

NASHVILLE

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NASHVILLE TOWN COUNCIL



Larry Taylor



Kate Burns



Xavien Harrison



Bill Lump



**Brenda Brown
Mayor**

Nashville's town council meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.
The second meeting of the month time/day will change in January 2025.

(Visit www.townofnashville.com for updates of meeting dates/times)

The public is welcome to all meetings which are held at the Nashville Town Council Chambers at 114 W. Church Street, Nashville.

TOWN OF NASHVILLE INFORMATION GUIDE

Town of Nashville

499 South Barnes Street
P.O. Box 987
Nashville, N. C. 27856
Phone: (252) 459-4511
www.townofnashville.com

Population: approx. 5766

Founded: 1780

Town Manager:

Randy Lansing

Police:

(252) 459-4545
501 S. Barnes Street
P.O. Box 987
Deputy Chief of Police:
David Boykin

Fire:

(252) 459-3017
501 S. Barnes Street
P.O. Box 987
(For emergencies, call 911)
Fire Chief: Chris Joyner

Planning and Development:

252-459-4511
499 South Barnes Street
P.O. Box 987
Director: Shawn Lucas

Harold D. Cooley Library

(252) 459-2106
114 W. Church Street
P.O. Box 987
Director: Brian Booth
Monday through Friday
9am - 6pm
Sat. 9am-3pm

Parks & Recreation:

(252) 459-9796
108 S. Boddie Street
P.O. Box 987
Parks & Recreation Director:
Koy Worrell

Public Works

(252) 459-4511
Public Works Director
Brian Grice

Internet - Phone Services

CloudWye
Brightspeed
SuddenLink

Natural Gas:

City of Rocky Mount Utilities
(252) 972-1250

Electric Service:

Duke Energy Progress

Nashville Chamber of Commerce:

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Nashville, N.C. 27856
Phone: (252) 459-4050
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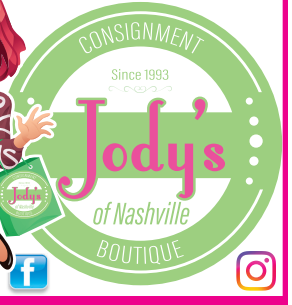


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Housing boom calls for increased services

Over 350 new homes approved for construction

BY NANCY WEST-BRAKE
GRAPHIC STAFF WRITER

“Most towns this size aren’t growing,” said Randy Lansing, Nashville town manager. Nashville, however, doesn’t have that problem, and is having a bit of a housing boom.

The Cardinal Woods subdivision, approved for 248 homes, has 12 under construction. The Breedlove subdivision, approved for 45 homes, has seven built so far, and six months ago, phase two of Liberty Acres was approved to add 88 multi-family townhouses to phase one’s 44 single-family homes.



LANSING

“It’s a good thing for the town of Nashville,” Lansing said. “It increases the tax base, which means we don’t have to increase the tax rate.” Additional residents, however, mean the need for increased town services.

That growth is driving the need to hire more town staff. Trey Sanderson, HR Director, says a minimum needed within the next

year will be one additional person each in the planning, finance and administration departments along with two sanitation workers. Also needed in the near future will be more police officers and firefighters.

Some of the new staff needed belong in the town hall, but there isn’t enough room, so the hunt has been on for a place to build a new town hall.

“We’re actively looking for a place in town,” Lansing said, with one spot still in the running several parcels immediately behind the current town hall, which he said could accommodate construction of a 10-12,000 square foot building, but not with the room for council chambers; council members currently meet in the Harold D. Cooley Library building for lack of room within town hall.

Business-related new growth over the past couple years include: NC Fabrication, located in the West Nashville Commercial Park on Cooke Road; BuildLabs, a custom design+build firm is set to build a manufacturing center and experience center in Nashville’s Business Center; a shell building constructed in partnership with Nash County, also set for the remaining lot in Nashville’s Business Center; a Kentucky



Cardinal Woods is approved for 248 new homes in Nashville.

Graphic photo

Fried Chicken; a Dunkin Donuts; and a Cookout.

Lansing said that town officials were grateful to NC Senator Lisa Barnes for \$500,000 in state appropriation secured for street and sidewalk improvements, amounting to repaving of 11 streets, something Lansing said significantly improved the safety and accessibility of the town’s infrastructure.

Even the town’s cemetery, Forest Hills, is having to expand, with plans to open another section this Fall.

“It’s a quaint and inviting place,” Lansing said when asked to make an assessment of Nashville’s appeal. “It has a slower, more relaxed lifestyle, and that’s something people like.”

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Town of Nashville, NC

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Library grows with town, adds new programs

Harold D. Cooley Library is “More than just Books!”

BY NANCY WEST-BRAKE
GRAPHIC STAFF WRITER

Nashville’s Harold D. Cooley Library’s welcoming atmosphere is apparent to patrons as soon as they enter: happy little bird noises from finches Hansel and Gretel, the presence of multiple plants, Bettas ‘Splash’ and ‘Bubbles’, and a mouse named Mooska symbolize there is life in the place amidst the quiet stacks of books, actually not so quiet with the rate of new acquisitions.

Director Brian Booth, who headed up the Library from 2012-2016 but returned in June of 2023 after working with the homeless in Houston, Texas, has succeeded with his staff in making the Cooley Library a home away from home for many residents who have grown to love the Library for what it offers.

The Cooley Library has a staff of eight, including Booth and full-time Library Assis-



BOOTH

tants Melody Pridgen and Megan Milam. Their work falls into the categories of cataloging, programs and the circulation desk. Cooley Library’s collection stands at about 20,000 items, divided into areas for Adult Fiction & Non-Fiction, Young Adult Fiction & Non-Fiction, and Children’s books.

Popular in Adult reads right now, Booth said, are Agatha Christie (who is making a comeback), Danielle Steele, James Patterson and Janet Evanovich, while A.R. series such as Lemony Snicket, Magic Tree House, Harry Potter, Goosebumps, and Hardy Boys are hot with younger readers. Young children, Booth said, enjoy “board books,” specially made to fit little hands, and easy collection picture books.

Cooley library has a mix of hardback and paperback books for patrons to enjoy, with the biggest mix of those in the area of West-

erns. New books are selected and arrive every two weeks.

“We go by current best sellers off the NY Times and Barnes & Noble lists,” Booth said, who also buys books by patron request and picks and chooses from the category of



LEGO Club is one of many programs offered at Harold D. Cooley Library in Nashville. Contributed photo

New & Noteworthy Authors.

Adding muscle to the collection is Cooley Library’s membership in NC Cardinal, a consortium of 224 libraries across the state.

“We can share materials,” Booth said,

“and it gives us access to about 8 million more books.” Books requested through NC Cardinal are shipped to Rocky

CONTINUED TO PAGE 5

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Continued from page 4

Mount's Braswell Library, which sends a courier to the Cooley Library for delivery and return pickup.

Sharing the joy of books happens partly through monthly programs such as the most popular Storytime, offered every Thursday morning for two to five-year-olds. Books are read most often by Sally Fairman, Librarian Aide, although guest readers from the Nashville Fire Department, Police Department, Parks & Rec and even Mayor Brenda Brown have been known to turn the pages. In the summer, attendance swells to about twenty-five children.

The program is being expanded in September with an offering of a Family Storytime, to be offered twice a month on the first and third Mondays at 4 pm. Yvonne Thompson, Librarian Aide, will be reading several stories and doing sing-alongs as well as offering crafts for parents to participate in along with their children. The afterschool program requires parent or adult attendance with each child.

"People have been asking about offering a storytime in a different time slot," said Pridgen, adding that she thought involving the parents along with their elementary school age children would be a good idea.

Another new program coming up this year will be involving local elementary schools Nashville, Red Oak and Coopers in hosting displays of student art works. Easels have been purchased with that in mind, Booth said, relaying that library staff will depend on school art teachers for the selection of student works, scheduled to be on display for about a month.

"The kids will be so excited to see their work displayed," Booth said, smiling as he anticipated the pleasure that the experience would also bring to family members.

A final new program still in the planning stages will be the return of free literacy tutoring for adults. Booth said he and his staff are working with the Twin



Harold D. Cooley Library hosts many events and presentations. Pictured above, a representative from Sylvan Heights Bird Park visits, explaining migration to an audience of over 100 at the library.

Contributed photo

Counties Literacy Council to set that up. Statistics on U.S. Literacy rates posted by World Population Review state that 21% of North Carolina's population is considered "low literacy," which Booth said translated to about one in three readers able to read at or below an eighth-grade level back. The website "Data Pandas" lists the NC literacy rate as 86.4%.

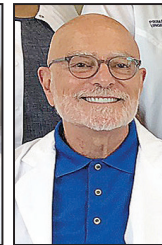
"Literacy can be a key to enriching one's life," Booth remarked.

The Harold D. Cooley Library, located at 114 W. Church Street, Nashville, is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. It is closed Sundays.

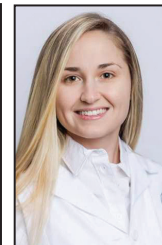
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Nashville Fire Department prepares for growth

Firestation #2 to open in December, 2024

BY NANCY WEST-BRAKE
GRAPHIC STAFF WRITER

The Nashville Fire Department (NFD) continues to strengthen in order to keep up with the town's growth, with December the expected move-in date for new Fire Station #2, the addition of more firemen and continued training and community activities.

"Last year was the busiest year we've ever had, and as of August 26th, we are 51 calls ahead of that number already," said Chris Joyner, Public Safety Director.

Joyner said that while fire calls are down, the number of medical calls is up, with three the morning of the *Graphic's* interview for a seizure and two pre-existing medical conditions.

NFD currently numbers two administrative chiefs, Joyner and Asst. Chief Jason Edwards, sixteen career (full-time) firefighters, eleven volunteers and four part-timers. Three additional firemen have been granted in this year's budget, Joyner said, with thirty applications received.

Firefighters have to be fit both physically and mentally, Edwards said, giving the example of a skills assessment; applicants have to wear a forty-pound vest while undergoing strength and agil-



JOYNER



EDWARDS



Nashville's Fire Station #2 is currently under construction and is anticipated to open in December. Contributed photo

ity tests, which include climbing to the top of a 75-foot ladder.

Fire Station #2, under construction between Nashville and Oak Level, was first seen as a necessity from a study conducted in 2008, Joyner said. Half of NFD's current fleet and manpower will start rolling in to staff it in December, including Ladder 14, which is too large to fit in Fire Station #1.

"About 55% of our calls will go there," Joyner said, explaining the station's placement relevant to the direction calls are coming from.

Fire Station #2 will also have a large training room and classroom, something that Station #1 does not have.

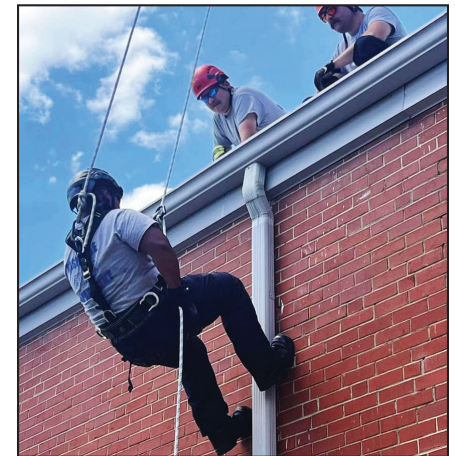
Training is a frequent and varied affair for the NFD, the most recent being Trench Rescue as an annual drill scenario, to be followed by a "live burn" or purposeful firing of a dilapidated structure this fall to accommodate a property's owner's desire and two staff attending a session at the NC Extrication School in October. A two-day drill

is scheduled for November in Goldsboro.

The NFD also assists with the Fire Recruitment Academy at Nash Community College, with Joyner, Edwards and four to five other firefighters providing instruction and assistance with various classes such as Water Supply, or "how to catch a hydrant" and Personal Protective Equipment.

The Fire Department is no stranger to community events, participating heavily in emergency operations planning for May's Blooming Festival along with the Nashville Police Department, Nash County EMS, the Nash County Fire Marshall's Office and EMS Dispatch.

Other community events where the signature red trucks can be seen are Fire Prevention Week at local schools the first week of October, the Downtown Nashville Trick or Treat Street, and the Christmas parade, where Santa rides proudly in on a fire truck. Nashville firemen also lend a hand – and plenty of spray – during the annual Summer



Training and continued education never ceases at NFD. Firefighters are pictured scaling the side of a building during a training exercise. Contributed photo

Camp run by the town Parks and Rec, participate in sharing public information from the National Fire Convention each year, and are sponsored by local businesses through the National Fire Safety Council.

Begun two years ago, NFD is able to buy coloring books, crayons, and other fire-education materials to supply to children each year through donations to the National Fire Safety Council.

"Last year, we received enough supplies to give materials to 350 kids," Joyner said, grateful for local business's support. "This year, it looks like we'll be really close to 500."

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Nashville Police Dept. sees improved staffing

BY NANCY WEST-BRAKE
GRAPHIC STAFF WRITER

It's been a year of several "firsts" for the Nashville Police Department, with the results improved staffing that keeps raising the bar.

An "officer in training" program approved by town officials with the start of 2024 produced its first department hire, Officer Blanca Gonzalez, fresh out of BLET in June; and two more officers are presently coming down the same pipe to be hired before the end of the year. The incentive pays the young officers a basic salary along with school supplies and training gear while they are in Basic Law Enforcement Training; it was put into place to help with recruiting, and is already deemed a success.

Lt. Caleb Shockley, who heads us the department's investigative division, was chosen to become the first NPD officer to attend the FBI National Academy at Quantico, VA. The highly competitive program is "dedicated to providing the highest degree of law enforcement expertise, leadership training and information to law enforcement executives around the world," according to its website. The training is over two months, with Shockley's graduation on Sept. 12.

Headed by Chris Joyner, Nashville's Public Safety Director and by David Boykin, Deputy Chief, the NPD currently numbers 22 officers, with two Lieutenants: Shockley over investigations and Lt. Damon Brantley over patrol. K-9 Knox, handled by Officer Barbour, is the newer of the department's two Dutch Shepherds; Renzo,

handled by Officer Stallings, was the first K-9 in the department, joining the ranks in 2021. There is also a grant-funded traffic enforcement officer position.

The NPD has been growing, Boykin said, having added four to five new positions in the past four years, because of town growth.

"Staffing is based off call volume," Boykin said. "You add houses, you add more calls."

Training is another basic for the NPD, with officers "highly encouraged to sign up for any training," Boykin said. One important type is Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), which teaches officers how to de-escalate tense situations with individuals who may be emotionally, intellectually, or physically compromised. Mental illness or substance abuse disorders can contribute to such scenarios, Boykin said, which can be dangerous for both the person affected, a responding officer, or anyone else around.

Officers must do mandated in-service training in such categories as juvenile justice, legislative and state statute updates and be re-certified in firearms, radar, intoxilizer and taser use.

A future training goal Boykin would like to see is to have officers enrolled to become DRE, or Drug Recognition Experts, trained to recognize impairment in drivers under the influence of drugs other than, or in addition to, alcohol, and in identifying the category or categories of drugs causing the impairment.

Boykin said it's also important to

maintain and acquire good equipment. Acquired within the last couple years were new laptops and 'stop sticks,' a device used to safely force a driver to stop as quickly as possible and prevent potentially unsafe 'chases.'

Boykin said having stop sticks is one of several ways that NPD is proactive, considering that they often partner with surrounding law enforcement agencies to apprehend criminals. Officers are also equipped with patrol rifles and patrol cars in good condition.

"We try to maintain a newer-model patrol fleet and new gear to better serve our population," Boykin said.

One of NPD's more unusual vehicles is a 'water rescue vehicle,' which looks somewhat like a large tank. It is designed to safely pass through high water up to five feet in depth and was an investment for the town after the flood of 2020.

"A significant area of Nashville is capable of flooding," Boykin said.

On the department 'wish list' of equipment is Riot Gear such as helmets, shields, batons and long protective vests, which Boykin said would be good to have in the event that Nashville officers are called in by other agencies in any cases of civil unrest.

Nashville officers are most often found, however, engaged in multiple community activities, one of the most public being their involvement with Special Olympics and the Law Enforcement Torch Run, for which they do year-round public awareness and fundraising and have been recognized at national and state levels. Several NPD officers



Nashville Police Lieutenant Damon Brantley and Deputy Chief David Boykin. Graphic photo

have run locally with other law enforcement officers in a local leg of the Torch Run, which passes the Flame of Hope across the state in order to raise awareness and support for Special Olympics athletes.

NPD partnered with the Rocky Mount Police Department this past May for the 'Dunkin Campaign,' during which officers sold T-shirts, cups along with coffee, raising about \$6,000; another campaign planned for October, 'Cops On Top For Special Olympics,' will involve Chick-fil-A.

Expect to see NPD officers front and center assisting with the Downtown Nashville Trick or Treat Street October 25, and multiple events coordinated by Nashville Parks and Rec and also involving the Nashville Fire Department, among them Halloween activities, Shop With A Cop, the Santa Cruise Through and for the first time this past year, Braswell Farm's New Year's Eve egg drop.



Nashville's Police Department is very dedicated to the NC Special Olympics. The department hosted and competed in the Torch Run this year which passes the Flame of Hope across the state. Contributed photo



Nashville's Police Department organizes their annual Shop with a Cop event every year providing gifts to local children who qualify for the program. Contributed photo



Nashville's Police Department joins forces with other town departments to offer summer camps. Officers join the fun engaging in a tug-a-war competition during the event. Graphic photo

NASHVILLE PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL RESOURCES

Programs for youth and adults, events, farmers market, music and more!

**BY NANCY WEST-BRAKE
GRAPHIC STAFF WRITER**

Nashville's Parks and Recreation Department is always a hopping place, and its new "nest" at 200 S. Boddie Street is no exception between ongoing and new programs, there and elsewhere in town.

Ongoing programs consist of Karate and Line Dancing once a week (Karate on Wednesday nights with times determined by belt level and Line Dancing on Mondays and Tuesdays from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.) and pickleball, also once a week, still at Nashville Elementary School's gym because there are three courts there. The new rec center has one inside.

Returning this month is Tots & Tunes for kids aged 6 month to 5 years, with remaining slots available mornings from 10-10:45, while the evening class is full.



WORRELL

Taught by Meredith Davis Johnson, the cost for six months is \$96, which works out to about \$15 a week.

The early childhood music education program includes music, singing, and reading.

Also returning is a free class this fall, the Little Explorers' Nature Program, for children one to five years old, consisting of crafts, games and nature-themed play. Taught by Ashley Hamlet, Asst. Parks and Rec Director, the Little Explorer's Program is offered on the first Tuesday of every month from 2:30 to 3 p.m. A family cupcake decorating class for children four and up is planned October 4, from 6 to 7 p.m. at a price-per-child cost of \$10 for residents and \$15 for non-residents. Registration costs will cover six cupcakes to take home.

'Movie Night' is a free family activity featuring movies shown on a big screen, to be watched outside 'drive-in- style or with bring-your-own chairs. "The Love Bug" will be shown September 20 in front of the Junction Stage at 723 South

CONTINUED TO PAGE 9



Nashville Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources offers a wide variety of programs including outdoors educational activities. Pictured, local youth learn about beekeeping. Contributed photo

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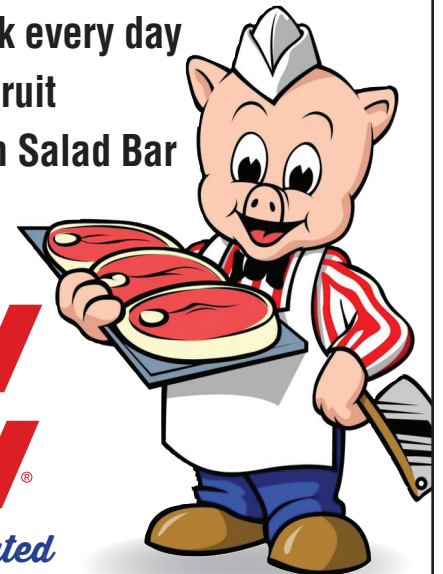
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Continued from page 8

Barnes Street, while other movie, yet to be chosen, is planned for the Sheriff's Department parking lot during Downtown Nashville's Trick or Treat Street event October 25. "The Muppets' Christmas" movie is lined up for December 13 but the location is yet to be determined.

For adults, a series of local artist-led painting or crafts classes will be held, starting September 21 with a Fall Door Hangar Painting Class, two Barn Quilt Painting Classes October 10th and 11th and an Acrylic Adult Finger-Painting Class November 2nd.

A free Hunter Education course will be conducted from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. October 1st and 3rd, incorporating firearms safety, ethics and responsible hunting techniques, tree stand safety, survival instruction and best practices in meat handling, among other class aspects. Participants will be required to purchase a North Carolina hunting license.

Plant-lovers may enjoy a free Fall Tree Walk September 21 at 10 a.m. with a guided walk around downtown Nashville to learn about and identify trees. Just missed was the first Community Plant Swap Sept. 17.

Nashville's Farmers' Market, conducted from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. each Friday from mid-April to October 11, is held on the grounds of the Nashville Junction, located at 723 S. Barnes Street. Averaging 15 vendors a week out of a revolving pool of 30, the Farmer's Market typically offers flowers, brewed coffee, baked goods, craft beer, jewelry and crafts in addition to local produce, which varies by the season. Often accompanied by live music from local musicians, free music shows are now conducted at the adjacent Junction stage.

A special emphasis for Parks and Rec



Parks and Rec Barn Quilt Class participants show their finished art. Contributed photo

is environmental conservation, with a main target area Stoney Creek Environmental Park, located at 455 West Washington Street. Past activities have included sessions to target and remove non-native invasive plants, while a major project currently in planning stages is the cleanout of stream debris all along Stoney Creek in conjunction with NCWORF (Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation and Foundation) with grant funds received from the state strap (Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program) program. An eventual goal is a walking trail to be put in streamside through town, with a potential hookup with other regional trails.

Stoney Creek Environmental Park has a tennis court, a picnic shelter, a small children's playground and covered amphitheater.

The J.W. Glover Memorial Park & Complex, located at 734 J.W. Glover Memorial Park Drive, has a 9-hole disc golf course, a walking path, football field, four baseball fields, and multi-use soccer fields surrounded by a 0.6 mile running track.

252-459-9796

www.townofnashville.com



Youth enjoy a field trip to Sylvan Heights Bird Park. Contributed photo



Nashville's Farmers Market opens from April through October offering local produce, fresh meats, a variety of hand-made goods and more. Contributed photo



The Town of Nashville stage has been completed setting the venue for concerts during the farmers market. Contributed photo

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Nashville expands Forest Hills Cemetery

About 97 percent of graves are documented on Find a Grave website

BY NANCY WEST-BRAKE
GRAPHIC STAFF WRITER

One of Nashville's most historic places may be Forest Hills Cemetery, consisting of 28.4 acres at 350 N. 1st Street.

Bordered by N. First Street, W. Cedar Street and U.S. Highway 64, and with its newest, undeveloped section by N. Alston, Forest Hills has graves dating to the mid-1800s.

Two of its most notable graves belong to former U.S. Congressmen, Harold Dunbar Cooley, a native son who served from 1934-1966, and Itimous Thaddeus "Tim" Valentine Jr., who served in the US House of Representatives from 1983 to 1985.

"A lot of people come for genealogy reasons," said Chris Aycock, Nashville Facilities Maintenance Director and Cemetery Administrator. "People come from all over the US. I've even had someone come from Germany who had family buried here."

About 97% (5,536) of Forest Hill's memorials are documented on the website Find a Grave, much of the work done by local genealogy buff Ross Strickland.

The cemetery is divided into sections, with the oldest, section 1, the final resting place for graves dating from the Civil War, World War I and World War II.

Aycock said only about six acres of the twenty-eight are left undeveloped, with a one-acre pond taking up part of that space.

The newest section of the cemetery, section "L," is in the process of being readied to be opened by late Fall of 2024, with many requests coming in for the purchase of two-plot lots. Currently, the only plots left for sale elsewhere in Forest Hills are four-plot lots.

"People buying plots either live here, used to live here, or have family already buried there," Aycock said. While the decision to expand the cemetery with a new section due to demand was made, Aycock said the number of burials has actually decreased due to the increasing popularity of cremation as an option. Many people, he said, do not bury remains but scatter them.



AYCOCK

One grave lot in Forest Hills can accommodate the burial of two cremains.

The newer sections of the cemetery only permit placement of flat stones, unlike the older, more historic parts, which have standing stones and much larger family plots up to 12 lots.

Also new is the decision to allow fishing, subject to basic state fishing regulations, at the Forest Hill pond. A new sign designating pond usage rules is to be put up. The pond, which is spring-fed, has "pan fish" in it such as brim, bass and catfish, Aycock said.

A future project planned for Forest Hills is the digitization of its records, which currently are in book form and kept in a fire-proof location at town hall.

"We've been trying to do it for the past three years," Aycock said, but the obstacle has been finding a suitable program designed for cemetery records that is also affordable.

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Michelle Viverette-Strickland

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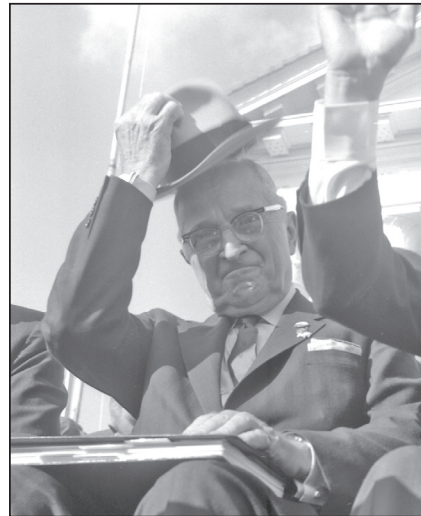


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Pictured in front of the Nash County Courthouse, left to right, are US Congressman Harold Cooley, President Harry Truman, Terry Sanford, and Gov. Luther H. Hodges. (Graphic file photo - 1960)

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Nash County Arboretum, a hidden gem in Nashville

BY NANCY WEST-BRAKE
GRAPHIC STAFF WRITER

An overarching trend for Nashville is growth; not only are housing and businesses on the rise, but the annual Blooming Festival each Mother's Day weekend continues to flourish.

A hidden and under-utilized gem, however, also grows under tender care in Nashville: the Nash County Arboretum, located on the grounds of the Nash County Ag Center at 1006 Eastern Avenue.

Colby Griffin, Horticulture Extension Agent for the NC Cooperative Extension, said its purpose is to "promote sound gardening practices and provide a horticultural program for the general public."

Consisting of ten separate gardens, each with its own name and theme, the Arboretum boasts an impressive array of carefully-selected plants, whose cuttings and seeds provide 25% of plants sold each spring in the annual Master Gardener's Plant Sale.

The Master Gardeners group, which

numbers approximately 80 skilled nature-lovers along with 10 Emeritus members, provide the backs and backbone of work done at the Arboretum, with members putting in at least 20 hours of service there each year.

Griffin broke down the gardens, all of which are free to tour, as these: Woodland Garden, 4-H Garden, Rain Garden, Screen Garden, Pollinator Garden, Patriot Garden, Tranquility Garden, Rose Garden, Holly Garden and Terrace Garden.

Woodland, with a charming pathway, is "in the woods," Griffin explained simply, adding that it is made up of shade-loving plants and shrubs, all native. 4-H, designed in the signature clover shape, is planted with plants that stay mostly green such as hostas, ferns and hydrangeas. The Rain Garden has the ecological purpose of catching water and helping to prevent erosion, being planted in a depression. Its plants, Griffin said, all "love having wet feet."

The Screen Garden is made up of plants designed to grow into living fences or borders, such as viburnum,

magnolia, shrubs and bushy trees. The Patriot Garden, originally planned to grow flowers of red, white and blue, proved to be a bit difficult to maintain with that directive, Griffin said; in addition to plants of those colors, the garden features a statue of a kneeling soldier along with flags from each military branch.

The asiatic-themed Tranquility Garden, complete with terra-cotta samurai and a gong that visitors can strike, features plants native to Japan and China, while the Holly Garden, one of the smallest of the gardens, has different species of hollies.

Perhaps the most showy gardens are the Terrace Gardens, with 15 cultivated varieties of daylilies- it peaks in mid-summer; the Rose Garden, with 20 varieties of roses, whose full bloom happens in late May and early June; and the Pollinator Garden, a showcase of perennials from the first of June until late summer designed to attract and nourish bees, butterflies and other pollinators. Homeowners looking to help out those insect species can come see what flour-

ishes locally with that purpose.

A brand-new garden- the Homestead garden- is in the planning stage now, Griffin said, with the objective of planting herbs and veggies traditionally grown in the late 1800's or early 1900's around a cabin on the grounds.

Fall will find gardeners doing cleanup before winter and dividing plants, while winter is the time that greenery is harvested for the annual wreath-making fundraiser. Monthly tours start in the spring, while a garden workday happens in March to tidy up the gardens and put in needed mulch. An annual pollinator symposium happens in the summer.

A new offering for 2025, Griffin said, may be a Kids' Garden Camp, although planning for that is in the preliminary stages.

Garden Tours are available each month all year, Griffin said, who encouraged those interested to check out the Nash County Arboretum Facebook page. The gardens are open during daylight hours seven days a week, with bathroom facilities available inside the Ag Center from 8 to 5 on weekdays.

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Nashville Chamber of Commerce grows with town

Chamber hosts events tying businesses and community together

BY NANCY WEST-BRAKE
GRAPHIC STAFF WRITER

If there's something going on in Nashville, it's a good bet that the Chamber of Commerce has something to do with it- and if its members aren't putting it on, they're sure to be behind the scenes somewhere volunteering, helping make needed connections, or sending people that way.

"The Chamber has a two-prong operation," said Cliff Joyner, Chamber President for the past three years and an active member for fifteen years or so, once he didn't have to work in the family grocery store.

"We want to encourage local business growth but also look to improving the quality of life in Nashville, making it a good place to live and work," Joyner said.

There are currently about 110 members in the Chamber, with membership open to private individuals as well as businesses.

Celebrating its 33rd annual meeting in July at the Elks Lodge at Birchwood, the Chamber event easily drew about a hundred people or more to celebrate Business of the Year Faith Christian Ministries and a 'Beyond the Call of Duty' recognition of Nashville public works operation supervisor Chad Neville.

Among criteria used for selection of Business of the Year are that it is an active chamber member, has been in business at least five years, is growing, and encourages the growth and development of its associates, contributing to the overall life improvements in Nashville.

Fall events coming up are the Fall Social September 26 at the Farmers' Market, where members invite potential members. In process are plans for a Candidates' Meet and Greet at the new Parks and Rec building on Boddie Street, possibly in October, for members of the public to meet candidates for county commissioner, the Nash county schools' board of

education, State Senate and House.

October 25th is the popular Downtown Nashville's Trick or Treat Street, put on by the town's Parks and Rec Department but partnered by the Chamber, who helps to provide candy for merchants to hand out, prior to judging of the mind-boggling array of costumes in the Kids' costume contest, open to children twelve and under.

November 15th is the annual Brunswick Stew sale, whose proceeds fund the Trick or Treat and also contribute to prizes for the children's Christmas parade. Cooked up at the Methodist Church, over 300 quarts of stew were sold last year. They go on sale in September; contact any Chamber member for tickets.

Up next is the "It Pays To Shop Local" initiative, which starts the Saturday after Thanksgiving and runs almost to Christmas. Shoppers can email, text or drop off their receipts to enter in a December 20th drawing to be eligible to win a \$500 cash prize.

"It encourages people to shop or do business with Chamber members," Joyner said, adding a reminder that paying one's Duke energy bill, for a subscription to the Nashville Graphic, and even paying insurance in town also count as eligible expenses for the drawing. If in doubt about what businesses qualify as Chamber members, call the Chamber.

Also lending encouragement to local spending is "Shop Small Saturday," held the Saturday following Thanksgiving, where two \$100 gift certificates to a participating business of choice are awarded in a drawing. Each participating location will have a free registration box.

The Chamber, partnering with Nashville Parks and Rec, also puts on the annual Nashville's Christmas Celebration and Children's Bicycle Parade, which takes place downtown on Washington Street where children decorate their bikes, wagons and themselves prior to the Tree Lighting ceremony. Four cash prizes, the largest \$50, are given out for the best costumes. No mechanized vehicles are allowed and pre-registration is required. There is a drawing for children to win new bicycles which

are donated to the Chamber each year for that purpose. Parks and Rec also offers family-friendly activities during the festivities.

Recognition of some of the town's best and brightest occurs in April, with the Distinguished Citizen and Junior Achievement awards conferred during a designated evening.

The biggest Chamber activity is May's Blooming Festival, Nashville's signature event, that shuts down parts of downtown for a weekend of carnival and street-packed vendor activity enhanced by live musical performances. Held for 26 years, the Blooming Festival draws thousands of participants on Mother's Day weekend, with many families making it part of Mom's special day. There is also a "Blooming Festival Mother of the Year" selected to preside over the celebration and, of course, a colorful parade to highlight local schools, businesses and organizations.

The Chamber also awards four \$500 scholarships to local high school students each year, with money raised from chamber members who pay \$125 their logos on the chamber website for a year. Applications to apply for the scholarships can be found on the chamber website, nashvillechamber.org, with the application deadline May 1.



JOYNER



The chamber hosts a member-guest fall social in September. Pictured, Chamber President Cliff Joyner (left), member Koy Worrell (center), and Vice-president Scott Hale cook hotdogs for the event. Graphic photo



The chamber's signature event is the annual Blooming Festival which draws more than 30,000 people to Nashville. Graphic photo



Children can decorate bikes, wagons or themselves to participate in the Children's Christmas parade. Prizes are giving to the most creative entries. Graphic photo



The chamber, now partnering with Nashville Parks and Rec, has organized the town's Christmas Celebration and Children's Bicycle Parade for more than 30 years. Graphic photo

Nash County Senior Center continues to grow

Programming, growth warrant plans for building expansion

BY NANCY WEST-BRAKE
GRAPHIC STAFF WRITER

The Nash Senior Center in Nashville is growing, both in number of participants and programs offered, with plans underway to add a building expansion.

Senior Center Supervisors were hired both at “the Nash” in Nashville and at the Southern Nash Senior Center in Bailey this year, along with additional support staff members. Wendy Perry is Senior Services Supervisor for the Family Caregiver Program, while Tamika Hill is Senior Services Coordinator for Home Delivered Meals & Transportation. Conner Lee is Senior Center Supervisor for the Nash.

Average daily attendance at the Nash in July was 145, with Mondays the busiest day and an average of 189 folks coming in, according to Ashley Winstead, Senior Services Director. The center currently has National Accreditation recognition.

Winstead said the Nash has weekly scheduled programs such as Step It Up, Tai-Chi, dance classes and Exercise to the Beat, along with weekly card games.

On the monthly calendar are socials and billiard tournaments.

Exercise To The Beat, offered Mondays and Thursdays at High Impact and Tuesdays at Low Impact, is so popular that the number of participants have to be limited due to space constraints, as large balls and buckets used by drummers take up a fair amount of room.

Two craft classes were offered at the start of the new quarter along with a new dance class in July, ‘Dancing With Blanca,’ which featured instruction



Nash Football's biggest fan, Roger Shearin, enjoys spending time at the Nash County Senior Center.

Contributed photo



Members enjoy line dancing at the Nash County Senior Center in Nashville. Contributed photo

in Latin classes along with plenty of exercise. Also in July was a watermelon social and mini-dance party along with the first Word Search Challenge, where participants raced the clock on intermediate and hard puzzles for a chance to win prizes and bragging rights.

A quick check of the Nash's September calendar, posted on the Facebook page, shows classes listed such as computer class, color club, Body Craze, Pinochle, Recipe Club, Basic Line Dancing, Advanced Line Dancing, Yoga, Zumba, Chair Volleyball and Fabric Cross Wall Art, among many others.

Winstead said all scheduled programs are listed in a

grams early as many fill up quickly and have waiting lists,” Winstead said.

September is National Senior Center Month, Winstead said, so a Spirit week is planned from Sept. 23rd to 27th to celebrate.

Monday will be 70's Day, Tuesday Team Day, Wednesday Twin Day, Thursday Tacky Day and Friday Spirit Day that week.

The Nash also offers home and community-based services “to allow for older adults to remain independently in their community of choice,” Winstead said, with a reminder that Medicare Open Enrollment is October 15th-December 7th.

“We encourage everyone to sign-up for an appointment with a SHIIP

counselor to review their prescription drug plans. You may be able to find a plan that saves you money,” Winstead said. Jamie Wilson is the SHIIP (Senior's health Insurance Information Program) Counselor at the Nash.

A current need, Winstead said, is for additional volunteers to deliver a hot daytime meal to homebound older adults in the Nashville, Red Oak and Castalia communities. Anyone interested in helping can call Tamika Hill, Senior Services Coordinator, at 459-1367.

The Senior Center is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with programs open to adults 60 and older. For more information or to ask questions, call The Nash at 459-7681.

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Nash Arts brings a full plate of flavor to town

BY NANCY WEST-BRAKE
GRAPHIC STAFF WRITER

It's kind of like having a little bit of Broadway on West Washington Street. Nash Arts, otherwise known as the Nash County Arts Council, stuffs its stage with a stream of performers all year, always providing its patrons and the public something to look forward to.

"We choose our programming carefully, as we strive to offer something for everyone," said Shelly Gray, Nash Arts Director.

"We are super excited about the lineup we have this season and are anticipating sold out shows that include Shelly Belly, Chairmen of the Board, Legacy Motown Revue, & The Malpass Brothers. I am also excited for this year's A Christmas Carol, as we bring back the traditional version under the professional direction of local multidisciplinary performing and teaching artist, Daniel Seda," Gray said.

Four shows in September, October and February make up the "Nashville Showcase Series", made up of nationally-acclaimed acts.

The first, Glenn Wilson & Rory Stuart at 7 p.m. on Sept.20, fall under the Jazz category. Wilson, a baritone saxophonist, referred to as "an unsung hero in modern jazz," has worked with a string of A-listers including the Buddy Rich Band and Lionel Hampton Orchestra; Stewart, a New York-based jazz guitarist, was described by Jazz Times as "perhaps THE most innovative straight-ahead jazz guitarist to emerge in years." Admission is \$15 for general and \$10 for members.

The second, Comedy Show featuring Michelle Rider (AKA Shelly Belly) at 7 p.m. on October 5, will be Shelly's



Local theatre weaves the community together at Nash Arts.

Contributed photo

second appearance at Nash Arts, with her first in 2023 a sold-out success. Shelly's comedy skits, released online on her social media platforms, earned her millions of views as she says "things we all think about and don't want to say," but Shelly will. She is one of the most sought-after female comedians in the U.S. Admission is \$25 general and \$20 for members.

The third show, Chairmen of the Board, at 7:30 p.m. October 18, has a thirty-year history of pleasing music lovers, including their 1970 hit "Give Me Just A Little More Time." Members of the NC Music Hall of Fame, Chairmen of the Board are considered one of Soul Music's all-time greats. Led by original member Ken Knox and including members Thomas Hunter and Patrick McGuire, the group now includes six more musicians, with their music played during NFL Carolina Panthers home games. Admission is \$30 general and \$25 for members. A cash bar will be available for this event.



Live music is plentiful at Nash Arts featuring local, regional and national talent. Contributed photo

The fourth show in the Showcase series, the Malpass Brothers, will perform at 7:30 p.m. February 8. A country music group, the Malpass Brothers made their Grand Ole Opry debut in 2018 and currently perform over 150 dates a year, including for international tours and festivals. Admission is \$30 general and \$25 for members. A cash bar will be available.

Several shows originally planned for August have been rescheduled, including Shades of Harmony, to perform Sept. 28, and Toler Music, now scheduled February 28. Others coming up include 'Justanotherhuman,' Oct. 10; 'Curtis Joyner Music Group' Oct. 24; 'Southern Heart Gospel' Oct. 27; 'Toler Music' Dec. 13; 'The Legacy Motown Review' Jan. 4; 'Ashton Lalyne & The Verdict' January 10; 'Feature Attraction Band' Jan. 18, 'Bill Lyerly & Friends' Jan. 30; 'James Parker & The Electric Image Band' March 8; the 'Highway Ramblers' April 5; and during the 2025 Blooming Festival, 'The Phobes' May 8.

In addition to shows and performances, Nash Arts also offers arts classes, including monthly acrylic painting classes

taught by Kim Valentine of Farms Arts, Elm City; Ballroom Dancing classes with Dan Seda; and monthly woodburning classes taught by Regina Pena of Youngsville.

Future plans may include a summer art, drama and dance class for youth.

For information on current and future Nash Arts events, visit the 'Nash County Arts Council' facebook page, the ticketleap page nash-county-arts-council.ticketleap.com, or find it listed under nashcountync.gov.

Enrollment for Nash County Arts Council membership is open all year, Grey said; if interested in joining, call the office or visiting our web or ticket site.

Levels range from \$35 for an individual membership (\$25 Artist or \$30 Senior Citizen) all the way to corporate at \$1,075. (Sales tax is included in cost of memberships.) All members receive discounts on tickets and admissions to all events and classes, with the number of discounted tickets per event depending on the level, and higher levels receive complimentary tickets to events of choice or include season tickets.

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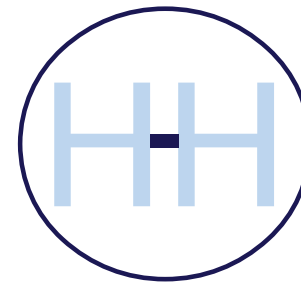
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