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## **Local Animal Advocates Recognized for Dedication to Animal Welfare**

**(Monroe, LA)** –The Downtown RiverMarket would like to recognize Cherie Carpenter King and Karen White for their contribution to animal welfare in our community and dedication to helping lost dogs find their way home in the community. Nominations were gathered on the RiverMarket Facebook page. The winner was voted for through an online survey. This year, there was a tie in the votes for the recipient of the Ouachita Parish Animal Advocacy Award. Due to this tie, Cherie Carpenter King and Karen White will both be awarded at the Origin Bank RiverMarket on April 1<sup>st</sup> during WoofStock. This is the second annual Woofstock event, presented by KTVE NBC 10 & KARD Fox 14.

Cherie Carpenter King is a local animal activist and supporter of adopting, fostering, and rescuing animals. She has fostered for PAWS for over three years and has provided a home for eighteen furbabies.

Julie Marie speaks highly of Cherie’s actions: “She is an amazing person to say the least... She spends endless hours helping to make sure each and every furbaby gets a forever home.”

Though Cherie was threatened by Leukemia three years ago, it seems as if that doesn’t slow her passion for helping the community through animal advocacy. “(I) believe one of the reasons God saved my life is so I can help save these forgotten souls,” said Cherie.

Karen White is the other winner of the 2017 Ouachita Parish Animal Advocacy Award. She has been a nurse for the past thirty-five years, a mother of three, a grandmother of five, but still manages to find time to help abandoned, abused, and neglected dogs.

Karen volunteers at the Ouachita Parish Animal Shelter. According to Jennifer Waters, Karen “coordinates rescues with many groups both inside Louisiana and all over the US. She is a vital part of saving lives and a champion for animal advocacy.”

*A Division of the City of Monroe Department of Community Affairs*

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Karen says that her passion is “helping puppies and dogs find homes or rescues that help them find the homes that they deserve,” and her greatest wish is that “people would take responsibility for their animals and spay and neuter them.”

Cherie Carpenter King and Karen White will be recognized during Woofstock at 10:15 am on Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. The event will be held at the Origin Bank RiverMarket located at 316 South Grand St., downtown Monroe. This fun day will be filled with unique shopping, pet products, great food, and groovy contests and games. Local rescues, veterinarians, pet stores, and shelters will be joining us and providing everything from games and contests to canine products and pet services. This will be a day you will not want to miss!

Last year, we honored Ginger Padgett for her contribution to animal welfare in our community and dedication to helping lost dogs find their way home. She was the first recipient of the Ouachita Parish Animal Advocacy Award, and the Origin Bank Downtown RiverMarket is proud to continue the recognition of individuals who contribute to the animal welfare in our community.

Parking can be found at the north end of the Origin Bank RiverMarket and at many locations nearby. The closest parking can be found street side and in the Police Annex parking lot. Parking can also be found a short walk away across from Ouachita Grand Plaza, across from Bry Park, and along the street behind the Courthouse.

We would like to thank our sponsors in helping make this event a success: KTVE NBC 10 & KARD Fox 14, PAWS NELA, Bayou Bully Rescue, Hearth & Hearts for Pets, Paws-N- Claws Grooming & Boarding, Union Humane Society, Blue Ribbon K-9 Training, S.O.S. Pets of Ouachita, Lindsay Veterinary Clinic , Cooper Veterinary Hospital Inc., Animal House, Origin Bank, Monroe Civic Center, Spherion Staffing, Choice Brands, Downtown Monroe Alliance, Monroe-West Monroe Convention and Visitor Bureau, Bears Towing, Bayou Butts and Booze, DeltaStyle, and The News-Star.

Like us on Facebook at Downtown RiverMarket and Downtown Monroe, or the Woofstock event page to see who is participating and for updates. Visit [www.downtownrivermarket.com](http://www.downtownrivermarket.com) for more information about the Origin Bank RiverMarket

For more information, contact Sheena, the RiverMarket Coordinator, at 807-1735 or email [River.market@ci.monroe.la.us](mailto:River.market@ci.monroe.la.us)

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