

Celebrating

2

Simpson County

1919-2019

1920-2020

City of Franklin

0



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Franklin and Simpson County
Kentucky 2019 Chamber Book

A publication of the Franklin-Simpson
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www.franklinfavorite.com

This special bicentennial edition of
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City of Franklin

Simpson Fiscal Court

Franklin-Simpson Parks Board

Simpson County Schools

Simpson County Extension Services

LETTER FROM THE CHAMBER



STEVE THURMOND

The city is Franklin, the county is Simpson but around here “we are Franklin-Simpson.” Very few communities refer to themselves with the name of both the city and county, but we do because it reflects the closeness, we feel in all we do.

Part of it revolves around our award-winning school system and a high school that continues to be ranked near the top by the Commonwealth. Add to that the opportunity students have to continue their education here at South Central Kentucky Community and Technical College and you have a tremendous opportunity for students to prepare themselves for a successful life.

From 40 places of worship encompassing practically every denomination to multiple opportunities for recreation; from quaint retail shops in our historic downtown district to nationally known industries, Franklin and Simpson County offer opportunities for education, employment, shopping and a relaxing way of life.

So, come and visit, feel the pride of this community. Sense the positive vibe that flows through our citizens. As we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the founding of both the city and county, feel the determination of those who preceded us to make this community what it is. Witness the progressiveness of a people determined to preserve that determination and at the same time move forward, continuing to improve upon the successes of the past. We think you will like what you see.

Sincerely,

Steve Thurmond

Executive Director Franklin-Simpson Chamber of Commerce

Simpson County Tourism

81 Steele Road
I-65, Exit 2

(270) 586-3040
(866) 531-2040

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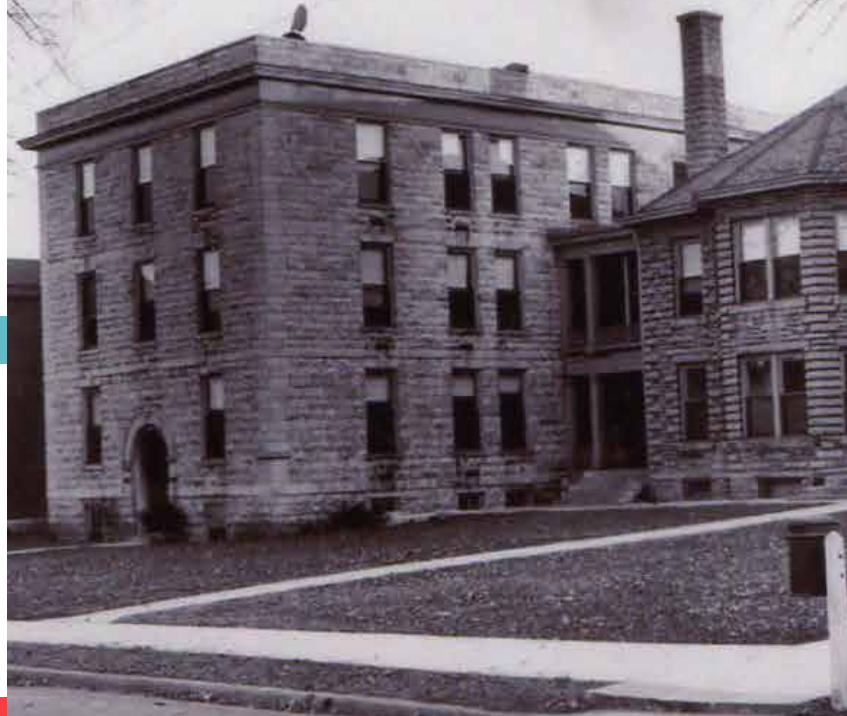
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*Renaissance***

**201 South Main Street * Franklin, Ky
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welcome to FRANKLIN kentucky

POPULATION

SIMPSON COUNTY

2009 – 17,019

2011 – 17,378

2014 – 17,538

2018 – 18,529

WEATHER

(averages)	2018
TEMP.	58.5
WIND	54 mph
HUMIDITY	76.1%
RAIN	58.06

CIVIC

Franklin-Simpson Chamber of Commerce
270-586-7609
201 S. Main Street

Franklin-Simpson Industrial Authority
270-586-4477
109 S. Main Street

Franklin-Simpson Tourism Commission
270-586-3040
81 Steele Road, PO Box 737

EMPLOYMENT

Office of Employment and Training
(KY Employment Services)
270-586-5251
210 W. Cedar Street

GOVERNMENT

City Hall
270-586-4497

HEALTH

Simpson County Health Department
270-586-8261

HOME HEALTH CARE

- **Family Care Home Health Care, Inc.**
- **Lifeline Home Health Care**
- **Simpson County Home Health Care**

LONG-TERM CARE

- **Hopkins Nursing Facility**
- **Lewis Memorial Home**
- **Franklin-Simpson Nursing and Rehabilitation**

ACUTE CARE

The Medical Center at Franklin
270-598-4800
1100 Brookhaven Road

Saint Thomas Midtown Hospital
615-284-5555
2000 Church Street, Nashville, TN

LEVEL II TRAUMA CENTER

TriStar Skyline Medical Center
615-769-2000
3441 Dickerson Pike, Nashville, TN

LEVEL I TRAUMA CENTER

Vanderbilt University Medical Center
615-322-5000
1211 Medical Center Drive, Nashville, TN

MEDIA

NEWSPAPER

Franklin Favorite
270-586-4481
103 North High Street

RADIO STATIONS

1 WFKN/1220 AM
270-586-4481
103 North High Street

REGISTRATIONS

Driver's license

Circuit Court Clerk's Office
270-586-4241
101 North Court Street

Vehicle License & Registration

County Clerk's Office
270-586-8161
103 West Cedar Street

Voter Registration

County Clerk's Office
270-586-8161
103 West Cedar Street

SCHOOLS

Simpson County Schools

Board of Education
430 South College Street
Franklin, Kentucky 42134
270-586-8877

Faith Baptist Academy Pre-K - 12th

270-586-8635
1008 West Cedar Street

Southcentral Kentucky Community & Technical College

270-901-1119
175 Davis Drive

Western Kentucky University

270-745-0111
1906 College Heights Blvd.
Bowling Green, KY

**** There are many colleges located in the Nashville, Tennessee area including Vanderbilt University, Belmont University, Tennessee State University and Cumberland University.**



AREA ATTRACTIONS

FRANKLIN

Old Jail
Octagon Hall
Sanford Duncan Inn
Downtown Historic District
Kenny Perry's Country Creek Golf Course
Kentucky Downs Racetrack

BOWLING GREEN

Corvette Museum (27 miles)
L&N Depot & Train Museum (28 miles)
Lost River Cave (18 miles)
Barren River Lake Resort Park (37 miles)

KENTUCKY

Mammoth Cave National Park (48 miles)
Edmonson County, Kentucky
Jefferson Davis Monument (47 miles)
Fairview, Christian County, Kentucky
Shakertown at South Union (17 miles)
Auburn, Logan County, Kentucky

NASHVILLE, TENN.

Several entertainment and cultural attractions; professional sports teams
Grand Ole Opry (55 miles)
Home of Andrew Jackson (45 miles)
Country Music Hall of Fame (47 miles)
Nashville Zoo (58 miles)
Nashville Ballet (50 miles)
Nashville Symphony Orchestra (47 miles)

VITAL SERVICES

In case of emergency, dial 911

Franklin Police Department	270-586-8824 or 270-586-7167	100 Court Street
Simpson County Sheriff's Office	270-586-8824	203 E Kentucky Street
Kentucky State Patrol Post 3	270-782-2010	3119 Nashville Road
Franklin-Simpson Fire-Rescue	270-586-7174 or 270-586-3220	401 Macedonia Road
Franklin-Simpson Ambulance	270-598-9655	417 Macedonia Road

LOCAL TAX RATES 2018

(Rates are based on cents per \$100 of assessed value)

Real estate property tax rates for the state are 12.2, county is 10.5, city is 12.3, school is 54.0, library is 6.4, ambulance is 3.9 and extensions are 1.997. Tangible property tax rates for the state are 45.0, county is 10.5, city is 12.3, school is 54.0, library is 10.52, ambulance is 3.9 and extensions are 2.6893.

UTILITIES

ELECTRICITY

Franklin Electric Plant Board

270-586-4441
309 N. High Street
PO Box 349

Warren Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation

270-586-3443
698 Morgantown Road

NATURAL GAS

Atmos Energy

1-888-286-6700
www.atmosenergy.com

Millenium Energy

270-586-3443
698 Morgantown Road

WATER

Franklin Water Department

270-586-4497
117 W. Cedar Street

Simpson County Water District

270-842-0052
108 Morgantown Road

SEWAGE

Franklin Wastewater Department

270-586-4497
1010 Blackjack Road

TRASH COLLECTION & WASTE MANAGEMENT

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THROUGH THE YEARS

Take a jump back in history with these timelines that created our city and county as we know it today.

CITY

1820

- Simpson County was named after Captain John Simpson, a Kentucky militia officer who fought in the Battle of fallen Timbers in the Northwest Indian War.
- Land from Allen, Logan and Warren Counties combined to create Simpson County.

1869

Franklin Sentinel began publication upstairs from where the Black Sheep Café currently resides.

1822

The post office was established with Robert Simpson as postmaster.

In an 1820 census a total of **112** people lived in Franklin.

1870s

Woolen Mills, a clothing factory opened.

1872

The Franklin Sentinel changed their name to the Franklin Patriot.

1874

Randolph Henderson Moore opened Moore's Drug Store, now it is the Frozen Spoon.

1899

Electric street lights were first turned on around Christmas.

1897

Telephone service was established in Franklin.

1887

Franklin got their first two light lampposts. They burned coal and oil.



COUNTY

1819

Simpson County was named after Captain John Simpson, a Kentucky militia officer who fought in the Battle of fallen Timbers in the Northwest Indian War. Land from Allen, Logan and Warren Counties combined to create Simpson County.

1849

Simpson Benevolent Lodge #177 was chartered and was the oldest organizations in the county.

1830s

Brick making was one of the first industries in Simpson County.

1860s

Factories making buggies and carriages were big in Simpson County.

Simpson County Fair's started in the late 1860's and the first one was located in the northern part of Simpson County on Kenny Smiths farm.

1879

The Old Stone Jail was built.

1882

Simpson County Court House was destroyed by fire.

1942

Simpson County Health Department was established.

1940

The county school system combined to form Simpson County High School.

1933

American Axillary Legion formed.

1890

Simpson County Bank opened.

1951

Vice President of the United States, Alben Barkley dedicated the Franklin-Simpson Memorial Pool.

1957

Kendall Company opened and was one of the first large companies to come to Simpson County.

In an 1820 census a total of **4,852** people live in Simpson County.





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1938

The Roxy Theater was constructed.

1937

Allen Garmen Company, a shirt factory moved its location to the current.

1936

Construction started on the Goodnight Memorial Library.

1908

Carter Moore Hospital was built.

1945

City and County School Systems combined to Franklin-Simpson School system.

1958

Franklin Bank & Trust formed.

1959

The Historical Society formed.

1964

African Americans were able to choose the school they attended.

1966

Simpson County School system integrated.

2000

Henry Stone retired as Publisher and General Manager from the Franklin Favorite/WKFN after 40 years.

A time capsule was buried at the Old Jail on New Years Day the date for reopening it is 2050.

1995

Kenny Perry Country Creek Golf Course opened.

1986

Dr. Frank Etscorn received the first patent for the nicotine patch.

2019

Dueling Grounds Distillery became part of the Bourbon Trail Craft Tour.

2017

Construction began on the Lewis Memorial Home.

2012

The Carter Moore Hospital burned.

2009

Herbert Williams became the city's first African American Mayor.

1966

Construction on Interstate 65 finished.

1969

The Franklin Drive-In on West Cedar and Russellville closed.

The 31 W Drive-In opened on US 31 W South. They later changed their name to Franklin Drive-In.

Simpson County celebrated its Sesquicentennial, or its 150th year.

1976

Simpson County celebrated the Bicentennial of the United States and buried a time capsule.

1974

The Simpson County Welcome Center was dedicated at the state line.

2002

James Mooneyhan retired as jailor from the Simpson County Jail.

2004

Simpson County's new Justice Center was dedicated.

Liquor by the drink becomes legal on a community vote.

2014

Packaged Liquor sales becomes legal by a community vote.

2019

The Simpson County Historical Center opened across from the Simpson County Annex.

Simpson County celebrated its 200th year.

2017

Allen Bush was named new director of the Habitat for Humanity of Simpson County.





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A place to call home

Franklin offers an array of housing for every stage of life

Housing has expanded in Simpson County over the several years allowing newcomers an opportunity to find the right place to call home.

Areas across town are in different stages of construction – from newly developed land to neighborhood expansion projects. Dennis Griffin, executive director of the Franklin-Simpson Industrial Authority, says Simpson County usually falls between 80 to 84 percent below the national average in a cost of living index. For example, apartments are available for approximately \$700 a month, an affordable cost for the area.

Some of the apartment complexes offer amenities like a clubhouse, 24/7 access to a gym and onsite laundry facilities for residents. The community also has townhouses available for starter-homes, and affordable housing and land opportunities for those looking for their dream house.

Simpson County is also home to Lewis Manor, which is a facility offering individuals 50 years and older independent apartments and the benefits of assisted living.

Lewis Manor has three types of apartments to choose from as a new resident: independent living, assisted living and personal care. Independent living offers residents the opportunity to have a one bedroom, one bath apartment with modern appliances and ample parking space. For those who are interested in assisted living, they can choose between a studio, one or two-bedroom place. The personal care facility status offers residents around the clock monitoring with medication distribution and semi-private and private rooms. Housekeeping is also a perk for residents who participate in assisted living and personal care. Utilities are covered for all living choices at Lewis Manor in the rent costs.

Developments for new apartments, townhomes and houses will continue to form as the population of the area increases.

Griffin predicts that the next population census of the county's population will show an 8 to 10 percent increase.



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GIVING BACK

Franklin-Simpson nonprofits have a long history of making lives better. They feed, shelter, and educate the community; and enrich our experience. Nonprofits give action to our beliefs and allow us to take part in something bigger than ourselves. They are there when we need a hand and they are there when we're ready to lend a hand. While it's impossible to list all the organizations that do good work in our area, some of them are listed below.

Franklin-Simpson cares about those less fortunate. When it comes to providing for their most basic needs, like food and shelter, local nonprofits step in to help. **PEOPLE SERVING PEOPLE** serves free meals at the Willis House. **GOOD SAMARITAN** offers a food pantry. The **SIMPSON COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION** provide cooking classes to show families how to eat healthy and affordable meals. **ROOM IN THE INN** provides a warm place to sleep during the cold months. **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY** builds affordable homes for families who need housing.

Nothing brightens a future like a good education, and it's never too late to start. The award-winning Simpson County Schools are setting trends in helping K-12 children learn. **THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF FRANKLIN-SIMPSON** provides after-school and summertime activities that point kids in the right direction. Adults have opportunities to gain life-changing skills and certifications at **SIMPSON COUNTY LITERACY CENTER** and Southcentral Kentucky Community & Technical College.

Our community values recreation and a beautiful setting. The **GOODNIGHT MEMORIAL LIBRARY** offers a robust range of goods, activities, and services that go well beyond their extensive book collection. **FRANKLIN-SIMPSON RENAISSANCE** keeps our square beautiful and offers events year-round that bring people together, like the Friday night concerts on the square. **FRANKLIN-SIMPSON COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL** offers several productions each year and operates the Gallery on the Square. **THE FRANKLIN GARDEN CLUB** has an active membership. There are numerous opportunities for youth sports.

The **AMERICAN LEGION**, **VFW**, **AMVETS**, and **VIETNAM VETERANS** all have active chapters here. **SIMPSON COUNTY HONOR GUARD** performs military honors at veterans' funerals. **THE LIONS**, **ROTARY**, **KIWANIS** and **THE BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB** meet regularly and are active in our community. With a history rooted deep in faith, Franklin and Simpson County residents find community in more than **30 LOCAL CHURCHES**. Some of these churches have been in existence for hundreds of years, while others have just begun. Many denominations are represented.

Whatever your passion or your need, Franklin-Simpson nonprofits offer the perfect place to plug-in and get connected. Their presence enriches our community and the lives of the individuals who reside here. Nonprofits are a wonderful reminder that when we work together, we can do more than we can do alone.



Franklin Church of Christ

700 South Main Street
Franklin, Kentucky 42134

(270) 586-4315

www.franklinkycoc.org

Times of Services

Sunday AM Bible Class @ 9:30 a.m.

Sunday AM Worship @ 10:30 a.m.

Sunday PM Bible Classes @ 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday PM Bible Classes @ 6:30pm



910B S. Main Street

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www.habitatsimpson.org

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www.scliteracycenter.org



Franklin First United Methodist Church

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Franklin, Kentucky 42134

Phone: 270-586-5152

Website: www.franklinfirstumc.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/franklinfirstumc

Administrative Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 8am-3pm

Friday 8am-11:30am

Sunday Services:

Traditional Service 9:00 am

Sunday School 10:15 am

Contemporary Service 11:15 am

Instagram: [@franklinfirstumc](https://www.instagram.com/franklinfirstumc) • Twitter: [@umcfranklin](https://twitter.com/umcfranklin)

FRANKLIN ROTARY CLUB

Proudly serving Simpson County and surrounding areas with support for community programs and causes such as:



Boys & Girls Club
Habitat for Humanity
Backpack Program
Unsung Heroes Event
Simpson County Literacy Center
Babe Ruth Baseball
Dictionary Project

*Rotary meets every Thursday
at Noon at the Blewett
Bradley Building behind the
Franklin Electric Plant Board*



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High-class horse racing

Kentucky Downs offers fans an
up-close opportunity to see iconic horses,
a cafe and venue area for live events

One of the fastest growing horse race tracks in both Kentucky and the surrounding region calls Franklin its home.

Kentucky Downs, the only “European style” race course in America, is a 1 and 5/16-mile racetrack that sits on Franklin’s southern border and has been in operation since 1990.

The dream to bring a racetrack to the area first began in the 1980s, when a group of investors acquired the property to develop a unique “turf only” racetrack to host Steeplechase races.

Their vision became a reality at the turn of the decade, as the racetrack with a colonial-style clubhouse officially opened on April 22, 1990. At that time, it was named Dueling Grounds in recognition of the colorful history associated with the property.

It operated under that name until 1998, when it was renamed Kentucky Downs by new owners. 2011 saw the addition of historical horse racing style gaming machines to the property and a new era was born.

In 2016, Kentucky Downs underwent a \$4 million renovation project that refurbished much of the clubhouse’s exterior and added square footage to the side facing the track.

Formerly an open-air porch, the back of the clubhouse was extended outwards and enclosed in glass that rises two stories. A bar and music area were installed, which now allow guests to view the track’s live racing in a new way. Kentucky Downs plans to offer concerts and serve as a special events venue moving forward as well.

Las Vegas based Marc Falcone and Ron Winchell bought Kentucky Downs in early 2019 and have outlined plans to create an enhanced entertainment facility. In the next year, the property will have an expansion and a renovation that will result in additional gaming machines, as well as new dining options. Further plans include a hotel with space for meetings or hosting special events. “We are very excited,” said the track’s Senior Vice President and General Manager Ted Nicholson. “We continue to try to improve the guest experience in every way.”

Falcone and Winchell’s first turf racing meet as the new owners in September 2019 was a success, setting handle and purse records. As an active thoroughbred owner, Mr. Winchell was pleased with the results and race day party thrown by the new owners.





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DEE DEE

\$15,566

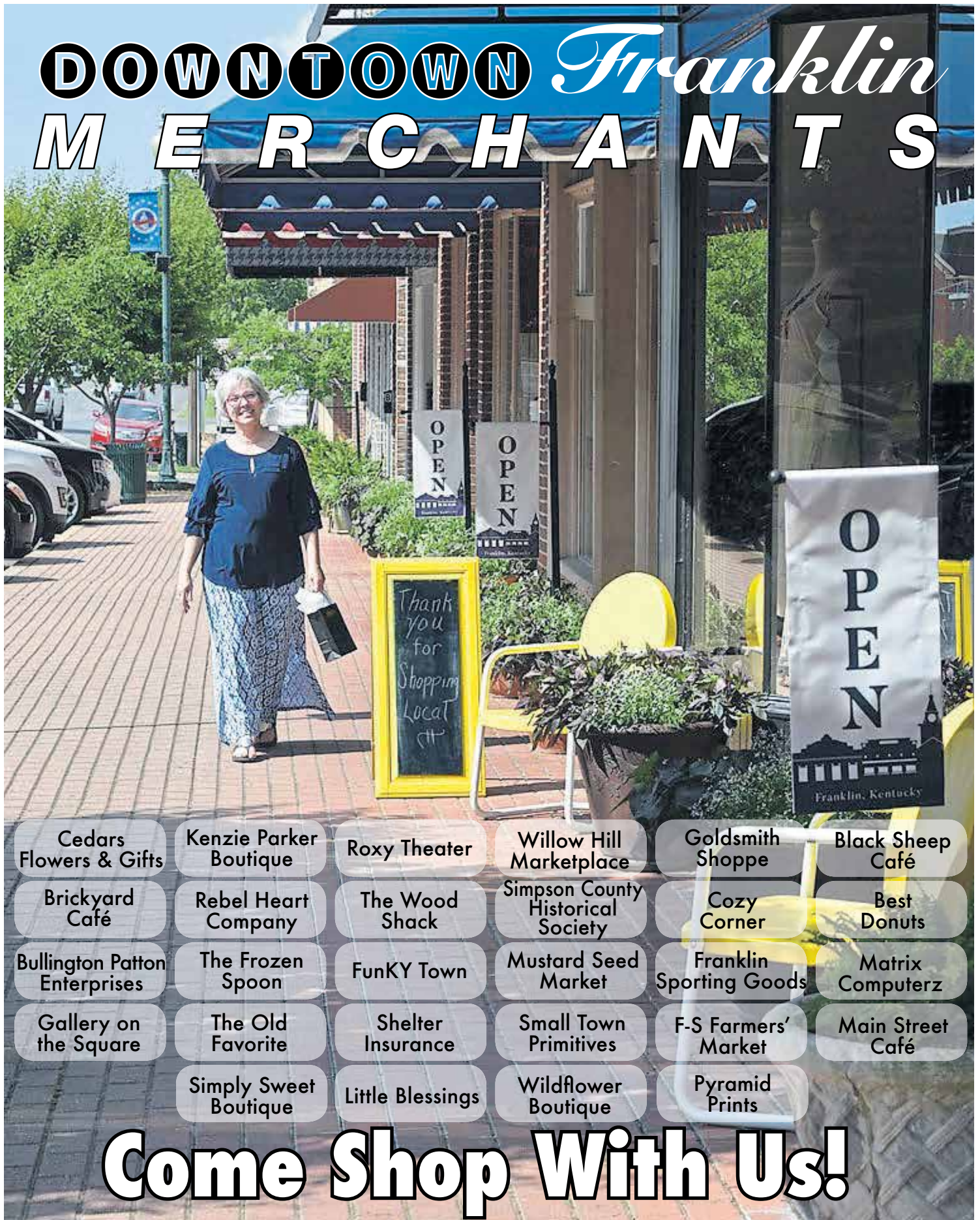
- GALLATIN, TN



BigJackpotsBigFun.com

5629 Nashville Rd, Franklin, KY, 42134

DOWNTOWN *Franklin* M E R C H A N T S



Cedars
Flowers & Gifts

Kenzie Parker
Boutique

Roxy Theater

Willow Hill
Marketplace

Goldsmith
Shoppe

Black Sheep
Café

Brickyard
Café

Rebel Heart
Company

The Wood
Shack

Simpson County
Historical
Society

Cozy
Corner

Best
Donuts

Bullington Patton
Enterprises

The Frozen
Spoon

FunKY Town

Mustard Seed
Market

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the Square

The Old
Favorite

Shelter
Insurance

Small Town
Primitives

F-S Farmers'
Market

Main Street
Café

Simply Sweet
Boutique

Little Blessings

Wildflower
Boutique

Pyramid
Prints

Come Shop With Us!



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HISTORIC FRANKLIN

Years ago, a trip to town meant seeing a movie at the Roxy Theatre and buying a bag of popcorn for a dime, having an ice cream float at the soda counter of Shugart and Willis or buying a new pet tiny turtle at Kuhn's Five and Dime Store. Your mom and dad could buy new clothes at Sullivans or Wantland's Lad & Dad and you could buy jewelry at Kennedy's Jewelry Store. You would grab a bite to eat at The Dog Wagon. Of course you had to stop and say hello to the old men sitting on the courthouse benches whittling piles of shavings and telling tall tales. And all of this could be done on what the locals of Franklin call, "The Square."

The four main streets surrounding the historic Simpson County courthouse have long been the center of activity in this rural town.

Then in the 1950s came the big box stores and fast food

restaurants and everything changed. With so many other options and the ability to travel to "buy" and "do" - The Square began being a less populated area.

Franklin-Simpson Renaissance was formed to help rebuild and maintain the historic beauty of the downtown square. By offering grants to building owners for restoring facades, searching out business owners to set up shop downtown and finding ways to protect the historic structures that make up the historic downtown district - Renaissance focused on rebuilding The Square. Maintaining the beauty of downtown and creating a reason for people to come to The Square are the goals that Renaissance strives to achieve.

America has seen a resurgence in the last 15 years to support local and shop in your hometown. With that push, "The Square" is once again the center of commerce in Franklin.

PRESERVING HISTORY IN FRANKLIN'S DOWNTOWN SQUARE



Clothing, sporting goods, local art, home decor, floral services, beauty shops, and restaurants are all found downtown - along with many other businesses.

The non-profit works closely with the Franklin Downtown Merchant's Association to keep up with which buildings have retail rental space available and which building owners may be interested in selling their property. The vintage feel of the downtown area is one of the most treasured aspects of the city. Renaissance works with business owners to preserve the aesthetics of the buildings, and offers a façade grant program to owners in the Historic District to help maintain the original appearance.

Renaissance has a beautification program, which focuses on planting flowers, placing seasonal decorations, lighting the trees during the holidays and period lighting and maintenance of the brick sidewalks.

The courtyard is the location of live outdoor concerts, movie nights, cruise-ins, The Festival on the Square car and craft show, Wag-O-Ween, the Cherry Blossom Art and Music Festival, Boofest, Garden Spot 5K and Small Town Christmas.

Visiting the Simpson County History Center, touring the old jail and exploring the courthouse are among things to do in the downtown area. The Square is truly the heart of Simpson County.

Go downtown and take a selfie with Melvin the Magnificent - the horseshoe horse created by the high school welding class, get a photo of one of the beautiful murals and be sure to check out the church where Johnny and June Carter Cash tied the knot. Shop, eat and play on The Square - we will join you!

Download the Franklin KY app on your smart phone for more information about parking, shopping and community events.



1919-2019
1920-2020



FESTIVALS

During all seasons of the year,
Franklin's downtown square is
a place for annual traditions.

Whether it's an inaugural event,
fundraiser or calendar staple, the
courthouse lawn can be described
as a continuous destination.

SOKY Earth Day & Cherry Blossom Festival

Recently combined, these two events are a sign of spring for Franklin. In coordination with the budding of over a dozen cherry blossom trees lining the square, the festival brings families, area vendors and local artists to town to provide demonstrations and information about recycling, pollution prevention, energy-saving technology and more. Painters, jewelers, potters, candle-makers and musicians offer shoppers a unique opportunity to check out the local merchants and learn more about the art scene. The annual Simpson County Literacy Center Square-to-Square Bike Ride begins the day taking riders from Franklin to Adairville with a range of 6-mile to 62-mile routes to choose between. The proceeds from the event benefit the non-profit organization, offering education opportunities for adults.

Fireworks at the Downs

As one of the fastest growing horse racetracks in the state and region, Kentucky Downs is a community destination. They open the gates every July to welcome fireworks enthusiasts to a free family-friendly event featuring live music, kids activities, food vendors and plenty of space to await the colorful fireworks show.

Festival on the Square

One of Franklin's premiere annual events is the Fall Festival on the Square. Car enthusiasts from all over the country come to town to participate and view antique vehicles. The Franklin-Simpson Chamber of Commerce hosts this event, which begins with a cruise-in the evening before featuring live music, food vendors and a sneak-peek of cars that will be on display during the show day. The tradition has continued for over 50 years and typically brings over 12,000 people to Franklin each year. The show also includes an Arts and Crafts Show, and concludes with a trophy presentation based on a plethora of categories.

Wag-o-Ween

Celebrations are not limited to humans in Simpson County, we also share a love for fur-babies, too! Wag-O-Ween is a sponsored event held in October led by local non-profit Abbie's Barkery, located on Franklin's downtown square. The event includes a dog costume parade, samples of dog food and specialty treats, training demonstrations and pet photography. Proceeds typically benefit the local animal shelter or an animal-friendly cause.

Boo Fest

This is Halloween, this is Halloween! Boo Fest lights up Franklin in the fall with hundreds of glowing pumpkins, a celebrity carving contest featuring local community members, spooky games, a petting zoo, educational activities for kids, live music, a zombie scavenger hunt and escape games. The free pumpkin tour and Jack-O-Lantern contest ends with a kid-friendly Halloween movie on the courthouse lawn.





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Small Town Christmas

There's nothing quite like starting the month of December enjoying a free cup of hot chocolate and celebrating the Christmas season with holiday-themed activities. Franklin's annual Small Town Christmas is not only a tradition for the town, it's an opportunity for families to spend time together making memories. In past years, snow machines have turned the downtown area into a winter wonderland with free horse drawn carriage rides and special meet-and-greets with Disney characters or Santa, Mrs. Claus and their reindeer, too! The celebration includes a parade and the lighting of a downtown tree led by Simpson County's Judge/Executive. High school students spend time hosting crafts for children and the area churches provide hot chocolate and goodies. For those who prefer to stay warm, the annual Hometown Holiday Bazaar and Arts and Crafts Fair is held in the First United Methodist Church, and local merchants hold special holiday sales for those looking to find the perfect holiday gift.

Love in Bloom

The town has a rich history, which includes pop-culture mentions. In 1968, Johnny Cash and June Carter were married in Franklin at the First United Methodist Church. To celebrate the duos 50-year wedding anniversary, a festival was held in 2018 called "Love in Bloom: A Tribute to Johnny and June." The event brought The Charlie Daniels Band, Lee Ann Womack and June's daughter, Carlene Carter to town for a special concert event. While other celebrations of the town's historical roots are always in the planning process, music enthusiasts can stop by the historical marker in memory of the wedding of "the man in black" located across the street from the church. Kitty Wells was also married in Simpson County, in 1937 to Johnnie Wright.



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THEATRE

Arts Council keeps theater beat alive

The Franklin-Simpson Arts Council adds to the unique culture of the town. For nearly 40 years, the organization has helped support local arts, including contributing to the Gallery on the Square and partnering with various other groups to provide visual arts and education to members of the community.

Throughout the year, the Arts Council produces half a dozen productions from junior theatre with all youth casts to adult dinner productions. Past youth theater productions for students 8th grade and below have included “Shrek the Musical, Jr.,” “The Little Mermaid,” “Frozen,” and “Cinderella.”

Youth productions are not limited to young actors — the Arts Council remains supportive of the Franklin-Simpson High School theater programs by providing sponsorship for their spring musical. The Arts Council helps with costumes, lighting and sound equipment.

The Arts Council is best known for its traditional summer musical, taking audience members to iconic storylines such as “Grease,” “Footloose,” and the “Wizard of Oz.”

Dinner theaters have included productions such as “Any Body Home,” “A Raisin in the Sun,” “The Odd Couple,” and a special Valentine’s Day show called “Love Letters.”

In the fall, the Arts Council produces a spooky event like

the Readers Theater and a cocktail featuring the works of literary horror writer Edgar Allan Poe.

With the Goodnight Memorial Library Auditorium and the Roxy Theatre venues in Franklin, there are multiple stages for the productions to come to life. Over time, the organization has purchased or procured, through in-kind donations, lighting, sound and prop equipment.

The Arts Council strives to draw interest from novice and experienced actors, encouraging anyone who is interested in theater to audition for upcoming performances.

In addition, the organization produces several concerts each year for the community like the annual “Christmas Concert” in December. The Arts Council partners closely with The Gallery on the Square and Franklin-Simpson Renaissance to keep arts alive in the community through ventures such as the Cherry Blossom Arts Festival.

To honor the bicentennial, the Arts Council produced an original play about the history of the town called “A Place We Call Home,” written and directed by local resident Debra Thornton.

The Arts Council continues to receive positive support from citizens, local government, businesses and industry with the goal of “keeping the art beat alive” in this quaint community.

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GALLERY ON THE SQUARE

Across the street from Franklin's majestic courthouse, in the J.C. McClean building, sits The Gallery on the Square, a focal point for many downtown social events and festivals. The current J.C. McLean building was constructed in 1924 after fire destroyed half of the East side of the courthouse square in January of the same year. The McClean building has housed multiple drug stores beginning with Maxwell and Hunt (1924), Shugart and Hunt (1925 – 1963), and Shugart and Willis (1963-1992) before opening as the home of the Simpson County Guild of Artists and Craftsmen aka Gallery on the Square in 1993.

With a mission to promote art and art education in the community, everything on display is a one of a kind handcrafted piece by an artist from Kentucky or Tennessee.

The Gallery currently hosts six rotating art exhibits each year with an emphasis on unique themes and diversity.

The Gallery offers art classes and educational opportunities for school groups, girl scouts and other non-profit organizations. The Gallery serves as the host location for monthly paint classes, knitting groups and The Fine Print Book Club.

The Gallery facilitates community involvement art projects throughout the year and also collaborates with the Brickyard Café restaurant to sell artist's work.

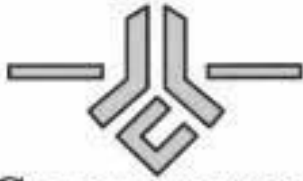
Over the past few years, The Gallery on the Square has become a known hub on the I-65 route following Louisville and Elizabethtown.

An interactive element has been designed into each show to give an additional perspective for guests. From a loom and spinners to a collaborative dream catcher, each show brings in more than a common group of artists.

In 1992, the space for the art gallery was secured on the square, and in 2005 it was brought under the Arts Council umbrella, while still retaining its own board of directors. Today, after much work by directors, The Gallery on the Square has become the centerpiece of Franklin's arts community.



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An area of rapid industrial development

In 1954 an automotive parts manufacturer began looking at Franklin, Kentucky as a possible location for their new facility. Until that time, Franklin only had agriculture related or apparel manufacturers but now the community had a chance to attract a major industry that would provide higher paying jobs for the area.

James Massey, who was the president of the Franklin-Simpson Chamber of Commerce at the time, appointed a committee of prominent citizens from Simpson County to help recruit the prospective industry to Franklin. The committee was not successful with this first endeavor, however, the committee eventually evolved into an organization that became the Franklin Industrial Development Association.

Nineteen years ago, a new industrial park, owned and developed by the Industrial Authority was created in the north part of the community. Tenants in the Wilkey North Industrial Park include Virtus Tube, RKW-North America, Worldwide Technologies, Key Oil Company corporate headquarters and distribution center, Vermont

Thread Gage, Fritz Winter North America, and Power Tec Solutions. Many of the industries in the park are able to take advantage of the CSX Railroad that borders the eastern boundary of the property. The Wilkey North Industrial Park is located on Highway 31-W north and now encompasses over 400 acres. Some 800 people are currently employed in manufacturing in the industrial park. All the land in the park has been sold. It is hoped that more land can be acquired in the future to help bring more industry to that area.

Seventeen years ago, the Franklin Simpson Industrial Authority was created to take advantage of Franklin's prime location on Interstate 65. More than 50,000 vehicles pass through Simpson County each day on this interstate highway. It was decided that an industrial park near the interstate needed to be developed. The Sanders Interstate Industrial Park located one half mile from Interstate 65 at exit 6 grew quickly. The park now totals 450 acres and is completely sold out. Tenants in the park include Camping World's East Coast Distribution

Center, Toyo Automotive Parts, TMM Automotive, Multi-Tech Industries, Premium Services, New Mather Metals, Tractor Supply Company Distribution Center, Holley Automotive Parts Distribution Center, and Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College. The Tractor Supply Company Distribution Center in the Sanders Interstate Industrial Park is 850,000 square feet and is the largest building in Simpson County. Over 1,000 people are currently employed in the Sanders Interstate Industrial Park.

With all of the land that had been sold in the Sanders Interstate Industrial Park, the Franklin Simpson Industrial Authority acquired an additional 451 acres directly across the road on Highway 100. The new development is also immediately adjacent to Interstate 65 is now known as the Henderson Interstate Industrial Park. Sumitomo Electric Wiring was the first tenant in the Henderson Interstate Industrial Park locating there in 2017. Other tenants now located in the park are Hunt Ford Automotive, Taeyang Metals North America as well as a 105,000 square foot state of the art Spec Building which is available for lease or sale to a prospective industry. There are approximately 350 acres remaining in the Henderson Interstate Industrial Park that can be developed.

In addition to the industries listed in the three indus-

trial parks, other major industries located throughout the community are Meritor, Silgan Plastics, Berry Global, Charles Dewese Construction, Arney Industrial Services, Traughber Mechanical Services, Quick Draw Tarpaulins, Keystone Foods, Packaging Unlimited, Franklin Precision Industry, Greif, Incorporated, and Gehret Gage.

Several years ago, the industries in Franklin formed the Mid-South Society for Human Resource Management organization, which is an organization for the HR managers in the various industries. There is also an active Industrial Training Consortium in Franklin. The Simpson County Training Consortium organization helps local industries lower the cost of industrial training by sharing the expense of instructors and training materials as well as utilizing the training resources available through Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College.

The future looks extremely bright for the Franklin-Simpson County area. Industries are moving in or expanding and the housing and retail sectors are growing. Located in one of the fastest growing areas of the state, many companies and individuals are discovering that Franklin and Simpson County provide great opportunities for new jobs as well as being a great community to call home.



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RECREATION

The warmer months of the year offer an abundance of recreational activities. From the annual Garden Spot 5K Run and Walk to golf courses, waterways and free live music, Franklin offers many things to do.

Garden Spot 5K Run and Walk

For almost 40 years, the Garden Spot 5K Run and Walk has brought people from all over to Franklin. The Franklin-Simpson Chamber of Commerce event allows participants to race individually or in teams. Local corporate and team challenges between area schools, industries, businesses and churches has created a boost in enthusiasm and participation over the years. The weeks leading up to the event, walkers and runners can be seen around town wearing their event shirts from prior races conditioning for the anticipated 5K. A youth version called the "Moo Run" takes place the day before the event. The community is also home to several similar activities including an annual Relay for Life event, a Run for the Rosies foundation 5K and a Veterans Walk Run and Roll 5K.



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Octagon Hall

Simpson County is home to a hauntingly historic building – Octagon Hall. The structure was designed by Andrew Jackson Caldwell in 1847, and has since been distinguished as the only octagon shaped house in the state of Kentucky. The house played a prominent role in the Civil War as Caldwell was a pro-supporter of the Confederacy and the home was used as a sanctuary and hospital for soldiers. The house has since become a non-profit museum as well as a destination for paranormal enthusiasts. The Hall has made the list of most terrifying places in America, and has been featured on "Southern Haunts" and "My Ghost Story." Most famously, the Atlantic Paranormal Society (TAPS) from the television series "Ghost Hunters," conducted an investigation of The Hall and its secret underground tunnels. Visit The Hall for novice ghost hunts held throughout the year and stay alert for any unusual signs of paranormal activity.





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Let's go golfing

Simpson County is home to a public and private golf course creating the perfect setting for a relaxing day. Franklin is also home to one of PGA Tour's top golfers, Kenny Perry, who built an 18-hole course called "Kenny Perry's Country Creek." The course is a destination for competitions, fundraisers and events. The Franklin Country Club course is also 18-holes and has a layout catered to the average golfer. The club also offers a swimming pool, tennis courts, a volleyball court and a full-service restaurant to members at a reasonable price so the whole family can enjoy time together.

Kayaking and fishing

The area offers many opportunities for kayaking and fishing. The Franklin-Simpson Jim Roberts Community Park sits on the banks of Drakes Creek, a picturesque scene of quiet water flow and mountain rocks. Sulphur Spring Creek has approximately 4 miles of fishery and Lick Creek a small stream nearby for trout. Neighboring counties also provide waterway opportunities. It's not uncommon for locals and regional visitors to spend a day out on the water.

'Sling some plastic'

Disc golf is a flying disc sport in which players throw a disc at a target. The game is played using rules similar to golf and is often played on a course of 9 or 18 holes. There are different molds and varieties of discs, similar to golf clubs, including drivers, mid ranges and putters.

The Franklin-Simpson Jim Roberts Community Park is home to one of 7,521 courses in the United States. The area was designed with an amateur and professional layout to accommodate players of all levels, from touring professionals, to a novice looking for a new outdoor hobby.

The activity is one of the fastest growing sports in the country with the PDGA OR Professional Disc Golf Association active membership exceeding 41,000 members as of 2017, and the number of disc golf courses in the United States doubling in the last 6 years, according to the PDGA website.

Disc golf offers a great way to get exercise, with the Franklin-Simpson course coming in at 6,282 feet, or just over 1-mile. Disc golf is also a great sport for all ages, making it the perfect family activity to get outside and enjoy the scenic views that the parks of Kentucky have to offer.

The sport is also considered low budget to start out, and most courses are free to play, including the course in Franklin. For those looking for a fun way to spend an afternoon with friends and family, a new way to get active or find a new sport to compete in, disc golf offers many avenues. Check out one of the best-rated disc golf courses in the state by visiting the Franklin-Simpson Jim Roberts Park, and as disc golfers love to say, "sling some plastic."



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Franklin Family Movie Nights

During the warm months of the year, family friendly movies are offered on the Simpson County Courthouse Lawn. The movies begin at dark and are listed for the season in advance so audience members can choose which film to see. There are also themed nights with activities for kiddos and free popcorn, too!



Drive in, and enjoy a film

For over 60 years, The Franklin Drive-In has remained an iconic structure in town. Not only does the location have a rich history, the theater is only one of eight drive-in theaters left in the state of Kentucky. The venue has plenty of open space for vehicles, and for families to enjoy throwing around a football, kicking around a soccer ball, blowing bubbles and playing in the grass prior to the films, which typically are double-featured movies. The drive-in has a concession stand filled with meals, snacks and dessert treats. As Franklin and Simpson County celebrate over 200 years, the outdoor movie theater is a must-see and a unique "bucket-list" opportunity.

Summer nights concert series

Franklin-Simpson Renaissance hosts a series of free concerts on the Simpson County Courthouse band stand throughout the summer months. The concerts, which are sponsored by Franklin Bank & Trust and Kentucky Downs, bring talent from the region to Franklin's downtown square. Music varies from bluegrass, country, rock 'n roll to blues. Food trucks setup on the adjoining streets providing grilled items, BBQ and the local favorite, Chaney's Dairy Barn ice cream.





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EDUCATION

Simpson County Schools is a student-centered organization that prides itself on being a great place to go to school and work.

Our vision is to empower students to graduate Life-Ready.

We define Life-Ready as academically and socially prepared with the skills necessary to be successful in college, career, military, technical school or whatever avenue our students want to pursue after high school. To that end, our mission is simple-- successfully educating every child in SCS.

Simpson County Schools consolidated in 1944 to create Franklin-Simpson High School and Franklin-Simpson Middle School. In the 1960's Simpson County Schools fully integrated with Lincoln and it becoming an elementary school. In the late 70's Simpson Elementary was built to house the primary students and it saw the closure of the 4 county schools. Simpson Co. Schools is currently under the alignment of Franklin Elementary Preschool and Kindergarten, Simpson Elementary 1st thru 3rd grade, Lincoln Elementary 4th and 5th grade, FSMS 6th thru 8th grade, and FSHS 9th-12th grade. FSHS houses the FS Career and Technical Center and the FSHS West Campus Alternative Learning Center.

Our district has been labeled a Distinguished and Proficient district over the previous years. Franklin-Simpson High School has been labeled a Distinguished High School for several years and US News and World Report as one of the Best High Schools In America for 5 consecutive years. FSHS has ranked as high as in the top 6% of all high schools in the US. These accolades are the culmination of amazing work by all stakeholders within our school system and the support of our community.

Achieving these results is challenging work because of the needs of individual students can be so unique, requiring us to work in new ways to accomplish this vision.

There are five fundamental questions that drive our mission in our schools:

1. How do we foster positive, professional relationships with our students, their families and one another?
2. How do we ensure all students have access to the content and skills we expect them to know and be able to do?
3. How do we make sure our students have learned the standards?
4. How do we "fix it" when students struggle to master the standards?
5. How do we ensure enrichments and "stretch learning" for students who are already meeting or exceeding our learning goals?

Our guiding questions show we value the following:

- Building positive relationships
- Teaching to standards
- Assessing student learning to guide instructional and learning decisions
- Interventions for students who need extra support meeting the standards
- Enrichments for students who meet or exceed the standards

Simpson County Schools have so many opportunities to help all our students excel. SCS offers head start, pre-school and Kindergarten programs on the front end of the educational process. Throughout elementary school and middle school there are endless opportunities for students to grow in their learning to just name a few: Robotics, STLP, Academic Team, Edge Academy, and various clubs and organizations. As students move to high school these opportunities continue to increase.

Another important part of Franklin-Simpson High School is our Career and Technical Education Center. It houses our programs in agriculture, business and marketing, masonry, manufacturing/welding, information technology, family and consumer science, and allied health services. Students can earn career readiness credentials through these programs which give them an advantage in the job market.

The performing arts are key areas we offer students to enhance creativity and self-expression among our students. We offer art and music at all levels throughout our school system. Our students have numerous opportunities to develop their love and talents in these areas, as well as to exhibit their talents through performances. Students are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities, particularly as they move up through our school system. Students can choose among a variety of athletic, academic, clubs and performing arts groups and teams for opportunities to compete, develop teamwork and leadership skills and make life-long friendships. Our community takes great pride in our teams and organizations that compete for the Franklin-Simpson Wildcats.

Simpson County Schools is committed to preparing every graduate for productive citizenship and success in a global society by being Life-Ready.

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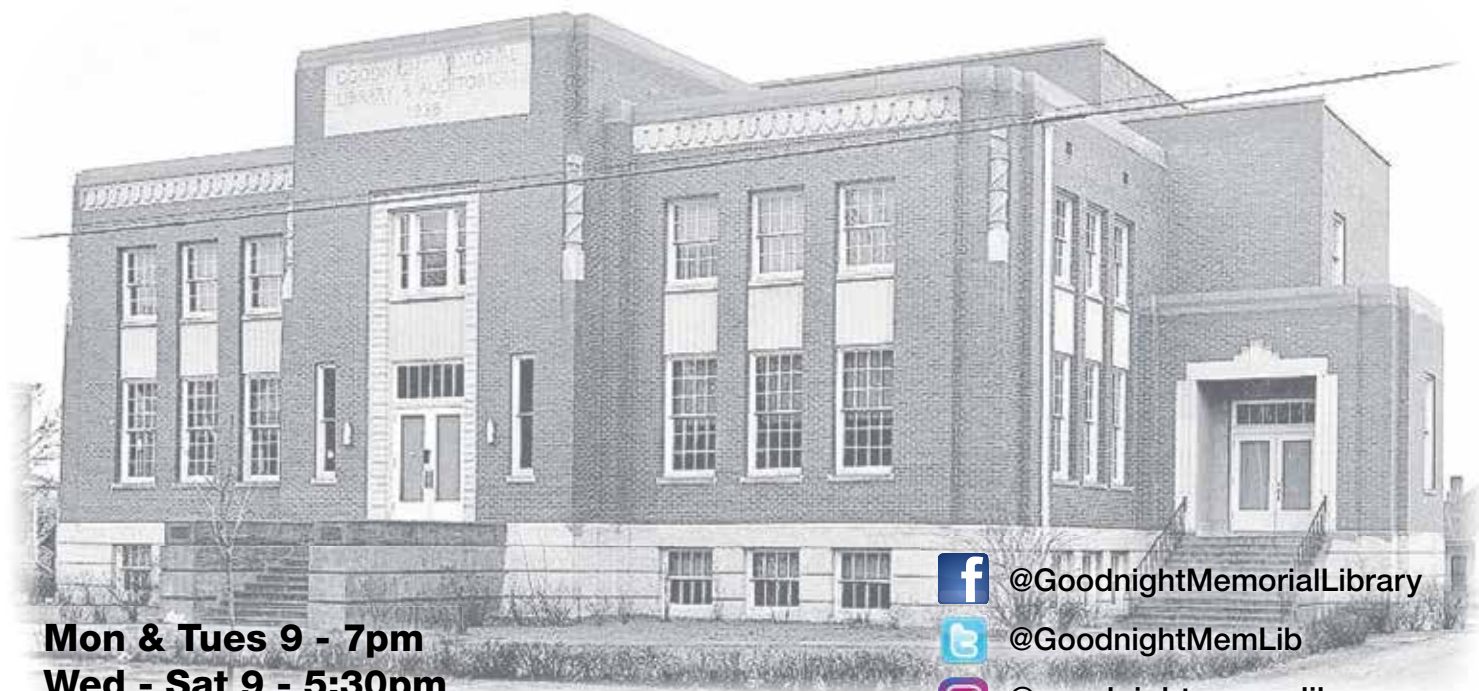
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COLLEGE & CAREER READY

Simpson County Schools uses hands-on learning methods to prepare students for the future

Franklin-Simpson High School offers a wide range of vocational classes offered to incoming freshmen throughout their four years at FSHS, including welding, masonry and culinary classes.

The school has a policy where in order to graduate students have to be either college ready or career ready. It allows students to learn basic skills for a trade to directly go into the workforce if they do not plan to go to college.

In welding, students work on projects throughout the year and have made several Franklin attractions including Melvin the Horse on the square, the fork in the road on the corner of Uhls and Bunch Road and they are working on building giant stainless steel FSHS letters to place in front of the school to deter cars.

The welding instructor said the class spends about 10 percent of its time sitting at desks going through safety measures then they are in the workshop practicing.

The class offers seniors an AWS 2F certification, which is a hands on and written certification together. The certification lets an employer know they can pass the written part of the certification and then can be trained on whichever hands on skill they need.

Every welding shop in Franklin has at least one former welding student and some have as many as 15.

In the classes the students learn about stick welding, gas metal arch welding, oxy fuel systems, tungsten arc welding and fabrication.

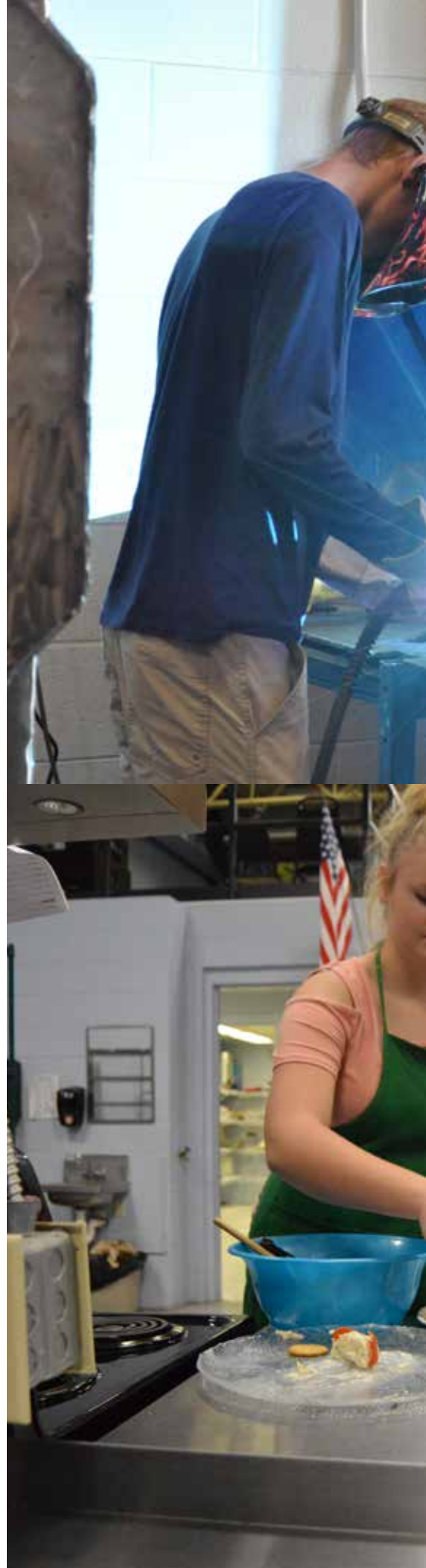
In masonry the students learn the basics of mixing mortar, using tools and start with how to make a corner. As the students ability progresses they learn how to brick a house, build a fire pit, build an archway and seniors get to work with stone.

By the end of their four years of taking masonry, the students will be able to brick and entire house.

Students can start working on an NCCER certification in their junior year and complete it by their senior year. Once the student receives the NCCER certification they can take the card and get a job at any construction company in the United States.

The classes will work with Habitat for Humanity of Simpson County on some of its projects and with other members in the community for brick laying and pouring concrete.

The masonry instructor said there are only five masonry pro-





grams left in Kentucky and the closest one, besides Franklin's, is in Louisville.

The culinary class offers students a chance to learn about food and the food industry from the basic food and nutrition classes to the more advanced culinary classes. Every class has a lab where they make food from scratch like biscuits and teaching the different ways to cook eggs.

The culinary arts teacher said some of her students come to the first class not knowing how to do anything, like knowing you can make biscuits from scratch.

With the more advanced culinary classes they learn about the front of the house and the back of the house in a restaurant and focus more on the business side of the industry.

Seniors can earn a Survsafe Certificate, which is nationally recognized certificate that usually only managers in food service have. Two former culinary students got jobs in food service without an interview because they had that certification, the culinary arts teacher said.

The culinary program is also almost entirely financed by its catering business, the Catering Cats, where students from the different culinary classes make and serve the food. The catering business caters different events around town and is usually called upon to cater by the Superintendent of the school district.

For incoming seniors in high school the On Track program at Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College allows them to take college credit classes prior to graduation.

Most students take approximately 12 credit hours of college credit during their senior year. Franklin-Simpson High School students are bused over to SKYCTC from the high school to take their class.

Students from FSHS and participating in SKYCTC's dual credit program have the chance to apply for a scholarship program created by local business that can cover up to 100 percent tuition.

For anyone that has completed high school or is just interested in manufacturing, SKYCTC has a program called the Southcentral Kentucky Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education (SKYFAME).

SKYFAME matches a company or industry with a student who wants to advance their knowledge in manufacturing. Currently companies from Simpson, Logan, Allen, Warren and Butler Counties all participate in the program.

The participating students attend school at SKYCTC for two days and work at the company for the other three days.

In addition, the school system recently opened a Makers Space project-based learning center near the high school campus for students throughout the district to use. The building is a space for students to learn about science and engineering through hands-on activities. The Makers Space is used for camps and organizations like the STEAM Club and robotics teams.



1919-2019
1920-2020

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Franklin Elementary

Address
211 S. Main St.

Principal
Rachel Wright

Main Office
270-586-3241

Lincoln Elementary

Address
601 John J. Johnson Ave.

Principal
Joyce Paise

Assistant Principal
Emily Satterly

Main Office
270-586-7133

Simpson Elementary

Address
721 Witt Road

Principal
Michael Barnum

Assistant Principal
Josh Tucker

Main Office
270-586-4414

Franklin-Simpson Middle School

Address
322 S. College St.

Principal
Jaxon Grover

Assistant Principal
Matt Marsh and
Kim Wolfram

Main Office
270-586-4401

Franklin-Simpson High School

Address
400 S. College St.

Principal
Byron Darnall

Assistant Principal
Mark Dobbs and
Stephanie Downey

Main Office
270-586-3273



African American Heritage Center

The African American Heritage Center is a cultural and educational facility designed to echo the events of the past, reflect on the activities of the present and preserve these events for future generations. It's activities and programs highlight the profound contributions and heritage of African Americans' rich history. The facility offers workshops, genealogical research and a museum of local archives. The center is located at 500 Jefferson St.



1919-2019
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'Once a Wildcat, always a Wildcat'

Franklin and Simpson County is a bonded community that supports everything Franklin-Simpson athletes strive to achieve.

Encouragement for students ranges in everything from academics to athletics. The common phrase around town is "We are Franklin-Simpson," and it firmly describes how the community comes together to support the Wildcats' athletic programs.

Success is rooted in our teams with four state football championships, a state baseball championship, many region championships in both boys and girls basketball, baseball and softball and district championships in nearly every other sport – the tradition of great athletes who wear the Wildcats' signature colors of blue and white are truly unique.

Homecoming ... a community celebration

Homecoming is more than a day of celebration for students in Franklin.

Businesses in town temporarily close to cheer on float-riders as the annual parade takes over the streets. The Wildcats' spirit continues with a pep rally at the football stadium if its fall or inside the gymnasium in wintertime. High school grades compete in traditional activities, including a dance off, musical chairs and a take on the game "Simon Says" called ships and sailors. Little Wildcats love the opportunity to cheer on the older students and football players as they watch from the sidelines.

Homecoming is also an opportunity for the cheer and dance teams and band members to show off what they have been practicing thus far in the season. During the event, a homecoming queen and king is crowned by the former royal court. For fans in the stands, the sporting events are more than a game – it's where you spend Friday nights as part of a community.





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Preparing for the workforce at SKYCTC

In the early 2000s, community leaders from Franklin and Simpson County formed a shared vision of hosting a local college in the community. House Bill 1, passed in 1997, had revolutionized the public postsecondary landscape in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and created the Kentucky Community and Technical College System. The local community leaders understood the positive impact enjoyed by communities with a local campus, especially with respect to raising educational attainment and providing training opportunities for local business and industry.

The community was successful in securing funding from the state legislature, and a groundbreaking ceremony was held in the Sanders Industrial Park in 2006. Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College (SKYCTC) began offering classes in the Fall of 2008.

Today, SKYCTC serves hundreds of students each year. Shortly after SKYCTC began offering classes, the Franklin-Simpson Chamber of Commerce convened a meeting and an agreement was made between the college and Simpson County Schools to allow high school students to come to the campus during the regular school day to take Dual Credit classes at a heavily-reduced tuition rate. The program became so successful that the community began investing in the initiative. Each year, the City of Franklin, Simpson County Fiscal Court, the Franklin-Simpson Industrial Authority, Franklin Bank & Trust, and Kentucky Downs contribute to a scholarship fund that ensures that any qualified Franklin-Simpson High School student can enroll in SKYCTC Dual Credit courses at no charge.

SKYCTC also ensures that programs are available locally to serve the training needs for the region's greatest employ-

ment needs. SKYCTC operates the Simpson County Skills U program, offering GED and job-readiness classes both on-campus and at the Simpson County Detention Center. The SKY FAME program is a work-and-learn, apprenticeship-style program where students are sponsored by a manufacturing company in the 10-County SKYCTC service area. Students attend class two days per week and work at their sponsoring employer three days per week for the duration of the 5-term program. At the conclusion of the program, students earn an Associate degree in Advanced Manufacturing and have gained more than 1,800 hours of work experience.

In November of 2017, SKYCTC announced that it was launching a Commercial Drivers License (CDL) program, which would be located at the SKYCTC Franklin-Simpson Center. The program began in June of 2018 with donated trucks, students funded by the South Central Workforce Development Board, and an instructor with nearly 30 years of experience. The college didn't yet have a driving range, so a community partner, Nacarato, allowed the students to practice their skills on its property. With the partnership of the City of Franklin, the South Central Workforce Development Board, Franklin Bank & Trust, Simpson County Fiscal Court, and the Franklin-Simpson Industrial Authority, a practice skills range was constructed on land owned by the college, and a ribbon cutting was held in August of 2019.

Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College is proud to be part of the fabric of Franklin and Simpson County through education, training, and numerous economic development activities, the vision of our community's leaders nearly 20 years ago has come to fruition.



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1919-2019
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MEDICAL

Med Center Health's makes a lasting impact on
healthcare in Franklin and Simpson County



**We could not
have been
successful over
the years without
the support of
our community."**

— Annette Runyon, Administrator of The Medical Center at Franklin

Established in 1969, Franklin-Simpson Memorial Hospital was close to closing its doors when it was acquired by Med Center Health in April 2000 and became The Medical Center at Franklin. With Med Center Health's reputation for excellence and commitment to quality behind it, the hospital began an expansion plan that would transform it to be one of the premier rural community hospitals in the region. Over the years, more than \$21 million has been invested to bring the best healthcare possible to the residents of southern Kentucky and northern Tennessee.

"We could not have been successful over the years without the support of our community," says Annette Runyon, Administrator of The Medical Center at Franklin. "Our mission is to care for people and improve the quality of life in the communities we serve. We are consistently looking for ways to meet the needs of Simpson and surrounding counties."

In 2010, a 71,000-square-foot medical office building—Franklin Medical Pavilion—was constructed on the hospital's campus. The building includes office suites for a variety of specialists, the hospital's physical and cardiopulmonary rehabilitation services, and a state-of-the-art laboratory. Some specialties are available through telemedicine, allowing residents to get the care they need without having to drive long distances.

In 2011, The Medical Center at Franklin completed several expansion and renovation projects, including the addition of a 9,700-square foot, \$4 million surgery wing. The wing includes two surgical suites, an endoscopy suite, a six-bed recovery unit and other surgical support services. Since that time, The Medical Center at Franklin has gained a reputation for exceptional outcomes, and is the primary location for ophthalmologic surgery in the Med Center Health family.

In addition to bringing vital specialties to the area, Med Center Health offers onsite primary care to local industries and the county school system. With a focus on health and wellness, Med Center Health is helping to reduce lost work and school days due to sickness or injury.

As a not-for-profit hospital system, Med Center Health invests millions of dollars back into the communities it serves. In Franklin, this can be seen through free screenings and support of the annual community health fair organized by the Franklin-Simpson County Chamber of Commerce, and sponsoring the Garden Spot 5K Run/Walk. In addition, Med Center Health works closely with Simpson County Schools to provide on-site practice and sporting event coverage by our licensed athletic trainers and sports physical therapists. General health programs, including anti-smoking and distracted driving awareness programs for students are also available.

As part of our outreach in the community, Med Center Health operates School-Based Health Clinics at Franklin-Simpson Middle School and Simpson Elementary School. These clinics provide primary care services for students, faculty, immediate family members of faculty and retired teachers of Simpson County Schools. Med Center Health is also now providing the school nurse program for Simpson County.

As the largest not-for-profit healthcare provider in Southcentral Kentucky, Med Center Health is committed to offering the latest, most advanced services to the residents of southern Kentucky and northern Tennessee. The Medical Center at Franklin continues to grow and improve to meet the needs of its patients now and in the future.



The **Medical Center at Franklin** is a 25-bed acute care hospital with inpatient and outpatient services and a 24/7 emergency room. Services offered include:

- Acute care
- Diagnostic imaging, including MRI, 16-slice Computerized Tomography, Ultrasound with 3-D imaging, nuclear medicine/ cardiology, echocardiography, digital mammography, and digital x-ray that allows for lower radiology doses in patients
- Surgery, including general, endoscopic, ENT, podiatric, orthopaedic and ophthalmologic
- Respiratory care
- Post-acute inpatient care (swing bed)
- Home care program
- Physical, occupational and speech/language therapies
- Outpatient behavioral health and psychiatric services
- 24/7 lab
- Cardiac rehab

Specialties currently available at the **Franklin Medical Pavilion** include:

- Cardiology
- Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)
- General Surgery
- Infectious Disease – via Telemedicine
- Obstetrics & Gynecology
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine
- Psychiatry – via Telemedicine
- Pulmonary Care – Onsite and via Telemedicine
- Vascular Surgery – via Telemedicine
- Dermatology
- Podiatry
- Hematology/Oncology



1919-2019
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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

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Exercise is vitally important to improving and maintaining our health. Many chronic diseases can be prevented or improved with regular exercise that includes getting our heart rates elevated and utilizing and strengthening our muscles.

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Many opportunities exist in the Franklin area to be more physically active and to improve our health such as walking, bicycling, disc golf, line dancing, yoga, group fitness classes and gyms.

For the youth, there are several dance, gymnastic and karate classes available in the area. Dance studios offer students lyrical, jazz, hip-hop, tap and ballet for kids 2 years of age and older.



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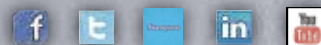
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Graves-Gilbert Clinic continues to grow

After growing his practice and his family in Franklin for over 10 years, Dr Robert Wesley had the vision of a full-service multi-specialty clinic for the community's medical needs. He witnessed the dilemma his patients and families experienced when seeking medical care in our area. "I think that ultimately what our hope in opening this facility was to bring more services to Franklin. What we do here is, as comprehensive as we can, outpatient care to patients in our community, and we do that at a price point that affects the whole community," he says. In 2016, Dr Wesley joined the Graves-Gilbert Clinic family, and set out his dream of bringing the Red Oak facility into reality.

Red Oak Medical Plaza opened its doors in December 2017. The 40,000 square foot facility is the home to two full-time Family Medicine physicians-Dr Robert Wesley and Dr Karuna Reddy, GGC Walk-in Care/WorkCare with extended hours and weekend availability, an extensive Specialty Clinic with weekly rotations of specialist-including Gastroenterology, Orthopedics, Cardiology, Surgery, and ENT. Patients can conveniently pick up their prescriptions at the Clinic Pharmacy a few steps away from their provider's office. The facility offers low cost, high quality CT, X-Ray, and a full Lab for any bloodwork needs. "It's an option that Franklin didn't

have before, and we live in one of the more expensive areas in the country to receive healthcare," says Dr. Wesley. Graves-Gilbert Clinic Physical Therapy's staff are passionate about getting patients back to doing the things they love safely and independently.

In 2018, Graves-Gilbert Clinic was pleased to announce the joining of Dr John Adams, a long time Franklin resident and Family Medicine physician. Dr Adams continues to practice in his office, which is conveniently located across from Red Oak Medical Plaza on Memorial Drive.

Red Oak is also the home to Lifeline Health Care, Fresenius Kidney Care, and Interventional Pain Specialists. "As our community has grown," Dr Wesley continues, "it's become more difficult for many patients to travel outside of the community for healthcare. Our goal was to consolidate a lot of those resources that those patients need in one place."

GGC is dedicated to bringing convenience to their patients, recently by adding access to its physicians through telemedicine. "We live in an electronic world, and utilizing this technology to allow easier access to your primary doctor is vital. This makes it easier for us to care for our youth and keep them in school, or to see you at your desk at work." Insurance covers most visits and they can be done with any smart phone that has a camera.

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Simpson County farms continue to evolve

Agriculture in Kentucky and Simpson County has evolved over the years. Many traditional commodities such as corn, soybeans, tobacco and cattle remain prominent. Many new crop opportunities now exist with Chia and high tunnel vegetable production. Hemp was an important cash crop in Kentucky in the early 1900s. According to a 1902 periodical, Kentucky was responsible for three quarters of U.S. hemp fiber production. Hemp has reemerged with exciting profit potential for Kentucky farmers for oil, fiber and seed. 2019 marks the first year hemp has been grown in Kentucky since prior to 1970.

Our reliance on agriculture in Simpson County has never been more important. Farmers are charged with producing more yield on less ground as the population continues to increase. According to University of Kentucky archived state corn hybrid performance tests, average yellow corn yields in 1956 ranged from about 60 – 100 bushels per acre. In the 2018 UK Corn Hybrid performance tests average yields were about 220 – 265 bushels per acre.

It is interesting to compare some historical figures and think about how agriculture has changed but also, in many aspects, remains the same. According to the USDA, there were 1,698 farms in Simpson County in 1919 and there were 471 farms in 2017. The USDA defines a farm

as any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the census year. There has been a decrease in overall farmland due to urban sprawl, but for the most part, fewer farmers have larger acres resulting in less total farms. The USDA reports that the average farm size in 1919 was 86 acres compared to 2017 when the average farm size was 235 acres. The average farm size in the United States is 441 acres. While our average farm size is much larger than in the past, the 2017 Census for Agriculture reports that counties in Kentucky, Tennessee and eastern Texas have the highest farm densities in the United States.

Another interesting statistic addresses land prices, which have seen a dramatic increase even in recent years. According to the USDA, “Average Value of Land & Buildings per Acre” was \$78 in 1919, \$1,044 in 1992 and \$5,675 in 2017.

Agriculture will always be an important sector of the local, state and national economy. We are reliant on fewer farmers to produce more each year. You can review current and historical agricultural data by going to the USDA National Ag Statistics Service website at www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus.



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Farm to Table

The Franklin-Simpson Farmers Market is continuously embracing new trends, including the Farm to Table concept. Each year, the group hosts an annual Harvest Dinner for the community and when weather is permitting this takes place in one of downtown's beautiful alleys under soft, string lights. From spring to fall, the market is housed under the cover of a permanent structure, a pavilion used specifically for vendors allowing the markets to take place consistently rain or shine. Local farmers bring fresh produce and jar and canned goods to the market weekly and the number of vendors is on the rise as Simpson County's population continues to grow. The pavilion is also host to gatherings like the Wine, Dine and Shine wine tasting and dinner event featuring Kentucky wines for tasting and a meal cooked on-site with fresh, local ingredients.



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