



## Residents Highlight Community Events, Recreation Needs and Agricultural Programs During Public Comment

Posted on January 12, 2026 by Carey Fauscett-Anderson

**TRENTON, Ga. (Jan. 12, 2026)** — Dade County residents and community representatives addressed the Board of Commissioners during citizen participation at the January meeting, sharing updates on local events, recreational programming and agricultural initiatives.



Audrey Clark opened public comment by thanking organizers, volunteers and sponsors who supported the county's Christmas Parade. She also invited residents to attend the Bank of Dade's 70th anniversary celebration, scheduled for Monday, Jan. 12, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., noting the bank's long-standing presence and community involvement in Dade County.

### Pickleball Anyone?



Several speakers representing the Optimist Club — including Jane Dixon, Sandy White, Leisa Cagle and Rita Lawson — promoted a pickleball clinic scheduled for March 21 and discussed growing interest in expanded pickleball facilities within the county. Speakers highlighted increasing participation in the sport and expressed interest in additional outdoor courts as well as the potential for an enclosed court space to support year-round play.

During the discussion, speakers referenced SPLOST as a possible funding source for future recreation improvements, noting that recreation facilities are among the types of capital projects commonly supported through the program. Commissioners listened to the comments and thanked speakers for their input and engagement.

Stephen Bontekoe also addressed the commission, providing an update on a USDA-supported regenerative agriculture program. Bontekoe encouraged interested producers to apply and noted that the application deadline is Jan. 15. He said the program is designed to support sustainable agricultural practices and expand opportunities for local farmers.

Citizen participation concluded with commissioners expressing appreciation for residents who took the time to share information and ideas, reinforcing the role of public comment in informing county priorities and decision-making.

