A photograph of a young child sitting on a blue plastic swing in a park. The child is wearing a black and white patterned knit hat, blue jeans, white socks, and blue sneakers with yellow accents. The child is smiling and looking towards the camera. The swing is suspended by metal chains. The background shows a line of bare trees and a body of water in the distance under a clear blue sky. The ground is covered in brown mulch and fallen leaves.

**COOKEVILLE**  
LEISURE SERVICES

# Leisure Life

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

Fall | Winter  
2020-2021



Cinderella Park



WestSide Scavenger Hunts



Cookeville History Museum



Cane Creek Recreation Center

CITY OF **COOKEVILLE** LEISURE SERVICES



Park View Skate Park



Fall Break Camp



Dogwood Park



Cookeville Depot Museum

# Leisure Life

On the  
Cover



A child swings on a brisk winter day at Cane Creek Park.

## Features

**4 | Recreation Reimagined**  
Leisure Services offers virtual alternatives in 2020

**6 | Different Spokes**  
Bicycle sculptures popping up at city parks and facilities

**12 | Employee Spotlight**  
Frank McCowan:  
Maintenance Foreman

**14 | Merry & Bright**  
Exterior home decorating contest and Tour of Lights keeps getting brighter

### DIRECTOR

Rick Woods

### WRITER, DESIGNER PHOTOGRAPHER

Amy Davis

### OFFICE MANAGER

Kristina Buttram

*Leisure Life* is a biannual magazine produced by the City of Cookeville Department of Leisure Services and Public Facilities. This is our 13th issue. Look for the spring and summer guide in April 2021.



45 E. Broad St.  
Cookeville, TN 38501  
931-520-4386

[www.cookeville-tn.gov/ls](http://www.cookeville-tn.gov/ls)  
[ls@cookeville-tn.gov](mailto:ls@cookeville-tn.gov)



## One word makes a difference

**W**e are confronted with insurmountable...” How would you complete this sentence? Would you insert “problems” or “challenges”? After all, the word “insurmountable” tends to bring to mind negativity — something too great to overcome.

### Director's Take



Rick Woods

But I prefer the way 20th century animator and cartoonist Walt Kelly filled in the blank. He used the word “opportunities” — as in, “We are confronted with insurmountable opportunities.”

Wow.

What a difference one word makes.

I’m not sure when Mr. Kelly first uttered this quote or what the context was, but I find truth in it today, especially as it relates to how Cookeville Leisure Services has adapted during these unprecedented pandemic times.

No matter what 2020 has thrown at us, our staff has done a great job of inserting “opportunities” in every sentence, leisurely speaking. When closures and cancellations impacted our usual way of doing things, we simply reimagined the concept of recreation.

Most of that was realized through an increased online presence. If you’ve seen some of our content — features like “Monday Minutes,” “Feel Good Friday,” “Train Tales” and “Conversations from Backstage” — you’ll know what I mean. If not, be sure to check out our social media sites for some fantastic entertainment and virtual activities.

I’m proud of what our team has been able to accomplish by putting a positive spin on things, despite the obstacles. That one word — opportunities — changes everything.

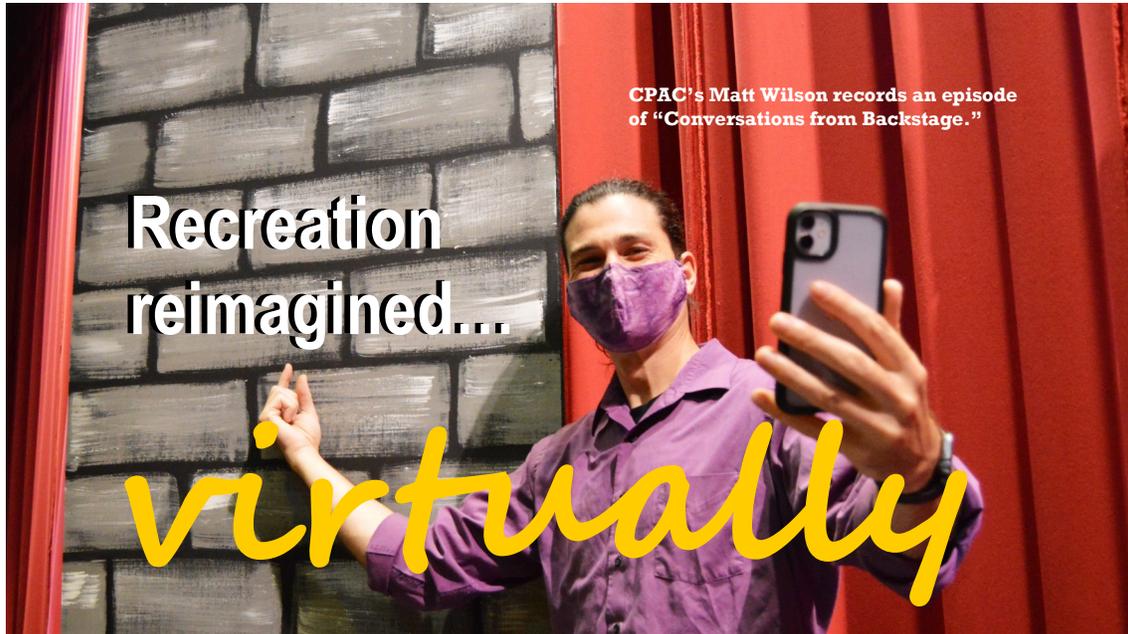
This optimistic way of thinking has also been evident in our parks and facilities. We just finished a resurfacing project at West End Park; now the community has a multi-use court for basketball and pickleball to enjoy.

We plan to keep the momentum going into 2021.

We’re getting closer to completing Cookeville’s first public dog park inside Cane Creek Park, and we’ll soon be adding new shade structures and restroom facilities at Dogwood Park’s Heart of the City Playground.

All of these exciting projects came about through community input. Going forward, we’ll be seeking more valuable input as we work on a new system-wide master plan for Cookeville’s parks and recreation facilities. What would you like to see in the next five years?

Opportunity awaits.



## Leisure Services adapts to pandemic year

“Happy Monday, everyone!”

Leisure Services Recreation Superintendent Cara Sheets is live on Facebook — sometimes at Cane Creek Recreation Center, sometimes in a city park — with an episode of “Monday Minutes.” She cheerfully gives updates for the week, talking about things like new fitness classes, museum exhibits and upcoming concerts and plays. On Wednesdays and Fridays, she and other recreation staff members return for “Mid-Week Health Check” and “Feel Good Friday.”

At the Cookeville Depot, “Engineer Ashley” McKee, with a storybook and train whistle in hand, finds a quiet spot each Friday morning to set up her video recording device. As education specialist for Cookeville’s museums, it’s part of her job to connect with local youth. One way has been through Train Tales, a time for preschoolers to gather for stories and activities at the depot. But lately, Train Tales has been a virtual program on Facebook.

Cookeville Performing Arts Center’s Matt Wilson has been busy making online connections as well. Each week, he records “Conversations from Backstage” with people in the local theatre community and posts new videos regularly on YouTube.

These are just a few examples of Cookeville Leisure Services’ increased social media presence, which stems from the “new normal” that began not too long ago — only back to March of 2020. And who could forget the reason for that?

In the beginning, it was all about finding innovative ways to stay connected to and meet the recreation and leisure needs of the community amid closures, cancellations, quarantining and social distancing.

But it has evolved into something more — now it’s about keeping good things going.

“We’ve been able to think outside the box and create some avenues of reaching peo-



**Sally Herren, Patty Partington and Cara Sheets record “Feel Good Friday” at Cane Creek Recreation Center.**

ple that didn't exist before," Sheets said. "It's opened our minds to what else we could offer."

Virtual alternatives to traditional recreation activities were especially vital early on when Cane Creek Recreation Center ceased all activities for a few weeks, including daily fitness classes, in keeping with recommendations by local health officials and the Centers for Disease Control. Instructors recorded fitness videos (which remain posted on the Cookeville Leisure Services website and YouTube channel) so participants could work out at home. Recreation programmer Sally Herren came up with a new "Staying at Home with Sally" craft series that has been shared on several social media sites.

"Our goal is to continue to provide quality classes, programs and events to the people in our community," Sheets said. "The pandemic didn't change that."

Beth Thompson, manager of the Cookeville Depot and Cookeville History Museum, said the biggest challenge for the historical arts division has been planning.

"We are usually planning at least a month or two in advance for events, programs and exhibits," she said.

Exhibits that had been scheduled for the spring and summer of 2020 were put on hold in favor of virtual activities.

"We have definitely had to get creative with online content by adding videos, games and photo posts to our social media platforms, which allowed us to reach an even larger audience," she said.

That content — things like "Artifact of the Week" and "One Word Wednesday" — has continued even with the reopening of the museums. Some temporary projects, such as script readings from past Cookeville Cemetery Walk events, remain posted on the Cookeville History Museum's YouTube page.

Chad McDonald, cultural arts superintendent, said that during the time CPAC was closed, performers and staff struggled with the lack of a live audience and

not being able to connect with patrons. That led to the development of online content — not only "Conversations from Backstage" but also solo senior dance recitals and even a virtual theatre experience titled "5! Thank You, 5!" which consisted of five 10-minute plays.

"Being creative in how our events and programs have been disseminated and consumed has led to some great discoveries," McDonald said. "Our production of '5! Thank You, 5!' was viewed online only and was very successful thanks to increased social media outreach and interaction."



Ashley McKee records Train Tales at the Cookeville Depot.

The athletics division also got a COVID curve ball. Softball league play at Cane Creek SportsPlex was cancelled for spring but resumed in the fall. Cane Creek Gymnasium reopened cautiously, first offering volleyball, pickleball and cornhole but holding off on contact sports like basketball and soccer.

"The goal is to eventually get all of our regular sports back once we can do so safely," Bonnie Graham, athletic superintendent, said. "We also want to figure out new things to offer the community."

Going into 2021, Leisure Services will continue to build on reimagined activities and events.

"Our goals are to remain active and pertinent and to advance the wellbeing of the community by increasing the quality of life," McDonald said.

Thompson agreed.

"This has been a weird year, but we're all in it together." ■



An arch filled with bicycles stands by the Cookeville Depot Museum.



Cane Creek Park's praying mantis.

# different Spokes

by different folks

Peculiar sculptures have been popping up at Cookeville parks and facilities — and they all have one thing in common.

They're made of bicycle parts.

At Cane Creek Park, visitors are greeted by a praying mantis. Upon closer inspection, one can see that the head is actually a bike seat; the rest, fenders and various other parts. Near the duck feeding area, a turtle made of silver sprockets stands proudly. His builder named him "Shell Silverstein."



This turtle sculpture at Cane Creek Park is made entirely from bicycle parts.

At Cane Creek Recreation Center, bicyclists and walkers on the Tommy Thomas Memorial Bike Trail will notice a one-of-a-kind bike rack — one that features a drum behind the seat and tambourines in the dented basket. The bike once belonged to the trail's namesake, a drummer and avid bicyclist, who peddled into his 90s.

By the Cookeville Depot, a multitude of curious creations awaits on a bicycle arch.

It's all part of the "Spokes" project, a concept that came from local artist Brad

Sells. A few years back, he had seen a similar arch while traveling in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Only that one was made of antlers.

“It was just really neat — an iconic thing,” he said.

So Sells, a board member at the time for the local non-profit group Art Round Tennessee, got to thinking about an icon for Cookeville.

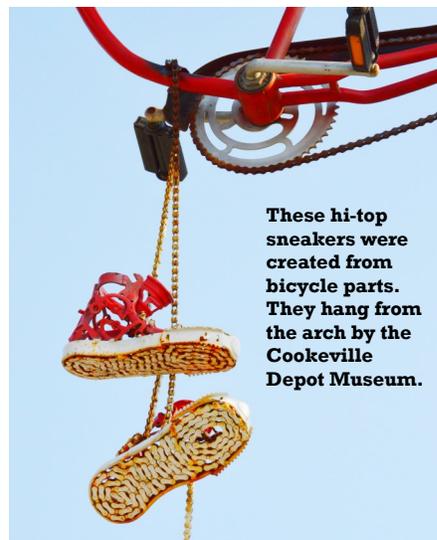
“I thought, ‘What if we did a bicycle arch that marks where the trail starts?’” he said, referring to the 4.2-mile Tennessee Central Trail for biking and walking that runs along the rail line between the Cookeville Depot and Algood Community Center. “To me, a bicycle is such an icon in itself. It’s a symbol of joy. It brings back memories of childhood. It’s also a symbol of innovation, mobility and technology. All of that can be seen in these bikes.”

“Spokes” was a partnership between Art Round Tennessee, the City of Cookeville and the Tennessee Arts Commission to bring art to public spaces. The depot arch was dedicated in 2018, but plenty of bike parts remained from community donations. Sells and other local artists involved in the project envisioned additional smaller pieces such as the praying mantis, which was sculpted by Marilee Hall, and the turtle, by David Fricke, at Cane Creek Park.

“I had always loved the praying mantis and was thrilled to come up with bike parts that worked just right,” Hall said. “My inspiration came simply from the magnificence and the human qualities of the praying mantis itself and from working with the metal artists on the project.”

Fricke said “Spokes” was a great moment for community-based art projects in Cookeville, as well as an achievement for the artists, city officials and cycling enthusiasts: “I feel humbled to live in a city that shows such a broad scope of support for public art. I can’t wait to see more.”

Emma Levitz worked on the banjo bike rack that was installed by the depot. The bike had been donated by retired teacher and musician Jack Sallee.



**These hi-top sneakers were created from bicycle parts. They hang from the arch by the Cookeville Depot Museum.**



**A banjo bike rack stands by the Depot.**

“I dug through Brad’s bicycle-filled studio to find the right parts to make the banjo,” Levitz said. “I hope ‘Spokes’ is only the beginning in inspiring more public art in Cookeville made by local artists.”

As a nod to pedestrians, Abraham Pardee sculpted a pair of Converse hi-tops that hang from the arch at the depot.

“I just laid dozens of bicycle parts around me until the parts of the sneakers appeared to me,” he said. “Chains became laces, gears became soles, and bearings became the Converse logo. It was a fun departure from how I normally create sculpture.”

Another piece by Pardee — an “Awesome Freddy” eagle weathervane atop a conglomerate of Peugeot bikes — can be found along the rail trail.

So many pieces and so many stories.

Sells is proud of each one — and hopes more will emerge through the project.

“I hope these sculptures bring people joy and a sense of connection.” ■

# PARKS



## 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.



## PARK VIEW PARK

**570 Scott Ave.**

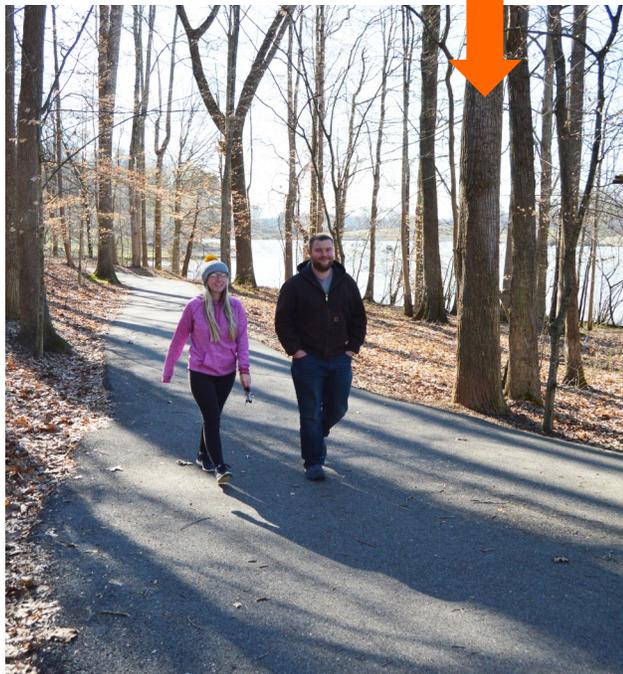
This park features four baseball fields, play equipment, a picnic shelter with a charcoal grill and a skate park. (Skate park closes at dusk.)

8 / Leisure Life

## 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. To reserve a picnic shelter, call 520-4386. Fall and winter hours are 7 a.m.-6 p.m.



## CAPSHAW PARK

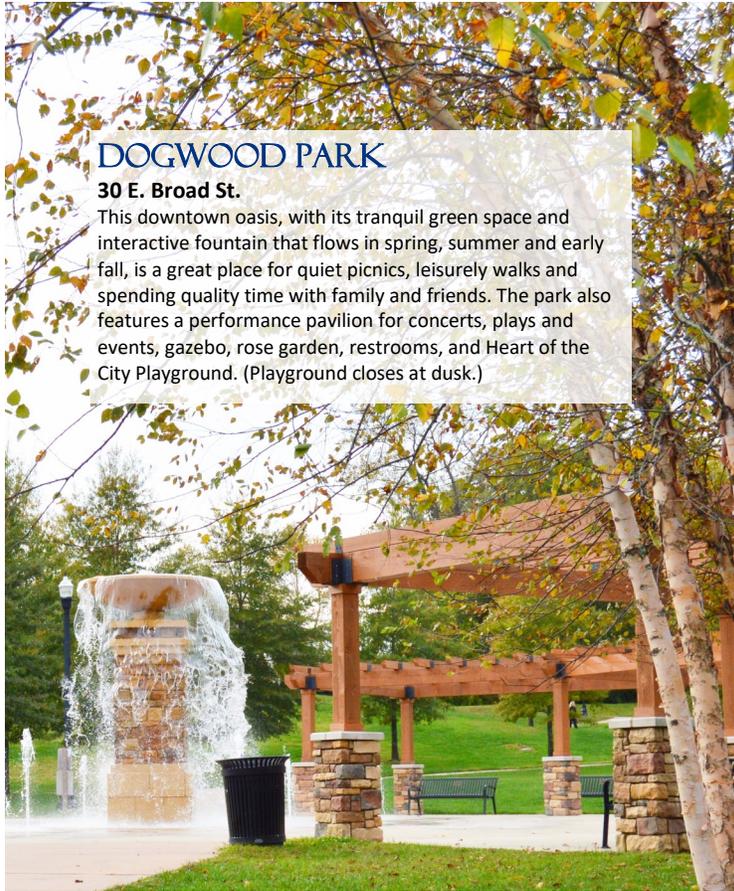
**560 E. Stevens St.**

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.

## 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, and a small waterfall awaits at the end of a trail through the woods just over a quarter of a mile away. 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.)



## 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.

## 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.

## 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, basketball and volleyball courts, a small field and restrooms.

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

# FACILITIES



## 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 and activities (concerts, movies and more) are held throughout the year. It's open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission is free.

## LEISURE SERVICES ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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

Have questions about the city's parks and facilities? Call or visit the Cookeville Leisure Services office. We are located in the lower level of the Cookeville Municipal Building, across from Dogwood Park.

## CANE CREEK RECREATION CENTER

**180 C C Camp Road | 526-7393**

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



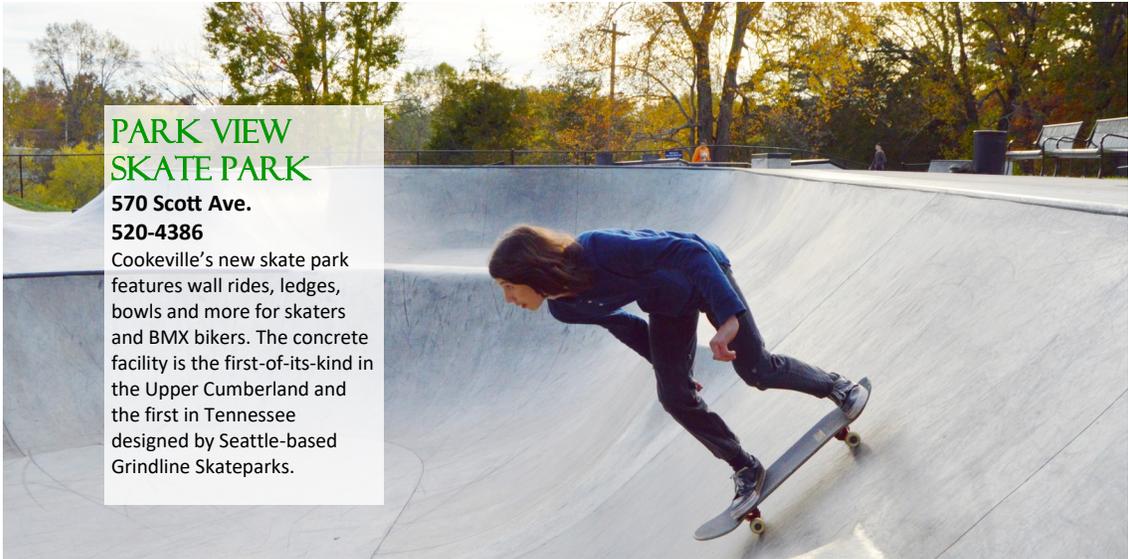
10 / Leisure Life



## COOKEVILLE HISTORY MUSEUM

**40 E. Broad St. | 520-5455**

Cookeville History Museum offers 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.



## PARK VIEW SKATE PARK

**570 Scott Ave.  
520-4386**

Cookeville's new skate park features wall rides, ledges, bowls and more for skaters and BMX bikers. The concrete facility is the first-of-its-kind in the Upper Cumberland and the first in Tennessee designed by Seattle-based Grindline Skateparks.

## 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.

## DOGWOOD PERFORMANCE PAVILION

**30 E. Broad St.  
528-1313**

Concerts, movies and plays are presented at Dogwood Park's performance pavilion. It may be reserved for events.



## 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 recitals, film screenings and events.

## 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.

## HEART OF THE CITY PLAYGROUND

**30 E. Broad St. | 520-4386**

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

## CITY CEMETERY

**241 S. Walnut Ave. | 372-8086**

Cookeville City Cemetery is operated by Cookeville Leisure Services. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

## 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.

## Employee Spotlight:

# Frank McCowan

Cookeville Leisure Services Maintenance Foreman

## Keeping it hands-on

**T**ake a look around any city facility or park. Chances are you'll find something Frank McCowan has helped build or repair.

After all, the maintenance foreman has been with Cookeville Leisure Services since 2006 — which means he's had his hands on plenty of projects through the years.

He and his fellow maintenance crew members do a little bit of everything to keep the city's buildings looking good and operating efficiently. That includes plumbing, wood-working, masonry, painting, wiring and anything else under the construction umbrella.

"Anything that pertains to building, we do it," McCowan said.

A typical day begins at the general maintenance building on East 15<sup>th</sup> Street. From there, he and his crew disperse to wherever they're needed for a particular job, be it city hall,



one of the parks or museums, the fire, police or water department, or any of the other numerous city facilities.

For the past few weeks, he's been working on a new building at the animal shelter. Next it'll be restrooms near Dogwood Park's Heart of the City Playground.

There's always something new to build, maintain, remodel or repair, and it's McCowan's job to line up all the materials needed for a project.

He enjoys that variety, as well as the opportunity to work with his hands. That's what led him to the Leisure Services Department in the first place.

He brought 20 years of welding experience to the job, having worked in Oak Ridge for a company that ended up moving to Texas. The Cookeville native then decided to come back home.

"That's when I got serious about getting my degree," he said.

He graduated from Tennessee Tech University with a B.S. in technology and manufacturing in 2002. Soon after, he realized that line of work wasn't for him. He preferred building things.

So he went to work for Leisure Services — first as a utility employee for five years and then as a plumber until he took on his current role in the summer of 2020. Along the way, he earned his master's degree in occupational safety and health from Middle Tennessee State University.

What does McCowan enjoy most about his job?

"The individuals I work with," he said.

That includes approximately 80 full-time and seasonal staff throughout the Leisure Services Department — not just those who work in buildings, parks and city cemetery maintenance, but also those in the recreation, cultural and historical arts, athletic and administrative divisions.

He is proud of the department's many maintenance accomplishments as well as its endless recreation offerings — and he won't pass up a chance to brag on them.

"If everyone had *Cookeville's* leisure services department..." he began, referring to leisure opportunities that may not exist in other cities. "That's the difference. We take pride in what we're doing. That's what I like."

McCowan's family includes a son, Joshua McCowan (who works for the city's electric department); a daughter, Samantha Chambers; and four grandchildren.

In his leisure time, he enjoys camping, fishing and kayaking on the Caney Fork River. He also looks forward to taking trips each year. Last year it was Maine; he's also been to Alaska. His favorite trip was to Yellow Stone National Park in 1994. Next he plans to visit Colorado.

How would McCowan describe himself?

"Boring!" he quickly said. "I guess that's why I'm so happy. As long as you don't have expectations, you're always going to be happy. Keep it simple." ■



**Frank McCowan on his latest job site:  
Cookeville/Putnam County Animal Shelter.**

# Merry & Bright

## Holiday Home Challenge keeps getting brighter

**C**lark Griswold would be proud of this holiday contest.

Cookeville's fourth annual Merry and Bright Holiday Home Challenge offers something for everyone, from those who go all out with lights and decorations to those who simply love to admire the wondrous displays.

First comes the contest — a chance for creative homeowners to roll up their holiday sleeves to compete for cash prizes and bragging rights. Then comes the Tour of Lights — because, of course, everybody wants to know where to find Cookeville's best and brightest holiday homes. So what better way than to follow a map featuring the addresses of all the Merry and Bright participants?

"It is a family tradition of ours to drive around and see all the Christmas lights every year," Sally Herren, Leisure Services' new recreation programmer, said.

Herren is also passionate about holiday decorating. Last year, she even entered the Merry and Bright contest, so she understands firsthand the competitiveness and spirited fun from both angles. Plus, she knows what it means to contest participants to have their handiwork enjoyed by passersby. That's why the self-guided Tour of Lights is the ideal bonus activity to complement the decorating challenge.

"My family entered the contest so everyone could come see our light display," Herren said. "The map makes it easier to spot all the houses in the competition."

The Merry and Bright Holiday Home Challenge, presented by Cookeville Leisure Services and the Upper Cumberland Association of Realtors, is an exterior home decorating contest for single-family residences in Putnam County within a 10-mile radius of the Cookeville Courthouse Square. For a \$10 entry fee, participants may enter the category (or categories) that best suits their decorating style for a chance to win up to \$100 and a yard sign.

This year's contest features newly revamped categories, plus some fun recognition awards. Those categories include Classic Christmas (think traditional, clean





displays), Merry and Bright (a Christmas feel with the brains of technology) and Holly Jolly (Santa, candy canes and all the things that make Christmas jolly, fun and cute). Participants may also strive for the outrageously festive and fun Griswold Award (think Christmas lights galore).

"I love the new categories," Herren said. "Classic Christmas is for the house that likes to keep it simple and elegant with lights and décor. Merry and Bright is more for the animated displays. Holly Jolly is definitely for the kid at heart who loves to see Santa and his reindeer or Frosty the Snowman out on the lawn. The Griswold Award is for the house that probably has a high electric bill during the contest because they have the most lights."

The best newcomer to the contest will be recognized as well.

"If you think you might not have a chance coming into the contest as a newbie, don't fret," Herren said. "We are going to award a newcomer for their

## CATEGORIES

- Classic Christmas
- Merry & Bright
- Holly Jolly
- Griswold Award

## FUN EXTRAS

- Newcomer Award
- People's Choice

hard work."

The always-competitive People's Choice social media contest will take place again on the Cookeville Leisure Services Department's Facebook page. This contest consists of Facebook users choosing the winner by "liking" the photo of their favorite holiday home from among all

Merry and Bright participants.

To make this year's program even more fun and interactive, Herren will be incorporating a new Christmas scavenger hunt that can be completed along with the Tour of Lights. Clues will be included on the map.

"Everyone can check off things they might see while driving around doing the Tour of Lights," she said.

Registration for the Merry and Bright Holiday Home Challenge will be open through Nov. 20. Judging will take place the first week of December. For more information, call 526-7393.

"During this uncertain time that 2020 has brought upon us, I think it is important for everyone to still get out and celebrate as much as they can," Herren said. "So much has been taken away from us this year, but this is one activity you can do safely this holiday season, whether you're decorating your own house for the contest or driving around to see the lights." ■





## SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK

**Oct. 2-10**

Experience a Shakespeare play under the night sky at Dogwood Park. This fall, we'll present *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare, Abridged* (revised) each evening at 7 p.m. Pull up a lawn chair and cozy up under a blanket. Admission is free.

## CLASSIC CINEMA AT THE DEPOT

**Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30**

Love classic movies? Join us on Fridays in October at the Cookeville Depot Museum at 7 p.m. Bring your lawn chair and a blanket and gather on the west patio to see some of your favorite old flicks. We'll end the series with a spooky one on the night before Halloween. Admission is free. Popcorn and drinks are \$1 each.

## FOLKLORE HISTORY HIKE

**Oct. 10**

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

## SPOOKTOBER

October will be full of spooky fun. Leisure Services is planning new activities, including a pumpkin carving contest and virtual costume contest. Watch for details on social media.



## BROWN BAG LUNCH CONCERTS

**Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23**

Music and lunch will come together in a fun and refreshing way for this fall concert series on Fridays in October from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. on the Cookeville Depot patio. Enjoy a variety of bands and music styles in this historic downtown venue. Admission is free. Lunch may be purchased on site.

*All events and activities subject to change based on public gathering recommendations.*



# Christmas IN THE Park

## TREE-LIGHTING CEREMONY

**Dec. 6**

Start the holiday season with the sixth annual Christmas in the Park Tree-Lighting and Christmas Celebration Service at 6 p.m. at Dogwood Park. This simple yet meaningful program will be live streamed so it can be enjoyed from home. Space is limited to maintain social distancing.

## MUSICAL LIGHTSHOW

**Dec. 6-Jan. 3**

Nothing sparks the joy of the holiday season quite like Dogwood Park's nearly 40-foot-tall Christmas tree and its amazing 15-minute musical lightshow. Stop by and enjoy it any night at the top of the hour between 5 and 9 p.m. Prepare to be amazed.

## PICTURES IN THE PARK

The magic and wonder of Christmas is everywhere at Dogwood Park so it's the perfect place to capture holiday smiles on camera. Get the family together under the glowing ornament arch or next to the big Christmas tree. We'll even have a huge holiday picture frame set up. Then stroll through all the other festive displays to see a new surprise or two.

## CHRISTMAS FOREST

**Nov. 28-Jan. 2**

Browse through a festive display of Christmas trees at the Cookeville History Museum's fifth annual Christmas Forest exhibit. It's open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Also, enjoy learning about the various community clubs and organizations that decorate each tree. Free admission!

## COCOA WITH CLAUS

**Dec. 12**

This sweet new event is a "claus" for celebration. Santa will be visiting Cane Creek Recreation Center to enjoy hot cocoa and take "selfies" with some good boys and girls between 9 a.m. and noon. Space is limited. Registration is required. To learn more, call 526-7393.

## HOLIDAY CONCERT

**Nov. 29**

Cookeville Community Band will perform its annual holiday concert at 3 p.m. at Cookeville Performing Arts Center. This live performance of classic tunes will have you feeling the Christmas spirit in no time. Admission is free.

## ZOOMING WITH SANTA

**Dec. 12**

Little ones will be able to enjoy virtual visits with Santa this holiday season using Zoom. Join the "meeting" as Santa reads one of his favorite stories. Registration is required. For more information, call 526-7393.

## DEPOT CHRISTMAS

**Dec. 5**

'Tis the season for caroling, games, model trains and holiday treats at the Cookeville Depot. Enjoy a socially distanced visit with Santa, too, during this beloved annual event. All activities are free.

## MERRY & BRIGHT TOUR OF LIGHTS

See Cookeville's best holiday homes! Pick up a map that includes entries in the fourth annual Merry and Bright Holiday Home Challenge and enjoy a wondrous drive. Call 520-4386 for details.

*All events and activities subject to change based on public gathering recommendations.*

# WINTER HAPPENINGS



## FIT FRENZY

**Jan. 16**

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.



## WINTER TROUT

**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. To learn more, visit [www.tn.gov/twra](http://www.tn.gov/twra).



## WESTSIDE SCAVENGER HUNTS

**Jan. 9, Feb. 13, March 13**

Explore Cookeville's historic WestSide District. Get started at the Cookeville Depot Museum between 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Follow the clues, duplicate images around businesses with your camera and be entered in a prize drawing.

## FATHER-DAUGHTER DATE NIGHT

**Feb. 19, 20, 26, 27**

Our oldest and most beloved annual event features a formal dinner and dancing for dads and daughters of all ages at the Leslie Town Centre. Tickets for this sell-out event go on sale Jan. 9 at 8 a.m. at [www.cookeville-tn.gov/lc](http://www.cookeville-tn.gov/lc).



## BACKSTAGE SERIES

**Jan. 22, 23, 24, 26, 28, 29, 30 and Feb. 26, 27, 28, March 2, 4, 5, 6**

Cookeville Performing Arts Center's award-winning Backstage Series continues with two winter productions to be announced. Shows are selected especially for presentation in the intimacy of the backstage theatre setting. For tickets, call 528-1313 or visit [www.cpactn.com](http://www.cpactn.com).

## SOFTBALL & KICKBALL

**Register in March**

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

*All events and activities subject to change based on public gathering recommendations.*



## RECREATION CAMPS

**Oct. 5-16 and March 15-19**

Cane Creek Recreation Center is the place to be for fall and spring break camps for children in kindergarten through age 12. (Summer camp is also available.) We believe camp is a special time and strive to ensure all of our campers make the most of their experience through fun, age-appropriate activities. Call 526-7393 for details.

## ATHLETIC CAMPS

**March 15-19**

Athletic camps will be offered at Cane Creek Gymnasium and Cane Creek SportsPlex during spring break. This is a chance for kids ages 7-12 to learn or improve in several sports, including basketball, volleyball, pickleball, soccer, baseball, football, golf, lacrosse and disc golf. Call 526-7393 or 520-5224 to learn more.

*Camps are subject to change or cancellation based on public gathering recommendations.*

## CLASSES & PROGRAMS

Looking for fun, healthy and educational ways to spend your leisure time? Get involved in our classes and programs, some of which include tai chi (see right), kickboxing and nature hikes. New activities are continually being planned. Register at [www.cookeville-tn.gov/lis/classes-programs](http://www.cookeville-tn.gov/lis/classes-programs). For more information, call Cane Creek Recreation Center at 526-7393.



## FITNESS & WELLNESS

Get fit and healthy the fun way. Leisure Services offers a variety of group fitness and wellness classes daily at Cane Creek Recreation Center. We have something for all fitness and ability levels, from Club Cardio to Strength Training and Conditioning to Chair Yoga (see left). Drop in for just \$3 per class (unless otherwise posted) — no contract or membership required. Your first visit is free. See the monthly schedule and class descriptions at [www.cookeville-tn.gov/lis/fitness](http://www.cookeville-tn.gov/lis/fitness).



Cane Creek Park



Depot Christmas Open House

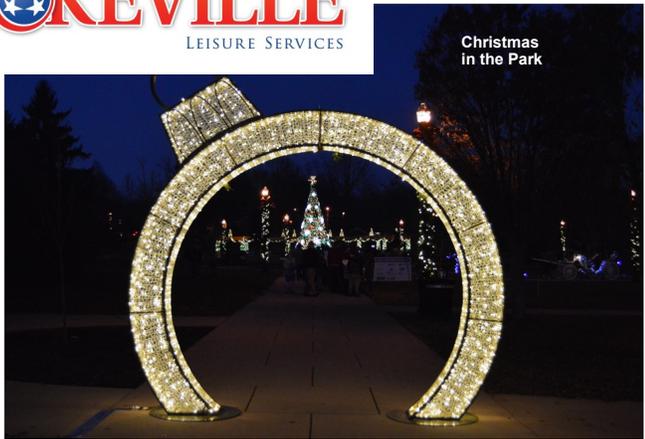


Cookeville Performing Arts Center

CITY OF COOKEVILLE LEISURE SERVICES



Dogwood Park



Christmas in the Park



Shakespeare in the Park



Cane Creek Park