

CITY OF
WINDER
GEORGIA



2025 ANNUAL
REPORT

Contents

- 3 Mayor’s Message
- 4 City Administrator’s Message
- 5 Winder City Council
- 6 City Awards and Achievements
- 8 Community Engagement

DEPARTMENTS

- 10 Clerk’s Office
- 11 Finance
- 12 Human Resources
- 13 Information Technology
- 14 Planning & Development
- 16 Engineering
- 18 Utilities
- 19 Wastewater Collection & Treatment
- 20 Public Works
- 21 Customer Center
- 22 Communications
- 24 Events
- 28 Police Department
- 29 Municipal Court
- 30 Fire Department
- 31 The Chimneys Golf Course
- 32 Major Infrastructure Projects
- 34 Winder-Auburn Reservoir



A message from the Mayor



I bring greetings from the Mayor’s Office and the Winder City Council.

As your Mayor, I want to take a moment to say thank you for your trust, energy and belief in our City. Our community is more than streets and buildings. It is our citizens, our response to challenges, our shared moments and our times of celebration.

Like all communities, we face obstacles. However, we continue to respond with acts of kindness, resilience and unity as we continue our march forward.

I commit to you to continue “my open door policy.” We need to hear from you, to value your concerns and to explore every opportunity to make our City safer, stronger and more vibrant. Working together, we can build a City where families and businesses thrive and everyone has a voice.

Looking ahead, we remain focused on smart growth, fiscal responsibility, and the continuation of building a City that embraces the future while honoring our past history. I invite you to stay involved and to share your voices as we work together to strengthen and build our future.

With appreciation,

Mayor Jimmy Terrell
City of Winder



A message from the City Administrator

On behalf of the Mayor, City Council, and the dedicated employees of the City of Winder, we are pleased to present the City of Winder's Annual Report for Calendar Year 2025.

This past year has shown meaningful progress for our organization and the Winder community. Across every department, City employees have delivered the very results that strengthened core services, improved internal operations, and positioned Winder for continued, responsible growth. The accomplishments reflected in this report are the product of The Winder Way: collaboration, professionalism, and a shared commitment to serving the public well.

In 2025, the City made dedicated and purposeful strides in infrastructure planning and investment. Our Utilities, Engineering, and Public Works teams advanced major capital projects while maintaining reliable daily operations, where performed work is often unseen but essential to the community's health, safety, and economic vitality. These efforts, supported by purposeful project management and long-range planning, continue to build the foundation needed to support growth without sacrificing service quality.

The City's financial position was strengthened through disciplined budgeting and strategic oversight by the Finance Department. Responsible fiscal management throughout the year has positioned the City to maintain stability, plan responsibly for future obligations, and continue investing in priority areas. These efforts reinforce Winder's commitment to accountability and financial sustainability well into the future.

Public safety has remained, and will continue to be, a central focus. The Police Department and Fire Department demonstrated professionalism, accountability, and adaptability while responding to the evolving needs of the community. Concerted efforts by both departments have shown their continued emphasis on training, preparedness, and community engagement, helping ensure that Winder remains a safe and resilient city for residents, businesses, visitors, and friends we have yet to meet.

Equally critical to the City's success in 2025 were the contributions of our administrative and support departments. Human Resources focused on supporting a growing workforce, enhancing professional development, and strengthening organizational culture that will thrive as an example for years to come. The Information Technology Department continued to modernize systems and improve service delivery across the organization. The City Clerk, Municipal Court, and Communications teams ensured transparency, accuracy, and clear communication between the City and the public, an often overlooked service that provides a dedicated line between the public and our daily operations. Planning and Development Services, through its public facing department, guided thoughtful land use decisions and development activity that align with the City's vision for long-term success.

Quality of life and community connection remained priorities throughout the year. Public Works, Communications, and Events staff worked to maintain welcoming public spaces and deliver events

and programs that bring people together. These efforts, combined with improved communications and partnerships with local organizations, helped reinforce a strong sense of community pride in Winder.

Perhaps most importantly, 2025 was a year of intentional planning. Across departments, City staff worked collaboratively to align daily operations with long-term goals focusing on sustainability, service excellence, and responsible growth. The progress achieved this year reflects a city that is not only responding to today's needs but preparing thoughtfully for the future. This is in addition to reaching conclusions on projects that have created long-term stressors in the daily lives of our residents.

This Annual Report captures more than a list of accomplishments, of which there are many; it reflects momentum and direction that are only achieved with visionary leadership of our elected officials along with

departmental leadership that is second to none. The work completed in 2025 sets the stage for continued progress and demonstrates what will continue to be accomplished through teamwork, accountability, and a clear sense of purpose.

Sincere appreciation is extended to the Mayor and City Council for their leadership and policy guidance, and to every City employee for their dedication and professionalism throughout the year. Most importantly, thank you to the residents of Winder for your engagement, trust, and partnership.

It is an honor to serve this community. I look forward to continuing this work together as we build a strong, resilient, and forward-looking future for the City of Winder.

Respectfully,

Jonathan Lynn
Winder's City Administrator



2025 City Council

Sonny Morris
Ward 1

Travis Singley
Ward 4

Kobi Kilgore
Ward 2

Stephanie Britt
At-Large

Power Evans
Ward 3

Taffy McCormick
At-Large

City Awards & Achievements

In 2025, the City of Winder and its departments received state, regional, and national recognition for communications, utilities, public works, finance, and events.



- **Best Tasting Tap Water in Georgia** — Georgia Section of the American Water Works Association, Drinking Water Taste Test
- **Platinum Award** — Georgia Association of Water Professionals
- **Overall Champion** — Georgia Municipal Association Gas Rodeo
- **Customer Growth Award** — Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia
- **Bronze, Best Event Impact Support** — Public Works Department; Southeast Festivals & Events Association, Kaleidoscope Awards
- **3rd Place, Highest Per Capita Giving** — Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation, or \$17,916 raised through the *Give Burns the Boot Golf Tournament*
- **Phoenix Award, Creative Tactics** — *Potholes of Winder* awareness project; Public Relations Society of America Georgia
- **Award of Excellence, Best Use of Social Media (Organic/Earned)** — *Potholes of Winder* awareness project; Public Relations Society of America Georgia
- **Gold, Best Use of Humor** — *Potholes of Winder* awareness project; 3CMA Savvy Awards
- **Bronze, One-Time Event** — *Stronger Together: A City's Response to Tragedy*; 3CMA Savvy Awards
- **Bronze, Best Social Media Campaign** — *We Are Winder* video series; 3CMA Savvy Awards

Community Engagement

In 2025, the City of Winder continued to prioritize meaningful community engagement through events, partnerships, and programs that brought residents together, strengthened trust in local government, and supported neighbors in need. These efforts focused on education, accessibility, public safety outreach, and service-driven community connections.

COMMUNITY GIVING & SERVICE

Winder's public safety departments continued a strong tradition of service-focused community programs.

The **Give Burns the Boot Golf Tournament**, held at The Chimneys Golf Course, raised more than **\$17,000** for the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation. Funds support a no-cost summer camp for children who have survived burn injuries, as well as their siblings. The tournament drew **124 players across 34 teams** and remains one of the Fire Department's long-standing fundraising efforts.

The **Empty Stocking Drive**, led by the Winder Fire Department, provided holiday gifts to more than **823 local children**, marking the program's most successful year to date. Donations were made possible through the combined support of residents, businesses, schools, churches, civic groups, and volunteers.



YOUTH & FAMILY PROGRAMS

The **Shop with a Hero** program continued its more than 20-year tradition of pairing local children with police officers and firefighters for a holiday shopping experience. Supported through community donations and grant funding, the program creates positive connections between public safety personnel and families facing difficult circumstances. Walmart Store #520 in Winder again served as the event host.

COMMUNITY EVENTS & OUTREACH

The City hosted and participated in a variety of family-friendly and educational events designed to give residents hands-on opportunities to connect with City departments and services.

Gears & Government invited the community to explore City equipment and vehicles firsthand, including police cars, fire trucks, ambulances, bucket trucks, and public works equipment. The event combined education with interactive experiences, helping residents—especially children—better understand how City services operate.

City departments also participated in regional outreach events, including **Touch-a-Truck**, where police officers and firefighters met families, answered questions, and engaged with children in an informal, welcoming setting.



CULTURAL INCLUSION

To support cultural and religious inclusion, the City installed a new **menorah in Jug Tavern Park**, which was displayed and lit during the Jewish holy days, reflecting the City's commitment to recognizing and welcoming diverse traditions within the community.



Finance Department

The Finance Department manages the City's daily financial operations, providing assistance to both internal and external customers, and financial and budgetary support and guidance to all City Departments and the Mayor and City Council. Primary functions include accounting, budgeting, treasury management, property tax administration, accounts payable, billing and accounts receivables, as well as providing ongoing analysis of City revenues, forecasts and collections (utilities, business licenses, taxes, hotel/motel taxes, miscellaneous). The Finance Department accomplished the following:

- Accounted for revenue and expenditures in the City General Fund and 23 other Special Revenue, Capital Project and Enterprise Funds
- Adopted the FY2025-2026 Budget for General Operation and Capital Projects totaling \$39m on June 26, 2025
- Prepared the FY 2025-2026 Adopted Budget document in a format that qualifies for submittal to the GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award
- Provided timely monthly financial information to the City Council, City Administrator, and Department Heads as a tool for responsible decisions
- Maintained current data in ClearGov, a platform for transparency and open budget
- Provided payroll services (Bi-weekly payroll which includes 401a & 457b contribution to all employees; fund HSA amounts to employees' accounts; quarterly federal and state tax filing as well as annual reporting and W-2 Issuance to 279 Full and Part-Time Employees in 2025
- Streamlined the accounts payable process to reduce processing time resulting in more efficiency
- Issued over 3,500 accounts payable checks in 2025
- Maintained over 2,600 fixed assets in 2025
- Issued 45 IRS Forms 1099 to select vendors in 2025
- 2025 marked the 2nd year the City of Winder processed its own property tax assessment having mailed over 8,000 tax bills for a taxable value of \$892,896,748
- Continued staff professional development
- Began cross-training of department staff to provide assistance, back up coverage, and enhanced support for daily operations

City Clerk

JUSTFOIA PLATFORM CHANGE, JULY 2025

An upgrade to the City's online open records portal was completed to allow **separate submission and processing of general City of Winder requests and Police Department requests**. This change allows City Hall and the Police Department to manage open records requests concurrently, reducing delays and improving overall responsiveness.

Separating the request workflows eliminated unnecessary crossover communication, improved staff efficiency, and provided clearer control over request tracking. The updated system has resulted in faster response times and more effective coordination, including positive feedback from the Police Department's Records Clerk.

OPEN RECORDS REQUESTS

- Emailed requests - 54
- Utility Open Records Request - 212
- JustFOIA – 492 (General)
- JustFOIA – 244 (Police)

OPEN RECORDS REQUEST PAYMENT OPTIONS

Payments for open records requests are currently accepted **by phone, in person, or by mail**. Work is underway to add an **online payment option** to improve convenience for requesters when fees apply.



CITY CLERK	2025
Agendas and Agenda Packets (Work Sessions, Regular Meetings, Called Meetings)	40
Meeting Videos posted	40
Minutes (Work Sessions, Regular Meetings, Called Meetings)	40
Executive Sessions (Minutes)	19
City Council Retreat (Agendas and Minutes)	2
Resolutions (adopted, signed, filed)	23
Ordinances (adopted, signed, filed, codified: sent to Municode)	27
Proclamations	14



Human Resources

The Human Resources Department supports City employees and the citizens. The department is responsible for upholding the City's core values and works collaboratively with all departments to support a strong and effective employee life cycle.

The HR Department accomplished the following:

- Rolled out several updated policies to enhance internal practices and increase workplace attractiveness
- Successfully recruited and onboarded 43 new hires
- Maintained an average hiring timeline of under 45 days
- Stabilized employee attrition rate at 12%
- Implemented training program
- Revamped and enhanced employee wellness program
- Established a new robust Employee Assistance Program
- Implemented an Employee Safety Committee
- Obtained \$10,000 through the 2025 GMA Safety & Liability Grant
- Obtained Safety Coordinator designation from LGRMS
- Reduced city's expenses related to workers' compensation claims by 44%
- Decreased time for processing and finalization of liability claims by roughly 40%



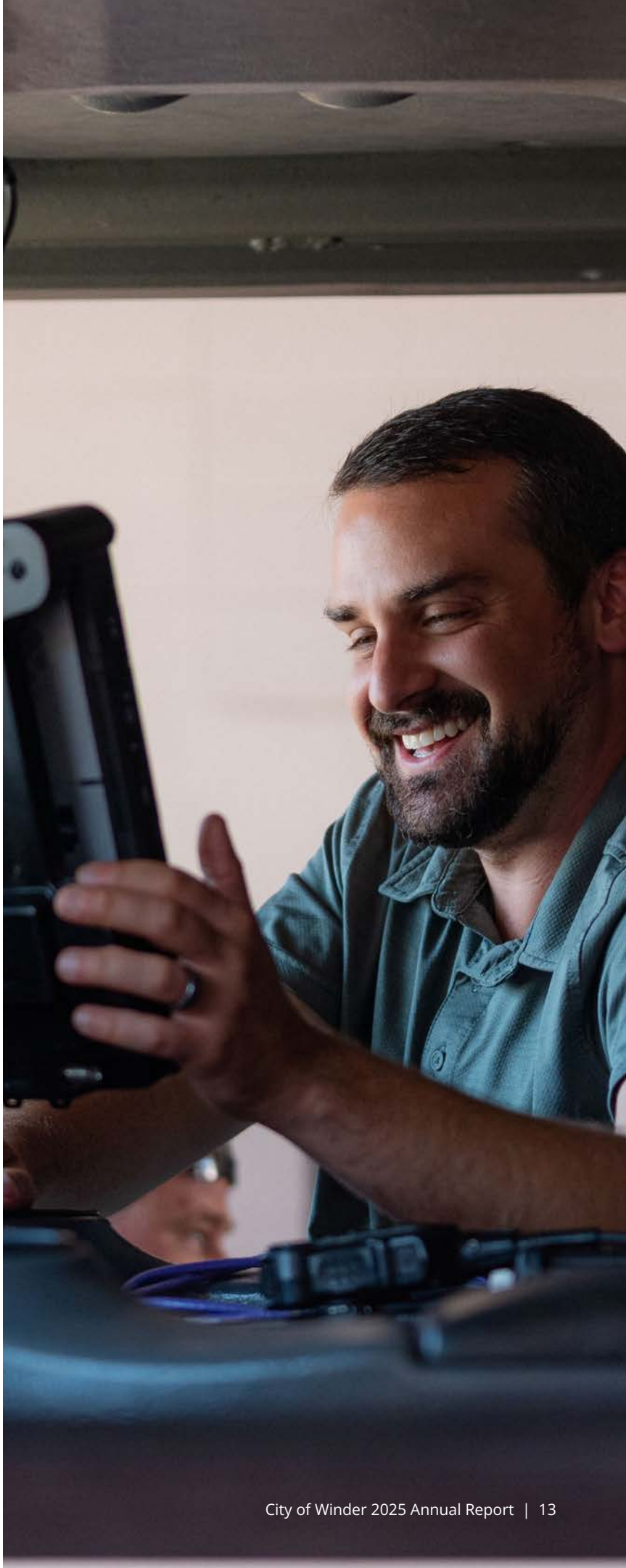
Upcoming Projects:

- Classification and Compensation Study
- Review of Retirement plans
- Implementation of an Employee Engagement Committee

Information Technology

The Technology Services Department supports the City's daily operations by providing secure, reliable, and modern technology services. From maintaining critical systems and networks to supporting public safety and improving internal processes, the department works behind the scenes to ensure City services are efficient, accessible, and protected. In 2025, IT continued to enhance cybersecurity, upgrade infrastructure, and implement new tools that improve service delivery for both employees and the community.

- Upgraded technology at the Community Center to enhance audio and video quality and allow residents to watch City Council and other meetings live online
- Assumed enhanced management and support of in-vehicle technology used by the Police Department and Fire Department to improve reliability and response capabilities
- Implemented multiple security improvements to better protect City data, systems, and services
- Improved internet and network connections at key facilities and began building backup systems to ensure services remain available during outages
- Introduced a new system to better manage City credit card usage, making purchases more transparent and accountable
- Partnered with the Utilities Department to implement technology that enhances protection and control of essential water and infrastructure systems
- Initiated complete upgrade to in-vehicle camera systems used by Police and Fire to support safety, accountability, and incident documentation
- Launched a new accounts payable system that significantly reduces the time needed to process invoices and payments





Planning & Development

The City of Winder's Planning and Development department is dedicated to serving the community by ensuring that our residents are informed and meet the zoning ordinances and building regulations adopted by our City's Council, and by implementing comprehensive planning to ensure that Winder remains a thriving and desirable place to live, work, and play.

- Achieved Tree City USA status for the 2025
- Grant for Transportation Alternatives Program for pedestrian bridge, awarded \$6,900,696
- Drafted and passed an ordinance for street cafes and road closure for Jackson Street
- Drafted and passed an ordinance that allowed alcohol licensed businesses within the Entertainment District to sell alcohol outdoors during public and private events without Council approval of an alcohol permit or fee
- Launched new planning & development services webpages



Permits by the Numbers

Permits Processed	2139
Fence	35
Accessory Structures	41
Signs	131
Building (Residential & Commercial)	403
Trades	229
All Others	1300
Inspections (Building)	8183
Licenses Issued	1235
Arborist Plan Reviews	407
Arborist Site Final Inspections	279
Tree Risk Assessments on public streets	11
Land Use Cases before Council	69
Variances	21
Development Team Meetings	86

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Notices Issued	468
Citations Issued	22
Violations Addressed	1672
Code Enforcement Incidents	3428
Stop Work Order	96
License & Permitting Property Inspections	216
Approximate # of Complaints Received	599
Unfounded Complaints Investigated	385





Engineering

The Engineering Department was created in 2022. As of 2025 it is at full staff with two inspectors and three engineers.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The department developed a citywide Transportation Improvement Plan to address traffic congestion, one of residents' top priorities. The plan took more than a year to complete and will serve as a guide for evaluating and addressing traffic issues.

BY THE NUMBERS

- More than 3,000 site inspections performed
- More than 180 Land Disturbance Permit plan reviews

DEVELOPED/REFINED SEVERAL PROGRAMS AND PROCESSES

- Refined the City's street rehabilitation program to better optimize available funding. The program manages each step of the process—from specifications and bidding to project completion—and has received positive feedback from industry experts.
- Developed the process and specifications to manage an on-call contract for preventative street patching, which will be part of the City's overall street maintenance program.
- Developed inspection processes and procedures to ensure that the City of Winder's public infrastructure, construction, and erosion control management are held to the highest possible quality standards.
- Developed contract and specification documents to support Winder's procurement needs across engineering and construction projects.



Capital Projects

- The East Stephens Street Drainage Project
- The Center Street Drainage Project
- City Pond safety improvements,
- City Pond outfall channel stabilization project
- Engineering evaluation and design of traffic issues at MLK Drive / Athens Street / May St.
- W. Midland Avenue culvert replacement
- 2025 Annual Street Paving
- Small Watershed study
- Sims Road Bridge replacement and road realignment
- Traffic evaluation at 3rd St. / W. Stephens St. / W. Midland Ave. intersection
- Traffic Study at Sims Rd. / St. Anthony St. / Miles Patrick Dr. / W. Midland Ave. intersection



Utilities

The City of Winder provides water, natural gas, sewer, and stormwater services to support residents, businesses, and ongoing development across the community.

NATURAL GAS

Installed **2,078 linear feet of 4-inch polyethylene gas main** and **1,081 linear feet of 2-inch gas main** to extend natural gas service to the Stone Haven Assisted Living project.

METERING & CUSTOMER SERVICE

Completed installation and startup of the City's **Fixed Network Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)** system. The system allows both staff and customers to monitor water and gas usage more efficiently and accurately.

STORMWATER

Installed or replaced approximately **2,500 linear feet of storm drainpipe**. Completed a major storm drain rehabilitation project on **Woodlawn Avenue** to improve drainage and system performance.

WATER

Initiated construction of a **24-inch water main** along Highway 53. Continued upgrades at the **Highway 53 Water Treatment Plant**, with the project on schedule for completion in **May 2026**, increasing treatment capacity to **9 million gallons per day (MGD)**.



Wastewater Collection & Treatment

The City of Winder's Wastewater Collection and Treatment operations support public health, environmental protection, and reliable service across the community. In 2025, the department focused on system maintenance, infrastructure upgrades, and operational reliability across the City's sewer collection system and two wastewater treatment plants.

WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM

The Wastewater Collection Department maintains the City's sewer infrastructure through routine inspection, cleaning, repair, and emergency response. Core activities include CCTV line inspections, pipe cleaning using jetting and vacuum equipment, lift station maintenance, flow monitoring, and response to overflows or pipe failures. These efforts help ensure uninterrupted service and prevent environmental contamination.

2025 Progress Update:

- Sewer lateral replacements and sewer main repairs
- Installation of new sewer cleanouts
- Routine lift station pump inspections and repairs
- Continued use of specialized equipment, including a vactor truck and CCTV inspection van

WASTEWATER TREATMENT OPERATIONS

Winder operates two wastewater treatment plants—**Cedar Creek** and **Marburg**—that together support current and future capacity needs.

Cedar Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant

- Permitted to treat **4 million gallons per day** (monthly average)
- Receives wastewater from portions of Barrow County through an intergovernmental agreement
- Supported by **five lift stations** within the collection system
- Ongoing maintenance included belt press belt replacement to support plant operations

Marburg Wastewater Treatment Plant

- Permitted to treat **1.5 million gallons per day** (monthly average)
- Supported by **7 lift stations**
- Completed major **aeration system upgrades in 2025**, including replacement of aeration systems in three tanks and tube settlers to improve reliability and operational efficiency
- Provides **reuse water** to The Chimneys Golf Course, the facility's sole source of irrigation water
- Installed a level sensor on the reuse pond to allow remote monitoring and ensure adequate water supply
- Plant operators coordinate daily with golf course staff to maintain consistent reuse water availability

FOCUS ON RELIABILITY & INFRASTRUCTURE

Across both collection and treatment systems, 2025 investments emphasized system resilience, preventive maintenance, and long-term operational reliability to support growth and protect water quality.

Public Works

The Public Works Department supports the day-to-day operations of the City by maintaining streets, signage, and essential infrastructure. The department focuses on efficient service delivery while supporting both residents and City departments.

In 2025, Public Works continued routine maintenance and response efforts across the community, with an emphasis on street maintenance, debris removal, and system upkeep.



BY THE NUMBERS

- 8,250 total work orders completed
- 4,500 centerline miles swept
- 4,048 cubic yards of debris removed through street sweeping
- 15,148 leaf and limb debris stops
- 9,358 cubic yards of leaf and limb debris removed
- 350 asphalt repairs completed
- 540 traffic and street signs maintained



Customer Center

The Customer Center provides accurate utility billing and responsive customer service for the City of Winder. With a dedicated team of utility billing staff, cashiers, and customer service representatives, the department serves as a primary point of contact for residents with questions about utilities, payments, and account services.

In 2025, the Customer Center handled a high volume of calls, emails, payments, and in-person requests while maintaining day-to-day billing operations and supporting citywide assistance efforts.

BY THE NUMBERS

Utility Billing, Customer Service, and Cashiers:

- Answered 51,000+ phone calls
- Generated, printed, and mailed 111,776 utility bills
- Delivered 157,301 utility bills electronically
- Printed and mailed 8,000+ property tax bills for the City's tax administrator
- Completed 7,292 service orders, including new service connections, disconnects, and meter swaps
- Processed 57,000+ customer payments
- Responded to hundreds of customer emails while assisting walk-in customers daily

COMMUNITY SUPPORT & PARTNERSHIPS

The Customer Center participates in the H.E.A.T. Assistance Program, encouraging customers to round up their utility bills or make additional donations to support residents needing help with heating costs.

The department also continues to partner with local organizations by connecting customers in need with applicable organizations that provide various types of assistance with utility bills and food pantry services.





Communications

Strengthening How Winder Communicates

In 2025, the Communications Department strengthened the City of Winder’s public presence through intentional digital visibility, consistent branding, and strategic storytelling. The Winder Works campaign unified communications efforts across social media, short-form video, and a city podcast to better explain how the City of Winder works for its community. These efforts resulted in unprecedented organic growth, expanded public engagement, and received two statewide and three national awards for excellence in communications.

DIGITAL REACH & ENGAGEMENT

- 7.1 million total social media views in 2025
- Up 161% year over year
- 71,200 content interactions (+165%)
- Several posts exceeded 100,000 organic views
- Record organic reach, surpassing 1 million views in a single month without paid advertising
- Used creative, appropriate humor to encourage civic engagement, including a widely recognized April Fool's pothole awareness effort
- Daily social media monitoring and monthly reporting on top performing posts and content trends.



Overall growth was driven by short-form video, behind-the-scenes storytelling, public education, and timely infrastructure-related content.

WINDER WORKS CAMPAIGN

Winder Works is a multi-channel communications initiative designed to show how the City of Winder works for its community by highlighting city employees, services, and projects. The goal is to improve public understanding of city operations while humanizing local government.

Campaign elements included:

- Short-form and behind-the-scenes video content
- Educational and explainer posts
- A city podcast providing longer-form conversations with staff and leadership.
- 9 podcast episodes created in 2025.



Branding, Visual Assets & Systems

- Designed and installed six distinct banner sets, each consisting of 4–6 original designs, used across downtown and City facilities
- Continued development of a centralized photo library for departments and public-facing needs





Events

WINDER'S EGGSTRAVAGANZA

- Over 16,000 Easter eggs given out
- Attendance: 1,300



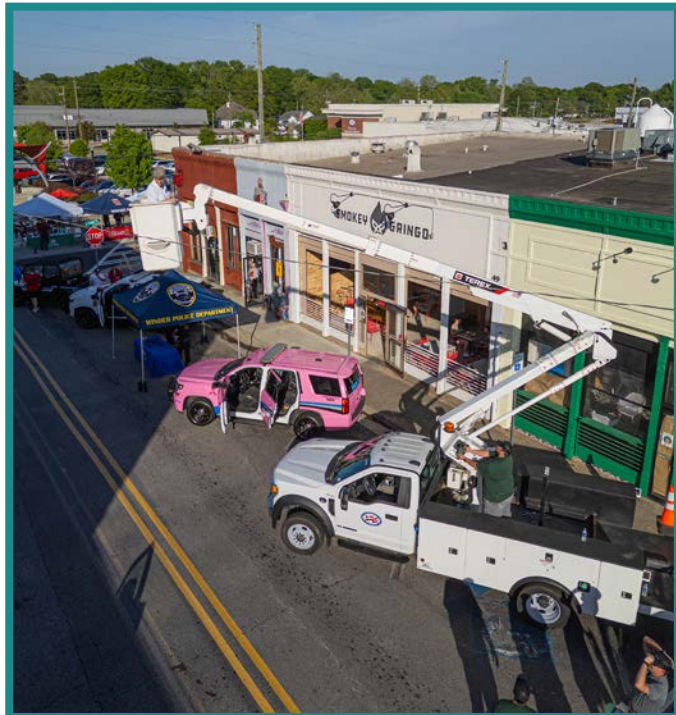
GEORGIA CITIES WEEK, APRIL 21-27

- Staff picnic
- Gears & Government: Winder's Touch-a-Truck and Meet & Greet, April 21
- Library Storytime with Guest, Mayor Jimmy Terrell, April 24
- Coffee with a Cop, April 25, 9-11am



LIVE MUSIC AT THE PLAZA CONCERT SERIES

- 16 concerts from local music groups
- Every Friday night during the summer months



ART MONTH, MAY 1-31

- Winder Wander Scavenger Hunt, May 16
- Make & Create Series at the Community Center, May 13 & 15
- Winder Spring Arts Pop-Up, May 24



TGIFF: MOVIE NIGHT, JUNE 6

- Character meet-n-greets
- Showing of "Wicked" on the big screen

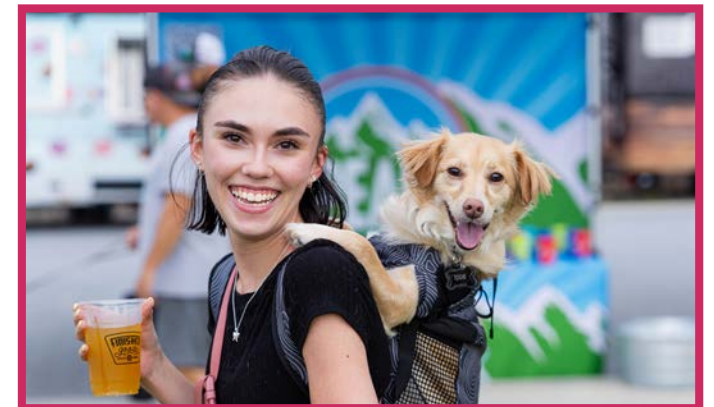
CELEBRATE WINDER, JULY 11

- ACE Party Band concert
- Fireworks show



TGIFF: BARK IN THE PARK, AUG. 1

- Dog stunt show by Canine Capers





TGIFF: BARRELS AND BREWS, OCT. 3

- Craft beer from 12 Georgia breweries
- Axe throwing, pretzel eating, sausage toss, and beer stein contests

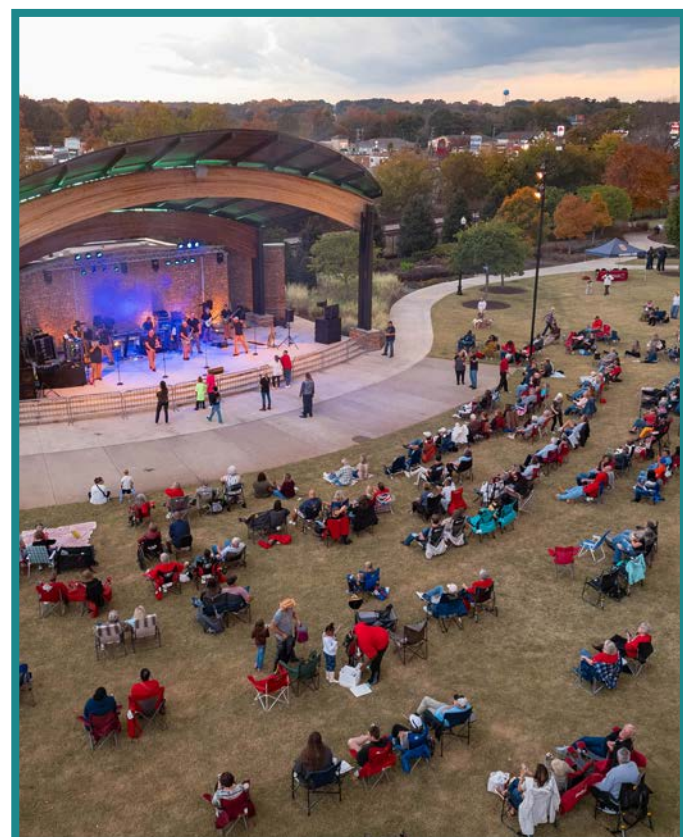


SPOOKTACULAR: WINDER'S THREE RING CIRCUS, OCT. 24

- 10,000 people in attendance
- 56,000+ pieces of candy given out

JUG TAVERN FESTIVAL, NOV. 8

- Swingin' Medallions Concert
- Classic car show
- Veterans Day Ceremony at the Community Center
- Attendance: 9,000



TREE LIGHTING AT JUG TAVERN PARK, NOV. 20



CHRISTMAS PARADE AND SANTA'S AFTER PARTY, DEC. 13

- 12,300 people came out for the parade
- 85 vehicles and floats
- 1,500+ parade participants
- 57 groups, businesses, schools, clubs, and organizations represented
- 4,200 people gathered for free photos with Santa, live music, food trucks, local vendors, and festive photo ops.



Police Department

The Winder Police Department responds to call for law enforcement services, enforces all state and local laws and ordinances, protects life and property, investigates matters of a criminal nature, preserves the peace and strives to prevent crime and disorder.

ANNUAL STATS	TOTALS
Arrests Adult	1,309
Arrests Juvenile	20
Cases Assigned to CID	270
DUIs	69
Traffic Stops	9,594
Citations	2,903
Warnings	5,819
Accidents	820
Accidents with Injuries	56
Accidents with Fatalities	2
Cases	2,563
Calls for Service	28,322
Sworn Officers	44

TRI-ANNUAL STATE CERTIFICATION
The police department successfully completed its Tri-annual State Certification audit in December. This marks 23 consecutive years of being a State Certified Law Enforcement agency. The Winder Police Department is one of only approximately 20 law enforcement agencies that have been State certified for 20 or more consecutive years.

POLICE K9S
The police department re-instituted patrol K9s after over 10 years, and the two newest dogs Bella and Max are Narcotic Detection and scent tracking K9s.



River - Emotional support K9, Handler Captain Rikki Banks



Bella - Handler Corporal Tristen Perrin



Max - Handler Corporal Hunter Cureington



Municipal Court

The Winder Municipal Court handles misdemeanor traffic citations, city ordinance violations, and select misdemeanor crimes occurring within the city limits. The Court works closely with city and county partners to ensure cases are handled fairly, efficiently, and in a timely manner.

2025 ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

- Processed approximately 3,000 citations
- Served 2,462 individuals
- Held 24 arraignment dates and 3 trial dates

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

- Provided a court-certified Spanish interpreter at all court dates, available at no cost to defendants who require language assistance
- Added a full-time court clerk position to improve efficiency and case processing



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

- Improve the Court's website to provide additional information and educational resources for the public
- Continue operating the Court in a fair, efficient, and accessible manner

Fire Department

EMERGENCY CALLS

Medical/Rescue	2172
Fire Calls	80
Other Calls	574
Average Response Time	4:58
Total Calls	2826

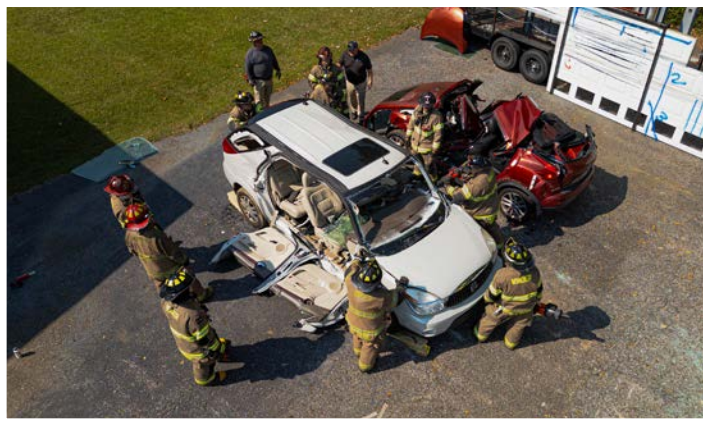
2025 HIGHLIGHTS

- Fire Department met requirements to maintain ISO Class 2 Insurance Rate.
- Provided training classes to ensure all firefighters met ISO State Fire and Medical Requirements.
- Remodeled the Burn Building at the Winder Fire Department Training Center
- Fire Marshal's Office completed 949 inspections



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- 1261 visitors to the fire station
- The Give Burns the Boot Golf Tournament raised \$17,916.00 for the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation. Winder received 3rd Place in Highest Per Capita from GFBF in February 2025 for last year's donation.
- Visited Camp Twin Lake at Fort Yargo State Park weekly from May until August to interact with the campers
- WFD Empty Stocking Drive provided gifts for 823 children
- Held a 9/11 Memorial Ceremony, attended by hundreds of citizens
- Mentored 12 students at Russell Middle School
- Conducted 51 Fire Safety Classes
- Smoke detector battery check for senior citizens
- Provided blood pressure screenings in stations



The Chimneys Golf Course

The Chimneys Golf Course is thriving and relishing in purpose driven success. The work performed for the major greens renovation during the summer of 2024 situated the Chimneys to operate with greater efficiency, sustainability, and fiscal responsibility which was never more evident than in 2025. Customers are also raving about conditions which have generated an organic increase in demand for tee times and retail sales for all things Chimneys related. The Chimneys plans to continue expanding its community outreach through programs such as PGA Jr League and other instruction endeavors as we work to grow the game of golf in Winder.

BASIC STATS

Total Rounds: 38,557

Total Revenue: \$2,518,104.26

COURSE IMPROVEMENTS

- Hole 7 tee box expansion added 25 yards
- Repaired cart paths on holes 2, 4, and 6



MAJOR EVENTS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Chimneys is the home course for many local schools and junior golf programs. In 2025, the Chimneys hosted many events and tournaments for a variety of organizations, most notably the Winder Fire Department, the Barrow County Sheriff's Office, the Georgia PGA, the GSGA Public Links Championship, and was a qualifier site for the US Adaptive Open.



PGA JR LEAGUE

- 3-Seasons in 2025
- 97 total juniors served so far through PGA Jr League programs at the Chimneys



Major Infrastructure Projects

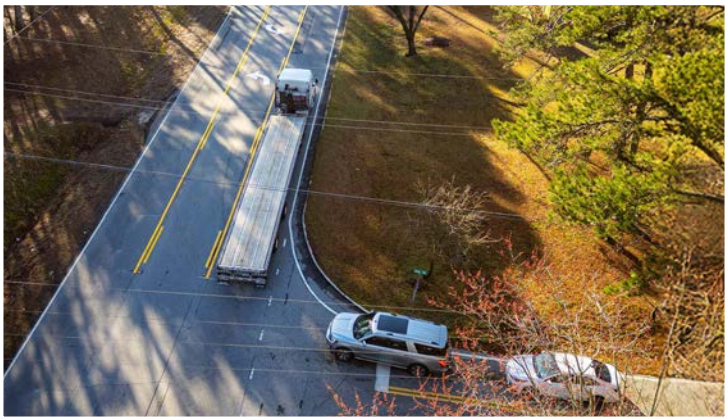
In 2025, the City of Winder advanced multiple infrastructure projects focused on improving traffic safety, storm drainage, utilities, and roadway conditions. These investments address long-standing issues, support growth, and improve daily travel and access across the City.

CENTER STREET STORMWATER IMPROVEMENTS
Work continued on the **Center Street Stormwater Outfall Project**, a major effort to address long-standing flooding issues near the North Center Street underpass. The project includes installation of a new stormwater system designed to improve drainage capacity and protect surrounding properties.

Construction is being completed in phases and includes new drainage pipe installation, utility coordination, and restoration of impacted areas. The project is funded primarily through **\$6 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds** as part of a **\$7.5 million total investment**. When complete, the project will significantly reduce flooding impacts in a critical transportation corridor.

HIGHWAY 53 SAFETY & CAPACITY IMPROVEMENTS
In coordination with the Georgia Department of Transportation, a **restriping project on State Route 53** was completed near the Sims Road intersection. The project converted an existing southbound passing lane into a **two-way left-turn lane** to improve traffic flow and reduce collisions in a high-volume corridor serving both commercial and residential uses.

The City also continued progress on water infrastructure improvements along **Highway 53**, including construction of a **24-inch water main** and upgrades at the Highway 53 Water Treatment Plant to support increased capacity and long-term reliability.



EAST STEPHENS STREET INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT
The **East Stephens Street project**, between Park Avenue and Georgia Avenue, focused on comprehensive infrastructure improvements, including storm drainage, water and sewer upgrades, sidewalks, curbs, gutters, and roadway resurfacing.

Key elements included new stormwater inlets and piping, a retention pond to manage runoff, replacement of aging water and sewer mains, and construction of new sidewalks to improve pedestrian safety. Portions of the corridor were reopened as work progressed, with remaining elements nearing completion.



STREET MAINTENANCE & PAVING
During the summer paving season, the City completed widespread street maintenance, including **patching approximately 170 potholes** and **utility cuts** and resurfacing **more than 30 roadway segments**. Work included pavement and striping improvements on multiple streets throughout the City.

Street improvements were funded through **voter-approved TSPLOST funds** and Georgia's **Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant (LMIG)** program. The City also launched a coordinated **on-call patching program** to improve response time to potholes and utility cuts and extend pavement life.

LAUREL LANE DAM RENOVATION
Renovation work was completed on the **Laurel Lane Dam**, a key component of the City's drinking water system. Improvements addressed issues identified through routine inspections, including drainage upgrades, stabilization of the concrete spillway pipe, plunge pool rehabilitation, and site restoration. The work improved long-term safety and reliability of the dam.

Winder-Auburn Reservoir

In 2025, the City of Winder continued major progress on the **Winder-Auburn Reservoir**, a regional infrastructure project developed in partnership with the City of Auburn to secure long-term water supply for the community.

The project will transform a former quarry into a large-scale water storage reservoir, strengthening drought resilience and ensuring dependable drinking water capacity for decades. Construction activity continued throughout the year, with funding secured and the project advancing toward completion.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Located at the former Martin Marietta quarry off Parks Mill Road in Auburn, the reservoir will convert the site into a concrete-lined storage facility connected to Winder’s water system through new pipeline infrastructure. Once complete, the reservoir will significantly expand the City’s permitted drinking water capacity and reduce reliance on shared surface water sources.

Permits issued by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division allow for increased withdrawal

capacity, supporting both current demand and future growth. The section reflects a long-term investment in reliability, sustainability, and regional cooperation.

FUNDING & FINANCIAL STRENGTH

To support Winder’s share of the project, the City issued a **Water and Sewer Revenue Bond in 2025**, providing the funding necessary to continue construction and advance the project toward completion in 2027.

In advance of the bond sale, the City’s Water and Sewer Enterprise received strong credit ratings from **S&P Global Ratings** and **Moody’s Ratings**, reflecting sound financial management, strong liquidity, and stable operations. Both agencies noted that the reservoir will strengthen long-term water capacity and support future growth.

LONG-TERM IMPACT

The Winder-Auburn Reservoir is expected to serve the community for generations. The project demonstrates proactive planning for essential infrastructure and a shared regional approach to securing critical resources.

By the Numbers

- **1 billion gallons** of water storage capacity
- **\$90 million** total project cost (regional project)
- **\$63 million** Water & Sewer Revenue Bond issued by the City of Winder
- **78 acres** at the former quarry site
- **13+ miles** of pipeline connecting to treatment facilities
- **7.1 million gallons per day** permitted withdrawal yield
- **5.1 MGD » 9.0 MGD** increase in Winder’s permitted drinking water capacity
- **2027** anticipated project completion
- **50-100 years** of projected water supply security





Wait until you see
what we did in 2026

CITY OF
WINDER
GEORGIA