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### ON THE COVER:

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Photography provided

# COMING SOON: LET THERE BE ROCK

## INTRODUCING FIRSTBANK AMPHITHEATER

### BY JASON ZASKY

In the distant past, Graystone Quarry was the source of limestone for the stretch of Interstate 65 that extends from Columbia to Nashville. In the near future, the reclaimed quarry will be the place to go for a different kind of rock—namely rock & roll and all other musical styles.

Set to open later this year, FirstBank Amphitheater—located at the I-65/840 split on 138 acres of picturesque acres—has been two-and-a-half years in the making. Or more, if you consider that owner Rick McEachern first purchased the property in 2014, at

which point it had remained empty—and sometimes used as a construction dump site—for more than five decades.

“When my wife and I bought the place we did so with the idea of opening an event venue, as the back of the property is shaped kind of like an amphitheater,” offers McEachern, before adding that limestone from the quarry was mined between 1960-63, immediately after which the site was abandoned.

“It was a wild site, as nothing was done to the property in [more than] fifty years,” recalls McEachern, so the first step was to clean up and recycle nine hundred tons of rebar and construction debris. The McEacherns went on to create a variety of upscale

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**< FROM PAGE 6**

event spaces, including venues for weddings, conferences, corporate events, and private parties. There is also a cottage on-site, which can be booked for wedding nights, bachelorette getaways, family vacations, or retreats.

In the meantime, “we started looking around and found there were no live entertainment options south of Nashville, and it seemed to be something that people really wanted,” says McEachern, who broached the idea to Live Nation Entertainment. “They quickly ‘got’ the vision and saw the potential and said, ‘Yeah, we’ll team up with you,’” he says.

The McEacherns visited many other existing amphitheaters and took the best ideas from each—then adapted those ideas to Graystone Quarry and its unique atmosphere. The result is an authentically Tennessee outdoor venue that has a look and experience all its own.

“The sound engineers who have done all the tests are super-excited,” relates McEachern, who promises that visitors can expect “a really cool outdoor environment, one capable of taking people to a different place,” where concertgoers will be able to

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Photography by Jeff Bryant

**< FROM PAGE 8**

enjoy a variety of local, national and internationally-recognized artists.

Visitors will also have a variety of options in terms of suites and seating, including two levels of cliffside suites that are built into the quarry's limestone walls.

"The cliffside suites provide an elevated view of the stage and a really comfortable environment to enjoy a concert," explains McEachern. Meanwhile, VIP box seats and VIP club seats are sold as season tickets, much like the cliffside suites.

"The rest of the seats are available on a per concert basis," elaborates McEachern. "Upfront, we have fold-down seats, in the middle section, we have bench seats with backs, and in the back

section, we have bench seating. So we offer different levels of comfort, convenience and price options," he concludes, noting that everyone can enjoy the spacious plaza area, where visitors can purchase food and merchandise.

As for when the first concert will be held at the venue, McEachern says that has yet to be determined, but it will be "whenever fans seem ready to go to concerts and performers are ready to perform. End of summer is the time frame we are looking at right now," he says.

In the meantime, season tickets for FirstBank Amphitheater can be purchased at Live Nation's Premium Tickets site. Graystone Quarry and FirstBank Amphitheater are located at 4520 Graystone Quarry Lane in Thompson's Station on Franklin's southern border.



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Photography by Evan Butler

# THE FRANKLIN THEATRE LAUNCHES PHASED REOPENING FOR 2021

## THEATER NOW LOOKING TO BRING BACK ENTERTAINMENT THAT CONFORMS TO CURRENT COVID RESTRICTIONS

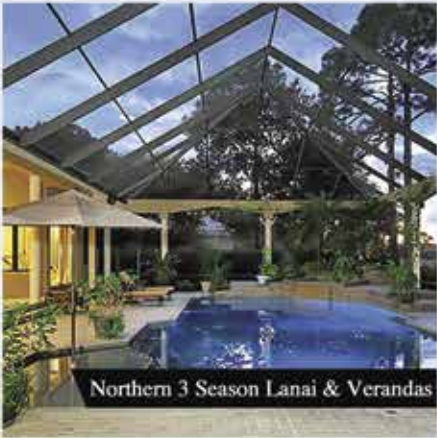
After going dark to public performances last year due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Heritage Foundation of Williamson County, TN, parent organization of The Franklin Theatre, is excited to announce the theater's phased reopening plan for 2021.

Currently, the theater is open for private rentals, including Monday nights through April. Another local non-profit, Studio Tenn, hosts its popular virtual talk show: Studio Tenn Talks: Conversations with Patrick Cassidy. In addition, as part of its mission to be a platform for local philanthropy, The Franklin Theatre

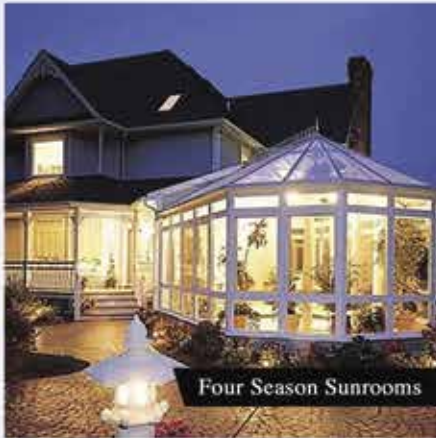
is currently working in partnership with local video production companies and The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee (CFMT) to provide an opportunity for non-profits to film affordable promotional videos to support their participation in The Big Payback, CFMT's annual 24-hour giving event that kicks off on Wednesday, May 5 at 6 p.m.

The current reopening plan, which will be modified as needed

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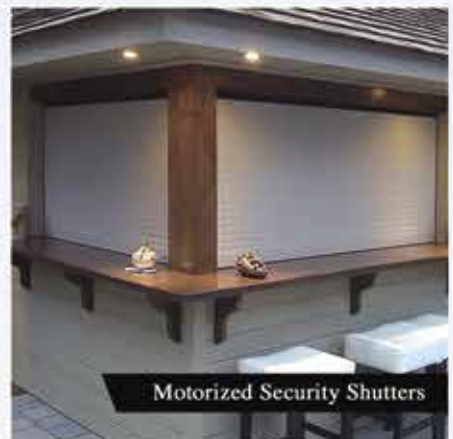
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# SCHEDULE

- **Sandi Patty** (Limited Capacity & Livestream) **Saturday, May 8 | 3 p.m. & 7 p.m.**
- **Deborah Allen** (Limited Capacity & Livestream) **Saturday, June 5 | 2 p.m. & 8 p.m.** ON SALE FRIDAY, APRIL 2
- **The Isaacs** | **Friday, July 9 | 8 p.m.** CURRENTLY ON SALE
- **James Gregory** | **Saturday, July 10 | 8 p.m.** ON SALE FRIDAY, APRIL 2
- **Jeff Allen** | **Thursday, July 15 | 8 p.m.** CURRENTLY ON SALE
- **Larry Carlton** | **Saturday, July 17 | 8 p.m.** ON SALE FRIDAY, APRIL 9
- **Farewell Angelina** | **Thursday, July 29 | 8 p.m.** CURRENTLY ON SALE
- **John Ford Coley, Billy Dean & Tom Wurth** | **Acoustic Tour | Thursday, August 5 | 8 p.m.** CURRENTLY ON SALE
- **Allie Colleen** | **Friday, August 6 | 8 p.m.** CURRENTLY ON SALE
- **Henry Cho** – **Saturday, August 14 | 4 p.m. & 8 p.m.** CURRENTLY ON SALE
- **Gary Puckett & The Union Gap** | **Thursday, August 19 & Friday, August 20 | 8 p.m.** ON SALE FRIDAY, APRIL 16
- **David Wilcox** – **Saturday, August 21 | 8 p.m.** CURRENTLY ON SALE
- **BJ Thomas** – **Friday, August 27 & Saturday, August 28 | 8 p.m.** CURRENTLY ON SALE

## < FROM PAGE 12

based on any future COVID-related restrictions, will bring back limited-capacity weekend movies, limited-capacity plus live stream performances through June. Until the state guidelines indicate otherwise, the theater's capacity is approximately 75 guests, accounting for adequate social distancing.

In July, the theater will begin presenting movies and live performances with increasing regularity and possible increased capacity. The Franklin Theatre will continue to follow the governor's Tennessee Pledge and CDC guidelines and update reopening plans as needed.

The theater's box office will reopen with limited hours beginning on Friday, March 12, in time for Sandi Patty's ticket on-sale date. The box office's limited hours will run through April and will be 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Friday, Saturdays, and Sundays. In addition to new shows going on sale over the next several weeks, many 2021-2022 shows are currently on sale.

"We are emerging from an incredibly challenging season

for The Franklin Theatre," said Heritage Foundation COO Meg Hershey. "While we had to temporarily close the doors to public events, we are diligently working behind the scenes to reschedule some of the amazing programming that was planned for last year. We couldn't be more excited about getting this cherished venue back open to continue its mission, bringing inspiring arts and entertainment experiences to our community."

Hershey went on to say that surviving an unprecedented season that left the theater with very few options for programming has been nothing short of challenging.

"This theater has been sustained by the community's embrace of underwritten marquee messages, limited small group private rental events, and through the commitment of corporate sponsors and donors of the non-profit Heritage Foundation and its division The Franklin Theatre," she said.

The Heritage Foundation is also making plans for a 10th-anniversary celebration later this year to commemorate ten years since the theater's restoration and grand reopening.

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Eric and Chris DeBerry, owners of DeBerry Insurance Agency, host a free Shred Day for the community each year. Photography provided

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## LOCAL INSURANCE AGENCY HOSTS FREE SHRED DAY, ALSO COLLECTING FOR LOCAL FOOD BANK

DeBerry Insurance Agency will host their 5th Annual Free Shred Day event for the community on Saturday, April 17. The event will take place at DeBerry Insurance Agency, 5232 Main Street in Spring Hill, from 10 AM to 2 PM. A Shred-It Truck will be on-site throughout the event.

To date, DeBerry Insurance Agency has collected nearly ten tons of paper for recycling through their Free Shred Day event. The amount of paper recycled has saved an estimated 100 trees from being used to make paper.

The event for 2020 was canceled due to the Covid-19 crisis. Eric and Chris DeBerry, owners of DeBerry Insurance Agency, are thankful to be able to resume the highly anticipated service for the community.

"We get calls throughout the year asking about Shred Day," said Chris DeBerry. "We definitely had a few disappointed callers when we canceled the event last year. Those reactions and the tremendous attendance we have each year really reinforce how appreciated this service is. We are thankful to be able to provide this for the community."

The DeBerrys partner with Shred-It to provide a secure and convenient way for participants to properly discard of identifying papers. All papers are shredded on-site.

"The security offered through our event is of utmost importance to us," said Eric DeBerry. "Identity theft is a growing problem for individuals and businesses. Properly discarding identifying papers is a critical step in helping to prevent identity theft." The agency hosts their Free Shred Day event at the end of tax

season, when many people organize their records for the year. Although this year's tax deadline has been extended, the event is still being held following the traditional deadline. Any unneeded papers can be conveniently and securely discarded at the event.

All paper is accepted for shredding, and the shredded paper is recycled. No preregistration is needed to participate. Anyone with documents or papers to shred is welcome to come by during the event to drop them off.

During the Free Shred Day event, DeBerry Insurance Agency will also be collecting food donations for The Well Outreach. The agency has collected several hundred pounds of food for The Well as part of their annual Free Shred Day event. Food donations are not required for participation in the Shred Day event, but they are appreciated.

"We are thankful to be able to include an opportunity for the community to donate items to The Well in coordination with our Shred Day event each year," said Chris DeBerry. "We are looking forward to partnering with The Well again this year!"

DeBerry Insurance Agency is a locally owned business that provides comprehensive insurance packages for individuals and businesses. A licensed insurance expert from DeBerry Insurance Agency can personally work with you to find the coverage options that are right for you.

For more information about DeBerry Insurance and the Free Shred Day event, visit [www.DeBerryInsurance.com](http://www.DeBerryInsurance.com) or call (931) 486-3300.



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# NOTABLE DATES FOR APRIL

April is National Humor month, International Guitar month and National Poetry month! Other notable dates...

## APR 7



### NEW BEERS EVE

*On this date after prohibition it was said that at 12:01 on 1933, President Roosevelt stated "I think this would be a good time for a beer." Anheuser-Busch pulled out all the stops, delivering the beer with their Clydesdale draw carriage directly to the Commander-in-Chief. The first 24 hours of the end of the prohibition saw an estimated 1.5 million gallons of beer consumed.*

## APR 10



### GOLFER'S DAY

*On Golfer's Day celebrate, not the game itself, but the men and women who play. Clearly the best way to celebrate is to hit the links yourself, but that may not always be an option for you. Some people say its origins lay in 1916 when the first professional golf tournament was held on this day. Others claim that the first tubular steel golf club shaft was allowed to be used in championship play for the first time on this day.*

## APR 22



### EARTH DAY

*Every year on April 22, Earth Day marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970. Today, Earth Day is widely recognized as the largest secular observance in the world, marked by more than a billion people every year as a day of action to change human behavior and create global, national and local policy changes.*

## APR 28



### SUPERHERO DAY

*Marvel employees created National Superhero Day on April 28, 1995 to celebrate everyone's favorite superhero. Still, the idea behind superhero day is to honor those who serve and protect while fighting evil. No matter who your favorite hero is, honoring the real or fictional people that inspire us is a worthwhile cause.*

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1/2 JICAMA, CUBED  
1/2 RED ONION, CHOPPED  
3/4 CUP GRAPEFRUIT JUICE  
4 TABLESPOONS OLIVE OIL  
1/2 CUP FRESH CILANTRO, CHOPPED  
1 JALAPENO PEPPER, CHOPPED

---

### INSTRUCTIONS

Heat oven to 400 F.

In large bowl, mix grapefruit juice, oil, garlic powder, cumin, paprika and red pepper until combined. Add chicken to bowl and turn to coat. Refrigerate 30 minutes or longer.

To make salsa fresca: In medium bowl, mix grapefruit segments, jicama, red onion, grapefruit juice, olive oil, cilantro and jalapeno pepper until combined. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

Remove chicken from marinade. Place chicken in baking dish. Bake 25-30 minutes until chicken is cooked through.

Serve chicken with salsa fresca.



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615.495.8812

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with them, and they with me."*

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## Want to see your church featured here?

CONTACT **DAVID** AT **615-495-8812** FOR MORE DETAILS.

# UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

## Saturday, June 26 Iroquois Steeplechase

The Iroquois Steeplechase has decided to move the 2021 race date from May 8 to June 26. We will work with the local city and health department officials to guide us in constructing a safe event layout. Our ticket sales are temporarily suspended as we create options for attending this year's event. We will email current ticketholders directly in the coming weeks with more information. As guidelines are changing constantly, be sure to follow our social media and website for updates. We look forward to seeing you on June 26!



## Saturday, Sept. 11 Chukkers for Charity

The Annual Polo Celebration and events benefit Saddle Up! & The Rochelle Center. Make plans now for the return of this annual Williamson County event.

## Saturday, Oct. 2 The Heritage Ball

The Heritage Ball is the longest running black-tie affair in Williamson County. Approximately 800 guests will gather at Eastern Flank Battlefield Park on Saturday, Oct. 2, 2021 support and celebrate the work of the Heritage Foundation and to raise funds for future preservation projects. The Ball serves as the greatest single fundraising initiative for the Foundation each year. In addition to a seated dinner and dancing, the ball features a cocktail hour and other fundraising opportunities.



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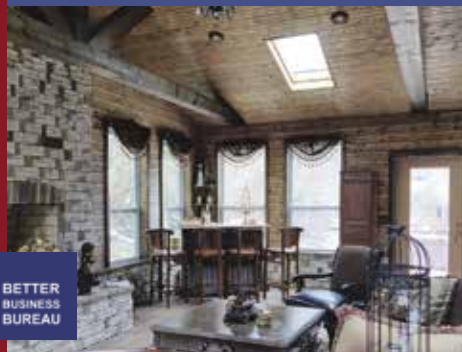


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