

# Gate City Goosebumps

July 2025

## Cosplay Catastrophe or Classical Conspiracy? “Anime Statue” Flees Scene After Wardrobe Malfunction

This weekend’s **GateCon**, Gate City’s annual anime and fandom convention, delivered the usual joy, chaos, and colorful costuming—until one attendee’s outfit *literally fell apart*, revealing something... *ancient* beneath the glitter. The incident occurred Saturday evening during the **Cosplay Parade and Showcase**, held at the Gate City Civic Center. As the contestant—described as “tall, muscular, and immaculately sculpted”—took the stage dressed as a character from *Godslayer High School DX: Eternal Ascension*, part of their elaborate armor **slipped loose**, tearing away the fabric chest plate and side wraps. What was revealed beneath caused gasps, screams, and several people to drop their phones mid-recording: **solid white marble skin**, faint cracks near the shoulder joints, and **stone-carved muscles**. “They weren’t wearing body paint,” said event staffer Kaleigh Song. “It was marble. Literal freaking marble. And their eyes didn’t blink.” Before staff could approach or verify the costume, the figure reportedly **leapt off the stage, knocked over a snack table, and sprinted barefoot into the parking lot**, where it vanished into the night—leaving only a deep footprint in the grass near the Civic Center’s fountain. Some attendees assumed it was a clever stunt or “cosplay within a cosplay,” while others aren’t so sure. “That wasn’t latex. That wasn’t a foam suit,” said cosplayer Darnell Moss. “I’ve been to twenty cons. That was a **statue in a costume**.” Online forums quickly lit up with comparisons to the **statue of Perseus** displayed inside of the **Gate City Public Library**. The classical figure, long admired for its dramatic pose and flowing cape, bears a **striking resemblance** to the “cosplayer,” according to side-by-side images circulating on social media. Some users even claim the statue at the library now stands in a **slightly different pose** than it did last week. Gate City Public Library officials declined to comment, though the area around the statue was **quietly roped off** late Thursday night, reportedly for “routine cleaning.” GateCon organizers released an official statement thanking attendees and encouraging creativity, but made no reference to the statue incident. Unofficially? Rumors now swirl that the con may have welcomed its first **literal ancient deity cameo**. For now, one thing’s clear: Gate City’s fandom scene just got mythically weird.

## “Cat Man” Sighted: Alley Horde Follows Oversized Feline Leader

The narrow alleys behind **Gleason Avenue** have become ground zero for a bizarre feline phenomenon that has locals—and especially the homeless community—buzzing. Over the past week, witnesses have reported seeing **dozens of stray cats** moving together in perfect formation, **following a single massive cat** that some have described as “too tall to be real” and “walking like it’s part human.” “They call him **Cat Man**,” says local resident ‘*Tin-Can*’ Larry, a man who lives near the abandoned Printworks building. “He’s bigger than a bobcat, with eyes like car headlights. All the alley cats just **line up behind him like soldiers**. He don’t hiss, he don’t run—he just *looks* at you like he’s deciding something.” Several late-night photos taken from apartment balconies show blurry images of **cat hordes moving silently**, tails raised in unison as they snake through the backstreets. One image appears to show a **silhouette of a manlike figure with feline ears**, though skeptics claim it’s just bad lighting. City animal control has denied receiving any calls about such a creature, but small piles of dead rats, bird bones, and even torn-up dollar bills have been discovered where the cats are rumored to gather. “I’ve lived here 40 years,” says ‘*Mama Jean*’, a known caretaker of strays in the area. “But this is no normal tom. This one... the others bow their heads to it. **I think it’s choosing who belongs in these streets.**” Police have not commented on the phenomenon, but a Gate City Goosebumps staffer witnessed **18 cats sitting perfectly still** on top of a Dumpster behind Mulligan’s Deli for nearly 30 minutes last night—all staring at the same empty alleyway.



## Same Hour Delivery? By Dee Dee Roberston

Reports from local eye witnesses claim to have seen semi trucks entering and exiting from portals at the outer edges of town. Has our local shipping companies made a deal with the Fae for their help to get packages to their destination at supernatural speeds? Are we about to see the emergence of a new Sidhe Shipping Services? Also one of our local truckers, Snowman, has formed a new employment contract with Stone & Secret. When you see him, be sure to congratulate him on this amazing achievement!



## Step into Magic at *The Secret Garden*!

Hidden deep in the heart of the city lies a whimsical escape from the mundane, where the drinks sparkle and the vibes are pure enchantment. *The Secret Garden* is your ultimate fae-themed bar—where glittering cocktails, glowing gardens, and mystical music come together in a magical nightlife experience like no other.

Sip on our signature **Pixie Punch**, mingle under twinkling fairy lights, and let loose your wyld side. Whether you’re a forest nymph, a curious human, or just looking for a little magic in your night—\*The Secret Garden\* is your portal to fantasy and fun. **Wings optional.**

**Wonder guaranteed.**

Open nightly—follow the fairy lights!

(21+ only No outside food or drink, of ANY kind)

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## Rumors Swirl Around “Supernatural Summit” Involving Local Law Enforcement

Unconfirmed reports are spreading through Gate City's supernatural community that **Detective Blackwood**, a longtime and respected investigator with the GCPD, is allegedly **organizing a closed-door summit** on cooperative supernatural law enforcement protocols. Sources close to the underground magic scene claim invitations have already gone out to “neutral-aligned parties, Accorded entities, and legal representatives of supernatural factions.” One rumor even suggests the summit may take place at an off-the-books facility sometime **before the next full moon**. When reached for comment, the **Gate City Police Department**, the **Mayor’s Office**, and **Detective Blackwood** himself all declined to respond. One precinct source said only, *“No comment, and maybe stop asking before you find out why we wear mirrored sunglasses.”* In the absence of official word, speculation continues. Local forums and occult message boards have already dubbed the gathering **“The Accord Behind the Badge.”** But not everyone finds the idea entertaining. *“There is no summit. There are no secret meetings. There is no such thing as a supernatural law enforcement division, and let me be perfectly clear—there are no ‘wolf bullets’ in this department’s armory!”* —**Commissioner William Taggart**, when ambushed outside a budget hearing Tuesday morning. Taggart’s unprompted mention of so-called “wolf bullets” has only intensified speculation, especially since no one present had asked about them. When pressed further, the commissioner simply shouted, **“Silver isn’t even in our procurement budget!”** before storming back into city hall. For now, the Gate City Goosebumps cannot verify the existence of any summit or specialized ammunition. But if such a meeting **is** being planned, its secrecy—and the commissioner’s temper—speak volumes.

## House on Ashmere Street “Sings Itself Awake”

Residents of the Ashmere Historic District were left rattled Monday morning when a long-abandoned Victorian home at **319 Ashmere Street** began emitting **music, voices, and candlelight**—despite being uninhabited for over three decades. At approximately 4:12 AM, neighbors awoke to the sound of a **harpsichord** playing a tune described as “haunting and sad, but somehow inviting.” Witnesses say lights flickered on in every window, and one described seeing **“dancers in old-fashioned clothes waltzing past the curtains.”** The house was silent again by sunrise. The home has a dark past: built in 1873, it was abandoned after the mysterious disappearance of the Armand family in 1988. Since then, multiple buyers have attempted to renovate it—only to leave suddenly, citing **“uncooperative architecture”** and **“unreasonable whispering.”** Police who responded to Monday’s event found the door locked tight, but a fine layer of **fresh ash and flower petals** had been scattered across the porch. Paranormal investigators from nearby Savannah arrived later that day and conducted a brief EVP session, which allegedly yielded the phrase: **“We only wanted one more dance.”** As of Wednesday, the house remains quiet, but fresh footprints in ash reappeared on the front step this morning. Locals are now calling it the **“Waltzing Wake House.”**

## Strange Light Over Founders Park “Whispered in Latin”

Early Thursday morning, Gate City’s Founders Park was lit up by a brief but shocking event: a **pillar of glowing blue light** rose from the center of the amphitheater stage at **3:03 AM** and vanished in under 15 seconds. Dozens of nearby residents reported the event—several claiming they heard **chanting** that left behind a faint pressure in their ears. “It wasn’t English,” said local yoga instructor Tim Halder. “It was like church Latin. But... wrong.” Some listeners recorded distorted audio filled with static, but a professor from Emerson’s Languages Department reviewed one clip and suggested the chanting included **“fragmented Enochian or glossolalia.”** In plain English? **Angelic babble.** Park groundskeepers arrived at dawn to find the center circle of grass **color-drained and brittle**, with a scorched smell lingering despite no fire damage. Officials have blamed “an electrical anomaly” and refuse further comment. The amphitheater is now closed for “re-seeding,” but someone has spray-painted a warning on the stage floor: **“THE GATE IS OPEN.”**

## Unlisted Warehouse Hosts “Midnight Auction”

On Saturday night, several black vans and an unmarked semi-truck were seen pulling into **Warehouse 9C**, a condemned brick structure near the old trainyard. Witnesses reported “people in **long coats and masks**” unloading large crates, some of which hummed, vibrated, or glowed faintly. According to a diner waitress across the street, one van had no license plate and “left the pavement smoking.” A flyer recovered from a nearby lamppost reads: **“Midnight Auction – Discretion Guaranteed.** For buyers, sellers, and collectors of the rare, obscure, and accursed. Admission by Invitation Only. Bring Proof of Power.\*\*” That flyer vanished from the lamppost within minutes. No photos exist online, though one amateur paranormal investigator claims the flyer **“deleted itself”** from their phone gallery. Warehouse 9C has been sealed since 2014 due to a collapse—officially—but this is the third time it’s shown up in rumors of **occult trade and high-value supernatural trafficking.**

## Olympic Gold Medalist Returns Home to Coach Gate City Youth

Gate City’s own Nik Zenaos, Olympic gold medalist in the decathlon, has returned home to launch a free summer athletics program aimed at underserved youth in the community. The initiative, called **Run the Line**, officially opened this week at the Gate City Arena. “I wouldn’t be where I am without Gate City,” Zenaos told Goosebumps in an interview. “It’s time I passed the baton—literally and figuratively.” Over fifty local kids, ranging from ages 10 to 17, signed up in the first 48 hours. The program emphasizes not only sprint training and endurance conditioning but also mental focus, resilience, and emotional balance—principles Zenaos credits with his Olympic success. “He makes us feel fast, even when we’re not,” said 11-year-old Marcus Nguyen. “And he tells us we have to run with purpose, not just speed.” While the program has drawn city-wide praise, some parents have reported strange occurrences during early morning practice—lights flickering, digital watches running backward, and one photo showing Zenaos’s shadow stretching impossibly long despite full sunlight. When asked, Zenaos only smiled and said, “Gate City has always been full of strange energy. The trick is learning to run with it, not away from it.” **Run the Line** will continue through August, with an open track meet planned for the public next month. Zenaos’s next goal? “To see one of these kids in Paris 2028.”

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## Success and Tragedy at The Secret Garden By Dee Dee Roberston

The Secret Garden has hosted yet another successful event! The Brew Off gave new businesses a chance to showcase some of the refreshments that they provide. Such as Wildwood Wake-up by Verdant Squeeze, Forgefire Stout by The Cast-Iron Keg, and the Moonshine Howler by The Howling Tankard. The finalists in the competition were, of course, The Secret Garden with their pixie punch, The Antidote serving a decadent chocolate iced coffee, The Ember cup with their warming salted caramel apple cider, and the Frozen Leaf giving us a cold cup of mint tea. It comes to no surprise that the first and second place went to The Secret Garden and The Antidote, respectively. The Ember cup followed in third and The Frozen Leaf in last place. However, The final submission of The Frozen Leaf was nowhere near up to their normal standards, as those who have visited them prior to the event. Were they playing a prank on the patrons or did someone play a prank on them? Or was it a trial recipe that fell flat? While people were enjoying the events of the evening, tragedy struck! A gentleman holding a greatsword stumbled into the bar with mortal wounds and fell onto the floor. Thanks to two patrons with great healing abilities, he was able to say his final words with ease and without severe pain before passing on. Several people took heed to his final message and delivered the greatsword to a safe location. Thanks to the quick thinking and level headedness of the owner, Elowyn, the proper authorities were called and the body was removed.

## WHO'S WEARING YOUR FACE?

It started with a voicemail. A local college student—who wishes to remain anonymous—found a chilling message on her phone last week. The voice claimed to be her dead sister. It said things only her sister would know. Then came the mirror incident at the Fulton Theater. Five witnesses, including a janitor and two tourists, described a “reflection that moved differently”—a woman they knew personally, who was standing still, smiling in the mirror, while the real woman screamed at them to run. More reports have trickled in. Co-workers forgetting who they are mid-conversation. Friends showing up in two places at once. Children crying because “Mommy’s voice changed.” And now, some are saying the *people* acting strange aren’t even people anymore. Law enforcement won’t comment, but independent sources connected to Monoc Securities say something is loose—something that doesn’t kill but replaces. Locals are calling them the Echoed: doppelgangers or husks who repeat phrases, mimic voices, and wear stolen faces. Some don’t even know they’ve been altered. “It’s like watching someone read your memories off a page,” said one witness. “They don’t get everything right, but they say it with confidence—like they know it better than you do.”

## . Blackout on Block 13: Residents Report “Silent Figures”

A strange and unexplained **blackout** hit a five-block stretch of Gate City’s historic district Tuesday night around 10:45 PM, plunging the cobbled streets and aging buildings of Block 13 into total darkness. According to Gate City Utilities, there was no recorded equipment failure, lightning strike, or scheduled maintenance. But power loss isn’t what has people talking. Multiple residents reported seeing “**tall, pale figures**” standing silently in the middle of the road and on rooftops during the outage. “There were three of them, at least,” said retiree Geraldine Sipes. “Just standing there. Not doing anything, not moving. Watching.” Children in the area reportedly had **nightmares that same night**, all involving **faceless beings** and whispering voices. Police were called, but found no one. The blackout lasted two hours, and when power returned, the figures were gone. A dog from the Dalton family on Hill Street has refused to enter their kitchen since the blackout, growling at the **unlit pantry** and pawing at the floor near the fridge. Folks are calling it another “**Block 13 Blink**.” This makes it the **seventh blackout in the same grid** since 2019.

## Babysitter Wanted — Must Have Salt

**Experience** Looking for overnight childcare in the Lantern Hill neighborhood. Twins, age 4, well-behaved except during “the thin hour” (1:03 a.m. – 2:13 a.m.). Must be proficient in basic salt lines and mirror cleansing. Familiarity with lullabies that end in minor keys required. Pay negotiable and very big. Bring your own bell (336-555-5555).

## Mural Bleeds Overnight on Elm Street

A newly unveiled mural honoring Gate City’s textile past has become the center of a **bizarre local mystery** after residents reported it “crying blood” in the early morning hours of Friday. The mural, painted on the side of the abandoned Cloverfield Cotton Mill, depicts the city’s founders and mill workers standing proudly with looms and factory equipment. By 6:00 AM, crimson streaks were visible running from the **eyes of every human figure**—but not the background or objects. Locals say it looked like tears of blood. “It wasn’t there at midnight,” said Donna Perez, who walks her dog nearby nightly. “It was fine. Then it was... staring at me.” Police and city workers cleaned the mural, but samples taken from the ‘paint’ are **inconclusive**. Local artist Fiona Dale, who completed the mural just days earlier, says she felt an “overwhelming pressure” while painting, and that she frequently caught glimpses of someone watching her—but no one was ever there. Now, small altars of **candles, coins, dried herbs, and handwritten notes** have begun appearing at the mural’s base, some from nearby occult shops. One slip of paper reads, “**We see what they’ve hidden.**”