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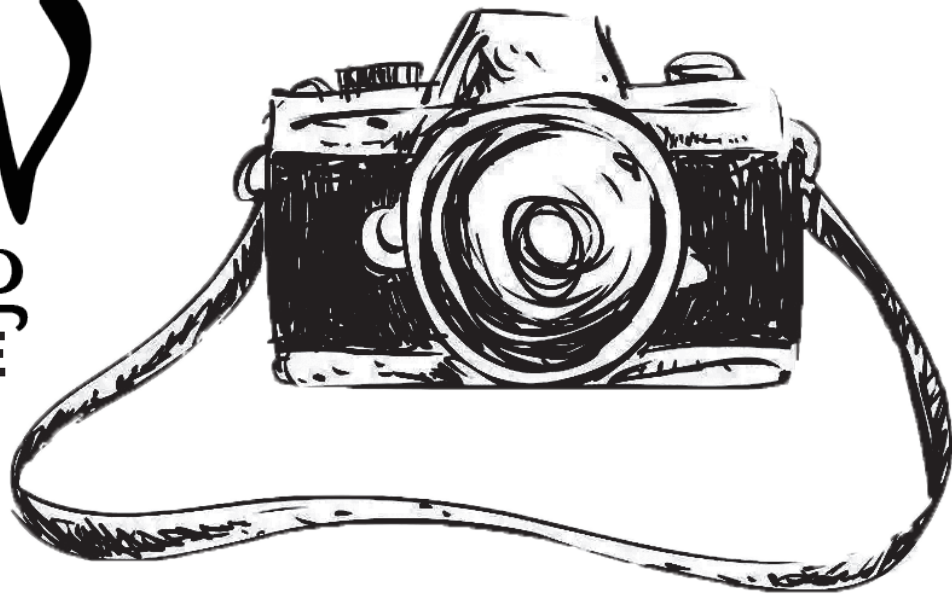
RMW Living

PHOTOGRAPHY CHALLENGE

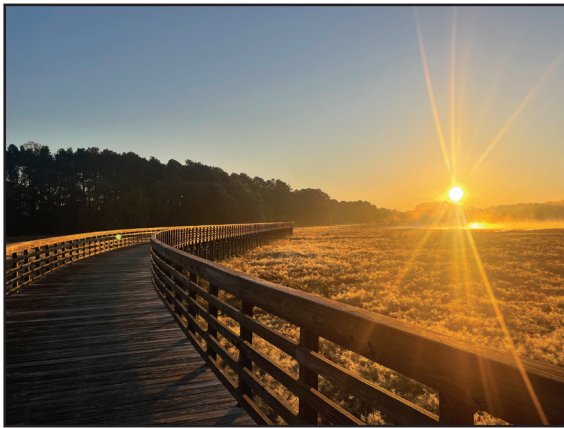
This month's cover shot was taken at Lake Wilson. Visit the park and try to capture all of the shots below, from the exact location, for a chance to win a \$100 Visa Gift Card.

Email your submissions to:

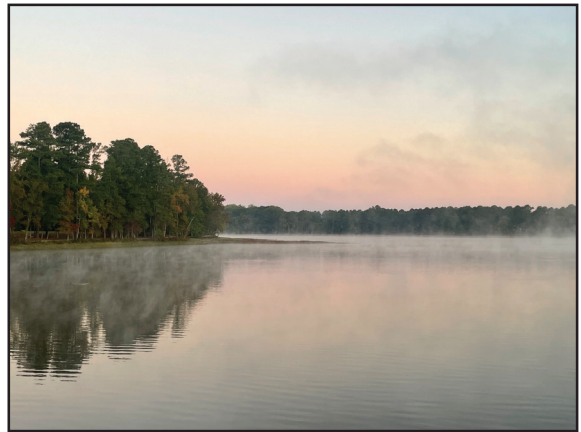
rmwliving@gmail.com by October 25th, 2022



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OCTOBER 2022

The Newcomers Edition

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THE PROVEN LEADER

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PROTECTING NASH COUNTY SINCE 1987

EARLY VOTING: OCT 20 - NOV 5

GENERAL ELECTION: NOV 8

PAID FOR BY KEITH STONE FOR SHERIFF

Blending Heritage & Hospitality

By Alana Edmond

From the early to mid-20th century, the United States was bursting with thriving Black communities. Asheville, North Carolina was one of the many predominantly Black cities that had a flourishing local economy due to the number of Black homeowners and Black businesses. However, from the 1950s to the 1980s, the urban renewal project wreaked havoc on Asheville and other Black communities across the United States.

Kristin Kitchen, the founder and CEO of Sojourn Heritage Accommodations has a personal connection to the unfortunate events that displaced so many Black families in Asheville. She recalls, "My grandmother is from North Carolina. We had a house and they took it by eminent domain, put us in the projects, and never built anything there. The land is still there, vacant...That's America. That was urban renewal. When they systematically stole Black folks' properties."

Kristin's grandmother lived near what is now the River Arts District in Asheville. Although it may not reflect it now, the River Arts Districts and many parts of the United States have a Black past that has been erased by urban renewal and gentrification. One of Kristin's goals is to uncover those histories.

With a background in African American History and years of real estate experience, Kristin owns four bed and breakfasts under the Sojourn Heritage Hotel Brand. The goal of the brand is to showcase the rich history of African Americans through a hospitality setting. Her first accommodation, Six Acres Bed & Breakfast, was founded in 2001 when Kristin had the opportunity to recover an old, run-down property located in Cincinnati that was



Kristin Kitchen

once a part of the Underground Railroad.

"I found this old house that was part of the underground railroad. I actually went to a party there when I was in high school, and the owners told me the history and that it was part of the underground railroad. So, I held on to that. It was all boarded up and the [owner] passed away but it couldn't be torn down because it was zoned historic. I was babbling about it to one of my neighbors and he told me that the new owners were our neighbors. I called them and I asked if I could buy it and they were like "sure!"

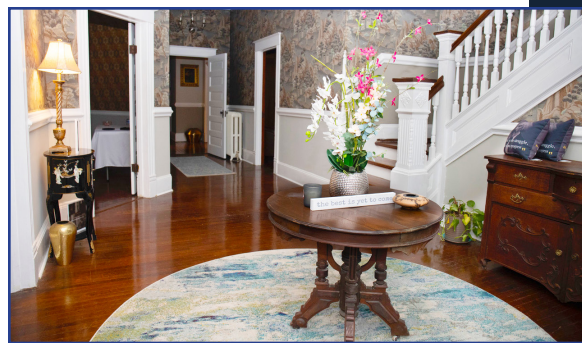
That property and the renovations ended up costing her three times the amount she anticipated, however, she states, "if that wasn't going to sink me, nothing would." As a trained historian, Kristin's passion for African American history and the vision she had for her brand are what kept her going. She states, "the desire to create a brand that was going to tell our story and that was going to be focused on African American history was natural to me."

All of the Sojourn Heritage B&Bs are located on properties that are relevant to the Black experience. In fact, Kristin affirms that you can "put me in any town in America and I can tell you the Black history story."

Rocky Mount, NC turns out to be a great city for a Black history lesson and a ripe location for her thriving business. Kristin's third bed and breakfast, *The Aventura Falls*, is set on what used to be the land of former slave owners and tells the history of Black people's contribution to North Carolina's tobacco industry from slavery to the present day. The B&B showcases pictures of African Americans that worked in the North Carolina tobacco industry.

"Because the house was built by descendants of a slave-owning family, the Aventura Family, we want to tell the history of those who tilled the fields so that they could buy that house."

Kristin also owns the Dunns Josephine Hotel located in the Overtown neighborhood of Miami, Florida, previously known as the "Harlem of the South." This hotel was the last historic property in the neighborhood and was used in the early 20th century to lodge Black performers, who performed in Miami,



but could not rest in other Miami hotels that were for whites only. Although Overtown is being rapidly gentrified, Kristin says she is “thrilled that we can fight to save some history and tell a Black story, because in ten years people won’t even know that Black people lived in Overtown.”

In addition to preserving Black History, Kristin has an unwavering commitment to supporting the communities in which her businesses are located. In late 2019, Kristin had just opened the Dunns Josephine Hotel after spending nearly a decade and “every dime” she had trying to launch the location. However, when the pandemic hit in 2020, the hospitality industry took a major blow, and Kristin’s B&Bs were no exception. Although devastated, she decided that instead of leaving the hotel unoccupied, she would house Miami’s homeless population.

But that is not the only thing Kristin has done to better surrounding communities. Through her accommodations, Kristin uplifts local communities by supporting Black-owned businesses and hiring people from within those communities. Every B&B under the Sojourn Heritage Hotel Brand is supplied by local Black-owned businesses--from the soaps to the wines, giving visitors a truly unique experience.

“The goal is to show Black excellence in a hospitality space so that the world can see we can do it all. To really make sure we support our own and be the change we want to see.”

By supporting local Black-owned businesses and hiring from within the community, Kristin hopes to generate economic opportunities and revitalize urban communities in a way that is beneficial for the residents.

“My constant conversation is, it’s wonderful to be able to tell someone’s story but how do you make sure that you have an economic impact on a community? That’s one of the things we’re most committed to. Ensuring that the Sojourn Brand has an economic impact into a community. That we’re using the people in that town. We make sure we are supporting our communities and that Black people make money when we come into a community.” Along with the creation of economic opportunities, Kristin feels that entrepreneurship and ownership are crucial elements to the empowerment of Black people.

“My grandmother grew up in a rough life... And here I am, two generations later and I’m going to own the hotels they worked in. We’ve always been the bellhops and the doormen and the waitresses and the maids, but to be the ones who own the buildings and to be the ones that own the brands is extremely significant and important. It’s kind of like an honor to my grandmother.”



Avent on Falls

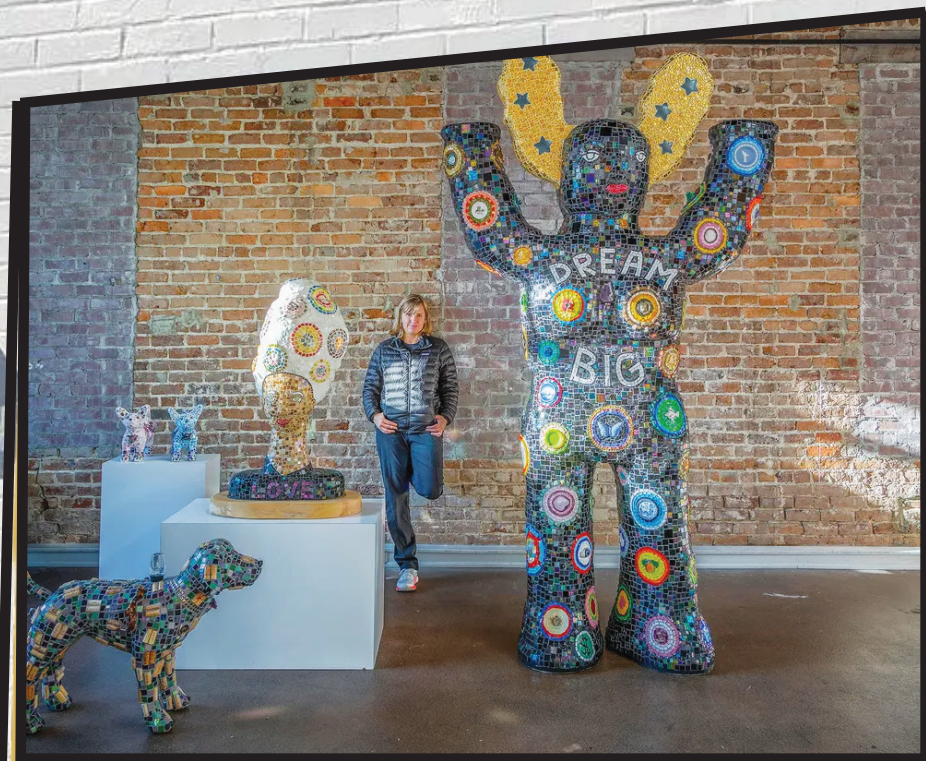
Holiday parties at Avent on Falls

The holidays are quickly approaching. The team at Avent on Falls is ready to help you begin planning your winter gatherings.



**For more information
call: 833.271.2111 or
email: aventonfalls@gmail.com**

ICONOSTAR



From the moment you walk onto the Iconostar property in downtown Wilson, you are instantly overcome with a feeling of peace and whimsy.

First of all, the courtyard in front of the gallery is named Positivity Park. Each day at 11:11 am, artist Elizabeth Laul Healey pauses to put positivity into the air. Without failure an alarm will sound and a moment is taken. You will even find clocks incorporated into her art that are all set to 11:11.

Elizabeth began her career as an artist over twenty years ago. Some of her earliest works were paintings colorful circles. The idea of the circles came about because at the beginning of her career her daughter was born and her mom was simultaneously dying of cancer. Her comfort was knowing that this is part of the circle of life. For years she painted dozens and dozens of circle paintings. Even now Elizabeth incorporates circles into her art. You will notice that the massive Iconostar statues all have circles on them.

Elizabeth is an established artist who's art has been featured in galleries, art fairs, and shows across the United States and Mexico. Her art has been collected from people in the US, Latin America, Europe, and Asia. Some of her collectors include 20th Century Fox, founding members of MOCA Los Angeles, sports figures and celebrities alike.

She grew up in the small artist town of Laguna Beach, California where there were over 100 art galleries and art studios. Elizabeth's high school alma mater were known as "The Artists". Although Elizabeth worked in an array of different fields throughout her life, she says "it's no surprise I ended up being a full time artist".

Before becoming an artist, Elizabeth sold seminars for Tony Robbins, worked as a wholesale mortgage broker, and even had a brief acting career in Hollywood. She worked as an art director and operations manager at a luxury magazine. Elizabeth has also authored multiple coffee table books that have been sold in locations such as Barnes & Noble and Costco.

Elizabeth now resides in Wilson, which is where she opened an art studio called Iconostar Art. The studio is adjacent to the multi-million dollar Vollis Simpson Whirligig Park and Museum.

Studio 1 at Station Square

If you know anything about Rocky Mount, you know that Station Square is the hub for small businesses. From clothing designers to attorneys, and even a new co-working space, this building houses some serious movers and shakers. It only made sense for the newest media platform in town to settle at the busiest incubator in town.

Rocky Mount's motto is the 'Center of it All' and that is one of the reasons why this city was chosen as the first location for the Podcast At Studio 1 company in North Carolina.

In addition to the location, the timing couldn't be more perfect. With the explosion of popularity in podcasting, the insane growth in population of North Carolina and the progressiveness of this I-95 city, a podcast studio was the missing link. Now Rocky Mount has a megaphone to broadcast to the world exactly why it touts its motto.

Why podcasting?

Podcasting is personal. It is an intimate conversation that is shared with the masses. Unlike TV and radio, podcasting is not under the thumb of a big corporation, or government licensing. It is still a truly free frontier, content wise.

Yes, there are costs associated with podcasting, such as studio time. Recording equipment can get expensive quickly, so using a podcasting studio is a great way to launch your brand inexpensively. There is also the cost of posting your podcast on various media platforms, which is a nominal fee.

Podcasting is also a way to talk about the things that interest you. Too often the information coming through your speakers doesn't move you. With a podcast, you can reach like minded folks that operate on your wavelength.

The first people to book the studio were a husband and wife who were out on a date. They said they just wanted to do something different, and they did. They had a production assistant with them to work the mixer and add the laugh track and sound effects to their podcast.

The next booking was a 10-year-old kid who wanted to talk about being home-schooled and how he felt about it. This media is truly for everyone!

For those who are looking for a recording studio for podcasts, Studio 1 At Station Square has what you need. There are four microphones, a Podcaster Pro mixer, an Apple computer, internet and plenty of space for creativity. If you are unfamiliar with software such as Garage Band or Logic for producing your podcast, you can also rent a production assistant to help.

Contact Kat at Station Square to book.





By Rodney Ross

There is something to be said about a name. There is meaning to it, whether intentional or unintentional. The name Fairhurst breaks down as fair - alluding to beauty and hurst, meaning trees. What Adrian Fairhurst can do with trees is nothing short of beautiful.

Born in South Africa, Adrian's family moved to the United States when he was 12 in the mid 1990's. His family came to visit one summer and the experience was enough for his parents to sell off their possessions, move to the United States and settle in Wilson, North Carolina.

Growing up in rural North Carolina cemented his connection to nature and promoted self sufficiency. In his adolescent years he obtained the coveted rank of Eagle Scout in the boy scouts. Adrian's life experiences have given him a straightforward, humble kindness, coupled with sharp intellect. That intellect shows through prominently in his understanding of wood.

Prior to setting out to work as a portable sawmill operator, Fairhurst worked various jobs that dealt with wood working, such as building the shelves we often find in stores that typically look better than anything us weekend carpenters can put together. His attention to detail, creativity and exceptional work ethic would land him in a position that would change his life forever.

Fairhurst was promoted and responsible for the southeast region within his profession. The results and numbers caused him to be sought after in the northeast region as well to help refine their operational model. It was at this point where he serendipitously met the woman who would become the love of his life and wife.

If you ever hear Fairhurst talk about wood, there is a joy in which he speaks. However, when talks about his wife, he hits another

gear. It's as if the universe pauses and listens intently as each carefully thought out and chosen word adorns his wife like jewelry, rare, uncommon and bedazzling to behold.

Fairhurst explained the circumstances about his engagement to his wife. He knew that he did not want another day to go by without confirming his commitment to spend the rest of his natural life trying to make sure she is happy. This began with the idea of wanting to create her forever ring that they would design together. In fact, Fairhurst was adamant about doing it together. For as long as she would look at this ring, she would be able to recall the journey that was done in tandem. However, the proposal would be done with a ring he would snatch from the most romantic part of his imagination.

Fairhurst purchased an exotic orange wood from Africa called Padauk. He then acquired a wood from South America called Purple Heart. As the name denotes, the wood is purple. He then selected Walnut as his final selection to be adhered between the two woods. The significance being he is from South Africa, his wife to be at the time was from South America and they found each other here in the United States. So many things had to go right for this impossible meeting of these two to happen. Every heartbreak, every misstep, every success, choice and decision led both of them to a path where they would come together in this great land of opportunity. With the wood he forged, on bent knee, he proposed. With no hesitation, she agreed.

Back to the wood. There was a project Fairhurst was working on and needed to mill wood from a tree that was taken down to accomplish it. During this time, people with portable saw mills were scarce. He decided to look into the cost of investing in one for his personal projects and was convinced that it would be a good purchase. Sawmills similar to the one Fairhurst uses can go for \$30k and beyond. He went to the bank and his credit quickly allowed the bank to provide the capital needed for the purchase. However, the company had at least a 2 year wait before the portable sawmill would be available. This was not what Fairhurst had in mind because the payments from the bank would start immediately with no viable means of recouping the cost.

Intrepidly, Fairhurst turned to the internet and shopped for deals until his efforts were rewarded with the deal of a lifetime in South Carolina. Someone was selling the exact mill Fairhurst was looking for. To his surprise, the mill had only been run once, which was at



Yes! I Wood⁹

the time of the original purchase. The heirs to that sawmill sold it because the original owner passed away due to COVID complications shortly after receiving the mill. Fairhurst's search for that specific equipment was at a time when that family needed to recoup the financial loss of the equipment and he immediately removed the burden.

In time, word began to spread about his portable sawmill. So much in fact, that he was able to leave the stability of his employer and go into business for himself and he has not looked back.

Adrian Fairhurst's resolve is like steel, but he is warm like wood. Together with his wife and their new baby, they will be traveling across the country milling wood with his portable sawmill. Slots are filling up quickly as people everywhere are learning that the tree in their yard that needs to come down can be turned into anything from construction lumber, to lumber for furniture or simply to sell locally to act as a rebate for the cost of cutting the trees down. This is the American dream of the past personified in the present. The ability to find a life, love and purpose in this great country is exemplified by the Fairhurst family.

What person doesn't want to wake up next to the people they love most, while pursuing their passion?

INNOVATION IN ENFIELD



There are big things happening in the small town of Enfield, North Carolina right now. When Enfield was labeled the 8th poorest city in America, with almost half of the homes being uninhabitable, one man decided to shoulder the cause to save his hometown.

Mondale Robinson, a native of Enfield and its current Mayor, has a vision for his city. With his military background, he is not wasting any time implementing change.

Mayor Robinson was born and raised in Enfield. He recalls growing up extremely poor and living in several different houses. The houses were not insulated, not energy efficient and not maintained by the landlords. His housing was detrimental to his family's health, but they were poor and unable to make the necessary changes.

Fast forward about 25 years and you will see that same kid, all grown up and determined that no further generations in Enfield will have to go through what his family went through.

In this day and time, it is extremely rare to see young people, who have found success, come home to the small impoverished town of their youth. Most go on to live in big cities and spend their money on fancy cars, lavish vacations and big houses. But Mayor Robinson is not your typical success story. He didn't want to be the "one" who made it out. He wants to be the one who makes it better.

Mayor Robinson's goal is to build affordable, sustainable homes for his community. He believes in this project so much that he has located a piece of land, and put up his own money to get it started.

"The property is in a traditional part of town called 'Black Bottom.' It's the place in Enfield where, during segregated times in North Carolina, it's the only place where black people could live in the town. Because it was designed for black people to live there, we know that the infrastructure is horrible. The water and sewage system, all of that was not a priority during segregation," Mayor Robinson explains.

His plan is to improve the infrastructure on the property and then place 3D printed homes on the site. Mayor Robinson has created the Enfield Housing Corp to manage the affordable housing issues in the city.

Enfield Housing Corp will be like a land trust. Its mission is to combat gentrification and its effects on rising homes prices.

Developers began coming into Enfield building \$200k+ homes in the city. With the average household income being around \$20,000, there was no way for the current population to be able to afford the new homes that were being built. This led Mayor Robinson to seek out alternatives for his citizens. What he found was a solution and a partnership with Azure Printed Homes. Together they will build one of the first 3D printed communities in the country.

He goes on to say that Enfield doesn't want to be Raleigh, nor Richmond, though the city is located at the midpoint between them. He says, "we don't want to be bigger, we just want to better at what we are."

Currently the downtown area is desolate. One is seven buildings is empty. Another part of Mayor Robinson's plan for Enfield is to have a technology school, which will teach people how to code. This will give his community the opportunity to begin applying for some of these high paying, 21st century jobs that are all over North Carolina.

In addition to the school, there will be a 24-hour tech hub so that people can interact with other programmers regardless of where they are in the world. Mayor Robinson feels strongly about educating the community in his city. He wants to ensure that generations to come are prepared to exist in today's world of technology.

"Addressing what is going on in Enfield requires an entire holistic approach to our problems. It's the health aspect, it's the lack of sidewalks, the lack of housing... also the lack of access to technology."

With the huge push for national high speed broadband access coming down from the President's office, North Carolina's legislature will have to walk back some of its early adopted regulations on who can provide internet service, if we are to reach the most rural corners of our state. If state government opens the door for municipalities to provide internet service, then more people will have access.

Mayor Robinson's 'get it done' attitude is not waiting around for new regulation. He is seeking partners who want to be a part of the Phoenix Rising moment that Enfield is about to experience.

Enfield will soon be known, not as a poor, run down city, but as a hub of innovation.



MUSIC EVENTS

October

1

Open Mic Night

Larema Coffee House
7-10pm

7

Story Charlemagne

Koi Pond Brewing Company
7pm

Latin Nights at Casita Brewing

Casita Brewing Company
6pm

8

Beats and Eats (The Spread & Afrobeat Orchestra)

Wilson Whirligig Park
4-8pm

Mill Music Sessions

Rocky Mount Mills
5:30pm

Marye Amanda

The Vino Market
7pm

Voices Carry

Koi Pond Brewing Company
7pm

11

Open Mic Night

Downtown Public House
7pm

14

Masters of Soul

The Dunn Center
7:30pm

15

Marye Amanda

NC Beer Factory
4pm

22

Beats and Eats (Fatmouth and Jonathan Scales Fourchestra)

Wilson Whirligig Park
4-8pm







1 Oktoberfest

Goat Island Bottle Shop
12pm

2 Wilson Oktoberfest

Casita Brewing Company

8 Pumpkin Carving

The Painted Farmer - Lucama
11am

Monster Mania

Snapology
9am & 1pm

Fall Festival

Battleboro United Methodist Church
2-5pm

9 Dog Costume Contest

Whirligig Park
2pm

10 Pumpkin Decorating Contest

Nash Parks and Rec
8am

15 Fall Nature Hike

Nash Community College
10am

Roctoberfest

Downtown Rocky Mount
1pm

Trunk or Treat

Sunset Church of God Tarbooro
4-6pm

22 Haunted Harvest Fest

Snapology
1-5pm

28 Downtown Nashville Trick or Treat, Fall Festival, & Movie

Downtown Nashville
4-7:30pm

29 Halloween Party

Koi Pond Brewing Company
7-10pm

Spooktacular Oktoberfest

Rocky Mount Event Center
2-5pm

30 Trunk or Treat

Parkwood Baptist Church
5:30pm

31 Fall Festival

Southside Baptist Church
6-8pm

Trunk Or Treat and Spooky Trail

Nash Arboretum
6-7:30pm



October

ART EVENTS

A large, detailed image of a paintbrush with a white handle and a silver ferrule, angled from the top left towards the bottom right. The brush has a wooden handle and a dense, brown bristle head. A thick, vibrant pink stroke of paint is being applied by the brush, extending from the tip of the bristles towards the bottom right of the page. The background is plain white.

5

Teen Make & Take Art Class
Wilson Arts
4-5:30pm

6

The New York Theatre Ballet
Edgecombe Community College Tarboro Campus
7pm

7

Yoga Night
Nash Farmers Market
6pm

9

Painting With Goats
The Painted Farmer - Lucama
4pm

12

Pumpkin String Art Class
Nashville Parks and Rec
10am-12pm

Teen Make & Take Art
Wilson Arts
4-5:30pm

15

Handmake Coil Vases
Imperial Centre for Arts
1pm

19

Teen Make & Take Art Class
Wilson Arts
4-5:30pm

26

Teen Make & Take Art Class
Wilson Arts
4-5:30pm

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LaTonya Sumpter

Sr. Talent Development Training Specialist



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