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**ON THE COVER:** Williamson County has a dedicated group of Master Gardeners with a passion for gardening and an interest in sharing what they know with others. Photo by Holly Gardner.

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# AN EVENING WITH FRIENDS RETURNS TO SUPPORT ANIMAL CENTER

Friends of Williamson County Animal Center (FOWCAC) will host its fifth annual “An Evening with Friends” fundraiser on Thursday, June 22, at The Factory at Franklin, starting at 6:00 p.m. in Liberty Hall.

Proceeds from the event directly benefit programs and services at Williamson County Animal Center (WCAC) as well as community pets in Williamson County.

“The amazing response to this event each year ensures that we continue to provide the services our community needs,” said Edie Lynn Hoback, FOWCAC President, “We are so grateful for the support of Mars Petcare, our presenting sponsor, all of the other sponsors, volunteers, patrons, and everyone who has made celebrating the fifth anniversary of An Evening with Friends possible.”

FOWCAC is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to improving

the lives of all animals in Williamson County. Funds raised from previous events have been used for critical medical procedures for animals in WCAC’s care, programs that provide free spay or neuter services to Williamson County residents, dog training classes for adopters, and youth educational programs.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available but going fast. Anyone interested should call (615) 790-5590 and ask to speak with WCAC Director Ondrea Johnson.

Visit the FOWCAC website on May 1 to purchase tickets; call (615) 516-7083 or email [edie@friendsofwcac.org](mailto:edie@friendsofwcac.org) for more information about the event.

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Photography by Holly Gardner.

# SHARING THE LOVE OF LOCAL HORTICULTURE

## PAM WINDSOR

---

Like so many communities across the country, Williamson County has a dedicated group of Master Gardeners with a passion for gardening and an interest in sharing what they know with others.

“The goal is primarily education for the public,” says Matt Bergstrom, President of the Williamson County Master Gardener Association. “So, a lot of what we do is volunteer at and help maintain public gardens. The Master Gardeners in our area are involved in Carn-ton Plantation and the period garden they have there, at the Carter House, and the Giving Garden at Franklin

United Methodist Church.”

While each gardener may have varied interests, some with just a small garden at home, others with more extensive, more beautiful gardens, nearly all volunteer at one of those public gardens.

“It’s definitely a labor of love,” Bergstrom explains. “It’s something we want people to know about because we’ve all experienced the benefits of gardening and being outside and the importance of nature. And it helps the public see and learn about the importance of sustainability and things like that.”

The term “master gardener” can be a little intimidating, but anyone can apply to take the class. Offered through universities,

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Photography by Holly Gardner.

**< FROM PAGE 8**

it provides research-based horticulture training. The program in Tennessee is administered by the University of Tennessee through county Extension offices. It involves 40 hours of training and requires 40 hours of volunteer community service.

“It’s all through the UT Extension office, so it’s all university-level information,” Bergstrom says. “It’s all been vetted and tested, so you’re getting the best, true-for-Tennessee gardening information which is something we have to work against a little bit with the internet these days. You’ll read a gardening article online not realizing it’s from somebody in Oregon or somewhere else,

which is completely different than growing something in Middle Tennessee.”

Master Gardener Jack Melnick agrees.

“I’m from Ohio, and gardening down here is quite a bit different than it is in Ohio. The time period’s different; it’s longer than up north. The weather is different; you’re in a different time zone.”

People become Master Gardeners at different points in their lives. For Melnick, it came after retirement. He enjoys the opportunity to share his knowledge, but continues to learn by working in public gardens like the one at Carnton Plantation in Franklin.

“The Carnton Plantation has a huge garden that was main-

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Photography provided.

# WILLIAMSON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS PLANT SALE

This year's Spring Garden Festival and Plant Sale will have something for everyone. You'll find plenty of plants grown by members of the Williamson County Master Gardener Association, as well as live music, food trucks, a wide array of vendors, and much more.

"Everybody in the Master Gardener program has a little different niche," says Master Gardener and Plant Sale Manager Jack Melnick. "Some like to grow plants, some like to create gardening crafts, and others have connections to other places. One lady has a connection to the forestry service and was able to get Smokey Bear on site."

Smokey Bear can entertain and educate the kids while the parents buy perennials, annuals, vegetables, herbs, and much more.

And in addition to plants, there will be a variety of other interesting things for sale.

"We bring in a lot of vendors selling different things. There are food vendors, perfume vendors, soap vendors, and things like that. We try to keep it one product to one vendor."

Look for guest speakers, too, discussing different gardening-related topics.

The sale comes at the perfect time for planting.

"If people come in and buy plants, you're already past the frost date, so now is the perfect time for getting things in the ground," Melnick says. "You don't have to take it home and baby it for two weeks; you can take it home and put it in the ground that day."

It all happens Saturday, April 22nd, from 9am to 2pm on the west side of the Williamson County Ag Expo Park in Franklin. (4215 Long Lane) This area is covered, so it takes place - rain or shine.

For more information, visit <http://www.wcmga.net/>

**APRIL 22, 9AM – 2 PM**  
**AG EXPO CENTER IN FRANKLIN**

## < FROM PAGE 10

tained back in the day, and that's where I started. Then, a couple of years later, they wanted to recreate the Slave Garden down where the slave quarters were because they had their own garden, so I kind of took that over. People come and visit, and they're always asking questions and are surprised by what we're growing. We grow tomatoes, the same tomatoes they grew back then, okra, and we've even planted cotton there. It's pretty interesting."

Williamson County's Master Gardeners stay busy with a host of different projects, and since they're all volunteers, they need to raise the funds to support those projects. Their primary fundraiser

is their annual plant sale held this year on Saturday, April 22nd, at the Williamson County Ag Expo Park.

"You're going to find plants you wouldn't normally get at a Home Depot or a Lowe's," Berstrom says. "These are plants we've grown, we know they grow well, and we know they're a particularly interesting or cool or tasty (as in tomatoes) variety."

Master Gardeners will also be on hand to answer questions about specific plants their selling, as well as on other gardening topics. As always, their goal is to share what they know.



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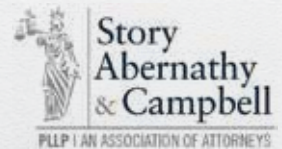
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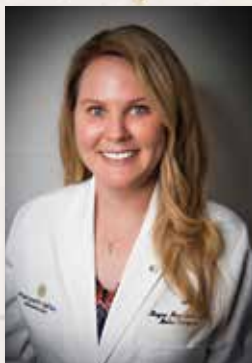
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# SPECIALISTS IN ‘ALL THINGS BASEMENT-Y’

**BY JASON ZASKY**

When Judy and Layne Gebers moved to the Volunteer state from a small farming community in rural Nebraska in 1999, they took note of the fact that “wet, nasty crawlspaces” were a common issue in Tennessee. So, they founded Frontier Foundation & Crawl Space Repair to provide solutions. More than two decades later, Frontier has grown to 124 employees and will soon be opening a new office in Huntsville, Ala., further expanding the company’s service area, which currently covers Middle Tennessee and south-western Kentucky.

“We were one of the first companies to start encapsulating and waterproofing crawlspaces, and that’s how we got our start,” says Dustin Gebers, son of Judy and Layne and the Chief Operating Officer for Frontier. “Then we got into basement waterproofing and concrete repair,” he adds, not to mention foundation repair and radon mitigation.

“Crawlspaces are always a problem, and open vents in a

crawlspace are a bad idea,” says Gebers. “The original thought for vents was to allow hot, humid air to escape out of the crawlspace. But that’s not the case. (In Middle Tennessee) we have hot, humid air that enters the crawlspace from the outside. On top of that, the furnace/HVAC system is (often) underneath the crawlspace, and that introduces cold air, which condenses. So, it’s a bad environment in general.”

Frontier’s solution is to encapsulate and dehumidify the space. “Basically, treat your crawlspace like it’s a basement. You wouldn’t have a dirt floor, and you wouldn’t have windows open all the time, especially in summer. But rather than pouring concrete, which is very expensive, we encapsulate using a 20-mil poly-reinforced crawlspace liner,” says Gebers.

Transforming a moldy, musty crawlspace into a clean, dry, energy-efficient space offers many benefits, including protection from mold growth, improved air quality, and reduced heating and cooling costs.

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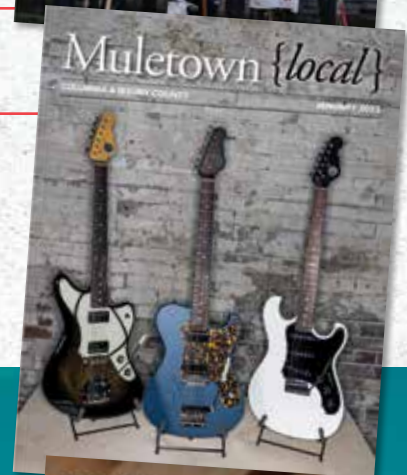
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Foley and Baldwin County Alabama





Photography provided.

#### < FROM PAGE 24

“There’s a return on investment (ROI) for getting encapsulation done that a lot of people don’t think about,” adds Gebers, who recalls that his daughter suffered from terrible allergies after moving into a new house because of the mold and mildew that had accumulated in the 10-year-old home.

“We encapsulated everything, and my daughter is no longer on any asthma or allergy medications,” he emphasizes. “It also reduced the energy bill by more than 10 percent.”

Similarly, Frontier specializes in basement waterproofing & sump pump installation and offers solutions for finished and unfinished basements. Said solutions can alleviate or prevent problems that include mold, mildew, rot, and structural damage, not to mention a diverse array of health issues.

Concrete repair has also become a big part of Frontier’s business.

“There was never really a solution before we started lifting and leveling concrete using polyurethane foam other than jackhammering it out and replacing it, which is costly. Lifting and leveling using polyurethane foam is typically about a third of the cost of

replacement,” advises Gebers.

Last but not least, Gebers highlights how Frontier does a lot of foundation work because of the soil in Middle Tennessee.

“When clay soil gets really dry, it shrinks and cracks, and when it gets wet, it expands,” he says before emphasizing the importance of getting potential foundation issues looked at as soon as possible.

“The biggest issue I see when it comes to foundation problems is that homeowners will put it off, and the longer you put off a foundation problem, the more it will cost,” says Gebers. That’s why he encourages people to take advantage of Frontier’s free inspection.

“We’ll be 100% honest with you,” he emphasizes. “We even have a few online reviews from homeowners who were happy that we did a free inspection and determined it was not a foundation problem. We’re not there just to sell something. We’ll let you know if you really have a problem and what it’s going to cost to get it fixed.”

*For more information, see the Frontier Foundation & Crawl Space Repair ad on page 7, and visit [frontierbasementsystems.com](http://frontierbasementsystems.com)*



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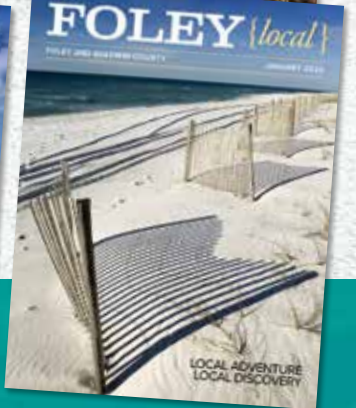
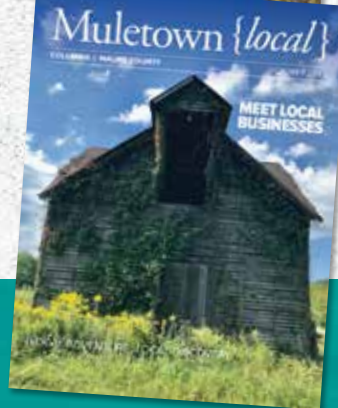
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## Family Favorite Lasagna

### INGREDIENTS:

1 LB. SWEET ITALIAN SAUSAGE	½ TSP. FENNEL SEEDS
¾ LB. LEAN GROUND BEEF	1 TSP. ITALIAN SEASONING
½ CUP MINCED ONION	1-1/2 TSP. SALT (DIVIDED OR TO TASTE)
2 CLOVES GARLIC, CRUSHED	¼ TSP. GROUND BLACK PEPPER
1 (28 OZ.) CAN CRUSHED TOMATOES	4 TBSP. CHOPPED FRESH PARSLEY
2 (6 OZ.) CANS TOMATO PASTE	12 LASAGNA NOODLES
2 (6.5 OZ.) CANS CANNED TOMATO SAUCE	1-16 OZ. SMALL CURD COTTAGE CHEESE
½ CUP WATER	1 EGG
2 TBSP. WHITE SUGAR (OPTIONAL)	¾ LB. MOZZARELLA CHEESE, SLICED
1-1/2 TSP. DRIED BASIL LEAVES	¾ CUP GRATED PARMESAN CHEESE



*From the Kitchen of  
Camille Wilder*

### INSTRUCTIONS:

- In a Dutch oven, cook sausage, ground beef, onion, and garlic over medium heat until well browned. Drain fat. Stir in crushed tomatoes, tomato paste, tomato sauce, and water. Season with sugar, basil, fennel seeds, Italian seasoning, 1 tsp. salt, pepper, and 2 tbsp. parsley. Simmer, covered, for 1-1/2 hours.
  - Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Cook lasagna noodles in boiling water for 8 to 10 minutes. Drain noodles, and rinse with cold water. In a mixing bowl, combine cottage cheese with egg, remaining parsley, and ½ tsp. salt.
  - Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
  - To assemble: Spread 1 ½ cups of meat sauce in the bottom of a 9x13-inch baking dish. Arrange 6 noodles lengthwise over meat sauce. Spread with ½ of the cottage cheese mixture. Top with 1/3 of mozzarella cheese slices. Spoon 1 ½ cups meat sauce over mozzarella, and sprinkle with ¼ cup Parmesan cheese. Repeat layers, and top with remaining mozzarella and Parmesan cheese. Cover with foil: to prevent sticking, either coat foil with cooking spray, or make sure the foil does not touch the cheese.
  - Bake in preheated oven for 25 minutes. Remove foil and bake an additional 25 minutes. Cool for 15 minutes before serving.
- Serve with garlic toast and tossed salad. Leftovers are good too!





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Easter Sunday, April 9

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Mass - English

1:00pm Misa en Español



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*Psalms 118:24*

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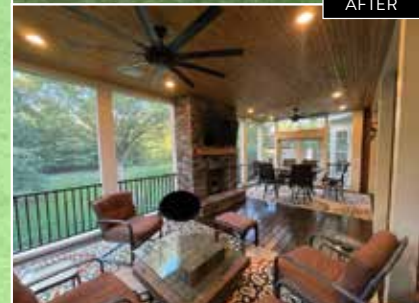


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