

## The Blue Giraffe is your place for art at WaterColor

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If you have ever walked or driven through WaterColor on 30A, you can't help but notice a tall blue ornamental giraffe standing out front of a store in the Town Center.

The cheery blue giraffe stationed out front of The Blue Giraffe store is definitely an attention getter and helps draw passersby in, said owner Christi Sheffield. Plus, giraffes are graceful, gentle animals with extraordinary heart, and thus is a perfect mascot for the shop, fitting right in with her philosophy.

Sheffield describes her store as an art and gift boutique with heart.

The "heart" of the shop is its happy and fun environment, said Sheffield, and those who discover the shop, whether locals or visitors, make stopping there a tradition.



Once inside The Blue Giraffe, browsers are seldom disappointed in what they find.

The shop carries original artwork, jewelry, books, hand-crafted furniture, and home accents.

Sheffield supports the local art scene by offering original pieces by local and regional artists. Several of those are award-winners — such as glass artist Mary Hong, Walton County's Artist of the Year for 2014.

Passersby will often come upon painting demonstrations or jewelry making taking place on The Blue Giraffe's front lawn, or book signings or readings going on in the shop's book nook in the back, which is dubbed the Sea of Books.

Sheffield also frequently hosts trunk shows for jewelry artists.

From Tallahassee, Sheffield moved here from Atlanta. She and her mother, Debbie Taylor, purchased The Blue Giraffe in 2010. Sheffield had never owned a shop before and calls this her first big adventure.

"It just fell in our laps," she says.

The family-owned boutique store is located in the heart of WaterColor's Town Center.

The Blue Giraffe is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

For more information call 231-5112, or, visit <http://www.bluegiraffe30a.com>.

