



# Thomasville Police Department

921 Smith Avenue Thomasville, GA 31792  
Criminal Investigations Division: (229) 227-3302  
Communications Center (24 hours): (229) 226-2101 or 911

## Media Release

As spring and summer arrive, residents of City of Thomasville are spending more time outdoors enjoying the weather, gathering with friends and family, and participating in seasonal events such as the Rose Show festivities. The Thomasville Police Department encourages everyone to celebrate safely and respectfully while being mindful of neighbors and the community.

The Police Department would like to remind citizens that any event expected to draw large crowds must be properly permitted through the City of Thomasville before taking place. Detailed instructions for obtaining a permit can be found on the city's website: <https://thomasville.org/parks-and-recreation/outdoor-event-application>.

### **An event permit is required if:**

- Attendance exceeds 100 people
- The event is held at a city park or city-owned facility
- The event takes place on a city street or right-of-way

### **Additional requirements include:**

- Payment of a permit fee
- Proof of liability insurance
- Submission of the application at least 30 days in advance
- Review by the city to determine needs such as:
  - Law enforcement presence
  - Electrical services
  - Trash receptacles
  - Other logistical considerations

This reminder comes in response to several unpermitted "block parties" in recent years that have drawn crowds of 300 or more people. These events have created unsafe conditions, including blocked roadways, illegal alcohol and narcotics use, and a lack of proper security. As a result, officers have responded to incidents ranging from disturbances to serious crimes, including assaults and even active shooting situations.

Emergency responders have also faced difficulty accessing individuals in need due to obstructed streets. Additionally, nearby residents have reported concerns about noise, litter, and unlawful behavior. When organizers fail to comply with permitting requirements or control unlawful activity, law enforcement may be forced to intervene, which can include dispersing crowds, making arrests, and using less-lethal measures when necessary.

The Thomasville Police Department fully supports community celebrations and wants everyone to enjoy themselves. However, event organizers must follow proper procedures and take responsibility for their events. Failure to do so may result in criminal charges, including unlawful assembly.

**The goal is simple: celebrate, but do so safely, legally, and with respect for the entire community.**



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## PARK RESERVATION

- Park reservations can be made for the Big Oak Gazebo, Thomasville Rose Garden Gazebo, Cherokee Lake Park Pavilion #1, and Francis Weston Park Pavilion. Any other areas are available on a first come-first serve basis.
- A park reservation is \$50 for up to four hours of use. Additional hours over four can be reserved at a cost of \$15 per hour.
- Reservations must be made 10 days in advance.
- Events over 100 people will require an event permit.
- Permits can be completed online at [Thomasville.org/ParkReservation](http://Thomasville.org/ParkReservation). Call (229) 227-7059 or email [reservepark@thomasville.org](mailto:reservepark@thomasville.org) for additional information.

## EVENT PERMIT

- An event permit is required if your event will host over 100 people and will be held at a city park, city event facility, or on a city street/right of way (i.e. run or walk throughout the community).
- The event permit fee is \$25 with proof of \$1 million liability insurance coverage.
- Event permits must be completed 30 days in advance.
- City of Thomasville staff will review the permit and setup any additional meetings and provide direction concerning event special requests such as police personnel, additional electric needs, trash receptacles, etc.
- Non-profit organizations hosting events can apply for a one-day alcohol permit.
- Call (229) 227-7059 or email [outdoorpermits@thomasville.org](mailto:outdoorpermits@thomasville.org) for a permit application.

# THINGS TO KNOW WHEN APPLYING FOR A PARK RESERVATION, EVENT PERMIT, OR FACILITY RENTAL

## FACILITY RENTALS

- The City of Thomasville owns two event facilities available for reservations - The Ritz Amphitheater and Thomasville Municipal Auditorium.
- Rental rates range in price and depend on whether your event is a commercial or non-profit event.
- Reservations must be made at least 60 days in advance.
- City of Thomasville staff will setup additional meetings and provide direction concerning event requests such as: police personnel, sound and lighting needs, trash receptacles, etc.
- Non-profit organizations can apply for a one-day alcohol permit for events at The Ritz Amphitheater.
- Deposit and insurance is required to sign a rental contract.
- Call (229) 228-7977 or email [facility.rentals@thomasville.org](mailto:facility.rentals@thomasville.org) for additional information or to complete a rental application.

## ONE-DAY ALCOHOL PERMIT

- Non-profit organizations can apply for a one-day alcohol permit.
- Application must be made 30 days in advance.
- Call (229) 227-3250 or email [licensing@thomasville.org](mailto:licensing@thomasville.org) for additional information.

  
thomasville.org



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