



Resident Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2019

IMPORTANT DATES

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

OCT. 19-20	Community Yard Sale Extended Hours 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
OCT. 31	Pool closes for the season Trunk-or-Treat at the Clubhouse, 5-7 p.m.
NOV. 2	Political Candidate Meet-and-Greet 1-3 p.m., at the Clubhouse
NOV. 5	City of Pooler General Election Day, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.
NOV. 14	HOA Annual Voting Meeting for 2020 Board of Directors and Budget
DEC. 6	Registration Deadline to Participate in Christmas Light Contest
DEC. 13-15	Christmas Lights Decorating Contest

BOARD MEETINGS 2nd Wednesday of each month

NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY
13	11	8

PAM GLENDINNING

Property Manager
(912) 631-0606
propertymanager@godleyhoa.com
godleyhoa.com
Hours: Monday - Friday
9am - 5pm

Street Address:
306 N. Godley Station Blvd.
Pooler, GA, 31322
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 646
Pooler, GA 31322

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Let's connect to stay current on important community information, events, developments and more.



Greetings friends and neighbors of the Villages at Godley Station! We have again enjoyed a productive and exciting few months in our community.

Since the last updates provided in our Spring/Summer newsletter that was published in April, many new developments have been implemented or completed, and plenty of others are in the works. We are proud of our community's advancements and we hope you will be too.

We're happy to see many more residents have been communicating with us through social media and email and would like to encourage you to continue to give us your feedback. Our HOA board works hard on your behalf, and because we cannot be everywhere all the time, we rely on our residents to let us know when issues arise that require our attention. Keep it up!

You can look forward to some new events and initiatives in the coming months, all designed to spur more community involvement. Please check our social media regularly for special announcements and important information concerning all residents. We thank you for your support and are looking forward to a fantastic 2020!



YOUR DUES & BOARD OF DIRECTORS *IN ACTION*



We've celebrated quite a few impressive upgrades, new features and improvements to our community over the past year. To give our residents an idea of all they have to be proud of, we've compiled a partial list of how your HOA dues and our board members' dedication have helped to make our community a wonderful place to live. We're especially grateful to all current and past Board Members who have dedicated their time and talents to these accomplishments:

- Completed a comprehensive update to the community's official Rules and Regulations document
- Maintained a consistently healthy and positive cash flow budget without raising HOA dues for a 3rd straight year
- Welcomed a Communications Manager to our team
- Landscaping and beautification efforts, such as a new sign for The Arbors; the removal of dead limbs and trees; the addition of

flowers, plants and trees; lagoon cleanings; pruning and creating uniformity in all of the neighborhood circles

- Increased social media presence on Facebook, NextDoor and started a new Instagram account.
- Repair of the entry-way to the dog park's large run
- Installation of new state-of-the-art Security System at the Recreation Complex
- Installation of new self-closing mechanisms on various gates around the recreation complex, increasing safety and minimizing unauthorized usage of our amenities by "piggybackers."
- Installation of a new pump for the large swimming pool, plus general repairs and deep cleaning of the pool deck area

Below are some upgrades/maintenance/projects either in the process of being completed or are being considered for future implementation:

- North Godley Way and Forest Lakes Drainage Improvement Project
- Utilization of Mobile Speed Radar Unit to curb speeding
- Hospitality and Community Building Events for our Residents
- New Electronic Message Boards
- Pool Deck Replacement
- Kiddie Pool – Replace Broken Water Sprayer Feature
- Remedy Pond Erosion Issues at Various Lagoons
- Ongoing Landscaping/Beautification Projects



ARE YOU CURRENT ON YOUR HOA DUES?

ARE YOU AND YOUR NEIGHBORS DOING YOUR PART TO HELP OUR COMMUNITY?

As of the printing of this newsletter, the **TOTAL OUTSTANDING UNPAID DUES** for our HOA came to **\$146,524**. Below are **33** homeowners who make up approximately **70% (or approximately \$100,000)** of that unpaid amount. Each of these accounts owes over \$1000 in back dues to our HOA. If you or one of your neighbor's addresses is on this list, please do or encourage the right thing by getting the account paid up to date as soon as possible. Dues money collected for our HOA is used to maintain, beautify, fix and update all aspects of our community. Without these funds, we are unable to accomplish many of the goals set forth by the HOA on behalf of our residents. For all homeowners that are current on their accounts — we THANK YOU!

RESIDENT ADDRESS	TOTAL OVERDUE
152 Nandina Way	\$5,865.27
262 Pampas Drive	\$5,782.92
218 Pink Dogwood Lane	\$5,756.94
8 Raven Wood Way	\$5,515.70
119 Magnolia Drive	\$5,200.24
142 White Dogwood Lane	\$5,068.84
236 Silver Brook Circle	\$5,018.45
123 White Dogwood Lane	\$4,779.86
131 Nandina Way	\$4,642.38
128 White Dogwood Lane	\$4,263.32
118 Magnolia Drive	\$4,084.57
131 Chinese Fir Court	\$3,776.38
115 Copper Brook Lane	\$3,721.13
4 Raven Wood Way	\$3,188.14
177 Magnolia Drive	\$3,004.40
117 White Dogwood Lane	\$2,858.98
227 Silver Brook Circle	\$2,836.52

RESIDENT ADDRESS	TOTAL OVERDUE
212 Silver Brook Circle	\$2,371.80
140 Carolina Cherry Court	\$2,362.43
145 Magnolia Drive	\$1,973.05
128 Chinese Fir Court	\$1,865.50
111 Magnolia Drive	\$1,678.93
249 Pampas Drive	\$1,580.60
138 Carolina Cherry Court	\$1,560.54
1 Tea Olive Circle	\$1,535.63
16 Silver Oak Court	\$1,411.82
124 Carolina Cherry Court	\$1,346.13
411 Cooper Creek Circle	\$1,273.01
106 Magnolia Drive	\$1,144.43
215 Pink Dogwood Lane	\$1,066.06
113 Yellow Jasmine Court	\$1,041.63
444 Copper Creek Circle	\$1,041.06
118 Fire Thorn Lane	\$1,401.06

WHAT ARE WE DOING TO COLLECT THE OUTSTANDING FUNDS?

ANNUAL HOA DUES, PROCEDURES, SCHEDULES AND LATE FEES

2019 Annual Dues are \$550.00. Payments are due Bi-Annually, per the updated schedule below. All homeowners are responsible for on-time dues payments.

Homeowners are required to notify the HOA of complete contact information for Renters/Lessees and Management Companies by completing a Tenant Registration Form within 5 (five) business days of the commencement of the lease along with a \$25 registration fee.

Any changes in homeowner contact information must be submitted immediately upon effect to the HOA. Postal mail or e-mail delivery of this information to the Property Manager (propertymanager@godleyhoa.com) is sufficient.

UPDATED FINANCIAL CALENDAR

- JANUARY 1st/JULY 1st - Assessment dues placed on accounts and invoices are mailed to homeowners
- JANUARY 31st/JULY 31st - Dues payments are due
- After due date, assessment dues are considered delinquent and a

10% FINE (of the assessment) is added; delinquency notifications and new invoices are mailed to homeowners

- EVERY 30 DAYS THEREAFTER - A 10% APR INTEREST (compounded monthly), plus a \$25 MONTHLY MAINTENANCE FEE are added; delinquency notifications and new invoices are mailed to homeowners.

For online payments, go to www.godleyhoa.com

If paying by mail:

The Villages at Godley Station HOA
P.O. Box 16743
Savannah, Georgia 31416

All payments mailed to the above address must be received by the invoice due date in order to avoid penalties as outlined above.

Payments are accepted at the clubhouse during business hours only (as posted at the office). Only certified checks will be accepted by those submitting payment in person at the clubhouse. Money orders and cash will not be accepted.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

SHORT TERM RENTALS ARE AGAINST HOA RULES

Did you know that listing your home on a short-term vacation rental site, such as VRBO or Airbnb, is against our community's Rules & Regulations? According to our covenants, any lease of a dwelling unit shall be for the whole dwelling unit — and not some portion thereof — and shall be for a period of not less than three (3) consecutive months. If a homeowner is found to have listed their residence on such a site, they will be immediately fined and asked to remove the listing. Fines will continue to be leveled for every additional day the listing remains active.

If you're aware of this happening at a residence in our community, please notify the Villages at Godley Station Homeowners Association board immediately.

HAVE A GREAT NEIGHBOR? TELL US ABOUT THEM!

We know our residents are doing amazing things in the community, and we want to showcase these wonderful folks! If someone you know exemplifies local service, volunteer activities or other methods for "giving back," we want to hear about them.

Email submissions to communications@godleyhoa.com and we might feature your nominee in our "Community Spotlight" feature in an upcoming edition of the Villages at Godley Station's newsletter.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY Community Service Hours Now Available

Do you know a student or community member looking to earn service hours for school or a civic organization? If so, we have plenty of things around the neighborhood that we could use a hand with, and we'd be happy to supply signed documentation or an official letter to show that service hours were logged with us.

A minimum of 10 hours must be completed to receive credit. Various tasks may include trash pick-up, mowing lawns, landscape work, etc. This is geared toward students and no payments will be made - it is for community service credit only.

Please email our property manager, Pam, at propertymanager@godleyhoa.com if you are interested in helping out and earning service hours.



CLUBHOUSE & SAVANNAH ROOM RENTALS

MAKE YOUR PARTIES AND GET-TOGETHERS A BREEZE

Are you planning a party or a get-together? Why not take advantage of our clubhouse rentals to ensure your soiree attendees have plenty of space to enjoy the festivities — plus no worrying about making sure your home is spotless before the big day. The main room of the clubhouse is available for rentals after the pool closes on Oct. 31, and the Savannah Room is available at all times of the year. It's the perfect size for birthdays, gender reveal parties, baby and wedding showers, anniversary parties, and a variety of other celebrations.

The rentals are done on a first-come, first-served basis, and guests are required to follow a few rules when using the facilities:

- The Savannah Room can contain a maximum 30 people
- Savannah Room party may use kitchen and restrooms
- Savannah Room doors should remain closed or slightly ajar
- Party planners are not allowed to take furniture from main room into Savannah Room or from the Savannah Room into other areas of the clubhouse

- Party guests are not allowed to stay after party owner leaves
- Party organizers and guests are not allowed to use grills, pools, or sit on porches or pool deck.
- Party owners must completely clean up from the party, including emptying trash cans, wiping down surfaces, removing all decorations and sweeping the area.

In addition, the clubhouse is open for our guests to use for small, informal gatherings that do not occur on a regularly scheduled basis. For example, a group of residents who enjoy knitting, card playing or recipe swapping may gather from time to time at the clubhouse to partake of these activities. The clubhouse is not, however, to be used as a "home base" for regularly scheduled meetings, such as a Bridge Club, Scout Troop, Book Club, Instructional Class, etc. Classes are not allowed to be held at the Clubhouse under any circumstances if a fee or a "suggested donation" are requested. This is a violation of the HOA's Covenants.

For more information on using the clubhouse or the Savannah Room, please email our property manager at propertymanager@godleyhoa.com.

IT'S ELECTION TIME

CONCERNED CITIZENS:

CALL TO ACTION!

Tired of seeing trees being cut down?
Frustrated with traffic overflowing our streets?
**Yet another repeat business opening up
around the corner?**

Attend the POOLER CITY COUNCIL & PLANNING AND ZONING MEETINGS as often as possible and be a voice for our community – ***there is strength in numbers!***

CITY COUNCIL

meet at 6pm on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month

PLANNING & ZONING

meet at 3pm on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month.

Both meetings are located in the council chambers on the 3rd floor of Pooler City Hall. You can obtain the agendas for each meeting the Thursday prior to the meetings.

HOA 2020 BUDGET MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

All residents are cordially invited to attend the annual voting of the 2020 officers and 2020 budget meeting of the Villages at Godley Station Homeowners' Association. The meeting will be held from 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, November 14 at the community clubhouse, 306 N. Godley Station Blvd.

In accordance with the VGS Bylaws, the board has formed a Nominating Committee to present Association members a slate of qualified candidate(s) for election to the open board position(s). With the new covenants, we are not electing specific committee / board positions; board member positions are decided by the new board at the first meeting of the year.

The executive committee positions to be decided on are:

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

Non-Voting Board Members:

Finance Chair
Parliamentarian
Architectural Review



JOIN US FOR A POOLER CANDIDATE MEET-AND-GREET

1-3 P.M. SATURDAY, NOV. 2

The Villages at Godley Station Clubhouse

306 N. Godley Station Blvd.

Pooler, GA 31322

Meet the candidates for Mayor and Pooler City Council, learn more about their platforms, and enjoy light refreshments. **This free event is open only to RESIDENTS of the Villages at Godley Station.**

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS ARE NOV. 5, 2019

The City of Pooler's General Election is Tuesday, Nov. 5. The races to be decided are Mayor and all six City Council seats. Vying for the Mayoral post are Rebecca Benton, Adam Bridges and Steve Larson. Council candidates include Bruce Allen (incumbent), Shannon Black (incumbent), Aaron Higgins, Tom Hutcherson, Falgun "Pappu" Patel, John Wilcher and Karen Williams.

Polling places will be open from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. on Election Day, and early voting will be available at a number of Chatham County locations, including Pooler City Hall, starting Oct. 15. Pooler's two main polling places are Pooler City Hall and Rothwell Baptist Church. Residents are assigned a polling place based on their address, so voters are encouraged to check elections.sos.ga.gov ahead of the election to verify their status, precinct and polling location.

More information on the Pooler General Elections and voting in Chatham County is available at elections.chathamcounty.org.





WHAT'S NEW IN AND AROUND POOLER

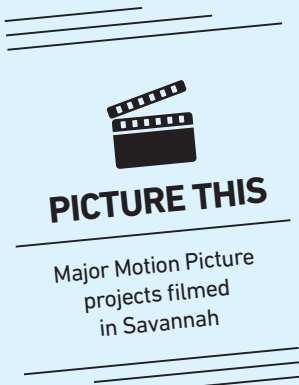
The following list is not complete and businesses planning to open in Pooler are subject to change. You can always monitor the local Pooler Planning and Zoning minutes at pooler-ga.us to find out what is being proposed and approved for our community.

RECENT OPENINGS 2019:

- **Gordon's Pharmacy** (Pooler Parkway)
- **New Papaya Thai and Sushi Bar** (Pooler Parkway)
- **The [TACO] Stache** (Savannah Quarters)
- **Which Wich** (Near Tanger Outlet Mall)
- **Tropical Smoothie Cafe** (Near Tanger Outlet Mall)
- **Aldi** (At Maxwell Drive and Towne Center Blvd.)
- **Woof Gang Bakery and Grooming** (Savannah Quarters)
- **Baldino's** (Benton Blvd.)
- **GBI Crime Lab** (Pooler Pkwy.)
- **Cafe Manna** (Highway 80, historic Pooler)
- **Dogley Station Pet Resort** (Pipemakers Circle)
- **Sawaddee Ka Thai Cuisine** (Canal Street)

COMING SOON 2019:

- **Deka Lash**
- **The Chocolate Bar**
- **Sola Salon Studios**
- **Vitali Med Spa**
- **Just Love Coffee**
- **Green Fire Pizza**
- **Savannah Coffee Roasters**
- **The Brass Tap**
- **Slapfish Restaurant**
- **Tequila's Town**
- **Mosaic Town Center** (rumored businesses include Starbucks & Costco)
- **Tin Drum Asian Kitchen**
- **Small Cakes: A Cupcakery**



The Poison Rose

Inspired by classic film noir, Carson Phillips, an ex-football star turned PI, has a soft spot for a lady in distress.

Directors: Francesco Cinquemani, George Gallo

Stars: Morgan Freeman, John Travolta, Brendan Fraser



Drama Drama

The most unlikely pairing of teenage girls end up bonding to form the pop group Drama Drama, and make a stand against bullying in their high school.

Director: Martin Guigui

Stars: Cheri Oteri, Cinta Laura Kiehl, Hunter Sansone

HELPFUL HALLOWEEN TIPS



Halloween is fun, so we won't muddy it up with a bunch of rules. But here are a few tips to stay safe, look like a good neighbor and enjoy your night whether you're passing out treats or accompanying trick-or-treaters:

1. Leave your light off if you: a) don't participate in Halloween b) aren't going to be home c) ran out of candy. If you don't plan to hand out candy and your porch or garage lights are on a timer, remember to disconnect it before Oct. 31!
2. Think twice before leaving candy outside unsupervised. Sure, we know it's a gesture of goodwill toward the neighborhood kids if you're not home, but there will most likely be one "hungry" little trick-or-treater who will help themselves to more than their fair share. Plus other kiddos are disappointed when they see the empty bowl.
3. Don't forget to say trick-or-treat, please and thank you! Good manners will take you far. So if you're trick-or-treating with your kids, encourage polite behavior. It makes it much more pleasant for those passing out candy.
4. Be extra cautious. It's dark. There are kids everywhere, so if you're driving, pay extra-close attention to the road. If you're walking around, pay attention at all times — you want to see and be seen!
5. Clear a path so your walkway is easy to navigate. It saves your plants from getting trampled and makes it safer for little kids that are headed up your stairs or walkway. Lights don't hurt either. Parents will appreciate it.



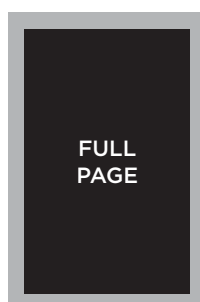
6. Don't hand out homemade treats. One of the No. 1 rules of trick-or-treating is that you're not supposed to eat anything that is unwrapped. If you like to make cute Halloween handouts, please use pre-wrapped candy to make a craft, like Blow Pop ghosts.

ADVERTISE IN THE VILLAGES AT GODLEY STATION NEWSLETTER

In an effort to increase revenue for the HOA, we are now allowing advertising in our newsletter.

Next Issue: April/May 2020 - Spring/Summer Issue (Ad submission deadline April 1, 2020)

AD TYPE	AD SPECS	AD RATES	
¼ Page (smallest ad available)	3.875" x 5.125"	Non-Resident: \$100	Resident: \$80
½ Page	7.875" x 5.125"	Non-Resident: \$150	Resident: \$120
Full Page	5.125" x 10.375"	Non-Resident: \$200	Resident: \$160



For complete information on ad submission, format and guidelines, please contact the Communications Manager at communications@godleyhoa.com or visit our website at godleyhoa.com.

The Villages at Godley Station Resident Newsletter is published Bi-Annually. Edited by Kat Scandura, Communications Director for the Villages at Godley Station HOA

SOCIAL MEDIA ETIQUETTE: INTERACTING WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS

The Villages at Godley Station has been working hard recently to amp up our social media presence as a method of communicating with our residents and allowing them to communicate with each other. We currently have accounts or pages on Facebook, Instagram and NextDoor. If you're not already following us, please consider doing so.

When communicating with the HOA or your neighbors through these formats, it's important to remember that they are among the most public and visible of digital forums. Social media is a valuable tool and may seem like an informal setting, but those accounts should be treated with the same respect as any public place of business. Professionalism is imperative — if you wouldn't say it in a social or work setting, don't say it online.

Here are some helpful tips to keep in mind when interacting with others on social media. By following a few handy guidelines, your online experiences will remain positive and you'll stay in your neighbors' good graces!

- Maintain a positive tone and attitude. Negativity, complaints, condescending messages, poor spelling, punctuation, grammar and choice of words can reflect poorly upon the poster. Proofread all communications before sending.
- Do not use foul or inappropriate language or trade insults or sharp words with other posters. Utilize private messaging instead of hashing

out an argument online where all residents can watch it transpire.

- Be advised that conversational nuances and subtle shifts in tone or personality may be lost in the translation to digital, and individual users may interpret messages differently. Consider how posts will be read and perceived before sending. Note to outspoken individuals: Sharing extremely-opinionated viewpoints (e.g. political leanings or thoughts on controversial topics) can be a lightning rod. Think twice before posting such opinions, which can incite and aggravate others.
- Understand that various online forums (social networks, blogs, digital communities) have their own rules of conduct, social norms and methods of interaction. Before utilizing one, take a moment to step back and observe how interactions take place, so you can discern appropriate rules of posting, sharing and behavior.
- Bear in mind that more employers and job recruiters are turning to online search engines to research prospective partners and hires — be aware of the results that come up, including potentially damaging or embarrassing content, comments and links. It will help you in your efforts to build and maintain a positive online reputation to post helpful, high-quality content that's of service to others.

- Some excerpts in this article are from a Mashable.com article by Scott Steinberg

**WHEN YOU CALL US, YOU ARE SUPPORTING OUR FAMILY.
IN GRATITUDE, WE WOULD NEVER TREAT YOU LESS THAN FAMILY.
GUARANTEED RELIABILITY, HONESTY, AND QUALITY WORKMANSHIP.**



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POOLER HISTORY

EST. 1907

The Canals of Pooler

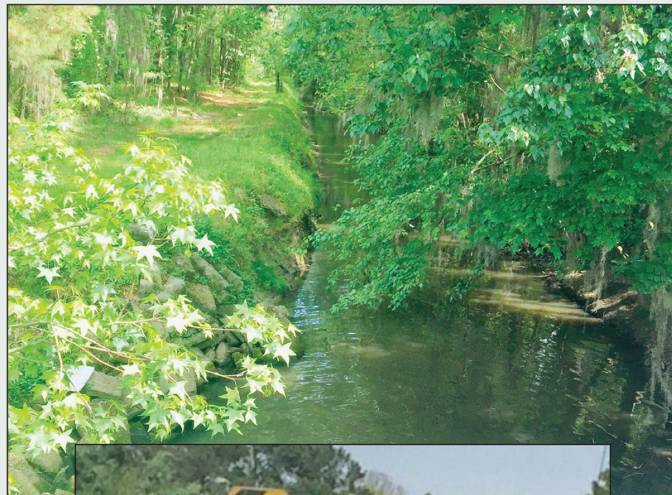
The City of Pooler has three significant canals that were built specifically for drainage, flood control and to eradicate mosquitoes. They are **Pipemakers Canal**, **Hardin Canal** and **Quacco Canal**.

In the early 1800's, it became known that mosquitoes were the cause of yellow fever and malaria. The Chatham County Drainage Act was created in 1876 after a yellow fever epidemic killed 1,000 people. The historic **Savannah-Ogeechee Canal** with six locks was built in 1830 specifically for barge transportation from the Ogeechee River to the Savannah River. It traverses the City of Pooler specifically at Tom Triplett Park where Lock number three is located.

The Hardin Canal

The Hardin Canal was created about 1930 by the W.P.A. (Works Project Administration) to drain the Hardin Swamp, to eradicate mosquitoes and for flood control. The Hardin Swamp is located west of Bloomingdale and south of U S Hwy 80 in Effingham County. The area was thought to have been owned by the "Harden" family who were prominent citizens of Bryan County and Savannah. Years ago the name Harden was misspelled as "Hardin" in a newspaper article which was never corrected and used thereafter.

The journey of the Hardin Canal to the Atlantic Ocean is long and winding. It begins near the Little Ogeechee River in Effingham County. Georgia's second Little Ogeechee River is located in Hancock County near Sparta. The Hardin Canal flows east, southeast, under Osteen Rd, through Bloomingdale under US 17, under Wild Cat Dam Rd, southeast, under Pooler Parkway, curves around the Pooler water treatment facility, under S. Rogers Street in Pooler, under Pine Barren Rd, under I-95 and I-16, through Southbridge, south a long distance, then it spreads out into three streams. One stream flows under and one stream flows beside Dean Forest Road. All 3 streams flow under Ogeechee Rd, then under Veterans Parkway, to the Ogeechee River, to Ossabaw Sound and to the Atlantic Ocean.



The Quacco Canal

The Quacco Canal begins as a small but very important part of a flood control drainage system that forms in the western Pine Barren Road area north of I-16 and west of Pooler Parkway. It flows east under Pooler Parkway on the north side of the I-16 exit, and continues east, under Memorial Drive, under Quacco Road, under I-95 and joins the Hardin Canal near I-95 on its way south to Ossabaw Sound and the Atlantic Ocean. In recent years the canal has needed major improvements to handle the increased demand for flood control. At the time of this article, that construction project was under way at Quacco Road.

The history of the naming of Quacco Road and Quacco Canal could not be found. However, in creole speaking cultures, names were giving to children that indicated the sex of the child and the day of the week on which they were born. Wednesday's child was given the name Quaco, Cubaor or Cubba. In tropical America a substance from the leaves of the Mikania quacco plant was sometimes used as an antidote for snake bites.



The Historic Savannah-Ogeechee Canal

POOLER HISTORY

EST. 1907

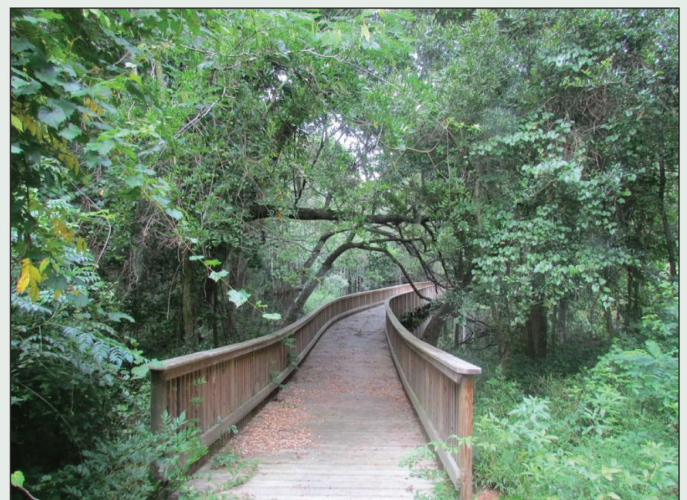
The 16.5 mile Savannah-Ogeechee Canal was Georgia's first canal and constructed between 1820 -1830 for the purpose of transporting lumber, cotton, rice, bricks, guano, naval stores and food crops between the inland areas near the Ogeechee River and Savannah. The initial construction funding came from the State of Georgia and Canal Company stock sales of 1556 shares at \$100 each. The labor was enslaved Africans of plantation owners who were paid for the slaves' services. When the slaves were needed to work on their plantations, the labor force expanded to local workers and 70 men from Ireland who were invited to emigrate and work on the canal. These men were the beginning of Irish settlers in Savannah. At the peak of construction there were 577 workers, about 90% African American and 10% white. The canal was completed in December 1830 at a total cost of \$190,000.

The Ogeechee River watershed is 10 feet lower than the Savannah River which required six locks to raise the barges up and down for passage. Three of the hand operated locks were built of bricks and three were made of wood. Each lock was 18 feet wide and 102 feet long and each had a lockkeeper's house. A towpath was made on the east side of the canal for horses and mules to pull the barges along and poles were also used. Barges paid a toll to use the canal. Between 1834 -1835, over 500 barges traveled through the canal. The canal played a role in the commerce and social life of local citizens. It was used for swimming, washing, bathing, playing, fishing, drinking and romancing. There was a scenic passenger barge for special occasions and the canal was sometimes used for church baptisms. The many businesses along the canal in Savannah provided jobs. Restaurants, taverns and dance halls opened up to serve the mixed race neighborhoods.

The route of the Savannah Ogeechee Canal begins at the Ogeechee River, runs northeast by Bush Road, under Little Neck Road, Little Ogeechee River at Half Moon Lake, under Quacco Road, I-16 & I-95, turns east on the southside of Tom Triplett Park in Pooler at Lock#3, under Dean Forest Road, I-516, under Louisville Road, into the Georgia Ports Authority and to the Savannah River. Some areas of the tow path along the canal are now nature trails and open for hiking. The Savannah-Ogeechee Museum has maps and information about the hiking trails.

The Ogeechee River is a 294-mile-long blackwater river that begins at its North and South Forks, about 2.5 miles south-southwest of Crawfordville, Taliaferro County, GA south of I-20 and flows generally southeast to Ossabaw Sound about 16 miles south of Savannah. It is one of Georgia's free flowing rivers with no dams.

In the late nineteenth century the Savannah-Ogeechee Canal began a gradual decline. It suffered damage during the Civil War, heavy rain caused flooding and a yellow fever epidemic killed over 1,000 people. Canals were being built to drain swamps and stagnant wetlands to eradicate mosquitoes. Railroads were the new preferred transportation. In the 1880's The Central of Georgia Railroad began purchasing warehouses and wharves along the canal front in Savannah and by 1890 they owned 100% of the canal company stock. At that time, after 60 years of service, the Savannah-Ogeechee Canal became a part of local history.



The Pipemakers Canal

The Pipemakers Canal is a significant floodway that prevents storm water flooding and provides mosquito control. It begins west of Bloomingdale near US 80 and travels east 13 miles to the Savannah River. The name Pipemakers is a reference to the Indians making pipes from the clay found along the canal.

The history of the Pipemakers Creek begins at its confluence with the Savannah River near the historic site of the Yamacraw Indian Village. In 1750, this area contained five acre garden spots. By 1793, rice plantations had been established. Captain John Rae's Hall Plantation was purchased by Thomas Young who also owned Springfield Plantation. Thomas Gibbons owned Whitehall Plantation and Fair Lawn Plantation covering one mile of land along Pipemakers Creek. In 1834, to support his rice production, Thomas Gibbons made an agreement with Thomas Young to straighten the creek between the two properties into an 18 foot wide canal, creating Pipemakers Canal.

On Rae's Hall Plantation there was a six-acre prehistoric site known as the "Irene Mound" that was occupied from approximately 1100 A.D. until 1600 A.D. In 1736 German Missionaries from Moravia occupied the area and named the hill "Irene." The site also contained the home of a chief and his family. The mound was 25 feet high, 150-175 feet in diameter and eight separate archeological layers. In 1937 the U S Government decided to excavate the "Irene Mound" in search of early history of the area. W.P.A. (Worker's Progress Administration) and many government organizations, museums, carpenters, researchers, scientist, and skilled and unskilled workers were employed for the excavation which took two years, finishing in 1937. About 80% of the unskilled workers were African American unskilled women who toiled at the task of delicately excavating human Indian and animal bones, shards of pottery and pipes. A 1941 report states 40 burials, 170 pottery vessels and thousands of potshards were found. The skeletons are now at the Smithsonian Institution. Lack of a proper storage facility prevented the artifacts to return to Chatham County so they were placed at the Ocmulgee Indian



Mounds National Monument in Macon

By 1817, people became more aware that mosquitoes were the carrier of diseases such as malaria and yellow fever. Efforts were made to drain swamps and eliminate standing water in marshy areas to prevent the outbreaks of mosquito born diseases. An ordinance was passed to prohibit rice cultivation near Savannah. In 1876 Georgia had a yellow fever epidemic that killed 1,000 people, and the Chatham County Drainage Act was created. By 1889, 21,000 acres had been drained and 34 miles of ditches and a system of 3 canals had been dug, using the W.P.A. work program, including Pipemakers Canal which was extended inland. Many flood control improvements have been made over the years.

Pipemakers Canal is included in the Chatham County Greenway Program offering many segments of the canal service roads for hiking and nature trails. Caution: These trails are natural environments and tall vegetation, snakes, alligators, insects and other wildlife may be present. Avoid private property and entering the canal is unsafe and prohibited.

The 13 mile journey of Pipemakers Canal: From West Bloomingdale it travels east, near Towne Lake subdivision, turning

south, around the Pooler Sports Complex, flows under the pedestrian bridge and Pooler Parkway, east and south of Tanger Outlet Mall, through a catchment basin, under I-95, across Crosswinds Golf Club, south of SAV/HH Airport, east under Dean Forest Road, Hwy 21, Hwy 25, to the GA Ports Authority, to a Savannah River Tidal Gate that controls tidal and storm surge from the canal and the river. The Savannah River carries the canal water to the Atlantic Ocean.



Story and photos provided by The Arbors resident Jean Williams.



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