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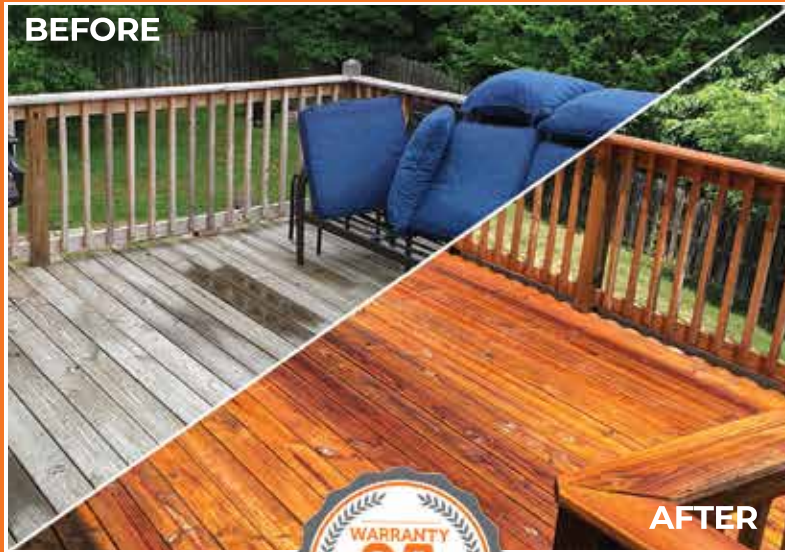
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Javier and Reeba Garcia pose with their staff. Staff Photography

# GARCIA'S TO CELEBRATE 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**BY JASON ZASKY**

Javier and Reeba Garcia have seen a lot of growth and change in Franklin and the rest of Williamson County since Garcia's opened in 2000. Their family-owned and -operated establishment—which bills itself as “a different kind of Mexican restaurant”—owes much of its success and stability to the combination of old-fashioned hard work and time-tested recipes of Javier's mother, who created or inspired many of Garcia's original menu items.

“It was a no-brainer to open a restaurant,” recalls Reeba, noting that Javier's mom was making big meals every day while he and his 13 siblings were growing up, which provided plenty of opportunities to perfect delicious recipes. Hence the guiding inspiration for Garcia's: a restaurant that would serve fresh, homemade Mexican dishes—with the food and atmosphere designed to remind Javier and his siblings of home.

“My mother-in-law had a lot of involvement before the restaurant opened,” elabo-

rates Reeba, recalling how she would sit at a table with Javier, revealing the details of her recipes and assorted cooking secrets, which remain an integral part of Garcia's menu almost two decades later, especially her homemade sauces.

As a result, Garcia's features unique menu items, and also helps explain the popularity of Garcia's Fajitas, in all their various incarnations, including Fajita Tropical and Fajita Al Pastor.

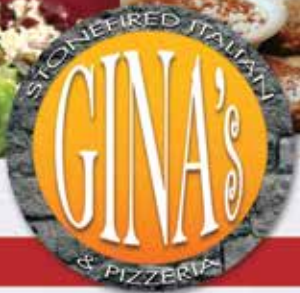
Dishes like these help distinguish Gar-

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Staff photography.



“WE HAVE LONGTIME CUSTOMERS WHOSE CHILDREN HAVE GROWN UP AND GONE OFF TO COLLEGE, AND WE KNOW THESE CUSTOMERS BY NAME, SO IT’S LIKE THEY ARE PART OF OUR FAMILY,”

Photo by Keoni K Photography.

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cia’s from many other Mexican restaurants, where the menus often have a certain sameness, “and if you say ‘I want a #3,’ well, everyone knows what a #3 combo is,” offers Reeba.

The menu and atmosphere have also helped earn Garcia’s a loyal following that extends beyond Williamson County, with regular customers coming from as far away as Springfield and Murfreesboro. Never mind the admiration of transplants from states like California and Texas, who

say the dishes remind them of the Mexican food they remember from their home towns.

Not surprisingly, Javier and Reeba are also proud of the fact that many customers have been with them since the restaurant’s earliest days, further contributing to the family atmosphere, which extends to diners and employees alike.

“We have longtime customers whose children have grown up and gone off to college, and we know these customers by name, so it’s like they are part of our

family,” she adds, before noting that a new generation of her own family members have started working at the restaurant, including a nephew and the couple’s two oldest sons.

Meanwhile, Javier and company have not hesitated to provide job opportunities to young people outside of their own family. In fact, “we provide jobs to many high schoolers and college students who are looking to work for the first time,” says Reeba, granting that the couple aims to be

**PAGE 10 >**



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Staff photography.

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role models, for their own children and those of others.

“We want to show that if you work hard and do the right things that you can achieve the American Dream,” she concludes.

It all adds up to a lot of good karma that seems to surround the establishment, with Reeba remembering a recent night in which a young man proposed to his girlfriend outside the restaurant, paying homage to the fact that Garcia’s was the site of the couple’s first date. (She said ‘yes’ and the happy couple then came inside to have dinner and celebrate with family members.)

“It was a fun night because love was in the air,” says Reeba. “It was a happy moment that they allowed us to share with them.”



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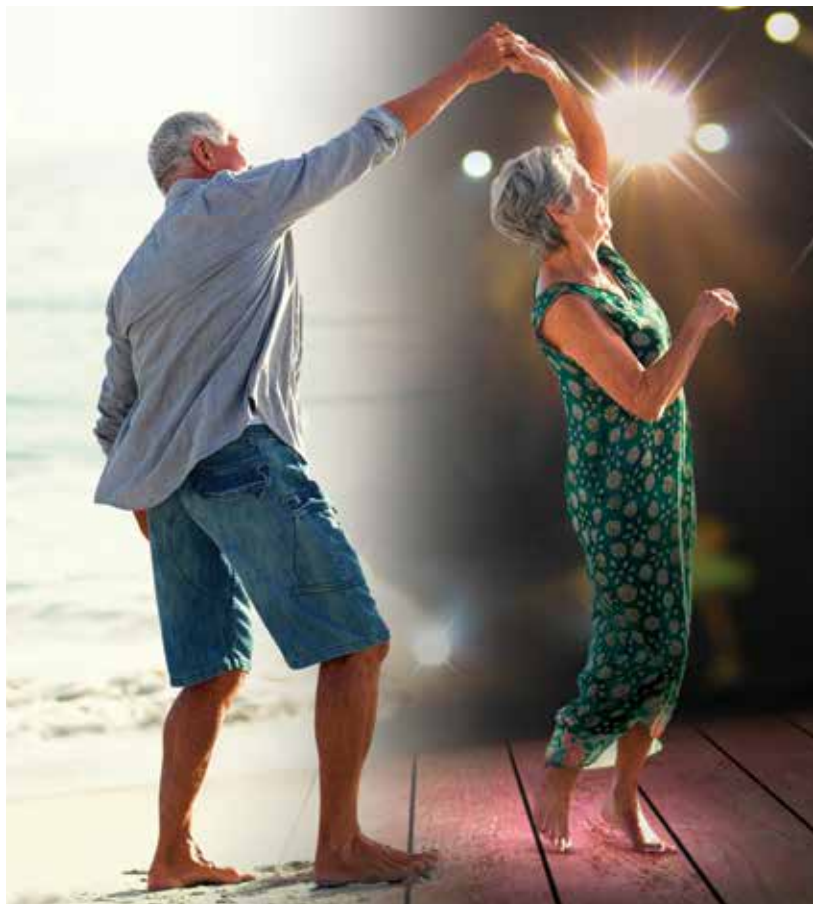
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Photography submitted.

# FOR TUCKER'S PAVING, ASPHALT PAVING IS A FAMILY AFFAIR

**BY JASON ZASKY**

"I was born in Savannah, Tenn., and started seal coating when I was little," begins Ronnie Tucker, owner of Tucker's Paving, a Hohenwald-based asphalt paving contractor, explaining how he got his start in what is now a multi-generational family business. "My dad got me into paving driveways, and after I got married I bought a two-ton dump truck and branched out on my own, so I've been doing blacktop work for 29 years."

Today he leads a mature business that completes residential and commercial

asphalt paving projects across Middle Tennessee. Perhaps not surprisingly, both of Tucker's sons work for their father, who says, "I'm raising my sons the right way, and they are eventually going to take over the business."

But for now, Tucker is focused on keeping up with the company's growth—and adding to his fleet of trucks and pavers.

"Our bread-and-butter is residential driveways," he says, though his crews also work on commercial parking lots, with customers that commonly include churches, gas stations, and commercial office parks.

To meet demand, he recently added a 2019 Kubota 75 loader, one that can "rip

up, put down, and level out areas—basically, do everything we need," he says. He also purchased a new Gehl pro asphalt paver, one that holds four tons of hot mix asphalt and is ideal for paving parking lots and streets. Finally, his crew members also utilize a ton-and-a-half roller machine and a pair of red and white tri-axle dump trucks, with more new equipment purchases planned for the next year or two.

Asked to explain why Tucker's Paving is getting more and more business, Tucker says it's largely reputation and a matter of more Middle Tennessee residents becoming familiar with the company's work.

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“WE FEEL LIKE CUSTOMERS ARE CALLING US BECAUSE THEY HEAR PEOPLE SAY THAT WE TAKE CARE OF OUR CUSTOMERS AND KEEP THEM HAPPY,”



**< FROM PAGE 12**

“We feel like customers are calling us because they hear people say that we take care of our customers and keep them happy,” he says. “We’re not perfect, but we’re a dependable, licensed, and insured crew that does quality work and we stand behind and warranty that work.”

Tucker believes that providing free estimates in a timely fashion has also helped endear him to potential customers, saying, “We try to fit people in and not make them wait a month to give them an estimate.”

At the same time, Tucker also works hard to educate potential customers—and to dispel myths related to concrete and

asphalt paving. For example, a lot of people believe a gravel driveway is preferable to blacktop if the driveway is on an incline and there’s snow or ice on the ground.

“Actually, snow and ice will melt faster on blacktop than on gravel,” says Tucker. “And if you put on the right type of seal coating and maintain your driveway properly, you’ll get better traction on an incline with blacktop [as opposed to gravel].”

As for another bit of advice, Tucker advises Middle Tennessee homeowners not to wait too long to resurface their driveways, otherwise, you run the risk of needing to “take it up and start from scratch, which means spending double the amount

of money. But if you call sooner rather than later you can put on a good, thick overlay and the resurface will last many years,” even as it contributes to a home’s curb appeal.

All that said, passing along his knowledge—to clients and family members alike—is one of the rewards of the job for Tucker. “I have a lot of experience from working with my dad and other professionals around the state of Tennessee,” he concludes, “and now I’m passing it on to my sons.”

*To learn more about Tucker’s Paving see their ad on Page 19.*

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Tim and Bess Kearns, Nancy and Eric Jacobson, Photography submitted.

# NINTH ANNUAL BOOTLEGGER'S BASH PLANNED FOR SEPTEMBER

## BATTLE OF FRANKLIN TRUST EVENT PAYS TRIBUTE TO COUNTY'S UNIQUE HISTORY

The Battle of Franklin Trust will host the ninth annual Bootlegger's Bash beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 27 at Carnton. To celebrate Williamson County's long history of bootlegging, the event will play host to many local distillers, a traditional Southern dinner and live entertainment. Community co-chairs for this event are long-time Trust supporters Tim and Bess Kearns.

"Bootlegger's Bash is a staple event at Carnton to celebrate Tennessee's bootlegging history," said Eric A. Jacobson, CEO of the Battle of Franklin Trust. The traditional Southern evening will feature tastings from local distilleries

such as Old Smokey Moonshine, Yee Haw Brewing, George Dickel Tennessee Whiskey, Jackson Morgan Southern Cream, King's Family Distillery, Old Glory Distillery, Prichards Distillery, Tennessee Legend, Mantra, Wheeler's Raid Distillery, Bar Magnolia, Pennington Distillery, Gate 11 Distillery, Lost State Distilling, Franklin Wine and Spirits, Leiper's Fork Distillery, H C Clark Distillery and Big Machine Vodka. Also, local vendors Pandly Cotton Candy and Battleground South Cigar Shoppe will be in attendance.

This year's event will offer a tasting-only ticket for those who are unable to stay for dinner. All proceeds from this ticketed

event are donated to the Battle of Franklin Trust and its efforts to preserve the springhouse at Carnton and construction of the new Carter House Museum.

Tickets are required and must be purchased in advance online at [www.boft.org](http://www.boft.org). Tasting tickets are \$35 per person, which includes all tastings from local distillers. VIP tickets can be purchased for \$75 per person or \$140 per couple; these include tastings, dinner, and live entertainment. Bootlegger's Bash is a strictly 21 and up event. Bright Event Productions is sponsoring this year's Bootleggers Bash.



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# “19 MILES TO MUSIC ROW” FEATURES LOCAL TALENT AND SUPERSTARS AT FREE EVENT

“19 Miles to Music Row”, a songwriter’s series in Franklin takes place each month, and features four up and coming songwriters each month for the run if the community-wide free event.

The concert series is taking place at Franklin’s First United Methodist Church, located at 120 Aldersgate Way in Franklin.

Each night showcases four up and coming songwriters, each playing three of their songs.

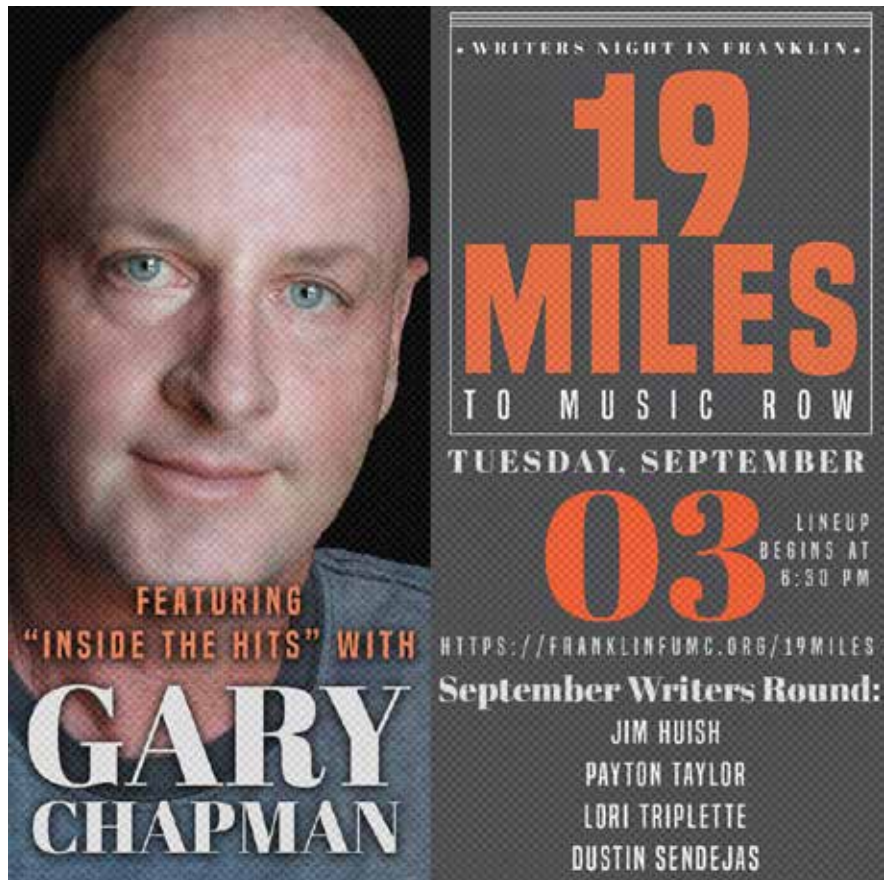
“Inside the Hits” kicks off following the songwriter’s performance. “Inside the Hits” features a professional songwriter each month playing songs that made them famous. You never know who’s going to show up in Franklin!

On September 3, “Inside the Hits” will star the multiple Grammy Award-nominated, Dove Award-winning, Gary Chapman. Gary is known for writing “My Father’s Eyes,” Man After Your Own Heart,” “Finally” and “Tender Tennessee Christmas.”

On October 1 it’s actor and musician Jonathan Jackson. Jackson recently starred in the network series “Nashville.” His credits also include a role in the daytime drama “General Hospital,” and multiple movies appearances. The talented Top 10 hit musician is also frontman for the band Enation.

*The event is free to attend, and registration is not required.*

*For more details visit [franklinfumc.org/19miles/](http://franklinfumc.org/19miles/)*



WRITERS NIGHT IN FRANKLIN

# 19 MILES TO MUSIC ROW

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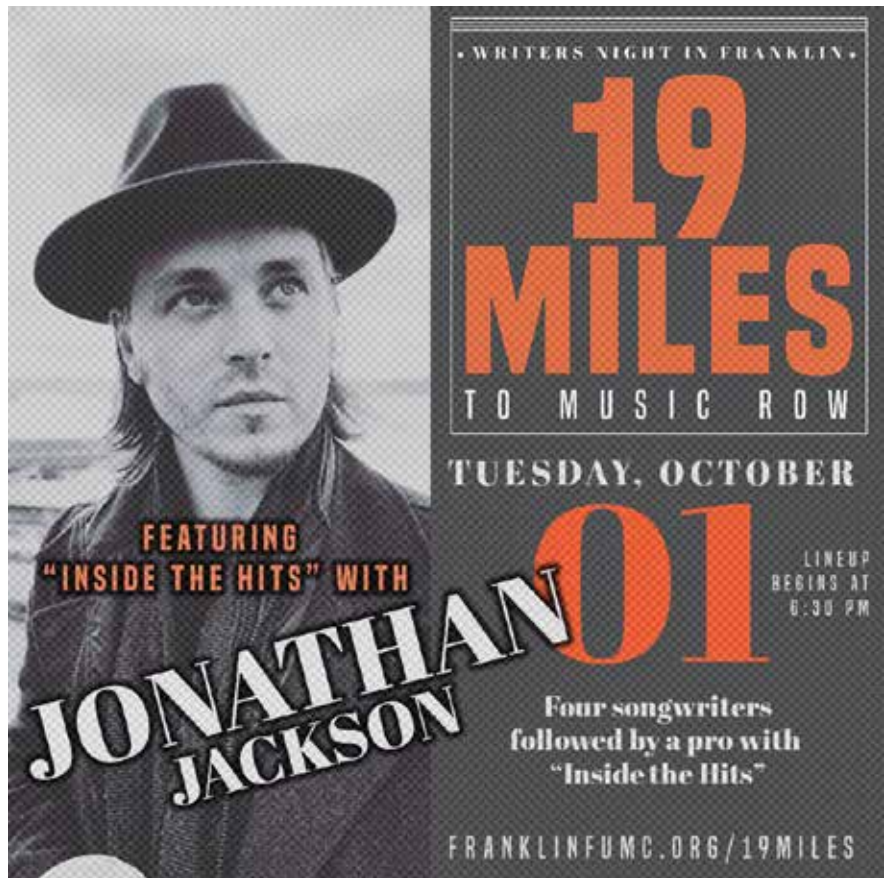
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WRITERS NIGHT IN FRANKLIN

# 19 MILES TO MUSIC ROW

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Photography submitted.

# BATTLE OF FRANKLIN TRUST ANNOUNCES BATTLEFIELD RECLAMATION THROUGH DONATION

The Battle of Franklin Trust is pleased to announce that through the generosity of a Williamson County neighbor – Mr. William David Dozier - another piece of the Franklin battlefield has been reclaimed. The small tract of land has been donated to the Trust and it connects the Carriage Park neighborhood to the Eastern Flank Battlefield Park. The Trust will begin to use it almost immediately and allow guests on battlefield tours to get an altogether different perspective of this important part of the battlefield.

At the time of the battle, which was fought on November 30, 1864, the piece of ground was part of Carnton and had been used as farmland. Nearby McGavock Creek is fed by several springs, one of which is under the Carnton springhouse and it empties into the Harpeth River.

During the Battle of Franklin, the right wing of Maj. Gen. William W. Loring's Division moved through the Carriage Park area, plowed across the creek, and then across the Eastern Flank. His three brigades, under the command of Brig. Gens. Winfield S. Featherston, John Adams and Thomas M. Scott, took significant casualties from incoming artillery fire as they advanced toward the Federal line. A portion of Scott's Brigade – Alabamians, Tennesseans and Louisianans - swept over this newly acquired battlefield property. Loring's men took heavy losses and nearly 1,000 were killed, wounded or captured by the conclusion of the fighting. Gen. Scott was among the injured. Many of the soldiers who perished during the battle are buried in the McGavock Confederate Cemetery, which is just west of the tract.

Many more interpretive opportunities exist across the Franklin battlefield. The Trust is seeking other historically minded community members, like the Dozier family, to donate or sell property or to allow interpretive markers to be placed on land they own. If you are interested in helping to further interpret our community's role in the conflict that redefined America, please contact Development Director Laurie McPeak at [laurie@boft.org](mailto:laurie@boft.org) or CEO Eric A. Jacobson at [eric@boft.org](mailto:eric@boft.org).

With the 155th anniversary of the Battle of Franklin just around the corner, you could leave behind a legacy that future generations can all enjoy and appreciate.

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Want to sample the great classes we have at The Barre? **Join us on Saturday, September 14 from 8-10am for our open house! We're offering four 30-minute classes FOR \$1 EACH.** Try one, or try them all! We'll also have snacks, giveaways, and a team ready to answer any questions you might have. See you there!

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**WEDNESDAY:**  
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**03**  
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GARY  
CHAPMAN  
**01**  
OCTOBER  
JONATHAN  
JACKSON

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8:30 a.m.

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email: [gatehousechurch@mail.com](mailto:gatehousechurch@mail.com)

**615.495.8812**

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**Friday, Sept. 6th**  
**6:30PM**

Oak Valley Baptist Church  
Register at  
[www.oakvalleybaptist.org](http://www.oakvalleybaptist.org)





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# {local} CALENDAR

## 36TH ANNUAL PUMPKIN FEST

The Heritage Foundation's 36th Annual Pumpkinfest is Middle Tennessee's largest family fall festival returning this year on October 26, 2019, from 10am to 7pm! With over 65,000 people in attendance, the festival stretches along Main Street and its side avenues in downtown Franklin and offers tons of festive fun for people of all ages! Food, Arts and Crafts, entertainment and lots of activities for the kids.

[Williamsonheritagefoundation.org](http://Williamsonheritagefoundation.org)



## THE CELEBRATION OF NATIONS

The Celebration of Nations will be held in Historic Downtown Franklin on October 12, 2019. The fun-filled celebration of Nations festival featuring Live Music, Art & Cultural Food Vendors, a Global Beer tent and a special performance by Rubriks Groove! VIP Tickets are now on sale, and prices increase as the festival date approaches.

Presented by Sister Cities of Franklin and Williamson County and the Williamson County Cultural Arts Commission.



## FRANKLIN WINE FESTIVAL

The 15th annual celebration of food and wine throughout The Factory at Franklin! The event will be held Friday, October 25, 2019 from 7:00 PM-10:00 PM at The Factory at Franklin. This food and wine tasting event is a fundraising effort for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee, helping to serve young people in need of a mentor with a positive adult role model. To date, this event has raised \$1.9 million for Middle Tennessee's children. Big Brothers Big Sisters will transform The Factory into an indoor vineyard for its fifteenth year. Attendees will taste world-class wine, delicious artisan treats, and will have the opportunity to swirl, sniff and sip award-winning vintages from top distributors. We invite you to join over 2,000 of our supporters to benefit Middle Tennessee's youth. [Franklinwinefestival.com](http://Franklinwinefestival.com)



## WINE DOWN MAIN STREET

On Saturday, November 2nd, downtown Franklin will come alive with Wine Down Main Street, a unique wine tasting event that takes place along Historic Main Street in Franklin, Tennessee. It's the best night out all year: the streets are closed to traffic for the more than two thousand attendees; wines, beers, and spirits, provided by Lipman Brothers, are poured in the shops; food samplings are provided by area restaurants, and local musicians entertain you along the way. This event benefits Boys & Girls Clubs of Middle Tennessee's Franklin & Fairview Clubs.

[Williamsonheritagefoundation.org](http://Williamsonheritagefoundation.org)



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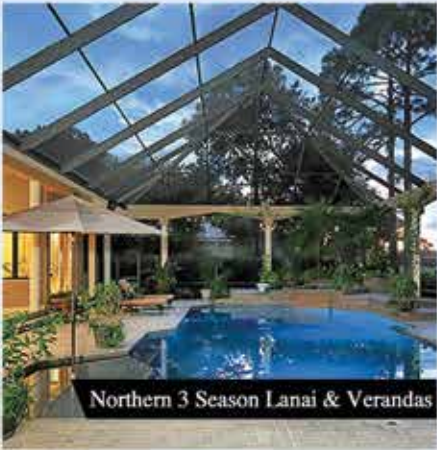


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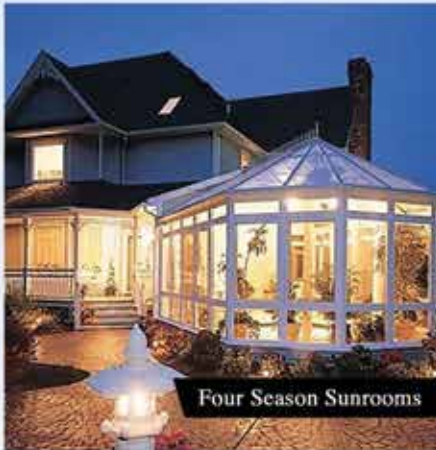
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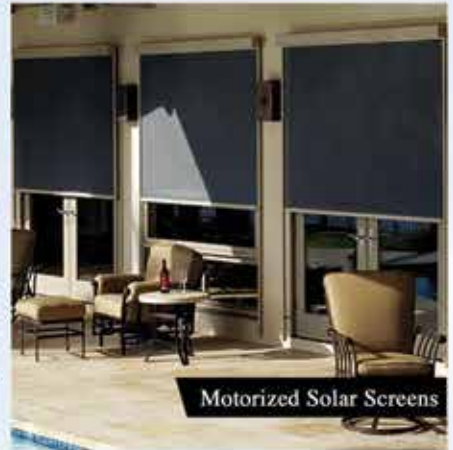
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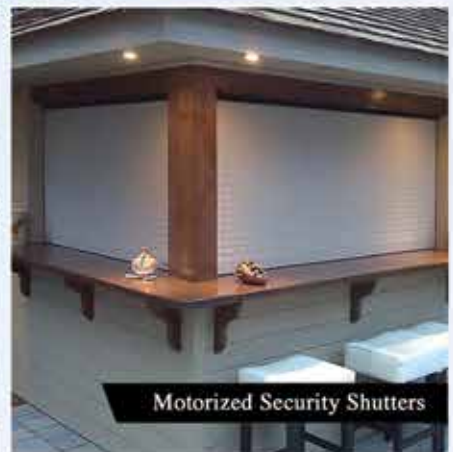
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