

The Sparta Ishmaelite

Wednesday August 12, 2026



State Senate Candidate Arrested

By Karen West, News Reporter

Tracy Wheeler, Hancock County resident and current Republican candidate for State Senate against incumbent David Lucas, was arrested Wednesday, August 5 on two counts of Felony Aggravated Assault. Her husband Troy Wheeler, was arrested on a separate charge. The couple were taken into custody by the Hancock County Sheriff's Office while at the Hancock County Courthouse, and were taken to the Hancock County Jail, where they

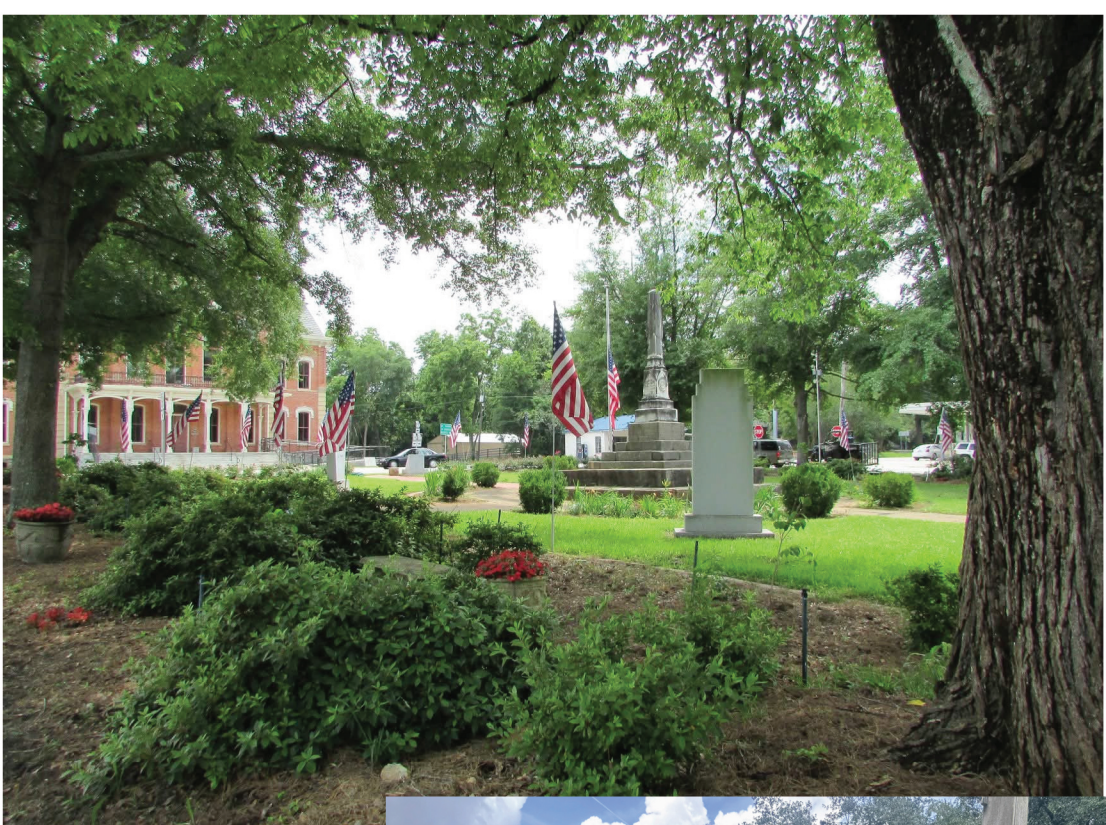
were booked on charges, photographed, and finger printed. The two Felony Aggravated Assault charges were on separate alleged incidents in late June and early July at the Amigo's Cove Restaurant. The building at 3997 Lake Sinclair Dr, is owned by a company formed by Wheeler and leased by El Amigo Restaurant. In the June 28th incident, Wheeler is accused of waving a gun around in a threatening manner and

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History of our War Memorial Square

By Karen West, News Reporter

The land for the City of Sparta was donated back in 1795 by Major Charles Abercrombie whose beautifully preserved home still stands on Maiden Lane, more than 200 years after it was built, here in Sparta, Ga. Maj. Abercrombie fought in the Revolutionary War for our nation's freedom from Great Britain and was determined to help build a new country that would rival any in the "olde world". He knew that the eyes of the world were on our fledgling Democracy and was adamant about "building to impress". He laid out the general plan for Sparta with a graceful grid pattern of streets, areas designated for education, judicial, residential, and commercial endeavors, with lots for worship and future commerce as well. Justice was at the centerpoint of our new nation making law and order a primary focus of our emerging towns, thus the placement of the local Courthouse was of major



importance. The way our Courthouse is situated in town with the public square in front of it was a well thought out placement. The site was chosen, quite simply to impress. Entering town, a visitor climbs a small hill and just as it is topped, gets the majestic view of our impressive Courthouse sitting on a slight hill, forwardly framed by the lush flower-

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IMAGINE

By Karen West, News Reporter

Imagine, for just a moment, that you are 96 years old still doing the hard manual labor of men one quarter your age. Imagine you have borne witness to some of the most profound events in human history - the end of the Great Depression, World War II, the dawn of the nuclear age, the building of the nationwide Interstate highway system, the Cold War, the Space Race with a man on the moon, the Civil Rights Movement, the fall of the USSR and the Berlin Wall,

Continued to page 6..

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Jamie White Builds Confidence One Mile at a Time

OFTC OCONEE FALL LINE TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Jamie White Builds a New Chapter in Trucking Career Through OFTC CTD Program

Emily G. Raley
Director of Marketing & PR
O: 478-240-5143
eraley@oftc.edu

After years spent homeschooling her children, teaching, and supporting her family's trucking business behind the scenes, Jamie White is stepping into a new season of life — this time from behind the wheel. White's connection to trucking began more than

20 years ago when her husband graduated from Oconee Fall Line Technical College's (OFTC) Commercial Truck Driving (CTD) program. "After graduating from OFTC's CTD program, my husband started his own trucking business – White's Transport – hauling tanks for farmers," White shared. What began as a career de-

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Q&A: Why do some City projects take so long?



It is not unusual for a major project to take several years from the first discussion to completion. While residents may not always see activity at the project site, work is often continuing behind the scenes.



Before construction can begin, the City may need to identify funding, apply for grants, complete engineering and environmental reviews, obtain permits, acquire easements, advertise for bids, and order materials. Many of these steps involve state or federal agencies and must be completed in a specific order. Grant-funded projects can take even longer because the City must follow the funding agency's re-

Continued to page 6....



CHURCH NEWS

Homecoming and Revival



Island Creek Baptist Church, located at 4258 Island Creek Church Road on East Lake Sinclair, invites everyone to its Homecoming and Revival services from August 9 through August 12.

The church will celebrate 233 years during Homecoming on Sunday, August 9, at 11 a.m., with guest pastor Jerry Bradley.

Revival services will continue Monday through Wednesday, August 10–12, at 7 p.m. each evening, featuring guest pastor Isaiah Espinosa and special music by Don and Lisa Chandler. All are welcome!

Church Homecoming

The Glenns Mary Baptist Church will be having their annual Homecoming Service on August 9, 2026 at 11am. The guest for this service will be Rev. William Welch and the Powell Grove Baptist Church of Sparta, GA.

A three night revival will follow beginning August 12 -14, 2026, 7pm nightly.

Everyone is invited to attend.

Hickory Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Inc
4933 Hickory Grove Church Road/Post Office Box 402 Sparta, Georgia 31087
www.hickorygrovembc.org Reverend Michael Curry, Pastor

Frank T. Edwards Publicity Chair (706)-444-3286 Twin922@yahoo.com

The Hickory Grove Missionary Baptist Church of Sparta Georgia wil observe its Homecoming Celebration Worship Service on Sunday August 9, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. Pastor Michael Curry will deliver the message.

All are invited to attend.

The Hickory Grove Missionary Baptist Church of Sparta Georgia will observe its Annual Homecoming Revival on Monday , August 10, 2026 through Wednesday August 12, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. each night.

The guest speakers are :

Monday night August 10, 2026 Rev. Christain King ,Pastor of the Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church of Hazelhurst, GA :

Tuesday August 11, 2026, Rev. Reginald Cordy, Pastor of the William Chapel Missionary Baptist Church of Dublin, GA. and

Wednesday, August 12, 2026. Re. Juanterrence Lowe, Pastor of the Stamp Branch Missionary Baptist Church of Warrenton, GA .

All are invited to attend

Tabernacle Baptist Church Pastor Terry Boone

New St. Sparta, Ga. 706-833-8747

REVIVAL September 8,9,10-2026
Time: 7:00 pm

Homecoming Service Second Sunday,
September 13, 2026. Time: 2:00 p.m.
NO Morning service.

Pastor Joyce Waller Tabernacle Praise for God
107 SW Second Street Milledgeville Ga.
Who: Min. Minnie Harmon-Boone
What: Morning Service Where: Milledgeville, GA
When: 1st and 3rd Sun. Sept. 2026 Time: 11:00 am

Explaining The Memory Verse

Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right” (Acts 10:34, 35).

Sometimes we feel like our friends can pick favorites and make us feel left out. But God will never do that. You can feel joy knowing that God loves you equally. God sent His love through Jesus for everyone, that includes you!

TELLING HOW TO LIVE

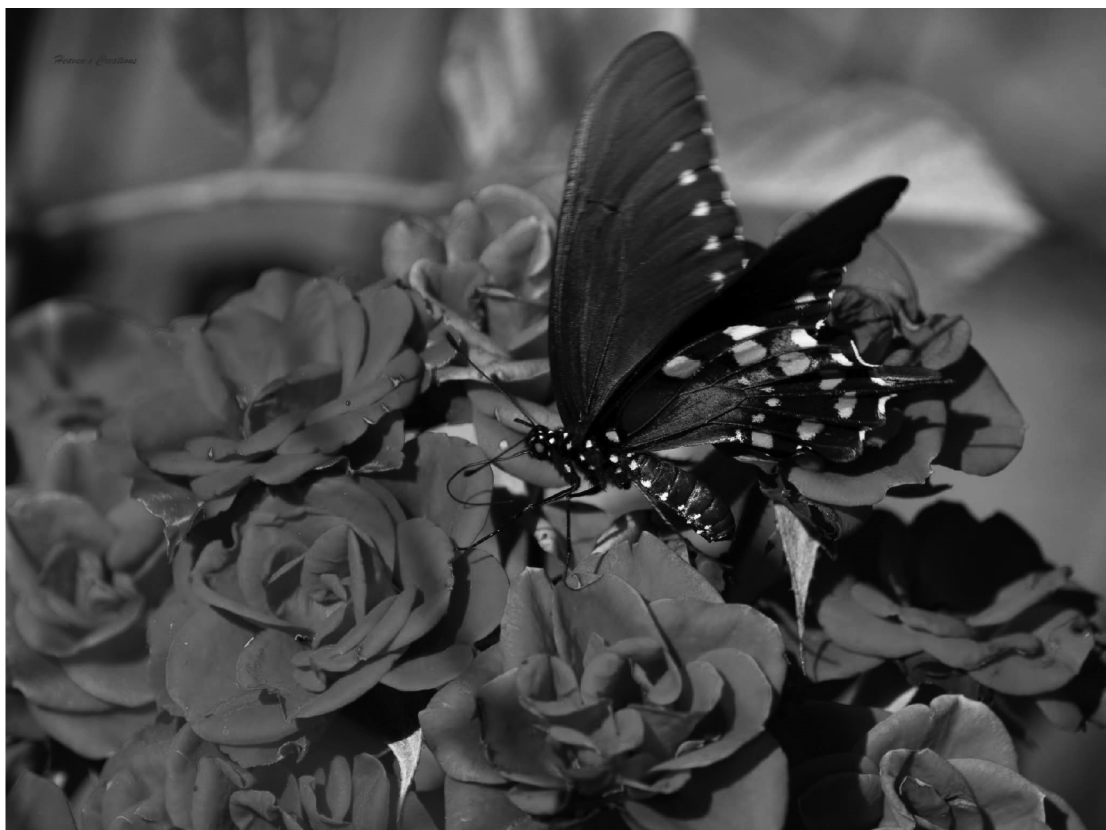
Because people look and act and live different didn't stop Peter from preaching to these Gentiles. We need to ask God for the same boldness that Peter had to tell others about Jesus loving them! God's love is so powerful that it takes us to Heaven when we accept it into our hearts. Everyone deserves to know that!

PRAYER

Dear God, thank You for Your love. Please remind us that You don't choose favorites at times when we feel left out. Help us to never choose favorites but to choose to love and care about others the way You do. We thank You Father in Jesus' name we pray, Amen!

Reference: Author: Jesus Is All Ministries.

Min. Minnie Harmon-Boone (MasDDiv, ECE) Holy Bible: NIV, ESV
Golden Universal Outreach Ministries. Email:goldenenterprises59@gmail.com
Phone # 706-833-8747



A Beautiful Thing to Leave Behind

*Someday, I won't be here to
enjoy this garden,
But maybe the trees I plant-
ed will still give shade,
The flowers will still feed the
bees and butterflies,
The fruit trees will still bear
fruit for the birds,
And someone that I may
never meet, will sit beneath
it all and be peaceful,
That seems like a beautiful
thing to leave behind.*

-Unknown Author

We love our gardens, the bright colors, the sweet fragrances, the songs of happy birds, and the joyous flitting from flower tp flower of the bees and butterflies. Everything slows down in the nature of a garden, sadness finds comfort, troubles drift away, and something like a beautiful tranquil hug envelopes us when we sit quietly in a garden. Gardens give us a peaceful break from our crazy chaotic world.



Karen West,
News Reporter

Memorial gardens have been around for thousands of years, almost as long as wars themselves. As a comforting place for remembrance and contemplation, a place to remember our loved ones who have gone on. To a Southerner, a memorial garden is more than a quiet place for peaceful meditation, it is a continuation of a cherished family album, a place representative of rebirth with the changing seasonal flowers and plants offering a kaledioscope of beauty. The local indigenous plants of azaleas, camellias, gardenias, and hydrangas have

the natural growing patterns to form low walled "rooms" of privacy, when solitude is preferred. The varying heights of dogwoods and flowering fruit trees along with carpets of staggering blooms from various bulbs help create vinettes to delight the eye and pollenators alike.

Unlike formal gardens, or manicured hedges and garden knots that require a great deal of attention, constant trimming and care, memorial gardens require little more than seasonal trimmings, plant food, and weeding. But like all living things they do require regular attention to keep them from getting out of hand.

Often called "Southern hospitality for the Soul" a memorial garden or square, provides a welcoming "non-gloomy" space where family, friends, and community can gather, grieve, share healing stories and watch beautiful pere-

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GOD IS IN CONTROL ALL THE TIME

ZEBULON COMMUNITY CHURCH

7266 BROWN CHAPEL RD. 31087

PASTOR BRO. BILLY CARROLL PHONE 706-829-4403

SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY 11:00-----SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00

By Edward Williams Zebulon Community Church --Deacon
MUSIC WILL BE AT 11:00 AM

EVERYONE PLEASE REMEMBER OUR 5TH SUNDAY MUSIC WILL BE BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE -(JEFF CLEGHORM- CLEGHORN MUSIC MINISTRY) HE PUT'S ON A GREAT CONCERT SOMEWHERE EVERY SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AND WE ARE BLESSED TH HAVE HIM ON 5TH SUNDAY AUGUST 30—EVERYONE IS WELCOM WITH A COVERD DISH LUNCH AFTER THE SERVICE SO PLEASE BRING YOUR FAVORIT DISH---- NO ADMISSON CHARGE JUST YOU AND A COVERED DISH----SO PLEASE COME AND YOU WILL GET A BLESSING FROM IT—WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU. 11 AM AUG 30.

GOD IS IN CONTROL ALL THE TIME ;---SCRIPTURE; --(And we know that all thing works out for the good to them that loves God, to them who are called acceding to His purpose”—(Romans 8:28).

Life is filled with unexpected terms. Some days bring joy and celebration, while some bring heartache, disappointments, sickness or loss. When circumstances seem out of control, it is easy to wonder where God is, Yet the Bible tells us That God has never surrender His throne He is in control all the time. He knows the beginning and the end. Before we face tomorrow, He is already there. Before we pray, He knows our need. Before a storm enters our lives, He has already prepared the strength we need to endure it. Joseph learned this truth through hardship. He was betrayed by his brothers, sold into slavery, falsely accused, and forgotten to be in prison. It must have seamed that God had abandoned him, but God was working behind the scenes every moment. At the right time, Joseph was lifted from prison to become a ruler in Egypt, saving thousands of lives during a famine. Looking back, Joseph could say, “You mint evil agents me, but God mint for the good” -(Genesis 50:20).

The same God that guided Joseph is guiding your lives today You may not understand why some doors are closed. Why prayers are delayed, or why trials have come your way, but God's silences is not His absence, and His delays is not His denials. He is always working according to His perfect plan. God's control does not mean we will never experience pain. Christins face defaults just like everyone else. The difference is we never face them alone. God walks with us through every valley, comforts us in every sorrow, and gives us Joy in every trial. What appears to be a setback may be Gods perpetration for a greater blessing.

When we begin to take hold, remember who is in control. The same God who created Heaven and Earth holds your life in His hands. No problem is too great for Him. No burden is too heavy for Him, and no situation is beyond His power. Today chose to trust Him even when you do not understand His ways. Faith is believing the seams uncertain. His plans are always wise, His timing is always perfect, and His love for His children never changes.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN EAST LAKE!

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!
All training & gear provided.

FIGHT FIRES OR SUPPORT OUR TEAM!
Options for everyone.

TWO VOLUNTEER ROLES:

FIREFIGHTER

- Complete fire suppression
- Rescue operations
- Full training provided

SUPPORT FIREFIGHTER

- Help on the fire ground
- Non-firefighting duties
- Crucial scene support

JOIN THE EAST LAKE FIRE RESCUE VOLUNTEER FAMILY!

- Perfect for retirees & community members!
- Serve your neighbors! • Gain new skills!

www.EastLakeFireVolunteers.org
Or Call 404-784-7391

HANCOCK COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLE

H26-024

Abandoned
Motor Vehicle

Kia Sorrento base
model
Maroon color
VIN # 5XYKT3A6X-
CG190280
Location at BP SOUTH
7950 GA HWY 15
SOUTH
SPARTA GA 31087
Ph # 706-444-7444
The vehicle at the property
for more than 3 years.
If anybody wants to claim
the vehicle, need to pay
the owner \$13499.00.
**July 8, 15, 22, 29, August 5,
12, 2026**

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

H26-030
DEBTORS AND CREDI-
TORS NOTICE
GEORGIA, HANCOCK
COUNTY.

All creditors of the
Estate of David Young-
blood, deceased, late of
Hancock County, Geor-
gia, are hereby notified to
render in their demands to
the undersigned, accord-
ing to law, and all persons
indebted to said estate are
required to make immedi-
ate payment to the under-
signed.

This 10th day of August,
2026.

/s/ Sylvia Youngblood
Sylvia Youngblood, Exec-
utrix of
the Estate of David Young-
blood
P.O. Box 190
Sparta, GA 31087
**August 12, 19, 26,
September 2, 2026**

NOTICE TO FORECLOSE RIGHT OF REDEMPTION

H26-026
NOTICE TO FORE-
CLOSE RIGHT OF
REDEMPTION
GEORGIA, HANCOCK
COUNTY

TO:

(1) Ken Jones
(2) Any and all heirs
of Ken Jones
(3) Any and all judg-
ment lienholders against
Ken Jones or the heirs of
Ken Jones
(4) Hancock
County, Georgia
(5) State of Geor-
gia
(6) Tenant or per-
sons in possession

TAKE NOTICE

THAT:

The right to redeem the
following described prop-
erty, to wit:

All that tract or par-
cel of land being Lot 79
as shown on that certain
Property Survey prepared
for Owens-Illinois Devel-
opment Corporation, dat-
ed January, 1979, recorded

in Hancock County, Geor-
gia, in Plat Book 7, Pages
45-51, said lot situate lying
and being in the 104th
GMD, Hancock County,
Georgia; and an undivided
one-eight hundred first
(1/801) interest in Lots
139, 189, 284, 402, 411,
666, 703 and 767 as shown
on said certain Property

Survey prepared for Ow-
ens-Illinois Development
Corporation, said access
lot containing 4.34 acres,
more or less, situate, lying
and being in the 104th
GMD, Hancock County,
Georgia.

THIS CONVEYANCE
is made subject to all zon-
ing ordinances, easements
and restrictions of record
affecting said described
property. As described in
Deed Book 5R, Page 446.
Further described as Map
& Parcel 012C 061.
Will expire and be forev-
er barred and foreclosed
from the right of redemp-
tion on and after August
24, 2026.

The tax deed to which
this Notice relates is dated
December 5, 2023 and is
recorded at Deed Book
606, page 242, Hancock
County records.

The property may
be redeemed at any time
before the 24th day of
August, 2026, by payment
of the redemption price as
fixed and provided by law
to the undersigned at the
following address: Tom
Neuman & Wendy Neu-
man, c/o John F. Hitch-
cock, Jr., P.O. Box 190,
Sparta, GA 31087.

Take due notice and
govern yourself accord-
ingly.

Dated this 13th day of
July, 2025.

Tom Neuman & Wendy
Neuman by John F. Hitch-
cock, Jr., their attorney.
**July 22, 29, August 5, 12,
2026**

H26-027
NOTICE OF FORECLO-
SURE OF RIGHT OF
REDEMPTION
STATE OF GEORGIA,
COUNTY OF HAN-
COCK
TO:

1) Gary Brazowski, 2)
Richard Armer, 3) Helen
Armer, 4) RDR Land Trust
No. 002, 5) SSR Land
Trust No. 002, 6) B.S.
Davis, 7) Joni B. Newell,
8) Brad Davis Foundation,
Inc., 9) Michael Turner,
10) Adrian Cresswell, 11)
CECC-Briarrose Land
Company, Inc., 12) Han-
cock County Tax Com-
missioner, 13) All Tenants/
Residents/Occupants, and
14) All Persons Known or
Unknown who may claim
an interest in properties
known as:

Windgrass Lane, White
Plains, Georgia 30678;
Leafsong Way, White
Plains, Georgia 30678;
Winterwood Lane, White
Plains, Georgia 30678;
Winterwood Lane, White
Plains, Georgia 30678;
Sugarbush Lane, White
Plains, Georgia 30678;
Rosegate Lane, White
Plains, Georgia 30678;
Leafsong Way, White
Plains, Georgia 30678;
Leafsong Way, White
Plains, Georgia 30678.

TAKE NOTICE THAT

The right to redeem the
described properties
known as Windgrass Lane,
White Plains, Georgia
30678 (Tax Parcel 086A
009); Leafsong Way, White
Plains, Georgia 30678
(Tax Parcel 086A 014);
Winterwood Lane, White
Plains, Georgia 30678
(Tax Parcel 086A 046);

Winterwood Lane, White
Plains, Georgia 30678 (Tax
Parcel 086A 050); Sugar-
bush Lane, White Plains,
Georgia 30678 (Tax Parcel
086A 060); Rosegate Lane,
White Plains, Georgia
30678 (Tax Parcel 086B
018); Leafsong Way, White
Plains, Georgia 30678 (Tax
Parcel 086C 022); Leafsong
Way, White Plains, Geor-
gia 30678 (Tax Parcel 086C
023), as follows, to wit:

TRACT I: All that tract
or parcel of land lying and
being in the 103rd G.M.D.
of Hancock County,
Georgia, and being more
particularly described as
Lot 206 on that certain
Final Plat of The Briar-
Rose, Phase 2-A, recorded
in Plat Book 13, Pages
253-256, Hancock County,
Georgia Records, which
plat is incorporated herein
by this reference and made
a part of this description.

As described in Deed
Book 302, Page 239 and
further described as Map
& Parcel 086A 009.

TRACT II: All that
tract or parcel of land
lying and being in the
103rd G.M.D. of Hancock
County, Georgia, and
being more particularly
described as Lot 201 on
that certain Final Plat of
The BriarRose, Phase 2-A,
recorded in Plat Book 13,
Pages 253-256, Hancock
County, Georgia Records,
which plat is incorporated
herein by this reference
and made a part of this
description.

As described in Deed
Book 306, Page 82 and
further described as Map
& Parcel 086A 014.

TRACT III: All that
tract or parcel of land
lying and being in the
103rd G.M.D. of Hancock
County, Georgia, and
being more particularly
described as Lot 156 on
that certain Final Plat of
The BriarRose, Phase 2-A,
recorded in Plat Book 13,
Pages 253-256, Hancock
County, Georgia Records,
which plat is incorporated
herein by this reference
and made a part of this
description.

As described in Deed
Book 390, Page 322 and
further described as Map
& Parcel 086A 046.

TRACT IV: All that
tract or parcel of land
lying and being in the
103rd G.M.D. of Hancock
County, Georgia, and
being more particularly
described as Lot 159 on
that certain Final Plat of
The BriarRose, Phase 2-A,
recorded in Plat Book 13,
Pages 253-256, Hancock
County, Georgia Records,
which plat is incorporated
herein by this reference
and made a part of this
description.

As described in Deed
Book 322, Page 337 and
further described as Map
& Parcel 086A 050.

TRACT V: All that
tract or parcel of land
lying and being in the
103rd G.M.D. of Hancock
County, Georgia, and
being more particularly
described as Lot 218 on
that certain Final Plat of
The BriarRose, Phase 2-A,
recorded in Plat Book 13,
Pages 253-256, Hancock

County, Georgia Records,
which plat is incorporated
herein by this reference
and made a part of this
description.

As described in Deed
Book 319, Page 23 and
further described as Map
& Parcel 086A 060.

TRACT VI: All that
tract or parcel of land
lying and being in the
103rd G.M.D. of Hancock
County, Georgia, and
being more particularly
described as Lot C-50 on
that certain Final Plat of
The BriarRose, Phase 1-B,
recorded in Plat Book 13,
Pages 208-211, Hancock
County, Georgia Records,
which plat is incorporated
herein by this reference
and made a part of this
description.

As described in Deed
Book 322, Page 347 and
further described as Map
& Parcel 086B 018.

TRACT VII: All that
tract or parcel of land
lying and being in the
103rd G.M.D. of Hancock
County, Georgia, and
being more particularly
described as Lot 145 on
that certain Final Plat of
The BriarRose, Phase 2-A,
recorded in Plat Book 13,
Pages 253-256, Hancock
County, Georgia Records,
which plat is incorporated
herein by this reference
and made a part of this
description.

As described in Deed
Book 305, Page 140 and
further described as Map
& Parcel 086C 022.

TRACT VIII: All that
tract or parcel of land
lying and being in the
103rd G.M.D. of Hancock
County, Georgia, and
being more particularly
described as Lot 144 on
that certain Final Plat of
The BriarRose, Phase 2-A,
recorded in Plat Book 13,
Pages 253-256, Hancock
County, Georgia Records,
which plat is incorporated
herein by this reference
and made a part of this
description.

As described in Deed
Book 307, Page 283 and
further described as Map
& Parcel 086C 023.

Will expire and be for-
ever foreclosed and barred
on and after the 10th day
of August, 2026, or 30 days
from service of notice.

The tax deeds to which
this notice relates are dat-
ed as follows:

December 5, 2023, and is
recorded in the Office of
the Clerk of the Superior
Court of Hancock County,
Georgia, in Deed Book
606, Page 93, for Tax Par-
cel 086A 009;
December 5, 2023, and is
recorded in the Office of
the Clerk of the Superior
Court of Hancock County,
Georgia, in Deed Book
606, Page 85, for Tax Par-
cel 086A 014;
December 5, 2023, and is
recorded in the Office of
the Clerk of the Superior
Court of Hancock County,
Georgia, in Deed Book
606, Page 291, for Tax
Parcel 086A 046;
December 5, 2023, and is
recorded in the Office of
the Clerk of the Superior
Court of Hancock County,
Georgia, in Deed Book
606, Page 295, for Tax

Parcel 086A 050;
December 5, 2023, and is
recorded in the Office of
the Clerk of the Superior
Court of Hancock County,
Georgia, in Deed Book
606, Page 273, for Tax
Parcel 086A 060;
December 5, 2023, and is
recorded in the Office of
the Clerk of the Superior
Court of Hancock County,
Georgia, in Deed Book
606, Page 201, for Tax
Parcel 086B 018;
December 5, 2023, and is
recorded in the Office of
the Clerk of the Superior
Court of Hancock County,
Georgia, in Deed Book
606, Page 207, for Tax
Parcel 086C 022;
December 5, 2023, and is
recorded in the Office of
the Clerk of the Superior
Court of Hancock County,
Georgia, in Deed Book
606, Page 209, for Tax
Parcel 086C 023;

The property may be
redeemed at any time be-
fore the 14th day of Sep-
tember, 2026, or 30 days
from service of notice, by
payment of the redemp-
tion price as fixed and
provided by law to the un-
dersigned at the following
address: McRee Law, LLC,
1704 S Broad Street, Com-
merce, Georgia 30529.
Please be governed ac-
cordingly.

July 29, August 5, 12, 19,
2026

NOTICE OF SUMMONS

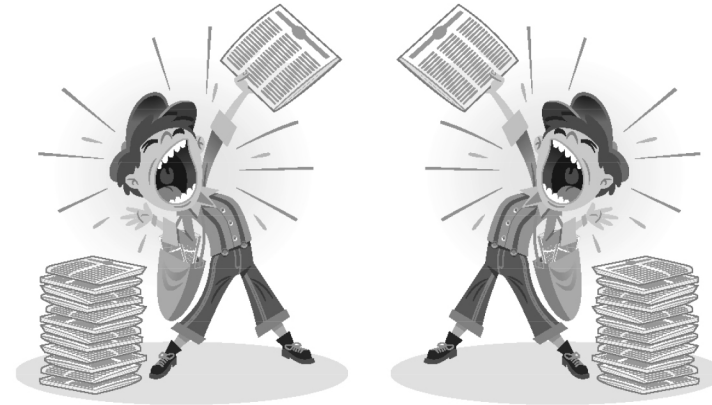
H26-029
IN THE SUPERIOR
COURT OF HANCOCK
COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
Childs, Jaan Mr. Childs,
PLAINTIFF
VS.
Walsh, Patrica H., DE-
FENDANT
CIVIL ACTION NUM-
BER: SUCV2026000037
SUMMONS

You are hereby re-
quired to file with the
Clerk of said court and
serve upon the plaintiff or
plaintiff's attorney, whose
name, address and email
address are:

Jaan Childs
90 Fairlie Street Northwest
702
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
jaanchilds@gmail.com
an answer to the com-
plaint which is herewith
served upon you. You
must make your answer
within 30 days after
service of this summons
upon you. This time ex-

STAY INFORMED!

*** All legal notices are required to be
e-mailed each week
prior to run date by 12 PM on
Friday's.
Email to
brittany@courierheraldtoday.com**



cludes the day of service.

If you fail to answer,
the court will issue a de-
fault judgment against you
for the relief sought in the
complaint.

If this action pertains
to a Protective Order, the
answer is to be filed and
served on or before the
scheduled hearing date
attached.

This 23rd day of April
2026.
Clerk of Superior Court
August 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026

PETITION TO BE APPOINTED

H26-031
IN THE PROBATE
COURT OF HANCOCK
COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF
TERENCE K. COBBS,
DECEASED
ESTATE NO. E-26-050
NOTICE
To Whom It May Con-
cern:

PENNY COBBS has
petitioned to be appointed
Administrator(s) of the
estate of TERENCE
COBBS, deceased, of said
County. All interested
parties are hereby notified
to show cause why said
Petition should not be
granted by filing an objec-
tion.

All objections to
the Petition must be in
writing, setting forth
the grounds of any such
objections, and must be
filed with the Court on or
before September 4, 2026.
In addition, all objections
must be sworn to before a
notary public or before a
Probate Court Clerk. Fil-
ing fees must be tendered
with your objection unless
you qualify to file as an
indigent party.

Contact Probate Court
personnel for the required
amount of filing fees. If
any objections are filed, a
hearing will be scheduled
at a later date. If no objec-
tions are filed, the Petition
may be granted without a
hearing.

Sabrina M. Lamar
Judge of the Probate Court
Jasmine J. Stokes
Deputy Clerk of the Pro-
bate Court
12630 Broad Street, Spar-
ta, GA 31087
706-444-5343
**August 12, 19, 26, Septem-
ber 2, 2026**



A Unique Memorial

By Karen West,
News Reporter

In the early 1900's there was a sudden rush to build Confederate Memorials in the South, most built by Daughters of the Confederacy. The monuments, for the most part were meant to act as grave markers for the men and boys who never came home, many dying on far away battlefields. In a time when embalming was in its infancy,- practiced by a very few, and very expensive,- most people had to rely on ice to transport deceased loved ones if transport was even possible. With the lack of preservation, most of the dead were buried close to "where they fell" making home burials impossible. The poverty of the post war South made any attempts to bring the bodies of loved ones home impossible. But many of the monuments of this kind were built among controversy.

"The surge in building Confederate monuments in the early 1900's coincided with the rise of Jim Crow segregation, the political disenfranchisement of Black Americans, and the promotion of the "Lost Cause" ideology."

That is the background for MOST of the monuments, but not all. Our own Confederate Monument in the center of War Memorial Square has a decidedly different history.

When the building of the new Second Empire brick Courthouse began, a group of local ladies formed the Ladies Memorial Association of Hancock County to build a monument to act as a grave stone for the local men and boys who did not return home. The ladies raised \$900* toward the building of a simply draped white marble obelisk - quite a hefty sum in 1881. Unfortunately, the cost of such a monument was closer to \$1500* plus the cost of grading the site and building a substantial base for it to rest upon.

*(The paperwork for the exact amounts and invoices were lost in the Courthouse fire of 2014 but these estimates are very close to the actual numbers, based on extensive research.)

When it looked like the project was in danger of not succeeding, a brave soldier swept in to offer assistance.

Colonel J.W. Nichols, formerly of the Union Army, but in 1881 owner of

Glen Mary in Sparta, came to the ladies rescue offering to prepare the plot, build a massive base of brick blocks and three granite steps, as well as make up the difference in the funds needed to commission the obelisk.

When asked why he, a Union officer, was personally helping erect a monument dedicated to Confederate soldiers, he stated,

"I am not doing this to honor the cause for which they fought, but to honor the memory of brave men who fought for what they believed was right". - Col. J.W. Nichols

He continued on saying that hopefully the monument would stand for the healing of a nation and help in the rebuilding of unity. His actions and statements were widely viewed by the local community as a powerful symbol of reconciliation unlike any other monument of its kind. While other later monuments were raised under clouds of controversy, the Hancock County memorial offered a hope for a future of true reconciliation, as showcased by the combined efforts of North and South to get it erected. By seperating the bravery and tragic loss of local soldiers

(many of which had joined in the Hancock County vote NOT to seceed from the nation) from the political ideology of the war itself.

The monument was dedicated in January of 1882 with the Courthouse being completed in 1883.

Hancock County's Memorial to the local men and boys who died during the Civil War just proves that you cannot assume to know a history based on inuendo and heresay. To know a place's true history you must dig for the facts, investigate the people involved, and be prepared to be surprised. History very rarely is what you have "always heard".

Today, the War Memorial Square pays homage to all Hancock County veterans and offers a place of quiet reflection, hope, amd facing the future with unity and clear purpose. It is indeed a unique monument, honoring a unique community.

PUBLIC MEETING

Hancock County hereby gives notice that a public meeting will be held to discuss a water system interconnect project on September 8th, at 11:00am in the Hancock County Courthouse located at 12630 Broad Street, Sparta, GA 31087.

The project is proposing to extend the Hancock County water system by about 70,000 linear feet along Devereaux Road, Jones Chapel Road, and Carrs Station Road in order to interconnect with the Baldwin County water system. The purpose of this interconnection is to provide Hancock County with an emergency water supply in the event of a natural disaster or some other unforeseen operational issue at the Sparta water treatment facility. As of now, the Hancock and Sparta water systems have no emergency water supply available if needed.

This project was proposed in response to the Hurricane Helene Resilience Funding program being facilitated by the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The program is proposing to award 100% principal forgiveness to the amount of \$6,800,000 in order to fund the project.

The purpose of the public meeting is to:

- 1) Inform the public of the need for resilient water infrastructure in the event of natural disaster or some other emergency.
- 2) Comply with Section 391-3-6.02 of Georgia's Water Quality Control Rules and Regulations (and amendments thereto).
- 3) Encourage public involvement in the development of a plan to improve the county water system and surrounding waterways.

The public meeting will attempt to identify public preferences for alternative methods of improving the county's water supply. These alternatives will be evaluated and included in the final Environmental Information Document (EID). The preliminary draft of this document is available for public inspection through the date of the public meeting at the Hancock County Courthouse during normal business hours.

Your participation is encouraged and is considered essential to the selection and development of the final plan to be adopted prior to its approval by the State of Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

For additional information, contact Mr. Borderick Foster, County Manager, at (706) 444-5746 or countyclerk@hancockcountyga.gov.

Public Notice

Hancock County BOC _____ is applying for funding assistance under Title 49 U.S.C. Section 5311 of the Federal Transit Act pertaining to rural areas.

Hancock County BOC _____ will offer general public transportation to all citizens of Hancock County _____ for any worthwhile purpose, including but not limited to shopping, medical treatment, social services, and other purposes.

Hancock County BOC _____ solicits private sector input and participation to assure that private for-profit transportation operators have a fair and timely opportunity to participate in the development of this program.

Hancock County BOC _____ also solicits comments and concerns from the general population on local rural public transportation services.

Hancock County BOC _____ also solicits comments and concerns from the elderly, low-income, and disabled population and their representatives to assure that issues relating to the disabled are addressed in the service design proposed during the planning process.

Interested persons are invited to request that a public hearing be held to discuss the services being offered or development of the application.

Written comments, requests for a public hearing and/or written notice of intent by private for-profit transportation operators to provide or participate in any or all of the above services should be submitted no later than fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication to:

Commission Chairman/Mayor/Chief Executive of Applicant Organization:
Adrick Ingram

Address/City/State/Zip Code of Applicant:
12630 Broad St., Sparta, GA 31087

Phone Number of Applicant: 706-444-5746

If no response is received within the fifteen (15) days, Hancock County BOC _____ will proceed with the application to the Georgia Department of Transportation.

State Senate Candidate Arrested

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pointing it at restaurant staff members,- during a dispute over a broken air conditioner. Rodrico Saenz Martinez has petitioned for a restraining order, but the judge has not yet made a determination. According to eye witnesses, this is not the first time that Wheeler has displayed this type of behavior - also in the Lake Sknclair building but when another restaurant was leasing the space. Fortunately, no one was hurt in any of the instances, although several eye witnesses said that they feared for their lives.

Tracy Wheeler has denied the accusation. "Tracy Wheeler, in the last four years, waged two unsuccessful political battles against State Representative Mack Jackson (Dem.- Sandersville) for District Seat 128 in the Georgia State House of Representatives. Her closest attempt to beat him

came in on her last election against him when she lost by just 48 votes." - Union Recorder

Even though she has never held an elected position before, after her double loss to Mack Jackson, Wheeler set her sites higher - on the State Senate race.

The election between incumbant David Lucas and Wheeler is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3. The district in question covers parts of Bibb and Houston and all of Hancock, Twiggs, Washington, and Wilkinson Counties.

Wheeler's court date is set for September 17. Her bond was denied.

If convicted, Wheeler faces prison time from 1-20 years, up to \$100,000 in fines, and a felony record.

Attempts to reach the Wheelers for comment have gone unanswered.



History of our War Memorial Square

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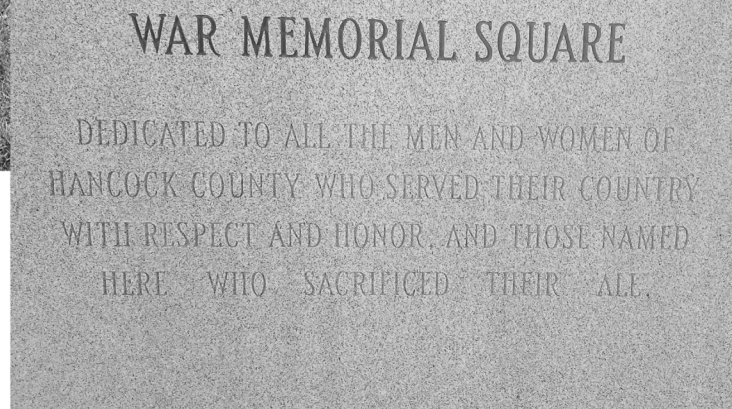
ing plants and greenery of the public square. It is not unusual to hear first time visitors audibly gasp, such was the intent. This impressive Courthouse placement

is known in town planning as "the Sparta Plan". Many towns, planned in the early 1800's, all over the Southeast, and in fact the country and the world have copied "the Sparta plan" and many can still be seen in other towns- like Dublin, Blakely, and Jefferson, -even today. Ours is still the purest form - and the oldest - of the "Sparta Plans" existing today. This plan, utilizing slight hills in landscape along with a beautiful parklike public square to frame it, gives our Courthouse the granduer it so richly deserves.

Our very first courthouse was hardly as grand as our present one, being built of logs like the majority of the buildings in our community. As our town grew, so did the need for larger structures, and the buildings evolved along with the needs. In the building boom of the 1880's (after the Civil War, the Emancipation Proclamation, and Reconstruction) our magnificent Courthouse was built in the impressive Second Empire style which was certainly in keeping with Major Abercrombie's original vision almost a century before. The impressive structure included large graceful arched windows, an ornate clock tower, with a massive 800 lb. bronze bell that struck every hour and helped citizens respect the passage of time while enjoying the melodious chimes that played as well.

"The Sparta Plan" is an early 1800's Southern town planning model derived from the layout of Sparta, Georgia. It features a central public square and a courthouse block with a grid iron street arrangement where two main streets intersect at right angles in front of the courthouse often built on a slight slope with arrival topping another slight elevation to afford arriving visitors a direct dramatic sighting of the Courthouse and its gardenlike public square, as they enter the town center."

In the Sparta Plan, the public square in front of the Courthouse was designed as a multi-functional regional center for the civic,



social, and economic life of the community. It was used as a blueprint for organizing civil identity, commerce, and public voting access. It even had a historic well near the center of the square.

In the early 1800's in the early days of Sparta/Hancock County, farmers from the surrounding rural area used the area to sell small livestock, produce, and handmade goods (much like Our Sparta FRESH Farmers Market does in the present).

Political rallies were often held in the square making a natural spot for political debates, campaigns, speeches, and public voting assemblies. It was in this square that the community's decision NOT to succeed from the Union in the days before the Civil War was made after gathering a vote from the citizens.

Civic celebrations and commemorations where the entire community gathered were often held in the square. Holidays and special events like the 1825 visit to Sparta by the Revolutionary hero Marquis de Lafayette, celebrations for our nation's birthday, the huge celebration for the Bicentennial in 1976 were held at least in part in the square. Over the years it became the site of monuments and memorials, from the 1881 Confederate memorial (see separate article "A Unique Memorial") to monuments for those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the First and Second World Wars, Korea, and Vietnam.

During the "court weeks" of old, when regional judges traveled on horseback from town to town, the square filled with lawyers, clients, and spectators, turning the square into a prime networking event space.

For a very short amount of time, the square housed the gallows used to apply quick justice from the nearby Courthouse. The public hangings in the square were few and replaced the old "Gallows Tree" that stood on the corner of Elm and Hamilton where Miss Julia Dickson's historic home sits today. Records show that very few public executions hap-

pened on the square, but it is worth mentioning for full disclosure and transparency, as a part, although dark part, of our local history.

The War Memorial Square has always been an important part of Sparta/Hancock history - from supplying the community well, local farmers' markets, a place for celebration, and hospitality, for hearing local announcements of importance, to most recently providing a beautiful parklike settling to remember those gone on before us. Unfortunately, that last community service by our beloved square is in jeopardy having been stripped of its beautiful mature, sometimes rare foliage, after being lovingly tended by volunteers for decades. What the current Chairman and board of Commissioners have planned for this historic patch of land is at this point, unknown. Questions go unanswered, faithful volunteers ignored, or worse yet told to do nothing, that any attempts to replant will be "removed".

With so many serious concerns facing our county, citizens are questioning the approach taken in the matter of the War Memorial Square, for decades a high point and place of pride for the community - yes, it might have been a bit shabby and a bit overgrown, but still beautiful and reflective of the hope growing here.

Keeper of the garden in War Memorial Square for decades, Nancy Stephens, recalls the good and hopeful comments made by visitors and volunteers alike "It made them smile, and countless times they said 'Maybe Sparta isn't as dead as we thought it was', " In a town with little else going for it in recent years, these are words bordering on hope.

Here's continuing to hope that this is not the final chapter in the long long history of the square and the "Sparta Plan" . Only time will tell.

Jamie White Builds a New Chapter in Trucking Career Through OFTC CTD Program

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cision soon became something much bigger for their family.

"Through trucking, we raised our children, overcame hardships, and learned the importance of hard work and commitment," she said. "Trucking became more than a career; it became the foundation our family was built on."

Returning to OFTC Now with four children grown and pursuing their own paths, White felt the timing was right to step into a new role within the family business.

"I am entering a new season in my life," she said. "My children are grown, and as they begin to step into their futures, I feel both proud and ready to begin focusing on our future together."

That next step meant returning to OFTC — a place already familiar to her through both her family's connection to the College and her own experience as a student. White is a 2022 graduate of OFTC's Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) program.

"I've sent most of my children to OFTC and am always encouraging others to consider it as an option to further their education," she said.

For White, enrolling in OFTC's CTD program was a natural decision.

"As we realized return-

ing to school and enrolling in truck driving classes was the next practical step for this time in our lives, I knew OFTC was the right step forward in my journey," she said.

OFTC's CTD program provides hands-on training designed to prepare students for real-world driving careers. Students train on both manual and automatic transmission trucks, allowing graduates to gain experience across multiple vehicle types and expand their job opportunities after graduation.

The program also offers a key advantage: students complete their Commercial Driver's License (CDL) skills exam on-site at OFTC, helping streamline the process from training to licensure.

White said the experience was both challenging and rewarding.

"There were times when the skills felt difficult to master," she shared, "but I kept practicing and stayed committed to improving."

She credited OFTC instructors with helping her stay motivated through the learning process.

"The instructors were patient and supportive, and they never gave up on me even when I struggled," she said. "Their encouragement helped me stay focused and pushed me through the tough moments."

Licensed and Ready to Roll

White completed the program and successfully earned her CDL after passing the Georgia Department of Driver Services CDL skills exam administered on-site at OFTC.

She is now continuing to build her experience alongside her husband and preparing for future opportunities on the road.

"I've been applying the skills I learned in my training to real life situations," she said. "I'm focused on growing my confidence, putting my training into practice, and preparing for future opportunities as they come."

For White, the journey is about more than earning a credential — it's about sharing a career and life path with her husband.

"I want to be able to run the road with him and see America together while working as a team," she said. "This training allowed me the skills to contribute to our business in a meaningful way and build experience, and it has given me the opportunity to create a shared life and career in trucking with my husband." For more info about OFTC's CTD program, visit the college's website, OFTC.edu.

Send your Community News/Events to :
KAREN WEST
westkaren286@gmail.com
or sandersvillep@gmail.com

IMAGINE

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Wars in Korea and Vietnam, the digital internet age and so much more. Imagine you have served your country and community tirelessly, often seeing the worst in people while you were a deputy sheriff and the best in people, too, when they come together to help one another or to create something beautiful for the entire community.

Imagine many of the boys you played with as a youngster, grew up with, went to school with, stood up for at weddings, laughed with, are now regulated to just memories and a name carved on a cold stone memorial, all but forgotten.

Imagine working together, alongside other citizens for more than 25 years in the scorching heat, pouring rain, freezing cold, creating a place of beauty, admired and appreciated by citizens and visitors alike. A place of quiet reflection and beauty, a place for remembering those no longer with us. Imagine the backbreaking work of pulling weeds, of hauling limbs and soil, of trimming back thorny plants, of working until your elderly pain wracked body is covered with sweat- but it's all worth it for the results that bring a smile to your face as well as others.

Imagine pouring so much of your heart and soul into a project, your efforts, your time, your energies, your memories, - into trying to make your hometown just a little bit better, a little bit brighter, a little bit more hopeful. Imagine trying to leave a legacy that will carry happiness forward after you have left this earth.

Then, imagine you are 96 year old Cowboy Jones and all of your hard work, your dreams, your hope for a lasting legacy, and all of your efforts, -destroyed in a single afternoon.

Q&A:

Why do some City projects take so long?

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view, approval, and reimbursement requirements.

We understand that waiting can be frustrating. A project taking time does not necessarily mean it has been forgotten or abandoned. It often means the City is working through the required process to secure funding, protect public resources, and make sure the project is completed correctly.



A Beautiful Thing to Leave Behind

nials return every spring as a hopeful, natural reminder of faith, hope, resilience, and continuity. A memorial is a sacred place, and has been recognized as such for thousands of years. Oftentimes, loved ones cannot

be transported home for burial and the monuments in the memorial gardens act as headstones for the deceased, a natural place for community healing, especially after a traumatic loss like in wartimes.

The callous individuals that refer to the loss of our decades old memorial garden in front of the Courthouse as simply "concerns about the flowers and rosebushes," hopefully will

never need the comforting oasis of a memory garden like our own War Memorial Square anytime in their near future. And though we can replant and try to regain the serenity that inhabited our former Me-

morial Square, many of us may not get to enjoy it in its completed, mature form.

At least, as the poem says, it seems like a beautiful thing to leave behind.

Notes From Around the Square

DREAM Streets Sparta, the all volunteer project of the Sparta Hancock County Historic Preservation Commission embarks on various projects and programs to improve the quality of life in our community using only donated goods and services and the work of volunteers. From art installations to Little Really Free Libraries to Our Sparta FRESH Farmers Market, entrepreneur mentoring, help with genealogy searches, and researching the history of our local buildings, homes, and businesses, DREAM Streets Sparta is there. One of the outreach programs is specialized history tours. In the seven years that DREAM Streets Sparta has been doing these tours, people from all over the United States have participated - all over Georgia, both North and South Carolina, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, Tennessee, Texas, California and more. One of the favorite stops is always our historic and rebuilt Courthouse and the story of Amanda America Dickson and our local communities influence on the 14th Amendment. But the spot that has encouraged more pictures, more exclamations of excitement has always been the parklike setting of the War Memorial Square and its abundance of flowers and beauty. Here are a few of those comments recorded over the years-

"There is something magical about this square- you expect woodland creatures to pop out and greet you in the middle of town" - a visitor from New York after being charmed by a chipmunk.

"This is such a naturally beautiful space- a little unexpected, unrestrained and carefree" - Maryland

"A place of beauty and seclusion in the middle of

town, to reflect on others that came before us". - New Jersey

"Amazing how such vibrant colors can create such a quiet space". Tennessee

"This is truly a Secret Garden for all to share". -South Carolina

"Its even more beautiful, more lively, more hopeful in person than in the stories my grandmother told us". - California

"Someone put a lot of thought, effort, and love of community into this cherished spot". - North Carolina

"This spot is timeless and hopeful much like the community's revitalization". - Kentucky

"Such a peaceful natural HAVEN, towering trees to protect, beautiful colors to captivate the eye, quiet, cool, and deeply grounding, just what a memorial garden should be - sacred soil." - North Carolina

"It feels like I've finally come home" -Texas

Visitors from the nearby area also had much to say in regards to the garden in War Memorial Square. Here are a few-

"I was truly appalled at the utter destruction of the Memorial Garden that was set forth so many years ago by volunteers and residents of Sparta and Hancock County. It was a place of tranquility and beauty that was a part of the Sparta Plan. The folks who live in Sparta should have had some knowledge of what was taking place. The plants that were in this garden were not all indigenous but were planted to thrive in this park. I have visited Sparta on many occasions, as I have family still living in the area, and I enjoy learning about the history and bringing others to visit as well. I am saddened by the utter disdain and disrespect shown by these actions."

- Cherry Bowen

"This is not simply a matter of differing opinions or landscaping preferences. Hancock County Memorial Gardens should be treated as sacred ground. Many people donated their time, money, trees, flowers, shrubs, and memorial items in honor of loved ones and community members."

- Allan Cowart

"Civic pride grows where beauty is planted" - Revitalize or Die

"I'm from Milledgeville. About a year or so ago, I was out exploring some backroads in that part of the state with my camera. With so much of the area looking depressed and sadly neglected, the lovely Courthouse Square was an unexpected breath of fresh air. It was clear that someone cared, that someone had invested a lot of skill and time, if not a lot of money, in transforming the bare historical markers into a pristine restful park. There was a sense of quiet pride and self respect despite the difficulties. It reminded me a bit of what I've seen in places like Cuba and Moldova, though Sparta is not as destitute as these countries. Still it was a remarkable place that attracted visitors like me to pause, read the markers, take pictures, give thanks for the history, and breathe a prayer for the area's future.

As in every aspect of life, it is far easier to tear down than to build up. The people who work in the Courthouse should appreciate this life lesson more deeply than most folks following the fire that destroyed the Courthouse in 2014. As an outsider looking in, I hope the Courthouse Square can be restored, much as the Courthouse itself has been. Beauty is worth the effort.

- John Cotton



Thank You, Nancy!

By Karen West, News Reporter

For almost 30 years Nancy Stephens lovingly and tirelessly tended to the Memorial Square in front of the Hancock County Courthouse. She rooted old almost forgotten types of indigenous plants, got cuttings and propagated rare flowering fruit trees, helped local citizens plant a colorful array of azaleas, roses, flowering apricots and dogwoods to honor loved ones no longer with us. She never set out to make a strictly manicured hard to maintain garden, but instead, created a rare and beautiful parklike setting, a tranquil place of reflection to honor those from our community who died in wars. But recently, Nancy became ill and could not do the manual labor to maintain the space. Instead of appreciating the dedication and hard work and carrying on the care of the jewellike park, the county (that is responsible for the iconic square) ignored it. Then, just this week under order from Chairman Adrick Ingram, the lush gardens were bulldozed, claiming there "had been complaints". No attempt to have the many interested volunteers work on it, no attempt to thin out the healthy plants and offer the citizens an opportunity to own an heirloom plant,

no notice, no discussion, no announcement - just wanton destruction of a once beautiful park. Is this the kind of "transparency" that Adrick Ingram promised citizens when he ran for office? The healthy and sometimes rare plants were bulldozed, taken away, and burned - giving the citizens no opportunity to trim, thin, maintain, or relocate the existing plants - none at all. Thirty years of hard work and beauty, albeit a bit overgrown as healthy plants sometimes do - GONE in the destruction of a single day.

If this type of unthinkable destruction is NOT what you wish to see from your local government, be at the County Commissioners meeting next week, Wed. AUGUST 12 at 5 PM in the Courthouse and make your voice heard.

If you approve of this type of disregard for hard work, love of community, and creating beautiful things, this lack of accountability, than just ignore the meeting and accept the consequences.

It's up to the citizens of Hancock County. Choose wisely.



LOCAL MATTERS