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MARCH 2018
President Harry Truman's footprints are in the Nash County Courthouse!

President Harry Truman's footprints are forever immortalized inside the Nash County Courthouse. While visiting Nashville on October 14, 1960 during the Harvest Festival, President Truman's feet were placed in cement casting his footprints to forever remain in Nash County. The footprints are displayed inside the courthouse and are available for public view.

Pictured left, President Harry Truman tips his hat to the photographer while sitting on a stage in front of the Nash County Courthouse. Pictured below, Truman steps onto a slab of wet concrete to leave a his footprints embossed at the Nash County Courthouse. (Graphic file photo - 1960)

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)

There are 12 Nashvilles in the United States!
The US Census Bureau shows a total of 12 cities or towns with the name of Nashville.

Nashville, Arkansas (population 4,627)
Nashville, Georgia (population 4,939)
Nashville, Illinois (population 3,528)
Nashville, Indiana (population 803)
Nashville, Kansas (population 64)
Nashville, Maine (population 46)
Nashville, Minnesota (population 234)
Nashville, Michigan (population 1,628)
Nashville, North Carolina (population 5,500)
Nashville, Ohio (population 197)
Nashville, Tennessee (population 659,042)
Nashville, Wisconsin (population 1,064)
Chris Joyner was named the North Carolina American Legion Firefighter of the Year. Joyner was also chosen as the Nashville Fire Department’s new Fire Chief in February. (Graphic photo)

Nashville Fire Engineer Lee Coppedge holds a fire hose while Nashville kindergarten teacher Elia Lanfranchi tries to turn it on during Fire Prevention Week at Nashville Elementary. (Graphic photo)

Nashville has experienced a lot of change

Multiple leadership roles have changed over the past year

By Amanda Clark

The Town of Nashville has seen a lot of personnel changes over the past year due to changes in leadership roles. The town has hired new leaders for its parks and recreation department as well as fire department due to the retirement of former leaders. The town’s leader of public works also recently retired but the town decided to merge the public works department with public utilities, which created just one leadership role.

“Same services, same program, just a restructuring of personnel,” Town Manager Hank Raper said.

The library also has a new leader. Another change was in the police department. Raper said the department went through a reorganization of its personnel, which allows for more promotional opportunities among officers. “That was a big accomplishment for us,” Raper said.

Raper said another change that will affect employees of the town is the implementation of a pay study. “That was a big accomplishment,” he said.

Raper said the last study was done in 2009 and it was important to get an updated one to make salaries more competitive. “If you are going to be an employer of choice for our employees, we have to have a competitive salary and benefits,” he said.

Another big thing the town has accomplished over the past year was the creation of a Capital Reserve Fund. Raper said that fund will allow the town to pay up front for purchases at a savings for the town as it will allow the town to look better but also help improve property values. Raper said the ultimate goal with all the new programs is to help keep rates down by mitigating taxes. Future endeavors Raper said he is looking forward to is the town’s new website. The town voted last year for the creation of a new website. The process has taken time, Raper said, but the site should be ready to go live soon.

“That’ll be an important thing because we are not out of date,” Raper said.

The town’s fire department will also be getting a new fire engine this year when the new engine is supposed to be delivered in October and will help the fire department tremendously.

Soon, Raper said the town will wrap up its largest infrastructure project on the history of the town. The CIFI project will cost the town $14 million and will also create a savings for the town as it will allow the Elm Street Liftstation to close down. The project will also help with the town’s stormwater system better.

“That’s an infrastructure that will last the town the next 50 to 100 years,” Raper said.

Raper said the town has really accomplished a lot over the past year and he is proud of what Nashville has done.

“We’ve been very busy,” he added.

Nashville Fire department aims to improve rating

By Amanda Clark

Graphic Staff Writer

Nashville Fire Department is starting off 2018 with a new chief in place but it’s a familiar face to many in the department and community. Chris Joyner, 47, is the new fire chief as of February 13, which just so happened to be his 48th birthday.

Joyner said serving as chief has been busy but it’s a familiar face to many in the department and community.

Raper said the town is looking forward to his new leadership role. “I’m excited to his new leadership role,” Raper said.

Joyner said the department is trying to improve the rating for their Associate’s Degree.

Raper said that fund will allow the town to pay up front for purchases at a savings for the town as it will allow the town to look better but also help improve property values.

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Chris Joyner named new chief of Nashville Fire Department

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“We’ve been very busy,” he added.
Library adds programs for teens and adults

By Amanda Clark

Graphic Staff Writer

Cooky Library is working to offer more programming for teenagers and adults.

Since becoming the new Director last August, Emily Endreul has tried out several new programs that cater specifically to adolescents and teenagers.

“We’re trying to keep our programming to include all ages,” Endreul said.

The program includes Mystery Movie Dinners, which have been very popular for adults.

“The Murder Mystery Dinner program is really taking off,” Endreul said. “It’s been well received.”

Movies focusing on specific Heritage Months are another new thing the library has introduced. In February, the movies were centered around Black History Month. In March, movies are centered around women. Endreul said the movies have had pretty good attendance and anything the library will continue to offer.

“We love to celebrate all heritages here,” Endreul said.

Movies have also been offered for teenagers. Endreul said, “Teenagers have outside interests, so the library offers more programming for teenagers.”

This year the library started carrying video games for patrons to check out. The library also offered escape room sessions during Christmas break, between Christmas and New Year’s. The sessions were for all ages but adults and teenagers were the main ages that attended.

New programs have also been introduced for youth as well.

Over the holidays, the library, along with Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources, featured the “Polar Express” movie as well as a Santa storytale. That event was well received and is something the town plans to host again.

Take and Make Crafts are another new thing the library is trying out. During special holidays, youth are given crafts to take home and make when they want. Endreul said those have been popular among the kids.

“We start the library in a new get- ing geared up for the Summer Reading Program. This year’s theme is “Summer Rocks.”

The program is four weeks long with events for youth up to age 11, teenagers ages 12 to 17 and adults.

“We’re going to have an event for each age group every single week,” Endreul said.

Weekly prizes will be given for reading. Endreul said for teens, online reading will also be counted, included reading social media.

“We just want the kids reading,” she said. “All reading counts.”

Endreul said there will be a kickoff to start the program and another special event to end the program.

“We’re still in the process of planning it,” she said.

“We’ve had a lot going on,” Endreul said.

For information on library events and services call 459-2106

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NAPLES DESIGNS OF NASHVILLE

Nashville Police Department continues HOPE Initiative

By Amanda Clark

Graphic Staff Writer

Nashville’s Police Department is becoming known around the nation for its response to the opioid epidemic.

Every year, the department started its HOPE Initiative, which provides a safe way for those with an addiction or other addiction to seek help without fear of incarceration as well as to provide resources to give individuals hope in becoming sober.

So far, the program has helped 351 people.

Police Chief Tom Bashore said even though HOPE is helping those with addictions, he doesn’t foresee the problem going away anytime soon.

“They are still bad and will be for a while,” he said.

But Bashore said other departments around the state and nation are now working to form similar programs in their communities.

In addition to the HOPE initiative, Bashore said there are many other exciting things going on at the department.

The department started a restructuring of its ranks on July 1. Bashore said the restructuring takes away the corporal position and adds more sergeant positions as well as two captain positions.

“We did add a lot more supervisory positions,” Bashore said. “It allows for more lateral transfers.”

Bashore said the restructuring should help with career development and will also help Nashville’s police department align with other departments.

Bashore said the department has also added an officer and now has a total of 17 officers.

Bashore said another change over the past year was that the department moved its National Night Out to Fall instead of Summer.

Bashore said the change was not made without controversy. Bashore said the department’s Kids and Cops Christmas program continues to grow.

The community has been very supportive in the program and has enabled the department to help more kids this year.

Bashore said one of the most important things officers do each year is get involved with local youth through partnerships with the Boys and Girls Club, and the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department.

The department sponsors a baseball team each year and last year, Bashore said the department was able to send a kid to a camp at Wesleyan College. The department was also able to sponsor a soccer team last year.

“We had good participation,” he said. One new thing Bashore said the community may still not be familiar with is a program the department started to send an officer checks on the house each day.

It’s pretty amazing,” Bashore said. “We’ve got good feedback from it.”

Bashore said he’s looking forward to the new year and hopes the department will continue to develop good relationships with the community while also keeping it safe.

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Bashore said he’s looking forward to the new year and hopes the department will continue to develop good relationships with the community while also keeping it safe.
By Amanda Clark

Graphic Staff Writer

Nashville Elementary School’s motto is “Be the best you can be!” The school is making great strides in making this a reality.

The school’s Beta Club collected items at the start of the school year for Hurricane Harvey. Donations have also been collected for the Nash County Animal Shelter.

Recently, the school started a school-wide reading campaign as part of One Book, One School Campaign. The entire school will be reading the book, “The Adventures of the South Pole Pig.”

Donations have also been collected for the Nash County Animal Shelter.

The program was celebrated with a special kick off assembly to get students excited about reading.

Mangano said he’s happy with the support the community gives to the school and looks forward to the rest of the 2017-2018 school year.

Parks and Rec offers multiple programs

By Amanda Clark

Graphic Staff Writer

Programs in Nashville’s Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department have seen tremendous growth since Director Marguerite Bishop took over in January 2017.

Soccer and t-ball numbers doubled last year, and more adult athletic programs were also added.

“We have adult kickball was a new sport added last year,” Bishop said. “It’s the first adult event that we’ve had a in very long time.” Bishop said. “We had four teams participating.”

“We’re trying to broaden our offerings to encompass more demographics.” Bishop said.

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources is also trying to add more to their just athletic events, which is why the department added Cultural Resources on to its name last year.

In addition to athletic events, Bishop said the department offers a lot more.

“This past winter, a Free Family Fitness program was added each week that encouraged families to come out and be active together. “It went pretty well for the first time,” Bishop said. “We averaged from 35 to 40 participants per event.”

Bishop said that program will probably happen again next year and may even be something that’s done in the summer time.

A music series was another event that the department has utilized its name last year.

“We’re trying to broaden our offerings to encompass more demographics.” Bishop said.

A music series was another event that the department has utilized its name last year.

“We’re trying to do a work day on the Saturday before Earth Day,” Bishop said. “Anybody that wants to come can come out and get their hands dirty and spend some time outdoors, getting some fresh air.

Even with all the new programs, Bishop is hoping to get ideas on what the community wants to see. A Master Plan is in the works and Bishop said she’s hoping to get more community input before it’s put together.

“We are working on a Master Plan,” she said. “Once the plan is done, we’re going to put a public open house because it’s their Master Plan. It’s a plan for residents and we want them to be a part of that program.”

From that, we can start working on overall park improvements,” Bishop added. “We’re excited about the future possibilities of the department. We’re looking forward to 2018.”

Christian Lee and Dominic Robbins (L-R) act out a play about the importance of reading during a school-wide assembly at Nashville Elementary School. (Graphic photos)
Chamber promotes community involvement

By Amanda Clark

Graphic Staff Writer

Nashville Chamber of Commerce President Mary Grace Daughtridge wants to see membership grow over the next year.

Already, the Chamber hosts a membership of around 60 members from Nashville and surrounding areas.

The mission of the Chamber is to promote, develop and encourage the business and civic interests of local Nashville area businesses.

Daughtridge said it’s important to have chamber membership grow in order to support and achieve its mission.

The chamber set a goal of having 100 members by December, 2016. Daughtridge said, “It’s a goal of ours since becoming president last year is to receive more input and business involvement on projects and decisions.”

Daughtridge said she’d also like to receive more social interactions at First Friday Coffee events, which the chamber hosts each month.

“The more interaction we have, the better we and the Chamber can represent each other,” she added.

Daughtridge said she’d also like to see chamber membership have more interaction with Town Council members.

The Chamber has had a busy year, Daughtridge said, and is gearing up for another one. A new thing the Chamber had started was a partnership with Nash Community College.

“I partnered with Nash Community College in having some small business classes,” she said.

Last year, the Chamber announced its first scholarship recipients. Daughtridge said that is something the Chamber will continue to do.

The Chamber has also provided support and donations to the Police Department’s Kids and Cups Christmas event. Donations were also given to the Nash County Sheriff’s Office and Nashville Fire Department. Funds from the Blooming Festival made the donations possible, Daughtridge said.

There have been several ribbon cuttings on the part of the Chamber, which is another event the Chamber supports.

“Business Hours is something the Chamber recently started back up and something we hope to see grow,” she said.

Recently, the Chamber hosted its annual Distinguished Citizen event, where Nash County native Phil Ford served as guest speaker. Daughtridge said she thought having Ford speak made the event special.

“He was a fabulous speaker,” she said. “I think everybody enjoyed that night.”

Daughtridge said she looks forward to continuing to serve as president and hopes to be able to bring new ideas to the chamber that will help the organization fulfill its mission.

For more information about the Nashville Chamber of Commerce call 252-459-4000.

Nashville Chamber of Commerce President Mary Grace Daughtridge

Nashville Blooming Festival features multiple live bands throughout the event.

Phil Ford, (right) UNC basketball star and former assistant coach, was the guest speaker at the chamber’s Distinguished Citizen Ceremony this year. Pictured with Ford is Nashville Town Councilman Larry Taylor.

The Nashville Business and Professional Women (BPW) have been hard at work in the Nashville community for over 40 years.

The organization’s mission is to provide personal and professional growth opportunities and to provide equity for North Carolina women in the workplace.

The group meets once a month, on the third Monday of the month, at the Nashville Diner at 11:30 a.m. for a nut treat lunch.

Nashville’s BPW is best known for its Eliza Clark Memorial Opy, which is held each year and features local entertainment. The event has been going on for 38 years and is a fundraiser for the BPW. All proceeds from the event are given to support the Hazel Valentine scholarship.

The organization has three members who have been involved in BPW for 40 or more years. They include the club’s President Barbara High Tyyn along with club Secretary Shirley House and Special Projects Chair Mary Alice Wells.

Six arrested for home repair fraud

The Nash-Rocky Mount Public School Board members approved a 2016-2017 operating plan to board members.

The plan includes a raise from 2016-2017 taxes.

The Nash-Rocky Mount Public School Board was presented the updated plan to board members.

An inspector with Nash County Building Inspectors opened near Nashville. (Graphic photo)

Nashville Police are searching for a possible fifth suspect

A possible fifth suspect in connection with a murder in Nashville has been arrested.

The sheriff’s office has arrested four suspects and are still searching for a fifth suspect in connection with the homicide.

An elderly man from the Spring Hope area was slain with a possible gunshot wound.

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Nash Arts Center offers an array of events
Arts Center keeps traditional events, adds new programs

By Amanda Clark
Graphic Staff Writer

Nash Arts is gearing up for its next fundraising event in April. The arts center wrapped up its latest fundraiser in February with the Dancing with the Arts competition. That event raised over $8,000 for the arts center.

The Demin and Diamonds Gala is the next fundraising event and is set for April 13.

Shelly Gray, Nash Arts Director, said the goal currently is to maintain and offer the many programs while adding on a few new ones each year.

Fundraisers are what help keep Nash Arts up and running and allowing the many programs offered each year.

Gray said at first the classes didn’t have many attending but now almost all the classes are full. Ongoing programs include Nash County’s Got Talent, which is also a fundraiser for the arts center, as well as the Nash Arts Showcase.

The Talent program has been revamped some, Gray said, and hopefully brings in more to attend.

“We’re revamping it and better categorizing the talent,” Gray said. “We’re trying to tweak it a little bit and make it more fair and enjoyable.”

This year, Gray said she was excited to have Suzy Bogguss perform for the Nash Arts Showcase.

Mighty Saints of Soul will now almost all the classes are full. Didn’t have many attending but hopes to start working on summer camp programming and preparing for the Blooming Festival.

Gray said she’s happy with what’s being offered but hopes to be able to expand the cultural arts and make it more fair and enjoyable.

“We’re just trying to maintain,” she added.

For more information on programs or events at Nash Arts, call 252-459-4734 or visit www.nasharts.org

A tradition at Nash Arts Center is the unique production of “A Christmas Carol.”

Graphic

Kendra Barnes performs in the 2017 Nash County’s Got Talent competition. (Graphic photo)

Pamela Gould and Eddie Sherrard participate in the 2018 Dancing with the Arts competition. (Graphic photo)

Nashville Community Organizations

• American Legion - Post 110 and Post 293
• Nashville BPW - hightry4@outlook.com
• Nashville Luncheon Lion’s Club (252) 459-9990
• Woodmen of the World (252) 443-3269
• Nashville Chamber of Commerce (252) 459-4050
• Nashville Knights - (252) 459-4525
• Nashville Boys & Girls Club (252) 459-6033
• Nash Arts Center (252) 459-4734
• Nash County Habitat for Humanity (252) 972-1994
• Ruritans - Nash County District Information (252) 443-9350
• Nash County Senior Center (252) 459-7681
• My Sister’s House (252) 462-0886
• The Voice of Nashville (252) 362-8564
• Friends of Cooley Library (252) 459-2106
• Nash County Animal Friends - NCAF-inquiry@hotmail.com
• Nash County 4-H (252) 459-9810

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Major Rave Carpenter and Sgt. James Nelms (L-R) prepare to raise the flag to half mast during the Memorial Day service, which is held annually at Forest Hill Cemetery in Nashville. The services are hosted each year by the American Legion Post 110 of Nashville, (Graphic photo)
By Amanda Clark
Graphic Staff Writer

Senior Center to build second location

The Nash County Senior Center will soon be celebrating the ground-breaking of its second location in Southern Nash County.

The Southern Nash Senior Center has been a wish-list item for a while, said Aging Services Director Michele McKnight.

“It’s needed there,” she said.

For the past seven years, the center has offered programs at the Mt. Pleasant Church Road in Bailey. Middlesex Park, located at 8104 Stoney Hill Church Road in Bailey, “has been a wish-list item for a while,” McKnight said.

“Hopefully that building will be occupied by the fall,” she said.

A ground-breaking ceremony will be held for the new center on April 16. The center will be located at the Bailey-Midlows Park, located at 8144 Stoney Hill Church Road in Bailey.

“Hopefully that building will be complete by the fall of this year,” McKnight said.

Since adding more programs, including travel, membership at the senior center has exploded.

“We’ve had almost a three-fold growth in our membership,” she said.

McKnight said the center is always looking at new programs to add and is fortunate to have volunteers to make the programs that exist a success.

“I’m blessed that I get to be here and be in a place I love,” McKnight said.

“We’re always doing stuff.”

Nashville Boys and Girls Club offers summer programs

Nashville’s Boys and Girls Club is working hard to help youth get more involved in the community. Greg Spence has been Unit Director of the Club for over a year and said there’s been a lot going on at the club.

Last Summer, Spence said there were a lot of special programs offered during the summer.

“We had a significant increase in attendance, specifically during the summer time,” he said.

The club partnered with 4-H to offer a STEM program during the summer.

“We were able to run STEM programs every day of the summer, for nine weeks,” Spence said.

Spence said something he’s really proud of is an entertainment studio, which is in the works.

Some were also given the chance to participate in a boot camp type of work with Key Fitness. Spence said the teens really enjoyed participating in that event.

“That was awesome to get out of the club and get that exposure,” he said.

Another new thing at the club is a Junior Optimist Club, which was chartered.

“They will focus on essays and public speaking,” Spence said.

The Junior Optimist Club will also offer sports opportunities and help youth get scholarships for college.

A Torch Club was also formed, which comes with the Junior Optimist Club. That group is for ages 10 to 13.

Spence said something he’s really proud of is an entertainment studio, which is in the works.

“That’s one of the biggest things I want to push,” he added.

Spence said area churches have been supportive of the club and its youth and he’s looking forward to those partnerships continuing.

Spence said he is looking forward to the upcoming summer, which he hopes the club can continue to see growth and more partnerships formed to offer activities for the youth to participate in that will help them grow.

“I think any chance to enhance our community, I want to be a part of it,” Spence said.

Joshua Davis works on schoolwork at the Nashville Boys and Girls Club. (Graphic photo)