas for a Restaurant and Bar Crawl. Your \$25 ticket gets you a progressive meal at all participating downtown restaurants and a complimentary cup for your first Sip and Stroll!

September 14, 2024 | *Sidewalk Sale Saturday*

When you're driving through Downtown Douglas today, you may see some crazy awesome sidewalk sales and vendors. Stop by for some excellent deals and unique finds.

October 5, 2024 | *Gopher Tortoise Hunt*

You may have heard about the Gopher Tortoise Festival at Central Square, but have you heard about the Gopher Tortoise Hunt in Downtown Douglas? Search all over our downtown for our hidden turtles! Enjoy entertainment, street performers, great deals, great food, and more!

November 18 - December 24, 2024 | *Fa La La La Local*

Starting in November through Christmas Eve, grab a Fa La La La Local card from a participating business! Once you spend \$100 downtown you are entered to win UNBELIEVABLE prizes. Ask participating businesses for a card!

November 22, 2024 | *Pink Friday*

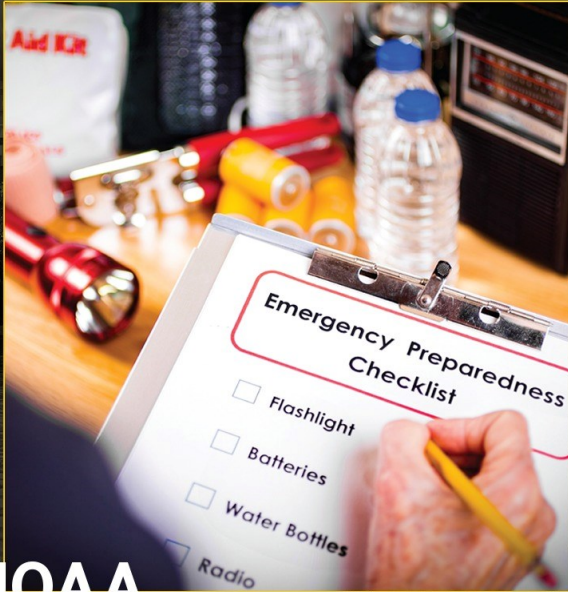
You many have heard of Black Friday, but do you know about Pink Friday? This national trend for boutiques has taught us that THIS really is the best day to shop for local deals! Enjoy a Pink Christmas shopping experience on the Friday before Thanksgiving.

★ **November 24, 2024** | *Holiday Open House*

This decades old family tradition is our favorite day of the year in Downtown Douglas! Bring the whole family out to kick off the Holiday season on the Sunday before Thanksgiving! Enjoy lunch and check off your Christmas shopping list. Enjoy treats and entertainment everywhere you turn in Downtown Douglas.

Hurricane Preparedness

Assemble Disaster Supplies



NOAA



Food & water



Medicine & prescriptions



Keep gas tank full



Cash on hand



Radio, batteries, phone chargers

weather.gov



Heat Related Deaths **ARE** Preventable *LOOK BEFORE YOU LOCK*



weather.gov/heat

nhtsa.gov

The temperature in your car can quickly become deadly!

Outside Temperature 80°





THE MARTIN THEATRE UPCOMING SHOWS

JUL
27

MARC BROUSSARD

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS DERRICK DOVE & THE PEACEKEEPERS



COREY SMITH

SOUTHERN DRAWL TOUR

SOLD OUT
AUG
24

OCT
5

MARK WILLS

WITH SPECIAL GUEST TYLER CHAMBERS



JJ GREY & MOFRO

OLUSTEE TOUR

NOV
2

NOV
15

WILL MOSELEY

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS THE PAGE BROTHERS BAND



WILL MOSELEY

WITH SPECIAL GUEST JACK BLOCKER

NOV
16

visit
DOUGLAS
COFFEE COUNTY • GEORGIA

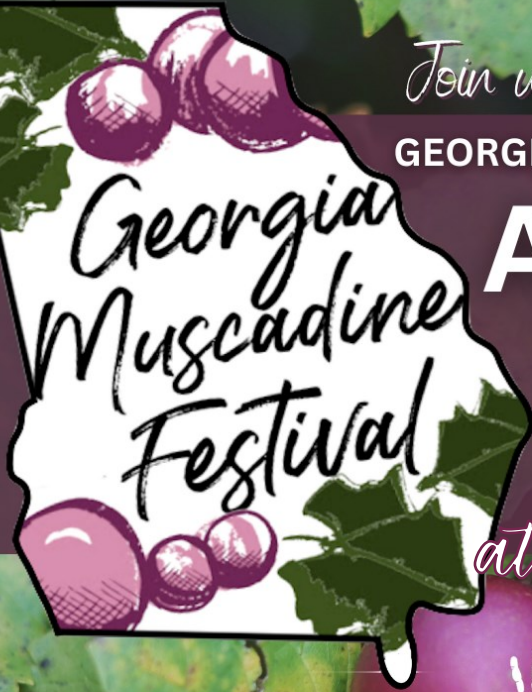
SCAN TO BUY
TICKETS!



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Join us for our 6th Annual
GEORGIA MUSCADINE FESTIVAL



**AUGUST
31st
2024**

at Paulk Vineyards
Sponsored by:



More information at
GEORGIAMUSCADINEFESTIVAL.COM



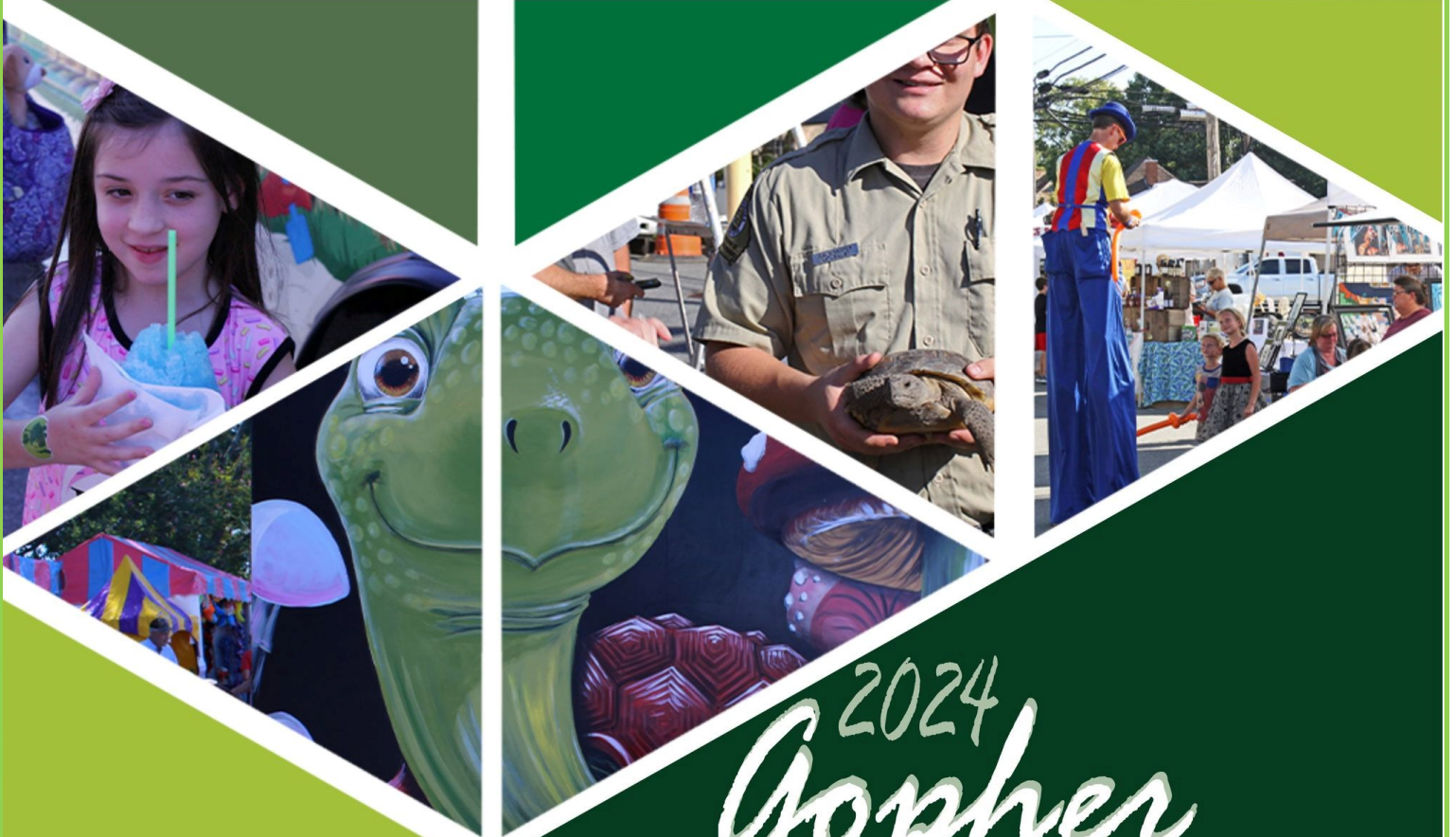
**5K
&
FUN
RUN**



Saturday, August 31st
Paulk Vineyards
1788 Satilla Rd
Wray, GA 31798

Register NOW on Active.com

Sponsors are needed for the event! For more information about sponsorship, please call Stephanie at (912) 384-1873.



2024
*Gopher
Tortoise
festival*

October 5th

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

The Georgia Fair Housing Act

The Georgia Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in housing on the basis of:



DISABILITY



SEX



FAMILY STATUS



RACE



RELIGION



NATIONAL ORIGIN

Learn more at <https://gceo.georgia.gov/>



Georgia Dream Loans are available to:

- First-time homebuyers, OR
- Homebuyers who have not owned a home in the past three years, OR
- Those who purchase a home in certain areas

Who also:

- Have a qualifying household income
- Have liquid assets of no more than \$20,000 or 20% of the sales price (whichever is greater)
- Meet mortgage loan credit requirements

PLEASE VISIT GADREAM.COM TO LEARN MORE