



# WELCOME

to  
**Emanuel County**  
**The Place to Grow!**



- Adrian • Canoochee • Garfield • Kite**
- Norristown • Nunez • Oak Park • Stillmore**
- Summertown • Swainsboro • Twin City**







117 Kite Road, Swainsboro, GA 30401  
478.289.1100  
www.emanuelmedical.org

You don't have to travel far to receive top quality medical treatment. Emanuel Medical Center is proud to serve Emanuel County and the surrounding communities with a wide range of healthcare services.

#### ACUTE CARE HOSPITAL SERVICES

- Med/Surg Patient Care
- Intensive Care Unit
- Emergency Department
- Inpatient Pediatric Care
- Senior Behavioral Health Unit (Ages 55 & Up)
- Physical Therapy
- Respiratory Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Swing Bed Program

#### SURGICAL SERVICES

- General Surgery
- Orthopedic Surgery
- Gynecological Services
- Cataract, Retina & Other Eye Surgery

#### LONG TERM CARE

- Our Home at Emanuel Medical Center  
49-Bed Skilled Nursing Facility - 478.237.1334

#### OUTPATIENT SERVICES

- Laboratory Medicine
- Imaging
- Infusion
- Wound Care
- Physical Therapy
- Respiratory Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Therapy

#### EMERGENCY MEDICINE

- Laboratory Medicine
- Imaging
- Infusion
- Wound Care
- Physical Therapy
- Respiratory Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Therapy

Through Emanuel Medical Center's partnership with Augusta University, patients can receive care from AU medical specialists via telemedicine, without ever having to leave Emanuel County.

#### PRIMARY CARE CLINICS

##### Emanuel Family Medical Clinic

Sydney McRae, MD  
Jo Greenway, FNP  
Gabrielle Story, PA  
Michael Edenfield, FNP  
305 Kite Rd., Swainsboro  
478-237-9928

##### Emanuel Medical PROMPT Care

Cedric Porter, MD  
Rhonda Oglesby, FNP  
Julie Anna Mixon, FNP  
478-237-2238

##### Porter Medical Clinic

Cedric Porter, MD  
Amanda Jariel, FNP  
Julie Anna Mixon, FNP  
124 Victory Drive., Swainsboro  
478.237.5506

##### South Georgia Internal Medicine

Vijitha Prasad, MD  
Pamela Love, RNC, WHNP  
Megan Knight, MSN, FNP-C  
544 W. Church St., Swainsboro  
478.237.2527

##### Swainsboro Internal Medicine

Caroline Musa, MD  
Mason Smith, PA  
Mandi Purcell, FNP  
Kimberly Withrow, FNP  
Lawanda Williams, FNP  
131A Victory Dr., Swainsboro  
478.237.8342

##### Twin City Medical Clinic

Michael Wheelis, MD  
Claire Ault, FNP  
115 Gillikin St., Twin City  
478.763.3036

#### SPECIALTY CLINICS

##### Emanuel OBGYN Clinic

Chelsea Mikell, MD  
James Small, MD  
James Anthony "Tony" Reed, MD  
Denise Peebles, FNP  
125B Victory Dr., Swainsboro  
478.419.1250

##### Emanuel Surgical Associates

John Bishop, MD  
120A Victory Dr., Swainsboro  
478.237.3291

##### Emanuel Wound Care Clinic

Anthony Davis – MD  
Nick Lueke – NP -C  
117 Kite Rd., (2nd Floor)  
Swainsboro  
478.289.1126

#### VISITING CLINICS

##### CARDIOLOGY

Abraham Lin, MD  
125 C Victory Dr., Swainsboro  
912-489-6246  
Bimal Shah, MD  
125 C Victory Dr., Swainsboro  
800-722-1272  
Ajay Jain, MD  
305 Kite Rd., Swainsboro  
912-681-2273

##### NEUROLOGY

Michael Taormina, MD  
125 A Victory Dr., Swainsboro  
912-871-8900

##### ORTHOPEDIC

Michael D. Gaines, MD  
Optim Orthopedics  
119 B Victory Dr.  
Swainsboro  
800-827-6536



# Welcome to Emanuel County!

## *The Crossroads of the South...*

The sheriff is the duly elected and lawfully commissioned Chief Law Enforcement Officer of the county and has the DUTY to preserve the peace and protect the lives, persons, property, health and morals of the people (Law Enforcement), the keeper of the jail, and lastly, the arm and the sword of the Honorable Court.

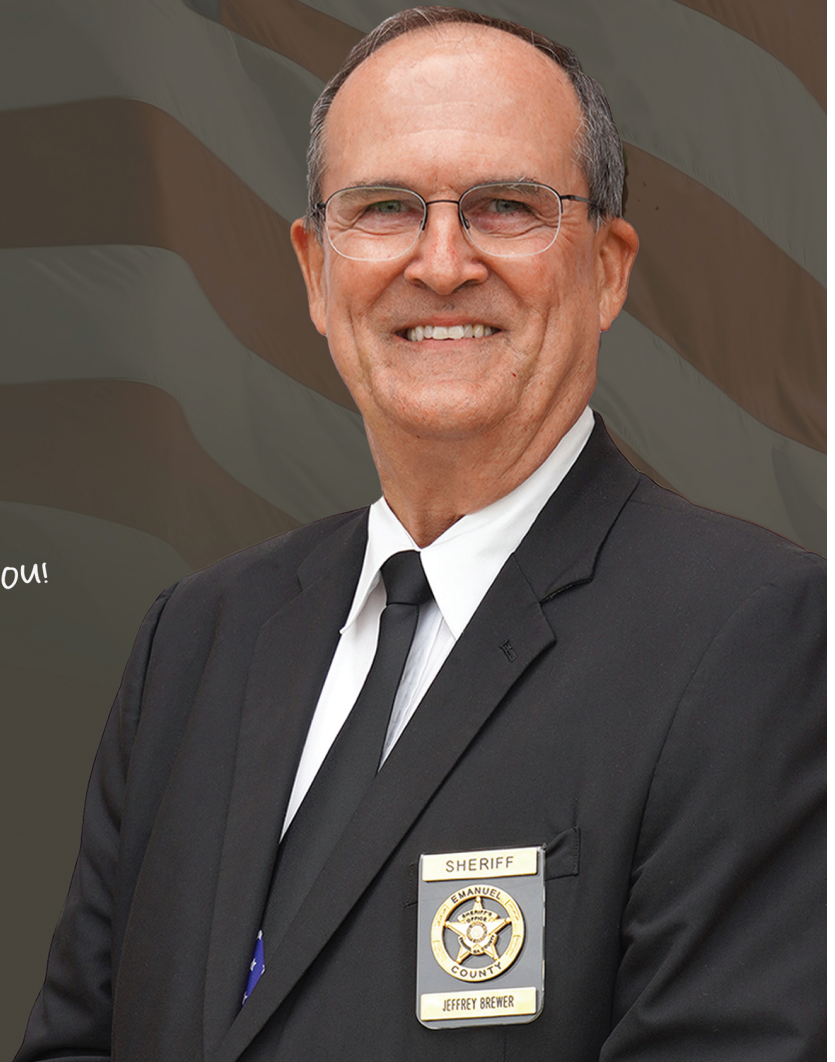
- Georgia Constitution



THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO SERVE YOU!

A handwritten signature in gold ink that reads "Jeffrey Brewer".

EMANUEL COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE



We hope you are impressed with our small southern community...  
where manners, etiquette and respect are taught and expected.



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Proudly produced by...  
**The Forest-Blade**

P.O. Box 938  
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 Swainsboro, GA 30401  
 478.237.9971

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# Welcome

Welcome to Emanuel County! Whether you're here for a visit or plan to stay for good, we invite you to come on in and experience the hospitality and community of a true southern home.

Emanuel County is just 16 miles from Interstate 16. Georgia Highway 80 and U.S. Highway 1 cross in the center of our county seat, the city of Swainsboro. This intersection is especially noteworthy as it is the crossroads of two of the most historically relevant cross-country roads in America, and Swainsboro is the only place in the country where they meet, hence Swainsboro's long-standing nickname, the "Crossroads of the Great South." When you're in Emanuel County, you're halfway between Statesboro and Dublin, and we are an easy drive to Savannah, Augusta, Macon, Atlanta, Athens, and Jacksonville, Florida.

In terms of academics, you'll be impressed with our schools. All ultramodern, the educational opportunities in Emanuel County are second to none, and you'll enjoy the benefits of smaller class sizes compared to larger cities. Emanuel County Schools, David Emanuel Academy, East Georgia State College, and Southeastern Technical College provide ample opportunities for pupils of all ages to achieve their educational goals, setting them on the road to success.

We're also proud of our state-of-the-art recreational facilities. These include football, softball, and baseball fields; tennis and basketball courts; walking trails; a splash pad, playgrounds, fishing grounds; and much more. Swainsboro Golf and Country Club just off McLeod Bridge Road offers a challenging 18-hole course, plus a pro shop, driving range, and putting green. In Twin City, George L. Smith State Park, a jewel in the Georgia's State Park System, offers great camping and endless discovery for history buffs. Also situated inside Emanuel County are meeting places such as Vann Community House, the Garfield Community House, and the Varner 4-H Clubhouse, among others.

For those interested in the arts, the Emanuel Arts Council works to provide opportunities for our community to cultivate and grow their artistic endeavors. The EAC sponsors several activities, including children's art camps, locally produced plays, and outdoor art shows. The EAC will be housed in the Historic Dixie Theatre, currently undergoing renovations to become the Barbara and Tobe Karrh Community Arts Center, a 16,000+ square foot home for arts and culture. For more information about the revitalization of the Dixie Theatre, visit [www.historicdixietheatre.com](http://www.historicdixietheatre.com).

The beautiful city/county auditorium downtown offers many entertainment events, including the Miss Emanuel County and Miss Southeast Georgia pageants, held annually as preliminaries to the Miss Georgia, and ultimately, Miss America pageants.

If you're looking for serenity, look no further than Emanuel County's own natural landscape. We are lucky to look upon untouched fields, canopies of pine trees, and the native animals that call our forests home. The Ohoopsee, Ogeechee, and Canoochee rivers flow through our county, contributing to its picturesque quality. Emanuel County is a nature lover's dream, and it's not hard to find a porch to sit on where you can take it all in.

Remember, you and yours are always welcome here! Stay with us and you're guaranteed an authentic southern-living experience, complete with a heartfelt smile upon your entrance and sincere well wishes should you decide to say goodbye.

We invite you to browse through this newcomer's guide. It is our hope that in these pages you will be provided a glimpse of the beauty and repose Emanuel County offers. There are many things about our neck of the woods we can't put in this guide, like the call of the whippoorwill as night consumes the day, the way the sun rises over our many rolling hills, or the rustle of the wind through our infamous yellow pines. These are experiences that come only with a stay in our humble abode. So, come stay with us...and if you can't, y'all come back now, ya hear?

EMANUEL COUNTY • ESTABLISHED 1812





Welcome to Emanuel County...

*the place to*

**GR**







# ROW



102 S MAIN ST  
SWAINSBORO  
478.237.6426

[www.goemanuel.org](http://www.goemanuel.org)





# Getting Started

Outlined below are a few pertinent pieces of information to help you get settled. Should you need further assistance, the Emanuel County Chamber of Commerce awaits your call at 478.237.6426.

## *Register to Vote*

Residents 18 years of age or older are eligible to register to vote. All residents of Emanuel County should visit the registrar's office in the county office building in Swainsboro to register to vote in county selections. They can be reached at 478.237.3471. In order to vote in city elections, residents must register at their respective city hall.

## *Hunting and Fishing License*

Hunting and fishing license can be purchased at local convenient and sporting goods stores.

## *Cable/Internet/Telephone Providers*

To get cable, internet or telephone services in Emanuel County, call:

- Pineland, 425 S. Main St., Swainsboro, 478.419.1221 or 800.247.1266
- Vyve, 123 Roger Shaw St., Swainsboro, 478.237.6434
- BellSouth, 888.757.6500

## *Marriage License*

Visit the Emanuel County Probate Judge's office inside the courthouse in Swainsboro. The Probate Judge's office can be reached at 478.237.7091.

## *Electrical Power*

For electric hook-ups in Emanuel County, contact:

- Altamaha Electric, 730 Hwy 1 South, Swainsboro, 478.237.8181
- Excelsior Electric, 986 SE Broad St., Metter, 912.685.2115
- Georgia Power, 888.660.5890

## *Building Permit*

To obtain a building permit, you must fill out an application at Swainsboro City Hall, 101 W. Main St., Swainsboro. For information, call 478.237.7025.

## *Burn Permit*

Contact the Emanuel County Forestry Unit at 478.289.2564. Their office is located at 296 Glenwood Rd., Swainsboro.

## *Animal Control*

The animal shelter is located at 343 Market St., Swainsboro. They can be reached at 478.237.4040.

## *Natural Gas*

Atlanta Gas and Light Company services Swainsboro

with natural gas. To receive natural gas services, call 800.427.5463.

## *Driver's License*

If you have an out-of-state driver's license, you MUST receive a Georgia driver's license within 30 days. You must be over 16 years of age and must present at least one original or certified document to prove your identity (birth certificate or passport), your Social Security card, at least two documents to prove your residential address and appropriate name change documents, if needed. The Georgia Department of Driver Services, 994 Hwy 1 North, is open Wednesday and Thursday ONLY, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. They can be reached at 678.413.8400.

## *Garbage Disposal*

For garbage disposal in Swainsboro, call the City Hall or visit their office, 101 W. Main St. They can be reached at 478.237.7025. Household garbage collection areas are provided throughout the county as well.

## *Water and Sewer Service*

Contact your respective City Hall. Numbers are provided in the 'Important Numbers' list in the magazine underneath each city's mayor's name.

## *Motor Vehicle Registration*

To register your motor vehicle, please correspond with the Emanuel County Tax Commissioner, 101 S. Main St., Swainsboro. The office also handles transactions for mobile homes, timer tax, property tax and intangible recording tax. Georgia law requires ALL auto tags be renewed by owner's birthday. New residents have 30 days to renew license plates. Renewals after the deadline are subject to a 10% penalty on the ad valorem tax and a 25% tax on the tag fee. Hours of operation are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. They can be reached at 478.237.3351.

## *Mobile Home Registration*

Mobile homes must display a current mobile home decal, which may be obtained at the tax commissioner's office upon payment of ad valorem taxes each year. Tax bills for mobile homes are mailed out in late January and are due by May 1.

## *School Registration*

To register for public school, visit the Emanuel County Board of Education's Central Office, 201 N. Main St., Swainsboro. For more information, call 478.237.6674. To register for David Emanuel Academy, call 912.562.4405 or visit them at 602 N. Fourth St., Stillmore.

## *Newspaper Delivery*

Visit *The Forest-Blade*, 416 W. Moring St., Swainsboro. They can be reached at 478.237.9971.



# Important phone numbers

Emanuel County is governed by a county administrator and a panel of five county commissioners. The commissioners meet the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m.

<i>District 1</i> Kawame Coleman	<i>District 3</i> Hugh Foskey (until December 31, 2024)	<i>District 4</i> Jim Sherrod	L. Guy Singletary, <i>County Administrator</i>
<i>District 2</i> Ricky Thompson	Johnny Moore (January 1, 2025)	<i>District 5</i> Timmy Oliver	Richard McNeely, <i>County Attorney</i>

## **Swainsboro Police Department**

Randy Ellison, Chief  
212 N Main St, Swainsboro  
478.237.8967

## **Jeffrey Brewer, Sheriff**

478.237.7526  
Jeffrey Brewer, Sheriff  
125 S Main St, Swainsboro  
478.237.7526

## **Georgia State Patrol**

994 Highway 1 North  
Swainsboro  
478.289.2599

## **Government**

Emanuel County Courthouse • 478.237.8911

Don Wilkes, Probate Judge  
(until December 31, 2024)  
Chase Sherrod  
(January 1, 2025)  
478.237.7091

Kristin Hall,  
Clerk of Superior Court  
478.237.8911, Ext. 117

Chief Magistrate Judge  
(vacant)  
Shaina Ellington,  
Magistrate Judge  
478.237.7278

## **Tax Assessor's Office**

Tax Assessor's Office  
478.237.1222

## **Tax Commissioner**

Sandra Wright,  
Tax Commissioner  
(until December 31, 2024)  
Jessica Moran,  
Tax Commissioner  
(January 1, 2025)  
478.237.3351

## **Voter Registrar**

Kerry Curry,  
Director of Elections  
478.237.3471

## **Chamber of Commerce and Development Authority**

Chamber of Commerce  
Ken Warnock, CEO  
Jack Bareford, President  
478.237.6426

## **Education**

### **Emanuel County Board of Education**

Dr. Denise Warnock, Superintendent  
478.237.6674

### **David Emanuel Academy**

Haylee Free, Head of School  
912.562.4405

### **East Georgia State College**

Dr. David Schecter, President  
478.289.2000

### **Southeastern Technical College**

Larry Calhoun, President  
478.289.2200

## **Electrical**

Georgia Power Company  
888.660.5890

Altamaha Electric  
478.237.8181

## **Cable & Internet Providers**

Pineland Telephone  
478.419.1221

Vyve Broadband  
478.237.6434

## **Telephone**

Pineland Telephone  
478.419.1221

Bellsouth  
478.780.2355 (residential)  
478.780.2800 (business)

## **Propane Gas**

Local Propane • 478.299.2335  
Thompson Gas • 478.237.8702

## **Hospital**

Emanuel Medical Center  
478.289.1100  
Emergency Room  
478.289.1342  
Ambulance  
478.289.1366

## **Media Outlets**

The Forest-Blade  
478.237.9971

RadioJones LLC  
478.237.1590

## **Airport**

East Georgia Regional Airport  
AirStar Flight Support  
478.237.6426

## **Recreation Department**

Jerry Lawson,  
Swainsboro Director  
478.237.8098  
Brent Freeman,  
Twin City Director

## **Georgia Forestry Commission**

Emanuel County Unit  
478.289.2564

## **Libraries**

Franklin Memorial Library  
478.237.7791  
East Georgia State College  
478.289.2083

## **Community Facilities**

Vann Community Center  
478.237.8098  
4-H Clubhouse  
478.289.0070





# Emanuel Medical Center . . . *thriving and excelling*

Quality care, close to home. A local staff, trained to be the best in their field. A commitment to our community, helping the people of Emanuel County live healthier and happier lives.

The mission of Emanuel Medical Center is clear, and it has been since it was founded in 1952. Almost 75 years later, the hospital is thriving and excelling like no other time in its history.

"We've always had a culture of excellence," said Damien Scott, CEO of Emanuel Medical Center. "I want everybody in this facility, no matter the department you work in, to be excited about being excellent."

The hospital has received recognition and honors in a variety of areas. It was named one of only nine 5 Star Hospitals in Georgia by CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) in 2023. It was EMC's third 5 Star Rating in the last four years. This is a wide-ranging evaluation to help quantify healthcare processes, outcomes, patient perceptions, and organizational structure and/or systems that are associated with the ability to provide high-quality healthcare and/or that relate to one or more quality goals for health care. These goals include effective, safe, efficient, patient-centered, equitable, and timely care.

"The awards are great," Scott said. "But, what really matters is that you go home at the end of the day, knowing you made an impact on somebody's life."

That impact is made stronger by the home-grown staff that makes up the

majority of the more than 400 employees of EMC. That personal connection to the staff is the reason why so many residents choose Emanuel Medical Center.

"You might think going out of town to a bigger hospital is better, well that's not true," said Frank Canady, owner of Emanuel County's Yard Master. "Your local hospital is awesome! They wait on you and they know you person to person. It just makes a huge difference being at home in your hometown hospital."

There are some unique challenges for any rural hospital. Residents of

Medical Center and be able to teach it to rural hospitals throughout the state."

Those types of investments and commitments are seen throughout the facility, giving the citizens of the county peace of mind and confidence in their local hospital.

"Growing up in Emanuel County and now raising my family here, you realize that there are certain services that are part of everyday life and vital to the survival of your community," said Wade Johnson, President of Emanuel County's Durden Banking Company. "The hospital is one of those top

providers. I certainly understand and appreciate what the hospital does here for Emanuel County."

The impact the hospital has reaches beyond just the quality care that is provided within its walls. The



Emanuel County are 80 minutes away from a Level 1 Trauma Center. These facilities are located in significantly larger areas like Augusta, Savannah, or Macon. Emanuel Medical Center is certified as a Level IV trauma center, one of only eight in the state of Georgia.

"The community wants to know that if my loved one was in an accident that they are going to get excellent care," said Scott. "We have to be at a much higher level than a lot of places, because it's a long way to get to a higher-level trauma center. I want our team to be excellent in the field, excellent here at the facility. We have invested greatly in that training. So much so that we are creating a course that will be piloted here at Emanuel

longevity and excellence make it a pillar of the community, and something that attracts people and businesses into our county.

"Emanuel Medical Center provides quality healthcare that is personal and professional," said Milton Gray, President of Emanuel County's Citizens Bank. "It's also an economic engine for our community, they employ over 400 people in Swainsboro and Emanuel County. We want people to move to Swainsboro, to buy and build here. Those people wouldn't consider it if we didn't have this quality hospital here. Same thing for economic development, no industry or company would consider our county without a quality hospital. It's an incredible resource for our community!"



## SWAINSBORO

- The county seat of Emanuel County
- Named for Stephen Swain
- Name changed to "Paris" in 1852 but was changed back to "Swainsboro" in 1861
- Known as "Pine Tree Country" or "Crossroads of the Great South" since transcontinental U.S. Highways 1 and 80 intersect downtown

## TWIN CITY

- Once two neighboring and nearly identical towns, Summit and Graymont

## GARFIELD

- Incorporated August 23, 1905
- Is thought to be named after President James Garfield who was assassinated in 1889

## ADRIAN

- Was named by the first postman of the first post office, W.R. Smith, in 1899. He was given the honor of selecting a name for the city because of his position

## OAK PARK

- Owes its existence to Hansel R. Williamson, a pioneer settler and land owner in the area

## STILLMORE

- When this town sprang up as a result of the booming railroad-lumber business, the U.S. Posts Office sent a list of names for the townspeople to choose from, saying that if none were suitable, they would send "still more." This caught the attention of the residents, and they adopted the name "Stillmore" for their city

## NUNEZ

- Named for Dr. Samuel Nunez, who was credited for stopping a contagious epidemic through the new colony of Georgia in the 1700s, or Dr. Jackson Morgan Nunez, long-time Emanuel County physician who dies in 1934

## NORRISTOWN

- Got its start over 235 years ago when Williams Laird opened a cotton gin and gristmill there

## SUMMERTOWN

- Received its name from early settlers of the area building summer homes there to get away from the malaria-infested mosquitoes of the Ogeechee lowlands

## CANOCHEE

- There is some dispute over the origin of the name. Most agree that it comes from the Native American word "Kanoche", meaning "little ground", but some argue it's from "Canosi", the name of an ancient Native American country, and "Ink andoshi", a Creek Indian word meaning "graves are there".



Home of George L. Smith State Park

Twice as Friendly,  
Twice as Nice!

GRAYMONT • SUMMIT • 1921 • TWIN CITY

**Matt Donaldson, Mayor**  
Jule Bady, Jr., Mayor Pro Tem  
Jesse Brown, City Commissioner  
William R. Brown III, City Commissioner  
Charles Moody, City Commissioner

[www.twincityga.com](http://www.twincityga.com)

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Tracy Thompson, Realtor

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**Committed to Serve our Family and Friends**



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427 North Main Street | Swainsboro, GA 30401  
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**DURDEN-HUDSON**  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

206 East Pine Street | Swainsboro, GA 30401  
478-237-2131



**SOUTHEAT VAULT & MONUMENT**

1082 US Highway 80 E  
Swainsboro, GA 30401  
478-237-4341



# City Leaders

Each of Emanuel County's eight municipalities are governed by a mayor and city council. Council members are DJ Davis - District 1, Julian Sconyers - District 2, Johnny Ray Stafford - District 3, Bobbie Collins - District 4 and Greg Quarterman - District 6. (District 5 is currently vacant.)

<b>ADRIAN</b> Wynola Smith P.O. Box 265 Adrian, GA 31002 478.668.3376	<b>GARFIELD</b> Tommie Paul P.O. Box 124 Garfield, GA 30425 478.763.3264	<b>NUNEZ</b> Vickie Hooks P.O. Box 65 Nunez, GA 30448 912.562.3701
<b>OAK PARK</b> Mickey Lindsey 3857 Harrington St. Oak Park, GA 30436 912.578.4115	<b>STILLMORE</b> Regan Slater P.O. Box 70 Stillmore, GA 30464 912.562.3529	<b>SUMMERTOWN</b> Don Bishop P.O. Box 555 Swainsboro, GA 30401 478.237.3422
<b>SWAINSBORO</b> Greg Bennett P.O. Box 600 Swainsboro, GA 30401 478.237.7025	<b>TWIN CITY</b> Matt Donaldson P.O. Box 980 Twin City, GA 30471 478.763.2695	

**YOU HAVE A CHOICE!**

**Having issues with mobility, falls, daily living activities, spinal pain or fractures?**



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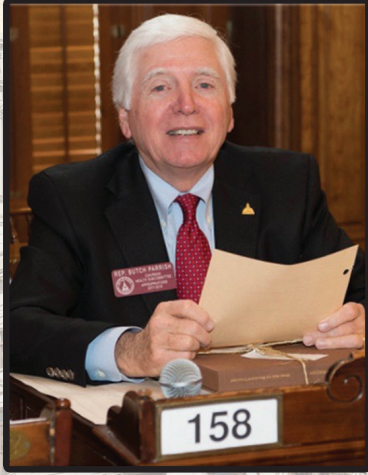
**Don't drive out of town for quality care!**

**Victory Therapy & Wellness**

**114 Victory Drive Swainsboro 478.237.4017**

[victorytherapywellness.com](http://victorytherapywellness.com)

**Larry J. (Butch) Parrish**  
**Georgia House of Representatives**  
**District 158**

**HM-1 State Capitol Atlanta, GA 30334 404.656.5141**

**228 Creek Side Dr. Swainsboro, GA 30401 478.455.0333 (cell)**

[ljparrish@pineland.net](mailto:ljparrish@pineland.net)

**Protect What is Important...  
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**CBS Insurance Services INC.**

**Auto-Owners INSURANCE**

**121 N Main St. Swainsboro 478-289-9008**

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# WELCOME TO EMANUEL COUNTY... WHERE OUR 'PRIME INTEREST' IS YOU!



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- 24 Hour ATM
- Christmas Club
- Bill Pay Services
- Online Banking
- Mobile Banking
- E-Statements

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101 West Jackson Street, Suite B • Dublin • 478.272.7775  
1101 Brampton Avenue • Statesboro • 912.623.2500



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- All the Fixins – Twin City.....478.763.3500
- Berni’s on West Main.....478.419.1339
- Brown Bag Café.....478.455.3430
- Burger King.....478.237.7766
- Canoochee Catfish.....478.237.7242
- Coleman House.....478.237.9100
- Coleman Lake Restaurant.....478.589.7726
- D’s Diner.....478.299.5402
- Dairy Queen.....478.237.2431
- Domino’s Pizza.....478.289.7070
- El Valle Mexican Restaurant.....478.237.6063
- Emanuel Medical Center.....478.289.1100
- Farmhouse Café.....478.668.3775
- Hall’s Minit Mart – Twin City.....478.763.4212
- Huddle House.....478.237.5510
- Jacqueleen’s Southern Porch.....478.763.2006
- KFC.....478.237.5133
- Koiya Express.....478.289.8082
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# Education in Emanuel County Schools

Education in Emanuel County has a rich historical foundation that dates back to the 1800s. The Emanuel County school system, with its humble beginnings of over 50 one-room schools scattered across the county, has always been a beacon of quality education. Our dedicated educators, then and now, have tirelessly worked to ensure that our students have every opportunity to acquire the essential skills needed to grow, prosper, and succeed. Today, the system has evolved to include seven school sites and educates approximately 4,000 students annually.

Emanuel County Schools employs approximately 372 certified and 294 non-certified employees, which has a significant economic impact. The Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST) has been instrumental in keeping Emanuel County's education millage rates low. This local tax has enabled the school system to provide up-to-date technology, instructional supplies, and textbooks, maintain modern facilities, purchase necessary buses, and fund facility projects. The recent reduction in the millage rate from 12.52 to 12.0 is a testament to the stability and security that ESPLOST provides.

Creating a safe learning environment in our schools is essential for fostering academic success and emotional well-being among students and staff. ECS has implemented proactive safety measures. Our comprehensive safety plan includes numerous safety tools and strategies to protect our students and staff. A silent alert system, school resource officers, training and drills, and safety and communication protocols are some of the critical components of our safety plan.

The positive economic impact of our school system benefits all citizens of Emanuel County. However, the greatest reward comes from knowing that our children are receiving a high-quality education and are prepared to compete in today's world. The educator



**DR. DENISE WARNOCK,  
SUPERINTENDENT**

and student interaction is at the heart of the system—and the cornerstone of economic success. Whether in kindergarten or high school chemistry, this interaction is crucial in unlocking each student's fullest potential, making every educator's role vital to our community's educational success.

ECS's mission is to prepare and inspire all students for college and career success through personalized learning and relevant experiences. Strong literacy skills form the foundation for success in higher education and workforce readiness. The Georgia Early Literacy Act (House Bill 538), the upcoming implementation of Georgia's new K-12 English Language Arts Standards in the school year 2025-26, and the ongoing efforts in Georgia to address dyslexia (Senate Bill 48) are all important initiatives that will shape our approach to literacy. Our teaching and learning department is working to provide teachers with additional

training to enhance their skills and to better support literacy instruction. The training focuses on the science of reading and equips teachers with effective strategies for teaching reading and writing. Literacy instruction will shift from students memorizing sight words to concentrating on decoding and phonics instruction.

The school system has a strong and productive partnership with local post-secondary institutions. Many students participate in the dual enrollment programs at East Georgia State College and Southeastern Technical College. By doing so, these students earn both high school and college credits. Every year, several graduating seniors not only receive their high school diploma but also their associate's degree or technical college certificate.

The system's transportation department provides transportation for more than 2,500 students daily, covering more than 2,500 miles of paved and dirt roads. In a typical year, our buses travel 451,000 miles to and from school, with extra-curricular competitions and field trips adding several thousand additional miles. This particular department oversees 65 buses.

School nutrition is more than just providing meals; it also creates a healthy learning environment. Proper nutrition is essential for students' physical and cognitive development, directly impacting their academic performance. Our team is committed to ensuring that every student can access nutritious meals that fuel their bodies and minds. These meals are served at no charge and are available for breakfast, lunch, and after-school snacks.

Joined with parents and the community, our schools hold great potential. Our students today will become the future leaders of our community. At ECS, our vision is to strengthen our community one student at a time. The future is profoundly influenced by education. The significance of this cannot be emphasized enough.



# ATHLETICS IN EMANUEL COUNTY SCHOOLS

Athletics play a significant role in shaping the lives of students. The athletic programs at Emanuel County Schools have a proud tradition of excellence. Our programs are not solely focused on sports but also on productive scholar-athletes. They provide young individuals with the opportunity to learn, grow, and develop, mirroring their experiences in the classroom. Our athletic programs at Emanuel County Schools, Swainsboro Middle School, and Swainsboro High School are designed to foster student-athlete growth through education and competition, with a strong emphasis on instilling attitudes of discipline, sportsmanship, and integrity. We offer a competitive athletic program aimed at teaching student-athletes perseverance, leadership, and teamwork.

## High School Sports

FALL	WINTER	Spring
Competition/Football Cheer	Boys Basketball	Baseball
Cross Country	Girls Basketball	Bass Fishing (SHS)
Flag Football	Cheerleading/Basketball	Boys Soccer (SHS)
Football	Boys Wrestling	Girls Soccer (SHS)
Softball	Girls Wrestling (ECI)	Golf
Game Day Cheer (ECI)	E-sports	Tennis
	Literary (ECI)	Track

## Middle School Sports

Fall	WINTER	SPRING
Competition/Football Cheer	Basketball Cheerleading	Baseball
Cross Country	Boys Basketball	Tennis
Football	Girls Basketball	Golf
Softball	Wrestling	Track
Boys Soccer (SMS)		Tennis
Girls Soccer (SMS)		





# David Emanuel Academy: Celebrating 55 years

We are excited to celebrate 55 years of David Emanuel Academy educating children. This is a tremendous milestone worthy of celebrating! When DEA's founders started this journey, I have no doubt they dreamed big and had aspirations of growth, opportunities, and success

for the students of Emanuel and surrounding counties. For 55 years and thanks to the love and dedication of countless families, trustees, faculty, and staff, David Emanuel has provided a safe environment for children to learn and to be involved. Our campus has been blessed by the grace of the Lord and I pray we continue to focus on Him and to give Him all of the praise for all that we are given and accomplish.

Last year, we welcomed our school year with a brand new administrative and classroom building (the completion of phase one of our campus master plan), renovation and expansion of our cafeteria, and new flooring throughout much of campus. We celebrated at our Open House and our Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. It brought much joy for our constituents to walk through our new doors for the first time and

for them to see that we are serious about offering better each year. This year, we are equally as excited!

Our focus continues to be to offer the best we can in academics, staffing, athletics, and facilities. Our students will not only continue to enjoy our school-wide Christian-based curriculum, dual-enrollment, Advanced Placement, STEAM, Personal Finance, and Life Skills courses, but they will also enjoy an opportunity to choose their elective class of choice. This has been a goal of ours and thanks to enrollment and staffing growth, we are finally able to provide this opportunity for our students. We are also excited that our school programming is growing as well. This upcoming year, we have added a K-2 class for two-year-olds (making us a K-2 through 12th grade school), an after-school program (for later pickup), and the availability of a weight training class for our student athletes. Our trustees approved a sig-



**HAYLEE FREE,  
HEAD OF SCHOOL**

nificant pay raise for our staff - another area of desired improvement. We are committed to increasing salaries each year and thanks to our enrollment growth, we were able to bless our staff. I am so excited about our teachers and coaches! The Lord has provided us with an exceptional staff that bring many certifications, talents, and expertise to our students.

Another area of focus has been our athletic offerings. We welcome this school year with a new Athletic Director, Coach Daniel Flowers. "Coach D" has worked hard to prepare for this upcoming year. He has brought tremendous energy and excitement to our athletic programming and has lined up a great coaching staff for our student athletes. Perhaps the most exciting athletic news is that we are further enhancing and expanding our campus! Throughout the summer, we have completely renovated our softball/baseball facilities. New fencing, dugouts, backstop, netting, grandstand awnings, concrete,

landscaping, and storage have all been added and upgraded. At this time, the project is nearing completion, and we are moving on to our next major campus addition - phase two of our campus master plan, a new athletic training facility. Throughout this year, the new 6,000 square foot structure will be erected and, as completion comes, will include a weight room, locker rooms, restrooms, coaches' offices, laundry room, storage closets, and a clinic. In the future, and as funding allows, we look forward to transforming our old field house into a new ticket booth, concession stand, and restrooms. Thank you to all that have supported our Booster Club! Because of your generous donations and sponsorships, DEA is able to make these athletic campus enhancements happen!

I love to watch our students shine! Last year, our student body had much to celebrate in academics, arts, and athletics! Our students excelled and were honored with successful regional, state and national title winnings. Our Beta Club celebrated both Small Group Performance and Solo Performance national champion titles; Literary celebrated a state Impromptu Speech runner-up and a first place winning in Region Argumentative Essay; 4-H earned a 4th place state Modified Trap winner; our Math Bowl (4th/5th grade) team earned 2nd place in region competition; we had a first and third place finish in the Spelling Bee; we had first, second, and third place finishes in Science Fair competition; and we had a district winner in the Patriot's Pen writing contest! In athletics we are coming off an exciting year with our football team finishing in the semifinals, softball in the Final Four, boys' basketball in the Elite Eight, girls' basketball in playoffs, our baseball finishing Final Four, four region champ tennis players, and a region champ golf team! What a great year! I am looking forward to watching our Eagles continue to accomplish big things this school year!

All of these accomplishments and steps of progression would not be possible without the love and support of



# David Emanuel Academy: Celebrating 55 years

our families and communities. I do want to take this opportunity to personally thank every family and business that has supported David Emanuel - past and present. DEA's story is still being written and we have made it to chapter 55 because of tremendous support and love and because of the Lord's faithfulness. We do not take this for granted, and we pray that our supporters continue to be proud of the progress of our Academy.

We have bus routes that serve Swainsboro, Metter, and Twin City. We have early arrival and after-school care. We serve two-year-old children through seniors in high school. We enjoy weekly chapel services. We have been blessed with success in the academics, arts, and athletics, and have produced successful college and work-force humans. We work hard to NOT sit stagnant, and we make decisions that we pray will honor the Lord and help develop young minds for His kingdom. We promise an environment that works hard to mold the character of students towards the light of Jesus. We would love to have your family at DEA! We would love for your family to schedule a tour or to plan a shadowing experience.

I am proud of our Academy, and I am proud of all the staff and families that encompass it! If you have questions about David Emanuel Academy, please reach out--- talking about DEA is one of my favorite things to do!

Come see what makes DEA so special!

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Head of School

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# STAR students and STAR Teachers



## **Black, Campbell named STAR student and teacher at DEA**

Josie is the daughter of Joshua and Jessica Black of Swainsboro and has been attending DEA for five years. She is active in varsity cheerleading, Beta Club and WINGS and is a dual enrollment student.

During her time at DEA, Josie has received a number of accolades. She was named Most Spirited in varsity cheerleading for 2021-22 and 2023 and received the AAA Award in cheerleading in 2021-22. She had the Highest Academic Average in 10th Grade and is a member of the SAT 1100 Point Club. She was named Most Improved in cheer in 2020-21 and has received the American Citizenship Award, the President's Award and Kindness Award. An Honor Roll student, she is also a class secretary.

Josie is also busy outside of school. She attends and is an active member in the youth group of Hillcrest Baptist Church, "where I get to worship my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ," she said. She is also on the Citizens Bank Student Advisory Board. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with friends and family, reading, painting and playing the piano.

After graduation, she plans to attend Southeastern Technical College for a career in nursing and then further her education at Georgia Southern University.

Josie selected Donna Campbell as her STAR Teacher for a number of reasons. "I have learned so much in the five years she has taught me," Josie said. "She teaches math in a way that is very effective while giving the classroom a lighthearted atmosphere. She truly cares about her stu-

dents and will do everything she can to help them succeed.

"Mrs. Campbell always is willing to go out of her way to offer extra help before and after school to anyone who needs it. She doesn't only teach us math but also life lessons that I'll always value. I've enjoyed my time as a student under her so much and will always greatly appreciate having her in my life."

A math teacher at DEA for six years, Campbell has been in education since 1986, teaching in Tattnall County one year and Emanuel County for 29 years. She also taught part-time at East Georgia State College for 10 years. She teaches 8th-grade pre-algebra, Honors Algebra I, Honors Geometry, geometry and pre-calculus. This is her second year being selected as STAR Teacher.

She has lived in Georgia for the past 50 years. She and her husband have two married sons and four grandchildren. She attends Hebron Primitive Baptist Church and is a member and past president of the Beta Beta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Honor Society for Women Educators and a member of the Georgia Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

In her spare time she enjoys spending time with family, quilting, cross stitching, baking, reading, crocheting and traveling.

"Teaching chose me at an early age," she said "I remember playing school at home as a young child; I always helped any classmate 'figure out' problems or whatever topic they needed extra help in. I guess that is why I encourage my students to 'help' each other, which could be re-explaining a topic in his or her own words or supervising the other student to work out a problem."

Campbell said her favorite part of teaching is, "Watching my students understand the concepts that I have taught them and then returning to tell me where they finally used some concept in their life because, as students, they could not understand why they needed to learn so many 'things' -- all those bright-eyed smiling faces when the concept finally clicked!"

Of her selection as STAR Teacher, Campbell said it feels "incredible! Josie Grace is the kind of student who makes teaching easy! She asks questions when

she needs clarification. Josie Grace practiced her skills until she was satisfied with her results, which always ended in an 'A.' She would ask for problems to work as practice for quizzes or tests.

"Josie Grace is a highly-motivated young lady. She accepted my challenge of always do your best. I am so proud of her efforts in learning mathematics. Josie Grace has a facial expression that allows me to know that what I stated or asked needed clarification. She is the type of student that will ask questions in class when needed. She has become an independent learner, which is what a teacher wants for all his/her students to become."



## **Jose-Lara, Reynolds named STAR student and teacher at SHS**

Ricardo Jose-Lara is a 17-year-old senior at Swainsboro High School. He is the only child of Anbertha Lara-Ortiz and Ricardo Jose-Monjaraz. Ricardo plans to attend college and after college graduation, hopes to be able to support his parents. In August, Richard plans to attend Georgia Southern University to pursue a degree in electrical engineering.

Ricardo has achieved Honor Roll every semester since 9th grade. He has also received multiple Highest Average awards for multiple subjects, each year of high school. Of those, he is most proud of attaining the highest average in Honors American Literature and Advanced Placement US History. Additionally, in his AP US History he was able to achieve college credit by passing AP exam with a 4.0. Last year, Ricardo was recognized as a UGA Certificate of Merit recipient. (Continued on page 22)



# STAR students and STAR Teachers

(From page 21)

"I have chosen Selena Reynolds as my STAR teacher as she helped me in my application to college which I would have otherwise been clueless about. She is also the teacher I feel the most comfortable talking with." stated Jose-Lara.

Selena Reynolds is a social studies teacher at Swainsboro High School. A graduate of Metter High School, Mrs. Reynolds attended Brewton-Parker College and earned her bachelor's degree in history education in 1996. After teaching her first year at Portal High School, Mrs. Reynolds came to Swainsboro High School in 1997. She later earned her master's and educational specialist degrees in secondary social science education from Georgia Southern University. Throughout her career, she has been named a National Board Certified Teacher, earned gifted endorsement, and received certification to teach AP U.S. History. She was named Swainsboro High School's and Emanuel County's Teacher of the Year for the 2006-2007 school term, and she was selected as STAR Teacher for Swainsboro High School and Emanuel County in 2021. She currently serves as the instructional coach for Swainsboro High School. Mrs. Reynolds is also a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, an international society for women educators.

Being a classroom teacher allowed Mrs. Reynolds to have the opportunity to interact directly with students and develop important relationships while sharing her passion for history. Having the opportunity to teach Ricardo Jose-Lara and be selected as his STAR Teacher is certainly one of the highlights of Mrs. Reynolds' career. She was not surprised to learn that Ricardo was named STAR Student, but that did not diminish her enthusiasm for his great accomplishment. He has such intellectual promise, and Mrs. Reynolds is confident that he will go on to achieve great things at Georgia Southern University. Although Ricardo can appear to be quite reserved at first, he has much creative talent, and his quick wit make him a joy to have in the classroom. He is just as talented in reading and comprehending complex texts and writing powerful essays as he is at solving complex math problems. Ricardo thrives on challenge and puts forth his best effort with each

and every task. He always remains humble; yet he consistently strives to do better. He is certainly a "STAR" for Swainsboro High School.



*Sasser, Holmes named STAR student and teacher at ECI*

Will Sasser, son of Ron Sasser and Jessica Sumner, is a senior at Emanuel County Institute.

Will has many outstanding academic accomplishments during his high school career. He was awarded highest average honors in Honors Chemistry. Will is president of ECI's Technology Student Association where he, along with his teammates, was awarded State Champion in the On-Demand Video competition. He has served as vice president and Public Relations Chairman for Future Business Leaders of America. Will has participated in many FBLA region and state competitions earning awards for Business Achievement Awards Capstone Completion and Sales Presentation.

He is a member of Senior Beta Club, One-Act Play, 21st Century Leaders, Citizens Bank Student Advisory Board, and ECI's Student Council. He was voted Most Intelligent by his senior classmates. Will has also received the University of Georgia's Certificate of Merit.

Will has been enrolled in dual enrollment since his sophomore year in high school. While at East Georgia State College, he received an invitation to join the Phi Theta Kappa chapter of the National Honor Society and the Bobcat L.E.A.D. Society.

Will plans to attend the Georgia Institute of Technology to pursue a degree in Architecture. He was afforded the opportunity of an internship with James W. Buckley & Associates. This hands-on opportunity granted Will the ability to work directly on the current updates that are now underway at ECI. He has learned many valuable skills that have benefited him greatly and cemented his choice in a future career.

Will has chosen Mrs. Dorene Holmes as his STAR teacher. When thinking about Miss Dorene, Will says, "I couldn't have done it without her." Whether it's to help with a misunderstood math concept or lending an ear for a teenage problem, Miss Dorene is always there. Will went on to say that, "Not only is she an excellent teacher, but she has that amazing ability to turn a student's bad day into a good one." He will never forget the impact that she has had on his high school career.

Mrs. Dorene Farnum-Holmes is a mathematics teacher at Emanuel County Institute. Mrs. Holmes is a 1990 graduate of Pennsylvania State University earning a degree in Health Policies and Administration. She is married to Mr. William Holmes and has three children, Hally, PJ, and LJ Farnum.

Mrs. Holmes began her teaching career as a substitute for Emanuel County Schools. She was then hired as a paraprofessional and served in this capacity for several years. An opening presented itself and she was offered a job as a part-time math teacher. With this opportunity, Mrs. Holmes completed the Georgia TAPP program to earn her teaching credentials. Since then she has gone on to teach Algebra 1 and 2, Geometry, SAT Prep, College Readiness, and Pre-Calculus.

Mrs. Holmes was selected as ECI's Teacher of the Year for the 2016-2017 school year. She was also previously chosen as STAR teacher in 2018 by Tiernan Johnson.

Mrs. Holmes cannot think of any other student who has personified the role of STAR student as Will Sasser has. In her opinion, Will Sasser is a motivated and determined student. He is one who sets a goal and will not stop working until it is accomplished. Mrs. Holmes says, "Will is an exceptional student who will thrive with any given opportunity."



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opportunity and community growth. What began as a dream in 1956 has blossomed into a thriving institution that continues to shape lives and elevate communities. In 1956, visionary leaders in Emanuel County and Swainsboro recognized a profound need for a local college, setting in motion a determined campaign for higher education. Despite initial hurdles, their relentless advocacy bore fruit when, in 1971, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia approved the establishment of a new college. Thanks to a \$2.1 million bond issue and a generous donation of 190 acres from Luck Flanders Gambrell, the doors of Emanuel County Junior College opened, marking the start of an educational legacy.

*building the future...*



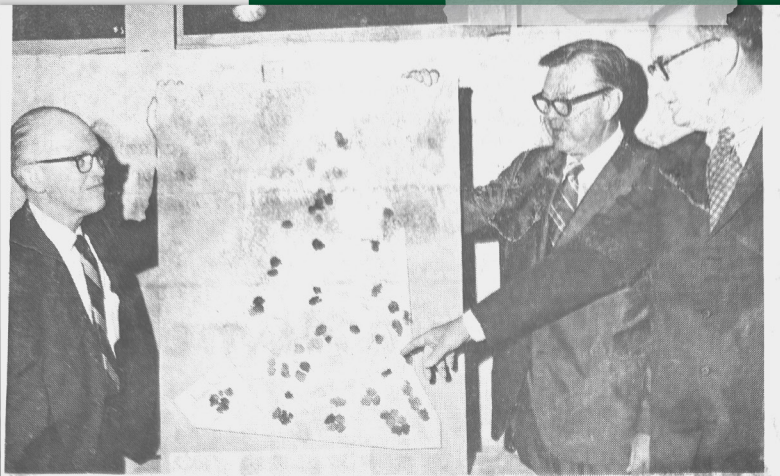
## A LEGACY OF ADAPTATION AND GROWTH

As the educational landscape evolved, so did the college. In 1987, responding to the University System's new naming standards, Emanuel County Junior College became East Georgia College. By 2012, the college had achieved state college status, evolving once more into East Georgia State College, reflecting its broadened mission to include baccalaureate degrees.

Today, East Georgia State College stands proudly committed to its original mission—providing accessible, high-quality education that meets the needs of a diverse and dynamic student body. Our dedication to transforming lives through education remains as strong as ever.



**GROUNDBREAKING**



*President George W. Walker, Speaker George L. Smith, II, and Chancellor George L. Simpson, Jr. [L-R] view a model of Emanuel County Junior College, now under construction.*

## Emanuel County Junior College

Emanuel County Junior College is a two-year community college operated by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. The college will open its doors in September as one of the 14 colleges in the system.

record indicates a need for further studies before beginning a regular college program; (4) short-term, non-credit courses for career and personal improvement through continuing education. Classes in the first three categories will be conducted during the day and evenings. Those desiring admission to Emanuel County Junior College should apply for admission (September, January, March, or June). Completed forms must be received at least 20 days prior to registration day. No fees or deposits are required of persons applying for admission.

(September, January, March, or June). Completed forms must be received at least 20 days prior to registration day. No fees or deposits are required of persons applying for admission.

**College ground-breaking is termed 'dream coming true'**

Ground was broken here Saturday for Emanuel County Junior College in formal ceremony on the construction site.

chilly weather before a large group of state and county officials and university presidents.

were Dr. George Walker, president of Emanuel County Junior College, who gave the welcome and made introductions; Dr. George L. Simpson, Jr., president of the University System of Georgia; and Dr. Madison Dixon, chairman of the college task force of the Board of Regents.

here and to this area."

Dr. Madison Dixon gave a brief history of the junior college task force of the Board of Regents.

was named this Chamber of Commerce headed by Dr. Simpson.



*one student at a time.*

FROM DREAMS TO DEGREES

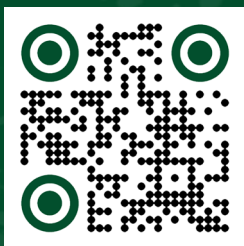


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# Historic Twin City – *Twice as Friendly, Twice as Nice*

Approximately 12 miles east of Swainsboro in Twin City, home to George L. Smith State Park and one of Georgia's National Register Historic Districts. The Twin City Historia District encompasses approximately 225 acres of historic residential, commercial and community landmark resources associated with the development of two towns that were incorporated as one in 1921. The Historic District runs northeast to southwest through the center of the district following the railroad bed that were removed in 1952. The northeast part of the district is the historic commercial and residential area of Summit, and the southwest part is Graymont. Between the two towns, at the intersection of Railroad Avenue and US Hwy 80, is the area established in the early 1900's as the "civic center".

The small towns of Summit began c.1889 with the charter and then construction of the Rogers & Summit Railroad, later known as the Millen & Southern Railway, the town was chartered in 1898. The town of Graymont, established in 1896 and chartered in 1900, was located one mile from Summit and had its own depot and post office. Even after their incorporation into one town, they maintained separate post offices until 1952. The community is unique, "a little town with a big



history".

The Twin City Historic District has several areas of significance: architecture, for its excellent examples of historic residential, commercial and community landmark buildings representing the common architectural types and styles found throughout Georgia in the late 19<sup>th</sup> through the mid 20<sup>th</sup> centuries; commerce, as the two historic central business districts represent the typical stores and businesses found in small rural communities in Georgia; and community planning and development, as the original plans of both Summit and Graymont are excellent examples of a railroad strip-type town in Georgia with the main street running parallel to the railroad through the center of town.

In celebration of their Centennial in 2021, Mayor Matt Donaldson, along with a Centennial Committee, formed a 'Cotton Blossom Festival'. The festival is now a yearly event, held the first week in November.

The historic districts boast 136 resources, including excellent examples of house types from late Victorian to modern movement and is a time-capsule community for architectural house types. Architectural styles include Queen Anne, Folk Victorian, Craftsman, English Vernacular Revival, Classical Revival and International Style. House types include Queen Anne Cottage, New South cottage, Georgian cottage, Georgian house, English cottage, gabled-wing cottage, bungalow, central hall and ranch house.

Historic Twin City, GA, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, continues to work to put Twin City on the map in Georgia tourism. They celebrated their first birthday in June 2015 and spent the previous year bringing entertainment to the city, making significant changes that helped awaken a sense of pride and accomplishment in Twin City's citizens.





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## Senator Billy Hickman



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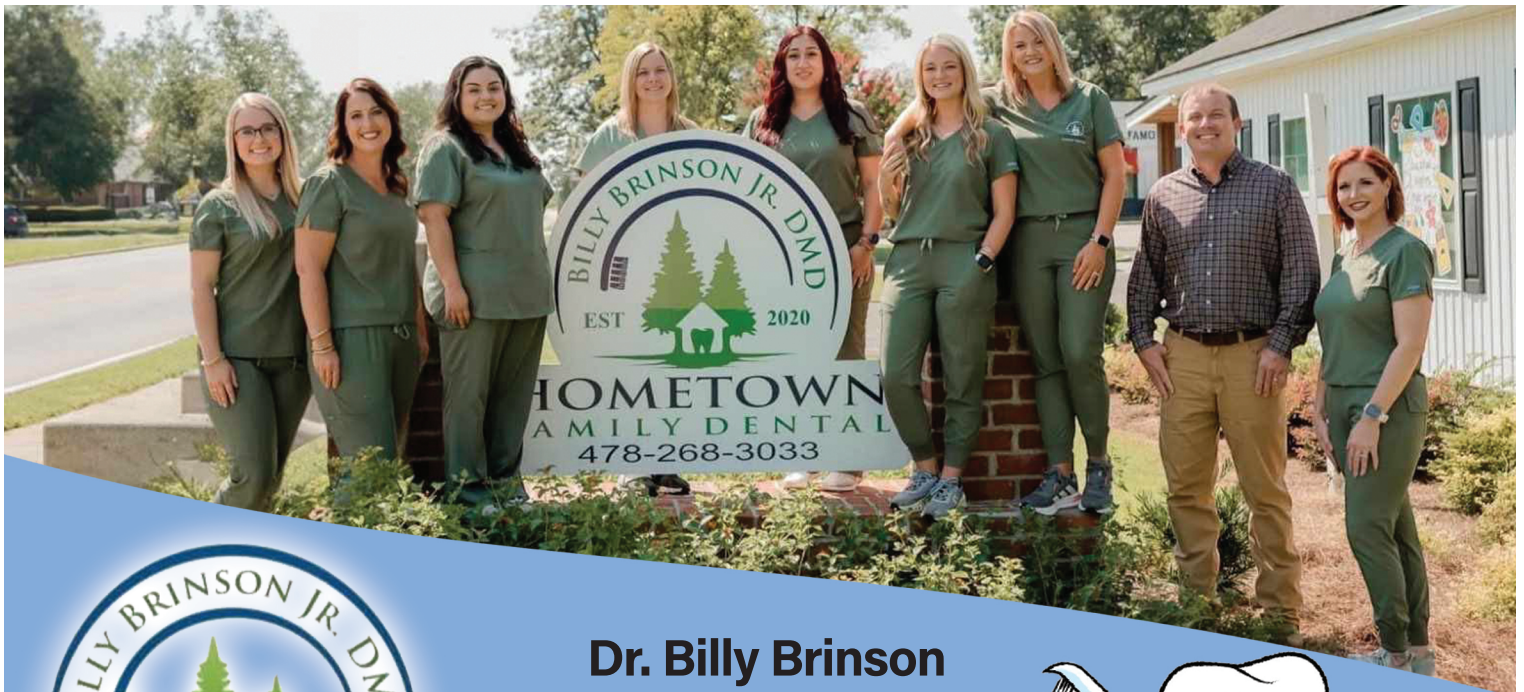


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His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord. ~Matthew 25:23



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# The Kalmanson Gallery

*Continuous and active art exhibitions*

Named after longtime EAC board member and East Georgia State College (retired) art professor Neil Kalmanson, The Kalmanson Gallery is the only art gallery in Emanuel County with continuous and active art exhibitions every year. The gallery, now in its new home in the Barbara and Tobe Karrh Community Arts Center, opened in December 2021. There are six art exhibitions scheduled each year, and each exhibition is on display between four and six weeks. The opening reception for each show is free and open to the public.

So far in 2024, the gallery has featured: Black History Month featuring artist Missy Turner, January 8-February 26; Emanuel Artists Guild Exhibition, March 11-April 26; "Impressions of George L. Smith State Park", May 14-June 14; "Smartphone Photography" featuring work by Group 1080 of East Georgia State College, July 13-August 14.

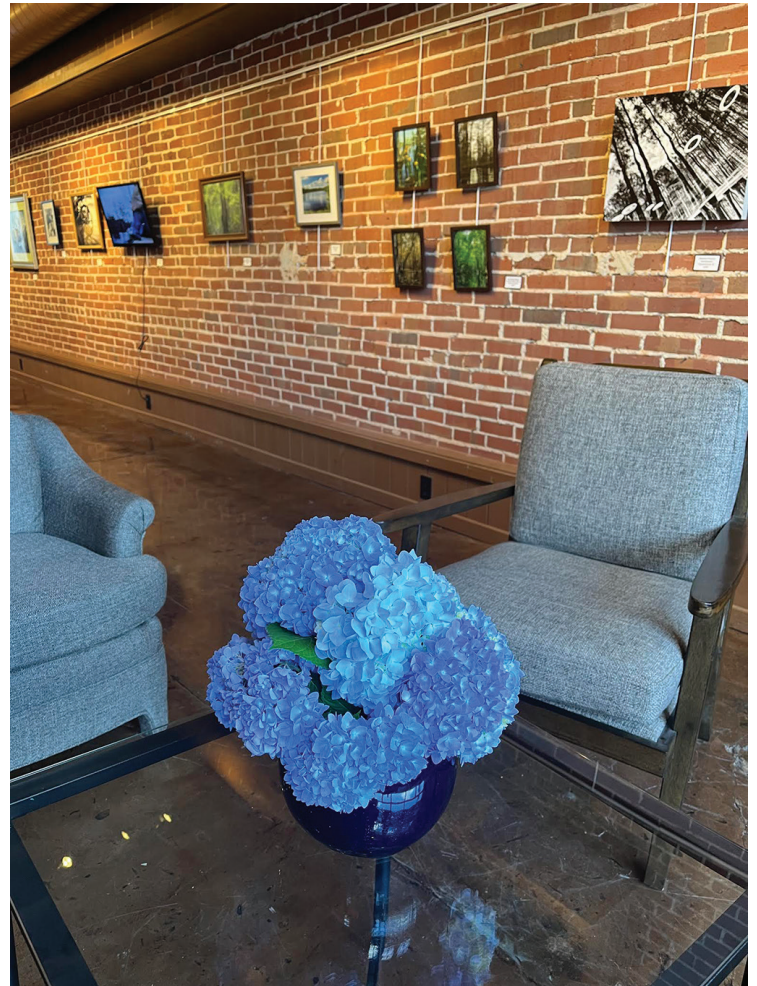
The Emanuel Arts Council, Inc. (EAC) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose purpose is to empower and grow the community through cultural programs in all areas of the arts for the general betterment and ben-

efit of the people of Emanuel County and surrounding areas. The EAC is supported by the City of Swainsboro, the Swainsboro Downtown Development Authority, and operates through membership, donations, fundraisers, and grants.

Members of the EAC board serve on numerous committees in the county, including Swainsboro-Emanuel County Chamber of Commerce, Family Connection, Pine Tree Festival, Downtown Development Authority, and the Emanuel Coalition for Cultural & Economic Development.

The City of Swainsboro is currently working on a major project to renovate and develop the old theater in downtown Swainsboro to become the Barbara and Tobe Karrh Community Arts Center. The EAC and Kalmanson Gallery will share this space with The Karrh Center.

Emanuel County is home to the Emanuel Arts Council and The Kalmanson Gallery located at 109 North Green Street in Swainsboro. The gallery is open Tuesday through Friday, from 12 to 3 p.m. or by appointment. For more information on the Emanuel Arts Council, find them on Facebook and Instagram.




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# Festivals & Events

## **MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. PARADE**

The MLK Parade is an annual celebration of life and work of Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Civil Rights Activist and Georgia native Martin Luther King, Jr. Since 1984, Swainsboro has hosted a parade that includes numerous marching bands, churches and civic groups in attendance. Each January, the MLK Parade Committee chooses a Grand Marshall who has shown 'great leadership and service to Emanuel County'. For more information on this event, contact Al Huston at 478.237.7768 or Delmus Mosley at 478.237.8587.

## **RHYTHM & PINES MUSIC FESTIVAL**

Held the Friday night before the Pine Tree Festival's 'big day', the Rhythm & Pines Music Festival features a diverse lineup of performers spread throughout downtown Swainsboro. Enjoy numerous arts, crafts and food vendors while taking in the music. For a full list of bands and schedule, visit the Pine Tree Festival website or follow the festival on Facebook.

## **PINE TREE FESTIVAL & SOUTHEAST TIMBER EXPO**

The Pine Tree Festival & Southeast Timber Expo is Emanuel County's oldest and most well-known festival. Held on the first weekend in May, the event draws thousands of people from across the southeast to Swainsboro to take part in the numerous activities associated with the festival. Highlights of the event include the Grand Parade, unique entertainment, pageants, sporting events, arts & crafts, a BBQ cook-off, forestry exhibits, car show and more. Organized by the Swainsboro Kiwanis Club, the Pine Tree Festival is the longest continually running festival in Georgia. For more information, call 478.237.6426 or check out the Pine Tree Festival website or follow the festival on Facebook.

## **SUMMER CONCERTS**

Each summer, the Downtown Development Authority hosts a Summer Concert Series at The Boneyard Pavilion in Downtown Swainsboro. The free concerts feature a variety of musical styles. Citizens and visitors fill The Boneyard with their lawn chairs and blankets as they dance the warm summer evenings away. Enjoy dinner from a downtown restaurant or a food vendor that has set up for the event.

## **JULY 4<sup>TH</sup>**

Each year, the Swainsboro Jaycees host an Independent Day Celebration which includes a free fireworks show beginning at dark. For the past few years, this event has been held in Downtown Swainsboro.

## **SOUTHEAST GEORGIA JAYCEES FAIR**

The Southeast Georgia Jaycees Fair takes place each October at the Jaycees Fairground. The week-long event also includes rides and games, pageants, 4-H exhibits and agricultural events. Generations of citizens have created at the fair, which has been celebrated for more than 90 years in Emanuel County. For more information, follow the Swainsboro Jaycees on Facebook.

## **FALL FESTIVAL**

For many, visiting the Boneyard on Halloween night for the Swainsboro Kiwanis Club's Octoberfest was a tradition. However, in 2010, the Kiwanis Club joined forces with the Emanuel Arts Council, the Downtown Development Authority, RadioJones and other local businesses and organizations in the creation of a new, larger Fall Festival. Since its inception, the Fall Festival has continued to grow. Featuring old-fashioned carnival games, a costume contest and a variety of giveaways, the event was created to provide a family-friendly celebration of the season void of many of the 'spooks' that tend to abound that time of year. A true community event, each game or activity is organized by a different local business or civic group and all activities are free to the public.

## **CHRISTMAS PARADE**

The Swainsboro Christmas Parade is an annual celebration that usually takes place on the first Thursday each December, but this year, it will be the first Saturday in December. The Downtown Development Authority kicks off the Christmas season with a Parade down Main Street that traditionally features over 80 floats and a special appearance by Santa Claus. The event also features live entertainment on the Square as part of the Swainsboro-Emanuel County Chamber of Commerce's Carols on the Square, a chili cook-off, the lighting of the Community Christmas Tree, visits with Santa and more. For more information, contact the Downtown Development Authority at 478.237.7025.



# RECREATION

*The Billy C. Carmichael Recreation Complex* includes a lighted walking trail, splash pad, four lighted softball fields, concession stands with scoring tower and restrooms, batting cage with war-up area, two playground areas, four picnic pavilions with grills, a cook shelter and two ponds. Located in the same complex, the Connie Kight Recreation Center houses the Emanuel County Recreation Department offices, a two-court gymnasium and an activity room with exercise equipment and dressing rooms located at 632 McLeod Bridge Rd., Swainsboro. For more information, contact 478.237.8098.

## *Baseball Complex*

The Recreation Department's Baseball Complex includes three lighted ball fields with scoring tower, two batting cages, playground areas, picnic tables, concession stand and restrooms located at 534 McLeod Bridge Rd., Swainsboro. For more information, contact 478.237.8098.

## *Swainsboro Golf Course*

Swainsboro Golf Course is an 18-hole public golf course that offers a challenging opportunity to test your golfing skills located at 557 McLeod Bridge Rd., Swainsboro. The golf course has electric golf carts, putting area and driving range. For more information, contact 478.237.6116.

## *Disc Golf*

East Georgia State College is home to an 18-hole disc golf course designed by world-champion disc golfer Pete May. It is located around the outer perimeter of EGSC Swainsboro campus. The course is referred to as 'the most beautiful disc golf course found on a two-year college campus'. There is no charge to play and it is open to the public year round, 131 College Circle, Swainsboro. For more information, call EGSC at 478.289.2017.

## *Tennis Courts*

Public tennis courts are available at East Georgia State College, 131 College Circle, Swainsboro and Harmon Park, Meadowlake Parkway off US 1 South, Swainsboro.

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# Franklin Memorial Library:

## *A world of possibilities that are free to you!*

by KAYLA WILLIAMS, ASSISTANT MANAGER Franklin Memoria Library is a member of PINES (Pines Information Network for Electronic Services), a leading network for more than 275 libraries and affiliated service outlets in almost 140 counties in Georgia. This means that patrons with a PINES library card have access to materials on the library's shelves and can also enjoy the benefits of a shared collection of 9.6 million books and materials that can be sent to them free of charge. Residents who do not have a library card may obtain a free card by presenting a picture ID and proof of their physical address. The staff at Franklin Memorial Library keeps one thing in mind, their patrons. The Manager of the library, Windy Ward, has dedicated 13 years to not only the library itself but the community that supports the library. Through her years she has supported many events and organizations that have prospered the library and the community. Windy's love for her library, patrons, and community has helped fuel her passion to make these events and organizations succeed. The Assistant Manager, Kayla Williams, as dedicated 3 years to the library and oversees community service hours for those in need as well as being the right hand-woman for the

manager. Kayla assists where needed and keeps everyone on schedule throughout the year while they all juggle every new or annual event for each month of the year. Kayla also oversees the library's annual Summer Reading Program and is usually behind the scenes making sure budgets are met and everyone is cared for. The Children's Coordinator, Danielle Johnson, grew up in the library and was part of the Teen Advisory Board (TAB) in high school. She has dedicated 5 years to the library and is over the Children's Department; she co-writes plays for puppet shows, organizes children's crafts, and oversees decorations for all the library events. Mrs. Shari Watt also takes care of the children in the library and brings an educational avenue to all her Toddler Time events. Mrs. Shari was a schoolteacher for 31 years and when she retired, she was employed by the library. She has dedicated 9 years to the library; she also leads events and organizations within the library and one of those is the Veterans of the Library. The library hosts the Veterans every Monday morning for breakfast. The Teen/TAB Coordinator, Brooke Flowers, is also a certified teacher with 5 years of experience behind her. She was hired on quickly with her many talents in education and

witty personality, she has dedicated 2 years with the library. She coordinates the Teen Department (Young Adult) and Teen Advisory Board; this group is made up of students in middle and high school that are given the opportunity to use their talents and voice to help better serve their age group in the library. Alana Herrington is the Teen/TAB Assistant for this department. She has also dedicated 2 years to the library and helps with the flyers and monthly crafts for the teens; including taking notes during the TAB meetings. For our Adult Department, Deana Patrick takes care of all its needs and wants. Deana has dedicated 7 years to the library. She not only shelves and repairs books from top to bottom but she also has her own cooking show, Deana's Dash of Delish, which is streamed live on the library's Facebook page. Deana is also in charge of the adult crafts and is a good reference to ask for the most classic fiction to the newest westerns and about our Genealogy Department. The newest Library Assistant is Keira Thompson; she loves to read and is full of potential! The library's staff is thrilled to have her and looks forward to seeing what great things she brings to the table. The library is also partnered with Legacy Link

and Job Training Unlimited to help provide employment. Phyllis Wells is hired through Legacy Link and assists the staff in any way she can. She is always willing to doing any task with a smile on her face; she has been with them for 11 years. Terralynn Brinson started at the library through TAB and worked temporally as a Library Assistant this past summer. She is now hired through Job Training Unlimited and goes above and beyond what is asked of her. Did you know? The library offers **FREE** Notary Services; Windy, Kayla, and Deana are ready and willing to lend a helping hand for their patrons. There are a few things they ask for you to have if seeking help from a Notary; Your ID, both parties in attendance for them to witness signatures, and please **DO NOT** sign any documents before coming. Always wait until you are in the presence of the Notary before signing. Another thing Franklin Memorial Library would like for you to know is that they offer free passes to the Atlanta Zoo, States Parks, and Museums all over the State of Georgia. The only thing that is required from you is to have a library card. Once you have your library card, you are welcomed to a world of possibilities that are free to you!



# Meet the Franklin Memorial Library Staff



**Brooke Flowers**  
Teen/TAB Coordinator



**Windy Ward**  
Manager



**Kayla Williams**  
Assistant Manager



**Deana Patrick**  
Adult Department



**Danielle Johnson**  
Children's Coordinator



**Shari Watt**  
Event Leader



**Phyllis Wells**  
Assistant



**Terralynn Brinson**  
Assistant



**Keira Thompson**  
Library Assistant



**Alana Herrington**  
Teen/TAB Assistant



# OUR HISTORIC SOCIETY

by MISSY ELDER

The Emanuel County Historic Preservation Society was an idea that began in 1976 in honor of the nation's Bicentennial. The actual Society was incorporated in 1993. 2024 is its 31st year! The Society is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Membership dues, fundraisers, and tax deductible, charitable contributions support programs and projects of the Society.

The Historic Society's motto is "Celebrating our Heritage, Preserving Memories." The museum is located at 161 Museum Rd, across from the Jaycee Fairgrounds. It replicates an 1890s farm named Longview Farm in honor of the original community near the museum.

Our Fall Harvest Open House will be October 12, from 10

a.m. to 4 p.m., no admission charged. February 9, 2025, will also be an Open House in conjunction with Georgia Day.

We continue to be open for tours, family reunions or picnic opportunities for clubs. Membership is not required for this.

The Society continues to add and improve. Membership is growing with over 425 members across the country. People who have Emanuel County roots continue to donate family items for display.

We have enclosed part of our group shelter in order to display our extensive agricultural equipment collection. We will enlarge the "Veterans' Wall", dedicated to local World War II veterans, and the naval stores display containing more than 50 artifacts used for



gum dipping from the early 1900s. We will also enlarge the business section and make room for a donation of Boy Scout items. Children on tours are

excited to find their parents' photos on the high school photo wall and trophy collection. Class photos from 1937 to 1982 are on display there. The commissary, Steven's Crossing Post Office, and grist mill now have handicap ramps as well as sidewalks for all main buildings. Don't forget the ladies' five-holer outhouse from Sardis Church.

The Society's three history books, *Pine Log Echoes, Vol. 1-3*, are available at Swainsboro's Main Street Market along with *Tram Lines to Longleaf Pines* (Emanuel's railroads) and *Smithton-Blundale*. We con-

tinue to carry the Georgia Historical dinner and salad plates, in blue and pink, at Main Street Market. James Dorsey's *Footprints Along the 'Hoopee, Vol. 2* is available at The Market as is *Images of America, Emanuel County* book. Ed Schwabe's *Sherman's March* maps are available at the museum.

Visit Emanuel County Historic Preservation's website at [myemanuelcounty.com](http://myemanuelcounty.com) and check us out at [Facebook.com/myemanuelcounty](https://www.facebook.com/myemanuelcounty). The Society strives to keep these social media platforms updated with meeting notices and events. Our email is [echps1@pineland.net](mailto:echps1@pineland.net).







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928 W. Main St. • 478.237.6783  
Fr. Christopher Orlega

**CHRISTIAN**  
**Emanuel Christian Ministries**  
1338 Lambs Bridge Rd. • 478.763.3014  
Bo Fordham, Min.

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**Swainsboro Church of Christ**  
653 Turner Dr. • 941.960.4747  
Darnell Brown, Min.

**CHURCH OF GOD**  
**Beacon of Hope Church of God**  
560 E. Pine St. • 478.237.8509  
John Hancock, III, Min.

**Blackville Church of God**  
12106 Hwy 15 South, Adrian  
Kip Boswell, Min. • 912.529.4959

**Eastwood Church of God**  
532 Thigpen Dr. • 478.237.5522  
Andrew Flowers, Min.

**Oak Park Church of God**  
180 Ga Hwy 86 East, Lyons  
912.578.5901

**EPISCOPAL**  
**Episcopal Church of The Good Shepherd**  
621 W. Main St. • 478.237.7122  
Steve Larson, Min.

**GOSPEL**  
**Divine Full Gospel Teaching Ministry**  
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Mable Clark, Min. • 478.289.8260

**HOLINESS**  
**Coleman Temple Holiness**  
62 Overstreet Rd.  
Robert Coleman, Sr., Min.

**Maranatha Pentecostal Holiness**  
E. Main St. • 912.237.3516

**Perfected Love Holiness**  
1127 Hwy 80 East • 478.237.4598  
Dean Martin, II, Min.

**Williams Chapel Holiness**  
415 Felix St. • 478.289.6060  
Apostle Clyde Fowler, Sr., Min.

**JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES**  
**Kingdom Hall Of Jehovah's Witnesses**  
1064 Old Wadley Rd. • 478.237.4525

**METHODIST**  
**Adrian United Methodist**  
207 Poplar St., Adrian • 478.668.3559  
Mark Hardin, Min.

**Calvary Methodist Church**  
421 S. Main St. • 478.237.2191  
Tom Tidwell, Min.

**Coleman Chapel AME**  
14 Kemp Rd.  
Samuel A. Cooper, Jr., Min.

**Evergreen Ebenezer Methodist**  
Kemp Rd. & Ebenezer Church Rd.  
Dwight Watt, Min.

**First Methodist of Swainsboro**  
319 W. Main St. • 478.237.7535  
David Unkles, Min.

**Franklin Grove United Methodist Church**  
Swainsboro

**Garfield United Methodist**  
105 Monroe St., Garfield  
Brantley Horton, Min.

**Kea's United Methodist**  
Adrian • 478.668.3559  
Mark Hardin, Min.

**Lamb's Chapel United Methodist**  
61 Lamb's Chapel Rd., Midville  
Bob Norwood, Min.

**Midville United Methodist Church**  
Midville • 478.589.7251 • 478.589.7837  
Pastor Randy Camley

**New Beulah United Methodist**  
New Beulah Rd. near Twin City

**Poplar Springs United Methodist**  
Adrian • 478.668.3559  
Mark Hardin, Min.

**Stillmore United Methodist Church**  
219 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Stillmore  
Kevin Palmore, Pastor

**Twin City Methodist**  
212 S. College St., Twin City  
Randall Smith, Min. • 478.589.7251

**Union Grove United Methodist**  
1168 Herndon Rd., Midville  
Randy Carnley, Min. • 478.589.7251

**MORMON**  
**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day  
Saints**  
463 W. Meadowlake Pkwy • 478.237.2645

**PENTECOSTAL**  
**ADA Grove Pentecostal**  
1234 McGarrh Mill Pond Rd. • 478.589.7122  
Bishop T.V. Outen

**Pentecostal Lighthouse**  
Hwy 1 North • 478.237.0923  
Ronnie Young, Min.

**OTHER**  
**Brown's Chapel Center of Deliverance**  
515 N. Green St. • 478.289.0075  
Frankie O'Neal, Min.

**Church of Jesus Apostolic Faith**  
511 Miller Dr. • 478.237.5566  
Elder Willie Freeman

**Church of Jesus Christ**  
304 W. Min St., Adrian • 478.668.3624

**Consuming Fire Ministries**  
710 Sycamore St. • 478.299.4826

**Corinth**  
1989 Medks Rd., Kite  
Wes Webb, Min. • 478.668.3372

**Dunamous Alliance Mission Outreach**  
(Angel Food Ministry)  
Missionary Leon Griffin • 478.237.7775

**Emmanuel Worship Center**  
915 Old Nunez Rd. • 478.237.1922  
Kenneth Edge, Min.

**Faith Miracle Revival Fellowship**  
426 William Rountree Rd. • 478.237.5968

**Faith Outreach Deliverance**  
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Randy Thornotn, Min.

**Gateway Worship Center**  
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Jan Brantley, Min.



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**God's Tabernacle**  
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Richard Herndon, Min. • 478.763.3160

**Home of the Apostle Outreach Ministry**  
106 N. Green St. • 478.237.9873  
Gary Hackett, Min.

**Jesus Saves**  
138 Hwy 56 North, Swainsboro  
Brad McKenzie, Min. • 478.455.4367

**Living Way Ministries**  
213 Oak Grove Church Rd. • 478.299.2819  
Elizabeth Cleo Howard, Min.

**Love In Action Worship Center**  
661 S. Main St. • 478.237.5263

**Mt. Zion**  
1719 Mt. Olivet Church Rd., Garfield  
Johnny Branch, Min.

**New Beginnings Worship Center**  
915 W. Main St. • 478.279.2111  
Tim Price, Min.

**New Bethel Believers in Christ**  
328 Jerome St. ¶ 478.237.4082

**New Hope World Outreach**  
211 Lee St. • 478.237.0003  
Jeanette H. Hardin, Min.

**New Testament Missionary Outreach**  
1033 Durden Rd., Twin City  
Cheryl Brantley, Min. • 478.763.3937

**Open Arms Outreach Ministry & Praise**  
503 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Twin City • 478.763.3189  
George E. Coleman, Min.

**Open Door Fellowship**  
224-B W. Morning St. • 478.268.2308  
Pastor Dolly

**Pages of Life Christian Worship Center**  
109 Jackson, St • 478.419.5021  
Marcella R. Hannah, Sr., Min.

**Powerhouse of Deliverance Assemblies**  
547 Lewis St. • 478.625.7028  
Apostle Antonio T. Pringle, Sr., Min.

**Rock Worship Center**  
302 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Stillmore • 912.562.3164  
Ronnie J. Collins, Min.

**Shekanah Glory Worship Center**  
859 Hwy 1 • 478.237.7686  
Alice Stafford, Min.

**St. Paul Noah's Ark AME**  
33 Humpback St., Midville  
Minnie Pitts, Min.

**Temple of Grace**  
51 Overstreet Rd., Swainsboro  
478.289.7273

**The Crossroads**  
529 S. Main St. • 912.237.3498  
Levi Carpenter, Min.

**The Message Worship Center**  
609 New St., Twin City  
Paul Bowen, Min. • 478.763.2720

**The Seed of Life is Jesus Ministries**  
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Jessie Mae Scott, Min.

**Victory Temple**  
318 Lucky St. • 478.289.9844

**Williams Grove Church of the Living God**  
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# BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

The Swainsboro/Emanuel County Chamber of Commerce holds a banquet every January to present the 'Business of the Year' and the 'Person of the Year'.

This year's Business of the Year went to Wincore Windows and Doors. Wincore was founded in 2006 by a group of 12 investors with decades of experience in the design, manufacture, and sale of vinyl window products. These investors believed they would "win" in the marketplace with this "core"

group of people, thus the name Wincore was born. The Company established its headquarters in Parkersburg, West Virginia and produced its first window in July 2007. Over the next several years, and despite the worst economic recession in several decades, Wincore continued to expand and grow its operation, shipping vinyl windows and patio doors to customers east of the Rocky Mountains.

In 2010, Wincore expanded its product offering to include fiberglass entry door systems.

As part of this decision the Company leased additional manufacturing space

open a second manufacturing location in Swainsboro, Georgia. Wincore worked with the Emanuel County Development Authority to find a building suitable for its needs and settled on the old

All core vinyl window products are capable of being manufactured in the Swainsboro facility. The Swainsboro location currently employs 216 people. Wincore continues to grow and is expecting

picture window, slider, and casement. Customers can also order vinyl patio doors that are purchased from an outside vendor and assembled in-house, as well as garden windows, bay/bow windows and geometrics. In addition, customers can order a variety of color options for both the interior and exterior of their windows and doors. Wincore also manufactures fiberglass entry door systems that can be made in a number of styles and with a variety of options.

These include single doors and double doors with side lites, transoms, decorative glass options, and several different color options for both the interior and the exterior of the door. Wincore's products are sold to a variety of customers, including distributors, dealers, specialty installers, and contractors. The Company believes that the service it provides is what sets Wincore apart from its competitors.



at its headquarters, bringing its total facility size to approximately 167,000 square feet. In 2017, Wincore began to ship products to the west coast, expanding its footprint to include the entire continental United States. Due to significant and continued growth, particularly in the southeast region, and an inability to expand its headquarters in West Virginia, Wincore made the decision in 2018 to

Husqvarna facility. The Company leased a 75,000 square foot building and began producing windows in May 2019. In 2021, due to continued growth, the Company leased an additional 100,000 square feet of space adjacent and connected to its existing Georgia facility bringing its total local investment more than \$10 million dollars. Two additional vinyl lines and a second glass line were added.

to surpass \$200 million in gross sales in 2024. Of its 12 original founders, 6 remain actively employed with the company helping it continue to grow and succeed. Wincore manufactures vinyl windows for both new construction and repair/remodel projects, though the vast majority of its sales are for repair/remodel projects. Windows can be ordered in a variety of styles, including single hung, double hung,



# PERSON OF THE YEAR

The Person of the Year award was presented to Butch Frye. Some 25 years ago, Butch Frye moved his wife, Melonie and their two sons to Swainsboro to assume the role of Emanuel County School Superintendent. According to his sons, who spoke in honor of their father and presented him with the award, the recipient had a knack of putting the right people together to get the job done and had the ability to always bring out the best in everyone whether at work, at church, or busy in community activities. During the presentation, along with some good-natured ribbing, Zac, Peyton, and their father all had an opportunity to display their love for this area, for their wide circle of family and friends and especially for each other. Mr. Frye's many contributions and achievements are known both locally and throughout the State and have had immeasurable impact in the field of education as a teacher, administrator, advisor, and later as consultant to many, many school systems. In accepting the honor, Frye made it clear his highest honor was that of husband and father. He concluded by expressing his humility and gratitude for being named recipient of the award, but more so for the people, experiences, associations and opportunities that have been part of his life in this community for the past 25 years.



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Wincore has been repeatedly recognized within our industry as one of the top 100 manufacturers, we know that our success belongs to our entire team. That's why our employment opportunities as well as our career advancement opportunities are always at the forefront of our priorities.



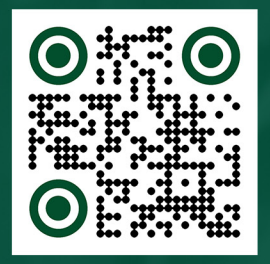
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