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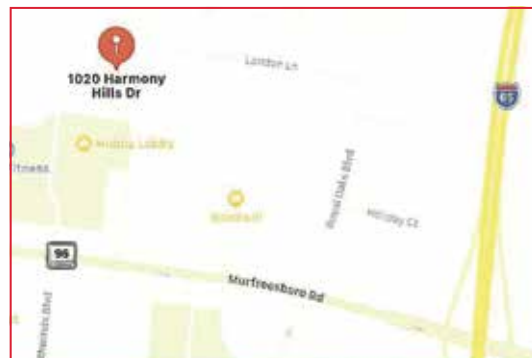
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**ON THE COVER:** The cannons in the pocket park off Columbia Avenue as the season change in Franklin. November marks the 155th anniversary of The Battle of Franklin. Photo by Jeff Bryant



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# THE TURKEY TROT: A FRANKLIN FAMILY TRADITION

**BY JASON ZASKY**

Twenty years since its inception, Franklin's annual Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot can best be described as a local tradition.

"There are many Franklin families that come year after year to start their Thanksgiving Day with us and give back to the community in the process," says Alicia Bell, director of

development for GraceWorks Ministries.

This year's Turkey Trot—which features a 5K run/walk, a 10K, and a Kids Turkey Chase—will take place on the morning of November 28, with the proceeds benefiting the aforementioned GraceWorks Ministries, a community resource center that helps Williamson County residents who are in need of food, cloth-

ing, and financial assistance, among other resources.

The 2019 event will be based at Cool Springs Galleria Mall, which has been a supporter of the Turkey Trot for many years, and has donated the use of the property to accommodate the proceedings.

"We're going to put up a tent in the mall parking lot and have a big party," offers Bell, noting

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## THE TURKEY TROT

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**WHERE:** Cool Springs Galleria Mall

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Photography Chris Hanewinkel.

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that GraceWorks expects in excess of 3,200 participants and a crowd that totals more than 6,000 people, including the onlookers who come out to cheer friends and family.

Better yet, many of those who register early will enjoy the benefits of the Very Important Trotter (VIT) experience.

“Folks who pay a little more will enjoy a whole lot of perks,” explains Bell, including the chance to pick up their race packet the day before the event at the drive-thru packet pickup.

Also, “the first 200 participants who sign up will receive

a \$20 Fleet Feet gift card, the first 400 will get a \$10 Carrabba’s gift card, and the first 500 will receive a \$10 Macy’s gift card. I think the VIT package is a steal,” she adds, “as if you are one of the first 200 registrants the gift cards cover the extra cost of the VIT package.”

At the same time, all registrants also have the opportunity to buy a turkey for a family in need, as GraceWorks is partnering with other non-profits in the area to offer multiple mobile food pantries on the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

“At checkout for the Turkey Trot you can purchase a turkey

that will go into the homes of families in need this Thanksgiving,” explains Bell.

And anecdotal evidence suggests that the number of locals in need is greater than ever before. “We recently received 90 people in one day, making it one of the largest days we’ve ever seen in terms of neighbors coming to our community resource center for one [or more] of the resources we offer,” begins Bell. “We are definitely seeing an uptick in demand for food, as well as rent and utility assistance,” noting that “Williamson County is

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Photography Chris Hanewinckel.

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growing incredibly quickly so it is getting harder and harder to cover your cost of living if you are a blue-collar worker.”

Meanwhile, those who are interested in doing more for their fellow neighbors can also donate toys or gifts to GraceWorks’ The Manger program, which offers a shopping experience (on December 11-14, 2019) for families who struggle to provide at Christmas. Individuals can also volunteer their time to help facilitate the Turkey Trot, as volunteers are needed to help set up, direct runner traffic, hand out water

to runners, and tidy up the site after-the-fact.

Of course, on Thanksgiving morning, all of the emphasis will be on fun and community spirit, with the Kids 1K Turkey Chase (sponsored by Let It Shine Gymnastics) arguably the highlight of the day.

“The kids literally chase a turkey—actually, it’s a man dressed up as a turkey—and it’s too cute,” says Bell, before noting that many adults who participate in the 5K also dress up for the festivities, making the Thanksgiving-oriented costumes an integral part of the experience.

“It’s always a really energetic morning because you’ll see everyone from infants in strollers all the way up to Grandpa Joe,” concludes Bell. “To watch the community come out and give back is why this so much fun—and so powerful for GraceWorks. We raise close to \$130,000 a year from this event, which helps us feed people and keep them in their homes with the heat on. That’s the type of wraparound care that is really making an impact for families that might not have anywhere else to turn.”



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Photograph by Nathan Zucker

# BATTLE OF FRANKLIN ILLUMINATION TO TAKE PLACE ON NOVEMBER 30TH

**BY JASON ZASKY**

On Saturday November 30, the Battle of Franklin Trust will commemorate the 155th anniversary of the Battle of Franklin by lighting thousands of luminaries at both Carter House & Carnton, found on Columbia Avenue and Eastern Flank Circle, respectively.

The Illumination will be the culmination of a daylong series of events, featuring battlefield tours and open houses at both of the aforementioned historic sites, part of the Trust's ongoing effort to educate visitors about one of the last great battles of the Civil War and its impact on the people who lived in Franklin at the time.

Coinciding with the Illumination will

be a reading of the names of the men who were casualties in the battle, including those who died, were wounded, or became prisoners of war.

"Free tours [of Carter House & Carnton] will begin at 5 pm, and the tours will take place while names are being read," explains Hannah Jacobs, event & group tour coordinator for the Battle of Franklin Trust, who says the mix of activities "really emphasizes the solemn nature of the event." In other words, "while visitors are experiencing the house[s] they are experiencing the luminaries and the reinforced impact of the names being read at the same time."

"In addition, we will be offering two new battlefield tours that day," she adds, "one at 5 am and the other at 8 am, both of

which will focus on the leadership tactics on the battlefield," noting that both of these specialty tours require reservations and will be limited to 25 attendees each.

Of course, the Illumination—and other recurring Battle of Franklin Trust events, like the Bootlegger's Bash and Carnton Sunset Concert Series—are designed to help keep locals engaged and talking about the area's Civil War history. While some might believe that after 155 years the history remains relatively unchanged, Jacobs emphasizes that is hardly the case.

"We have people on staff who spend all of their time exploring records and we are constantly learning more," she says, so the stories that tour guides are relating today

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Photo by Andrew Collignon.

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may be different than the information they are relating a year from now. Plus, each individual tour guide provides their own unique perspective.

“All of our historic interpreters have such a passion that you can go on a tour, then turn around and take the exact same tour again and have a totally different experience, because one tour guide might have a passion for [talking about] the battle and another might emphasize the impact on slaves.”

That’s one reason she recommends becoming a member of the Battle of Franklin Trust, which includes an annual pass (among other benefits), and helps fund the

Trust’s preservation efforts.

Interested observers can also learn more about the Battle of Franklin through materials available via the Trust’s gift shop, including *For Cause & For Country* and *Baptism of Fire*, two books co-authored by Battle of Franklin Trust CEO Eric Jacobson. The Trust’s Web site also features a curated collection of images from its museum, including items that are not displayed to the general public.

Meanwhile, locals can help facilitate the Illumination by volunteering to help set up and take down the luminaries, or volunteering to help during other Trust events.

But mostly Jacobs encourages current-day Franklin residents to stay abreast of the Trust’s work, including its ongoing

efforts to reclaim more and more of the battlefield.

“We have all of these things that happened on our land and [it’s vital] to preserve the battlefield and the story of how lives were impacted here,” she concludes. “Entire lives were uprooted in the relative blink of an eye.”

**When:** Saturday, November 30

**Where:** Carter House, 1440 Columbia Ave., Franklin; and Carnton, 1345 Eastern Flank Cir., Franklin.

**What:** Specialty battlefield tours at 5 am and 8 am (reservations required), plus the normal schedule of tours, as well as anniversary tours and events from 4-7 pm.



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From L to R, Eric Stuckey, Eric A. Jacobson, Rev. Chris Williamson, Rev. Kevin Riggs, Rev. Hewitt Sawyers, and Mayor Ken Moore. Photograph submitted.

# FULLER STORY HISTORIC MARKER UNVEILED IN FRANKLIN

The Battle of Franklin Trust, along with the City of Franklin, hosted an event to unveil historical markers to begin telling the “Fuller Story” at the Public Square in historic downtown Franklin.

The “Fuller Story” initiative was conceived by three pastors, Hewitt Sawyers, Dr. Chris Williamson and Dr. Kevin Riggs, and historian Eric A. Jacobson. The “Fuller Story” intends to commemorate the African American experience in Franklin and Middle Tennessee.

“I am so proud to be part of this

effort. The stories told by these interpretive markers have always been part of our shared history, and it is time we are honest with the past, said Eric A. Jacobson, CEO of the Battle of Franklin Trust. “The Fuller Story is, in many ways, the story of America. I applaud the pastors for their leadership and our friends all over Franklin for their support and steadfast commitment.”

The markers tell the stories of the African American experience before, during, and after the Civil War. Eventually, a bronze statue of a U.S. Colored Soldier

will be placed on the square near the historic Williamson County Courthouse. “From the beginning, our purpose behind the ‘Fuller Story’ was to unite—not divide. We wanted to put something up instead of tearing something down. The unveiling of these markers is a huge step in that direction,” said Dr. Kevin Riggs, Pastor of Franklin Community Church. “My prayer is that October 17 be a day of unity, love, and celebration.”



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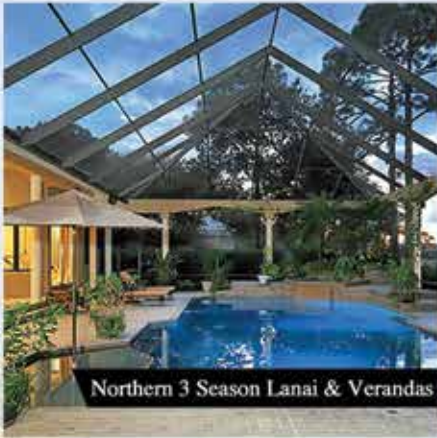
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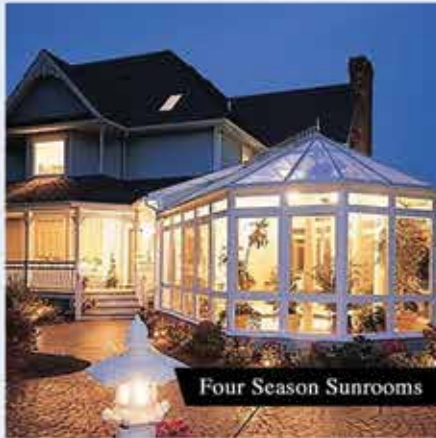
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Photography submitted.

# CUSTOM CLOSETS, MORE INSPIRED CLOSETS NASHVILLE HELPS CLIENTS OVERCOME ORGANIZATIONAL CHALLENGES, LOOK GOOD IN THE PROCESS

**BY JASON ZASKY**

Once you have a custom closet, you can't live without one. That's the feedback Betty Anne Mills has received from countless clients—that is, those who have engaged Inspired Closets Nashville to design a custom organization solution.

And while Inspired Closets offers more than custom closets, wardrobes make up the largest part of its business, which serves the entire Nashville metropolitan area.

"We do pantries, laundry rooms, home offices, garages, or pretty much any place that needs to be organized," offers Mills, who co-founded the company with her husband twelve years ago, and now boasts three full-time designers and two full-time installers.

Notably, the company's showroom recently underwent a makeover of its own, hence the showroom's grand re-opening celebration, which will take place sometime in November.

The new showroom is an outgrowth of many years of organic growth, the kind of growth story that ought to inspire those looking to make a mid-life career change—or depart corporate America.

"I went back to school when I was 40 years old to become an interior designer and worked for some interior design firms before going out on my own," explains Mills. That led to the purchase of a Closets & More dealership, "and I started by helping a few people in retirement communities get their closets done,

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Photography submitted.

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including my parents.”

As time went on, it became clear that her endeavor’s growth trajectory warranted additional manpower, “and ultimately, my husband, who had been in the corporate world, decided it would be good if we had a family company, and so we joined forces. About two years ago, we re-branded ourselves as Inspired Closets Nashville,” and the company is now poised to help more clients than ever before.

As for Inspired Closets’ clientele, Mills says that married women with children commission most of the projects, but that men take a particular interest in jobs that involve garages and entertainment centers.

“We also get some business from some higher-income millennials who live downtown, and we have products that are geared toward that age bracket as well,” notes Mills.

As for the process of commissioning a custom organization solution, Mills and her colleagues try to make it as easy and seamless as possible.

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#### < FROM PAGE 21

a designer out. Our designer will talk to you about your needs, your budget, and how you want the space to function. Once the design meets your needs, then we come to an agreement, and we start.”

At the same time, Inspired Closets may also be able to provide an assist when a client wants or needs to remove an existing closet system. “We will remove wire shelving, but we can’t do demolition work,” says Mills, “though we can refer people who can help with this.”

Inspired Closets is also equally happy to work with clients who are hands-on or hands-off. “Some clients basically know what they want, and we simply help them prioritize their needs,” says Mills, while others are looking for extensive guidance.

Generally speaking, though, most of the company’s recommendations are designed to answer the question: How can you use the space to perform and function for you in the most effective and efficient way while still making it aesthetically pleasing?

“We’ll recommend shelving for shoes, we’ll recommend hampers, and we have all different ways to hang clothes. We can also help you organize jewelry and accessories,” elaborates Mills.

Most notably, perhaps, the process of creating a new custom

closet can be very cathartic.

“Generally, you take everything out of your closet at the beginning [of a project], and that helps you purge,” offers Mills. “And because we design the closet to fit what you have specifically, [when we’re done] you have a spot for everything. So even if your closet gets messy, you know where everything is supposed to go and that makes it easy to clean.”

Fittingly, then, one of Mills’ most rewarding experiences was working to help organize the bedroom and closet of a so-called hoarder.

“We worked with her to empty and organize the space in her bedroom we did build-ins for her clothes, books, and TV,” she says. “I’ve never seen someone so excited that she finally had a place to put things. It was a milestone for her.” But whether you’re anywhere on the continuum from hoarder to neat-freak, Mills says that she has always derived satisfaction simply from being able to help, one reason she is so excited about Inspired Closets’ new showroom. “We feel like we are very attentive to our clients and just want to give them a good experience,” she says.

*For more information about Inspired Closets, see page 31.*

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