

# CLARKSVILLE

Life, Community, Home & Health in Clarksville, Ft. Campbell & Beyond **LIVING**

## TORI'S STORY

Discover Your Creative Spirit at Sprig & Spire: unique furniture, plants, and gifts, crafted by Tori Fleahman, founder and Jill-of-all-trades at Clarksville's newest cozy retreat. Read more about her journey starting on page 6.

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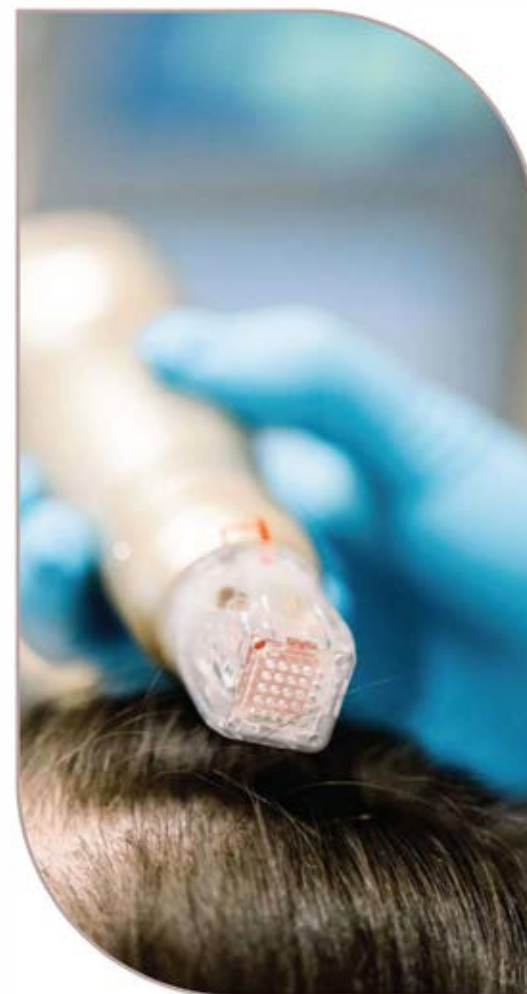
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**FOR ADVERTISING OR MARKETING INQUIRIES**  
**STEPHEN HOFMEISTER**  
 call or text: (931) 217-0768  
 email: [stephen@clarksvillevivingmag.com](mailto:stephen@clarksvillevivingmag.com)

**For all other information or questions:**  
**E-mail:** [info@clarksvillevivingmag.com](mailto:info@clarksvillevivingmag.com)  
**Mail:** PO Box 31867  
 Clarksville, TN

**Web:** [clarksvillevivingmag.com](http://clarksvillevivingmag.com)

Look for us on Facebook 

**Founder/Publisher Emeritus**  
 Carla Lavergne

**Advertising**  
 Stephen Hofmeister  
 (931) 217-0768  
[stephen@clarksvillevivingmag.com](mailto:stephen@clarksvillevivingmag.com)

**Editor**  
 Victor Lavergne

**Graphic Design**  
 Carla Lavergne

**Staff Writers**  
 Tony Centonze  
 Paige Eisemann  
 Taylor K Lieberstein

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## Publisher's note

There's no doubt that you noticed this month's lovely cover model, Tori Fleahman. Please take a moment to read Paige Eisemann's article on how Tori converted an old service station into a cozy and inspiring retreat for handcrafted furniture, unique plants, and special gifts, starting on page 6.

There's a LOT going on this month in our incredible community, so be sure to check every page, to make sure you don't miss anything! Pair this with the fabulous weather that seems to be rolling in and I think we are looking at an amazing spring and summer.

We hope you have a safe and happy May. As always, thank you for picking us up!



*Carla Lavergne*  
 Publisher Emeritus

This month's find-a-word puzzle for clues about what's inside this month's issue!



Find the following words in the puzzle.  
 Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

- |              |            |           |
|--------------|------------|-----------|
| ARTISAN      | FESTIVAL   | SPIRE     |
| CARIBBEAN    | FOODTRUCK  | SPRIG     |
| CLARKSVILLE  | GOOBS      | SUMMER    |
| ENTREPRENEUR | GOVERNMENT | TENNESSEE |

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The need for care for foster children is on the rise, and one nonprofit organization, Joy Closet, is there to help. Founder and Executive Director Heather Gray began her work with Joy Closet in 2021, providing free items and services for children and foster families.

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They are always open to having volunteers, especially during donation hours, Monday and Thursday from 8:30-11 a.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Joy Closet's shopping hours to pick out free items are Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Joy Closet is at 814 Belmont St. in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, and serves nine counties in the Pennyroyal area as well as Clarksville-Montgomery County in Tennessee.

To learn more visit [joycloset.org](http://joycloset.org), email [heather@joycloset.org](mailto:heather@joycloset.org), on Facebook or Instagram go to [@joyclosetky](https://www.instagram.com/joyclosetky), or call 270-632-1232.

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# RENAISSANCE WOMAN



**N**estled in an unexpected area near downtown Clarksville, there is a cozy and inspiring retreat. A place where an artisan can see and feel handcrafted furniture, explore a plethora of unique plants for your home and garden, and purchase special gifts with flair. This place is the creation of local Tori Fleahman, a creative soul that is sharing her unique style and talents with our community at her new business Sprig & Spire.

Looking for a gift that is truly special? Searching for a custom furniture piece for your home and tired of mass produced low quality options? Seeking the perfect plant to add to your collection? Sprig & Spire is the perfect place for you!



Tori's vision for the renovated service station has taken shape and it is gorgeous. Creating an earthy yet refined atmosphere while embracing the character of the unique building, Tori showcases her handiwork

among gorgeous living things set against the industrial original feel of the building. Located at 714 Red River Street, Sprig and Spire perfectly melds the old with the new. Flooded with natural light from the massive windows (both old and new), one could easily imagine her expertly crafted pieces becoming a part of their own home. Gifts and merchandise carefully selected and representing Tori's own style are available for purchase, great for wedding and housewarming season. Guaranteed to be loved by any recipient!

The transformation of the former service station has been much longer than anticipated, but totally worth the effort. Everywhere you look both inside and out, there are details

that reflect Tori's style. Adjacent to the former Vulcan factory property, Sprig and Spire is located in an area off College Street that is primed to become a bustling part of the city. The proximity to both APSU and the downtown area with new restaurants, the multi-purpose arena, and future shopping and living spaces make the space one step ahead of a revitalization that has already begun in the area. Maintaining the character and details throughout the space, Tori has mixed the old with the new. Visitors often remark to her that they didn't even know the building was there, but once they have visited they are certain to return! Even a delivery driver who brought packages while on his route recently returned later in the week with his family to observe



Tori working on some custom builds. Local artisans are sure to enjoy not only Tori's woodworking, but also the space that she is creating around her shop. For the grand opening on April 2, people gathered throughout the store and into the outdoor garden

space. Enjoying lambs and goats available for petting and feeding, people were excited to hear about the future vegetable garden space Tori is planning to help educate visitors about growing and maintaining their own garden areas.

*Continued on page 8*

**CLARKSVILLE'S  
BEST BURGER  
SINCE 1965**

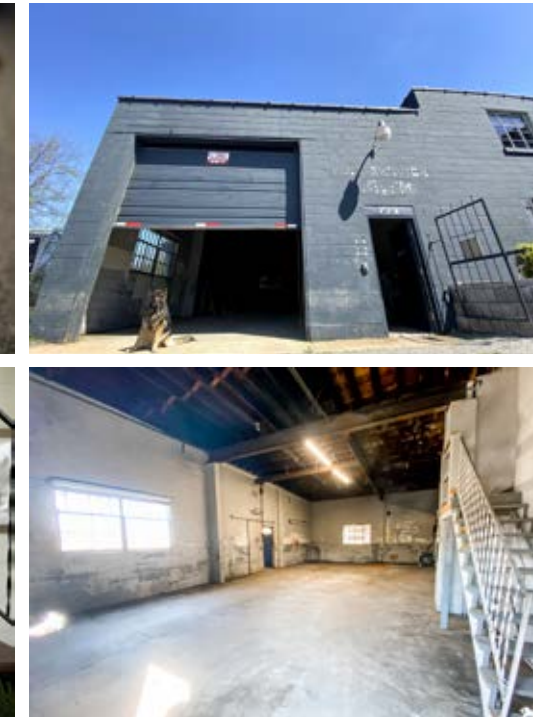
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Woodworking is not something people usually think of when considering female craftsmen. Tori says that she comes from a family of creatives, with relatives who do everything from baking yummy macarons to visual arts such as painting. One of her favorite things about Sprig & Spire is how she has been able to not only educate but also encourage other artisans. Clarksville is primed for a resurgence of creative culture, and Tori is right in the midst of it- sharing her craft and encouraging people to do things

that they really love to do. She says that her favorite part of building her business is inspiring women and all creative people to be more confident, learn something that they can pass on. "Some of these things you have to do hands on, you can't learn them from a book. I invite people all the time to pop in, ask questions about their home projects, their hobbies, or even questions about woodworking tools." As a busy mother, she is not only building her business but is passionate about sharing and encouraging not only her children but others as well.

something that is made of quality wood by the hands of someone honing their skills that will last a lifetime and can be handed down.

Generational furniture has become far less common as people go for the ease of pressed wood pieces such as IKEA items. Seeing the beautiful grain and artfully angled edges on Tori's custom creations puts other items to shame, and what could be better than owning something made

especially for you and knowing that you can share it with your family for generations?

Visit Sprig & Spire to shop, learn, and explore the carefully curated gift selection. Return to cultivate the creative within yourself and your own home. Tori will welcome you into Sprig and Spire with a smile and you are guaranteed to leave with a few plants, some gifts, and plenty of ideas on how to create and inspire others in your own life!

consultations and visits. The store is a working woodshop so something is always being built!

Follow Sprig and Spire on social media, call 931-802-2726 or email Tori at [sprigandspire@gmail.com](mailto:sprigandspire@gmail.com) for more. 🦋



While in the store, shop among some of the custom made woodwork made by Tori. If you don't see what you are looking for, or you have been searching for something in a specific size or shape, inquire! People are often surprised to learn that having a bespoke piece created is often about the same price as mass produced items, but you wind up with



**Sprig and Spire is located at 714 Red River Street**, off College Street in the area where Vulcan and Frosty Morn were previously located. Store hours are currently Thursday and Friday, 11AM-6PM and Saturday 9AM-2PM, closed Sunday. Monday through Wednesday is by appointment only, however Tori is available six days a week for furniture

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One local family is creating a place where Clarksville can shop local handcrafted items, enjoy amazing food and beverages, enjoy a fun evening out with friends, or hold a special event- all in one place. The Goobs Cafe and The Goobs Small Business Warehouse is "a small business made up of small businesses" and they have something for everyone!

Located at 260 Needmore Road, this special place is owned and operated by Hayley and Christopher Gubelman. You can tell that this is a family business from the moment you enter the doors. To say that they are passionate about sharing with our community is an understatement. Their time and hard work shows throughout the facility, spotlighting local vendors and their wares. The newest addition of The Goobs Cafe is no exception. The bright and happy space offers plenty of seating, whether for an intimate date or chat or a large gathering of friends. The menu offers something for everyone. The specialty

drinks menu is a fan favorite, offering all sorts of unique options from the Gimme S'More (a toasted marshmallow and mocha frappe with graham cracker crumbs), the Pretty Woman (a lavender and coconut frappe with caramel drizzle), a Butterbeer Macchiato (iced butterbeer and espresso with sweet cream) and a Berries & Cream Spritzer (wild berry and vanilla Italian soda spritzer). Coffee fans as well as soda fans will find something to enjoy. More traditional options are also available both in iced and hot variety, with Americano, Macchiato, Cappuccino, and Frappe being very popular for coffee drinkers.



Clarksville Living

# meet THE GOOBS!

By Paige Eisemann

The non-coffee options include various teas, chai lattes, lemonade, hot chocolate, and more. There is also a wide selection of Boba drinks available, and you can choose a Thai or Taro tea base or simply add tapioca or bursting boba to any iced beverage or frappe.

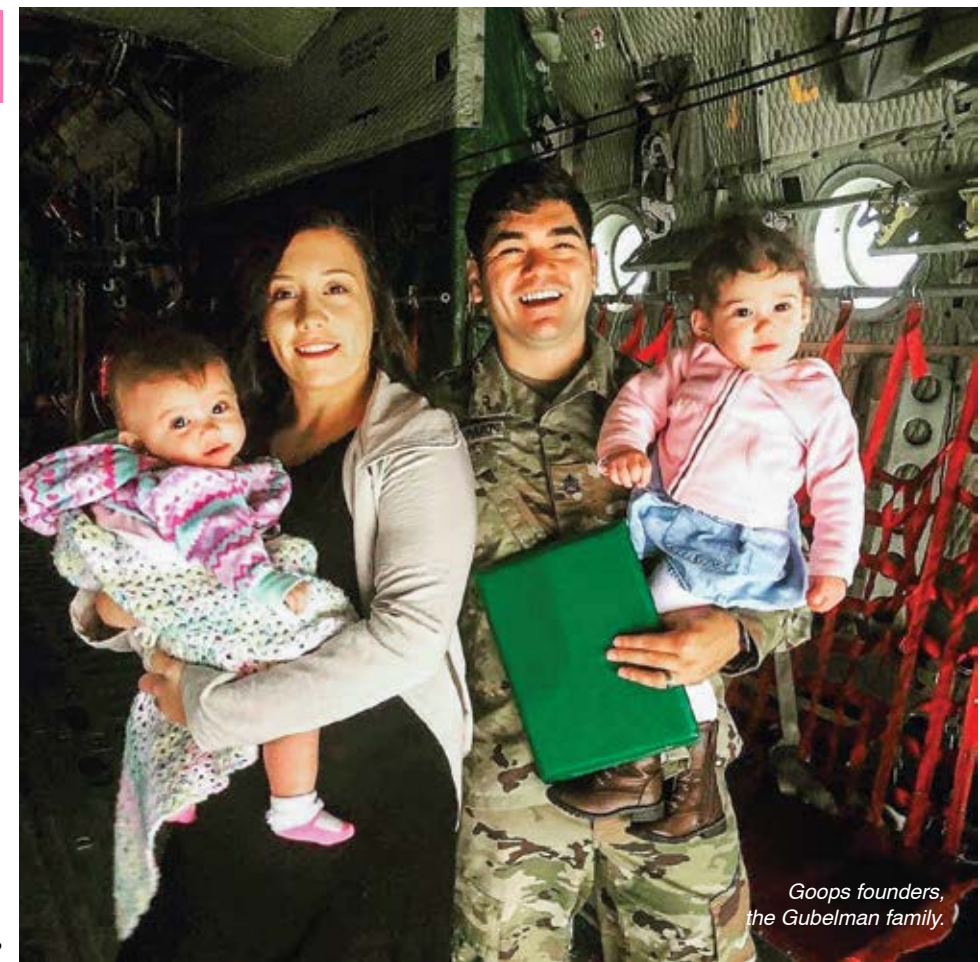
*"The Goobs is a Small Business Made Up of Small Businesses."*

There were many delicious bakery items available, as well as many house recipe sub sandwiches and salads. A fan favorite are the cake pops, which are available in several flavors and are enormous! Recent additions that will surely bring in crowds are yummy hot poutine, Michigan dogs, and Garbage plates! Clarksvillians who have spent any time in upstate New York are sure to find these offerings a welcome treat for our area! A weekly specialty frappe drink is offered, and they are sure to rival any of the fancy

overflowing milkshake creations you've seen. Recent themed drinks were "Barbie", which was a gauzy pink concoction featuring pink candies and cotton candy, and a "Stranger Things" drink which was chocolate covered strawberry flavor and featured a chocolate frosted rim coated in Oreo crumbs and overflowed with a "string of lights" cakepop, a chocolate covered waffle, cotton candy and a decorative image of a character from the show. These weekly drink specials are creative and delightful! The glass comes with your purchase, so you are free to take it home if you can't finish it while there!

The most commonly asked question that the Gubelmans receive about their business is "Where did the name come from?" Hayley

Continued on page 12



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shares that she and Christopher met in a typical Army love story when they met at Ft. Campbell in 2014. They lived one door down from each other in the barracks, and worked in the same office. Quickly becoming friends, they were both deployed at the same time (although to different locations). When they

returned from deployment and were married two years later, they took on Christopher's nickname "The Goob" as a couple, becoming known to family and friends as "The Goobs". Seven years later, they are proud parents and business owners, helping local artisans and creators sell their creations to our

community. Not only have they expanded the Small Business Warehouse portion of their business, but with their recent acquisition of the cafe they have created a one stop shop, a true destination.

There are many community events that happen at The Goobs. On a recent evening, groups came into the large inviting event space at the rear of the building for a fun night of Singo- a music trivia game. Even shoppers in the store who weren't participating in the game were taken by the fun snippets of songs playing and the rousing camaraderie among the guests. The guests enjoyed delicious looking food and drinks from the cafe as they played. The event space is bright and welcoming, and offers a variety of seating options as well as a photo area. There is an additional outdoor event space available for larger events such as parties, banquets, or receptions. The central location on Needmore Road makes for easy access from most areas of town, and would be wonderful for use for a wedding or baby shower, retirement or graduation reception or even a rehearsal banquet.

how much love and attention they've put into their business. It's not hard to see why The Goobs are growing in popularity! Stop by to try their wonderful cafe, browse through handcrafted wares, and make plans to enjoy a fun evening with family and friends. The

Goobs truly have something for everyone! Follow The Goobs Cafe and The Goobs Small Business Warehouse on social media, visit them at 260 Needmore Road, call 931-280-6461, or email [thegoobscfe@gmail.com](mailto:thegoobscfe@gmail.com) for more information. 🦋



# SPRING INTO SUMMER FEST 2023

By Ryan Clark

**O**ak Grove is gearing up for its 16th annual Spring into Summer Salutes Ft. Campbell Festival, which promises to be a weekend filled with exciting activities for visitors of all ages. This year's festival is set to take place on May 27-28, 2023, and is expected to draw a large crowd of locals and tourists alike. The festival, which is organized by the Oak Grove Tourism & Convention Commission, offers an array of attractions, including live music, carnival rides, games, arts and crafts exhibits, and food vendors.

young country for the last decade. Rolling Stone has proclaimed him "a live legacy in the making," and he is a frequent presence at the nation's biggest country festivals, tours, and unexpected sit-ins.

The festival will take place on the grounds of the War Memorial Walking Trail Park at 101 Walter Garrett Lane, Oak Grove, KY, 42262. All activities at the Spring into Summer Salutes Fort Campbell Festival are free and open to the public, including the concert, parking, carnival rides, and shows. The festival will also feature a 6-man parachute jump show

and a spectacular firework show to close out Saturday night's festival.

In addition to the concert, visitors can enjoy a variety of other activities throughout the weekend. The popular bubble zone attraction will make its way back to the festival this year. The bubble zone is an area perfect for adults and kids alike, with pools filled with bubble solution and bubble wands of all shapes and sizes. There will also be free carnival rides for all to enjoy with no tickets or wristbands required. Active-duty military will have the opportunity to enter for a chance to win a free

One of the festival's main highlights is the live music, and this year, country music artist Chris Janson has been announced as the headlining act. Janson is a proud member of the Grand Ole Opry and a multi-platinum songwriter and artist. His hit songs include "Fix A Drink," "Good Vibes," "Buy Me A Boat," "Done," "Things You Can't Live Without," and "Drunk Girl," which was nominated for CMA Song of the Year and ACM Video of the Year. Artists like Tim McGraw, Justin Moore, Cody Johnson, and Hank Williams Jr. have also recorded Janson's songs for their own projects. According to Traci Cunningham, Executive Director of Oak Grove Tourism & Convention Commission, Janson was chosen as the headliner because of his high energy performances and his support for the military. Janson's love for the outdoors and collaborations with Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's have also made him a go-to guy for



Country music artist Chris Jansen



basket full of exciting prizes.

The festival is a great way for people to connect with each other and make lasting memories. Families with young children can enjoy the carnival rides, games, and other kid-friendly activities, while creating a sense of unity and celebration within the community. Visitors can also browse and purchase various handmade arts and crafts from local artisans, or participate in workshops to learn about different art forms.

Overall, the Spring into Summer Salutes Fort Campbell Festival promises to be an exciting weekend filled with live music, entertainment, food, and family-friendly activities. Visitors can follow all of the festival's events by finding Oak Grove Tourism & Convention Commission on Facebook, TikTok, Twitter, or Instagram. For more information, go to [www.visitoakgroveky.com](http://www.visitoakgroveky.com).

**DATES/TIMES:**  
The 2023 Spring Into Summer Salutes Fort Campbell Festival will be from 12pm to 9pm on Saturday, May 27th and 12pm to 6pm on Sunday, May 28th this year.

**MUSIC HEADLINER:**  
We are proud to announce that our music headliner is multi-platinum country star Chris Janson. Chris Janson is known for his high energy performances. He has many hit songs including "Buy Me a Boat", "Holdin Her", "Fix a Drink", "Drunk Girl" and many others.  
Performance Time: The concert starts at 7pm at the Viceroy Performing Arts Center in Oak Grove, KY on Saturday, May 27th.

**ENTERTAINMENT:**  
The 16th Annual Spring Into Summer Salutes Fort Campbell Festival will feature the following.

- Carnival
- Circus
- BMX Bike Show
- Bubble zone – a kid's area with a lot of bubbles/different sized bubbles
- Oscar the Robot – a fun talking robot (controlled by a human with a microphone) will be wondering around the festival chatting with attendees
- Vendors – a wide variety of arts/crafts vendors

- Parachute jump show – parachute jumpers jump from a plane showing off parachutes
- Patriotic fireworks show
- Food – provided by the carnival

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## ON CAPITOL HILL: ONE INTERNS EXPERIENCE AT THE STATE CAPITOL

By Alexandra Arnold

**T**he people of Tennessee have been in a state of sorrow and mourning for the last month. What happened in March at The Covenant School in Nashville has been on everyone's hearts and minds-regardless of their political standing. Protests at the Tennessee State Capitol followed the shooting and a trio of legislatures nicknamed "The Tennessee Three" became the face of the protests.

Grace Watson has been in the middle of it all. 20-year-old Watson, a faith and social justice student at Belmont University, spent the first part of this year as an intern at the Tennessee State Capitol working under Sen. Jeff Yarbro.

According to the Tennessee General Assembly website, the Legislative Internship Program ran from January 9 to April 28 of this year and was for college juniors and seniors, as well as graduate students, in related majors. These students earned a stipend of \$400 a week in addition to college credit. Watson, of course, had the privilege of being one of these students.

She says she performed many typical internship tasks: retrieving copies, filing papers and answering phones. However, she also fulfilled more complicated duties specific to the State Capitol. Answering calls from constituents, helping people with unemployment claims, filing legislation and going to session were also part of her daily jobs.

Her internship was not all work, like one many think. The interns also went on tours of important historical and governmental locations, heard from guest speakers and worked on projects.

According to Watson, she and the other 2023 interns went to places like the Tennessee State Museum, the Bicentennial Mall, the Tennessee State Library and Archives and Tennessee's Supreme Court. Lt. Gov. Randy McNally and Speaker Cameron Sexton were among the guest speakers that shared their experiences and knowledge with the interns. As for projects, past interns have worked on the Great Strides Project for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and



Habitat for Humanity, says the Tennessee General Assembly website.

For Watson, she believes that one of the most important things she has worked on has been her own legislation. Sen. Yarbro allows his interns to write their own legislation for an issue that is important to them. Watson drafted a legislation that, if passed, would allow those who are incarcerated and unconvicted to gain an absentee ballot and vote in elections. This is an issue that Watson is passionate about and wishes to see solved in the near future.

Watson is barely out of her teens and is already working on important issues-and working with important people. She said working with such important people at such a young age was "interesting". She explains:

I think you kind of get to see the more human side of them behind what you might see in the news or what you might read in a headline. You really get to know them and you get to know their ideals behind why they fight for what they fight for...And I think it's just getting to see them, you know, more humbly. You see them exhausted, you see them happy, you see them sad. It's a really cool relationship that you get to form.

She wasn't the only one who got to meet these important people. Her family and friends also got to meet the legislators. Watson had the opportunity to be the chair of the Family Day committee and put together a day where the interns' family and friends

could come up "on the Hill" and see how things are run. This was her favorite experience of her internship. "It was really cool to let my family in on that inside scoop I guess you could say of like, this is how the legislature works, this is the little things that get done to make sure that our state works. I just really loved getting an opportunity to show that to my friends and family."

Watson had a lot of fun with her internship, but it did have its challenges. She struggled some with separating her emotions from what was going on at the Capitol and in the government. She says it was hard to remain "not too personally involved in your work". Working in a place like the State Capitol, where you are constantly dealing with heavy issues, can take a toll on you if you're not careful. "I think when I first started those losses were hitting me so hard because I was so passionate about the things that my office was doing," she explained.

One may think that another struggle would be dealing with a possible change in political views. While at the Capitol, you are surrounded by all types of viewpoints and all types of sides. It would be impossible to not let that have an effect on you. However, for Watson, her views were strengthened, not changed. Experiencing it for herself, and seeing how laws, amendments and the government actually affect others is what solidified and reinforced her beliefs. She had an abundance of information at her fingertips as well. It gave her more knowledge to be able to speak on the issues she's passionate about.

She learned more than just politics at the Capitol. Being in such a fast-paced environment taught her to "come prepared and to go with the flow". Coming to work with positivity and an open mind is key. She said that she was expecting to come to a very strict and high profile job. It was, but you also didn't know what was going to happen when you came into work. You had to be on your toes.

What happened in Nashville at The Covenant School was one such event that was not expected. School shootings have been a significant topic for years in our country, but

what happened in March made it personal for our state. It has been a woeful time for Tennesseans. Everyone, including state legislators, were saddened, and continue to be saddened by the horrific news from Nashville. It has, without a doubt, caused great stress for our state government, seeing as they have been working tirelessly to come to the best solution. However, according to Watson, the environment has been "uplifting". "You could see people supporting each other and coming together," she said. The legislators are really showing that they care. Many of the legislators were very passionate about finding the right solution and making things better. For Watson, that was comforting to see. With this knowledge, there is hope that one day soon things will be better. That's something everyone-regardless of their political standing-can agree on.

Watson's goal is to become a professor. She is moving to Northern Ireland next year to study abroad at Queen's University with a plan to receive her master's degree. 🦋

**"GRACE WATSON DRAFTED A LEGISLATION THAT, IF PASSED, WOULD ALLOW THOSE WHO ARE INCARCERATED AND UNCONVICTED TO GAIN AN ABSENTEE BALLOT AND VOTE IN ELECTIONS."**



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A couple of years ago, as I listened to the All It Takes Is a Goal podcast with Jon Acuff, he asked this question, “If you’ve always wanted to, why haven’t you yet?”

I have thought about the question many times since that day, and it has prompted me to be intentional about doing some things I’ve said I always wanted to do. Two things that quickly come to mind are that I wanted to ride a horse (which I was able to do last summer) and hike to the bottom of a waterfall (which we did at Fall Creek Falls last year)! Obviously, these are not necessarily life changing activities, but nonetheless they are things that I had talked about for months and without being intentional might have never completed. At my age, I am keenly aware that my physical health could take a turn quickly, so I want to strike while the iron is hot.

When we think about creating a summer to remember, many times our minds go to elaborate family vacations or expensive purchases that feel out of reach. I would like to challenge that thinking a bit. I want to encourage you to create a summer to remember bucket list. You may choose to list only one or two things that you could easily accomplish within the next week or you may choose to list fifty or more that

include activities that will require a great deal of planning. There are no real rules here. This is YOUR list. However, to help you get started, I would like to suggest eight questions to consider as you seek to make this one a summer to remember.

**1. WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU WOULD LOVE TO LEARN TO DO?**

Maybe it is a new sport or maybe you never learned to swim? Maybe it would be an art like pottery or painting? What about gardening or speaking a foreign language? To get started, research a place for summer lessons or solicit a friend or family member to be your coach or teacher. Wouldn’t it feel great to be able to do something completely new by the end of the summer?

**2. WHERE IS SOMEWHERE YOU WOULD LIKE TO GO?**

Although making this happen might be loftier than learning something new, you can begin small and start planning until you can reach that dream destination. My husband and I watch many YouTube families that help us to dream about places we would like to visit. That is a great place to start. Or solicit the help of a travel agent who can provide the information you would need. Often, we are as intimidated by the planning as we are by the actual trip, so

start small. Create a timeline and a budget. Your dream destination may be closer than you realize.

**3. WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO READ? I AM AN AVID READER OF NON-FICTION BOOKS.**

I have hundreds of them. But I am always envious of my friends who seem to devour fiction books and enjoy every moment. I remember being in elementary school and having book reading goals every summer. For every so many books read, the local Pizza Hut would give you a personal pan pizza. I miss those days, but who is to say I can’t create my own summer reading goals and reward myself in some way too? For my birthday I asked for a Kindle and joined Goodreads. I am already three books in and can’t wait to add many more to my summer list. Perhaps, like me, reading new things will help you have a summer to remember.

**4. WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU’VE ALWAYS WANTED TO LEARN TO COOK?**

As RV campers, we have seen some elaborate things come off the grills and out of the kitchens of our camping “neighbors”. I am always inspired by the science behind creating perfectly cooked meat. Maybe becoming a grill master interests you too? Or maybe you want to learn to bake a beautiful cake or one of those pies with

the pretty lattice tops? Maybe your desire is to learn to cook Hibachi style or to make melt in your mouth biscuits? Maybe you are interested in creating new cocktails or mocktails? Whatever it is, consider adding it to your summer to remember list.

**5. WHAT MOVIE(S) HAVE YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE?**

I grew up in the 80’s so it may come as no surprise that I love a great Rom-Com. It thrills me that some of the classics are being resurrected for younger generations. I haven’t missed many of them. I also live with Harry Potter fanatics, so I feel like I could quote those movies. But one thing that has been on my bucket list for a bit is to watch the Marvel movies in order as I have seen very few of them. Maybe movies aren’t your thing but there are some TV series you keep hearing about you would like to check out? Or a documentary? Again, this is your list and you get to choose what makes the cut.

**6. WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SHARE WITH YOUR CHILDREN?**

Now that my kids are adults, I sometimes look back and wish I had been more diligent about sharing special memories or places that impacted me. Maybe that is important to you too? Or perhaps you want to help them with some life skills like learning to do laundry or to create a budget? Time gets away from us, so maybe your summer to remember list will include sharing something special or helpful with your children?

**7. WHAT GOAL(S) DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH?**

Summer is a great time to work towards a goal because life seems to slow down a bit during the summer months. Perhaps you want to run a race, or you want to lose some weight? Maybe you want to pay down debt or complete a home project? Whichever goal you’ve been putting off, consider adding it to your summer to remember list and get started. And don’t forget, goals are accomplished one step at a time, and you will never finish until you begin.

**8. WHO DO YOU WANT TO CONNECT OR RE-CONNECT WITH?**

If you follow me at all, it is likely you have heard me talk about the importance of community and relationships. We need each other to get through this life. I want to encourage you to consider your relationships as you plan your summer to remember list. Who would you like to spend more time with or who hasn’t heard from you in a while?

I hope that these questions have sparked some ideas for you as you consider how you would like to spend your summer. It is my hope that you will look back in August or September and be able to celebrate accomplishing at least some of those things you have always wanted to do.

If you are interested in learning more about On Purpose living, I would love to chat with you. Consider booking a free consultation session to find out more about how coaching can help you live your best life. You can do that by visiting [stephanicook.org](http://stephanicook.org).

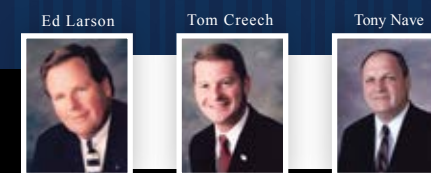
Stephani Cook, M.A., Ed.S. is a Life and Enneagram Coach, licensed School Psychologist, and the creator of On Purpose Coaching. Through group and/or individual coaching, live event speaking or Enneagram workshops, she helps others to improve relationships and to discover intentional abundant living.



To connect with Stephani about the possibility of coaching or speaking to your group or organization, visit her website [www.stephanicook.org](http://www.stephanicook.org).

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**D**uring the last few years you may have noticed an increase in the number of food trucks and food truck events that can be found in our area. Experts say the food truck industry has experienced growth in the 8% range annually over the last five years. In 2021, revenue exceeded \$1.2 billion, and since consumers can't seem to get enough, food truck futures look bright.

David Kumm recently moved here from Miami, Florida. He had some convincing to do of his four daughters, then aged 7 -15 years old, who were reluctant to leave the coast for the country, but the food truck he started in 2021 has helped make the transition smooth.

Kumm is the chef and mastermind behind FireLime Offshore Grill, a 12-foot trailer that has become a standout in Clarksville's ever more crowded field of food trucks.

"Miami is beautiful, but overcrowded and too expensive," Kumm said. "I came to Tennessee for a friend's wedding. When I saw the life he had here, I started looking at the cost of living, and within like two months we moved to Clarksville. I was recently divorced, and trying to figure things out."

Kumm was working at

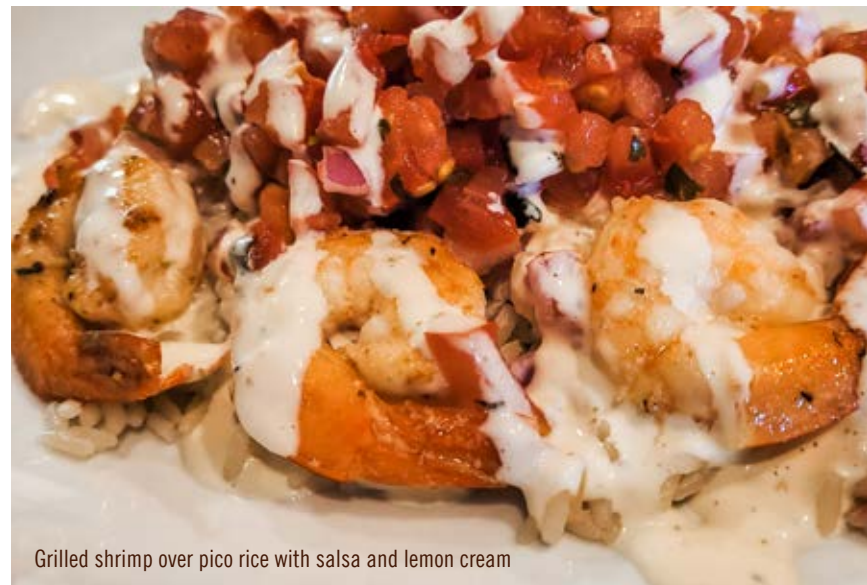
Nicoletta's Catering prior to launching his own business. He was cooking, and helping with catering. "I started with Nicoletta at the Country Club," Kumm said. "I also worked at Texas Roadhouse, and Olive Garden, as well as a high-end facility that catered to a lot of specific dietary needs."

"My favorite place I worked in Miami was Ortanique on the Mile, which was on the Miracle Mile in Coral Gables, it was a Caribbean style restaurant. I had the pleasure of working with Chef Cindy Hutson, and I learned a lot."

Kumm's favorite food is seafood. "My dream is to have my own seafood restaurant, where I can feature the most exotic shipped-in seafood, and run chef specials every weekend.. I would have so much fun with that."

Two years ago he started FireLime Offshore Grill. "I offer a shrimp bowl that has a fire lime sauce that is creamy and tangy, with jalapenos and lime, and pineapple salsa on top," Kumm said. "I have three specialty bowls that feature pico rice. You can get beef, chicken or shrimp. I make all the sauces and salsas from scratch, and they all reflect an island or coastal influence."

Kumm has been creating original dishes for a while.



Grilled shrimp over pico rice with salsa and lemon cream

His menu also features ceviche. He says his nachos are a huge seller, and the chicken with curry sauce is probably one of his favorite items.

When it was time to build a truck, he opted for a trailer. "The whole process cost way more than I thought," Kumm said. "I bought the 12' x 7' trailer, it came with an opening for a window and the electrical box. I had to add walls, a ceiling, tables, all the equipment, a heater and water pump, water tanks, etc. All that cost more than the trailer itself."

"Dealing with the state and local regulations is a pain, but it's worth it once you get out there. The thing is, I had never stepped foot on a food truck. There were easier ways to go, but wanted it to be personal, and I definitely learned a lot."

The building process took four or five months. "My first gig was right here in the neighborhood, I set up at the roundabout," Kumm said. "That was my grand opening. I advertised for it, and it was big. I brought a bunch of people to help, because I didn't know what to expect. I was definitely nervous."

"I had been in kitchens all my life, but never in a food truck. The biggest difference is, in a kitchen you don't want to run out of food. You hate for people to show up and you have to tell them something is 86'd. But, on a food truck you want that to happen. You want to sell out. That's how you make money."



Chef David Kumm, owner-operator of FireLime Offshore Grill

All the great food trucks are like - we'll be here from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m., or until we've sold out. That's never sat well with me, but it is what it is." Kumm says that when he launched his truck, Clarksville was just coming out of Covid-19. "It turned out to be a great time to start a restaurant. Once I got set up and I put my name out there, people started reaching out to me all the time, neighborhoods, car dealerships, breweries. My first real booking was Bellshire neighborhood."

"There was already a lot of competition in

*Continued on page 22*

## Make Giving Back Your Second Act

Clarksville-Montgomery County Community Action Agency is seeking volunteers for our AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparents Program. Encourage a struggling child by assisting in a classroom or daycare center.

### Eligibility

- 55+ years of age
- Participate in orientation and training
- Volunteer at least 15 hours per week



For more information call 931-896-1807 or visit us online at: [www.cmccaa.com/community-programs/ameri-corps-seniors/](http://www.cmccaa.com/community-programs/ameri-corps-seniors/)





Cicily and David Kumm, Chef is the father of four girls, who often help him out with the family business.

Clarksville. There were quite a few trucks when I started, but now there might be as many as 50, it's crazy."

A recent article states the most profitable food truck items are #5 – tacos, #4 – Thai cuisine, #3 - pizza, #2 – burgers, and #1 - barbecue. AS far as popular items, the sky is the limit. Consumers love hot dogs, coffee, desserts, smoothies, sushi, and so much more.

"Around here, I think the most popular food trucks are the ones that offer

burgers, or tacos," Kumm said. "They seem to be among the easiest trucks to open, and are considered to be the most profitable, and have the highest demand.

"My truck hits some demographics, but it's a matter of taste. I've gone to some locations and not made any money because people are afraid to try something new, but once they do, they normally love it."

Economic pressures have played a role in the local food truck scene. "When I first started, my bowls were only \$10," Kumm said. "My skewers were only \$4 in the beginning. But, as time has gone by, and the cost of everything has gone up, I've had to raise my prices. Now my bowls are \$12, of course that's tax-included."

Ikumm says he used to be able to order everything from one place, but now things have gotten so expensive he has to shop for the best prices, and buy things from a few locations. "I have to make three stops every time I prepare for a gig," Kumm said. "I spend hours and hours shopping."

Kumm says his most successful gig ever was Riverfest. "I'm trying to get in this year, and now I know to prep way more food, and have it delivered from my commissary throughout the day," Kumm said. "My trailer is small, so I'm limited on how much prep I can hold. Events like that charge a fee, and then a percentage of



your sales. Some work out better than others, profit-wise."

Kumm has tried to park at local businesses to build his business, but that has mixed results. "You usually just get the people that work there, and maybe a couple of curious passers-by," Kumm said. "If you're expecting to catch a lot of people pulling off Wilma Rudolph, forget it. You're going to sit there for hours, and maybe only see a few people."

Kumm says one of the biggest things is the ancillary costs that go into just getting to the gig. The cost and the maintenance cost of the equipment, the vehicle, the trailer, tires, the cost of gas, there are just so many expenses.

And as far as time goes, Kumm says, for every two hours he is on site he probably spends four hours prepping, and then there is all the shopping time.

"The events are inconsistent, so it's hard to count on steady income," Kumm said. "I've always worked two jobs, I like the structure of that. But, now I want to take control of the business instead of it controlling me.

"I'm going a little crazy trying to keep up with this. I should have started part-time. Choosing my events, and focusing on weekends, that's what I'm moving toward. And, I want to focus on catering. Even working fewer events and less hours, I can make good income with this business, if I restructure, and apply what I've already learned."

Kumm thinks it will take a month or two to reconfigure his approach. He hopes his operation will be leaner and more productive by June or July.

"Trucks are hard, I would love to have an actual brick and mortar restaurant some day," Kumm said. "I do love the catering aspect of the business. I've catered big events for Walmart, Premiere Medical and others. I once fed 575 people in a day, with just two people helping out.

"On the other side, and this has happened plenty of times, you pay to be somewhere, you get there and attendance is really low, or one type of truck just dominates the sales. I was at an event where a hot dog stand next to the stage was covered up all day, but nobody would walk to where 6 food trucks were set up. I just wanted to get out of there so bad."

Refocusing will allow Kimm to take things into his own hands, instead of being at everyone's mercy.

"I want to make it more exclusive, and limit the amount of gigs I do each month," Kumm said. "I can feature different items, allow people to pre-order. I would also love to do collaborations with local breweries and other businesses as well. I've worked with The Fallen Brewery the most. They have some great

beers and we've done some really cool pairings. To go with their Hefeweizen I prepared an herb-butter rice, grilled chicken with hearts of palm and artichokes, and a lemon-cream sauce."

The creativity is what drives Kumm. "Well creativity, and the joy that people get when they eat my food," Kumm said. "I love creating and I love cooking. Once I'm in my element, there are no worries in my world. If I've had the worst day, I start cooking, and within 10 minutes I feel great. And that feeling stays with me long after I'm finished cooking.

"I like looking at the end-product. I do the work. I work hard, and then I stand back and think, I worked hard and it all came together.

"I think I have a big enough following that people will be excited to see what I do next. When I come out with my new ideas and my new approach, I think it will be successful. I'm going to change the menu, which is hard to do. My regulars love these items. But my new items will be along the same lines. I know it's going to be good!"

Find David Kumm at FireLime Offshore Grill on Facebook, or contact him by email at [firelimegrill@gmail.com](mailto:firelimegrill@gmail.com). 🦋

**BE A HERO!**  
**HELP WIPE OUT STUDENT LUNCH DEBT!**

**Education Foundation & CLARKSVILLE**  
 CLARKSVILLE-MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
 Life, Community, Home & Health in Clarksville, Ft. Campbell & Beyond LIVING

We invite you to donate to Clarksville Living Magazine's charity of choice: **The CMCSS Education Foundation Lunch Fund** to help pay down student lunch debt!

To donate to this amazing cause, visit:

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All payments are securely processed via Bloomerang. Please email us at [robin.burton@cmcss.net](mailto:robin.burton@cmcss.net) with any questions.

**HAPPY Mother's Day**

Celebrate this Mother's Day by treating the special women in your life to a memorable brunch at Miss Ashley's Tearoom.

Show your love and appreciation to your mom, stepmom, grandma, or mother figure by spending quality time together over a delicious homemade meal.

**Annual Mother's Day Brunch Tea**  
 May 14th, 11am.  
 Tickets available at: [www.missashleystearoom.com/events](http://www.missashleystearoom.com/events)

**Miss Ashley's Tea Room**  
 610 Washington St, Clarksville, TN 37040  
 931-216-1366 • (Reservations required for parties of 6 or more)  
 Tues -Sat 11am til 8pm & Sunday 11am til 6pm  
[www.missashleystearoom.com/events](http://www.missashleystearoom.com/events)







The City Forum  
2231 Madison St, Suite T  
Clarksville, TN 37043

### BRUNCH AT THE BRUCE! 10:30AM-3PM



Come enjoy a brunch buffet by Chef Jack McGee! Mimosas and Bloody Mary's available.

Mothers will receive a rose, 10% off of buffet meal, and a chance to win door prizes!

Reservations preferred, walk ins welcome!

Reservations:

Call 270-707-7000 or at the link:  
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### 17 WEDNESDAY COMPANY CABARET: THE LULLABY OF BROADWAY 7PM-8:30PM



[Mainstage]

Join us for a special night of music and entertainment, featuring our company of professional actors who come to us from all over the country. Musical selections will vary from musical theatre to contemporary music, classic standards to holiday tunes. Be sure to check out our Facebook page and website for additional information about each cabaret!

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Roxy Regional Theatre  
100 Franklin St  
Clarksville, TN

### 20 SATURDAY JESUS SPRING FLING THING 10AM-2PM



Come and join us this Spring for our annual Jesus Spring Fling Thing at Fellowship Park in Clarksville, TN on May 20th from 10am-2pm! Walk through acres of car show enthusiasts with their beautiful and unique cars, trucks, motorcycles, tractors and anything with wheels and an engine! Enjoy the day with your family and friends while listening to live music, eating all the free food and delicious desserts and treats and let the kiddos play on the inflatables and playground. You can enter to win free door prizes too! Have a great day in God's country and feel the love of Jesus all around you! It's all free - just like His Love, Grace and Mercy! Open to all!

Want to be a part of the car show? We would love to have you! Entrance is free and we have amazing handcrafted trophies for the top finishers in each class. Just pre-register at:

[www.mounthermonbaptist.org/cs](http://www.mounthermonbaptist.org/cs)

Tickets available at:

[www.mounthermonbaptist.org/JSFT](http://www.mounthermonbaptist.org/JSFT)

MHBC Fellowship Park  
5354 Ashland City Rd.  
Clarksville, TN 37043.

### DEVOTION & DIY 10:30AM-11:30AM



May 20 - the birth of the Church

What is Pentecost and why is it important? Join Gwendolyn Rodriguez for a Discovery Bible Reading as we look at what the Bible teaches in the book of Acts. Following the discussion we will paint a mini canvas.

For ladies and daughters (age 10 and up.) We will have a different reading and craft each month.

FREE Devotional and DIY

10:30am Saturday,

All materials provided. Register soon because seats are limited.  
<https://bit.ly/3oM2TcX>

ArtLink Clarksville  
116 Strawberry Alley  
Clarksville, TN 37040

### FIRST BELL WITCH CAVE PUBLIC INVESTIGATION 7PM-1AM

We are excited to announce the first ever public investigation at The Historic Bell Witch Cave hosted by The Black Wolf Paranormal. We will have 3 location to investigate on the property.

The Historic Bell Witch Cave  
430 Keysburg Rd.  
Adams, Tn

### 26 FRIDAY TITANS YOUTH FOOTBALL CAMP 7AM



The Tennessee Titans are committed to the continued growth and development of the game of football. During the month of May and June, the Titans will host a series of youth football camps across Tennessee. Camps are open to all children ages 7-14 years old.

Titans Youth Football Camps will provide a fun and impactful learning experience through:

- Teaching proper football fundamentals, skills, and position techniques

- Emphasizing the importance of teamwork and the value of good character

- Providing opportunities to participate in football specific games and drills

Timing for camp (all local times):

7:00AM - Check-in opens

7:30AM - Camp starts

### 27 SATURDAY

### 2023 SPRING INTO SUMMER FEST 12PM-9PM & 12PM - 6PM SUN, MAY 28TH



MUSIC HEADLINER

We are proud to announce that our music headliner is multi-platinum country star Chris Janson. Chris Janson is known for his high energy performances. He has many hit songs including "Buy Me a Boat", "Holdin' Her", "Fix a Drink", "Drunk Girl" and many others.

Performance Time: The concert starts at 7pm at the Viceroy Performing Arts Center in Oak Grove, KY on Saturday, May 27th.

ENTERTAINMENT:

The 16th Annual Spring Into Summer Salutes Fort Campbell Festival will feature the following.

- Carnival
- Circus
- BMX Bike Show
- Bubble zone - a kid's area with a lot of bubbles/different sized bubbles
- Oscar the Robot - a fun talking robot (controlled by a human with a microphone) will be wondering around the festival chatting with attendees
- Wide variety of arts/crafts vendors
- Parachute jump show - parachute jumpers jump from a plane showing off parachutes
- Patriotic fireworks show
- Food - provided by the carnival

Price: FREE FREE FREE!

Viceroy Performing Arts Center  
101 Walter Garrett Ln.  
Oak Grove, KY

### BUILD YOUR OWN MIMOSA BAR



Mimosa Bar Every Saturday & Sunday at Blush & Homegrown!

Join us for our weekly Create Your Own Mimosa Bar at Blush and Homegrown every Saturday and Sunday until 3pm.

Calories don't count, so throw in some champagne sherbet or a cotton candy garnish!

Come for Brunch and Sip Mimosa's All Weekend at Assembly Food Hall.

With nearly 30 eateries to choose from, you will be sure to find your favorite meal!

Snap a pic with your posse in front of our Instagram wall in North Hall by Whisk Crêpes Café all season long.

This is a FREE event, therefore registration does NOT guarantee seating or access to the venue. Seating is first come, first served. Tickets will not be collected.

NO OUTSIDE FOOD & DRINKS:

Assembly Food Hall  
5055 Broadway Place  
Nashville, TN 37203

### CUSTOMS HOUSE MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

#### Pearl of the Orient: Celebrating the Early Cultures of the Philippines

May 15 - July 23 | Lobby

Curated with members of our local AAPI community, this exhibit explores the various Indigenous cultures of the Philippines through languages, photographs, maps, clothing and other artifacts.

#### Kitty Harvill: New to the Collection

May 23 - August 27 | Jostens Gallery

Kitty Harvill is an award-winning wildlife artist and illustrator. This exhibit features nine original watercolors of endangered animals, created during her time in Brazil.

Since 2016, Harvill has led a group of like-minded artists through ABUN - Artists & Biologists Unite for Nature. Her work is included in collections throughout the United States, Brazil, Germany and Singapore.

#### Waiting Room: A Print Series by Belgin Yucelen

Through May 20 | Harvill Gallery

Created by the artist during the 2020 shutdown, Waiting Room is a print series depicting people in isolation and their windows to the outside, beyond reach. **Elena Burykina: Brushed Expressions**

Through May 21 | Jostens Gallery  
Elena Burykina is a figurative artist based in Chattanooga. As a child in Ukraine, she received a classical art education which she used for over a decade as an architect. Now as a full-time artist, her focus is portraiture, where she seeks a connection with the model to explore their personalities, moods and thoughts.

#### Nature's Blueprints: Biomimicry in Art and Design

Through May 25 | Orgain & Bruner Galleries

The forms, patterns and processes found in the natural world can inspire our design of everything from clothing to skyscrapers. This exhibit brings together art and design with environmental science using artifacts, artworks and photography, as well as interactive learning stations.

#### The Poetry Around Us: Women Painting the Outdoors

Through May 28 | Crouch Gallery

Capturing the beauty of the outdoors across painting mediums and geographical locations, this invitational exhibit features works of art from more than a dozen award-winning, nationally-recognized women artists.

#### Month of the Military Child Art Show

Through May 31 | Memory Lane

April is Month of the Military Child, a time to applaud military families and their children for the daily sacrifices and the challenges they overcome. In partnership with the USO, this special exhibit features selected artwork by local children with an active-duty parent or guardian.

#### Mapping Wars

Through July 6 | Kimbrough Gallery

This exhibit features artifacts from the Civil War to the Vietnam War, giving insight to the strategies and plans of those engaged in battle. Take a closer look at hand-drawn maps, government documents, battle flags and more.

#### Jammie Williams: Stories, Dreams and Visions

Through July 6 | Kimbrough Gallery

Jammie Williams is a professional painter and sculptor who lives and works in Middle Tennessee. His art is representational and often uses symbolic imagery.

### EXHIBITIONS

#### First Thursday Art Walk

May 4 | 5 - 8 pm

Free to the public

The Museum offers free admission during First Thursday Art Walk Clarksville from 5 - 8 pm. A food truck will be set up in the Courtyard serving up some delicious eats.

#### I Love My Museum Give-A-Thon

May 4 - May 11

Courtyard Jam | May 11 | 5 - 7 pm

Join us for a special week of giving as we work towards our fundraising goal, culminating in a block party in the Museum Courtyard. Tell us how much you love YOUR Museum, and enjoy live music, food trucks and tons of fun at our Courtyard Jam.

### PROGRAMS

#### Storytime & Craft

May 4 & 18 | 10:30 am | All ages, with adult

Free with membership or paid admission | Family Art Studio

Join us in the Family Art Studio as we read our favorite children's books and create fun themed crafts! \*All parents are expected to participate with and supervise their children.

#### Making with Mom

May 13 | 10:30 am - 12 pm | All ages, with adult

\$5 admission for children, FREE for moms/guardians | Executive Dining Room

Join us for a special Mother's Day art activity where families can work together to create a beautiful watercolor masterpiece. Muffins and juice will be provided. Registration opens May 1 at [customshousemuseum.org](http://customshousemuseum.org).

\*All parents are expected to participate with and supervise their children.

#### Family Art Saturday

May 27 | 10 am - 12 pm & 2 - 4 pm | Ages 3+, with adult

Free with membership or paid admission | Family Art Studio

Come create a beautiful work of art for May's Family Art Saturday!

\*All parents are expected to participate with and supervise their children.

#### Huff & Puff Express Model Trains

Exhibit open daily | Trains run Sundays 1 - 4 pm, Wednesdays 10 am - 12 pm, Fridays 10 am - 12 pm and the last Saturday of each month 1 - 4 pm

Enjoy one of the largest model railroad layouts in the region boasting a miniature castle, UFO and scenic landscape. Interact with the miniature world by making automobiles move and helicopters fly. The model train exhibit is open daily and themes change every season.

Submit your event to [events@clarksvillelivingmag.com](mailto:events@clarksvillelivingmag.com) by the 15th of the month for the next issue.



THE ZERO YOU  
FINALLY DESERVE  
IS HERE.

NEW

