

The logo for Cookeville Leisure Services features the word "COOKEVILLE" in a bold, red, sans-serif font. The letter "O" is replaced by a circular icon containing a stylized soccer ball. Below "COOKEVILLE" is the text "LEISURE SERVICES" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font.

COOKEVILLE
LEISURE SERVICES

Leisure Life

A guide to parks, museums, cultural arts and recreation opportunities offered by Cookeville Leisure Services





CITY OF
COOKEVILLE
LEISURE SERVICES



Leisure Life

On the
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Pink dogwoods bloom around the fountain at Dogwood Park.

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Director's Take

Warmer days are here, and citizens of Cookeville have much to look forward to as spring drifts toward summer. As I ponder it all – events like Dogapalooza and Storyfest in the Park, as well as numerous activities like outdoor concerts and movies, softball, theatrical productions, museum exhibits and camps – I am reminded of the many community partnerships and collaborations that make it all possible. Humbled, too.



It's a long list – too lengthy for these pages – but I do want to acknowledge a few, starting with our fellow city departments. For example, Public Works was instrumental in helping us prepare the site for our new skate park, which you'll read about in this issue of *Leisure Life*. Also, our city council members and city manager, through their continual support, have been vital to our success as Cookeville's leading provider of quality recreation and leisure opportunities.

The seed for another project, pollinator fields at Cane Creek Park, which you'll learn about on the next page, is another great example of several local and state organizations coming together with resources and expertise.

I also want to recognize people like Susan Ray, who was gracious enough to contribute an article to this publication about the joys she has experienced with her grandchildren in Dogwood Park. And speaking of Dogwood Park, what a collaborative effort that has been. Countless organizations and citizens have lent their support to every aspect of the park, from its beginnings and expansion projects to the building of the Heart of the City Playground. It has truly been a wonder.

Then there are our Citizens Advisory Committee members – good people who offer valuable input and feedback – and supporters like our Friends of the Cookeville Depot and Cookeville History Museum groups.

Our staff members deserve the spotlight as well. From planning events, classes and programs to maintaining the city's parks and public facilities, they go beyond what is expected in "making the good life better," as our slogan goes. The same is true for our volunteers – museum docents and Cultural Arts Support Team, to name a few.

To say that we are blessed to have so many good community partners is an understatement. And we don't take that fact for granted.

Rick Woods, Director, Cookeville Leisure Services



Cane Creek Park's pollinator fields will be a sanctuary for butterflies and other pollinators.

Pollinator Sanctuary

Pollinator fields to bloom at Cane Creek Park

Trail users at Cane Creek Park have no doubt noticed big changes in areas around the north side of the lake. Barren fields amid springtime vegetation are hard to miss, after all.

But the landscape will soon be changing. Wildflowers will emerge, colorful and attractive – but not just to the human eye. Bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, hummingbirds and other tiny pollinators will also be taking notice. Which is the point.

“The idea of planting fields of native grasses and flowers has been discussed for a number of years within our department,” Cookeville Leisure Services Director Rick Woods said.

Thanks to some community partners – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Putnam County Soil Conservation District, Putnam County Master Gardeners and U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service – the idea has become a reality.

“This partnership allowed us to develop a specific plan of action to establish these pollinator fields,”



Cane Creek Park's pollinator fields will attract native bees.

(Photo: Ginger Dunn)

Did you know?

— One out of every three bites of food exists because of pollinators.

— Ladybugs are natural enemies of many insects that are considered pests.

Just one can eat as many as 5,000 aphids in its lifetime.

— Milkweed is the only plant monarch butterflies will lay their eggs on and is the only plant the caterpillars are able to eat.

— Hummingbirds, with their long beaks and brush-like tongues, pollinate many plants. They like long, tube-shaped red and orange flowers.

— Butterflies taste with their feet.



Woods said, “I couldn’t be more grateful to these agencies for their expertise and resources.”

The purpose of the project is to establish a habitat for pollinators while also educating the public on their value. The fields are also adding interest and beauty to the landscape in underutilized areas of the park.

Nancy Snope of the Putnam County Master Gardeners, who has been involved in educational signage in the park and community outreach, stressed the importance of pollinators.

“Plants need pollinators, and people need plants,” she said. “One out of every three bites we eat is made possible by a pollinator, and 80 percent of all flowering plants rely on pollinators for survival. The security and stability of our food sources and ecosystems are dependent on healthy pollinator populations. We can help protect pollinators by creating habitats and educating the public on the risks facing pollinators and ways everyone can help.”

The seed mix, provided by USFWS, includes perennial grasses as well as annual and perennial wildflowers native to Middle Tennessee. Todd Shaw, USFWS fish and wildlife biologist,

said, “Citizens will be able to learn to identify which local plants are important to pollinators and have a better understanding of pollinator diversity.”

TWRA planted the seeds and will help maintain the three fields, which total just over three acres.

“Many people are concerned with the decline of native pollinators, including monarch butterflies,” Michael McCord, TWRA wildlife habitat biologist, said. “Our grassland songbirds are experiencing steep declines as well. Some want to point to declines in various species of milkweed as the cause of monarch decline, but the fact is we’ve converted 97 percent of our native grasslands to some other land use. It should come as no surprise, then, that we are experiencing ecosystem collapses at only 3 percent capacity.”

Snope said that as native landscapes continue to disappear, parks such as Cane Creek Park play a vital role in their preservation and restoration.

“This project is planting ‘seeds of knowledge’ to those visiting the pollinator fields,” she said. “I foresee many more pollinator-friendly habitats springing up in our community in the near future.” ■



City Lake Natural Area's cascades, admired by Luke Davis, above, is the prize at the end of a short trail through the woods. At left, Salae Maxwell and Shelby Merritt take advantage of a new bottle-filling station and drinking fountain during their morning walk at Cane Creek Park. Love roses? See a colorful display of these beauties in Dogwood Park's rose garden, below left, which is maintained by the Cookeville Rose Society around the gazebo. Below center, Dogwood Park's interactive fountain offers a breathtaking experience at night. See the water flow from blue to pink to orange to green. Below right, Brett Sloan shows his hefty catch, a carp taken from the lake at Cane Creek Park.



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PARKS

Cane Creek Park

201 C C Camp Road

Cookeville's largest park features a 56-acre lake for fishing and non-motorized boating, two fishing piers, several paved walking trails, a mountain bike trail, 18-hole disc golf course, pollinator sanctuaries, five playgrounds, basketball and volleyball courts, three picnic shelters and numerous picnic tables with charcoal grills, and a seasonal concession stand. Paddleboats may be rented April through October. To reserve a picnic shelter, call 931-520-4FUN.

Capshaw Park

560 E. Stevens St.

This park, on the corner of South Maple, Stevens Street and Elm Avenue, is a natural area with three picnic tables. It is adjacent to Capshaw Elementary School.

Cinderella Park

700 Cinderella Lane

Cinderella, one of Cookeville's oldest neighborhood parks, features play equipment, a swing set, small picnic shelter with a charcoal grill, two picnic tables, basketball court and restroom facilities. Located at the end of Mitchell Avenue, it is next to the Tennessee Central Heritage Rail Trail.

City Lake Natural Area

Bridgeway Drive

This 35-acre natural area is a favorite among fishermen, kayakers and hikers. It has a boat launch for non-motorized boats, fishing pier, picnic tables, paved walking trail and small waterfall. Cookeville's first water treatment facility was constructed here. To get there from downtown Cookeville, go east on Hwy. 70N. Cross over I-40 (at Exit 290), turn left on Poplar Grove Road and go straight onto Bridgeway Drive.

Dogwood Park

30 E. Broad St.

This downtown oasis, with its large grassy areas and an interactive fountain that flows during the spring, summer and early fall, is a great place for picnics and leisurely walks. The park also features a performance pavilion, rose garden, restrooms, and an all-inclusive, fully accessible playground.

Ensor Sink Natural Area

670 Clover Hill Road

A beautiful park in the heart of town, Ensor Sink features four picnic tables, walking trails, a small amphitheater for lectures and educational uses, stone council ring for scout meetings and nature groups, and a gazebo with an informational kiosk about the city's sink hole system.



Cinderella Park is a fun place to slide, climb, play basketball, swing and have family picnics. A small picnic shelter is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Franklin Avenue Park

550 N. Franklin Ave.

This neighborhood park, at the corner of Franklin Avenue and 6th Street, features play equipment and a picnic shelter.

Park View Park

570 Scott Ave.

This park features a new skate park, four baseball fields, play equipment and a picnic shelter with a charcoal grill.

Walnut Park

186 S. Walnut Ave.

Nestled behind the Cookeville Senior Citizens Center, this park has a gazebo, paved walking trail and picnic tables.

West End Park

609 West End St.

West End Park has two picnic shelters, play equipment, volleyball and basketball courts, play equipment, a small open field and restroom facilities. It was also the site of Darwin School, which served Putnam County's African-American students from 1928 until the school burned in 1963.



Gathering at the Cookeville Depot to play old-fashioned games are, from left, Jack Gunnels, Katlyn, Elizabeth, Chloe and Michael Peterson, Lucy Wagner and Jayne Ehlert.



"Exhibits" Linda Henderson, left, and Nancy Curtis come to life during Night at the Museums.



Cookeville Leisure Services summer campers participate in a talent show at the Dogwood Performance Pavilion in Dogwood park.



The Cane Creek SportsPlex attracts local and regional teams for tournament and league play.

FACILITIES

Administrative Office

45 E. Broad St., 931-520-4FUN (4386)

To learn more about the city's parks and facilities, visit the Leisure Services office in the Cookeville Municipal Building, across from Dogwood Park.

Cane Creek Recreation Center

180 C C Camp Road, 931-526-7393

This facility, located near Cane Creek Park, hosts a fitness program, classes, events, youth camps and the Leisure Services School of Dance.

Cane Creek Gymnasium

180 C C Camp Road, 931-526-9767

The gymnasium hosts tournaments, league play, basketball, soccer, volleyball, pickleball and youth camps. Open gym times are offered daily. Admission is \$1. The gym is also available for rentals.

Cane Creek SportsPlex

2200 W. Jackson St., 931-520-5224

This softball/baseball complex includes four adult fields and four youth fields and hosts many major tournaments.

Cookeville City Cemetery

241 S. Walnut Ave., 931-372-8086

Located between Walnut and Scott avenues, the city cemetery is owned and operated by the Cookeville Leisure Services Department. The office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Cookeville Depot Museum

116 W. Broad St., 931-528-8570

This museum is dedicated to the preservation of the area's heritage, in particular the Tennessee Central Railroad's impact on the Upper Cumberland. It hosts family-friendly events throughout the year. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission is free.

Cookeville History Museum

40 E. Broad St., 931-520-5455

The history museum continually hosts new exhibits of local interest. With help from Friends of the Cookeville History Museum, the staff collects artifacts, photographs and memorabilia from Cookeville, Putnam County and the surrounding area. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission is free.



John Fowler and James Alder perform during CPAC's Backstage Series production of "At Home at the Zoo."

Cookeville Performing Arts Center

10 E. Broad St., 931-528-1313

CPAC features local award-winning shows, as well as productions by regional and national touring companies. Call the Box Office for ticket information.

Dogwood Performance Pavilion

30 E. Broad St., 931-520-5296

This pavilion in Dogwood Park is the site of numerous concerts, theatrical performances and events. It is also available to rent.

Heart of the City Playground

30 E. Broad St., 931-520-4386

Located inside Dogwood Park, this 12,000-square-foot playground facility was designed so that all children, regardless of their ability or mobility level, could play together.

Park View Skate Park

570 Scott Ave.

Cookeville's new skate park features concrete ledges, bowls, wall rides and more, as well as restroom facilities, for skaters and BMX bikers.

Parks Maintenance

544 Scott Ave., 931-528-2605

The parks maintenance crew is housed near the Park View Park baseball fields and maintains those fields and the city's 10 parks.

General Maintenance

790 E. 15th St., 931-520-5257

The general maintenance crew takes care of all the city's buildings and is in charge of many of the department's major projects.

a place to Skate

Park View Skate Park opening soon

Cookeville skateboarder Louie Vaden was headed to a friend's house in the late '80s when something caught his eye.

"Dude! We've got a new ramp in town!" he said, thinking back to when he saw the homemade contraption pass by on a flatbed truck. So he followed it. That's how he met Andy Hill.

In those days, and for years to come, local skateboarders created their own backyard obstacles, went to a fellow skater's house or found other places around town to do tricks. The latter, however, wasn't always the best option.

"I spent a lot of time getting kicked out of parking lots," Hill, now 43, said. "As a kid, I didn't get that, but as an adult, I understand that when you grind on a curb you're doing damage."

Hill feels that if he and his skateboarding buddies had had some place to go – a safe, controlled environment geared toward skating – things would have been easier. That's why he's thrilled about the new Park View Skate Park, planned for completion later this summer at the site of the former Park View Pool that closed 10 years ago.

And he's not the only one.

"We have had public interest in a community skate park for several years," Cookeville Leisure Services Director Rick Woods said. "When we developed our master land use plan for



Geoff Pippin is ready for the new Park View Skate Park.

Park View Park in 2016, the planning committee determined a skate park would be an ideal repurposing of the obsolete swimming pool property."

Not only that, it would provide a recreational opportunity for an underserved population – young people who never found their niche in organized sports or the arts.

The concrete skate park, funded in part by a Local Parks and Recreation Fund grant administered by the Recreation Educational Services Division of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, features everything skateboarders, rollerbladers and BMX bikers asked for during commu-



This design shows the concept for Cookeville's first skate park — Park View Skate Park.

nity meetings, including ramps, rails, bowls and wall rides. Plus, it was designed by Seattle-based Grindline Skateparks, a favorite among the skateboarding community, along with HFR Design, a Nashville firm tasked with revamping the old pool house.

"I've been riding Grindline parks for years, just because they build the best," said Vaden, who added that both he and Hill have ventured to skate parks in other states to experience the rush.

Hill feels that Cookeville's new skating venue will be a destination as well since it's the first-of-its-kind concrete park in the Upper Cumberland and the first Grindline park in Tennessee.

"You're going to have people traveling to our community every day," he said. "Any time it's open, rain or shine, there will be kids skating this thing."

Tennessee Tech University student Geoff Pippin, 26, feels the same way.

"This is huge," he said. "I'm really excited about it because when I was growing up, it was really hard to find places to skate without getting hassled."

Pippin said skateboarding appeals to people in different ways. "You have people who are 'safe' skaters and people who go big. I like both sides of it."

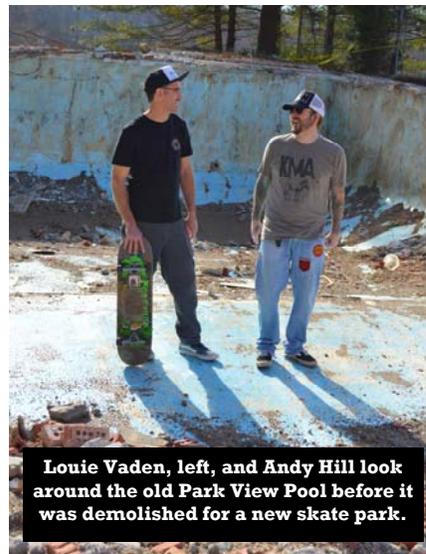
He also gets personal satisfaction from learning new tricks.

"There's a technicality about it," he said. "To do an ollie, to do a kick flip –

to do any of those things – requires really tight precision. Most people, except for maybe soccer players, don't think about how, exactly, their feet are moving. When you land something, it's very satisfying."

Woods said he hopes the skate park will provide a safe, fun and wholesome environment for young people to lead active lifestyles, away from the risks in streets and parking lots.

"This park will appeal to all levels of ability," he said. "I want our local skaters to have a top-notch park to skate, develop their skills and socialize with like-minded individuals." ■



Louie Vaden, left, and Andy Hill look around the old Park View Pool before it was demolished for a new skate park.



Pink and white blossoms decorate the path to Dogwood Park's Heart of the City Playground.

Cookeville grandmother happy to take the grands to Dogwood Park

Gran, can we go to the playground?" asked my 6-year-old Grand, Lucy. I didn't respond immediately. Lucy and her older sister, Annabel, rode in the backseat of my van as we travelled across town.

"Please, Gran. Just a few minutes?" Annabel said. I explained that we only had 15 minutes until time for them to be home.

By Susan Ray
"Please, pretty please! That's long enough!"
And it was.

By the time I walked through the entrance of Heart of the City Playground, my two Grands were seesawing.

"Will you push us on the bird nest swing?" Lucy asked. They jumped off the seesaw and lay side-by-side on the flat swing and I pushed. Fresh air, exer-

cise, and change of pace were just what all three of us needed. The location of the playground, about two blocks northwest of the town square, makes it a perfect place for an impromptu playtime.

Adjacent to the playground, Dogwood Park is for more than playing.

One warm fall afternoon, Annabel grumbled that she didn't want to do her writing assignment and wanted to be outside. I agreed that we should take advantage of a beautiful day so we went to Dogwood Park. We spread a blanket on the grass, lay back, and watched the cumulus clouds move across the October blue sky. The white monster shapes were elephants and dogs, and Annabel began to tell a story about them. With pencil in hand her story spilled onto paper.

I don't always have a Grand with me when I find myself with a few minutes

to walk around Dogwood Park or sit and read a book or just appreciate this open space in the middle of town. And I see others, all ages, enjoying the park. Parents pushing babies in strollers. People walking their dogs, throwing Frisbees, and walking briskly on the sidewalks.

My husband and I spent a few days helping build Heart of the City Playground in the fall of 2015, and I remember saying, "Maybe someday all our Grands can come play here together." That someday was last August. We took all eight Grands, ages 2-12, and their mothers to the park. The youngest Grands headed to the toddler area and slid down short slides and swung in bucket swings. They pretended to drive the big wooden truck, and they rocked the swinging bridge.

Older Grands climbed to the top of the spider climbing net and shouted that they were as tall as the trees. They pushed each other on the merry-go-round and played follow the leader on the balance beams. As they stretched their arms to swing across the monkey bars, they competed to see who could finish in the fewest seconds. They slid down the firefighter's pole and the bumpy slide. They identified Tennessee's state bird and tree painted beside the slide. And they swung, pumping their legs to go higher than their cousins and siblings beside them.



Susan Ray is surrounded by her grands, clockwise from top, Elsie, Samuel, Lucy, Micah and Annabel Sheumaker.

When all eight children and we adults were hot, we headed to Dogwood Park's water fountains. Our Grands were dressed for water play, and they quickly ate a snack before getting soaking wet standing under the 30-foot tall cascading fountain and stomping the bubbling geysers that sprung from the ground. They poured water from plastic water buckets on each other's head and they laughed. They smiled and giggled.

I'm thankful for Cookeville's downtown playground and water fountain and open grass space. All are perfect for spur-of-the-moment and planned playtimes and a place to just relax and watch the world go by. ■



Susan Ray's grands, from left, Charlotte Ray, Elsie Sheumaker, Daniel Ray, Annabel Sheumaker, Henry Ray and Samuel Sheumaker seesaw at the Heart of the City Playground.



Cathy Benich, office manager for Leisure Services, stands before Cookeville City Hall.

Managing just fine

Texas native Cathy Benich has always been drawn to recreation – especially sports.

She played basketball and soccer in high school and never missed a home football game at Texas A&M University, where she earned a degree in kinesiology (the study of body movement), with a specialization in sports management. She even did an internship with the NBA's San Antonio Spurs.

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“I thought I wanted to do more sports marketing after graduating,” she said.

But that plan changed when she and husband Craig moved to Georgia. There she landed a position with Oconee County Parks and Recreation as an athletic assistant program coordinator.

“I thought it would be a fun job,” she said. “From that point on, I knew working in recreation was a great fit for me.”

A couple of years later, the couple

moved to Arkansas, where Benich became assistant director of the Rogers Community-School Recreation Association, a non-profit organization that partnered with the city's recreation department to provide a variety of programs, including adult and youth sports, childcare and fitness.

The next stop was Tennessee.

"My husband accepted a new position within his company in Tennessee, and we decided Cookeville would be the best place to live and to raise our children," Benich said.

In March 2014, she became office manager for Cookeville Leisure Services, a position that has allowed her to continue making a difference by working on projects that enhance the city's quality of life.

Her favorite project so far has been Dogwood Park's Heart of the City Playground, which was built in 2015 through community donations of time and money.

"The way the community stepped up and built such an awesome playground in the rain is something I will never forget," she said.

As office manager, Benich lends sup-



Cathy Benich and daughters Brooke, left, and Avery, pause during the 10th and final After Dark Race for the Park in 2017.

port to all divisions of Leisure Services from the administrative office at Cookeville City Hall. She does payroll, works with invoices and budgets, assists with grants, helps hire seasonal employees, and takes shelter reservations for Cane Creek Park. She helps with various events and is the lead organizer of Dogapalooza, an annual spring event for dogs and the people who love them at Dogwood Park.

Benich was also involved in the planning of the new Park View Skate Park, which is due to open later this summer. As for future projects, she looks forward to the prospect of Cookeville's own aquatics facility.

"A lot of people leave Cookeville to go to other aquatics facilities, so this would be an opportunity for them to stay close by and keep tax dollars here," she said. "It would be something fun for people of all ages."

Benich said the best part of her job is working with "so many great people," not only within Leisure Services but the city as a whole.

"An added bonus is knowing our department provides numerous fun – and many times free – events for families to enjoy," she said.

When she's not working, she enjoys spending time with her husband and daughters, Avery, 10, and Brooke, 6, visiting family in Texas, watching college football, running, kayaking and shopping.

Benich said Leisure Services offers something for everyone.

"There are just so many aspects of recreation," she said. "Even if you don't play sports, you might like to walk in a park."

Or visit a museum. Or see a play. Or take a fitness class.

"We make the good life better," she said. "What could be more important than that?" ■

SPRING & SUMMER CALENDAR



History Hikes

April-October

Explore downtown's rich history with a "hike" between the Cookeville Depot Museum and Cookeville History Museum on the second Saturday of each month, April through August and in October. Start at either museum between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Each month will have a different theme. Complete this free activity to be entered in a prize drawing.

Softball League

April 2-3

Spring co-ed church and recreation league softball begins April 2 and 3 at Cane Creek SportsPlex. Fall co-ed recreation and men's league play begins Aug. 6 and 7. Register by July 27. For details, call 520-5224 or visit www.cookeville-tn.gov/ls/ccsportsplex.



Dogapalooza

April 28

The ninth annual Dogapalooza is a free event from 1-4 p.m. at Dogwood Park for dogs and the people who love them. It features pet-related vendors, an off-leash play area, adoptable pets and a kids' dog show.

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World Tai Chi and Qigong Day

April 28

Free Tai Chi and Qigong demonstrations begin at 10 a.m. at the Cane Creek Recreation Center. People around the world will join together to learn more about these Chinese martial art forms that are practiced both for defense training and health benefits.

Storyfest in the Park

May 5

The fifth annual Storyfest in the Park is a free, family-friendly event from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Dogwood Park that features storytellers from across the region, including headliner Tim Lowry of Summerville, South Carolina. Come listen for a while under the big tent.



School of Dance

May 11, 12, July 30

The Leisure Services School of Dance will have performances at the Cookeville Performing Arts Center May 11 and 12 at 7:30 p.m. School of Dance classes, which meet August through May at the Cane Creek Recreation Center, are designed for ages 3 and up in the classic disciplines of ballet, jazz and modern dance. An open house is scheduled for July 30 from 4-6 p.m. at the Cane Creek Recreation Center. To learn more or to register for fall classes, call 528-1313 or visit www.cookeville-tn.gov/ls/dance/school-of-dance.

Third Thursday Concerts

May 17, June 21, July 19, Aug. 16

Enjoy free concerts the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m., May through August, at Dogwood Park's performance pavilion. A different band is featured each month, covering a variety of music genres.

Community Band Concerts

May 28, June 11, 25, July 2, 9, 23

The Cookeville Community Band performs free Monday night concerts at the Dogwood Performance Pavilion in Dogwood Park at 7:30 p.m. Memorial Day through July.



After Dark Movies in the Park attract big crowds on Friday nights in June at Dogwood Park.

After Dark Movies in the Park

June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

The After Dark Movies in the Park series brings family-friendly movies to Dogwood Park each Friday night in June. Movies begin 30 minutes after dusk. Admission is free, and concessions are available.

Depot Summer Cinema

July 6, 13, 20, 27

Bring a chair or blanket and enjoy a free classic film under the stars Friday nights in July on the west patio of the Cookeville Depot Museum. Movies begin at 8 p.m. Popcorn and drinks are available to purchase.

C A M P S

Summer Camp

May 29-July 27

Leisure Services offers summer camp for children who have completed kindergarten up to age 12 Monday through Friday, 6:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., at the Cane Creek Recreation Center. Part-time and full-time rates are available. Space is limited. (Camps are also offered during fall and spring break.) For details, call 526-7393 or go to www.cookeville-tn.gov/ls/camps.

Summer Sports Camp

June 4-8, July 16-20

This camp offers children ages 6-12 an opportunity to learn the fundamentals of several sports from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Cane Creek Gymnasium and fields.

Baseball Camp

June 12-14

Players ages 9-12 will learn the correct ways to hit, throw, catch and field a baseball during baseball camp from 8 a.m.-noon at the Cane Creek Gymnasium and SportsPlex fields.

Basketball Camp

May-October

Cookeville Leisure Services is partnering with 1Shot Athletics to offer basketball camps for ages 5-15 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Cane Creek Gymnasium May 28-June 1, June 25-29, July 23-27, Oct. 1-5 and Oct. 8-12.

Youth Lacrosse Camp

June 20-22

During this camp, children ages 8-12 will learn to play, or improve skills in, lacrosse from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Cane Creek Gymnasium and fields. Equipment will be provided.

Recreational Games Camp

July 9-13

This camp, to be held 8 a.m.-5 p.m., will give children ages 6-12 an opportunity to play gym games like dodgeball, Red Rover and Jump the Creek at the Cane Creek Gymnasium, as well as enjoy playtime and scavenger hunts at Cane Creek Park.

For sports camp fees and registration information, call 526-9767 or visit www.cookeville-tn.gov/ls/camps.

SPRING & SUMMER CALENDAR

Kids Fishing Derby

June 9

Take the kids fishing at Cane Creek Park beginning at 7:30 a.m. on Tennessee's Free Fishing Day. This free event, for ages 15 and under, is hosted by the Tennessee Tech Student Fisheries Association, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and Leisure Services. Prizes are awarded for various catches.



June 30-July 4

SlideCKVL

The City of Cookeville's fourth annual Independence Day celebration includes SlideCKVL, a 1,000-foot water slide that begins at the Cookeville Courthouse Square on Broad Street June 30 and July 1. For tickets, call the Cookeville Performing Arts Center at 528-1313 or visit cpactn.com.

Concerts

Celebrate this patriotic time of year by attending concerts at the Dogwood Performance Pavilion in Dogwood Park. See the Cookeville Community Band on July 2 and the 129th Army Band of the Tennessee Army National Guard on July 3. Both concerts are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Parade

A children's bicycle and wagon parade begins at 10 a.m. July 4 at the Cookeville Courthouse Square.

Fireworks

Numerous patriotic activities are planned for the Putnam County Fairgrounds, including a flea market, music and fireworks show on July 4.

Big Band Sound Concerts

Aug. 6, Sept. 3

Enjoy lively Big Band Sound orchestra concerts in the beautiful setting of Dogwood Park at 7:30 p.m. Dancing is encouraged. Admission is free.

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CPAC Backstage Series

Aug. 17-19, 21, 23-25

Cookeville Performing Arts Center's award-winning Backstage Series continues at 7:30 p.m. Productions are selected especially for presentation in the intimacy of the backstage theater setting. For ticket information, visit www.cpactn.com or call 528-1313.

Bryan Symphony Orchestra

Sept. 2

Enjoy a free concert at 7:30 p.m. in Dogwood Park's performance pavilion. BSO concerts are a collaborative effort between the Bryan Symphony Orchestra Association and Tennessee Tech University's Department of Music and Art.



Cookeville Cemetery Walk

Sept. 22

Several Cookeville City Cemetery "residents" will rise from the grave to tell their stories at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. A guide will lead groups to various gravesites along a candlelit path for this educational and entertaining event that takes place on even-numbered years. This year's dearly departed storytellers are from the World War I era as the centennial commemoration of Tennessee's involvement in the Great War continues. Tickets are \$15 and available at the Cookeville Performing Arts Center and www.cpactn.com.



“King Lear” and his daughters take the stage in 2017 during Shakespeare in the Park, a free outdoor theater experience in the Dogwood Performance Pavilion at Dogwood Park.

Shakespeare in the Park

Sept. 28-30, Oct. 1-2, 4-6

Shakespeare’s “Much Ado About Nothing” will come to life during Shakespeare in the Park at Cookeville’s Dogwood Park. Show time is 7 p.m. each night in the performance pavilion. Admission is free.

Brown Bag Lunch Concerts

Oct. 5, 12, 19

This free concert series, held three Fridays in October, brings a variety of music to the Cookeville Depot Museum patio from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Lunches are available to purchase on site.

ONGOING

Museum Exhibits

New exhibits continually open at the Cookeville History Museum. See the Tennessee State Museum traveling exhibit “I Have a Voice: Tennessee’s African American Musical Heritage” through May 3. “Kidville,” an exhibit for children, opens May 26 (through July 28), and “40 Years of WCTE” opens Aug. 11 (through Sept. 22). Opening receptions are 1-3 p.m. Admission is free. Also be on the lookout for “pop up” exhibits around town.

Train Tales

Join the fun every Friday at 10:30 a.m. for a train story and talks about railroad friends. This free activity is geared toward preschool children.

Fitness

Take a fitness class at the Cane Creek Recreation Center for \$3, no membership required. (Get 11 visits for \$30 with a Fit Card.) See the monthly schedule at www.cookeville-tn.gov/fitness. Childcare is available during some day classes. Call 526-7393 for details.

Chair Yoga

This class is for people with chronic pain and physical challenges, who spend the majority of the class seated. Gentle movements and stretching are combined with breathing exercises and meditation. Cost is \$2 on Mondays and Wednesdays with an instructor and free on Fridays with a video from 11 a.m.-noon.

Tai Chi

Tai Chi promotes serenity through gentle, low-impact movements. All experience levels are welcome to join award-winning martial artist Nikki Desch at the Cane Creek Recreation Center. Cost is \$30 per six-week session. For class times, call 526-7393 or visit www.cookeville-tn.gov/fitness/classes-programs.

Open Gym

Cane Creek Gymnasium activities include basketball, volleyball, soccer, pickleball, cornhole and league sports. Open gym is available any time the facility is not programmed or rented, Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m.-10 p.m., and Sunday, 1-6 p.m. Admission is \$1. Gym passes are \$30 for 35 visits. See activity schedules at www.cookeville-tn.gov/fitness/ccgym. For more details, call 526-9767.

Dancing

Line dance classes meet every Monday from 1-3:30 p.m. Cost is \$3. Traditional dance classes (English Country and American Contra) meet the first and third Friday of each month from 6:30-8 p.m. Cost is \$1. Both meet at the Cane Creek Recreation Center.

Classes and Programs

Programs and classes are continually planned at the Cane Creek Recreation Center. Visit www.cookeville-tn.gov/fitness/classes-programs.



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