

SUMMERVILLE

MEDIA PROFILE

Contact: Sylvia-Lee Kaziah, President
Chattooga Co. Chamber of Commerce
706-857-4033 www.chattoogacounty.org

Tucked away...

... in the serenity of the Northwest Georgia Mountains is a community of spectacular beauty and relaxed living. Chattooga County offers residents a comfortable mountain lifestyle with the advantage of three metropolitan areas within easy driving time—Atlanta, Birmingham and Chattanooga. This allows residents to have significant options for entertainment, dining and shopping. Small towns and spacious country sides make up Chattooga County with plenty of land to roam and enjoy. Families will find that it is an excellent place to live, work and play.

Attractions and Historic Sites

James H. “Sloppy” Floyd State Park—Two lakes, cabins and camping, fishing and a nature trail to an old mine. Georgiastateparks.org

Dowdy Park—downtown Summerville

- **Summerville Depot**—site of HBO film *Warm Springs*.
- **Couey House**—authentic log cabin relocated to downtown
- **Railroad Turntable**—a unique site for all visitors, not just rail fans. Construction completed in 2003, Summerville was now ready for train excursions to and from Chattanooga. Summervillega.org

Paradise Gardens—located in Summerville, the county seat of Chattooga County, there exists a place like no other... A place called Paradise Gardens. The Gardens was created by folk artist Howard Finster, and sits on a four acre plot of land that is now, quite simply, a work of art... a masterpiece in it's own right. Included on the property are the Gardens, a museum, the Finster Folk Art Gallery, and of course, the World's Folk Art Chapel.
www.ParadiseGardenFoundation.org



Did you know?

Chattooga County's main industry, textiles, began in 1846 when three entrepreneurs established the Trion Manufacturing Company. The three men named their factory and town in honor of their partnership. The Town of Trion grew up around the mill and is said to be one of the first towns in Georgia to have electricity for its industry and to have the first long-distance telephone in the state. Mount Vernon Mills, Inc boasts of being one of the World's largest producers of denim in one location.

Story Ideas

Howard Finster and Paradise Gardens—The Gardens were begun by Howard in 1961 before he received his vision telling him to create sacred art in 1976. Years of compiled art make up the maze of structures and sculptures, and everything in the Gardens has a meaning. Incorporating all kinds of recycled materials into his art, Howard used bottles, glass, mirrors, cement, bathtubs, toilets, "garbage" such as rusted bicycle frames and cast off jewelry... you name it, it's there.

Howard had an amazing way of combining text and strong visual forms, so that you have no doubt about his evangelical purpose. His calling as a preacher comes to life at Paradise Gardens, and by using his art, he created sermon after sermon. Of visual art, he said, "*Visual art is a great thing. It draws the attention of people. That's what people's work does. It preaches for them after they're gone.*" Yes... it certainly does.

Real-life "Matlock" —Summerville's own criminal defense attorney Bobby Lee Cook has been reported to be the inspiration behind the creation of the TV character "Matlock." Cook's reputation of winning his cases have brought him clients ranging from bootleggers and moonshiners, the Carnegies and Rockefellers to Savannah socialite Jim Williams of "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil."

Annual Events

Finster Fest
Steam Into Summerville Railroad Days
Rattling Gourd Art Festival
Victorian Christmas

Media Services

Information packet
Photos
Tour for visiting travel writers

