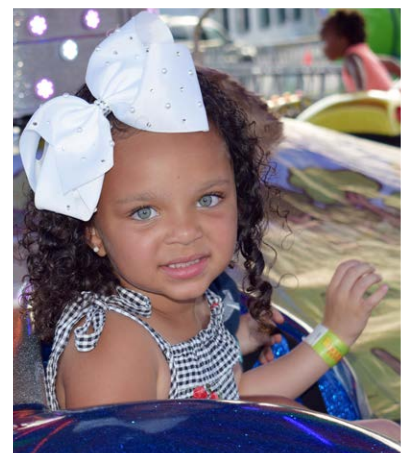


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Nashville holds two monthly town council meetings the first and third Tuesday, both at 7 p.m.

The planning board meets the last Wednesday before the first Tuesday at 7 p.m.

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



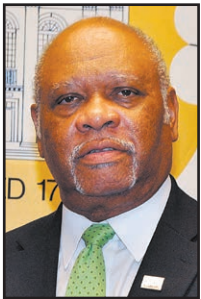
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TOWN OF NASHVILLE INFORMATION GUIDE

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Population: approx. 5460
Founded: 1780
Town Manager:
Randy Lansing

Police:
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501 S. Barnes Street
P.O. Box 987
Chief of Police:
Anthony Puckett

Fire:
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501 S. Barnes Street
P.O. Box 987
Fire Chief: Chris Joyner
(For emergencies, call 911)
Services:
Fire, First Responders
and Specialty Rescue

Planning and Development:
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499 South Barnes Street
P.O. Box 987
Director: Sherry Moss

Harold D. Cooley Library
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114 W. Church Street
P.O. Box 987
Director: Tikela Alston
Hours:
Monday through Friday
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturday hours to
resume after COVID-19

Public Works
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Public Works Director
Lee Brown

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

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Town manager anticipates development upturn

Nashville experiences growth and housing boom

BY AMANDA CLARK
GRAPHIC STAFF WRITER

There's a lot going on in Nashville. The town is experiencing tremendous growth, with the addition of several new housing developments.

Town Manager Randy Lansing said the additional homes will be a benefit, as the town has a lack of housing for those looking to move to Nashville.

"It all helps Nashville grow," Lansing said. "It's got to make people feel good about their community, that others want to invest and build in and around Nashville."

Lansing joined the town in June 2019 and said he's loved every minute of his time here.

"My wife and I, we love it here," he said. "Nashville is home."

Even with the struggles the pandemic

brought to families and businesses alike, Lansing said he feels people have learned how to adapt and keep going. The town has also survived the pandemic thus far.

"We've weathered the pandemic in Nashville very well," Lansing said. "We know it's been a struggle for a number of our residential and service businesses."

But it all hasn't been positive. The town has had its fair share of struggles too.

Lansing said he has had to fill several department head positions. However, he added that he feels good about who's leading the town now.

"I'm pleased with the department heads we have in place now," Lansing said. "We have some very competent people now."

"They're all top notch," he added.

The town has also taken some hits with businesses shutting down.

One long-time business, Nashville Building Supply, closed the end of April.

"Their long history here is coming to



LANSING



an end," Lansing said. "(But) there's an opportunity for some additional wonderful things with the reuse and redevelopment plan."

CIFI, a business outside of Nashville but who purchased water from the town, also shut down.

"That took us by surprise," Lansing said. "But again, there's opportunity in that."

"It's too nice of a facility to sit empty for too long," Lansing added.

Nashville Mayor Brenda Brown said she feels good things are about to happen in Nashville, despite some of the setbacks.

"I feel like we are like a rose bud and we're just getting ready to bloom," she said. "I just feel really good about where we are now."

Brown said she's pleased with her first term as mayor of Nashville, adding that the current town council have common goals for the town.

"That makes a big difference," she said.

Ultimately, Brown added, it's the citizens that make Nashville the town it is.

"I think what keeps Nashville so great are the citizens," she said. "They are positive, upbeat and honest."

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Nashville's library is – *More Than Just Books!*

Harold D. Cooley Library offers new programs

BY AMANDA CLARK
GRAPHIC STAFF WRITER

Tikela Alston joined Nashville's Harold D. Cooley Library as its director almost a year and a half ago.

Since that time, Alston has been busy creating new literacy programming for patrons to enjoy.

Alston said there were a lot of programs in place when she arrived but not necessarily literacy based so she set a goal to change that.

"I saw there was a need for more literacy programs, so I have implemented some literacy programs," Alston said. "That's the foundation for the library."

Some of those new programs include Library BINGO, poetry classes and journaling classes.

Alston said a health program has also changed its focus to more literacy based.

"We have a different strategy we use now," Alston said. "It's more hands on and more activity literacy based."

"It's more hands on and visual and interactive," she added.

Alston said she's also been trying to implement things to celebrate special days that may be overlooked.

One example will be a special Cinco De Mayo program, where bilingual books will be provided to the commu-

nity. In addition, Alston said the Latino community will also be encouraged to visit the library.

"When they come, they can get a free bilingual book," Alston added.

Another special program was in February during Black History Month. Alston said a special display was done that featured African Americans who have made tremendous contributions to society.

Some other features that have been included recently were put in place to help while families are at home more doing more virtual work.

Alston said patrons can visit the library's website and read news from over 2,500 newspapers, including local ones.

"That's an addition we are really fond of," Alston said.

Alston said with the pandemic, the library has not really slowed down much. Despite being closed for four months last year, Alston said things picked up right where they left off.

"Really, we've been doing exceptionally well," Alston said. "I don't think we slowed down at all."

"I'm really proud of the fact that staff worked well to keep normalcy for the community as best we could."



Nashville's library and recreation department partner quite often, most recently offering its first Storywalk at Glover Park. Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Director Koy Worrell and Cooley Library Director Tikela Alston are pictured preparing the story which was held in conjunction with Kids to Parks Day. Graphic photo



Nashville's library offers a variety of programs for all ages including small children. Director Tikela Alston encourages citizens to start visiting the library with small children to spark interest in all types of programs. Most recently literacy programs have been added to the monthly schedule of events. Graphic photo



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Nashville takes new direction with recreation

Town now focuses on non-athletic programming

BY AMANDA CLARK
GRAPHIC STAFF WRITER

There's been a lot of changes for Nashville's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department.

Last January, the town turned over programming of its traditional team athletics to Nash County Parks and Recreation. The move meant the town could focus more on expanding non-athletic programming.

Those plans were put on hold for a bit due to the COVID-19 pandemic but things are starting to pick up.

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Director Koy Worrell joined the town in September of 2020 and has

been working ever since to get those non-athletic programs in place.

Worrell said he feels the decision to hand over athletics to Nash County was a good one, adding that it didn't make sense for the town and county to duplicate services.

"They're doing great with athletics," he said. "If you drive by Glover Park, it's normally pretty busy when they have athletics going on."

Another big change in the department



WORRELL

is the addition of a recreation building, which provides an indoor space for all the new programming.

The new building is located at 108 South Boddie Street and opened in March.

Just after opening, the town started karate classes and fitness on demand programs.

Now, there's also archery and line dancing as well and Worrell said he's pleased with the response for the new programs.

"We've had good participation in all of those," he said.

The archery program was made possible thanks to grant funding. Worrell said he hopes the program will be popular enough to maybe form an archery club.

Worrell said due to COVID-19, the department has had to be creative in offering some of its special programs. This past Easter, Worrell said a typical large Easter egg hunt could not be held so instead, an Easter Egg Drop was held at resident's individual houses. Worrell

said that program went well and many signed up. That is something the town may consider offering again.

In addition, Worrell said the parks, recreation and cultural resources department is also working on partnership to help expand programs.

The department has partnered with the library to offer special story-time events.

In addition, partnerships with Nashville Elementary School are continuing. Recently, a sky viewing event was held coupled with a virtual science week.

"We offered different educational sessions via Zoom," Worrell said.

Worrell said he feels good about where the department is headed in terms of recreation.

"I think this transition the department is going in is great for the town and the residents and I look forward to providing these recreation programs that are not necessarily focused on athletics," he added.



Nashville's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department now focuses on non-athletic programming. Pictured above are participants of the new archery program. Pictured below, Director Koy Worrell offers a tour of the new recreation center at 108 S. Boddie Street in downtown Nashville. Graphic photos



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Senior Center is set to reopen July 7th!

BY AMANDA CLARK
GRAPHIC STAFF WRITER

Staff at the Nash County Senior Center have worn a lot of different hats over the past year.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the center was shut down for guests, forcing staff to find new ways to offer programming to seniors.

Senior Services Supervisor Ashley Winstead said programming has been offered via Facebook live to keep the seniors active and engaged.

Fitness programming, cooking shows and even guest speakers were some of the things that were offered online.

In addition, the popular BINGO days were brought back via ZOOM.

“At some point, we were doing it daily,” Winstead said.

The senior center eventually moved some activities outside so members could get out of the house and be active. Winstead said Tai Chi, volleyball and BINGO were all done outside.

Drive-by parades also become a popular way for members to see their favorite

senior center staff. Winstead said staff would be set up throughout the parking lot holding signs and playing music. Members would drive through, honking horns and waving.

Eventually, however, senior center staff had to slow those programs down to assist with vaccination clinics. Staff helped man the COVID call center, creating waiting lists for the vaccine.

Winstead said through it all, however, staff made sure to keep in constant contact with members to ensure they were doing okay.

“They are very isolated,” she said. “They tell us all the time they are ready to come back.”

“(But) there are things we are doing to prevent the self-isolation,” Winstead added.

Winstead said staff are also ready to see the seniors again.

And that may happen soon. Winstead said plans are for the center to reopen in July. But things will look different.

“When we open, it won’t be full capacity,” Winstead said. “We’re going to have limitations.”



Senior Center staff found creative ways to stay in touch with seniors and offer virtual programming. Contributed photo

COVID has also created a shortage of volunteers for the Home Delivered Meals program. Winstead said the center is working on new ways to recruit.

“We need volunteers pretty much on all

of our routes,” Winstead said.

Winstead said she’s excited for the center to reopen, even with limited capacity and programming. She added that staff are probably just as excited as the seniors.



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Nashville Fire Department hopeful for substation

Second fire station will help with response on east side of town

BY AMANDA CLARK
GRAPHIC STAFF WRITER

The fire alarm at Nashville's Fire Department continues to go off at a steady pace, keeping fire fighters plenty busy.

Despite things slowing down for others during the COVID pandemic, Chief Chris Joyner said things in Nashville have remained steady. Joyner said first responder calls have slowed down some with the pandemic but fires haven't slowed down any.

"We've kept right on providing the same services we've been providing the whole time," Joyner said.

The call volume is so intense there's a need for a second fire station in town.

Joyner said that a second station will soon hopefully become a reality.

"It's going to happen, it's just going to take a little time," Joyner added.

The new station will help tremendously with response times on the east side of town, Joyner said, as sometimes

going from one end of the town to the other can take over five minutes.

Another exciting addition to the department is a new ladder truck. Joyner said the truck has been needed for 20 years and the purchase will help the town's insurance rating.

"It was well needed from years back," he said.

Joyner said overall, he's pleased with how the department has grown and been able to maintain its staffing levels.

Joyner said the department has been able to add some additional career staff over the years. In addition, the department's volunteers are a huge asset, especially during a time when volunteers are often hard to come by.

Training is another essential area of importance for fire fighters. Joyner said Nashville is fortunate to have so many dedicated to training in the department.

"Both sides of our house is training well," he added. "Our staff we have now is very training oriented."

"Training is extremely important."



Nashville Fire Department staff and volunteers train on the department's ladder truck. Graphic photo



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Nash Arts Center opens – programs resume

**BY AMANDA CLARK
GRAPHIC STAFF WRITER**

Nash Arts has sat mostly empty for over a year now and Director Shelly Gray can't wait to see performers back on stage.

Gray is excited to finally get back to normal for Nash Arts and the community.

"We have been shut down since last March," she said. "The last thing that we did was the Gala."

Gray said the first show since closing down was country gospel artist T. Graham Brown on May 22nd. In addition, The Legacy Motown Revue is set for June 24th.

She said as of June 1, all restrictions will be lifted and all activities will resume to normal such as capacity and concessions.

Gray said to look for a full schedule in August and encourages the community to visit the center.

She said with things being shut down, she has relied on grant funding to help the arts center get by. A lot of her job is already writing grants but she's focused

a lot more on that over the past year.

"While most years I get a lot of no's, this year, I got yes," she said.

Grants received include the Job Retention Grant, a Technology Project Grant through the Universal Leaf Foundation as well as a donation from the local Boddie Noel Foundation. In addition, the center was able to get some funding from the CARES Act through the NC Arts Council.

County and local government funding has also helped.

"We just were very fortunate to get the grants," Gray said. "A majority of it came through the NC Arts Council."

Gray said she's excited to get back to holding shows and other events.

"It's kind of like opening a new business," she said. "I'm just ready to get back to it."

"You can expect the full Nash County Arts Council experience when we present The Legacy Motown Revue on June 24th, and we can hardly wait! We thank you for your continued patience and understanding."



Nash Arts Director Shelly Gray (center) is pictured with Shelia and T. Graham Brown during the first concert held at Nash Arts since the pandemic shut down public venues. Contributed photo

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My Sister's House celebrates 40th anniversary

BY AMANDA CLARK
GRAPHIC STAFF WRITER

My Sister's House will celebrate its 40th anniversary this year and is making plans to celebrate.

Executive Director Emily Lemus said while those plans aren't decided yet due to COVID, the organization is excited about whatever kind of celebration will be held.

"We don't have an exact date," Lemus said. "We're kind of playing it by ear."

The organization has experienced many changes during its 40 years but the mission has remained the same: to support victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking through advocacy, shelter, community outreach, and education.

While COVID has slowed many other non-profits down, My Sister's House experienced a busy year in 2020.

Lemus said the length of stay at the organization's shelter increased by over 20 percent.

"Everything just took longer," she added. "We increased over 20 percent

in the average length of stay because of what was going on in the community."

Protection order requests also increased over 200 percent last March and April, Lemus said, adding that the summer months were typically their busiest time of year. However, due to the pandemic, more people were stuck home.

Lemus said the pandemic did allow the organization to serve many former clients. Clients who had been on their own for six months to a year experienced hardships such as layoffs and loss of income and instead of returning to their abuser they turned to My Sister's House for help.

"They came to us for those resources," she said. "So we went through a lot more toiletries and food products."

"I'm really glad we were able to fill that need for our former clients", Lemus added. "I was really pleased to see that people we had served in the past felt comfortable coming back and knew they could come back so that was unexpected but good."

Lemus said she's proud of the staff in



My Sister's House staff participates in Denim Day, a sexual violence prevention and education campaign. Contributed photo

place at My Sister's House, who never stopped working throughout the pandemic.

"We didn't close during the pandemic at all," she said. "The need was too much and we felt this obligation to serve our clients."

"We have a very committed staff," Lemus added. "We made the last year work by working together."

"I'm really proud of the staff for their response to the pandemic in putting clients first. We're really committed to what we do."

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Nashville Chamber plans reopening agenda

Chamber starts planning post pandemic events and member perks

COVID-19 has made for a challenging year for Nashville's Chamber of Commerce.

"We have not been as active," said Chamber Vice-President Cliff Joyner noting the pandemic had canceled the majority of the chamber's events.

Nonetheless, the Chamber worked hard to continue to do as much as possible to focus on its mission of promoting and encouraging businesses.

Though Chamber social events were all canceled during 2020, members were able to still put together the popular Shop Small holiday event, which encourages residents to shop local during the holiday season. Joyner said the event was very successful.

"The response was pretty overwhelming," he said. "Hopefully that did something to drive some businesses."

Another holiday event the Chamber was able to do was bringing Santa to town for a visit with children. Though the event was modified due to COVID, it still turned out to be a popular event.

Joyner said while some businesses have done okay during the pandemic others have struggled. He added that he looks forward to the Chamber being able to return to doing some of its more popular events, events that encourage and promote the businesses in town.

"I look forward to hopefully things opening back up and people being able to get out and shop more and feel more

comfortable," Joyner said.

Chamber president Mary Grace Daughtridge said the board is currently working on a grant that she hopes will enable the chamber to assist members.

"Funding is provided through Duke Energy's new Hometown Revitalization Grant program," she said

Duke Energy is awarding 20 communities \$25,000 each to establish a small business support microgrant program to deploy the funding to their local small business community.

Daughtridge said board members are currently preparing the grant application. "Should we be chosen to receive one of these grants, we will carefully abide by the criteria and award the

monies to our qualifying small businesses. We're crossing our fingers!"

She continued that soon a new board of directors will take seats and she is very excited about some new opportunities, "We are going to refocus on some of the chamber's responsibilities to our members and are eager to get to work creating a new vision and work plan which will hopefully benefit our members even more than before," she said. "We're ready to get back to work"

If interested in volunteering or becoming a member, contact the chamber at nashvillenchamber@gmail.com or call 252.459.4050.



The chamber's 2021 Distinguished Citizen Award event was postponed due to the pandemic however it plans to present an award at its 2021 annual meeting. Pictured above, chamber member Cindy Puckett presents Jamey Baines with the 2020 award. Graphic photo



The chamber is looking forward to planning the 2022 Blooming Festival. Due to the pandemic 2020 and 2021 were canceled. Graphic photo



The chamber's annual meeting is planned for mid-summer which will include the 2021 Business of the Year Award. Pictured, Jody's of Nashville receives the 2019 award. Graphic photo

CHAMBER FUNCTIONS

- Distinguished Citizen Award Reception
- Children's Christmas Celebration & Bicycle Parade
- Nashville Blooming Festival
- Member Socials
- Business After Hours
- Ribbon Cuttings
- Local candidate forums
- Local college scholarships
- Junior Achievement Award
- Business of the Year Award



The chamber was able to salvage its 2020 Christmas event by offering socially distanced visits with Santa. Graphic photo



Boys and Girls Club staff at the Nashville Area Unit assist members with homework and virtual learning. Contributed photo

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

~ Nashville Area Unit ~

**BY AMANDA CLARK
GRAPHIC STAFF WRITER**

The Nashville Area Unit of the Boys and Girls Club of the Tar River Region spent four months of 2020 shut down due to the COVID pandemic.

But that didn't mean staff weren't busy.

Troi Thomas, who serves as the Director of the Nashville Area Unit, said staff stayed busy checking on members, performing wellness checks as well as creating virtual content so members could still receive some programming from home.

Thomas said the shutdown was certainly a tough time for both members and staff but the club remained strong.

The club reopened its doors in July of last year but to a limited number of members. In addition, safety measures were put into place, including tem-

perature checks, daily screenings, hand washing and social distancing. In addition, masks were required.

"The pandemic brought challenges that required our staff to begin programming in new and unique ways," Thomas said. "High Yield Learning Activities were engaging and fun while still providing an educational basis to supplement the learning loss members experienced due to the closing of schools."

Club members returned to school in August virtually and club staff rolled their sleeves up and got to work.

"Our staff helped members navigate the new world of digital learning and stepped in to assist with school work and tutoring when needed," Thomas said. "We are so fortunate to have the opportunity to continue to inspire and enable all those who need us the most each and everyday"

NPD works towards community policing

**BY AMANDA CLARK
GRAPHIC STAFF WRITER**

Nashville Police Chief Anthony Puckett knows the importance of community policing.

Since joining the Nashville Police Department in 2019, Puckett has made community policing one of his top priorities. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has pushed that goal to the back burner for now.

"COVID kind of set us back," Puckett said. "I have some plans to do a whole lot more community policing."

Some of those plans include a police citizen's academy and getting officers

back on the streets, walking downtown and visiting businesses.

Puckett said he's hopeful some of his plans will start to come to fruition this summer.

Community policing is important because it gives the community insight into the town's officers. That insight opens up the path for better communication, Puckett said.

Ultimately, Puckett added, commu-

nity policing helps lower crime.

Crime during the COVID pandemic didn't take a break.

Puckett said though calls for service went down during the pandemic but the types of calls have changed as has the time officers spend on those calls.

"Crime is on an uptick, even during the pandemic," Puckett said.

Drugs are another top priority of Puckett's, who said he is determined to keep drugs out of Nashville. To do that, Puckett said officers put a lot of focus on drug crimes.

Puckett said his department has lots of young officers so training is also essential so the department can provide

the best service.

Encouraging those young officers to stay in Nashville is also important.

Puckett said he wants to see officers come to Nashville with plans to retire here. However, there are some things that will have to change to make that happen, including increasing salaries to give officers an incentive to stay and not move on to a neighboring department that pays more.

"We have to address that," he said.

Puckett said he has enjoyed his time in Nashville and looks forward to being able to work on some of the goals he set in place when he became chief of the department.



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Rocky Mount Elks Lodge #1038, located in Nashville, donated picnic tables to Glover Park in February.

Elks Lodge 1038 makes Nashville its home

Since relocating to Nashville, the Rocky Mount Elks Lodge #1038 has made it a point to show the community its dedication to giving back.

One contribution this year was a donation of three picnic tables to Glover Park.

Exalted Ruler Michael P. Davis said a grant, The Gratitude Grant, made it possible for the tables to be purchased. The grant was for \$2,500.

Davis said the tables cost \$2,895 for all three, adding that the Elks Lodge #1038 put in the balance.

"We're just proud to be able to do something great in the community," Davis said. "Hopefully, these tables will be put to good use."

The Elks Lodge moved to Nashville in 2020 after a fire destroyed their previ-

ous building in Rocky Mount. The organization now operates out of the former Birchwood Country Club.

Davis said since coming to Nashville, membership has grown from 59 to 117, which means more people to help serve the community.

"We're fortunate and proud to be here and we want to serve the community," Davis added.

The Order of the Elks considers itself a benevolent organization instead of a social or business club. Davis said since coming to Nashville, the organization has worked hard to make a difference in Nashville.

"We'll be looking to do more things in the Nashville community," Davis said. "More things are coming."

An Everlasting Memory

An Everlasting Memory Monument Company is locally and family owned and operated by Michelle Viverette-Strickland.

Michelle established the company in 2006. The following year, she expanded to a larger location on Winstead Avenue. Michelle has been in the monument industry since 1988.

An Everlasting Memory has an inside and outside showroom that features all types of markers, monuments, and more.

"We have many choices from which to choose— granite available in different colors, marble or bronze markers, monuments, ledgers, benches, vases, mausoleums and urns," adds Michelle.

Michelle states, "We are here to serve families in need of a lasting tribute for their loved ones. When you walk into our office, we want you to feel like you are with family in an environment that makes you feel like you are in your living room."

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Michelle Viverette-Strickland



"By taking out the middle man and going to our monument company, it not only saves the family money, but they are able to really personalize the memorial, by talking to professionals that have used all the tools to help with the personalization of the design instead of using standard designs."

AEM feels blessed to be able to donate a number of markers and monuments each year to families who can not afford to purchase a memorial.

"The most rewarding part of owning AEM," Michelle concludes, "is meeting people and establishing lasting relationships. My goal is to provide excellent service as well as give back to the community."

AEM is also honored to be the 2018 and 2019 Readers Choice Award Winner, as well as the 2017 Readers Choice Award Runner Up.

For more information, visit the store at 1036 Winstead Avenue, beside Coastal Bank, Monday - Friday, 9:30 to 5 and Saturday by appointment. You can visit their website at aneverlastingmemory.net.

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

- American Legion - Post 110 and Post 293
- Nashville BPW - Christy.Warrick@edwardjones.com
- Nashville Lion's Club (252) 459-1849
- Woodmen of the World
- Nashville Chamber of Commerce (252) 459-4050
- Nashville Boys & Girls Club (252) 469-2355
- 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) 462-0366
- The Voice of Nashville (252) 382-8654
- Nash County Animal Friends - NCAF-Inquiry@hotmail.com
- Nash County 4-H (252) 459-9810
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Nashville Elementary School

Students and staff return to normal routines

BY AMANDA CLARK
GRAPHIC STAFF WRITER

The highlight of the school year for many at Nashville Elementary School was just getting back in the school building.

Students did just that in March and Principal Quintin Mangano said 70 percent of enrolled students came back.

"We were pleased with the amount that came back," Mangano said.

Getting settled into new routines has taken some time but Mangano said he's proud of staff, parents and students for the job they've done.

"The teachers have gone above and beyond in every way they possibly know how," Mangano said. "Everybody is to be commended for their efforts."

A new idea that has taken off and really motivated students is one the Student Encouragement Committee came up with. Mangano said students are being recognized with signs in their

yard. Photos are also being posted on social media.

"That's been really successful," Mangano said.

"The students really love it, the teachers really love it," he added. "I think the kids and families loved it too."

Wellness has also been a big focus this school year.

"Our staff have set goals to drink more water, add exercise to their weekly routines and to engage in the practice of gratitude," Mangano said.

Teachers are also teaching students about skills needed to build resiliency, empathy and a greater understanding of self awareness.

"With everything going on as it has this past year our work toward this has been invaluable," Mangano said.

Mangano said another new idea, incorporated into the garden and STEM program, has been challenging this year due to COVID but still a huge success among kids. The front of the school is

being transformed into a garden area, which is incorporated into learning activities. The project has been a success thanks to local businesses and Nash Community College.

"It's coming along really well," he said.

For the next school year, Mangano said gym renovations, which are currently underway, will be complete, adding art and music classrooms. The gym will receive new bleachers, new doors and new windows.

"That area is going to look really good at the end of the summer, start of next year," Mangano said.

Mangano said he's thankful to be ending the school year with most of the students in the building. Despite all the challenges, Mangano said he's proud of how everyone has worked to overcome.

"They have done really well," he said.

"It's been really good to see the kids," Mangano added. "It's been really good to have them back."



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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 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)

DID YOU KNOW?



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 photos - 1960)



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