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Inside {local} January '23



6 LOCAL ARTIST DESIGNS PERFECT PLAN

Love of history and art
paints a career path



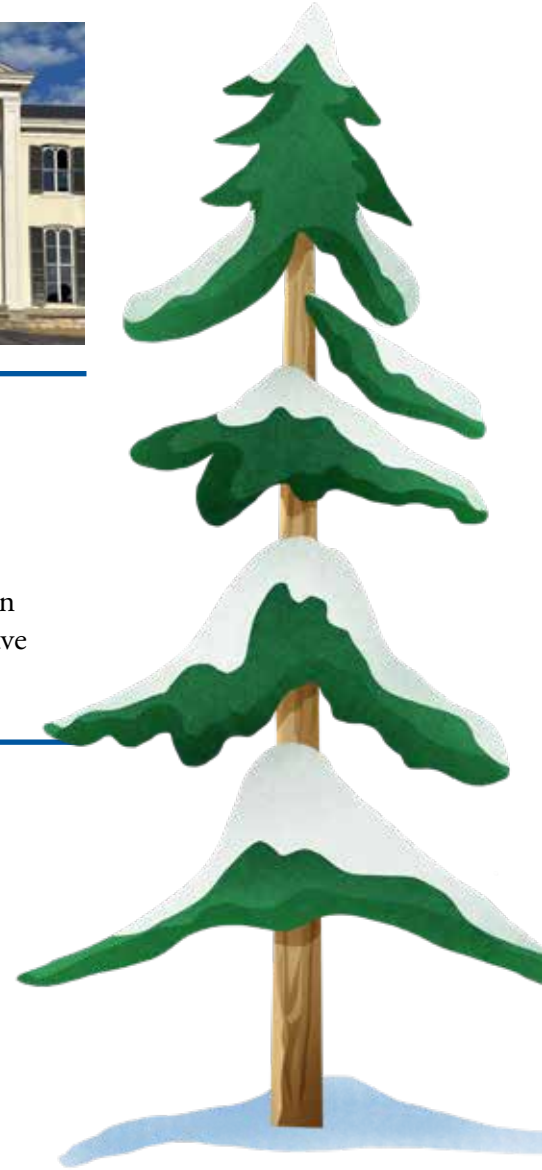
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ON THE COVER: Local artist Jill Harper in her studio. Photo by Michael Tedesco

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Photography by Michael Tedesco.

FOR LOCAL ARTIST HOBBY BECOMES CAREER

PAM WINDSOR

A typical workday finds Jill Harper painting in her home studio in Spring Hill, her dog Daisy Mae, right there at her feet. Harper always loved art as a hobby, but a little more than a decade ago, she found herself able to devote more time to it.

“I grew up drawing and doing art and always enjoyed it,” she explains. “Then, when I had my second son, and I started staying home with them, I wanted to do something on the side. I started doing local craft shows and art shows. Then I started getting into stores, and it became a full-time job for me. It’s amazing. I love it so much!”

Her paintings, which vary in size and subject matter, have become very popular with customers in the stores that display her work, like Vintage 615 in Spring Hill, the Faded Farmhouse

in Columbia, and Mercantile 1858 with locations in Franklin and Arrington.

“I paint churches, barns, flowers, but I do love seasonal pieces, too,” she says. “Because when people collect, they can get additional paintings to trade out. If you have a fall piece out, when it’s time for Christmas, you can put a new one in the same spot.”

She also paints local landmarks, showcasing famous and familiar spots such as the Ryman, the Franklin Theater, Arrington Vineyards, and others. Harper was born in Memphis but moved to Franklin when she was 12 years old. She has a rich appreciation for the area’s history, as well as history in general. She has a degree in Human Ecology-Housing and Design from Tennessee Tech.

“I especially love painting some of the older landmarks because there’s so much history and character to them. I learned a



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lot about architecture in school and just love it.”

She uses acrylic/latex paint to create a textured feel that sometimes gives her paintings a vintage look. She’s passionate, too, about experimenting with different colors.

“That’s another reason I like design - is color,” she says. “I love choosing different color palettes and keeping and adding color in, but making it neutral, also. So, it can still match if you change your colors.”

In addition to the artwork she sells at area stores, Harper does quite a bit of commissioned work. It can include everything from custom paintings for someone’s home that incorporates a specific wall color within the painting itself to create a perfect match, to paintings of buildings and landmarks with special meaning.

“I’ve done a lot of churches where people get married. I paint for some realtors, and I’ll do closing gifts such as a painting of the

home they sold if it was a family home, or a new home. It’s a lot of fun.”

She never dreamed when she started pursuing her art on a part-time level, it would work out so well.

“When I started doing it on the side, I had no expectations. I feel the community here really supports artists and small businesses, and I guess that’s why it works. And I’m also thankful to the shop owners because they’ve been so good to me. Being in the shops is a huge blessing because that’s not always easy.”

Harper, who has a strong faith, says she’s grateful to be able to do what she loves.

“On the back of my business card, it says, ‘I love using the talent God gave me.’ I truly believe there’s so much talent, not in me, but in the world. And for me to be able to do this, I know it’s God leading it.”

To learn more about her art, visit jillharperdesigns.com



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ALL JEEP OWNERS WELCOME

BY JASON ZASKY

“There’s nothing like the feeling of having your doors and roof off and driving in the open air down country roads,” begins Cindy Porter of the Jeepers of Spring Hill, explaining part of the allure of owning a Jeep®. Porter is one of the administrators for the Jeepers of Spring Hill, which was founded by Shane Huffman in June 2017 and brings together hundreds of locals that have bonded together over their love of Jeeps.

“Shane wanted a Facebook group for Jeep owners to ask each other questions, support each other, and talk anything Jeep-related,” adds Porter. “It’s about building a Jeep community.”

473 Members and Growing

That said, membership—as of this writing, 473 persons strong—isn’t strictly limited to Spring Hill residents. The group has members who live both north and south of the city, and Jeepers from all around the region are welcome, provided they don’t have a Jeep group in their area.

“The group has grown significantly in the last two years,” says Porter. “We’ve concentrated on making the group more social,” with monthly dinners being a part of the Jeepers of Spring Hill experience.

As for the core mission: “We are big into educating Jeepers, especially those who are new to the Jeeping community. We do a lot of answering questions and helping each other, including hands-on installing stuff for fellow members,” says Porter.

The group also makes it a point to help serve the local community. For one, members provide rides to health care (and other essential) workers who would otherwise be unable to get to work in snowy weather. Last year the so-called Snow Patrol provided close to 30 rides during each of the season’s two significant snow events, taking passengers to downtown Nashville, the airport, and Williamson Medical Center, among other area destinations.

The group has also adopted a stretch of Port Royal Road in Spring Hill, helping to keep it free from litter. And this Christmas, members will be transporting senior citizens to and from one of

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the local senior living facilities and purchasing gifts for residents. Naturally, everyone aims to have fun, too, and members participate in a steady stream of off-roading events, ranging from scenic drives to hardcore off-roading.

“I just came home from an off-roading event called Dixie Run, which takes place at Windrock Park near Knoxville,” says Porter, having spent the previous weekend off-roading in South Carolina and Georgia.

The Porters Are a 3 Jeep Family
For their part, Cindy, her husband, and their college-age son all own Jeeps.

“When my son graduated from high school, we surprised him with a used Jeep, and when I drove it to Franklin to get the emissions test done, I enjoyed it so much that I stopped at the Jeep dealership on the way home and bought myself a JK two-door,” Porter recalls. “Three months later, my husband purchased a four-door JL, and a year and a half after that, I traded my two-door JK for a 4-door JL (nicknamed ‘Josie’), which she admits has been ‘girlified up.’”

That said, Porter emphasizes how the group welcomes all Jeeps.

“You don’t have to be a fancy Jeep or a pretty Jeep or a lifted Jeep. We don’t care if you are a pavement princess or if you like off-roading and tear it up. We welcome everybody,” she says, noting that some of the most admired Jeeps in the group are positively ancient by automobile standards.

“One, you can’t tell what color it is any more because it’s all rusted. But everywhere we go, people love it because it’s a classic. And then we have one that’s old and very, very lifted. I don’t know how he (the owner) gets into it,” says Porter with a laugh, before relating how the group will again have a presence at the Spring Hill Christmas Parade on Dec. 10, 2022.

“We did the Spring Hill Christmas Parade last year, and we got a lot of new members after people saw our float,” she says.

Meanwhile, Porter and friends plan to continue to strut their stuff—in the city and in the country.

“There’s nothing like driving around town in your spotlessly clean Jeep and then going to the mountains and doing things you’d never think a vehicle would be able to do,” she concludes. “It never ceases to amaze me what Jeeps are capable of.”

Find the Jeepers of Spring Hill, TN on Facebook facebook.com/groups/320221498405868

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HERITAGE FOUNDATION UPDATE ON BEECHWOOD HALL

The Heritage Foundation of Williamson County has provided an update and timeline of events on its extensive and collaborative efforts with the owners of Beechwood Hall, a historic home located on 268 acres in Franklin.

“From the moment we learned of the challenges to Beechwood Hall, we immediately engaged its owners in an earnest and positive manner to explore various preservation options, which we have found, in our long history, is the best path to successful outcomes,” said Bari Beasley, President, and CEO of the Heritage Foundation. “The complete resources of our organization are being placed into delivering a comprehensive preservation plan.”

The Heritage Foundation was the only official organization allowed on-site to assess the Beechwood Hall property, which had been uninhabited for many years before being acquired by the current owners in June of 2021 from a local investment partnership. After its purchase, the owners made initial steps to stabilize the property. Once engaged, the Foundation executed additional strategies to secure Beechwood Hall from further damage from elements, animals, and more, as protecting the home now is a vital step to potential long-term preservation.

The Foundation’s role with the property owners is to provide preservation expertise, advisement and to facilitate access to preservation resources from outside entities. The organization acknowledges and respects private property rights and recognizes that the owners are the only decision-makers who will ultimately determine what is done with the property.

WHAT’S NEXT?

With the home better prepared for the coming winter months, the Heritage Foundation and its accomplished team of in-house preservationists is also working

with external partners, such as the Tennessee Historical Commission, to ensure the best possible team for preservation planning. “Preservation works best when people work together towards a common goal,” said Patrick McIntyre, Tennessee State Historic Preservation Officer and Executive Director of the Tennessee Historical Commission. “Helping save Tennessee’s treasured historic places is at the core of our agency’s mission. Our office is proud to support the Heritage Foundation and its talented and committed staff in this important endeavor. They have shown incredible leadership in mobilizing quickly to potentially preserve Beechwood Hall. As the State Historic Preservation Office, we are committed to help this effort come to a successful resolution.”

The team has assessed and researched the site and has already begun this work, with plans to present the preservation plan early next year.

CLEARING UP INACCURACIES

Recently, national reports and other inflammatory statements have caused unwarranted distress to Beechwood Hall ownership and the Foundation’s focus on collaborative preservation efforts. The Heritage Foundation has placed a FAQ on its website with a factual overview of events and activity on-site, clearing up a number of misconceptions about the property and preservation efforts: <https://williamsonheritage.org/beechwoodhall/>.

Beasley added, “We’re thankful for all enthusiasm for preservation, and we share it. Staying positive and supportive of collaborative efforts will best position all parties for success.”

As the process continues to advance towards resolution, the Heritage Foundation will continue to post updates on the news section of its website: williamsonheritage.org.

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FINANCIAL FOCUS

TIME FOR NEW YEAR'S FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS



Jeff Good

It's that time of year when many of us promise ourselves we'll go to the gym more, or learn a new language, or take up a musical instrument, or any number of other worthy goals. But this year, when making New Year's resolutions, why not also consider some financial ones?

HERE ARE A FEW TO CONSIDER:

• **Don't let inflation derail your investment strategy.** As you know, inflation was the big financial story of 2022, hitting a 40-year high. And while it may moderate somewhat this year, it will likely still be higher than what we experienced the past decade or so. Even so, it's a good idea to try not to let today's inflation harm your investment strategy for the future. That happened last year: More than half of American workers either reduced their contributions to their 401(k)s and other retirement plans or stopped contributing completely during the third quarter of 2022, according to a survey by Allianz Life Insurance of North America. Of course, focusing on your cash flow needs today is certainly understandable, but are there other ways you can free up some money, such as possibly lowering your spending, so you can continue contributing to your retirement accounts? It's worth the effort because you could spend two or three decades as a retiree.

• **Control your debts.** Inflation can also be a factor in debt management. For example, your credit card debt could rise due to rising prices and variable credit card interest rate increases. By paying your bill each month, you can avoid the effects of rising

interest rates. If you do carry a balance, you might be able to transfer it to a lower-rate card, depending on your credit score. And if you're carrying multiple credit cards, you might benefit by getting a fixed-rate debt consolidation loan. In any case, the lower your debt payments, the more you can invest for your long-term goals.

• **Review your investment portfolio.** At least once a year, you should review your investment portfolio to determine if it's still appropriate for your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon. But be careful not to make changes just because you feel your recent performance is not what it should have been. When the financial markets are down, as was the case for most of 2022, even quality investments, such as stocks of companies with solid business fundamentals and strong prospects, can see declines in value. But if these investments are still suitable for your portfolio, you may want to keep them.

• **Prepare for the unexpected.** If you encountered a large unexpected expense, such as the need for a major home repair, how would you pay for it? If you didn't have the money readily available, you might be forced to dip into your long-term investments or retirement accounts. To prevent this, you should build an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses — or a year's worth, if you're retired — with the money kept in a low-risk, liquid account.

These resolutions can be useful — so try to put them to work in 2023.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.
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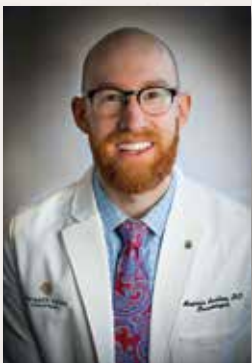
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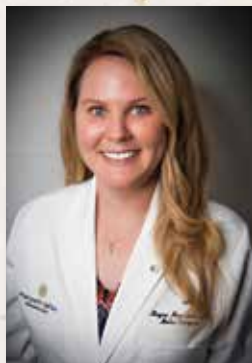
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Michael Dominic Tedesco is a photographer in Nashville, formerly New York City. Clients include: Mutual of America, Farm Bureau Insurance, Penguin Publishing Group, Gotham Books, Avery Books, Bloomberg Markets, Men's Health, Women's Health, Men's Fitness, The Source, CMJ, St. Johns University, Decker Design, Jujamcyn Theaters, Journal Communications, Warner Music Nashville, University of Tennessee, Meharry College, Edge Artist Management and many Departments of Agriculture in the United States. View more work at www.tedescopictures.com



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Kick Winter's Chill *with* Hearty Chowder

JALAPENO SWEETPOTATO CHOWDER | SERVINGS 6

2 LARGE NORTH CAROLINA SWEETPOTATOES, BAKED
1 SMALL ONION, 1/4-INCH DICED
2 TABLESPOONS OLIVE OIL
1 QUART CHICKEN OR VEGETABLE STOCK
2 CUPS COOKED CHICKEN, CUBED
1 1/2 CUPS WHOLE CORN KERNELS
2 TEASPOONS MINCED JALAPENOS
1/2 CUP HEAVY CREAM
1 TEASPOON SALT
CHOPPED SCALLIONS, FOR GARNISH



Peel baked sweetpotatoes; discard skin and puree.

In soup pot, saute onion in butter until softened. Add pureed sweetpotato and stock, as desired. Bring to boil, reducing liquid slightly.

Add chicken, corn, jalapenos, heavy cream and salt. Simmer 10 minutes.

To serve, ladle into bowls and garnish with chopped scallions.

Visit ncsweetpotatoes.com to find more comforting meal ideas. Source: North Carolina SweetPotato Commission

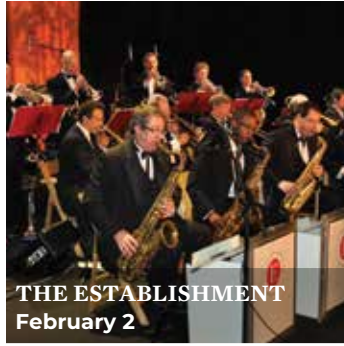
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