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SPRING HILL FAMILY FUN

Spring Hill is about to be ground zero for family fun events



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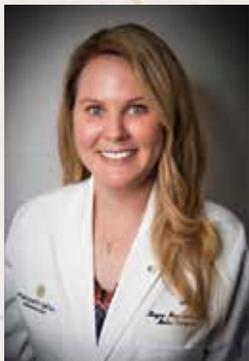


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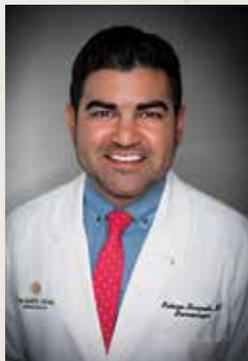
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COMMUNITY SNAPSHOTS



SPERO HEALTH GRAND OPENING

Spero Health held its Grand Opening on August 2. They are located at 1407 Hatcher Lane, Suite C.



40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

On August 4th Kittrell's Kars 40th Anniversary Celebration 709 North Main Street, Mount Pleasant



RIBBON CUTTING

On August 8th Grand Opening of New Residential Home at the King's Daughters' School 405 West 9th Street, Columbia



CITY OF COLUMBIA HIRES MARKETING COORDINATOR

The City of Columbia is pleased to announce that Lexi Dearborn has joined the Tourism & Marketing Department as the marketing coordinator. In this newly-created position, Dearborn will assist in the development and execution of marketing strategies that will help Visit Columbia reach its target audience, build awareness for the destination, and inspire travel to Columbia. She will also help promote the City of Columbia and its twelve departments to help better serve the citizens of Columbia.

"We are happy to welcome Lexi to the team," said Tourism & Marketing Director Kellye Murphy. "She brings relevant experience in marketing and communications, and she is, no doubt, going to be an asset to the city."



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COMMUNITY SNAPSHOTS



GROUNDBREAKING ON JULY 18TH

The new Listerhill Credit Union broke ground for their new Spring Hill Location on July 18. It will be located at 3348 Kedron Road.



20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

DeBerry Insurance, located at 5232 Main Street in Spring Hill celebrated their 20th anniversary on July 18.



RIBBON CUTTING ON JULY 20TH

On July 20th Avena Hospice celebrated their business name change, formerly Willowbrook.



GROUNDBREAKING MAURY COUNTY ARCHIVES EXPANSION

Maury County celebrated the expansion of the archives, which store and protect Maury County's legal documents and records including marriage records, divorce records, birth records, court records, dating all the way back to the creation of the county.





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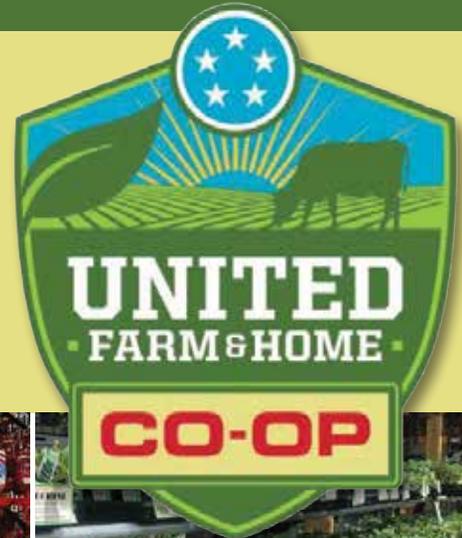
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A NEW FALL TRADITION

BY JASON ZASKY

“We want a fun event that has music, entertainment, food trucks, and everything else that a small-town festival has to offer.” So said the residents of Columbia, whom Kelli Johnson of Columbia Main Street credits as the inspiration for the city’s 1st annual Fall Fest, which will take place on September 30th on the Town Square.

“It’s going to be from 3–7 pm on that Saturday,” adds Johnson, who works as a Manager for Columbia Main Street, a nationally accredited Main Street Community organization that serves as a liaison between the city and the downtown area and “is charged with keeping our downtown up-to-date and relevant,” as she puts it.

Naturally, the events at the inaugural Fall Fest will be decidedly fall-geared, with the Kiwanis of Columbia’s chili cookoff the only ticketed event at the otherwise free festival.

“There is going to be a stage where we’ll hold the chili cookoff,” explains Johnson. “For ten dollars, you get to sample the chili from all the different teams, and you get to vote on your favorite chili. We will also have a crafts area where we will have local vendors selling handcrafted items. Everything will be fall-inspired, whether it’s candles and home accessories or desserts and other baked goods.”

There will also be a “fun zone” that offers a little something for all ages, including face painting, balloon artists, inflatables, and even axe-throwing.

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Last but not least, the event will also feature live music, with local musicians performing from 3 until 5:30 pm. Then at 5:30, Nashville-based Journey tribute band Majestic will take the stage, performing Journey hits like “Don’t Stop Believin’,” “Any Way You Want It,” “Open Arms,” and “Wheel in the Sky,” among many others.

“People are encouraged to bring a chair if they want to sit and listen. But we would love to see dancing in the streets,” says Johnson, before noting that the Town Square will be closed to motor vehicle traffic for the event, making Fall Fest pedestrian-friendly.

“Wear comfy shoes and bring the entire family. We want everyone from babies to grandmothers here. We are not selling alcohol, so it is truly geared toward families. My family lives here, and this is how we are going to kick off fall,” notes Johnson, who grew up in Columbia and chose to stay after she graduated from college.

“Columbia has come so far since I was born. I have so much pride and get so excited when people come from out of state, and I get the chance to show them around,” she adds, opining that Columbia has “nailed it on the head recently” when it comes to its focus on families and small businesses.

That said, Fall Fest is one of many events Columbia is hosting in the coming months. One day earlier (Friday, September 29th), it’s the 4th annual Room at the Inn Oktoberfest at Riverwalk Park on Riverside Drive, which is set to feature live music, food trucks, and beer tasting.

Then in October, the non-profit A Worthy Cause hosts its annual block party, featuring more live music and food trucks, not to mention local vendor shops and a variety of activities for the whole family.

Events like these only add to the southern charm that Columbia has long embodied, a spirit that has been accentuated by the redevelopment and growth of the downtown area.

“You couldn’t re-create our downtown in any other place because all our businesses are special and unique to us,” notes Johnson. “We have the historical charm that a lot of southern towns tore down. Having our homegrown retailers in historic buildings is the perfect matchup. It’s like a Hallmark movie, but we get to live it daily.

Columbia Main Street Presents Fall Fest
September 30th, 2023 | 3–7 pm
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Photography by Robbie Mathis.

MAKING A BETTER COMMUNITY

PAM WINDSOR

Jimmy Dugger has spent nearly three decades helping people find the perfect home. He considers his work as a longtime Columbia realtor not just a job, but a way to change lives.

“I want to give people a place to go home to. And if you’ve got the right place, Mama’s happy, Daddy’s happy, and the kids are happy. And that’s all that matters to me.”

He’s a Maury County native who grew up in Culleoka. He began working full-time for Crye Leike Realtors in 1996 and has a reputation for doing whatever it takes to serve his clients. His track record speaks for itself; he’s closed on more than 2100 homes. And while he’s an expert on Middle Tennessee, he’s familiar with the entire state with closings in 41 of Tennessee’s 95 counties.

He says the key to finding someone the right home is to listen to what they tell you.

“I ask a lot of questions. The first thing is minimum requirements. What are you looking for with bedrooms, bathrooms, square footage, and garage capacity? What’s your budget? I don’t want to show someone a house they can’t afford. And then, I ask about the geographic area. If you get down to those three basic questions, that gets you where you need to be in terms of inventory.”

It’s important, he says, for people to know ahead of time how much “house” they can afford.

“You need to go ahead and get a pre-approval letter, or if you’re a cash buyer, be able to prove you have the cash available. This way, when we find the right property, we’ll have the money in

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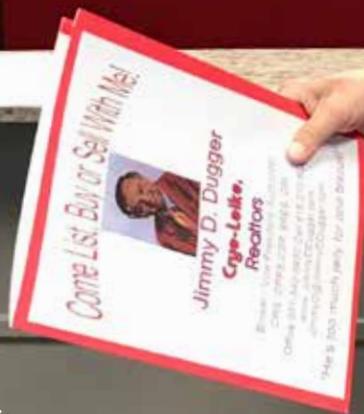
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Photography by Robbie Mathis.

< FROM PAGE 16

position, the inventory in position, and we can do the realtor stuff that makes us who we are. And that's the pixie dust of writing contracts."

Dugger has seen a lot of ebbs and flows through the years. He survived the housing market crash of 2008 and has watched, more recently, as the influx of people moving to Tennessee caused the market to explode.

Nashville's rapid growth has trickled down to surrounding counties creating what he calls a "doughnut" effect. With Nashville in the middle, outlying counties have become the next "tier" or place to move.

"If you look at Nashville and the way it used to be, everybody went to Nashville to do their thing. Now the counties that surround it are the contiguous counties, the counties that touch, and the doughnut has become stronger than the hole. I've watched as the Williamson County's come down to us, and now, we're "tier 2" on that because of people spreading out."

He says Maury County is also feeling a push from the South.

"We've not only become tier 1 or tier 2 to Nashville, we're tier 2 to Huntsville. If you look at the two 'doughnuts' as they come to-

gether, and the I-65 corridor that makes up the Nashville to Huntsville corridor, we're smack in the middle of that. We're growing like crazy because of it."

With housing in such high demand, finding a realtor you can trust is essential.

"I have a marketing degree from UT and an MBA from Belmont, but I also have 19 designations in regard to my profession. I'm a Certified Divorce Realtor, a Certified Residential Specialist, and I'm also a Senior Real Estate Specialist," Dugger says. "So, with regard to what the Dugger team brings to the table, we're not going to do anything wrong, anything unethical, or anything that hurts the client."

He remains dedicated to serving both his clients and community. He's been involved with many state and local organizations (many in a leadership position) and supports a number of charitable organizations.

"I want to make this town a better place to live. Maury County, Columbia, Middle Tennessee, America, this is my home. I'm going to make this community as good a place as I can make it – every day of my life."

For more information see his ad on page 30.

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PAM WINDSOR

THE WHOLE HOG FESTIVAL

Plans have been in the works for months, and organizers say everything is just about ready for this year's John Maher Builders Whole Hog Festival in Spring Hill. Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 7th.

The family-friendly event is held on the grounds of the historic Oaklawn Mansion and serves as a fundraiser for The Well Outreach. This area food pantry ministry serves the needs of families in crisis. The festival centers on all things pork-related in lots of fun and creative ways. There is a hog-calling contest, a bacon-eating contest, and a chance to win free bacon. Food trucks will offer everything from barbecue to pork tacos to pork-themed egg rolls and more. There are also other fun-filled activities for kids and adults alike all day long.

There will also be lots of live music, with seven bands performing throughout the day. They'll be playing everything from classic country to bluegrass to bluesy rock.

The festival kicks off at 10am and goes until 5pm. There is an admission fee (with proceeds going to support The Well Outreach), but the cost is minimal.

"We try to go all out and make the festival really special for a reasonable fee," Sassen says. "It's \$5 for adults, and kids five and under get in for free.

To learn more visit: springhillwell.org and click on events.

THE UAW FALL FESTIVAL

Members of UAW Local 1853 say this year's annual Fall Festival set for Sunday, September 10th, may be their best yet. It's an outdoor, family-oriented event that brings union members, their families, and the general public together for a jam-packed day full of fun.

"We're expecting it to be bigger than last year, and last year's attendance was huge," says Cathy Busbee, a Member of the Service Committee helping bring it all together. "We don't charge to get in, so we have no way of taking a head count, but last year we probably had 6000 people coming in and out of there all day."

This year's festival will offer live music, many different activities, and more than 120 craft vendors offering a variety of unique things to buy.

"Kids can come and get their face-painted, play in bouncy houses, watch magic shows; it's a lot of fun. Spiderman will be there, the Black Panther will be there, and there will be Princesses walking around, talking to the kids, and interacting with them."

There will be plenty of attractions for adults, as well. There will be a car show, a beer tent, a wide range of food trucks offering everything from hot dogs and hamburgers to barbecue to Mediterranean food and more, and a live band.

The Fall Fest occurs at the UAW Local 1853 Union Hall at 125 Stephen P. Yokich Parkway in Spring Hill. It starts at 10am and goes until 6pm. For more information, visit their fall festival Facebook page at [@uawfall fest](https://www.facebook.com/uawfallfest)



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Ribeye Steak, Tomato and Mushroom Kebabs

TOTAL TIME: **30 MINUTES**

INGREDIENTS:

2 CLOVES GARLIC
1/2 SMALL BUNCH ITALIAN (FLAT-LEAF) PARSLEY
1/4 CUP O ORGANICS EXTRA-VIRGIN OLIVE OIL
1/8 CUP RED WINE VINEGAR
2 TEASPOONS O ORGANICS DIJON MUSTARD
1/2 TEASPOON SALT
1/2 TEASPOON BLACK PEPPER
3/4 POUND O ORGANICS RIBEYE STEAK
1/2 PINT O ORGANICS GRAPE TOMATOES
1/4 POUND O ORGANICS WHITE MUSHROOMS
GREEN PEPPER, SLICED (OPTIONAL)
1/2 MEDIUM RED ONION
6 SKEWERS



DIRECTIONS:

Peel and mince garlic. Wash and dry parsley. Shave leaves off stems; discard stems and mince leaves.

In large bowl, whisk minced garlic, half the minced parsley (reserve remainder for garnish), olive oil, vinegar, Dijon mustard, salt and pepper.

Cut steak into cubes; transfer to marinade bowl and toss to coat.

Wash tomatoes, mushrooms and green pepper. Halve mushrooms. Add tomatoes, mushrooms and green pepper to marinade. Peel onion and cut into chunks; add to marinade. Toss beef and vegetables until well coated.

Heat grill pan, outdoor grill or skillet to medium-high heat.

Thread steak and vegetables onto six skewers.

Cook kebabs in batches until steak is browned and vegetables are tender, 3-5 minutes per side. Transfer to plate and repeat with remaining kebabs.

To serve, plate kebabs and sprinkle with remaining minced parsley.

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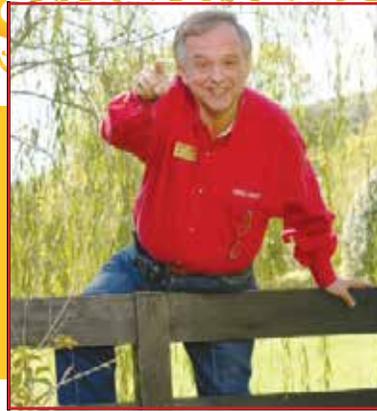
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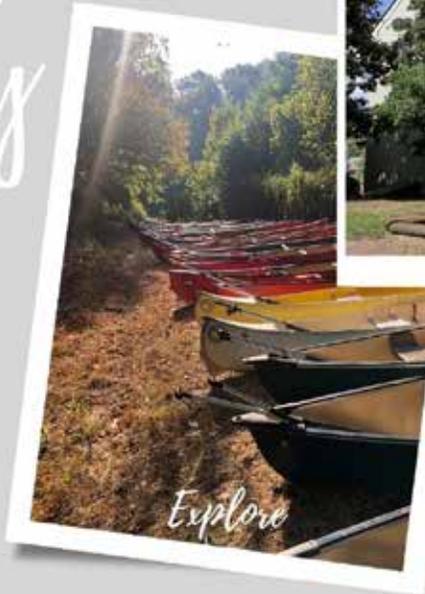
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