

FREE

HomeTown

Neighbors

Connecting
our Northeast
Georgia
Neighbors for
**OVER 20
YEARS!**

In this issue:

Spring Festivals and Events

Easter Crafts and Recipes

Local Acts of Love

And More!

April 2026

Franklin, Hart,
Stephens and
Madison Counties



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to your
next
home!

**DOWNTOWN LAVONIA 4 bedroom,
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Comments continue to pour into the magazine from our wonderful readers. We love to hear from you! We also appreciate you supporting the local businesses that advertise with us. Be sure to mention to them that you saw their ad in the magazine, for without their advertising support we could not continue to bring you this quality monthly publication.

SEND US YOUR COMMENTS:

By email: hometownneighbors@windstream.net
Or postal mail: 5721 West Avenue; Lavonia, GA 30553

Hey there! Finally found the treasure chest in the latest March 2026 issue. Very tricky as it really blended in with that floral chair. Haha it's on page 12, in The Colbert Benton Guest House ad. Thank you

- A. K., Eastanollee GA

I enjoy your magazine.

- S.P., Martin, GA

Find the hidden treasure chest in an advertisement in this issue for a chance to win a great prize. Send us your answer along with your name, address, and daytime phone number to: hometownneighbors@windstream.net, fax it to us at: 706-356-0274, or mail it to us at: HTN Magazine, 5721 West Avenue, Lavonia, GA 30553. We will draw a winner from all of the correct answers we receive. The deadline to get your answer to us will be the 9th of each month. Only one entry per person and no phone calls, please.

MARCH TREASURE WINNERS:

Angela Kellar of Eastanollee, Georgia won Beautiful Jewelry from Vintage Owl

DID YOU FIND IT?

The March treasure chest was located in the Colbert-Benton Guest House on page 12

APRIL TREASURE:

Beautiful Jewelry from Vintage Owl



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Hello, Neighbor!

APRIL 2026

VOLUME 22 | ISSUE 8



Be bold! That is the message God gave to me as I sit down to write the Hello for this month. As I ponder this for a moment, I feel led to tell you that standing up for what is right and what may not be popular is hard!

It has certainly caused me grief in the past. However, this is what the Lord has called His children to do! Do not celebrate injustice, do not celebrate infidelity, do not celebrate gossip, do not celebrate or congratulate those who participate in such things. I have been guilty of gossip many times, and God has convicted my heart of it. Just because it is true, doesn't mean it is right for me or any child of God to spread it. Also, do not celebrate those who will lead you astray. Prayer in all forms is not just! Only prayer to the Lord is just and right. I see those who think it is good when people say pray for me, send me your good thoughts/vibes, or whatever you believe. This is wrong! Stop celebrating this type of behavior. It is of the world! Joshua 1:9 - "Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." You will be excluded from those who celebrate this type behavior, but God says He is with you! It will hurt your feelings, and it may even cause financial hardships or worse. However, Proverbs 28:1 tells us, "The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion."

Sincerely,

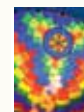
Raina C Troxell

Raina C. Troxell

The deadline for the May issue is April 1st. Please call us at 706.356.0273 with submissions. Thank you!



Congratulations to Tiffany Kennedy for having this photo chosen for this month's cover of our Franklin, Stephens, Hart and Madison county edition.



Congratulations to Rev. Dr. Randy Kanipeof Cornelia, GA, for having this photo chosen for this month's cover of our Banks, Jackson, Habersham and Clarke county edition.

For Photo Contest Rules, go to: www.hometownneighbors.com

HomeTown Neighbors

- 1 HOMETOWN HIDDEN TREASURES**
Can you find the treasure hidden in our pages?
 - 3 HOLIDAY CRAFTS**
Enjoy making these festive Easter decorations
 - 4 COOKING WITH YOUR NEIGHBOR**
Try these scrumptious spring recipes!
 - 5 OUT AND ABOUT**
H and H Homestead Market
Is April 10th-12th
 - 6 CRAZY FOR ANTIQUES**
Mid-Century Modern
 - 7 NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS**
Help us Spread the Good News of God's Love and Restore the Old 6th Grade Academy in Cornelia
 - 8 AROUND TOWN/CALENDAR**
Community events and special days
 - 9 FAIRS AND FESTIVALS**
The Biggest Vintage Festival in Georgia is Now Even Better with a New Name & Location!
 - 9 SHOP LOCAL**
Support Local Businesses
in Downtown Commerce and Jefferson
 - 10 HONORING NEIGHBORS**
Obituaries from Local Funeral Homes
 - 12 NON-PROFIT SPOTLIGHT**
Piedmont Rape Crisis Center Announces 20th Annual Ride to Survive
 - 13 BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT**
Coile and Hall Funeral Directors
 - 14 LEGALLY SPEAKING**
How Can You Hire a Lawyer If You Can't Afford One?
 - 15 FAIRS AND FESTIVALS**
Jefferson Announces the Return of PorchFest on May 3rd
 - 16 SERVICE DIRECTORY**
Find the help you need!
- Inside Back**
INDEX OF ADVERTISERS
Thank you to all of our wonderful advertisers!

APRIL COVER PHOTO WINNERS

ADDRESS: 5721 West Avenue • Lavonia, GA, 30553 | **PHONE:** 706-356-0273 | **FAX:** 706-356-0274 | **EMAIL:** HomeTownNeighbors@windstream.net

PUBLISHER & BILLING: Raina Troxell | **GRAPHIC DESIGN & WEBSITE:** Mary Brewer www.royalforest.net

DELIVERY: Steve Troxell, Johnnie Troxell, Justin Troxell

Missed a copy of HomeTown Neighbors? Check out **WWW.HOMETOWNNEIGHBORS.COM** past editions!

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Book Page Easter Egg Craft



Supplies:

- 5-6 plastic or wooden eggs
- 2-3 old book pages or newspaper scraps
- Matte Mod Podge or white glue
- Foam brush
- Jute twine (1 yard)
- Small faux flowers and felt leaves
- Scissors

Directions:

Tear your book pages into thin strips. Apply Mod Podge to the egg and smooth on each strip, layering and overlapping until the surface is fully covered. Let it dry.

Cut a short piece of jute twine and tie it around the top of the egg. You can add a loop for hanging or just tie a rustic bow.

Glue a small faux flower or a felt leaf bunch on top of each egg. Let them dry before arranging them in a basket or hanging them as ornaments.

Bunny Treat Bags

Supplies:

- White paper bags
- Scissors
- Markers
- Ribbon
- Yarn or little pom poms
- Glue gun



Directions:

Lay the white paper bag flat on a surface. Draw a 3-inch-tall "V" from the corners of the bag down toward the center of the bag. Cut out the "V", forming the bunny ears.

Use a pink colored pencil to fill in the pink interior of the ear.

Unfold the bag and fill it with easter treats. Tie a length of ribbon or yarn around the bag, below the ears, cinching the bag tight.

Make or buy a small pom-pom and attach it to the bottom of the bag to create the bunny tail.

Paper Plate Bunny Masks

Supplies

- White paper plates
- White cardstock for ears
- Pink construction paper
- Cotton balls
- Black pipe cleaners
- Elastic cord
- Washable markers
- Handheld hole punch
- Kids' craft glue



Directions:

Cut out two eye holes in the center of a paper plate using kid-safe scissors, and trim the bottom edge flat if you'd like.

Cut long bunny ear shapes from white cardstock and smaller pink shapes for the inner ears; glue the pink pieces on top. Glue the ears to the top back side of the plate, then add a cotton ball nose and pipe cleaner whiskers to the front using craft glue.

Use markers to draw a mouth and any extra details, then punch holes on each side of the mask with a hole punch. Thread elastic cord through the holes, knot, and adjust to fit your child's head comfortably.

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Smoked Salmon Bites with Shallot Sauce

1 sheet frozen puff pastry, thawed

Sauce:

2 shallots

2 tablespoons Dijon mustard

1 tablespoon mayonnaise

1 tablespoon red wine vinegar

1/4 cup olive oil

1 cup fresh arugula or baby spinach, coarsely chopped

4-1/2 ounces smoked salmon or lox, thinly sliced

1/2 cup shaved Asiago cheese



Preheat oven to 400°. Unfold puff pastry; cut into 25 squares. Transfer to greased baking sheets. Bake 11-13 minutes or until golden brown. Meanwhile, grate 1 shallot and finely chop the other. In a small bowl, combine shallots, mustard, mayonnaise and vinegar. While whisking, gradually add oil in a steady stream. Spoon a small amount of sauce onto each pastry; layer with arugula and salmon. Drizzle with remaining sauce and sprinkle with cheese.

Brie Appetizers with Bacon-Plum Jam

1 pound bacon strips, chopped

1 cup thinly sliced sweet onion

1 shallot, finely chopped

5 garlic cloves, minced

1 cup brewed coffee

1/2 cup water

1/4 cup cider vinegar

1/4 cup pitted dried plums (prunes), coarsely chopped

3 tablespoons brown sugar

1 tablespoon maple syrup

1 tablespoon Sriracha chili sauce

1/2 teaspoon pepper

30 slices Brie cheese (1/4 inch thick)

30 slices French bread baguette (1/4 inch thick), toasted

toasted

In a large skillet, cook bacon over medium heat until partially cooked but not crisp. Remove to paper towels with a slotted spoon; drain skillet, reserving 1 tablespoon drippings. Add onion and shallot to drippings; cook and stir 5 minutes. Add garlic; cook 2 minutes longer. Stir in coffee, water, vinegar, dried plums, brown sugar, maple syrup, chili sauce and pepper. Bring to a boil. Stir in bacon. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, 1-1/4 to 1-1/2 hours or until liquid is syrupy, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat. Cool to room temperature. Transfer mixture to a food processor; pulse until jam reaches desired consistency. Place cheese slices on toasted baguette slices. Top each with 2 teaspoons jam.



Grape Jelly & Chili Sauce Meatballs



2 packages (24 ounces each) frozen fully cooked Italian meatballs
1 bottle (12 ounces) chili sauce
1 jar (10 ounces) grape jelly

Prepare meatballs according to package instructions. In a large skillet, combine chili sauce and jelly; cook and stir over medium heat until jelly has melted. Add meatballs to pan; heat through.

MAYSVILLE Spring Festival
DOWNTOWN Maysville, GA / VETERANS PARK
SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026
Beginning at 10 a.m.

Vendors and Food Trucks
Beginning at 10 a.m.

Classic Car Show
3-6 p.m.

CONCERT 6-9 PM

THE ATHENS OLD SCHOOL BAND
MAYSVILLE, GA - APRIL 25

FUNK CAKE

For questions or to be part of the festival/car show, contact Kim at 404.281.4928 or email maysvilledda@gmail.com

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HAPPY Easter

from your friends at HomeTown Neighbors Magazine

H and H Homestead Market Is April 10th-12th

The long-anticipated H & H Homestead Spring Market is coming to Maysville on April 10th-12th, 2026! Bring the whole family and enjoy a 3-day weekend with 100 plus vendors, live music, kid's area and food trucks.

Helena Dale held her first barn sale in her backyard in 2013. Since then, her events have exploded with over 100 vendors and thousands of shoppers each time. From antique and curio items of all kinds to sought after collectibles, you are sure to find that perfect treasure.

It all started with junk! Helena would find items at her family's recycling company, and she would just bring "the good stuff" home. Customers from all over the United States travel to her markets. There is a little bit of everything. From salvage to repurposed pieces, there is something for everyone. Even dealers

come from everywhere to shop for their antique businesses or booths.

Helena said, "They're (Dealers) are able to find pieces that they can take back and repurpose into DIY projects and sell."

There are also great finds for those who just love antiques and are looking for pieces New & Vintage Home Goods, Furniture, Custom Furniture Painting & Gift Items or home décor for their own homes. "We try to keep up with the trends, and mix in a lot of old antiques that are timeless that you would keep forever. It's new and old mixed together."

Inside the Market, you will find antiques, home décor, handmade items,

jewelry and more. Helena does "picking" trips across the country. From Pyrex to old signs, she loves bringing back these finds and staging them for the markets. "I love bringing it back to the barn and putting it together, making vignettes and giving ideas on how you can incorporate it into your house", Helena said.

Hours for the market are Friday from noon to 6pm, Saturday 10am until 5pm, and Sunday 10am until 4pm. Admission is \$5 per day cash and only at the gate. Good for the whole weekend. Children under 12 are free. She also has several live sales on her Facebook page throughout the year. 🏠

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MAYSVILLE, GA**



**H & H
Homestead
Good Junk**

Spring Market

APRIL 10TH-12TH
FRIDAY 10AM-5PM
SATURDAY 10AM-5PM
SUNDAY 10AM-4PM

**100+ Vendors | Food Trucks | Live Music
Kids Play Area**

**10345 GILLSVILLE RD
MAYSVILLE, GA 30558
HHHOMESTEAD.COM**

Mid-Century Modern

By Raina Troxell

I love MCM design and art. Right now, the popularity of this type of art has gained much appreciation. So, exactly what does MCM stand for? It is an acronym for Mid-Century Modern Art?

What is MCM art? Well, it is an American classic. It's a timeless movement that doesn't go out of style, whether it's in interior design, architecture, or art. Mid-century modern is the art and design style that gained popularity between the mid-1940s and the mid-1960s. This style reflects a post-war optimism and an embrace of new materials, bold forms, and abstract expression.

For artworks and art pieces, a balance of geometric forms and brilliant colors are usually mastered and abundant.

Art pieces made during such a time period are unique. And because they feel timeless, mid-century modern art and this particular style, in general, continue to gain respect from designers today.



shapes—often seen in paintings and sculpture.

- **Integration with Design:** Many artists created works intended to harmonize with modern interiors, blurring the line between art and decor.

- **Innovative Materials:** Experimentation with new materials like fiberglass, acrylic, and screen-printing techniques.

We recently designed the basement in our new home with all

KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF MID-CENTURY MODERN ART:

- **Clean Lines & Minimalism:** Focus on simplicity and function, often using geometric shapes and clean compositions.
- **Bold Colors:** Use of vibrant, sometimes contrasting, color palettes.
- **Abstract & Organic Forms:** Blends abstraction with natural, flowing

MCM art, furniture and design. It has been a fun challenge to see our MCM dream come true. We recently just purchased an authentic MCM fireplace to finish our project. These photos are actual photos of our home. If you love MCM, many antique and vintage stores have several booths that carry unique pieces from this era. Happy Hunting! 🏠

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Help us Spread the Good News of God's Love and Restore the Old 6th Grade Academy in Cornelia

Submitted by St. Dominic Chapel

The biggest concern in our world today is not drugs or poverty or even politics. It is man's inability to know that God is Alive and Active!! Because of this, he seeks answers in other ways, and his life becomes meaningless in his attempt to escape his reality. When we lose our sense of self, we no longer feel like children of God but like orphans without hope. To this end, St. Dominic Chapel was created and is currently being renovated.

As the only Catholic Church in Habersham County, our mission is to reach out to the entire county. Our Parish is located on Hwy 197 in Clarkesville and we felt called to bring the church to those in the Cornelia area. When the

property of the old 6th grade academy was suggested, we saw that it fit our need for space and was directly in the heart of Cornelia. In 2015, we began offering tutoring, then the School of Religion, English as a Second Language classes and Faith formation. We purchased the property in 2016.

Our first priority was a worship space, so the former media center was transformed into a beautiful chapel. As our needs increased, we renovated the space: rooms consolidated or added, floors replaced, paint applied, and bathrooms renovated.

The need then became, how to create a welcoming and beautiful place that speaks of the Love of God for each one of us and calls man to have an encounter



with the life-giving spirit of the Risen Christ. This refurbishment will allow us to provide to the local area a place where everyone can have this experience. Our hope is that the neighborhood will see it as a space to gather, meditate, and contemplate no matter their religion. For the Catholics of the area,

the sacraments will be available to them, as well.

Please consider helping us in this undertaking to bring Glory to God and help to our fellow man. You can call the church at 678-653-3303 or email us at fundraising@stmrk.org.

Follow our progress @ <https://stdom-chapel.com/progress/> 🏠

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 NEW VOLUNTEERS TO JOIN OUR CREW
 Specifically, help Monday & Saturday mornings to feed and water animals - about a 2 1/2 hour weekly commitment.
 Also, in need of handy man/woman volunteers to help finish our new barn construction.

Jackson County

APRIL 11, 2026 - SPRING INTO COMMERCE DOWNTOWN BEAUTIFICATION DAY,

9AM at Spencer Park

APRIL 11, 2026 - CRUISIN COMMERCE,

2-6pm, For more information contact www.commercega.gov, 706-335-1899.

APRIL 25-26, 2026 - MAYSVILLE SPRING FESTIVAL,

Starting at 10am- Vendors, Food Trucks, Classic Car Show, Music

MAY 1-2, 2026 - 47TH CITY OF NICHOLSON DAISY FESTIVAL,

East Jackson Park from 4pm to 9 pm on Friday and Saturday from 9am until 9pm. Parade, Crafts, Food, Auction, Cakewalks, and live music. For more information call 706-757-3408.

MAY 3, 2026 - JEFFERSON PORCH FEST 2026,

Celebrating Music, Community, and historic places in historic downtown Jefferson from 2-7pm.

Hart County

APRIL 11, 2026 - SPRING PLANT SALE,,

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Hart County Botanical Gardens, 1277 Elberton Hwy, Hartwell. Gardeners and plant lovers are invited to shop a curated selection of native perennials, pollinator friendly plants, ornamental shrubs, specialty annuals, and unique varieties suited for local growing conditions. Members receive early access from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, with the public sale from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Master Gardeners will be on site to offer planting tips and advice. Proceeds support garden programs, youth education, and conservation efforts. 706-436-1557, hartcogardens.com

APRIL 11, 2026 - 19TH ANNUAL DAM DOG WALK,

4:00-8:00 PM, Hartwell Dam. The Dam Dog Walk returns with a new twist as this year's event moves into the evening for a magical Glow in the Dark Walk across the historic Hartwell Dam at sunset. Enjoy a pet pageant, mini games, raffles, food trucks, local vendors, and the chance to meet adoptable dogs. Bring your own dog friendly pups and enjoy a fun evening for the whole family while supporting a great cause. harthumane.org

APRIL 18, 2026 - PORCH SONGS & PUBLIC VOICES FESTIVAL,

12:00-10:00 PM, Join us for the Porch Songs & Public Voices Festival, a daylong celebration of storytelling, music, and culture. Enjoy Native American stories and dance, folk performances, and an authentic blues presentation by Mojo on Max: Sticks, Stones, Roots and Bones, tracing the birth of the blues. The festival also features local storytelling, bluegrass music, regional food, and concludes with the monthly Blues Jam showcasing talented local musicians. Hartwell, 706-376-8590, DiscoverHartwell.com

Franklin County

APRIL 2, 2026 - ROYSTON BINGO NIGHT,

Thursday nights at the Depot 310 Railroad Street, Royston, GA. and it will continue every Thursday night at 5:30pm.

APRIL 4, 2026 - ROYSTON EASTER EGG HUNT,

10am at Wellness Park

APRIL 11, 2026 - LAVONIA SPRING FESTIVAL,

Vendors, Food, Spring Fun, 9-4pm. Local shopping, live entertainment, and more than 100 vendors

lining the streets of historic downtown. Stroll handmade goods, crafts, and unique finds, while also enjoying delicious food vendors serving festival favorites and local flavors. Live music will take place throughout the day at the Downtown Gazebo, Live Music Schedule: 9:00 - 11:00 AM: Becca & Mark, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM: Caleb Hunnicutt, 2:00 - 4:00 PM: Lara Smith

APRIL 11, 2026 - VINTAGE OWL MARKET,

Downtown Lavonia, Vendors, Sales, and More- 9 to 4pm-Open until 5pm! \$5 Door Busters!

APRIL 25, 2026 - ROYSTON COMMUNITY YARD SALE,

Map to tell you who and address of each participate

APRIL 25, 2026 - ROYSTON CONCERT AT THE WELLNESS PARK,

Starting at 5 with "George Strait" 6-8 with "Something Once Sacred" and 8-9 with "Elvis".

Stephens County

MAY 2, 2026 - DISCOVER TOCCOA 2026,

Art, Music, Food, History-10am-6pm downtown Toccoa. Spring Festival featuring fine artists, regional beer and wine, food, and music and a Currahee Artist Guild Art Show & Competition. www.mainstreettoccoa.com

Habersham County

APRIL - OCTOBER, 2026 - CRUISE IN WITH A PURPOSE CAR SHOW,

Every 2nd Friday of each month, April-October, the gates open at 3:00pm, 4:00pm judging begins, 6:30pm judging ends, and 7:30pm awards. Clarkesville Pitts Park

April 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1  April Fools	2  Peanut Butter and Jelly Day	 Good Friday	4
 Easter	6	7	8	9  Unicorn Day	10	11
12	13  Scrabble Day	14	 Banana Day	16	17  Ford Mustang Day	18
19	20	21	22  Earth Day	 English Muffin Day	24	25  World Penguin Day
26  Pretzel Day	27	28	29	30  Bubble Tea Day		

The Biggest Vintage Festival in Georgia is Now Even Better with a New Name & Location!

Art-Tiques Vintage Market is moving from Braselton to Commerce! On April, 25th and 26th, The Braselton Antique & Artisan Festival begins a new journey in Commerce, GA with a new name of Art-tiques Vintage Market!

This Georgia town is known for shopping and it just made sense to relocate this show with more than 250 vendors to this nearby city. This is an award-winning show is over 20 years old. It ranks continuously Best of Gwinnett, Top 5 for Explore Georgia with many other accolades.

Their vendors work hard to bring you wood working, outdoor iron works, cement statues, jewelry, boutique, antiques, collectibles, hand crafted soaps, furniture, homemade candles, wow ...so much more to see. They always look forward to the local artisans that work so hard to bring such fantastic pieces.

Can we talk food!!! Their food trucks

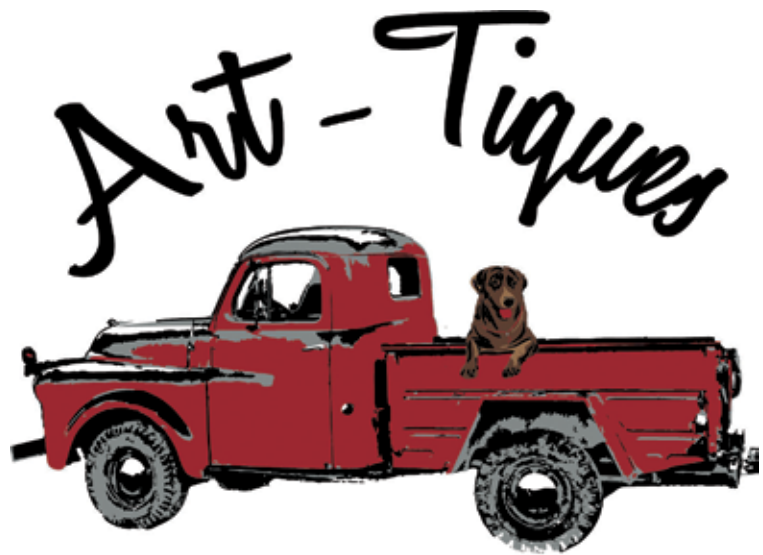
are top rated! Delicious food with so much flavor. They invite 8 food trucks to this event to make sure you don't leave hungry. They add a touch of ice cream, gelato, kettle corn, fresh donuts made on-site. Lemonade for the heat and hot and iced coffee for the caffeine.

Mild live music will have you sway down the aisles while shopping for new

spring pieces for your home and yard. There is so much to choose from, so come for the day or spend the weekend. This is the Highlighted Show of the spring. Saturday, April 25th, 9 to 6p.m. Sunday, April 26th, 10 to 5 p.m. New location in Downtown Commerce, Georgia. If you are interested in becoming a vendor contact them at 706-824-7204. 📍

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APRIL 25TH AND 26TH



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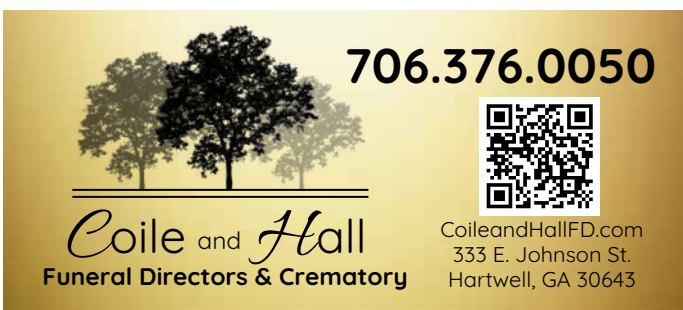


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Piedmont Rape Crisis Center Announces 20th Annual Ride to Survive

The Piedmont Rape Crisis Center (PRCC) is proud to announce the 20th Annual Ride to Survive, April 26th starting at the Winder Moose Lodge, 434 GA Hwy 211, Winder, GA. It's a milestone event dedicated to raising awareness and critical funding for survivors of sexual assault in our community.

For two decades, Ride to Survive has brought together riders, families, businesses, and community partners for a powerful day of unity and purpose. What began as a small awareness ride has grown into PRCC's signature fundraising event, supporting free and confidential services for survivors in Barrow, Banks, and Jackson Counties.

This year's event promises to be especially meaningful as PRCC celebrates 20 years of impact. Participants can expect a scenic ride, fellowship, door prizes, raffles, and opportunities to connect with local businesses and advocates who are passionate about supporting survivors.

All proceeds from the Ride to Survive directly benefit PRCC's services, including:

- 24/7 crisis response
- Hospital accompaniment
- Forensic exam advocacy
- Individual counseling
- Legal advocacy
- Community education and prevention programs

As the smallest rape crisis center in the state of Georgia, PRCC relies heavily on community support to continue offering services at no cost to survivors.

"Ride to Survive is more than a motorcycle ride," said Selena Day, Community Outreach Advocate for PRCC. "It is a visible reminder that our community



stands with survivors. Every rider, sponsor, and volunteer plays a role in helping someone move from crisis to healing."

Community members are invited to register as riders, become

sponsors, donate raffle items, or volunteer for the event. Local businesses are encouraged to partner with PRCC to help make this 20th anniversary celebration the most impactful yet.

For more information about Ride to Survive, sponsorship opportunities, or PRCC services, please contact Selena Day at selena@piedmontrapecrisis.org. Together, we ride. Together, we support. Together, we help survivors thrive. 🏠

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Coile and Hall Funeral Directors

By Raina Troxell

This month's business spotlight is no stranger to our community. Since, they opened they have made a real impact helping grieving families across Northeast Georgia.

Coile and Hall Funeral Directors opened in April of 2015. After purchasing the land and building a brand-new state of the art facility 10 years ago, they decided 5 years ago to add their own cremation center to serve families better, giving them peace of mind that their loved ones never leave their care. While offer-

and remembrance jewelry.

When asked why did they decide to open their funeral business in Hartwell, they said they believed our area needed another option and wanted to serve people and the entire community with love

and compassion.

At Coile and Hall, they are a family owned and operated funeral home focused on family! They strive to serve everyone with the utmost care and integrity. They are always willing to work within the family's



ing many funeral and cremation options, they also have a selection of caskets, urns,

budget to provider a meaningful and honoring farewell to their loved one. It is



their mission to serve our area by providing affordable funeral and cremation and to serve the community in every way possible.

Chris Coile and Duane and Leigh Hall are very involved with the Chamber, and other public nonprofits by donating, serving, and participating in community projects and events. They are truly deserving of being our April's Business spotlight, and salute them for 11 years of serving our community! 🏠

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How Can You Hire a Lawyer If You Can't Afford One?

Understanding Contingency Fees

By Attorney Derek Hays, Derek Hays Injury Law

If you've ever considered hiring a personal injury attorney, you may have heard the phrase "contingency fee." It's a common term in the legal world, but many people aren't exactly sure what it means.

Simply put, a contingency fee means you do not pay an attorney upfront for legal representation. Instead, the attorney's fee is "contingent" upon the outcome of the case.

In a contingency fee arrangement, the attorney is only paid if they successfully recover compensation for you through a settlement or verdict. If there is no recovery, there is typically no attorney's fee owed.

WHY PERSONAL INJURY CASES USE CONTINGENCY FEES

Contingency fees are widely used in personal injury law because they allow injured individuals to pursue justice without worrying about paying legal bills while they are already dealing with medical expenses, lost

income, and recovery.

For many families, paying hourly legal fees simply isn't realistic after an accident. A contingency arrangement removes that financial barrier and allows anyone access to experienced legal representation.

HOW THE FEE WORKS

While every law firm may structure its agreement slightly differently, contingency fees are generally calculated as a percentage of the final gross recovery.

That means if compensation is obtained through a settlement or trial verdict, the attorney receives an agreed upon percentage of that amount as their fee.

This structure also aligns the interests of the attorney and the client. Because the attorney's payment depends on the outcome, they are motivated to pursue the strongest possible result.

WHAT HAPPENS

IF YOU DON'T WIN?

One of the most important aspects of a

contingency fee agreement is that clients typically do not owe attorney's fees if the case is unsuccessful.

This provides peace of mind for individuals who might otherwise hesitate to pursue a claim because they fear legal costs.

After an accident, people often face medical bills, insurance calls, and uncertainty about the future. Understanding how contingency fees work helps remove one of the biggest fears people have when considering legal action. Hiring a lawyer does not have to mean taking on additional financial risk during an already difficult time.

If you have been injured and have questions about your legal rights, speak with attorney Derek Hays who can explain your options and whether your case may qualify for representation under a contingency fee agreement. Call 404-777-4878. 🏠



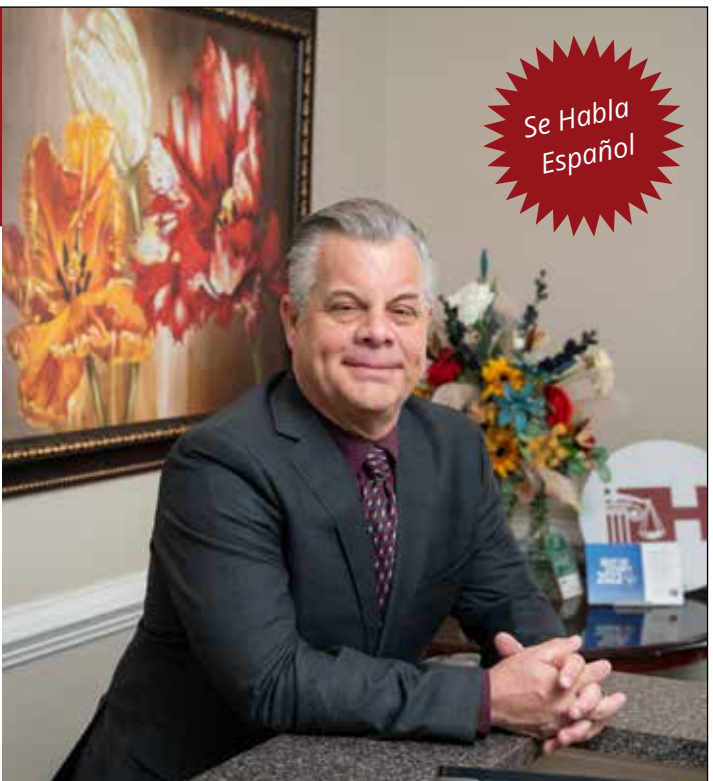
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Jefferson Announces the Return of PorchFest on May 3rd

Jefferson is proud to announce the return of Jefferson PorchFest 2026, a captivating citywide event set to transform the historic porches and lawns of downtown Jefferson into vibrant stages for live music. Scheduled for Sunday, May 3rd, from 2pm to 7pm, this free, family-friendly festival celebrates the spirit of community, history, and music in a unique and engaging way to celebrate Historic Preservation Month.

Drawing inspiration from the successful PorchFest movement that began in Ithaca, New York, in 2007, Jefferson's PorchFest aims to share Jefferson's history and showcase the talents of local musicians and artists. The event invites attendees to explore Jefferson's historic districts, enjoying a diverse range of musical performances nestled within the charming backdrop of the city's neighbor-

hoods.

Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and a little cash to support neighborhood kid's pop-up lemonade stand. Stroll from porch to porch, experiencing an eclectic mix of live music that spans genres and generations. It's a day to bask in the sunshine, relish in the sounds of local talent, and partake in the neighborly hospitality that makes Jefferson a remarkable place to live and visit. PorchFest is not just an event; it's a movement that celebrates the power of music and history to bring people together.

Whether you're a Jefferson local or visiting for the festival, get ready for a memorable day filled with music, and the joys of community spirit. Schedules and maps will be available online closer to the



event date, providing all the information needed to make the most out of day. For more information on Jefferson PorchFest 2026, including how to participate as a musician or volunteer, please email communications@cityofjefferson.ga.com Join us in making Jefferson PorchFest 2026 an unforgettable celebration of music, history, and community. See you on the porch! 🏠

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Index of Advertisers

Athens Eye Doctors	6
Beretta Equine Veterinary Services	3
Bright Sunny Day Flower & Gifts	10
Bulldog Concrete	3
Car Point Automotive	7
Coile and Hall Funeral Directors	10
Commerce DDA	11
Cure Podiatry	17
Discover Toccoa 2026	13
Dental Home	6
Derek Hays Law	14
Doc's Coffee House	5
Downtown Biscuit Barn	3
Flaunt Salon	7
GG Mack Luxe Travel	3
Gumlog Brewing Company	3
H & H Homestead	5
Hart EMC	15
Hometown Interiors	4
Hot Shot Dance & Cheer	6
Jefferson Porch Fest	15
Jewelry Expressions	1
Luma Pain Relief Laser Center	17
Maysville Spring Festival	4
Monika Woods Travel Advisor	4
Nicholson Daisy Festival	13
North Georgia Credit Union	1
Priss Ellies	11
Pruitt Funeral Home	10
Puerto Nuevo	10
Sanders Furniture	11
Skelton Morris Insurance	1
Spoiled Rotten Boutique	15
St. Mary's Healthcare	Inside Front
The Artfull Barn	12
The Art-Tiques Vintage Market	9
The Flower Depot	13
The Haven Zoo	7
TruVista	12
Village Apartments	9
Vintage Owl	Back Cover
Service Directory	16

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