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SEPTEMBER 2021

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September 2021

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### On the Cover

Chris and Casey Geiger promise to make each accident victim they represent, their firm's top priority. Casey gives each client his cell number, with the promise he'll answer at any time throughout the process.

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*Photos by Beth Fornuto Photography*



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# Around Canton

## Letter From the Editor

I may or may not drive my coworkers crazy at times. Well, I know the answer to that, but I didn't let it stop me! My latest request of each member of the Aroundabout Local Media team was to find an elementary school picture we could use on our staff page (Page 56). It's been a minute since I was a student, so I had to dig to the bottom of my mom's cedar chest, and sort through envelopes of old photos to find mine. Thankfully, there were a couple, and, yes, (you know who you are), they did have color pictures when I was a kid! Here's the proof.

I thought this would be a fitting way to commemorate National School Picture Day, which is Sept. 9 this year. We'd love for you to get in the spirit by sharing your school photos, use @AroundCantonMagazine for Facebook, and @around\_canton for Instagram. Let's see if we can start a social media wave of pictures of awkward adolescents with toothless grins and bad hairdos.

Congratulations on surviving August's back-to-school rush! We love sharing those first-day photos, images you snapped just before walking your student to the bus, or heading out the door for carpool. See Pages 18-19 for this month's dose of cuteness.

I'm hoping the collection of breakfast recipes on Pages 20-21 will give you some new ideas for fueling your children — and yourselves — at the start of each day. And, don't forget to have fun in the kitchen!

Another reason to love this time of year — other than my birthday, of course — is the advent of fall sports. (Sorry for the personal plug — remember, I am a spoiled-rotten only child who shamelessly takes advantage of every opportunity to get presents.) Local high school coaches share their thoughts on the season, beginning on Page 42. I admit that I'm envious that girls now have the chance to play flag football. I love watching football, and I'm sure it would be a blast to be part of a high school team. However, a church league softball coach once nicknamed me Dry Creek because, as he so eloquently put it, I run slower than a dry creek. So, maybe that wouldn't be the sport for me. Hey, I may be spoiled, but I am humble!

As we move into fall and start to think about Thanksgiving and Christmas, take a moment to show your thankfulness for the small businesses that make our community great. And, as always, I'm thankful for our readers and advertisers who support us each month.

## Kindness Challenge of the Month

**Two Thumbs Up:** Write a positive review for a local, small business you love. Reviews can be posted on various websites or on the business' individual social media pages. This benefits the local business and potential customers.



*Candi Hanniga*

*Candi Sitton attended Centerville Elementary School in Anderson, SC. Little did this skinny kid with short hair know she'd be executive editor of an amazing organization like Aroundabout Local Media one day. Share your school photos on Facebook and tag @aroundcantonmagazine!*

## Welcome!

**Kelly Black** is joining the Aroundabout Local Media (ALM) team as chief strategist. Kelly will be developing and implementing strategies for the growth of ALM and will be responsible for sales for Around Canton.



## What's New

The new playground at **The Children's Haven** is an inclusive space where children in foster care can connect with each other and bond with family members. [www.cherokeechildrenshaven.org](http://www.cherokeechildrenshaven.org).

## What's Coming

**J. Christophers** Breakfast and Lunch restaurant is opening next to 7 Tequilas on Riverstone Parkway. No opening date was available at press time.

Also new to Canton will be a **Bath & Body Works**, next to Rack Room in Canton Marketplace. No opening date available.

## What's Moved

**Michael Thomas' Farmers Insurance** office has moved to 150 North St., Suite B. 678-880-9985. [www.farmersagent.com/mthomas5](http://www.farmersagent.com/mthomas5).

## Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cuttings



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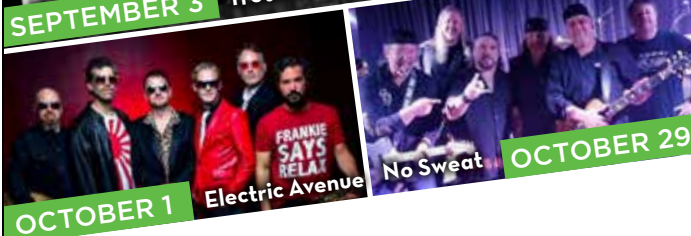
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Around Canton, a publication of Aroundabout Local Media, Inc., is a monthly magazine created to help local businesses grow and prosper by offering affordable advertising opportunities in a quality publication that provides positive, relevant information to our readers.

A total of 17,200 free copies are distributed monthly; approximately 16,800 are mailed to homes and businesses, with an additional 400 placed in racks around the community. Many readers catch the latest edition online each month.

Around Canton welcomes your comments, stories and advertisements. The deadline is the 10th of each month.

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### Around Canton

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Volume 9, Issue 6

America's Community Magazine





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# Local News

## Holly Springs Town Center Construction Begins

At press time, construction was set to begin on the new Holly Springs Town Center near the intersection of Hickory Road and Holly Springs Parkway. At the heart of the development will be a new city hall, a 16,00-square-foot, three-story brick and stone design with an iconic clock tower and early 20th-century architecture. An outdoor amphitheater will be built opposite city hall, and connected by Market Plaza and Grand Lawn, where festivals, markets and community events will be held. More than 30,000 square feet of restaurant and retail space will surround the area, as well as townhomes for sale, and lofts for lease.

“We’ve envisioned the new Holly Springs Town Center as a vibrant setting with a diversity of places, activities and experiences for our community to enjoy, a true city center” Holly Springs Mayor Steven W. Miller said. “A lot of careful planning and preparation has gone into creating a fresh new destination that also honors our city’s long history and strong sense of community. So now we are excited to begin to see that vision come to life.”

For more details, connect on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter or online at [www.HollySpringsTownCenter.com](http://www.HollySpringsTownCenter.com).



*Architect rendering of the new Holly Springs City Hall.*



*A visit to the fire training center gives teachers a close-up look at firefighting.*



*STEM teachers try on protective clothing.*

## New STEM Class Introduces Students to Firefighting Careers

Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services recently became a part of the program to educate middle-school students about fire dynamics. Firefighters go into the classrooms to do live fire experiments, with teacher supervision, using items like candles and shoeboxes. A recent visit to the Cherokee County Fire Training Center introduced STEM teachers to the intricacies of firefighting by going through different scenarios.

The goal is teaching students about the origins and causes of fires, the basic science of fire in how it behaves and the evidence that it leaves behind. Students learn how to read a fire scene, build a claim for the fire’s location of origin and cause, and defend their claim to a fire investigator.

The initiative is part of the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) Xplorlabs program, which focuses on engaging middle-school students during a time in their education when interest in science is shown to decrease dramatically. The Xplorlabs Fire Forensics: Claims and Evidence module is offered as part of the eighth-grade STEM Connections course at all Cherokee County School District middle schools.



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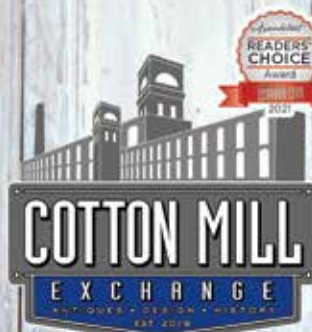
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# Local News

## Give a Kid a Chance



Give a Kid a Chance — Cherokee wrapped up its 15th year with a drive-through event at Hillside United Methodist Church in Woodstock and Canton First Baptist Church. The event was limited to a drive-through because of the pandemic. In Cherokee County, 2,000 new backpacks filled with supplies were given away free. In Pickens County, the group distributed 500. For more information, and to learn how to help, visit [www.giveakidachance.org](http://www.giveakidachance.org).





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# Local News

## Downtown Canton is Getting Decked Out

Starting in November, Cherokee County will begin construction of a new 586-space parking deck on the surface lot behind the historic marble Cherokee County Courthouse and to the west of the Judicial Center. Construction should take 12-14 months; the deck will be available 24/7.

This project is in addition to the city of Canton parking deck at Archer and Church streets that will start in October, with completion estimated for spring 2022. The deck will feature two independent levels: the bottom level accessible from Archer Street and the second (or top) level accessible from behind City Hall. Both levels will be covered, with the top level roof featuring a solar array. The deck will also feature 10 electric car charging stations.



*Aerial rendering of the new parking deck behind the historic marble Cherokee County Courthouse.*



## Canton Police Connects with Community

The Canton Police Department met with community members recently at the YMCA of Cherokee County for its monthly event, Coffee with a Cop.

This event is an ongoing outreach that allows officers and residents to connect, engage, problem solve, and build important trusting relationships, which are vital to improving the quality of life for everyone in the community.

## Plans Progress for New Rec Center at Veterans Park

The Cherokee County Board of Commissioners recently approved a construction agreement for the LB Ahrens Recreation Center at Cherokee Veterans Park, and an agreement for the Northeast Cherokee Parks Master Plans.

The first phase of the recreation center, known as The Buzz in honor of former Commission Chairman LB “Buzz” Ahrens, includes a double gym, open fitness area, climbing wall, two classrooms, aerobics/dance studio, a large meeting hall with catering kitchen and an office suite, along with accompanying restrooms, and mechanical, electrical and storage areas. The construction services contract also includes a secondary parking lot, pedestrian crossing to the park playground, and infrastructure for electric vehicle charging stations.

The board also approved an agreement with TSW for the creation of the Northeast Cherokee Parks Master Plans, which includes master plans for three different parcels. Planning will be for the 102-acre parcel in Free Home for the future E.W. and Edith Cochran Park, the 532-acre parcel on Yellow Creek Road along the Etowah River, and the 23-acre parcel on Ball Ground Road at the Etowah River.



*The Buzz, as the new rec center will be called, is an addition to Cherokee Veterans Park.*



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## City's Newest Initiative Engages the Next Generation

One of Canton Mayor Bill Grant's goals is to give "the next generation as many reasons to love the city of Canton as much as we do." To this end, he has created a program called CanTeen, an active engagement outreach to high school students in Canton.

The initiative is designed to create opportunities for youth leadership through volunteerism, service and giving input on policy issues. Participants will collaborate to identify youth issues in the community and help develop positive solutions.

Leading the effort are Laney Cline, Kenzie Rodriguez and Sophia Melbourne, who were chosen because of their diverse backgrounds, enthusiasm for engagement and interest in moving Canton forward for younger citizens. Sophia was on the original advisory board as a freshman, and she has provided a lot of leadership.

It's imperative, Grant said, to make Canton a city to which our youth will want to return once their secondary education is completed. He hopes to get started, as soon as the pandemic subsides, by conducting a citywide CanTeen Town Hall meeting in a fun setting "to actively listen to our teenage citizens about their concerns and future hopes and dreams for our city."

### What is CanTeen?

**Laney:** CanTeen is a youth involvement organization working alongside the city of Canton to better incorporate teens and teen input. This initiative is led by three CanTeen Council members, Sophia Melbourne, Kenzie Rodriguez and me. Though CanTeen is just getting started, we seek to get as many teens involved as possible and host lots of diverse events, catered to teens, and showcasing Canton's finest features. CanTeen is a unique opportunity for the youth of Canton to learn more about their local government, and connect with and lead alongside others.

### What is CanTeen looking to showcase about Canton?

**Kenzie:** Through CanTeen, we want our council to display all of the wonders of our small town in a way that can be exciting while stimulating new interests among teens in the community. Whether it be showcasing small businesses downtown, highlighting natural attractions around the city, or even generating more youth involvement in governmental aspects of Canton, CanTeen is an initiative that aspires to create a widespread interest in leadership and future community involvement well into our lives past adolescence. With the brand new events we hope to introduce to the city in the near future, we would be grateful to see more teenagers reach out to be a part of this program and facilitate these steps toward building a closer community in Canton.

CanTeen | @cantoncanteen





# WILL, in Canton!

## What are some projects the community can look forward to?

**Sophia:** CanTeen looks forward to bringing the community together to educate the younger generation on what their community has to offer. Our goal is to better Canton with teen initiative and ideas!

We look forward to holding Town Hall events open to all teens (and parents) of the community to share ideas for the future. These meetings will be similar to the city's official Town Halls with planning and open input. Town Hall will be a great opportunity to get to know the council members and leaders of Canton.

We plan on hosting community fun and productivity events as well! Working in community service projects, holding involvement meetings for business and scholarships around Canton, as well as entertainment and involvement nights to liven up the community are just a few of the ideas we have moving forward!

## How can youth in Canton get involved?

CanTeen Council is always looking for passionate teens with vision to join the team. We have lots of leadership opportunities in line and can't wait to see what the community steps up to the plate with. Come inspire us!

Contact the CanTeen Instagram page via DM @cantoncanteen. Our Twitter and Tiktok are under the same handle!

Kenzie



My name is Kenzie Rodriguez, I am a 16-year-old junior at Cherokee. My family moved to Canton in 2008 from Tampa, Florida. I aspire to become a production designer as I love art, entertainment and media. In my free time I enjoy writing, listening to music, and doing anything creative. I recently served as the sophomore public relations officer for student government, and am a part of Alpha Gamma.

Laney



My name is Laney Cline, I'm 16 years old and a junior at Cherokee High School. I'm an aspiring history major and lawyer. At school, I'm very involved in Alpha Gamma and other school clubs. I am the 4-H County Council president and a varsity tennis player. I love to sew, travel to national parks, and drink slushies. I have lived in Canton my whole life!



Sophia

My name is Sophia Melbourne, I'm 15 years old and currently a junior at Cherokee High School. In the future, I want to work in the biotech field. I love all things art and photography. I lived in Miami for eight years, I'm obsessed with frogs, and my favorite food is sushi. I joined CanTeen in my freshman year, and I've been passionate about improving Canton ever since.



*Among the volunteers: Oscar Pickens, Latwinda Barron, John Thomas, Toria Byrd, Janiya Byrd, Glenda Elrod, Ja'Kiyah Keith, Denise Watts Gay, Emma B. Watts, Pastor Ferrun Johnson, Irwin Yarberry, Dean Gearing, Melissa Thomas, Daphne Morris-Parker, Sylvia Forsh-Baker and Chester Forsh.*

# St. Paul A.M.E is on The Move!

St. Paul A.M.E Canton welcomed Reinhardt University students back to school by helping them move into their dorms.

"As a part of our college ministry, we partnered with Josh Garner at Reinhardt to let students know that we are here to support them as they return to college. We wanted parents and students to know that we are located in the community, and can provide support to them," Pastor Ferrun Johnson said.

"St. Paul is a place for students to express their faith along with spiritual growth; we want to be that church home away from home. We wish the students a healthy and successful school year at Reinhardt University."



*Birt Binion and St. Paul's Pastor Ferrun Johnson.*



*Pastor Ferrun Johnson and Chester Forsh help with a couch.*



*Daphne Morris-Parker, left, and Janiya Byrd help student Jamorad Keith get settled in his dorm.*



# Remote Storytime a Help to Teachers

The Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce Education Committee has developed a Remote Reader program, created by Chamber intern, Ashlyn Carroll, a 2021 Cherokee High School graduate.

The inspiration for the Remote Reader program was two-fold: to help teachers who may have fewer volunteers, and to expose students to local people reading to them.

"It was obvious, due to COVID-19, that opportunities to volunteer in our area schools were decreased this past year due to safety protocols. The Chamber staff also felt Remote Reader could assist teachers and parents by providing them with an online library of recordings to capture students' attention, fill a few minutes of class time, etc.," Chamber President and CEO Pam Carnes said.

## How it Works

If you're interested in being a reader, send a video to RemoteReader@CherokeeChamber.com, and a chamber representative will upload the video to the Remote Reader YouTube channel. Teachers will have access to these videos to share with their students. For more details, contact the Chamber at 770-345-0400 or Meagan@CherokeeChamber.com.

## A Few of the Suggested Books

- "The Very Hungry Caterpillar"  
by Eric Carle
- "Where the Wild Things Are"  
by Maurice Sendak
- "Go, Dog. Go!"  
by P. D. Eastman
- "Stellaluna"  
by Janell Cannon
- "Chicka Chicka Boom Boom"  
by Bill Martin Jr., John Archambault, Lois Ehlert
- "Bark, George"  
by Jules Feiffer
- "The Book With No Pictures"  
by B. J. Novak
- "Llama Llama Red Pajama"  
by Anna Dewdney
- "The Snowy Day"  
by Ezra Jack Keats
- "Paper Bag Princess"  
by Robert Munsch,  
Michael Martchenko
- "The Giving Tree"  
by Shel Silverstein
- "Are You My Mother?"  
by P. D. Eastman
- "Rainbow Fish"  
by Marcus Pfister
- "Goodnight Moon"  
by Margaret Wise Brown
- "Miss Rumphius"  
by Barbara Cooney
- "The Storm Book"  
by Charlotte Zolotow
- "Chrysanthemum"  
by Kevin Henkes
- "Brave as a Mountain Lion"  
by Ann Herbert Scott
- "Olivia"  
by Ian Falconer
- "Madeline"  
by Ludwig Bemelmans
- "Owl Moon"  
by Jane Yolen and  
John Schoenherr
- "A Bad Case of Stripes"  
by David Shannon
- "Swimmy"  
by Leo Lionni
- "Ruby the Copycat"  
by Peggy Rathmann



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# Celebrating Birthdays and Back to School!

We love helping parents celebrate the first day of school! If sending a photo to us has become a tradition for you, please email us at [edit@aroundaboutmagazines.com](mailto:edit@aroundaboutmagazines.com) and share your pre-kindergarten through senior class photos that we can include in next year's feature.



**Kayden Tan**  
Age 4 on Sept. 7  
Happy birthday to our little man!



**Yates Cook**  
Age 4 on Sept. 21  
Happy birthday, sweet girl!  
You make every day so special.  
We love you! Daddy, Mommy,  
Eleanor and McNeal



*Fourth-grader Colton and second-graders Hudson and Maddux, Holly Springs Elementary.*



*Second-grader Xavier Michael and his mom Nurse Renée, Holly Springs Elementary.*



*Sequoyah High junior Maya Tongue and Dean Rusk Middle sixth-grader Lily Tongue.*



*Sequoyah High sophomore Brooke Reagan and Dean Rusk Middle eighth-grader Ronnie Reagan.*





Landon Barnes, sixth grade, Creekland Middle.



Danielle (second grade) and Makenna (kindergarten) Day, Indian Knoll Elementary.



Charlotte (second grade), Katherine (kindergarten) and Lydia (fifth grade) Edwards, Hickory Flat Elementary.



Dean, kindergarten, Holly Springs Elementary.



Landon (freshman) and Anna (sophomore) Gregg, Sequoyah High.



Bree (kindergarten) and Genevieve (second grade), Holly Springs Elementary.



Agnes Rose Furilla, pre-kindergarten, Hasty Elementary.



Noah Barnes, second grade, Avery Elementary.



Will Miller, first grade, Holly Springs Elementary.



# The Most Important Meal of the Day

September is National Better Breakfast Month, so it's the perfect time to make an effort to begin your day with a complete breakfast, containing a balance of all the major food groups: protein, dairy, fat and carbs. And, just maybe ... a side of fruit, too? To celebrate, we gathered breakfast recipes from members of the community to help you start your day the right way.

## Brown Sugar French Toast Bake

*Dee Childers, Holly Springs*

This recipe is so good, I've been making it for 20 years. It's great to make ahead of time, because you refrigerate it overnight before baking.

### Ingredients

- 1 cup brown sugar, packed
- ½ cup butter
- 2 tablespoons corn syrup
- 1 loaf French bread, cut into 1-inch slices
- 5 eggs
- 1 ½ cups of milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

### Directions

Place the brown sugar, butter and corn syrup into a medium-sized saucepan, and heat over medium heat. Stir until heated. Spray a 13x9-inch baking dish with nonstick cooking spray, or lightly grease with vegetable oil. Pour the hot mixture into the baking dish. Place sliced bread over the mixture standing up, and push the bread slices close together. Beat the eggs; then add the milk and vanilla, mixing slightly. Pour the egg mixture over the bread, covering each slice well. Cover the baking dish with plastic wrap, and refrigerate overnight. The next morning, uncover and bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Serves 4 to 6.



## Texas Coffee Cake

*Samantha Humphreys, Woodstock*

This cake pairs perfectly with coffee. And if you like to sleep in, this recipe will help motivate you to get out of bed in the morning!

### Ingredients

- 4 eggs
- ¾ cup vegetable oil
- ½ cup sugar
- 8 ounces sour cream
- 1 teaspoon butter extract
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3 tablespoons light brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1 box yellow butter cake mix

### Directions

Heat the oven to 350 degrees. Combine eggs, cake mix, oil, sugar, sour cream, butter extract and vanilla extract in a large bowl. Mix well. Coat a bundt pan with baking spray. Pour ¾ of the batter into the pan. Reserve remaining batter. Mix brown sugar and cinnamon in a small bowl. Sprinkle this mixture into the bundt pan. Pour remaining batter on top. Bake for 45 minutes.



## Baked Bacon, Grits and Eggs

*Joy Owen, Holly Springs*

A different take on your typical breakfast casserole, this breakfast bake is a great weekend breakfast, or a quick and easy dish to make for Christmas morning. I often like to tweak the recipe and add sharp cheddar to my grits.

### Ingredients

- 1 cup of quick, white hominy grits
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 4 crisply cooked slices of bacon, crumbled
- 6 eggs
- salt and pepper to taste
- your favorite shredded cheese (optional)

### Directions

Heat the oven to 350 degrees. Prepare grits according to package directions. Stir in 2 tablespoons of butter and the bacon. (If you like cheesy grits, stir in your favorite shredded cheese to taste before pouring the grits in the baking dish.) Pour the grits mixture into an ungreased 11x7-inch baking dish. Make six depressions in the grits mixture with the back of a spoon, about 2 inches apart. Break one egg into each depression. Melt the remaining butter, and pour over the eggs. Sprinkle with pepper, if desired. Bake uncovered for 15-20 minutes, or until the eggs reach the desired doneness. (Sprinkle cheese on top of the eggs, if desired.) Serve hot.



## Good Morning Muffins

*Janis Forrester, Canton*

These muffins are full of flavor and protein. Although they might crumble a little, they are a quick and portable option for your kids to eat before school.

### Ingredients

- ½ pound sausage
- ¼ melted butter (or less if you reserve sausage drippings)
- 2 cups all purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 egg, slightly beaten
- 1 cup milk
- ½ cup grated cheese

### Directions

Heat the oven to 375 degrees. Use a medium pan to brown the sausage, stirring to crumble. Drain the sausage, and reserve the drippings in a glass measuring cup. Based on the measurement of the drippings, melt enough butter to make ¼ cup combined. Set aside. Combine flour, baking powder, salt and sugar in a medium bowl. In a separate bowl, stir together the egg, milk and butter/drippings. Add to dry ingredients, and stir to moisten. Fold in cheese and sausage. Spoon the mixture into a greased muffin pan, filling each tin ¾ full. Bake for 20 minutes. Makes one dozen muffins.

## The Best Buttermilk Biscuits

*Lisa McBurnett, Canton*

These biscuits are so easy to make! You don't have to settle for canned or frozen biscuits when you can make a batch that tastes just like grandma made them.

### Ingredients

- 1 stick frozen butter
- 1 cup buttermilk
- pinch of baking soda
- pinch of baking powder
- 2 ¼ cups self-rising flour

### Directions

Heat the oven to 450 degrees. Place flour, baking soda and baking powder into a large bowl. Grate butter into the flour mixture. Stir in the buttermilk. Use a large scoop (3 tablespoons) to drop batter onto a greased pan. Bake for 10-12 minutes, until golden brown.



## Hashbrown Casserole

*Jeannie Galanti, Woodstock*

This is a favorite recipe with my family. If you read the ingredients, you'll understand why. Potatoes, butter, cheese ... what's not to like?

### Ingredients

- 2 pounds frozen hash brown potatoes
- 1 stick butter (reserve)
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- ½ cup chopped onion
- 8 ounces sour cream
- 2 cups corn flake crumbs (reserve)
- 10 ounces sharp cheddar cheese, shredded

### Directions

Heat the oven to 350 degrees. Mix all ingredients together, except corn flake crumbs and butter, and place in a buttered, 13x9-inch casserole dish. Cover the mixture with the corn flake crumbs, and dot with the butter. Bake for 75 minutes.



## Café con Leche (Cuban Coffee with Milk)

*Christopher Markley, Ball Ground*

Who doesn't love coffee, milk and sugar? For this recipe, I use an aluminum stovetop 6-cup espresso coffee maker.

### Ingredients

- ½ cup sugar
- Café Bustelo espresso, dark roast ground coffee
- water
- whole milk

### Directions

Unscrew the top of the coffee maker. Set aside. Remove the coffee compartment from the top of the boiler, and fill to the top (even, like you would in a measuring cup) with Café Bustelo. Set aside. Fill the boiler with water, up to the bottom of the water release valve (or to the fill line, if your coffee maker has one). Then, replace the coffee compartment on top of the boiler, and screw the top of the coffee maker back on, tightly, so water can't escape. Place on a small burner on high heat.

Put the sugar into a large (at least a 4-cup), glass Pyrex measuring cup. Right when the coffee starts to brew (this means when it starts to flow up into the top section of the maker ... you can open the lid every 30 seconds or so to check) pour around 1-2 tablespoons of coffee into the sugar. Replace coffee maker on burner. Whisk the sugar mixture with a spoon, quickly until combined; it will turn a light caramel color when mixed sufficiently (this will give you that espresso flavor). Then, when the coffee is done (it will sound like it's boiling and start to steam), pour the rest of it into the sugar mixture. Mix well.

Microwave 4 coffee cups, filled ¾ full with milk (leave about 2 inches of room at the top of the mugs), for 2 ½ minutes or until warm to the touch. You want it to be at a good temperature to mix with the coffee, so you can drink immediately. If you want it warmer, microwave until it reaches your desired temperature. Pour the coffee mixture into the mugs of milk, until they are full. Serves 4 people.

# Preserving the Past for the Future

History Cherokee volunteers took advantage of the captive audience at this summer's Holbrook camp meeting to add to the audio archives recounting the history of our county.

In its 183rd year, the annual gathering attracts generations of families born and raised in Cherokee County. During the 10-day event, History Cherokee volunteers conducted 17 interviews with more than 35 participants from families whose ancestors have attended camp meeting as far back as 1838.

"Being able to collect stories from families who have been attending camp meetings since the early days is a phenomenal opportunity for us at History Cherokee to actively discover, celebrate and preserve this history for our community," said Kaylee Johnson, Collections and Exhibits Manager of History Cherokee.

Oral History Committee members collect and preserve stories from individuals who can share a different and unique perspective on a significant event or experience. History Cherokee holds more than 200 recorded stories resulting in conversations with World War II veterans, Canton Cotton Mill workers, ATF agents and individuals who experienced school integration in the 1960s.



*Volunteers gather in the arbor to scan old photos for their collection.*



*Anita Lathem is interviewed by History Cherokee volunteers.*



# County to Benefit from Day's Experience

BY HARRY JOHNSTON

Brantley Day is the county's new community development director. He replaces Geoff Morton, who recently was named county manager. Brantley comes to the county from the city of Woodstock, where he served in a similar role, and the city of Holly Springs prior to that.

It's a big job, second only to the county manager, in its scope. Brantley will manage the county's road work, engineering, development permitting, building inspection, and planning and zoning. These are all areas of strategic importance to the seventh-largest and second-fastest growing county in Georgia. There's much to be done, and we have high expectations.

We must continue to build on our recent momentum to improve roads. The state has stepped up to help with highways, and we've focused on keeping up local roads. But, it's an ongoing and growing challenge. We're working on a major update to the county's Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP), which will guide the county's road work for the next 25 years.

Immediately following the CTP update, we'll start the process to update the county's overall comprehensive plan. It's best known for its land-use component, which is the guide for managing the county's growth and development for the coming 25 years. This plan is the primary template against which rezoning requests are measured and decided. Absolutely nothing is more critical to our county's future than an effective plan to shape and reasonably restrain our growth, to make Cherokee County even greater.

However, for a land use plan to be effective, the cities have

to be part of it. We've seen the damage that comes from the cities and the county working at cross-purposes. Coming from Cherokee's largest city, Brantley is in a unique position to help us create a true countywide plan that we all can adhere to.

We also will look to Brantley's expertise for many other projects. For example, the county needs to finish a short-term rental ordinance to get control over the currently unregulated rental of residential properties for large parties and events. We also need to figure out how to manage the proliferation of self-storage units. And, we need to continue to find ways to encourage low-impact residential development by local builders, versus mass development by national companies.

On another note, county staff need to determine what, if anything, we can do to keep housing affordable for police, firefighters, starting teachers and other essential workers who find it tough to buy a \$350,000 home or pay \$1,500 per month for rent. This means

we need to decide whether to increase the development impact fee charged on new homes and other construction significantly, or not.

We know we can rely on Brantley as we tackle these issues, and many more. Welcome, Brantley!



*Brantley Day is Cherokee County's new community development director.*



*Harry Johnston is chairman of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners. He's a retired CPA and accounting manager, and a former district commissioner.*



## Thank you!

*"Thank you, Manor Lake, for welcoming my Mom and assisting us in getting her situated in her new home. After living alone the past 12+ years and having some health issues, this experience has given her new life, new friends, and new activities that she has needed for a long time. We have not seen her this happy in years!" — Pat D.*

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# Learn Emergency Essentials to Plan for Disasters

BY DANIEL WESTBROOK

September is National Preparedness Month, and emergency management agencies across the nation help prepare communities for disasters they may face year-round. There are actions you can take now to make sure your family, neighborhood and community are prepared should a disaster strike. Through prior planning and preparedness, residents can help make their communities more resilient.

## Make a Plan, Gather Supplies

Agree on an emergency action plan. Knowing where you and your family will go for safety and making a communication plan that details how you will contact others during a disaster are essential parts of an emergency plan of action. Disasters can occur with little or no advanced notice. That is why it is important for residents to have a plan in place before disasters strike. What will we do if we are separated? How will we take care of our pets? Where might we stay overnight if we can't go home? These are all good questions that need to be answered before a disaster. However, planning should not stop with your home. Make sure you know what you will

do at your job and when traveling.

Creating a disaster supply kit is another step to ready your family for an emergency. A disaster supply kit is a basic collection of household items, including water, food, flashlights, blankets, medication, essential documents and other necessities. Since disasters can heavily affect local infrastructure, first responders may not be able to reach everyone immediately. Therefore, residents should be prepared to take care of themselves for a couple of days after a disaster strikes. Review your kit annually to restock, and add new items a family member may need.

## Sign Up for Alerts

Cherokee County Emergency Management strongly recommends residents identify more than one way to receive a warning for weather events or critical alerts. Cherokee County offers a mass notification system called CodeRED to its residents. CodeRED provides critical communications such as evacuation notices, missing child alerts, and weather warnings. To sign up for CodeRED, please visit [www.cherokeeema.org/codered](http://www.cherokeeema.org/codered). Wireless Emergency Alerts on your smartphone, NOAA Weather Radio, local television media and weather apps for your smartphone are also excellent ways to receive an alert or warning.

Cherokee County also has outdoor warning sirens throughout the county. However, outdoor warning sirens should never be your primary source of receiving an alert of a tornado warning. Most homes and buildings are designed to keep sounds out; thus, outdoor warning sirens are most useful for alerting people who are outside of their home, in parks or shopping areas.

Throughout September, Cherokee County Emergency Management will provide additional preparedness information on its Facebook (@CherokeeEMA) and Twitter (@ema\_CherokeeGA) accounts. Preparedness information can also be found on our website at [www.cherokeeema.org](http://www.cherokeeema.org) by clicking on the Are You Ready? icon.



*Daniel Westbrook is the director of the Cherokee County Emergency Management Agency and has been with the agency since 2016.*



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# EVERYDAY *Angels*

*Identifying people in need  
in our community.*

After the challenging 2020-21 school year, Drew and Vianca Davis took their five children to Naples, Florida, to visit family for vacation. Four days into their trip, Malachi, 8, began complaining of headaches coupled with intermittent vomiting. “We treated the symptoms, but nothing seemed to work for him,” Vianca said.

“On Memorial Day weekend, in an abundance of caution, Drew and I decided we should take Malachi to the emergency room while my mom and stepdad were caring for our other children. We asked them if they could do a CT scan. Thankfully, the doctor complied with our request. As we sat in the emergency room with our sweet boy, our doctor entered the room and asked Drew and I to step outside. The doctor led us down the hall to a computer screen displaying the scan of Malachi’s brain. The scan was horrifying and revealed a tumor the size of a softball, although we didn’t really know what we were seeing,” Vianca said. “The doctor then gently asked us which hospital we would like to have him life-flighted to – Miami or Tampa? There was no time to waste. We immediately began to cry out to our God in prayer.”

“They allowed me to fly with Malachi to Miami’s Nicklaus Children’s Hospital. Upon our arrival, our son was admitted into the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, where we were met by the on-call doctor, renowned pediatric neurosurgeon, Dr. John Ragheb, who is not only the hospital’s chief pediatric neurosurgeon but also the president of the American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgeons. We knew God was going before us. The power of HIS presence was evident from the very moment this nightmare began,” Vianca said.

Dr. Ragheb performed a delicate 14-hour surgery on Malachi’s tumor in an attempt for total resection. The surgery was successful, and the tumor was sent to UCLA for pathology.

Pathology revealed Malachi had choroid plexus carcinoma – stage 3, a rare malignant brain tumor mainly found in children under the age of 2. Oncologists were puzzled to find this type of tumor in an 8-year-old. There was no protocol for someone his age. There was only one similar case study in England.

“Malachi must undergo six cycles of chemotherapy, six weeks of radiation, then four more cycles of chemo to prevent future cancer tumors from growing. This treatment will take nine months, assuming there are no setbacks. We have made the difficult decision for our family to remain in the Miami area for the nine months necessary for his treatments. We simply cannot take any risks of changing doctors at this point. Our family will do all that is necessary to save our son,” Vianca said.

Vianca home-schools her five children (ages 6-13) and she has served the Cherokee home-schooling community for the last four years. “We love Woodstock and the community we’ve been blessed with. The decision to continue treatment in Miami was incredibly difficult for us personally, given our deep connection to Cherokee County,” she said.

Since May, Vianca and Drew have endured so much. “The absence of suffering is not my GOOD – God’s nearness is my GOOD,” Vianca proclaimed. “How we define God’s goodness is not circumstantial. His presence in the storm is life-giving.”

The Davis’ unwavering faith has touched the lives of all whom they’ve met along this journey. “Our son is our hero – his strength and courage are inspiring. His heart is full of Jesus – thanking all of his nurses and doctors daily for caring for him.”

The Davis family covets your prayers for Malachi. “I have felt the prayers of his people. They help carry me and grant me peace in moments of despair, and in everything, I give thanks,” Vianca said.

Family members have set up a GoFundMe in support of this amazing family. Everyday Angels will accept donations for those who wish to go through a 501(c)(3) and 100% will be sent to them. We pray for Malachi and encourage you to follow their faith journey on Vianca’s Facebook page. We promise it will touch your heart and inspire you.



*Malachi’s parents have decided to stay in Miami for treatment.*

*Everyday Angels is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit serving Cherokee County since 2000. To make a tax deductible donation, visit [www.everydayangels.info](http://www.everydayangels.info) to donate via Paypal or send your donations to: Everyday Angels, PMB 380, 1025 Rose Creek Drive, Suite 620, Woodstock GA, 30189. One hundred percent of your funds will go to the family you specify. If you know of a special need in your community, e-mail [aaeverydayangels@gmail.com](mailto:aaeverydayangels@gmail.com).*



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# Your Hometown Personal Injury Attorneys

*'We've created a culture where people come to us broken and scarred after a bad accident, but they leave feeling seen, heard and truly represented.'*

In 2017, Brad A. woke up in his Cherokee County home, kissed his wife and kids goodbye, and set out to his job as a gas lines welder — something he'd done for 20 years. That day, however, things went drastically wrong. While he welded, a third party negligently opened a gas valve and put 300 pounds of gas directly to his welding torch's flame. Fire engulfed his body, traveled underneath his helmet, and severely burned his face. He was rushed to the hospital and induced into a coma. After a long stay in the hospital and a \$100,000 medical bill, Brad knew he needed legal help.

Casey Geiger of Geiger Legal Group, LLC's promise to him and other accident victims needing representation: Personal attention to each case, and to each client, matters

the most in choosing an attorney.

"Clients are our No. 1 priority at our firm. Each client gets my cell number and can call or text me anytime throughout the process," Casey said. "Our attorneys and staff are always available to answer each client's questions on a moment's notice."

Geiger Legal Group has three attorneys. Chris Geiger has been practicing law in Canton for more than 40 years. His son Casey joined the firm in 2017, after several years practicing catastrophic injury litigation in Colorado. Alan Henley joined the firm in 2019, following his graduation from law school. In addition to personal injury and product liability claims, the firm offers services for commercial and residential real estate transactions.

## Quality Over Quantity

Geiger Legal believes it's important to devote proper time to each case. In turn, they don't take every case that comes their way. "A firm that takes thousands of cases doesn't provide true service to clients, because you become a number, not a person," Casey said. By controlling caseloads, every case Geiger Legal handles is treated as a priority.

"There is more to an injury case than a large settlement or verdict," Casey said. "You must empathize with clients. A good attorney will communicate with clients often, so they understand the insurance claim process and the process of filing a lawsuit. An injury attorney must help each client identify all medical bills associated with the injury, and work with them to resolve those bills once settlement is reached. Finally, the attorney must know each case in detail, so he can present it effectively to a jury."

Geiger Legal Group has grown into a well-known injury firm by providing personal representation to clients, resulting in family and friend referrals. "Most of our cases come from past clients," Casey said. "We have built a culture where people come to us broken and scarred after a bad accident, but they leave feeling seen, heard, and truly represented."

## Proper Insurance is Essential

Most of Geiger's clients come from auto accidents. Casey takes it upon himself to ensure everyone understands how their auto coverage works, should an accident occur.

"You cannot prevent someone negligently crashing into you," he said. "You also cannot guarantee that the person who hurt you has adequate insurance to pay for medical bills and other damages."

Casey added that some of the worst news he's given to injured clients is that the at-fault party has no car insurance coverage available for their injuries. "One of the most important investments you can make is adding uninsured motorist coverage to your auto policy," he said, urging everyone to contact their insurance agent to confirm they have underinsured motorist coverage.

Geiger Legal invites anyone who would like an explanation of how their coverage works after an injury to call its office.



## Meet Our Attorneys



J. Christopher Geiger



A. Casey Geiger



Alan Henley



## Brad, Christy Get Results

Two days after being released from the hospital, Brad the welder signed with Geiger Legal. A video testimonial of the incident and his experience with Geiger Legal is available at [www.geiger-legal.com](http://www.geiger-legal.com). After successfully litigating the case for over two years, Brad's family purchased a home with the settlement proceeds he received.

"You don't have to question Casey's integrity or who he is," Brad said. "Any time you reach out to him, he always responds back with an answer."

Christy C. admits to being apprehensive when she first sought representation.

"I walked into Casey's office nervous, scared, cautious and injured," she said. "He was extremely empathetic and truly concerned about me. Casey called and checked on me often. I could tell he truly cared about my well-being more than anything else. I'm so grateful for the honest and caring representation I received. It's comforting knowing we still have honest and caring attorneys with integrity."

## A History in Canton, and a Future

The Geigers' 40-year history of practicing law in Canton began when Chris Geiger moved to Canton after graduating from Mercer University's law school in 1981. He partnered with his late father-in-law, Andy Roach, a longtime community member. Both Casey and Alan Henley were raised in Canton and graduated from Cherokee High. Casey is a 2013 graduate of the University of Denver's Sturm College of Law, and Alan graduated in 2019 from Samford University's law school.

"Our ultimate goal is to be the go-to law firm when you need honest representation, want attorneys that have integrity, and have the knowledge and skills to get the best results possible," Casey said. "Within 5 years, we hope everyone in Canton who needs help with an injury, or a commercial or real estate transaction, thinks of us."

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PHOTO BY BETH FORNUTO PHOTOGRAPHY.



*Father and son duo,  
Chris and Casey Geiger.*

# Fall in Love With Seasonal Décor

BY ELISABETH STUBBS

Fall is finally just around the corner. The leaves will be changing, and the weather will be cooling down, hopefully! Fall is beautiful in our area, and the change of seasons always is exciting to experience.

Incorporating seasonal touches into your home throughout the year makes each season more enjoyable, because you get to participate in the beauty. It doesn't take much to transition home décor. A few small changes can make a big difference, so let's get your home ready for the new season.

One of our favorite ways to transition décor from summer to fall is to add cozy textiles, such as accent pillows, throws, guest towels and window treatments. Choose warm colors and rich textures, like knits, wools and flannels. In your bedroom, changing the sheets to something heavier, or adding a blanket over the foot of the bed, will make the space warmer.

It's a lot of fun to update your vignettes for the seasons. As the seasons change, rustic touches and accents from nature, including branches, leaves, moss and seasonal fruits, look great as fall décor. Incorporating pumpkins and gourds as the season progresses will display the essence of autumn. Other organic components to include on tables or shelves are apples, pears, acorns, pine cones and kumquats.

While summer is all about the sun shining bright, fall is about cozier, warmer lighting. If your home has a lot of natural light, you can dim it a bit with heavier curtains. Candles are a wonderful go-to for fall vibes, but there are safer alternatives. Electric candles offer the same look and feel, and warmers that melt scented wax without a flame are another option.

When I think of fall, I think about rich, warm scents. You can



start subtly, with fragrances that have a musky undertone, then bring in more traditional scents, like pumpkin and cinnamon, as we get further into the season. To really create a wonderful aroma, make a simmering pot of cloves, apples, oranges, cinnamon and vanilla. This can be done in a crock pot or on the stove. You can check on the mix periodically to add more water, as needed.

When your home is ready for the new season, cozy up indoors, but remember to venture outside,

too. Spending more time outside without the sweltering summer sun is another thing I love about this time of year. Try dining alfresco, or sit outside and read a book; the weather is delicious!



*Elisabeth Stubbs is one of the owners of Enhance Floors and More, one of Atlanta's top-rated flooring dealers, located in Marietta.*



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The Cherokee County Aquatic Center's Oasis. Oasis will host Paws in the Pool on Sept. 12.

# Around and About Cherokee Recreation & Parks

BY BAILEY JOHNSON

Cherokee Recreation & Parks is back with a full calendar of offerings for you. We are so excited to dive back in, after the challenges of the past year. Our team of professionals is here to serve you, the residents of Cherokee County, and our visitors. From athletics, to aquatics, parks, facilities and recreational programming, we offer opportunities for everyone. At Cherokee Recreation & Parks, we are continually growing, to help serve our community by adding new parks, facilities and trails, expanding and bettering our programs, and acting on the feedback given by those we serve. We recognize that recreation is essential to our lives, not only physically, but mentally and socially. Because of that, we come to work every day to help create special moments and memories for you. For more information, visit [www.playcherokee.org](http://www.playcherokee.org) and follow our Facebook page @playcherokee. Register for events and classes at <https://secure.rec1.com/GA/cherokee-recreation-parks/catalog>.

## Unwind Wednesdays

First Wednesday of each month, through November, at Cherokee Veterans Park, 5:30-8 p.m.

Unwind with family and friends while enjoying food trucks, craft vendors, live music and state-of-the-art playground equipment. Special monthly activities might include ax throwing, bounce houses, cornhole tournaments, trivia, archery and more. Email [bbjohnson@cherokeeega.com](mailto:bbjohnson@cherokeeega.com) for more information.

## Explore Archery

Sept. 2, 9, 30 at the Cherokee County Recreation Center, 6:15-7:15 p.m.

Explore Archery is an innovative educational program focused on introducing novices, ages 8-12, to the sport of archery. All skill levels are welcome. Cost is \$30. For more information, contact Adam Fussell at [cafussell@cherokeeega.com](mailto:cafussell@cherokeeega.com). Registration is open.

## Dinner in a Dash

Sept. 9 at the Cherokee County Recreation Center, 6:45-8 p.m.

Participants, ages 18 and older, can join a demonstration and tasting and learn how to build an easy meal plan for the month. Cost is \$36. Email Lauren Voss at [latvoss@cherokeeega.com](mailto:latvoss@cherokeeega.com) for more information.

## Lewis Park Night Hike

Sept. 10 at Lewis Park, 7:30 p.m.

Join a hike (approximately 1.5 miles) through the trails of Lewis Park at dusk. Snacks and water will be provided. All ages are welcome, but minors must be accompanied by an adult. Cost is \$10 per participant. For more information, contact Adam Fussell at [cafussell@cherokeeega.com](mailto:cafussell@cherokeeega.com). Registration ends Sept. 8 at 5 p.m.

## Paws in the Pool

Sept. 12 in the Oasis at Cherokee County Aquatic Center. Small dogs: noon-12:45 p.m. Large dogs, 35 pounds and up: 1-2 p.m., 2:15-3:15 p.m., 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Bring your dog for a swim in the Oasis before it's closed for the year. Cost is \$10 per dog. Call 678-880-4760 for more information and details regarding registration.

*Disclaimer: You must show proof of distemper, parvo and rabies vaccinations; dogs must be spayed or neutered; swimming with dogs is prohibited, and dog owners must clean up after their pets. Dogs swim at their owner's risk.*

## Touch-A-Truck

Sept. 18 at Cherokee Veterans Park, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

There will be something for everyone at this free event; all ages are welcome. Kids can climb aboard and explore first responder vehicles, and attendees will enjoy a DJ, face painting, food trucks, bounce houses and more. Email [bbjohnson@cherokeeega.com](mailto:bbjohnson@cherokeeega.com) for information.

## Fall Into Action Break Camp

Sept. 20-24 at the Cherokee County Recreation Center, 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

While school is out, kids, ages 5-12, can join some fall fun. There will be three field trips during the week, and all lunches are provided. Cost is \$175 for the week, per camper. For more information, contact Lauren Voss at [latvoss@cherokeeega.com](mailto:latvoss@cherokeeega.com). Registration ends Sept. 17 at 5 p.m.

Continued on Page 34





*All proceeds raised through this event benefit Cherokee County children in need.*

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**Sunday, Sept. 26**

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## Outdoor Camp — Fall Break

Sept. 20-24 at the Cherokee County Recreation Center, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Kids, ages 8-13, can enjoy fall break with fun-filled outdoor activities. Camp activities tentatively include: team building/tree climbing, hiking/archery, kayaking, a ropes course and fishing. All equipment is included. Please bring lunch, snacks and drinks daily. Cost is \$175 for the week, per camper. Email Adam Fussell at [cafussell@cherokeega.com](mailto:cafussell@cherokeega.com) for more information. Registration ends Sept. 17 at 5 p.m.

## Splash Splash Break Camp

Sept. 20-24 at the Cherokee County Aquatic Center. Drop-off: 7:30-9 a.m. Pickup: 4-6 p.m.

Fall break camp at the Aquatic Center provides campers, ages 5-13, with plenty of pool time, crafting opportunities, movies and swimming lessons. Cost is \$230 per child. Call 678-880-4760 for more information. Register before Sept. 15 at 8 p.m.

## Adult Fall Flag Football League

Mondays and Wednesdays beginning Sept. 27 at Hobgood Park.

The schedule will consist of a 10-game season, with the top six teams, composed of players ages 16 and older, advancing to a single-elimination tournament. Cost is \$625. Email Camille Thomas at [cthomas@cherokeega.com](mailto:cthomas@cherokeega.com) for more information. Registration ends Sept. 12.



Originally dedicated in April 1990, the 60-acre Hobgood Park is one of the most active and heavily used parks in the county.

## Cherokee Youth Girls Flag Football

Sept. 27-Nov. 19, location and times to be determined.

This brand-new program provides middle-school girls with entry into the world of football. Female athletes enrolled in grades 6-8 will learn flag football fundamentals before taking on the sport at the high school level. Cost is \$100. Contact Cameron Riles at [cariles@cherokeega.com](mailto:cariles@cherokeega.com) for more information. Registration ends Sept. 5.

## Cherokee Youth Basketball

October-March in various gyms throughout Cherokee County.

The local recreational basketball league is open to county residents, grades K-12. This league has over 4,000 players every season. Cost is \$165 per player for grades K-8 and \$850 per team for grades 9-12. For more information, email [msgraney@cherokeega.com](mailto:msgraney@cherokeega.com). Registration ends Sept. 30.



Bailey Johnson is the Special Events & Marketing Coordinator for Cherokee Recreation & Parks. 770-924-7768. [www.playcherokee.org](http://www.playcherokee.org).





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*Storytime at Hobgood Park last month.*



*Rose Creek Library staff helped organize a successful summer reading program.*

## Explore the Benefits of a Library Card

BY JOHN RODGERS

Do you have a library card? Does your best friend? Spouse? Estranged uncle? If not, now's the time to get one! September is Library Card Sign-up Month, and it is the perfect chance to reflect on how libraries serve as places of lifelong learning, cultural exchange and continuous access to information. Spread the word to a friend (or several), and inspire them to discover their library by signing up for their very own card. Anyone who applies for a library card, renews an expired account, replaces a lost card or brings



a friend or family member to sign up for their own card, at any of our locations during September, will be eligible to win a library prize bag.

As proof that September is tailor-made for libraries, we're also celebrating Read an eBook Day on Sept. 18 and Banned Books Week Sept. 19-25. We bet you've read a banned or challenged book without even realizing it. A major theme of this year's Library Card Sign-up Month is empowerment, so drop by your local branch, reach out to them on social media, or click the Contact Us tab on sequoyahregionallibrary.org to tell us how your library has empowered you and made a difference in your life.

You've definitely made a difference in our lives. The results are in, and this year's summer reading program was a massive success. Thanks to our wonderful community of readers, 29,130 literacy activities were completed, and summer reading events were attended by 5,377 people. Pat yourselves on the book! August kept the fun going with the return of weekly storytimes, ongoing Dungeons & Dragons games, board and video game nights and how-to music classes featuring our very own library ukuleles. Not bad for everyone's first month back to school.

Speaking of school, here's a quick reminder for all students: If you need to print homework, but you're fresh out of ink, printing your documents at the library never has been easier. Anyone with a library card can access the Sequoyah Regional Library System (SRLS) website mobile printing page, log in with his or her library card number and PIN, and upload documents from a personal computer or mobile device. Next, simply visit a printing station at any SRLS library to print them out. No logging into a library computer required! No need to thank us; just tell that estranged uncle of yours to get a library card in September, and we'll call it even.



*John Rodgers is the community engagement manager for the Sequoyah Regional Library System.*

# 12 Books for Guys to Try

BY JOHN RODGERS

The public library serves everyone equally, but, for whatever reason, it has been our experience at the Sequoyah Regional Libraries that men don't visit us as often. Let's see if we can change that. Whether you're a husband, father, kid at heart, sports fan, geek, hobbyist, average Joe, Joe Sixpack or Joe Schmo (Why are they always named Joe?), here's a list of reads we think will resonate with you, available from the Sequoyah Regional Library System.

## Science Fiction/Adventure

- "Watchmen" by Alan Moore, Dave Gibbons and John Higgins
- "Jurassic Park" by Michael Crichton
- "The Call of the Wild" by Jack London

## Humor

- "Calvin and Hobbes" by Bill Watterson
- "Dad Is Fat" by Jim Gaffigan
- "Little Victories: Perfect Rules for Imperfect Living" by Jason Gay

## Historical/Biography

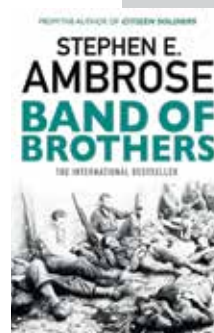
- "Band of Brothers" by Stephen E. Ambrose
- "Cold Mountain" by Charles Frazier
- "Jim Henson: The Biography" by Brian Jay Jones

## Horror/Thriller

- "Salem's Lot" by Stephen King
- "No Country for Old Men" by Cormac McCarthy

## Philosophy

- "The Stranger" by Albert Camus



# How to Care for Your Toothbrush

BY SCOTT V. MERRITT, DMD

We use a toothbrush morning and night, and sometimes between meals, to help us achieve a sparkling, clean smile. This vital cavity-fighting tool is our best defense against tooth decay and gum disease, but did you know that your toothbrush could be harboring a plethora of germs? This dental care device is not meant to last forever. If you have been using the same tool to brush your pearly whites for several months, now is the time to change it.

The American Dental Association recommends that you replace your toothbrush or electric brush head every three to four months, or sooner if bristles begin to fray. It also is important to swap out your toothbrush after recovering from an illness, such as a cold or the flu. When you are sick, and brush your teeth, germs end up on your toothbrush. Stop the spread of lingering bacteria by starting with a new toothbrush that is clean and fresh.

Properly storing and caring for your dental tool is equally important to your oral health. Bacteria particles accumulate on your brush, which negatively impacts your body. After you have brushed your teeth, rinse off the toothpaste from your brush with water, tap it to shake off the excess water and place it upright in an open container so that it can dry. Do not place

a cap over your toothbrush or store it in a closed cabinet. A wet toothbrush is the ideal environment for bacteria to thrive. Ventilation is key.

Do not share a toothbrush with members of your household or anyone else. Your mouth is filled with harmful bacteria. Sharing a toothbrush leads to cross-contamination of microorganisms that increase the risk of infections. In this case, not sharing is caring. If someone uses your toothbrush by mistake, switch it for a new one.

Need some ways to help you remember to change your toothbrush? Set an alarm on your phone, write down a reminder in your planner, or simply observe the bristles on your brush. If your bristles look frazzled and bent out of shape, it is time to invest in a new toothbrush. Oral hygiene tools that are updated often can keep our teeth healthy.



*Dr. Scott Merritt founded BridgeMill Dentistry in 2002. The office is located on Sixes Road between Ridge and Bells Ferry roads.*

# Admiring Grit With Grace and Awareness

BY JAMES HALEY, MD, FACOG, FPMRS

September is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. Thinking of this, I am saddened to learn of a longtime friend of the family who recently passed away. At only 55, Micah leaves behind her husband, daughter, brother and parents after battling ovarian cancer. She was a beautiful soul and touched so many lives. She was a bright light to all who had the pleasure of knowing her.

Julie had an infectious smile and kind heart. Her positive spirit was contagious, and she often said it was her brokenness that drove her to deeply love and care for others. This was evident in the way she loved people, especially her teenage daughter and husband of 35 years. She fought ovarian cancer for many years, with grit and dignity, until she peacefully left this world.

Monica was a woman with a tenacious spirit and a generous heart. She battled ovarian cancer for 11 years, and we lost her while she was my daughter's first-grade teacher. She fought hard until the end, never wanting to leave and disappoint her daughters, her husband or her students. With a brave face, she battled the disease with inner courage.

As a longtime OB-GYN, I have seen too much of this terrible disease. These are just three of the thousands of women diagnosed each year. Giving a patient this diagnosis is heart-wrenching, and I have watched many endure this long and difficult journey. I am continually impressed by the inner strength of women, especially when facing some of the hardest challenges imaginable. Those battling cancer, and cancer

survivors, seem to be given the gift of incredible fortitude.

There are many who have battled ovarian cancer and have won. Since this cancer can be hard to detect, there are symptoms to watch out for, with most of them acting collectively.

- Pelvic, abdominal or back pain
- Bloating
- Unexplained weight loss
- Abdominal swelling
- Loss of appetite

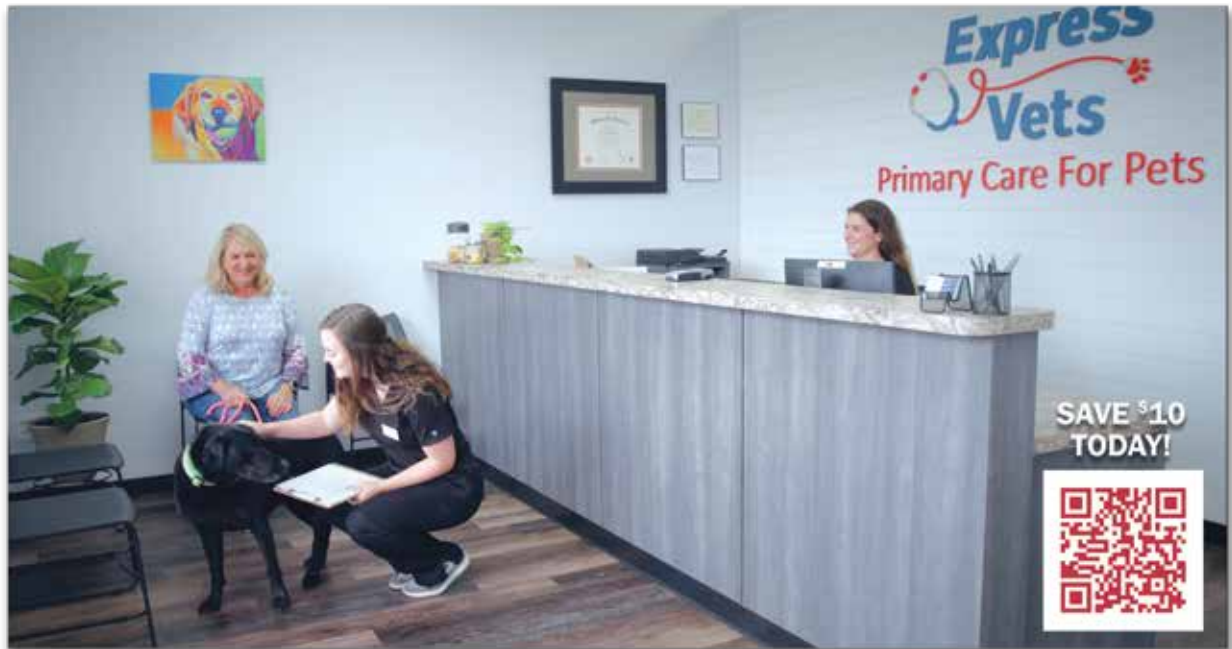
A woman's risk of ovarian cancer is one out of 78, and many women don't experience any symptoms upon diagnosis. That's why it is extremely important to have annual checkups with your OB-GYN, and it's equally important to listen to your body. If you notice any changes at all, discuss them with your doctor. The sooner any type of cancer is diagnosed, the better. Don't ignore symptoms, and don't be afraid to get checked out.



*James Haley, MD, FACOG and FPMRS, is an OB-GYN and urogynecologist with Cherokee Women's Health in Canton and Woodstock.*



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# Bringing People, Partnerships and Possibilities into FOCUS

BY SUSAN BROWNING SCHULZ

Cherokee FOCUS, a nonprofit collaborative that is part of the Georgia Family Connection Partnership statewide network, has lived up to its name during the past 20 years. FOCUS (Families of Cherokee United in Service) has remained laser-focused on improving the lives of the children and families in Cherokee County. That mission involves a partnership between various organizations, agencies, civic clubs, the faith-based community, law enforcement, business, education, families and individuals.

“By bringing our partners to the table, we are able to identify the community resources we have, the gaps in support services we might

need, and, together, strategically plan, develop and implement initiatives and programs that one agency, organization or individual cannot do alone,” founder and CEO Sonia Carruthers said.

Voted by the Cherokee Chamber of Commerce as the 2021 Nonprofit of the Year, Cherokee FOCUS will be celebrating its 20th anniversary in October. “The most important thing we have done over the years is to bring people together to accomplish something for the families and children of Cherokee County that they could not otherwise be able to do alone,” Carruthers said.

“The collaborative-based organization is a wonderful thing,” she said. “Collaboration and collective effort have always yielded collective impact in our community. Any issue that we have addressed, and success that we have helped to achieve are a shared effort of the community who are Cherokee FOCUS.”

The organization has several programs and initiatives that cover the needs of our community.

Cherokee Youth Works, a Work Source Georgia program funded in part by the Atlanta Regional Commission, is designed to work with young people, ages 16-24, who have dropped out of school or have graduated, but need help moving forward. The goal is to assist them in obtaining gainful employment by providing GED classes, assistance with college enrollment, work readiness skills, life skill classes, along with paid and unpaid work experiences in partnership with local employers. Since the start of this Workforce Innovation

Opportunity Act program, more than 600 Cherokee County youth have been helped in some capacity.

Andrea is a Cherokee Youth Works participant. “This program has truly been a blessing for me and an answer to my prayers,” she said. “I really enjoy the (Life Skills) group, and I’m actually beginning to enjoy learning again. I’ve learned that with support and motivation you can go a long way.”

The Drug Free Cherokee initiative, which began in 2004, has become a funded grantee of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. This initiative is designed to prevent drug abuse by reaching young people before they start using any kind of alcohol or drugs. Members focus on strategies that range from educating the general and target populations to changing public policy. Youth are invited to the table whenever possible, to make sure the coalition is not planning something without them having a voice in the process.

One way the group gives young people a voice is through the Cherokee Youth Council. Their involvement helps FOCUS members understand how to meet the needs of that demographic. The program is open to students in Cherokee County middle or high schools, as well as home-schoolers. The council meets twice a month and the students have the opportunity to learn strategic planning, and design a drug-free action plan for their peers. In the past, council members have been a part of the Georgia Teen Institute, the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of American Youth Leadership Conference and Chick-fil-A’s Leadership Academy.



*Current FOCUS board director Todd Hayes congratulates Trey Ragsdale on two years' service in the same position.*





*Monthly collaborative meetings bring together representatives of county agencies, law enforcement, government agencies and other community organizations.*

A recent initiative, the Suicide Prevention Coalition, was established to respond to the rise in cases of teen suicide. Through a partnership of organizations, agencies, businesses and individuals, issues have been assessed and work has begun to address them. Bullying prevention is part of the efforts, which are summed up in the mission statement: to prevent deaths by suicide in Cherokee County, to bring awareness and education to the community, to decrease the stigma associated with mental illness, and to bring hope for a brighter future.

A major collaborative effort of Cherokee FOCUS has been the ongoing development of the Cherokee County Resource Guide, which lists county resources, and is available at [www.cherokeefocus.org](http://www.cherokeefocus.org), or by calling 770-345-5483.



*The FOCUS staff, from left: Caleb Ductant, Jessica Welker, Anna Polson, Sonia Carruthers (holding the nonprofit of the year award), Esmeralda Lopez, Kathi Korcyk-Schaefer, Judy Chatham and Barry Alhadeff.*



*The Cherokee Youth Works arm of the organization helps youth earn their GED diplomas.*



*Susan Schulz is a Bible teacher and mentor who lives and plays on the Etowah River in Canton. Connect with her on social media or at [susanbrowningschulz.com](http://susanbrowningschulz.com).*

# Cherokee High

## Warriors Season Kicks Off



### Competition Cheer

Coach Maddie Wheeler

Cherokee's competitive cheer program returns, with varsity and junior varsity squads. The varsity squad coaches are Carson Rocky and Maddie Wheeler. Abbie Bearden and Alli Yeomans coach the JV squad.

The JV program was new last year, and ended the season with three wins out of the four competitions entered. They are looking forward to another successful season.

Varsity is returning as the reigning region champion. They are the first competitive cheer squad at Cherokee High to win the region. This season's goal is to keep that title and place in the top six at state.

Two seniors, Ellie Williamson and Lindsey Nichols, lead the team with their skill set and attitude. Ryleigh Frey, only a sophomore, has stepped easily into a leadership role in her second year on varsity. Junior Tara Parks is one to keep an eye on. She is an all-around great athlete, who also competes in flag football, pole vault and gymnastics. She is the reigning region pole vault champion.

The public is invited to support both squads at the inaugural Pride of Cherokee cheer competition Oct. 2 at Cherokee High.



### Softball

Coach Tonya Carlisle

The team enters the 2021 season looking to continue the winning tradition established over the past two decades. The team will compete in Region 5 AAAAAAA, against familiar opponents, including county rivals Etowah and Woodstock, as well as Fulton County schools Alpharetta, Milton and Roswell. The Warriors return a talented roster, including seniors Nikki Brown (infielder), Haleigh Cianchetti (infielder), and Cadance Summerlin (outfielder). Cherokee will lean heavily on experience on offense and defense, with juniors Kaley Crane, Lottie Landmesser, Kenleigh Spence and Celan Trowers. At pitcher, sophomore Elyse Kresho and Spence will lead the way. Several newcomers to the varsity team who will provide depth to the roster include freshmen Mac Pavese and Sophie Ray, sophomore Hailey Spoor and junior Anna Kurto.

"The amount of talent and depth on the 2021 team ranks at the top of the teams that have come through this program," Head Coach Tonya Carlisle said. "They have been working extremely hard over the past year, and are ready to compete. We look forward to the upcoming season and the opportunity to proudly represent our school and our program on the field, in the classroom, and in the community."



### Football

Head Coach Josh Shaw

The Warriors have the opportunity to do something never done before in the program's history: making the playoffs for a fourth consecutive season. Once again, the team faces a daunting schedule, playing every Cherokee County school, along with Rome and Cartersville. Milton and Roswell will be key region games that will dictate seeding in the playoffs.

On offense, returning quarterbacks AJ Swann and wide receiver Adarius Harshaw, both All-State and nationally ranked prospects, give the offense plenty of firepower. Ryan Chandley, another college prospect, moves from guard to tackle to anchor the offensive line. Starting center Ben Rice also returns.

Transfer wide receiver Aidan Moore is primed for a breakout season, along with starting wide receiver Keegan Baker. Wide receiver Caleb Richardson, a 6 feet, 6 inches basketball player, has impressed so far, and Adam Fullen will receive his share of passes. The top ball carrier is rising junior Zi Johnson.

The entire starting defensive line returns, led by senior Toby Thompson and rising star sophomore Javon Hobson. Tanner Dollyhigh and Jax Holcomb also have made their share of plays. Junior linebacker Kyan Simmons is poised for a breakout season. The linebacker corps is led by All-Region senior Tyler Goddard. The secondary returns three senior starters in free safety Keegan Baker, strong safety Chase Goddard and cornerback Ryan O'Keefe.

Senior kicker Joel Stahl is a huge weapon as well, with a range well beyond 40 yards and the ability to put 90% of his kickoffs in the end zone.



### Cross-Country

Coach Rebekah Gay

Cherokee cross country coaches and athletes are excited about the 2021-22 season.

On the women's side, we are returning Lily Cincola (class of 2022), Lexi Pavase (2023), Grace Avillar (2022), Kendle Butterworth (2022), Lyla Frady (2024) and Miyah Thomas (2024). We have high hopes for an increase in the roster, but also have depth returning.

On the men's side, returning are Jake Herbet (2022), Clark Farrell (2022), Andres Baltazar (2023), Seth Grogan (2024), Tyler Kendrick (2022) and Andrew Solano (2023). The men's team has enjoyed several years of success, with a deep roster and a competitive nature.

Both programs are eager to compete against county and region competitors, and to have an opportunity to go back to state.





# Volleyball

**Coach Jamison Horton**

The Lady Warriors are looking to build upon a very successful 2020 season, which the team finished with a 23-11 record, made the state playoffs for the first time in school history and made a sweet sixteen appearance. The Lady Warriors return 11 of 14 players this season, and rely on five seniors to lead the way: 1st team All-Region selection Faith Breitbarth, Josey Leblanc, Greyson Callaway, Kylie Roe and Katie Camp. Sophomore All-region selections Brin Chestnut and Sophie Lyen also are vital.

The Warriors will be looking to improve upon a third-place in Region 5-7A. Reining state champion Alpharetta and Roswell return key players and look to be strong contenders once again in the region. County rivals Etowah and Woodstock also will be very formidable opponents for the region crown.

The program is reaching new heights, with more than 40 young women participating this season. Volleyball is the fastest growing female sport in the country, and we would love to see as many spectators in the stands as possible.



# Flag Football

**Coach Thomas Stringfellow**

The Cherokee women's flag football team enters the 2021 season with high expectations. After advancing to the second round of last year's state playoff, the Warriors start the season with plenty of experience on a roster that includes six seniors and 11 juniors. In addition to competing against their Area 7 opponents, Cherokee has added Denmark, South Forsyth and Roswell to the schedule.

"One of the positive things that came out of last year's COVID-19 season was that we had to have players learn various positions, in case a player, or multiple players, got sick or quarantined," Coach Thomas Stringfellow said. "While it wasn't ideal, it did give us the opportunity to get a lot of players game experience at multiple positions."

The Warriors will rely heavily on defense, where juniors Tara Parks and Lilly Stock anchor a unit that allowed just over 6 points a game last season. Parks led the team in tackles in 2020, recording 48 stops from her defensive line position — an impressive statistic, considering most offenses are pass-heavy in flag football. When the other team passed, it was Stock who often found the ball. From her safety position, she grabbed a team-high 7 interceptions in 2020.

The Warriors will need that same productivity from the defense early, as the offense finds an identity. Cherokee must replace quarterback Julia Wilson, who was lost to graduation. The Warriors return talent at the receiver position. Senior Haleigh Cianchetti, junior Anna Kurto and sophomore Ashley Bieger combined for more than 600 yards last season. Cherokee will need this unit to gel quickly, if the team is to be successful in 2021.

An overlooked area that the Warriors need to address is punter, where they must replace Ferny Ruiz. The 2020 graduate averaged 35.24 yards per punt last year, including 9 punts inside the opponent's 10-yard line.

With the depth gained from last season, Cherokee returns the talent and experience to make another playoff run in 2021.



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# Creekview High

## *A Preview for Grizzlies Fans*



### Cross-Country

Head Coach Kirk Scharich

Our boys will be led by Bryson Gates, who was ninth at last year's state meet and is the school's record holder in the 1600 and 3200-meter runs. He will get help from Wilson Hurdle, Dillon Berger and Riley Ball, all strong top 5 runners last year. Other key performers include Conner Bergey, Mason Koller, Robert Koller and Henry Harris. Key newcomers include Russell Chamblee, Corey Bonham and Will Stacy. Key losses are Chris Adams, Justin Lehman and Dean Ross.

Our Grizzly ladies will be led by Kate McTyre, Lauren Fath, Adrienne Jocke and Sydney Howard. Key newcomers are Bekah Dirrim, Ansley Walters, Camryn Yokley, Emma Smithwick and Grayson Furman. Key losses include Makena Gates, our three-time state champion who is Harvard bound.

Our focus in preparing for this fall has been to work hard this summer on strength, endurance and character that will carry us through a successful competitive season.



### Flag Football

Head Coach Jessyca Mangum

I am excited for the season as my first year as head coach. We are thrilled to get back on the turf this October, and are eager for the first jamboree game on Oct. 2. With an increasing turnout for tryouts each year, we're excited to welcome our former players and potential new stars. Senior leaders Maya Maldonado and Lindsay Wayland are certain to help develop our younger athletes and continue to break records on the field.



### Softball

Head Coach Jen Maloney

The Creekview softball team is looking to return to Columbus this season and hoist the trophy. This veteran team will be led by seven seniors and numerous returning players. Each senior will have a great impact on our success. The outfield and lineup will be led by senior and All-State player Ashton Schroyer. The infield will return seniors and all-region members Ella Campbell and Sammi Martin. The pitching staff will be led by All-State and 2020 Georgia Pitcher of the Year, Anslie Pettit. "This will be a fun and exciting group to watch. They truly enjoy working hard, competing with each other, and have one goal in mind," Maloney said.



### Volleyball

Head Coach Jessica Estes

Coach Estes, assistant coach Taylor Nhep, and the Creekview Lady Grizzlies are excited about the 2021 season. After graduating one senior, Anslee McDonald, the Grizzlies will be led seniors: Avery Collins, Sophia Del Valle, Ellie Johnson, Morgan McClure, Alivia Mynes, Mackenzi Salas and Katie Tepsic. Joining them will be juniors Avery Petzinger, Lexie Warshaw, Sydney Crowe and Sophie Duckworth along with the young talent of Sarah Richardson and Jordan Markley.

Last season, the Grizzlies were led offensively by Johnson with 381 kills and McClure with 319 kills, and led defensively by Del Valle with 407 digs. After a strong fight in region play last year, Creekview finished fourth, earning a spot in the state playoffs. Although they fell short in the first round, this experience will be beneficial as we look to be even more successful in this new season.





## Competition Cheer

Head Coach Cassie Koes

Varsity and junior varsity teams have plenty of talent with returners and new athletes, under the leadership of seniors Katie Tuten, Kenna Wesolowski, Ava Di Gennaro and Delaney Dickerson. Tuten and Wesolowski will be the program's four year varsity letter recipients.

The varsity team also includes seven incredible juniors, five hard working sophomores and four powerful freshmen. JV has five dedicated returning sophomores who will lead the team, and welcome 12 freshmen. We are very excited to announce our JV team will be competing in the co-ed division with the addition of male cheerleader, Isaiah Guerrero!

Our junior varsity team has set out to "out skill" their routine from last year. Our varsity girls are in it for redemption this year. After a not-as-expected state championship performance from the season prior, these girls are ready to come back better than ever.



## Football

Head Coach Trevor Williams

After coming off a solid 7-3 campaign last season returning to the playoffs, the team will look to reload and make a run for the region title in 2021. A host of talented players are returning from last year's squad. The 2020 season came to an unexpected end last year, when the Grizzlies were upset by Sprayberry in the first round of the playoffs.

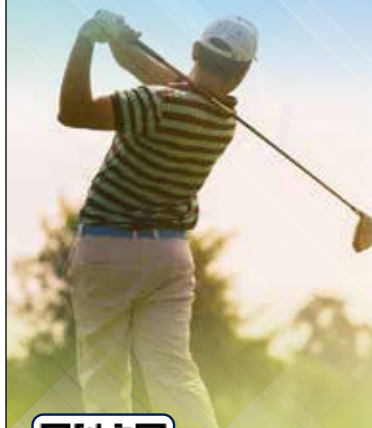
Offensively, the Grizzlies return their leading rusher in Tyler Stevens, who has multiple Division 1 offers and heads up a group of explosive offensive playmakers. Seniors A.J. Vaccaro, Tristan Summers and Will Husa provide weapons on the outside to complement the ground attack. Mason Hicks is under center for Creekview and gives the Grizzlies big play potential on every down. Senior Bradon Dabrowa anchors a young offensive line and provides leadership for a young but talented position group.

On defense, the Grizzlies return a solid core of starters that allowed an average of less than 13 points per game, including brothers Ty and Isaac Hubert. Creekview returns several starters on the back end, including safety Cale Williams and junior DB Taylor Cox-Young.

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# Sequoyah High

## *Coaches Share the Season's Scoop*



### Football

Head Coach James Teter

The 2021 Chiefs hope to use the 2020 late season momentum to help jump start this season. Although last season started off slowly, the Chiefs rallied to win four of the last five games.

Like every year, the key to having a successful season is the ability to find replacements for key graduating seniors. On offense, at quarterback, the returning starter is junior Matthew Traynor. Also competing at quarterback is junior Alex Conti Jr. At running back, returners are senior fullback Peyton Lucas and senior wingback Jack Piskorz. Competing for playing time at running back are sophomores Jackson Hancock and Tyler Bell, senior Kemar Plummer, and juniors Ben Sanders, Asante Chimanda and Cruz Wright. Sophomore Dmitri Morris is the center. Returning juniors Tayo Ogundele and Jimmy Anderson, along with Will Scott and Walker Back, will compete at guard. Competing for time at offensive tackle are seniors Marshall Ketcham and Zack Barrett, sophomore Asher Martineau and junior Caden McMichen. Junior Ty Moores returns at tight end, along with senior Harrison Hood and junior Michael Kapanowski. Wide receiver finds seniors Ashkon Hunt and Josh Price, and juniors Zach Conrad, Cameron Massy and Demond Baker competing to start.

On the defensive line, seniors Avery Born and Harrison Hood will be the staples up front. Newcomers sophomore Brady Curl and senior Logan St. John will compete at the nose position. Seniors Patrick Beirne and Julian Camacho and junior Deaven Beavers will compete for playing time on the defensive front.

Seniors Chris Miller and Izaiah Sanders and junior Nathan Prewett are vying for starting positions at linebacker. At outside linebacker, juniors Rowen Steele and Carter Sandt, senior Kemar Plummer, junior Cruz Wright and sophomore Chris Jordan will control the edge. In the secondary, junior Matthew Traynor, sophomores Jackson Hancock and Bretton Darling and junior Cameron Massy compete for two starting spots at safety, while juniors Ridley Joseph and Ben Sanders, and sophomores Tyler Bell and Cameron Walker compete for the corner positions.



### Cross-Country

Head Coach Corinne Snow

The boys cross country team is excited to bring back seven varsity runners from the 2020 state qualifying team. They will be led by seniors Josh Helms and Aiden Ingram. Rising juniors Jake Labasi, Nathan Valles, Jack Tucker, Clay Tucker and Brock Freeman are working hard to return to the 2021 state championships.

The girls will be led by senior Susanna Rogers and juniors Ella Grace Cothren and Stella Waites, coming off a strong track season. Cothren and Rogers had big cross country and track seasons, breaking school records in the 5K, 3200M and 1600M. While the girls team graduated two of our top seven state team runners, we returned with four members of the 2020 state team. We are eager to make it to the 2021 state championship.



### Flag Football

Coach Emily Ryan

The focus for the 2021 flag football season will be another run at the area championship, along with a third straight trip to the state playoffs. Cherokee County has been a trailblazer getting the sport of flag football off the ground in the state of Georgia, and is only getting more competitive with the addition of new teams to the area. The Chiefs will open up the season at Denmark High School on Oct. 7 against South Forsyth High School, as they look to avenge their loss in the Sweet 16 of the 2020 state playoffs to the War Eagles.

The 2021 Chiefs will be led by seniors Shelby Johnson, Alyssa Santana, Khelsey Shipp and Jamiaah Wilson. The team will look to running back Mya McRae, wide receiver Peyton Harper and tight end Caroline Small to get the offense going. On defense, the Chiefs will look to corners Amelia Griffiths and Kaitlyn Shellenbarger to defend the edge, as well as linebacker Samarah Destin.

With all the returning talent and past success the Sequoyah Chiefs have had, the focus will be on individual roles and continual player development, in order to ensure another successful season.





## Fast Pitch Softball

Head Coach Lane Whitley

After a 2020 trip to state playoffs, the 2021 softball team looks to build on that success. Despite graduating six seniors, we have a great nucleus coming back. Seniors Molly Stevens (a Reinhardt commit), Abby Schreiner and Katelyn Edwards should lead the team to state again this season. We return a strong pitching staff, with Ava Fouts, Allison Sparkman, Kayla Scheiwe and Katelyn Edward.

Last season, we were co-region champs, and we should compete for the region championship again this season. The team will have to get past region foes Creekview, Cambridge and River Ridge to do so.



## Competition Cheer

Coach Cassie Pichon

The competition cheer program is excited for the upcoming 2021 season. Although the team will be very young, it comes packed with talent, including full-squad standing and many elite stunting skills. The coaches are extremely excited with the work ethic, dedication and determination that this team brought to summer workouts.

"There is something special about this group of girls. I am looking forward to seeing the growth this season and extremely excited about what each of these girls bring to the team," Cassie Pichon said. Another asset is the addition of Assistant Coach Ashlyn Grummer, who specializes in gymnastics and tumbling, and brings many years of experience from competitive gymnastics and cheerleading. The team will begin competing in October, and will compete in four competitions this season against teams from across the state.



## Volleyball

Head Coach John Edwards

This season sees the return of many familiar faces, as well as increased roles for others, in an effort to stay among the top teams in Class 6A. With appearances in the state finals in 2019 and final four in 2020, the team is motivated to compete against one of the toughest schedules in program history.

Graduated are six varsity members, including state player of the year Paige Powers, who is playing at Georgia Southern. Returning are two first-team All-State players, setter Taylor Pecht and libero Skylar Martin. All-State honorable mention Sara Siefert also returns, as do Catherine Brumbeloe, Sydney Huyck, Rosa Fisher and Sayler Davies. Versatility is the team's strong point this year, as many players play multiple positions, to maximize the team's chances to be successful.

Coach John Edwards welcomes new Assistant Coach Jordan Chapman to complement a staff that also includes Matt Roberson, who is coaching JV and assisting with varsity.

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# Woodstock High

## *Teams Gear Up for New Season*



### Football

Head Coach Troy Hoff

The 2021 Woodstock Wolverines have handled many changes this offseason as they work toward a return to the GHSA playoffs. Troy Hoff was named the new head coach in March, in addition to other coaching changes on the staff. Woodstock plays in the competitive Region 5 AAAAAAA. The Wolverines have a challenging nonregion schedule, and opened their season Aug. 20 at the Den against Sequoyah.

The 2021 team is young and inexperienced, with many players competing for playing time. Returning starters on offense include junior quarterback Dan Comeau and a pair of offensive linemen in, junior Tyler Douthit (all-region) and senior JT Hunter. The defense will be led by a pair of all-region linebackers: senior Preston Lawrence and junior Carson Gray.

Players and coaches had a productive offseason and continue to put a tremendous amount of work into new training protocols and schematic changes. The growth and development of the 2021 team will depend on the level of improvement each week throughout the season. Our goal is to become a competitive program where the teams continually have a chance to win games in the fourth quarter and compete in the GHSA state playoffs.



### Flag Football

Head Coach Mason Wren

After reaching the Sweet 16 in its inaugural 2020 GHSA season, the Woodstock flag football team is looking to continue its success in the 2021 season. The Wolverines welcome Blessed Trinity into Area 4 for 6A/7A, along with Cherokee, Creekview, Etowah, River Ridge and Sequoyah. The Wolverines will lean heavily on returning starters and senior leaders Reece Morrish and Clara Welch. Tryouts take place Sept. 20. The Wolverines will open their season against Creekview at 7 p.m. Oct. 19 at Cherokee High.



### Competition Cheer

Head Coach Helen Lane

Our talented team is led by our five amazing seniors: Madison Coleman, Mattie Graison Earnest, Mikayla Foust, Emily Hunter and Trell Toombs. These young women have helped the team break school records since their freshman year, and our goal is to continue this tradition. Their positive attitudes and encouraging leadership styles are teaching our younger athletes how consistency, teamwork, positivity and determination can help reach individual and team goals.

Our athletes worked hard this summer to prepare for a highly competitive season that includes six invitationals, with home competition on Oct. 30. Region, sectionals and state will follow. Being the head coach of the Woodstock cheerleading program is a true honor, and I am excited to see what our amazing team accomplishes this season.



### Cross-Country

Head Coach Wakely Louis

We are looking forward to an exciting cross-country season. Our girls qualified for state last year and, hopefully, we can repeat that this year. The girls' team should be competitive this year, with our juniors and seniors returning. Team leaders are Samantha Burmeister, Lilly Bailey, Caroline Olvin, Sophie Weissel and Anna Wadsworth.

Our boys came up short by a few points and did not make an appearance at state last year. Joseph Mines was the only athlete to make it to state. The boys have a chance to make an appearance at state this year, under the leadership of Dillon Watson, Joseph Mines, Jafari McEachron and Kevin Hackett.

We will focus on core workouts to strengthen all the muscles, to help improve running form, cut down injuries and boost their overall athletic performance. We want to continue to work hard, but, to accomplish that, we must stay healthy.





# Softball

Head Coach Alex Gray

The 2021 season is promising. The varsity is returning seven starters from last year, with several new faces in the lineup to enhance our competitive edge. This will be one of the most talented groups of young women this program has seen in a while. Mixed with five seniors who have been three-year starters, our lineup will be rounded out with several talented players competing for playing time.

Our defense is loaded with veteran leadership, and I have high expectations for them. The outfield is led by seniors Brooklyn McNeese and Maddie Carruthers, whose defensive abilities are second to none. The infield will be led by seniors Hannah Forbes and Molly Wiggins (both 2020 first-team all-region), and juniors Kacie Wiggins and Mak Levine. Brooke Hodges, a 2020 freshman starter, will see time in the infield and outfield; we are excited about her growth in the offseason. In the circle, Wiggins and Gracie Menard will lead the charge, with help from junior Savannah Read. New additions include freshmen Abby Gillis and Alyssa Kendall. Victoria Tunon returns from offseason knee surgery. We can't wait to have her leadership on the field.

Our senior class is a special group, and I look forward to watching them lead this program back to the playoffs this year. Overall, our team is composed of remarkable young women, and they are a pleasure to coach.



# Volleyball

Head Coach Kelly Audia

The 2020 season, as it was, became a strong indicator of improvement on the Woodstock sub-varsity levels, but last year's senior group made definite sacrifices for this program moving forward.

While the 2020 team struggled to win on the varsity level, last year's seniors were a tremendous influence on the underclassmen. Their attitude and perseverance will be a part of the returning squad's growth and attitude going forward. Neva Clark, Lauren DeSanctis, Kenzie Lamberg and Brooke Loan long will be remembered for their contributions.

This year's team will continue to build for the future and compete more consistently than in prior years. The volleyball play and the work ethic are solidly improving, and the team is eager to begin.

Returning key varsity players consist of senior Allison Mascitti (libero/defensive specialist), juniors Gracie Cassidy (middle blocker), Alexa Travis (outside hitter), Peyton White and Payton Kuhn (setters), sophomores Lola Burdick (outside hitter/right side) and Ava Tieman (libero/defensive specialist). Many newcomers will vie for positions early in the year.



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# Rob's Rescues

This dog's tag number is 630521. She is a small 4-year-old Yorkie terrier. She is a very cute, gray dog. She was a stray. She is very sweet, and I bet it would be very easy to take care of her.

These cats' names are Laker and Pennie. They are brother and sister, around 6 years old. Pennie is a bit shy. Laker is a very loving and solid cat. If you are looking for a pair of cats, these are the two cats for you!



Rob with 4-year-old Yorkie terrier.



Rob and Laker.



Pennie.



Candace Solyst, Rob, Bailey the dog and Kathleen Garrand take a ride on the Pooch Pontoon. Bailey is available for adoption through HSNEGA.

## Best Friends on the Lake

I recently had a great trip on Lake Lanier with the Pooch Pontoon (PP) and the Humane Society of Northeast Georgia (HSNEGA), where I interviewed Candace Solyst and Kathleen Garrand. Solyst is the founder of Best Friends on the Lake ([www.bestfriendsonthelake.com](http://www.bestfriendsonthelake.com)), which runs PP, taking rescue dogs, and other dogs, out on the lake. Garrand is the foster and behavior coordinator of HSNEGA ([www.humane.society.of.northeast.georgia.org](http://www.humane.society.of.northeast.georgia.org)).

### Can you tell me a little about HSNEGA?

KG: Established in 1913, it is the oldest nonprofit in northeast Georgia. It is a private no-kill shelter that pulls from high-kill shelters, and it takes owner-surrendered pets, too. HSNEGA offers spay and neuter services; there is an adoption center, and we are heavily involved in the Community Cats program.

### What does that mean to be a foster and behavior coordinator?

KG: I run the foster program. I get at-risk and heartworm-positive animals into foster homes. Our behavior program provides enrichment services in the shelter for dogs and cats, as well as on-site training.

### How did HSNEGA hear about PP?

KG: Candace is a long-term volunteer. She came up with the idea, combining her passion for the lake and dogs, and approached us. We try to get volunteers out with the rescue dogs as much as possible.

### What is the main focus of PP?

CS: We do rescue rides on Lake Lanier. We enrich the lives of people and their dogs by helping them connect on a deeper level in nature. Shelter volunteers and fosters are welcome to bring their dogs for a free ride, and walk around a private island.

### How did you come up with this idea?

CS: I have been going out on the lake for 20 years. I get so much benefit from it, and wanted to share it. In 2017, The Gainesville Times did an article about me and long-term shelter dog, Ruben. I had taken him out on PP to get him out of the shelter environment for a while. That article really was the catalyst for how we have grown.

### How often do you bring dogs on PP, and how many have gone so far?

KG: On average, two to three volunteers go out a week. We would love to do it more. Rescue rides started in 2017, and easily 200 dogs have enjoyed rides so far.

### How do you select the dogs?

KG: It used to be considered based on who needs it the most. Now, we leave it to the volunteers to decide who is going to benefit the most.

Stay tuned for the next part of this interview in the October issue.



Rob Macmillan is on a mission to help shelter dogs and cats. On Facebook @robrescues. [www.robrescues.com](http://www.robrescues.com).





## KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

### 2021 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

**SEP 2**

**REINHARDT**  
8 PM | HOME

**OCT 23**

**CAMPBELL\***  
4 PM | AWAY

**SEP 11**

**GEORGIA TECH**  
12 PM | AWAY

**OCT 30**

**GARDNER-WEBB\***  
1 PM | HOME

**SEP 18**

**WOFFORD**  
6 PM | AWAY

**NOV 6**

**ROBERT MORRIS\***  
12 PM | AWAY

**OCT 2**

**JACKSONVILLE STATE**  
3 PM | HOME

**NOV 13**

**NORTH ALABAMA\***  
3 PM | AWAY

**OCT 9**

**HAMPTON\***  
2 PM | AWAY

**NOV 20**

**MONMOUTH\***  
1 PM | HOME

**OCT 16**

**NORTH CAROLINA A&T\***  
5 PM | HOME

**\* SOUTH**  
CONFERENCE GAME



## CHEROKEE WARRIORS

### 2021 VARSITY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

**18 AUG**

**MAYS**  
AWAY | 7:30 PM

**1 OCT**

**WOODSTOCK**  
AWAY | 7:30 PM

**27 AUG**

**SEQUOYAH**  
AWAY | 7:30 PM

**8 OCT**

**ROSWELL**  
HOME | 7:30 PM

**3 SEP**

**ROME**  
AWAY | 7:30 PM

**22 OCT**

**ETOWAH**  
HOME | 7:30 PM

**10 SEP**

**CREEKVIEW**  
HOME | 7:30 PM

**29 OCT**

**ALPHARETTA**  
HOME | 7:30 PM

**17 SEP**

**CARTERSVILLE**  
AWAY | 7:30 PM

**5 NOV**

**MILTON**  
AWAY | 7:30 PM



## CREEKVIEW GRIZZLIES

### 2021 VARSITY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

**20 AUG**

**ETOWAH**  
HOME | 7:30 PM

**8 OCT**

**RIVER RIDGE**  
AWAY | 7:30 PM

**3 SEP**

**WOODSTOCK**  
HOME | 7:30 PM

**15 OCT**

**RIVERWOOD**  
AWAY | 7:30 PM

**10 SEP**

**CHEROKEE**  
AWAY | 7:30 PM

**22 OCT**

**CHATTAHOOCHEE**  
AWAY | 7:30 PM

**17 SEP**

**CAMBRIDGE**  
HOME | 7:30 PM

**29 OCT**

**CENTENNIAL**  
HOME | 7:30 PM

**1 OCT**

**SEQUOYAH**  
HOME | 7:30 PM

**5 NOV**

**JOHNS CREEK**  
AWAY | 7:30 PM



## SEQUOYAH CHIEFS

### 2021 VARSITY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

**20 AUG**

**WOODSTOCK**  
AWAY | 7:30 PM

**8 OCT**

**CAMBRIDGE**  
AWAY | 7:30 PM

**27 AUG**

**CHEROKEE**  
HOME | 7:30 PM

**15 OCT**

**CHATTAHOOCHEE**  
HOME | 7:30 PM

**3 SEP**

**CASS**  
AWAY | 7:30 PM

**22 OCT**

**RIVER RIDGE**  
HOME | 7:30 PM

**17 SEP**

**JOHNS CREEK**  
HOME | 7:30 PM

**29 OCT**

**RIVERWOOD**  
HOME | 7:30 PM

**1 OCT**

**CREEKVIEW**  
AWAY | 7:30 PM

**5 NOV**

**CENTENNIAL**  
AWAY | 7:30 PM



## WOODSTOCK WOLVERINES

### 2021 VARSITY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

**20 AUG**

**SEQUOYAH**  
HOME | 7:30 PM

**1 OCT**

**CHEROKEE**  
HOME | 7:30 PM

**27 AUG**

**RIVER RIDGE**  
HOME | 7:30 PM

**8 OCT**

**ALPHARETTA**  
AWAY | 7:30 PM

**3 SEP**

**CREEKVIEW**  
AWAY | 7:30 PM

**22 OCT**

**ETOWAH**  
AWAY | 7:30 PM

**10 SEP**

**CAMPBELL**  
AWAY | 7:30 PM

**29 OCT**

**MILTON**  
AWAY | 7:30 PM

**17 SEP**

**CALHOUN**  
HOME | 7:30 PM

**5 NOV**

**ROSWELL**  
HOME | 7:30 PM

# Around & About

## SEPTEMBER

**1 The National Alliance on Mental Illness Family Support Group** is peer-led, and provides support to adults with loved ones who have mental illness. The group meets every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. Contact Ovie Hughie at 678-880-9296 or oviehughie@gmail.com for details.

**4 A Multicultural Festival**, organized to celebrate and strengthen community relationships among different cultures in Canton, will be in Etowah River Park, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Join the fun for live music, food tastings and a soccer tournament. <https://bit.ly/3BYCKcL>.

**Yoga in the Park** is at Brown Park in Canton, 9-10 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month, through October. Please sign up if you plan to attend the free class; waivers must be signed before starting. Details are on the Horizon Healing Center Facebook page.

**Movies in the Park** will be at Northside Hospital Cherokee Amphitheater in Woodstock at 8:05 p.m. Sept. 4 and 7:30 p.m. Oct. 2. The movies being shown had not been announced at press time.

**5 Tacos and Tequila Festival** is coming to The Mill on Etowah, noon-8 p.m. Join the community in a celebration with live music, local vendors and the best tacos and tequila around. Visit <https://bit.ly/3ijol2a> for details.

**6 Labor4Hope 5K**, a community event for suicide prevention and mental health awareness, includes music, food, vendors, mental health resources and a memorial area following the race at Etowah River Park in Canton. Visit <https://bit.ly/2UZRUyp> to register and for a full schedule or events.

**7 The Market at The Mill** on Etowah is 5:30-8:30 p.m. every Tuesday night on the green, featuring local makers, creators, bakers and artists. Details are available on Facebook at The Mill on Etowah page.

**9 The 11th annual Taste of Woodstock** will be at Elm Street Event Green in downtown Woodstock. Admission is free. Tickets and packages for tastes are available for purchase. Visit <http://tastewoodstock.com> for details and the schedule of events.

**11 9/11 Day of Remembrance** begins at 7 p.m. in the Park at City Center in Woodstock. Remember those we've lost, and honor those who continue to serve, fight and sacrifice for our freedom and safety. Visit [www.woodstockparksandrec.com](http://www.woodstockparksandrec.com) for details.

**11 The first Cherokee Music Teachers Association (CMTA) meeting** of the season will be at the Woodstock Library, 10 a.m.-noon. Anyone interested in CMTA is invited to attend; brunch will be served. For more information, please contact Linda Lokey at [linda@lokey.net](mailto:linda@lokey.net).

**17 Relay for Life Cherokee County** begins at 6 p.m. in Etowah River Park in Canton. For details, or to donate or join the relay, visit [https://secure.acevents.org/site/STR?pg=entry&fr\\_id=98823](https://secure.acevents.org/site/STR?pg=entry&fr_id=98823).

The last **Decades at Reinhardt** concert of the season, '90s Rock Review, is at 7:30 p.m. on the lawn at Reinhardt University Waleska campus. Bring food, beverages, chairs and blankets. Visit <https://ci.ovationtix.com/35154> to reserve free tickets, or call the Falany box office at 770-720-9167.

**18 River Rock Concert: Laine Hardy** begins at 6 p.m. at Etowah River Park. Visit the events calendar on [www.cantonga.gov](http://www.cantonga.gov) for more information about the free concert.

**19 DW Campbell Tire Car Show Fundraiser**, benefiting Autism Speaks, will be at 1906 Professional Way, Woodstock, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. General admission to this family-friendly event is free; \$20 registration fee for competitors. For more information, call 770-928-7363.

**Healthy Kids Running Series** is a five-week running program for kids, pre-kindergarten through eighth grade, beginning on Sept. 19 and ending on Oct. 24 at Weatherby Park in Canton. Visit <https://bit.ly/3yQZMAF> for more information and registration. If you have any questions, contact CantonGA@HealthyKidsRS.org.

**20 The eighth annual Northside Hospital Cherokee Auxiliary Golf Tournament** at Fairways of Canton is rain or shine, and sign-in starts at 8 a.m. To register, scan the QR code. For more information, contact Tom McKay at [tmckay01@gmail.com](mailto:tmckay01@gmail.com) or 919-669-1771.



**25-26 Riverfest Arts and Crafts Festival** returns, featuring original work from artisans, live music and food vendors. The fundraiser will take place at Etowah River Park in Canton, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$5. Visit the Riverfest Facebook page for details.





The scene at last month's First Friday event in Canton.

## OCTOBER

**2** **2021 Run, Walk or Roll 5K** will be held at First Baptist Woodstock, and the 5K begins at 8 a.m. For more information, or to register, visit [www.runwalkorroll.com](http://www.runwalkorroll.com).

The 15th annual **Senior Extravaganza** is back at the Northside Hospital Cherokee Amphitheater in Woodstock, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Meet experts to answer your retirement questions. <https://saltcherokee.com/events>.

The 17th annual **Autumn Fest** at Barrett Memorial Park in Holly Springs features more than 80 arts and crafts vendors, food trucks and activities for kids, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Visit <https://bit.ly/3zPYC8u> for details about the free event.

**7-10** The **Etowah Film Festival** is coming to Canton Theatre, with four days of film screenings. Visit [www.etowahfilmfestival.com/about](http://www.etowahfilmfestival.com/about) for more information, and to purchase tickets.

**8** **Sunset Symphony** will be at Northside Hospital Cherokee Amphitheater in downtown Woodstock at 7 p.m. Enjoy a free night of swing music with the Cobb New Horizons Symphonic Band. Visit the special events tab at <https://woodstock.recdesk.com> for details.

**16** **Woodstock Fire and Rescue Open House** will feature demos, station tours and lunch, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Bring the family to Station 14, 225 Arnold Mill Road; free parking will be available at Allen Temple AME Church.

**24** **Rivers Alive Clean Up** is meeting at the Upper Etowah River Alliance office, 180 McClure St., in Canton, at 9 a.m. Breakfast, snacks, gloves, bags and lunch are provided.

## CANTON FIRST FRIDAY

The monthly block party, sponsored by the Canton Main Street Program, will run 6-9 p.m. in downtown Canton. [www.cantonga.gov](http://www.cantonga.gov). On Facebook.

- Sept. 3:** Trotline
- Oct. 1:** Electric Avenue
- Oct. 29:** No Sweat, Halloween costume contest
- Nov. 5:** Glow Band (rescheduled from July)

## WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS

Join Northside Hospital experts for a weekly virtual health presentation every Wednesday at noon. Visit [www.northside.com/community-wellness/classes-events](http://www.northside.com/community-wellness/classes-events) for registration.

- Sept. 8:** Dr. Ramal M. Weragoda, Northside Heart
- Sept. 15:** Dr. Christopher Comey, Advanced Neurosurgery Associates and Dr. Rizwan Bashir, Northside Gwinnett Inpatient Neurology

## CHEROKEE THEATRE COMPANY

<https://www.cherokeetheatre.org/shows>  
Performances will be at the Canton Theatre, 171 E. Main St. Visit the Cherokee Theatre Company Facebook page for more details.

**Sept. 17-19, 24-26**

**"The Sweet Delilah Swim Club"** by Jones, Hope and Wooten. Full-length comedy-drama, five females.

## LANTERN SERIES

At the Elm Street Event Green in Woodstock; shows begin at 7:30 p.m. Check for updates at [www.woodstockarts.org](http://www.woodstockarts.org).

- Sept. 25:** The Black Market Trust
- Oct. 16:** We Banjo 3
- Oct. 30:** Argonaut & Wasp

## WOODSTOCK SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

The free concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Northside Hospital-Cherokee Amphitheater. More details at [www.woodstockconcertseries.com](http://www.woodstockconcertseries.com).

- Sept. 18:** Christopher Cross
- Sept. 25:** Rumours, a Fleetwood Mac tribute band

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*The Aroundabout Local Media team didn't want to miss out on celebrating National School Picture Day on Sept. 9, so we decided to share our school photos with you. We've never looked younger, wouldn't you agree?*

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At Aroundabout Local Media, we believe the world functions at the community level: diverse groups of people living in close proximity, sharing commonality of culture, values and local pride, developing safety nets for those in need, and helping each other to live richer lives.

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we aim to provide everyone in the communities we serve with uplifting, interesting information about the community they are proud to call home.

We encourage you to send us your photos, ideas, stories or anything else you think the community would like to know about. It's your community. It's your magazine. Look on page 6 for our contact information.

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