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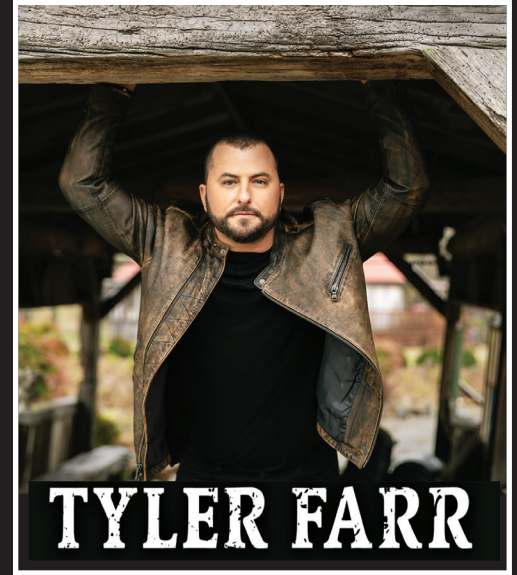
25th

NASHVILLE
North Carolina

Blooming Festival

Always MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND!

MAY 12-13, 2023



CARNIVAL
STARTS MAY 10TH!

PARADE
MAY 13 • 11:30 A.M.



Live entertainment all weekend!



TYLER FARR

Chandler James ~ Meredith Davis Johnson
Mac Arnold & Plate Full O'Blues
Tar River Children's Chorus
Fantastic Shades of Harmony
Soul Psychedelique ~ East Coast Rhythm & Blues
The Embers with Craig Woolard

MUSIC • PARADE • CRAFTS • FOOD • CARNIVAL & MORE!

Welcome to the 25th Annual Nashville Blooming Festival!

The Nashville Chamber of Commerce welcomes you to the 25th Annual Blooming Festival May 12-13 in downtown Nashville! Inside this publication you'll find the schedule of events along with information about the entire weekend of activities.

Amusement rides open Wednesday, May 10th at 5 p.m. in the parking lot next to the Nash County Courthouse. Wednesday and Thursday night, purchase a wristband for \$25 (per night) for unlimited rides from 5-10 p.m. Regular ticket prices apply Friday night, Saturday and Saturday night.

Thursday night, Nash Arts kicks off the weekend with a free live concert at the center located at 100 E. Washington Street featuring Mac Arnold and Plate Full O' Blues at 7 p.m.

Friday night, downtown comes alive with Soul Psychedelique performing on the main stage outside, near the courthouse, from 7-11 p.m. Food vendors open early at 6 p.m. offering tasty festival food, and the amusement rides also open at 5 p.m.

Saturday morning, craft and exhibit booths open at 9 a.m. Tar River Children's Chorus will perform at 9 a.m. The 2023 Mother of the Year will be announced at 9:45 a.m.

The Fantastic Shades of Harmony will perform at 10 a.m. Saturday morning and the Blooming Festival Parade begins at 11:30 a.m.

After the parade, festival patrons will be entertained by East Coast Rhythm & Blues Band at 12:30 p.m., The Embers at 3 p.m.

Locally known performer Meredith Davis Johnson will perform at 5 p.m. and Chandler James along with his band perform from 6 - 7 p.m. and Tyler Farr in concert at 8 p.m.

Downtown will be filled with craft and exhibit booths Saturday, just in time to pick out a unique gift for Mother's Day or something for yourself! Of course all weekend food vendors will offer tasty festival cuisine that's sure to tempt your taste buds! Check inside for more information and activities.

For more information contact the Nashville Chamber of Commerce 252-459-4040 or visit nashvillencchamber.org



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Dear Friends,

On May 10th - 13th, Downtown Nashville will be bustling with activity and excitement as the 25th Annual Blooming Festival gets underway. It gives me great pleasure on behalf of the Town of Nashville to welcome everyone back to this wonderful Festival. We are excited to see Downtown filled with citizens and visitors enjoying time together with family and friends. The events planned promise to offer something for the entire family - Friday night and Saturday night Downtown will be filled with music, as well as a carnival boasting exciting rides and games. On Saturday morning, the traditional Blooming Festival Parade gets the day started followed by an afternoon of craft and food vendors, rides, and more live music.

The Town of Nashville is proud to host this great event, The Nashville Blooming Festival in Historic Downtown is part of our ongoing renaissance. The entire schedule of events, organized by the Nashville Chamber of Commerce, is sure to make this festival the best ever. If you have attended the Nashville Blooming Festival, I again invite you to come to downtown Nashville for a great weekend of music, food, rides, and crafts. I am certain that you will find this festival one that the entire family will enjoy.

The Town of Nashville wants to say THANK YOU in advance to everyone that has worked tirelessly to organize, and that will help with this wonderful and exciting festival. It could not be done without you.

Look forward to seeing you May 10th through 13th in Nashville!

Brenda Brown,
Mayor
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Tyler Farr concert is Saturday night

Tyler Farr will perform at the Nashville Blooming Festival on Saturday, May 13th. The concert will begin at 8 p.m. in downtown Nashville.

Authentic and unapologetic, Tyler Farr records songs he would listen to in his truck – windows down, sound up. It just so happens country music fans want to hear the same songs.

Without pandering or compromise, Farr's powerhouse vocals, real-guy relatability, and willingness to mine emotional themes and personal imperfection resonates with people searching to find themselves in the music that underscores their daily routines and future dreams.

Farr signed his first recording contract in 2012 and released his debut album, "Redneck Crazy" in 2013. The record landed at No. 2 on the Billboard Country Albums Chart and No. 5 on the Billboard Top 200. Farr's Platinum-selling title-track "Redneck Crazy" launched back-to-back No. 1 singles, including his first No. 1 as a songwriter, with his Platinum-certified hit "Whiskey in my Water."

His sophomore album, Suffer In Peace released in 2015, followed suit, also making its debut in the Top 5 on both the

Billboard Top 200 Albums and Billboard Country Albums charts, which made Farr the only solo male Country artist in a decade to have his first two studio albums debut in the Top 5 on the Billboard 200 chart.

Farr has charted three #1 hits ("Redneck Crazy," "Whiskey in My Water," and "A Guy Walks Into a Bar") and has been included in CRS New Faces of Country Radio and was nominated for Music Row's "Breakthrough Artist of the Year." He has also earned coveted slots touring with Jason Aldean, Florida Georgia Line, Brantley Gilbert, and Luke Combs.

Media outlets paid attention with Rolling Stone calling Farr a "no-frills musician who pours his drinks as hard as he pours his heart into his songs."

In March 2019, Farr signed a new record deal with BBR Music Group under Jason Aldean's Night Train Records imprint, where he is solidly in the driver seat with his favorite songs on the radio.

Aldean and Tyler finalized music for a "Cover Girl," which was released in 2021.

Most recently Farr released a new single "Country as S--t" featuring stout rock guitars and a rap verse from Jelly Roll.



IN CONCERT
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FREE CONCERT provided by Nash Arts Center

Mac Arnold & Plate Full O' Blues

NASH ARTS CENTER • May 11 • 7 p.m.

Nash Arts will hold the traditional Kick-Off Party for the Blooming Festival on Thursday, May 11 at 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public, first come first served admission.

Mac Arnold's first band included James Brown on piano. Mac moved to Chicago and Muddy Waters hired him on the spot. He toured and recorded with the Muddy Waters Band and recorded LPs with Otis Spann and John Lee Hooker. Mac moved to Los Angeles and produced Soul Train with his friend Don Cornelius. He even played bass on the Sanford & Son television show when he wasn't playing bass for Otis Redding and B.B. King. He retired from show business to be an organic farmer. Mac is back with his own band and a "plate full" of CDs, building a new foundation in blues, soul and funk.

Mac Arnold must have known at an early age that his music career would read like a "Who's who" of Blues/R&B Legends. His high school band "J Floyd & The Shamrocks" were often joined by none other than Macon, Georgia native, James Brown on piano. After deciding to pursue a professional music career, he joined the Charles Miller group until 1965 when he made the move to Chicago to work with recording artist/saxophonist A. C. Reed.

In late 1966, at age 24, came the opportunity of a lifetime to join the Muddy Waters Band and help shape the electric blues sound that inspired the rock and roll movement of the late 60's and early 70's. Regular guests of the band included Eric Clapton, Paul Butterfield, Mike Bloomfield, and Elvin Bishop. The Muddy Waters Band (as a unit) shared the stage with the likes of Howlin' Wolfe, Elmore James, Jimmy Reed, Junior Wells, Big Joe Williams, and Big Mama Thornton just to name a few. During this time, Mac played on John Lee Hooker's "live album, Live at the Café Au Go-Go, as well as Otis Spann's classic recording "The Blues is Where It's At".

After more than a year with Muddy



Mac Arnold and Plate Full O' Blues

Waters, Mac formed the Soul Invaders which backed up many artists, including The Temptations and B. B. King. In the early 70's, he moved to Los Angeles to work at ABC Television and LAFF RECORDS (Redd Foxx). This led to working on the set of Soul Train from 1971 to 1975 and then working with Bill Withers ("Lean On Me") before moving back to South Carolina in the 80's.

Mac now resides in Pelzer, SC, where at the age of ten he got his first taste of the blues when he learned to play his brother Leroy's home-made guitar. Going back to his roots. Mac is serving up a mess of Blues with his own band, "Mac Arnold & Plate Full O' Blues". The band consists Austin Brashier on guitar and vocals, Max Hightower on harmonica and vocals, Rick Latham on drums, Mike Frost on bass, and Mac Arnold on vocals and Gas Can Guitars.

MAC & MUDDY WATERS

In 1965, having already established himself back home as a bass player, playing with J Floyd & the Shamrocks including James Brown on keyboard, Mac Arnold decided to take a trip to Chicago to check out the Blues scene. He was obviously impressed because 3 months later 24 year old Mac packed up and moved to the Windy City to

expand his music career.

There was a club called the Green Bunny Club on 77 & Halstead St. where Mac first met his sax man A. C. Reed who at the time needed a bass player. Mac was the right man for the job. He played with A. C. for only a short time when he got a chance to play with Muddy Waters. He was asked to come out to Big John's Grill on the North side to sit in with the band. Muddy asked him where he was from, he replied Greenville, South Carolina. Muddy said, "son, if you're from the South, then you can play," and so he did for over a year. His first gig with Muddy was the Mother Blues Club. The band's line up was Luther Johnson on guitar, Sammy Lawhorn on guitar, Frances Clay on drums, Otis Spann on piano, Mac Arnold on bass, and Muddy on guitar and vocals. The band would play most of the show and Muddy would play the end of the set. On occasions he would play every other set. This gave the guys a chance to show their stuff. Mac had an edge because he'd been working with James Brown in the past. A lot of people had yet heard of James Brown, so when Mac would play that funky stuff, it got a lot of people's attention. Mac is a left handed bass player, and if you listen to some of his early recordings, you will



Mac Arnold

hear he was way ahead of his time.

The band would tour from the East to West Coast and all points in between. Cruisin' in a 1965 Fleetwood Cadillac, all 7 band members and the driver (Bo) at the wheel. Bo could drive almost non-stop from St. Louis to San Francisco with no sleep. One time they were passing through Mississippi, they stopped in to see some of Muddy's relatives and wound up doing a show. Mac stayed at Muddy's cousin's house, and when L. A. he would stay with George Smith and his family of 6 kids. While touring the West Coast, Mac fell in love with the California weather. When he returned to Chicago he told his wife "we're moving."

Mac talked to Muddy and told him he would give him time to find another bass player. Muddy wished him luck and said "he would have him back any time," and that was it. Mac is one of the last surviving members of the Muddy Water's era, and so Mac Arnold & Plate Full O' Blues begins.



Festival Food Trucks offer tasty favorites

Festival food trucks open Friday night!

Be sure to come to this year's Blooming Festival with a hearty appetite. This year's menu promises to be quite tasty!

Food trucks include:

Sunshine Girls Lemonade - fresh squeezed lemonade

Pap's Food Truck - Fried and grilled ribs, chicken fries with different toppings, beverages, water, pork chops

Zell's Italian Sausage - Italian sausage, polish sausage, hot dogs, french fries, cotton candy, candy apples

Sunset Slush Italian Ice, Italian Ice and Ice Cream

Six Smokin' Bones - smoked turkey legs, rib, wings, Italian chicken, Philly cheese steak, brisket, fries, deep fried corn, sodas, water

Four Corners Grill - gyros, Philly steak, chicken cheese subs, feta burger, Carolina burger, beef and chicken shawarma, FalaFel wrap, hummus pita, Blooming onions, chicken tenders, french fries, soda, water, hot dogs

Serving & Swerving - seafood fries, crab balls, salmon tenders, chili cheese fries with shrimp, steak

and cheese fries, shrimp and fish baskets, hoagies

Smoking Backyard BBQ & Grill - hotdogs, hamburger sliders, brisket, brisket sliders, turkey legs, ribs, pulled pork, mac & cheese, baked beans, chicken breast, fries, soda, water

Lorenza Johnson - turkey BBQ, sandwiches, french fries, deep fried turkey wings, can drinks and water

Chick-fil-A served by Boys & Girls Club of the Tar River Region

The Funnel Cake Shack - funnel cake, red velvet funnel cake, fried Oreos, peanut butter Oreos, Oreo funnel cake, fried Snickers, fried cheesecake, fried Twinkies, fried honey bunn, sweet tea, water, cotton candy

Nashville Lions Club - hot dogs, chips, drinks

Zaxby's

Vendors will be open by 6 p.m. Friday night, some may choose to open at lunch-time. All food vendors will be located in front of the Nash County Courthouse. Food trucks will also be open at the carnival.



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Soul Psychedelique performs Friday night

Contributed – At full size, The Soul Psychedelique Orchestra features a 3-6 piece horn section, a string quartet, full rhythm section and a disc jockey, perfect to entertain from the simplest party to the most elegant upscale functions, promotions and events. No gig is too large or too small. TSP's corporate clients include The Umstead Hotel And Spa, Pinehurst Resort, Lenovo, Cree, The American Heart Association, The USO, Natural Museum of Natural Science, Marbles Kids Museum, Coastal Federal Credit Union, The Renaissance Hotel, and many more.

Band leaders Wade Durham III and Johanna Boberg are veteran performers. Both have decades of experience in the music industry ranging from major artist tours, to television appearances on the Tonight Show and Good Morning America to name a few. Also added to their impressive resume, are countless private celebrity events for greats such as Oprah Winfrey and T. Boone Pickens.

TSP has an extensive music library than spans style from the 1940's Big Band sounds to Beach Music, R&B, to Rock, Reggae, Latin and the best of today's music.

Wade is originally from Mount Olive. He has dedicated a lifetime to performing



Soul Psychedelique will perform on the Blooming Festival stage Friday, May 12th from 7-11 p.m.

(Contributed photo)

throughout the world. In addition to working with several internationally renowned recording artists, Wade has written film scores and had songs featured on various film and TV productions. As a solo artist, Wade was signed to Herbie Hancock's now defunct Transparent Music Label and his most recent project "Dreams" is available on iTunes,

Amazon, Rhapsody & most other digital music stores.

Johanna hails from Sweden, and she is one of the industry's most sought after females for live and studio vocals. Having shared the spotlight with Hilary Duff, Rihanna, Maroon 5, Rod Stewart, etc., Johanna has spent years on the road mesmerizing crowds with her su-

pernatural vocal performances.

Johanna has also made her rounds in the TV gamut, appearing on the Late Show with Jay Leno, Jimmy Kimmel, Good Morning America, Ellen Degeneres, Much Music Video Awards and the Today Show.

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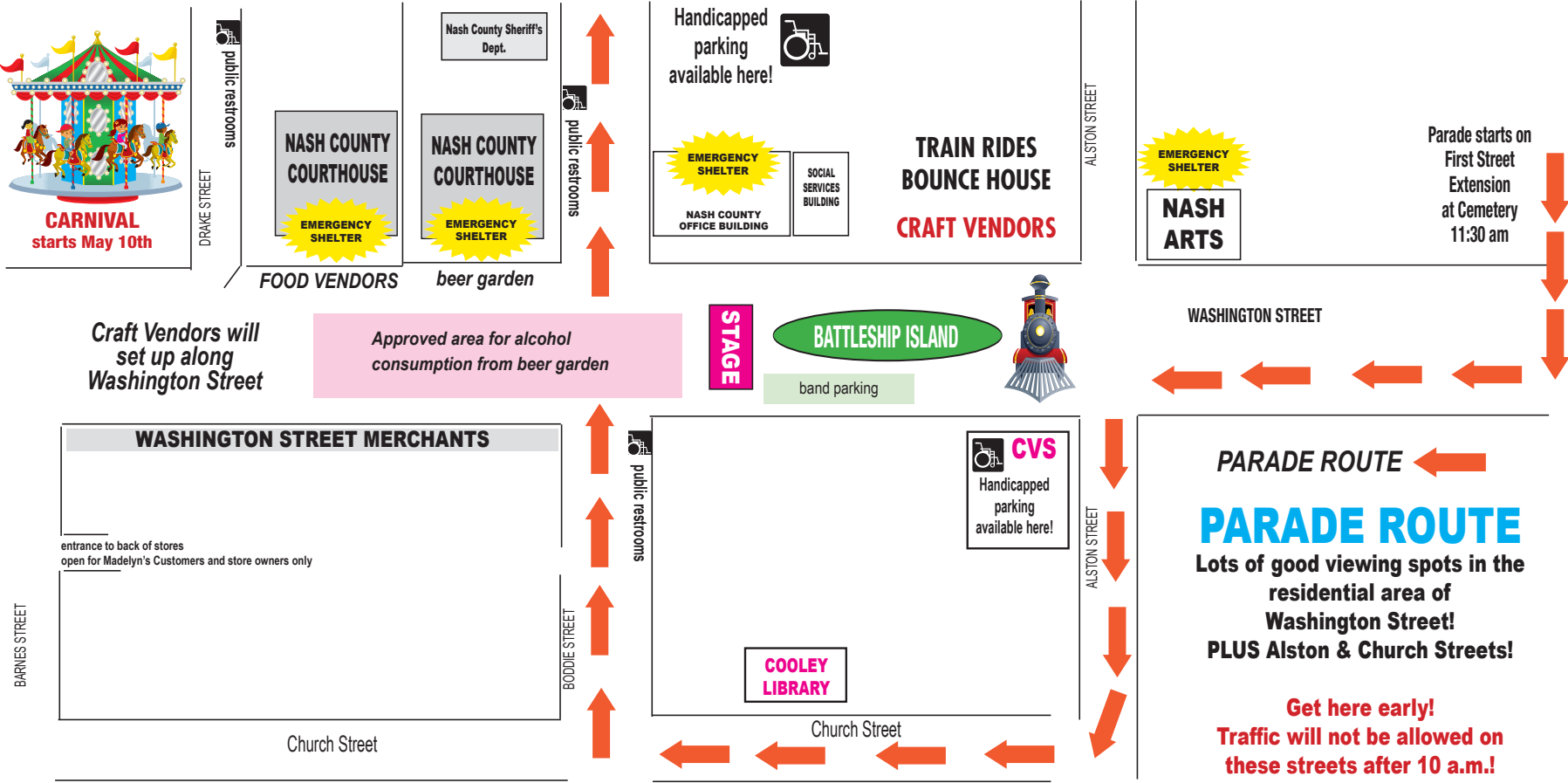
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Everybody LOVES a parade!

Be sure to come early Saturday to get a good seat for the annual Blooming Festival parade. The parade route includes Washington, Alston, Church and Boddie Streets.

Streets included in the parade route will be closed to traffic by 10 a.m. and some earlier, so get here early!

The route will begin at the intersection of First and Washington Streets, then turn from Washington to Alston at the Corner of CVS Pharmacy. The parade will again turn at the corner of Alston and Church and pass by Cooley Library. It will then turn on Boddie Street and proceed by the main stage returning to Elm Street.

Members of the parade committee say due to stretching the route out over more streets, there are more places for spectators to watch the parade.

The parade as always will include

clowns, fire trucks, beautiful floats and marching bands as the 25th annual Blooming Festival parade kicks off at 11:30 a.m. May 13th.

Parade participants also include local churches and organizations plus many other enjoyable entries. Returning Sudan favorites include the Dunn Clowns, small cars or prowlers as well as monster trucks and animated animals!

Children watching the parade may be treated to something sweet as well. Parade participants are sure to be tossing candy while cruising down the parade route.

For those who want to watch the parade in the shade, be sure to try the residential part of Washington Street.

There will be professional floats as well as homemade floats and cars with local organizations and town officials such as the mayor and town council.



**PARADE STARTS AT 11:30 AM
SATURDAY, MAY 13th**



SATURDAY - MAY 13th
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Tar River Children's Chorus Saturday, May 13th - 9 a.m.

The Tar River Children's Chorus, a subsidiary of the Tar River Orchestra and Chorus, has been making music for 32 years around our area and also, Riverside Church in New York City, Philadelphia, Piccolo Spoleto in Charleston, Bruton Parish Church in Williamsburg, Biltmore House at Christmas and the National Cathedral in Washington, DC. They have won many awards of gold ratings and as best in the Heritage/ Music Strides National Festival in NYC and various Music in the Parks Festivals in Virginia. They perform classic children's choir repertoire, spirituals, folk songs, opera excerpts and even pop classics.

The 50-member TRCC made up of treble choristers from grades 3-12, will sing songs those genres for their performance at the Bloomin Festival, May 13 at 9 a.m. Favorites on May 13th may be "You Raise Me Up", "Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho.", "Let There Be Peace On Earth," "Turn, Turn Turn," and "We Are The World".

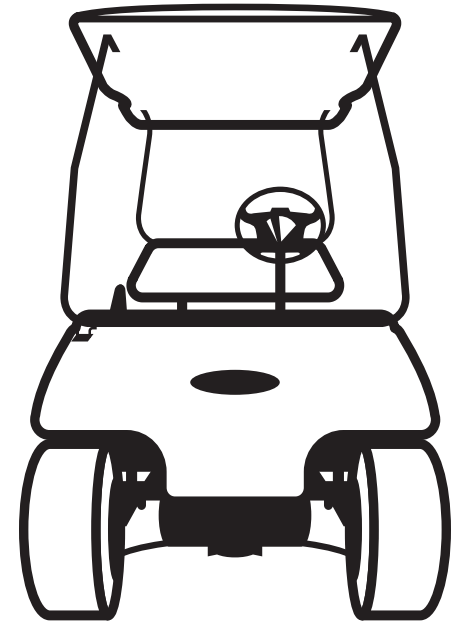


No pets please!

The Nashville Blooming Festival attracts thousands of people to downtown Nashville over the two-day event and the weather is usually on the warm side. The Town of Nashville and the Nashville Police Department requests that visitors of the festival do not bring pets to the event to ensure safety of the animals as well as visitors.

Service animals are allowed.

For more information or if you have questions, you may contact the Nashville Police Department, 252-459-4545.



**No public use of
golf carts allowed
at event.**

**Official use only by
festival staff & law
enforcement.**



The Fantastic Shades of Harmony Gospel group will perform at the 2023 Nashville Blooming Festival at 10 a.m., Saturday, May 13th.

East Coast Rhythm & Blues Band

Saturday, May 13th at 12:30 p.m.



Saturday, May 13th - 12:30 pm - after parade

East Coast Rhythm & Blues Band (ECRBB) formed in the Fall of 2009, and is based out of Spring Hope. The band continues to be one of the most sought after beach music/variety bands. ECRBB continues to impress everywhere they play and are proud to make your event extra special!

ECRBB is the quintessential component to an unforgettable evening out on the town, at a private event, or partying at a festival! There

are no individual "stars" in this beach music band, but there is a ton of "stellar" talent! It's precisely that prerequisite that members of East Coast Rhythm & Blues Band (ECRBB) feel is one of the major reasons for their success.

Because the group respects and admonishes the talent and work ethic each member contributes, ECRBB is able to concentrate on its music and to deliver an entertaining and enjoyable performance.

The Embers with Craig Woolard

Saturday, May 13th at 3:00 p.m.

The Embers have solidified their position as a thriving musical entity leaving their mark on listeners for decades.

The Embers boast numerous albums and single releases that span decades and all the crazes continuing to exhibit top quality showmanship, musicianship and professionalism.

Having been inducted into the South Carolina Rhythm and Blues Hall of Fame and the South Carolina Beach Music Hall of Fame, The Embers carry the moniker of North Carolina's Official Ambassadors of Music.

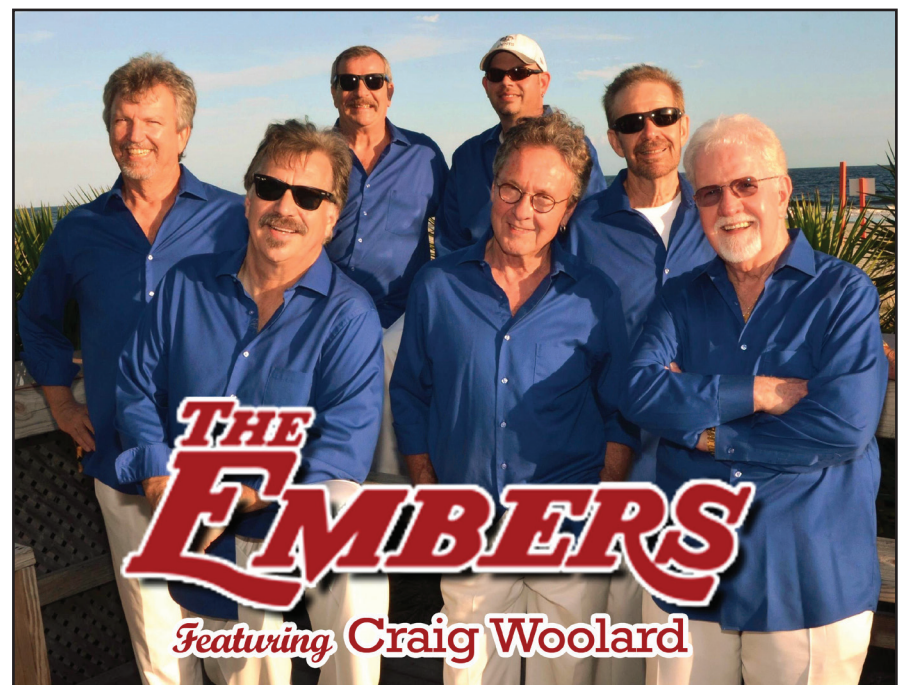
They have traveled the country and the world and have performed for every event imaginable from the highest dignitaries to the hottest back yard frat parties. The Embers were also honored to travel throughout South Korea to perform their Christmas special 'Christmas with the Embers' on American Military bases for America's troops in December of 2007 and 2008. They were

awarded Military Coins of Excellence for their distinguished service.

The Embers are widely considered a musical MARVEL and have laid the groundwork for what has become known as 'Beach Music' in the Carolinas, Virginias, the gulf coast region of North America and every beach in between. They are a true musical tradition with which many Americans have listened to from childhood to adulthood.

The Embers consider the genre of Beach Music as "music with a memory" and have been creating lasting memories since its inception in 1958. Simply put - Heart and Soul, Rhythm and Blues, Feel Good Music.

Today, touring is commonplace for The Embers regularly boasting an average of 225 shows per year. They also embark on a cruise each year for their friends and fans to various locations throughout the Caribbean. And don't miss their Christmas shows - perfect to get you in the mood for the holiday season!



Saturday, May 13th - 3 p.m.



CHANDLER JAMES



MEREDITH DAVIS JOHNSON

Chandler James

Saturday, May 13 • 6-7 p.m.

Nashville native Chandler James will open for Tyler Farr at the 25th Nashville Blooming Festival. His show will run from 6-7 p.m.

James, 21, now resides in Nashville, Tennessee where he has steady gigs along Music Row and also stays busy in the recording studio.

James' recently released single "Road Trippin" tells a heartwarming story of falling in love with an energetic beat. The single was written by Jeff Stevens, Ryan Lafferty, and Andrew Dorff. The song was published by BMG Blue, Songs of Universal Inc., Unknown Publisher, and Big Motor with the help of Steve Dorff.

"The song "Road Trippin'," was stuck in my head from the first time that Steve [Dorff] played it for me," said James. "It's been really special working on this song and getting to honor Andrew [Dorff] with this release, I hope I was

able to do his song justice."

In an interview, Dorff and Chandler James discussed the song, calling it "perfect for spring and summer."

"Road Trippin" is available on all major streaming platforms.

This release is the first for Chandler James after he was crowned as the 2023 NC Ag Star with Got To Be NC. He recently begun his role as an ambassador for North Carolina Agriculture, representing his home state and the values he was raised on.

The budding musician will be announcing his next release in the coming months. In the meantime, he can be heard playing gigs on Broadway and is very active on his social media (@chandler_james_music on Instagram/TikTok and Chandler James Music on Facebook).

Meredith Davis Johnson

May 13 • 5 p.m.

Meredith Davis Johnson is no stranger to Nashville citizens or Nash County.

Meredith grew up singing in church with her family and continued to pursue music as she began performing at various restaurants, venues and festivals.

A graduate of East Carolina University, she is a Board-Certified Music Therapist and launched her private practice, New Song Music Therapy, LLC in May of 2018.

Her musical influences include Shania Twain, Stevie Nicks and her father, who occasionally performs with her on the keyboard.

Meredith has a reputation of performing a vast array of music from current

and classic country, beach music, classic rock to mainstream pop and more.

Meredith has won local awards including Nash County's Got Talent in 2011 and opened for the country group, Parmalee in May of 2019 as well as Danielle Bradbery in 2022.

Meredith resides in Nashville with her husband, Davis, daughters, Macie and Claire and dog, Duke.

"I look forward to once again performing the Blooming Festival this year!" she said, "I love our town and all that it has to offer. I feel so blessed that I get to do what I love most in front of so many people."

For more information on the Nashville Blooming Festival visit www.nashvillencchamber.org or call 252-459-4050. You can also find us on facebook!

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BLOOMING FESTIVAL

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MAC ARNOLD PLATE FULL O' BLUES

FRIDAY - MAY 12
Downtown Nashville
Food vendors open at 6 p.m.
SOUL PSYCHEDELIQUE 7-11 P.M.

SATURDAY - May 13
9 A.M - Vendors Open!
9:00 am - Tar River Children's Chorus
9:45 am - Mother of the Year Announced
10 am - Fantastic Shades of Harmony
11:30 am - PARADE
12:30 pm. - East Coast Rhythm & Blues
3:00 pm - The EMBERS
5:00 pm - Meredith Davis Johnson
6-7 p.m. - Chandler James
7-8 pm (change over)
8pm - **TYLER FARR**

Beer Garden
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TYLER FARR
SATURDAY NIGHT
MAY 13TH
8PM

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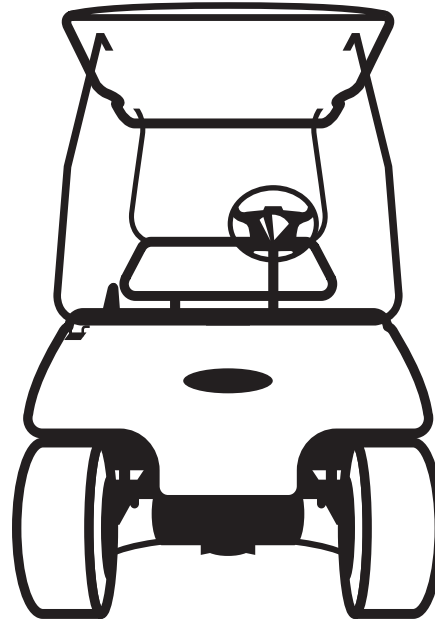
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In memory of Teodora Reynoso from Araceli Reynoso
In memory of Ignacio Reynoso from Araceli Reynoso
In memory of Ronnie Galloway from Araceli Reynoso
In memory of Wayne Nelms from Gina, Tampa & Amy
In memory of Edna Nelms from Gina, Tampa & Amy
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In memory of Baby "J" Parker from Uncle Brian, Aunt Cindy, Chance & Cannon Puckett

Festival vendors offer unique gift ideas

Downtown Nashville will be bustling Saturday, May 13th, with arts, crafts and merchandise just in time for Mother's Day!

Downtown merchants will be open including:

Corner Coffee Cafe, The Painted Teacher, Jody's of Nashville, Faith Christian Ministries, The Vino Market, One of Deez Days, The Nashville Graphic, Scooter Station, Madelyn's Flowers & Gifts, and The Heritage Co.

Streets and parking lots will be filled with area craft vendors.

Craft booths include:

Non-Profit booths:

Momeyer Baptist Church - Tent for parents / diaper changing station and nursing privacy.

Banner Bears – non-profit selling teddy bears to fund teddy bears for children in traumatic or emergency situations

Open Door Recovery - Compassionate, supportive, Christ Centered 12 step Groups to those suffering from the wrath of addiction.

Lutheran Services Carolinas Foster Care - recruiting foster care families

Oak Level Baptist Church

Town of Nashville - employee recruitment and library

Nash Community College

American Legion Post 110

Arlington Baptist Church - free kids tattoos, pens, face painting, Bible tracks, drawing for gift cards

Stoney Creek Cowboy Church - free crosses, Bibles, necklaces/bracelets

Gideons International - Free New Testament Bibles

Nash County 911

Calvary Chapel of Red Oak - crafts, woodwork, pottery

Retail

Scentsy

Handmade Pottery

Sandy Cross Soap - cold process, soap bars, natural ingredients, natural body scrubs, dish soap and shaving soaps

Crafty Design - epoxy and sublimation tumblers, resin key chains and pens, embroidered hand towels, memory bears, cutting boards, decor pillows

Jammin' Jay Dip - dips and rubs, freeze dried candies and fruits

Tupperware

Sonny Lee Designs - hand crafted semi-precious and precious gemstone jewelry, wine stoppers, necklaces, bracelets and earrings

Sewing Turtle Boutique – embroidered key chains, custom bags, baby items, snap trays, accessories



Craft Vendors open Saturday, May 13th at 9 a.m.

Taylor'd By Faith Custom Creations - customized baskets, cups, mugs, crafts, canvas paint kits for all ages and T-shirts.

Veronica's Doggie Delights – homemade dog treats

Nuggett Oak Naturals - handcrafted small batch natural wellness, personal care and cleaning product items including Tallow Balm from L&S Farms in Nashville, discomfort salve, natural defense immunity salve, magnesium cream, body butters, bath salts, all purpose cleaner, cleansing paste and more

Nautical gnomes, lighthouses, birdhouses (beach themes)

Custom T-shirts, oyster shell ornaments, oyster shell decor

The Quaint Daisy – wooden door hangers, engraved items, home decor, goat milk soaps, lotions and bath bombs

Rose Petal Boutique - women's clothing S-6X, jewelry, shoes and accessories, purses, home decor, freeze dried candy, gummies and kids novelties

Wright-Kline Wreaths - grapevine wreaths, deco mesh wreaths, wood door hangers

Medicine Boards - handcrafted skateboards, hats and key chains

ETC's Tie-Dyes - handmade retro booth featuring tie-dye clothing, hand stamped name rings and halo's

Clay by Tay - elevated polymer clay earrings, beaded bracelets, gold jewelry, kids sunglasses

Golden hands crafters - knit and crochet items, seasonal crafts

Ladee P. Bling - Paparazzi jewelry

Twin Oaks Farm – All Natural Bug Away, goats milk soap and lotion, doggie shampoo and other skin care products all made on the farm

Odom Woodworks – wood pet feeders, push out trash bins

America's Best Nut Co. - blister roasted peanuts professionally packaged. 12 oz, 22 oz and 40 oz honey roasted, milk chocolate, dark chocolate, BBQ and two salted flavors

Farmville Flower Basket & Gifts – Simply Southern, Girlie Girl, Sassyfrass, Fieldstone T-shirts, yard art, women's clothing.

AJC's Design & Made by Maddie - resin key chains, self defense key chains, shirts, cups and jewelry

Tar Heel Kettle Corn

Taylor Made Jewelry - Permanent Jewelry (gold/ gold filled / silver chains, necklaces, anklets and bracelets soldered on permanently)

The Sky Connection - heels, sandals, tops, shorts, shirts, T-shirts, pants, jeans, earrings, bracelets, purses, rompers, dresses, sneakers, necklaces, sweaters, 2-pc pant suits, Mother's Day gifts, jackets

Crushed Ink Creations - sublimation items, tumblers, journals, signs, jewelry, key chains, cups, pacifier clips, garden flags, dog collars, dog bandanas, DND Dice Bags

Harpers' Nursery / Wendy's Hole in the Wall Boutique - clothing, purses, accessories

Ponder On It NC - cork and slate laser engraved coasters, laser engraved wood decor, acrylic engraved night lights, wood engraved key chains, multi layer laser cut home decor, wood engraved book marks

Tscents Handmade Candles - candles, wax melts, room sprays, fragrance oils for oil burners

Te's Treasures - key chains, poly webbing and ribbons, hair bows, headbands, scrunchies and baby head bands

E&E Fashions - dresses, hats, friendship bracelets, costume jewelry, sunglasses, T-shirts, toys, battery operated puppies, light up cars, plush toys

Jim's Woodworks

Wright Way Insurance - raffle for \$100 Walmart gift card

Francee Farm - goat milk soap, lotion, body wash, soy candles, goat cheese, goat milk

C&G Leather & More - leather goods, key chains, wallets, purses, book marks, Bible covers, belts, checkbook covers, dog collars, bracelets, note pad covers, valet trays, Paracord bracelets, beaded jewelry, necklaces, candles and wax melts

Plus Couture - plus size clothes XL - 3X, jewelry and dog collars

Grove Texas Longhorn Youth Show Team - earrings, raffle, key chains

Crown Boutique - African apparel, accessories, drums and dolls

CONTINUED TO PAGE 19

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18



***Craft Vendors open
Saturday, May 13th at 9 a.m.***

Chimere - earrings, sunglasses, candles, bagged coffee, rings, necklaces, hair accessories

Mystic Doodles - face painting for people of all ages.

Carolina Communications - US Cellular

Ginger and Clove Flower Farm - flower bouquets (wrapped in paper), smaller bouquets in Mason jars. All freshly cut within 24 hours of event. Peonies, snapdragons, carnations, Batchelor buttons, strawflowers and yarrow

King Made Crafts - tumbler cups, key chains, earrings, car freshies, decals, bookmarks and coasters

Midnight Happenings Pottery & Gifts - handmade stoneware, pottery, mugs, bowls, piggy banks, flower frogs, brown sugar bears, vases, spoon rests, sponge holders, jewelry/change dishes

Spiritual Dragon - beaded bracelets, rings, T-shirts

The Stamped Collective - laser cut and engraved gifts, wood and acrylic material, engraved cutting boards, wooden signs, hand stamped utensils, first responder and teacher gifts and more

Hawthorne - hand-crafted leather, belts, wallets, buckles, cell cases, wrist bands, key chains, mug holder handles and more

Heifer & Lace Boutique - cups, pens, hats, koozies, shirts, purses, tote bags, sling bangs, jewelry, hair clips and more

Cozmic Beauty - cosmetics, jewelry, accessories, body butters, oils, scrubs, soaps, candles, key chains, lip gloss, lip balm

AJX Creations - pillows, towel sets, string bags, cross body bags, hair bows, head bands, jewelry, key chains, sunglasses, cups and more

Twin County Media

Artists Escape - paintings, homemade jewelry, sketches, handmade accessories

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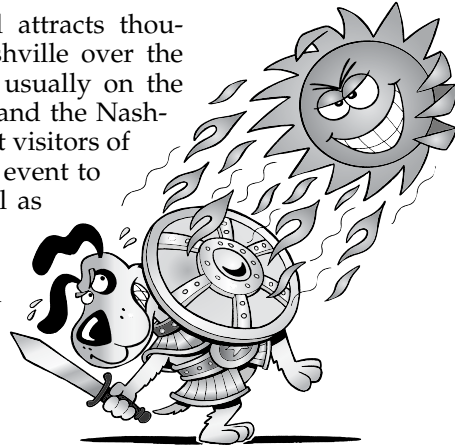
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No pets please! Keep them cool & safe

The Nashville Blooming Festival attracts thousands of people to downtown Nashville over the two-day event and the weather is usually on the warm side. The Town of Nashville and the Nashville Police Department requests that visitors of the festival do not bring pets to the event to ensure safety of the animals as well as visitors.

Service animals are allowed.

For more information or if you have questions, you may contact the Nashville Police Department, 252-459-4545.



Don't forget your T-Shirt celebrating the 25th year!



T-shirts will be available at the Chamber's tent
Friday night and Saturday during the festival.

Shirts are \$20



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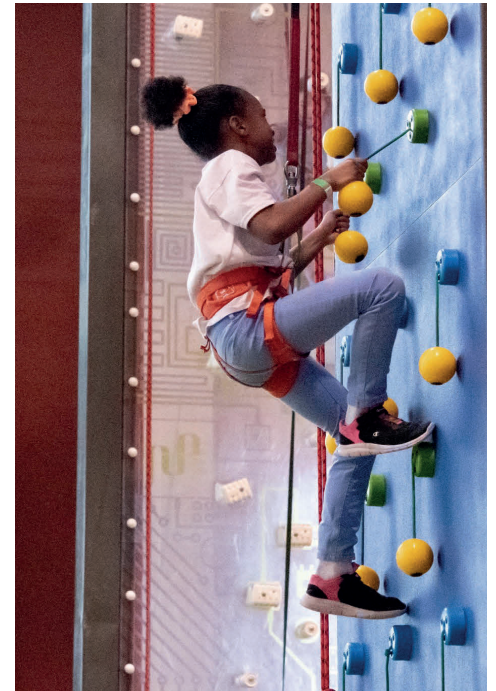
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Great stories start here.

Betsey Robertson is 2023 Mother of the Year



**2023 Mother of the Year
Betsey Robertson**

**By Amanda Clark
Graphic Staff Writer**

Betsey Robertson loves a good parade. She's been attending Nashville's Blooming Festival for many years and said the parade is one of her favorite parts. This year, Robertson will be a part of the parade, waving at parade goers as the 2023 Mother of the Year.

"I'm an enthusiastic waver," Robertson said.

Robertson was nominated for the Mother of the Year title by her grandson, Cal Lewis. Cal said he nominated his grandmother, who he fondly calls BR, because she has given so much to not only the family, but to the community.

"I admire her giving spirit, she has always given so much to her family," Cal said. "She also gives in many ways to her community. I can recall how she worked for so many years to promote our community libraries, especially her work with the Cooley Library in Nashville."

Robertson said she was shocked to learn she had won Mother of the Year.

"I thought it was so sweet," she said. "I really think that was great."

Robertson and her husband, Doug, moved to Nashville in 1969. She said she grew up in a small town and love that Nashville was also a small town.

"We love it here," Robertson said.

The couple raised two children, Jennifer Lewis and Jim Robertson, in Nashville. Jennifer still lives in Nashville. Robertson also has two grandsons, Cal and Ben Lewis.

Robertson's passion is books and her career was spent in libraries, first in Braswell Memorial Library and then at Northern Nash High School. After retirement, she went back to work at Braswell Library for a few years.

"I love libraries," she said. "I love learning, words and books."

Robertson has volunteered with Nashville's Cooley Library. She helped organize the Ladies Luncheon, a fundraiser the Friends of the Library group held for several years.

Robertson said she is excited for this year's Blooming Festival. She said she goes each year and walks around, checking out vendors. Her favorite part is running into old friends and sometimes former students. Each year, Robertson sets up seats in the yard of friend Betsy Owens to watch the parade. This year, Robertson said it'll be a little different, as she'll instead be waving to her friends as she participates in the parade. Her grandson, Cal, will be with her.

"I won't be sitting there this year," Robertson said.

"I'm excited," she added. "I'm nervous and excited but more excited."

Alex Van Dorp designs 2023 festival T-Shirt

The 25th anniversary festival T-shirt design contest winner is Alex Van Dorp of Nashville.

Though she grew up in Rocky Mount, she has always loved Nashville, particularly downtown.

Alex said the inspiration behind her design comes from her love of downtown, "I have always loved downtown Nashville," she said. "It always gives a small town feel when you drive through past the shops and courthouse. When I first decided I wanted to enter my design I knew that design would include shops from downtown."

Alex attended Wilson Christian Academy and earned a BS degree in Developmental Psychology from Liberty University in 2018.

She is married to Andrew Van Dorp



and they have a son, Coen.

She is the daughter of Tim Parker, Jr. and Karen Parker. Her siblings are Lauryn Saunders and Harrison Parker.

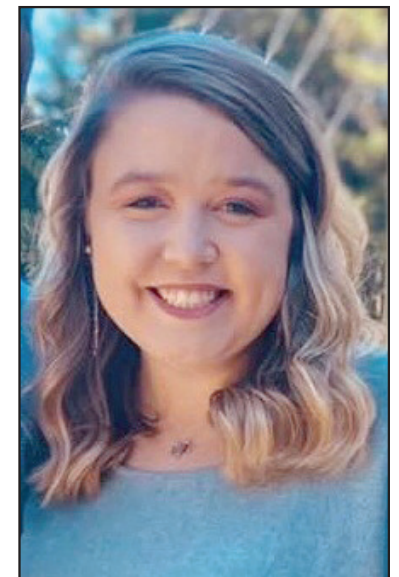
Alex said her artistic skills include drawing and painting as a hobby however she had never entered a contest.

She has always had a passion for drawing and painting since her childhood. "My mother is a crafty person who inspired me to love and create beautiful things," she said.

"We are so excited Alex chose to use downtown as her entry for the 25th anniversary design," said Jo Anne Cooper, festival chairperson. "Downtown is special to the Nashville Chamber of Commerce and we have celebrated this festival for 25 years in downtown, the heart of Nashville."

Cooper said the festival committee added the festival's logo to Alex's original concept and it was a hit.

The shirt will be available Friday night and Saturday at the Nashville Chamber of Commerce tent at the festival. Shirts are \$20 each.



Alex Van Dorp

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