

COOKEVILLE
LEISURE SERVICES

Leisure Life

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

Fall | Winter
2019



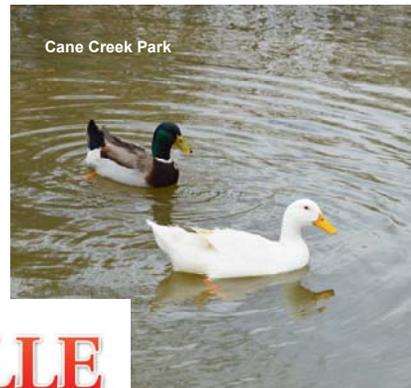
Train Tales



School of Dance



Cookeville History Museum



Cane Creek Park



Ensor Sink Natural Area



Father-Daughter Date Night
Ty Kernea



Park View Skate Park

Leisure Life



On the Cover

Nature's paintbrush adds a flourish of fall colors on the lake at Cane Creek Park.

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Director's Take

One of the great things about working with Leisure Services is always having something to look forward to — always another project to improve the quality of life in Cookeville.

To look at one of our parks or facilities and see something that took months, maybe even years, of planning and hard work to come to fruition and be enjoyed by the community is truly rewarding.

Most recently, we experienced that feeling with the opening of Cookeville's first skate park at Park View Park. It's gratifying to look around and observe each feature — concrete ledges, bowls, rails and so much more — and think back to those early days of planning when a particular idea was hatched. Someone said, "We should add this!" — and we did. Now it's there for all to enjoy.

Leisure Services is a department that is always looking to the horizon, anticipating the next big thing. I'm proud to work with so many visionaries — a team who knows how to get things done and do them well. I expect no less with future projects.

Great things are coming, if you haven't already heard.

One of them — thanks to overwhelming community support and a \$100,000 grand prize grant from Dog Park Dash and The Boyd Foundation — is Cookeville's first public dog park. This park, to be built inside Cane Creek Park, will feature fenced-in areas for dogs to run free, as well as a variety of play components for dogs of all sizes, ages and abilities. Perhaps by next summer, like with the skate park, we'll be able to look around and say, "Wow! I remember when we thought of adding this or discussed doing that." But there's much to do before then.

Another project we're excited about is updating the master plan for Dogwood Park. We've already seen the additions of our popular interactive fountain and Heart of the City Playground in recent years. Now we're studying how to best utilize the newly acquired property on First Street and the parking lot behind the soon-to-be-relocated police station, as well as ways to improve and enhance other areas of the park — shade structures and restrooms at the playground, to name a few things.

While the feeling of completion is sweet, I understand that the work of Leisure Services is never really finished — and that's okay.

On to the next project.

Rick Woods, Cookeville Leisure Services Director





Stacie Brewster and Ryan Steele perform a scene in Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra* at Dogwood Park.

Shakespeare

One night, it could be crisp and cool. The next, hot and humid. Or a little rainy.

Shakespeare in the Park actors must be ready for anything when performing at the Dogwood Performance Pavilion in Dogwood Park.

And they are — plus, they're passionate about being able to present an outdoor theatre experience like no other for audiences in Cookeville each year come late September and early October.

"There's something for everybody in Shakespeare," said Matthew Wilson, long-time Shakespeare in the Park actor and director of one of this year's productions, *Cymbeline*. "That's why Shakespeare has lasted this long."

Tragedies and Romances. Comedies and histories. The English playwright William Shakespeare, whose works go back to the late 16th and early 17th centuries, has penned many themes.

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in the park

"He wrote about things people are always going to be interested in," Wilson said. "Why do we

love? Why are we jealous? Why do we do the crazy things we do for the reasons we do? The human aspect is explored in everything."

Samantha Raper, director of this year's other Shakespeare in the Park production, *Antony and Cleopatra*, has participated in the plays since they began in Dogwood Park in 2004.

"We do it for the community — and a little bit for ourselves," she said.

That first production was *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, presented just a couple of years after the completion of the park's performance pavilion, in which Raper was cast as a fairy. Plenty of other shows have followed... *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet*, *The Tempest*, *Macbeth* and *The Comedy of Errors*, to name a few.

Raper's favorite role was Rosalind in 2013's *As You Like It*. Wilson, who has either seen, been in, or worked backstage on all of the Shakespeare in the Park plays, most enjoyed playing Edmund in 2017's *King Lear*.

Both have directed before — in the Cookeville Performing Arts Center's Backstage Series and Tennessee Tech's Backdoor Playhouse — but this year was their first opportunity to direct Shakespeare in the Park.

There's just something special, they said, about presenting Shakespeare plays in a park, especially since they're free to the public.

"The stage is all lit up, and people can see it from the road as they're going by or hear it if they're walking in the park," Wilson said.

Many audience members bring lawn chairs and blankets for a cozy evening under the stars.

While Shakespeare in the Park is not unique to Cookeville — similar productions take place in numerous cities, including Nashville and Knoxville — the experience itself can be distinctive, depending on the day, the weather, the temperature and a host of other variables. That's true not only for the audience, but the actors and directors.

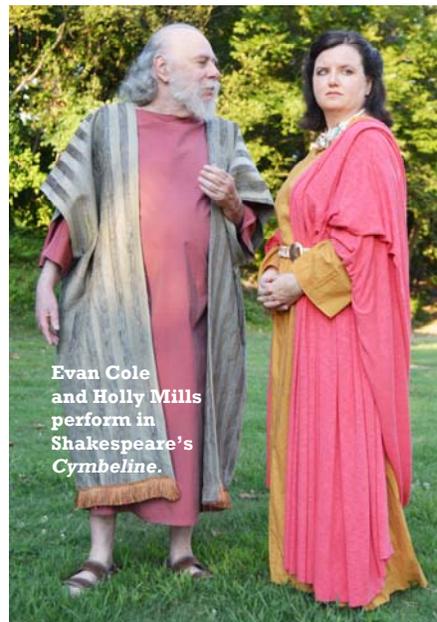
On the technical side, lighting and sound can be a challenge.

"All those things are different when you're outside," Wilson said. "You have to make sure your sound is good to be heard over the traffic. Your lighting is completely different because we start at seven o'clock, when it's not quite dark yet. As it gets darker, you can do more with the lights."

Raper said it feels as if the actors are competing with the outside noises.

"There are barking dogs, there's always an ambulance — or four," she said. "There are usually cannons from Tech football games, helicopters and loud trucks."

Another challenge is the Shakespearian language — for the actors who must learn the words precisely and then suit



Evan Cole and Holly Mills perform in Shakespeare's *Cymbeline*.

those words to the action, as well as audience members who may have difficulty understanding the dialogue.

"The language is so far removed from our own," Wilson said. "You have to be able to express it with your body and actions. Otherwise, people won't know what you're saying and will check out."

Wilson and Raper emphasized the importance of Shakespeare in the Park, saying it's enriching for all ages. In particular, they see it as a way to expose younger generations to Shakespeare before they encounter "words on a page" in an academic setting.

"In the park, I've seen kids as young as 5 or 6 sitting and listening to it," Wilson said. "When they read it in high school, it'll click."

Raper added, "I feel like people are conditioned to not like Shakespeare. They have to read it in school, and the language is tough."

But Shakespeare doesn't have to be that way. Not in Cookeville, anyway.

"It was never meant to be read — it was meant to be *experienced*," Raper said. "I just enjoy trying to change people's minds." ■

‘IT LIFTS ME UP IN SPIRIT’

— Pritindra Chowdhuri, Chair Yoga participant

Wellness classes helpful to many

As a person with multiple sclerosis, Jim King had been looking for ways to keep his muscles flexible. When he found out a friend was taking Chair Yoga at Cane Creek Recreation Center, he decided to give it a try. Three years later, he’s still coming back.

“It’s wonderful,” he said. “I wouldn’t miss it unless I had to.”

Chair Yoga — one of several health and wellness classes offered by Leisure Services — is a full-body stretch class that is ideal for people with physical challenges and chronic pain. Chairs, straps and blocks are used as participants are guided through exercises that help them decrease muscle tension, develop their core strength and improve muscular balance.

“We do a lot of stretching and a lot of balance exercises,” King said. “It keeps me flexible.”

Pritindra Chowdhuri is another Chair Yoga regular.

“It lifts me up in spirit,” the 92-year-old said. “My wife has noticed that. When I go home, she notices when I come here. When I don’t come, there is

a big difference.”

Chowdhuri, a retired Tennessee Tech University electrical engineering professor, had practiced yoga most of his life before transitioning to Chair Yoga



Jim King, above, and Pritindra Chowdhuri, below, are Chair Yoga regulars at Cane Creek Recreation Center.





Lorrie McCracken, Sandy Jacobson and others practice Tai Chi at Cane Creek Recreation Center. McCracken said Tai Chi is “soothing to my soul.”

around 2006.

“Chair yoga is easier than the other yoga,” he said. “I don’t have to sit down on the floor. It is nice.”

It’s stories like these that motivate Leisure Services programmer Mildred Garrett to continue doing what she does.

“To see people benefitting from classes and programs that I have had any part of is very humbling and gratifying,” she said.

Another popular wellness class coordinated by Garrett is Tai Chi.

This martial arts class, which promotes serenity through gentle, low-impact movements, is great for all ages and experience levels. Some refer to it as “meditation in motion.”

“It’s very soothing to my soul,” long-time participant Lorrie McCracken said.

She’s also quick to point out that Tai Chi is harder than it looks — but that the stress relief is worth the effort.

“You forget everything else and are just living in the moment,” she said. “It’s serene.”

Sandy Jacobson agreed.

“You have to concentrate on what you’re doing,” she said. “It clears your mind.”

Long-time instructor Nikki Desch said people participate in Tai Chi for a variety of reasons. Some enjoy the martial arts aspect. Others want to decrease stress. Then there are those who come for health benefits such as flexibility, coordination, posture and balance.

But it takes practice, she stressed.

“In Tai Chi, you have a beginning, but there’s no end,” she said. “Even though you may know what you’re doing, there are a lot of improvements you must attain. The mind and body must work together as one.”

While Chair Yoga and Tai Chi classes are ongoing, several other programs are offered at various times during the year, including Drumming Circle and Middle Eastern Belly Dance.

“Drumming Circle offers spirituality and meditation,” Garrett said. “This one is really something you would have to participate in to feel the calm and peace.”

Belly Dance, a gentle and fun way to move, has the added benefit of fitness.

“Recently I had a lady to tell me how much she loved the class and how it has helped her to be more trim by ‘dancing away the inches,’” Garrett said.

Garrett added that Leisure Services classes and programs go beyond health and fitness offerings. Among them are social dance classes like ballroom, salsa and swing and even photography. She welcomes suggestions from the community for new classes.

“I always think there are numerous other programs we could offer,” she said. “I like it when citizens let me or someone in our department know what their interests are.”

For more information, call Cane Creek Recreation Center at 526-7393. ■



PARKS in Cookeville offer something for everyone — and improvements keep coming. Park View Park is one example with its new, 10,000-square-foot skate park, above, which opened this summer. It's the first of its kind for the Upper Cumberland and the first Grindline facility in Tennessee — a name that turns heads in the skateboarding community. Dogwood Park, left, will be seeing changes as well as the city explores options to expand the park beyond its focal-point fountain, putting to use more than an acre of recently purchased land on First Street. Then there's Cane Creek Park, below right, where a dog park is in the plans. Be sure to explore all 10 of your city parks, including Ensor Sink Natural Area, below left, which features a gazebo with an informational kiosk on the city's sinkhole system, as well as picnic tables and walking trails.



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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, paved trails, mountain bike trail, 18-hole disc golf course, pollinator fields, five playgrounds, basketball and volleyball courts, three picnic shelters and numerous picnic tables with charcoal grills, and seasonal concession stand and boat rentals. It's a nice place to observe waterfowl, turtles and other wildlife. To reserve a picnic shelter, call 520-4FUN. Fall and winter hours are 7 a.m.-6 p.m.



Cane Creek Park is a wonderful place to admire nature's artwork.

Capshaw Park

560 E. Stevens St.

This park, adjacent to Capshaw Elementary School, is a natural area with three picnic tables. It's the perfect place to explore and appreciate some quiet time.

Cinderella Park

700 Cinderella Lane

Cinderella, one of Cookeville's oldest neighborhood parks, has so much — 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 offers convenient access to the Tennessee Central Trail.

City Lake Natural Area

Bridgeway Drive

This 35-acre natural area is a favorite among fishermen, kayakers and hikers. The lake, a no-wake zone, has a boat launch and fishing pier. Picnic tables are nearby, as is a walking trail through the woods that leads to a small waterfall just over a quarter of a mile away. Cookeville's first water treatment facility was constructed on this site. 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. Open 7 a.m. to dusk.

Dogwood Park

30 E. Broad St.

This downtown oasis, with its tranquil green space and interactive fountain that flows in spring, summer and early fall, is a great place for quiet picnics, leisurely walks and spending quality time with family and friends. The park also features a performance pavilion for concerts, plays and events, gazebo, rose garden, restrooms, and Heart of the City Playground. (Playground closes at dusk.)

City parks are open 7 a.m.-10 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Ensor Sink Natural Area

670 Clover Hill Road

A serene park in the heart of town, Ensor Sink features four picnic tables, walking trails, small amphitheater for lectures and educational uses, stone council ring for scout meetings and nature groups, and an informational kiosk about the city's sinkhole system. Open 7 a.m. to dusk.

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 four baseball fields, play equipment and a picnic shelter with charcoal grill and skate park. (Skate park closes at dusk.)

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.

This park was the site of Darwin School, which served African-American students from 1928 until the school burned in 1963. It has play equipment, two picnic shelters, volleyball and basketball courts, a small open field and restroom facilities.



Love railroad history? Be sure to visit the Cookeville Depot Museum. Admission is free.



People come to Cane Creek Gymnasium to play a variety of sports, including pickleball.



Kim Frick-Welker

A scene from CPAC's Backstage show "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike."



Group fitness classes are offered daily at Cane Creek Recreation Center. Drop in for just \$3.

FACILITIES

Administrative Office

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

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

Cane Creek Recreation Center

180 C C Camp Road | 526-7393

Located near Cane Creek Park, this facility houses a fitness program, classes, workshops, events, camps and the Leisure Services School of Dance.

Cane Creek Gymnasium

180 C C Camp Road | 526-9767

Gymnasium activities include basketball, volleyball, soccer, pickleball and cornhole. Admission is \$1. The facility also hosts league play, tournaments and youth camps and is available for rentals.

Cane Creek SportsPlex

2200 W. Jackson St. | 520-5224

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

Cookeville City Cemetery

241 S. Walnut Ave. | 372-8086

This city-owned cemetery is operated by Cookeville Leisure Services. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Cookeville Depot Museum

116 W. Broad St. | 528-8570

Built in 1909, the depot is on the National Register of Historic Places. It houses Tennessee Central Railway artifacts and an HO scale replica of Cookeville's WestSide in 1955. On the grounds are a 1913 Baldwin steam engine, two cabooses and two track cars. The area offers picnic tables and benches for visitors. Events are held throughout the year. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission is free.

Cookeville History Museum

40 E. Broad St. | 520-5455

The museum provides exhibits and activities that promote the history of Cookeville and Putnam County. The front gallery houses temporary displays and collections while the rest of the museum features permanent exhibits and a timeline. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission is free.



Cara Sheets

School of Dance students perform at Cookeville Performing Arts Center.

Cookeville Performing Arts Center

10 E. Broad St. | 528-1313

This 456-seat facility produces local shows, including CPAC's award-winning Backstage Series. It also houses various other theatre productions, concerts, dance performances, film screenings and events.

Dogwood Performance Pavilion

30 E. Broad St. | 528-1313

The pavilion at Dogwood Park is the site of numerous concerts, movies and theatrical performances. It may be reserved for events.

Heart of the City Playground

30 E. Broad St. | 520-4386

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

Park View Skate Park

570 Scott Ave. | 520-4386

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

Parks Maintenance

544 Scott Ave. | 528-2605

This facility, near the Park View Park baseball fields, houses the parks maintenance crew.

General Maintenance

790 E. 15th St. | 520-5257

The general maintenance crew, which takes care of all the city's buildings, is housed here.



Ed Hollingsworth is always ready to greet folks at Cane Creek Park.

Park life

“I’m sure there’s nobody else that has an office window like I have.”

Unless you work in a park — like Ed Hollingsworth does.

“I’ve often told people I’ve got the best job in the city,” the long-time Cane Creek Park groundskeeper said. “It’s just a beautiful place to come to.”

Hollingsworth loves mornings when he can open the park’s gate and take in the peacefulness of a new day.

He loves afternoons when, while mowing alongside the lake or clearing away brush, he can greet folks as they pass by on the trails or are trying their luck at fishing.

He loves snowy days, when he’s the first to be able to put tracks through a winter wonderland.

He loves every day.

“I’ve always heard that if you enjoy your job, you’ll never work a day of your life — and I just have to say that’s how I feel about my job,” he said.

Hollingsworth, a Sparta native, joined Cookeville Leisure Services around 2002 as a temporary groundskeeper at Cane Creek SportsPlex. After a couple of seasons, he worked a short time for the Public Works Department before being hired full-time at Cane Creek Park.

It’s the kind of job he had desired for a while.

“Years ago, I was at Rock Island State Park, and I said to myself, ‘I would love to be able to work in a park like this’ — with no idea that I would wind up with

Leisure Services,” he said.

A typical day on the job at Cane Creek Park includes mowing, weedeating, cleaning picnic shelters, emptying trashcans — basically anything Hollingsworth can do to beautify the park and assist visitors. He especially enjoys the public relations aspect of his position.

“A lot of people travel through from different states, and you have the opportunity to talk to them,” he said.

“You also have a chance to welcome people who’ve just moved to this area.”

He sees a lot of regulars, too.

Those who come to walk their dogs.

Those who ride on the mountain bike trail or play disc golf.

Those who take paddleboat rides or have picnics by the playgrounds.

“Everybody’s here to enjoy themselves and have a good time,” Hollingsworth said.

He’s witnessed a lot of special moments — family reunions, birthday parties, weddings and so much more.



Ed Hollingsworth loves the view from his “office window” at Cane Creek Park.

“I’ve got the best job in the city.”

— Ed Hollingsworth

The people and the scenery are the best part of his job, he said.

His favorite place in the park is along the south side of the 56-acre lake, especially in the morning as the sun rises. He often takes pictures and shares them on social media so that others can enjoy what he sees.

Hollingsworth is always eager to express his thankfulness and takes pride in the work he does.

“When you drive out of here on a Friday afternoon and those fields are all mowed and everything looks nice, it just gives you a good feeling,” he said.

“It’s ready for the weekend. It’s ready for the people.”

When he’s not working, Hollingsworth enjoys going to shooting matches. He even travels to other states to compete. Wins awards, too.

He also takes pride in his family, which includes a daughter, Madison, and newborn grandson.

He noted the numerous recreation opportunities in Cookeville — not just those at Cane Creek Park — and how important it is for a city like Cookeville to have a leisure services department.

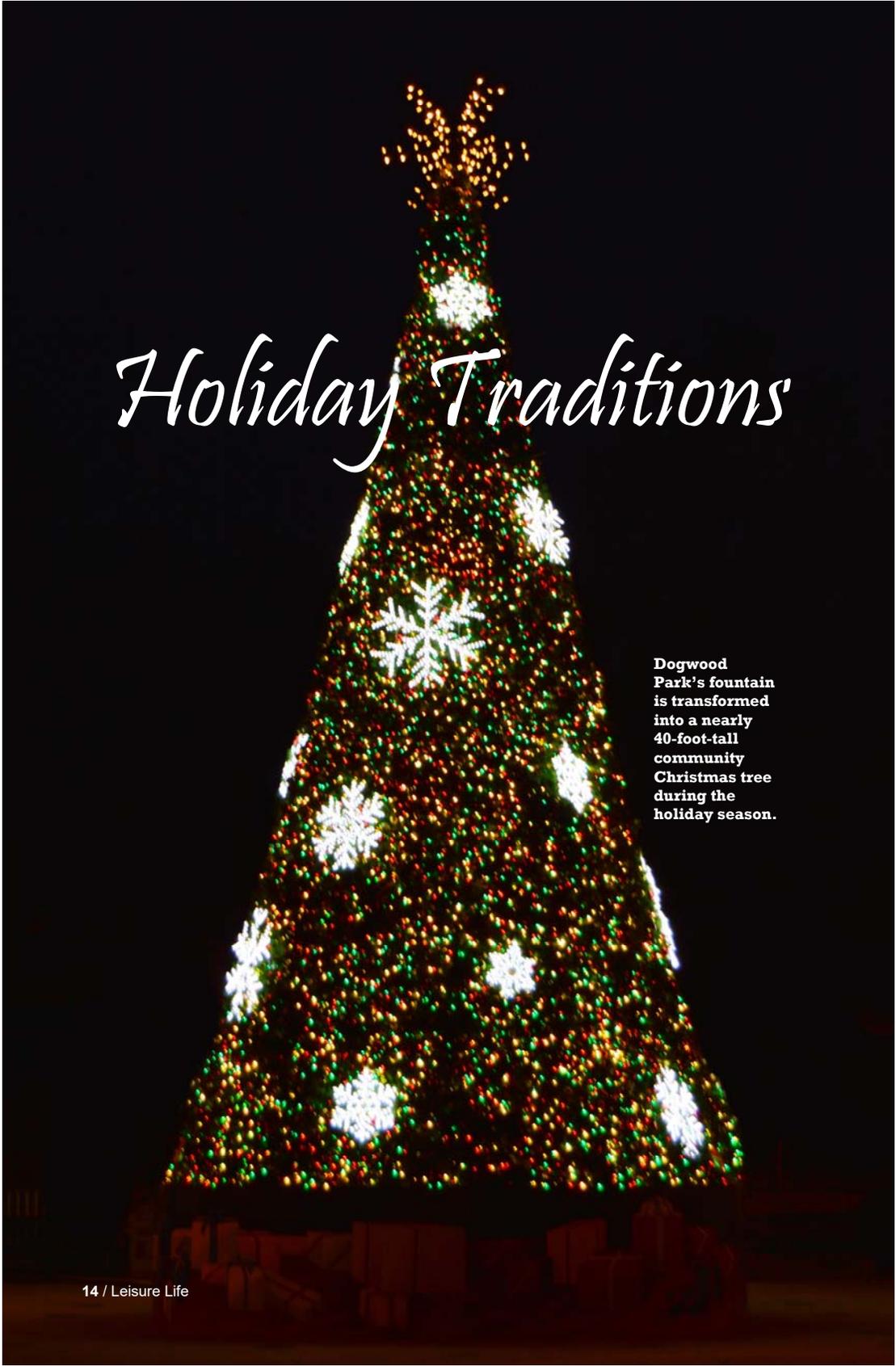
“We have so many different parks, so many different events — we’re just constantly adding to and improving the quality of life for people here,” he said. “It’s just something all the time. Cookeville’s got it going on.”

Hollingsworth stressed that it’s a team effort.

“Really and truly, when it comes down to it, the whole department needs to be spotlighted,” he said. “It’s not just one person. It takes everybody to make this ball roll.”

He encourages everyone to come out and enjoy Cane Creek Park.

“Hey, stop by and see me,” he said. “I’d love to talk to you.” ■



Holiday Traditions

**Dogwood
Park's fountain
is transformed
into a nearly
40-foot-tall
community
Christmas tree
during the
holiday season.**

As if the tree weren't beautiful enough, suddenly it's even more so. Musical too.

A lightshow synchronized to holiday tunes begins, transforming the atmosphere of Dogwood Park into something intense and magical as "Carol of the Bells," "Sleigh Ride," "Joy to the World" and a host of other songs blare from the nearly 40-foot Christmas tree.

Perhaps a crowd will gather. Or maybe just one or two. Some will simply watch as the white snowflakes and tiny colorful lights pulse to the beat. Others will dance like nobody's watching.

It's become a holiday tradition in Cookeville, one that begins with a community tree-lighting ceremony and Christmas celebration service on the first Sunday in December at 6 p.m. The festive night includes a visit from Santa and his elves, as well as lots of caroling.

In addition to the nightly 15-minute Christmas tree lightshow — which takes place every hour on the hour from 5-9 p.m. — this year's fifth annual Christmas in the Park will include Santa House, where children can share their Christmas wishes and pose for photos with Santa, and horse-drawn carriage rides. Both activities are free and will take place at Dogwood Park on Dec. 6-7, 5-8 p.m.; Dec. 8, 3-6 p.m.; Dec. 13, 5-8 p.m.; Dec. 14, 2-5 p.m.; Dec. 15, 3-6 p.m.; and Dec. 20, 5-8 p.m.

Another holiday tradition is the Cookeville Depot Museum's Christmas Open House. Held the first Saturday in December from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., this event includes caroling, holiday treats and games. This year, visitors will get to indulge in all the Christmas classics they grew up with — Rudolf, Frosty, Charlie Brown and more. Of course, Santa will be there too.

The Cookeville History Museum's fourth annual Christmas Forest exhibit opens the second Saturday of December from 10 a.m.-noon. There, folks can see numerous trees decorated by local non-profit organizations.

Another thing to add to your Christmas to-do list is a night drive to see Cookeville's best decorated holiday homes. Leisure Services and Upper Cumberland Association of Realtors will again present a Merry and Bright Holiday Home Challenge, and participants' addresses will be listed on a Tour of Lights map that will be available to everyone to enjoy.

So much is happening — and it's all free! ■



Children make special memories at the Depot Christmas Open House.



Elves prepare to meet children in the Santa House at Dogwood Park.



A little girl shares her Christmas wishes with Santa during the Depot Christmas Open House.



The Christmas Forest exhibit is a holiday highlight at the Cookeville History Museum.

CALENDAR



Shakespeare in the Park is a free outdoor theatre experience at Dogwood Park.

Shakespeare in the Park

Sept. 27-Oct. 5

Experience William Shakespeare's "Antony and Cleopatra" and "Cymbeline" under the stars during Shakespeare in the Park at 7 p.m. each night at Dogwood Park. Admission is free. Bring a lawn chair or blanket. Concessions are available.



A crowd gathers at the Cookeville Depot Museum for a Brown Bag Lunch concert.

Brown Bag Lunch Concerts

Oct. 4, 11, 18

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

Folklore History Hike

Oct. 12

Discover Cookeville's haunting history during the Boogers, Haunts and Haints Folklore History Hike. Get an entry form at the Cookeville Depot or Cookeville History Museum on Broad Street between 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Complete this free activity to be entered in a prize drawing.

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Fall & Spring Break Camp

Oct. 7-18

March 16-20

Fall and spring break camps for children who are in kindergarten through age 12 are offered at Cane Creek Recreation Center. (Summer camp is also offered.) For details, call 526-7393.



Children enjoy crafts and games during fall camp.



All Sports Camp

Oct. 14-18

This camp, held at Cane Creek Gymnasium, offers kids ages 7-12 a chance to learn or improve in several sports: basketball, pickleball, volleyball, soccer, baseball, football, golf, lacrosse and disc golf. Call 526-7393 to learn more.



Basketball is one of many sports children get to play at All Sports Camp.



Ashley McKee

See a spooky movie at the Cookeville Depot.

Boo, Y'all Halloween Cinema

Oct. 25

See "House on Haunted Hill" at 7 p.m. on the west patio of the Cookeville Depot Museum. Bring a chair or blanket and enjoy this free spooky movie under the stars. Popcorn and drinks are \$1 each.



Tree-lighting Ceremony

Dec. 1

Start the holiday season with the City of Cookeville's fifth annual Christmas in the park tree-lighting ceremony at 6 p.m. at Dogwood Park. Be there, along with Santa, as the lights come on, brightening a nearly 40-foot-tall Christmas tree, followed by a 15-minute lightshow synchronized to music. (The lightshow continues nightly every hour on the hour from 5-9 p.m. through New Year's Day.) This event also includes a Christmas Celebration Service with caroling and more. Also remember the Chamber of Commerce's 53rd annual Christmas parade Dec. 14 at 6 p.m.



Holiday magic awaits at Dogwood Park.

Holiday Concert

Nov. 24

Cookeville Community Band will perform its annual free holiday concert at 3 p.m. at Cookeville Performing Arts Center.

Elves on the Go

November-December

To schedule our elves for a local daycare or school holiday party, call 526-7393. Cost is \$25 for groups smaller than 25 or \$1 per extra child.

Christmas Tour of Lights

December

See Cookeville's best decorated holiday homes in our Tour of Lights. Pick up a map that includes entries in the Merry and Bright Holiday Home Challenge. For details, call 931-520-4386.



Children can share their Christmas wishes with Santa at the little red Santa House.

Santa House

Dec. 6-8, 13-15, 20

Enjoy a free visit with Santa and his elves in his little red house at Dogwood Park: Dec. 6-7, 5-8 p.m.; Dec. 8, 3-6 p.m.; Dec. 13, 5-8 p.m.; Dec. 14, 2-5 p.m.; Dec. 15, 3-6 p.m.; and Dec. 20, 5-8 p.m. Bring a camera to capture the smiles.



Enjoy free carriage rides at Dogwood Park.

Christmas Carriage Rides

Dec. 6-8, 13-15, 20

Enjoy free carriage rides around the Dogwood Park Christmas tree: Dec. 6-7, 5-8 p.m.; Dec. 8, 3-6 p.m.; Dec. 13, 5-8 p.m.; Dec. 14, 2-5 p.m.; Dec. 15, 3-6 p.m.; and Dec. 20, 5-8 p.m.

Depot Christmas Open House

Dec. 7

Indulge in the Christmas classics you grew up with — Rudolph, Frosty, Charlie Brown and more — during the free Depot Christmas Open House from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Enjoy caroling, games and treats, and take a photo with Santa. (He takes a cookie break from noon to 1 p.m.)



History Museum Open House

Dec. 14

Browse through the fourth annual Christmas Forest exhibit during the Cookeville History Museum's annual open house from 10 a.m. to noon. Admission is free.

CALENDAR



Yoga is one of many offerings during Fit Frenzy at Cane Creek Recreation Center.

Fit Frenzy

Jan. 18

Fit Frenzy is the perfect start to your New Year's fitness resolutions. Enjoy a free sampling of group fitness classes all in one morning at Cane Creek Recreation Center starting at 9 a.m. Different classes are offered every half hour during the 2 1/2-hour event. Participate or just watch. For class descriptions, call 526-7393 or visit www.cookeville-tn.gov/lis/fitness.



"Scavengers" search for items in Cookeville's historic WestSide District.

WestSide Scavenger Hunts

January-March

Get your family and friends together and spend the second Saturday of each month exploring Cookeville's historic WestSide District. This free activity begins at the Cookeville Depot Museum between 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Follow the clues, duplicate images in and around participating businesses with your cell phone or camera and be entered in a prize drawing.

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Winter Trout Fishing

December and January

Cane Creek Park offers trout fishing opportunities through Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency's Winter Trout Stocking Program. Approximately 5,000 rainbow trout are released in December and January. Anglers must have a Tennessee fishing license and trout stamp. For more information, visit www.tn.gov/twra.



Kim Frick-Welker

A scene from "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike" in 2019.

CPAC's Backstage Series

Jan. 24-26, 28, 30, 31, Feb. 1

Cookeville Performing Arts Center's award-winning Backstage Series continues nightly at 7:30 p.m. (except for a 3 p.m. Sunday matinee). Productions are selected for presentation in the intimacy of the backstage theatre setting. For ticket information, visit www.cpactn.com or call 528-1313.

Father-Daughter Date Night

Feb. 21, 22, 28, 29

One of Cookeville Leisure Services' oldest and most beloved annual events features formal dinner and dancing for dads and daughters of all ages. Tickets go on sale Jan. 11 at 8 a.m. at www.cookeville-tn.gov/lis. For sponsorship information, call 520-5297.

Softball/Kickball Leagues

Register in March

To register your softball or kickball team, call Cane Creek SportsPlex at 520-5224.



“I Spy Cookeville” was a popular summer exhibit at the Cookeville History Museum.

MUSEUM EXHIBITS

History keeps “changing” at the Cookeville History Museum — so don’t expect the same experience each time you visit. The front gallery continually houses new collections and displays that delight history lovers of all ages and keep them coming back. Past exhibits have featured miniature cars, an escape room and various items from local collectors — everything from prized family heirlooms to the creepy and unusual. Opening receptions are typically from 1-3 p.m. Also be sure to browse the rest of the museum to see the permanent exhibits. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at 40 E. Broad St. Admission is free.

Fall and Winter exhibits

Sept. 7-Oct. 26

Cookeville Crazy Quilters: Still Crazy About Quilts After 30 Years

Nov. 15-16

Cookeville Art Prowl

Dec. 14-Jan. 4

Christmas Forest

Jan. 18-Feb. 29

To be announced

March 14-May 9

Art exhibits

ONGOING

Classes and Programs

Looking for fun and healthy ways to spend your leisure time? Get involved in our classes and programs, some of which include Tai Chi, belly dance, self-defense, photography and chair yoga. Learn more at www.cookeville-tn.gov/ls/classes-programs or call Cane Creek Recreation Center at 526-7393.



Tai Chi classes are led by Nikki Desch.

Train Tales

Join the fun every Friday at 10:30 a.m. for a train story at the Cookeville Depot Museum. This free activity is geared toward preschool children.

Gym activities

Play basketball, volleyball, soccer, pickleball and cornhole at Cane Creek Gymnasium. 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. See the daily activity schedule at www.cookeville-tn.gov/ls/ccgym.

Fitness

Group fitness classes are offered daily at Cane Creek Recreation Center. Drop in for just \$3 per class — no membership required. Try your first class for free. See the monthly schedule at www.cookeville-tn.gov/ls/fitness.



Stay in shape the fun way in group fitness.



Park View Skate Park



Cookeville Depot Museum



Father-Daughter Date Night
Ty Kernea



Dogwood Park

CITY OF
COOKEVILLE
LEISURE SERVICES



Park View Park



Recreational Day Camp



Cafe Creek Park



Santa House