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# Inside {local} August'24





# SETTING THE BAR HIGH

Taking care of customers and clients

Mike Wolfe takes greater interest in Columbia

**PICKER INVESTS** 

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# LOCAL FOCUS FAITH PAGE 22 RECIPE 28 SERVICE DIRECTORY 30



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Dan speaking to Lee Company's employees at their annual company meeting, commemorating their 75th anniversary! Photo provided



Lee Company started in 1944 from one man's dream and their family vehicle. Photo provided

# **PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST**

### PAM WINDSOR

Lee Company opened its doors in 1944, and eight decades later, it serves as a shining example of a great American success story.

Founded by Leon Lee and still family-owned today, it started off as a small operation that from the beginning – set a high bar in terms of taking care of its employees and serving its customers. The company has grown exponentially over the years and now operates in five states, but has never wavered from the original guiding principles of putting people first.

"When I landed at Lee Company twenty-nine years ago, I had already worked at six other mechanical contractors and I noticed

immediately this had a totally different feel," recalls Dan Kalman, Executive Vice President of Service. "The Lee family is a very special family, and their goal of creating a place where people can thrive is not just something we say, put on a plaque, and hang at the door. It is a true desire to see how many people's lives it can impact for the good."

That extends to not only the company's work family, but its customers and those who live in the communities it serves. When Kalman first started as a heating, air conditioning, and ventilation technician (like many on the leadership team, he worked his way up through the ranks), Lee Company had just over 100 employees. Three decades later, its closer to 1700 people who serve customers in Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina.

**PAGE 10** >



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#### < FROM PAGE 8

"It really takes a whole group of like-minded employees who have a strong desire to take care of people," Kalman says.

Lee Company is a mechanical contract company that offers a wide range of services and expertise on multiple levels. Kalman oversees the collection of groups that deal with both residential and commercial services. Each is extremely specialized.

One, for example, involves the company's large construction group that has worked on some well-known buildings in Nashville, from Belmont University to 5th & Broad, to some of the newer bars and restaurants.

"Our large construction group has about 75 percent of its resources right now working in about a two-mile square radius in downtown Nashville," Kalman says. "It's a booming market."

Lee Company designed and built the mechanicals for the iconic Schermerhorn Symphony Center, which, as Kalman points out, posed quite a challenge.

""The building has incredible acoustics, so to provide a solution for air conditioning and general conditioning of that facility, and maintain that, was no easy task."

Other groups include a special projects team that manages smaller-style commercial work and renovations, a home service

group with some 700 technicians taking care of customers across the Southeast, and a commercial service entity that provides repair and maintenance to thousands of facilities.

Lee Company also has an all-inclusive facilities maintenance program that can provide a business with everything from heating and air support to handling janitorial services and the lawn to even keeping the roof maintained.

Its dedication to taking care of employees and customers also extends to the community and giving back. Under its Lee Company Cares program, it supports local schools, food banks and food drives, "second chance" programs, Habitat for Humanity, and more.

"Giving back is one of the founding staples Leon Lee instilled in his children, and they've passed it on to their children," Kalman explains. "All of this is by the grace of God, and God calls on us to give back. So, we consider it a privilege to serve the communities we serve and have an entire team of people whose primary focus is to find the places where the greatest impact can be made."

There's something very meaningful about working for a place where making a difference matters - on every level.

"Every day, I'm grateful to say I'm part of this company," Kalman says.

To learn more about Lee Company, see their ad on page 3.

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# **PSORIASIS AWARENESS MONTH: UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORTING**

What is Psoriasis? Psoriasis is a chronic autoimmune condition that causes the rapid buildup of skin cells, leading to scaling on the skin's surface. It can cause discomfort, itching, and emotional distress

#### **KNOW THE SIGNS:**

- Red patches of skin covered with thick, silvery scales
- Dry, cracked skin that may bleed
- Itching, burning, or soreness
- Thickened or ridged nails
- Swollen and stiff joints

### LIVING WITH PSORIASIS:

- Seek Treatment: Consult with a healthcare provider to find the right treatment plan for you. Options include topical treatments, phototherapy, and systemic medications.
- Stay Informed: Educate yourself about triggers and management strategies. Stress, infections, and certain medications can exacerbate symptoms.
- Support Networks: Connect with support groups and communities for emotional support and shared experiences.

#### **GET INVOLVED:**

- Raise Awareness: Share information about psoriasis to help reduce stigma and increase understanding.
- Advocate for Research: Support organizations and initiatives dedicated to finding better treatments and ultimately a cure.



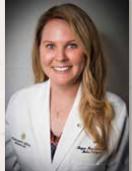
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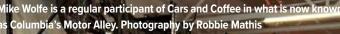


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# **RESTORATION HOMETOWN**

### PAM WINDSOR

As host of his American Pickers TV show, Mike Wolfe spends a lot of time on the road. But when he's back home in Tennessee, you'll often find him in downtown Columbia.

"Columbia has my heart," he says. "I started working on projects here about six years ago. I had done a lot of work in LeClaire, Iowa where I'm from. I worked on the Tourism Board, I was on the City Council, and I was involved in renovating buildings there. And when I came here, there were a lot of historic buildings downtown, and I love restoring old buildings."

He connected with other like-minded people who wanted to revitalize downtown in a way that would attract visitors and promote tourism. He purchased some of those older buildings, renovated them, and opened downtown Columbia's first downtown Airbnb. He decorated it with antiques and collectibles like those American Picker items he finds during his travels.

"It's called Two Lanes Guesthouse, and it's above the bicycle shop housed in the 1857 building on the square," Wolfe says. "We wanted to encourage people to stay in the historic district and experience the great things happening in Columbia, whether it's dining or retail. We've got the record store, the bookstore, Ted's Sporting Goods, a great health food store, and more.

As he encouraged others to open new businesses on the town square, Wolfe began rebuilding a group of structures that previously housed old car dealerships or gas stations. He drew on his passion and appreciation for transportation to highlight a unique part of Columbia's history.

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#### < FROM PAGE 8

"If you look at all of the buildings I'm doing, the Chevy dealership, the Esso gas station, the Texaco station, the Packard dealership," he says, "the common theme with all of that stuff is transportation history.

That area is now called Columbia's Motor Alley. It's become the gathering spot for popular events like Cars & Coffee, held on the third Saturday of every month.

"We've got live music down here, we have a coffee vendor and a food truck," Wolfe says. "People like it because it's very loose. They show up, park wherever they want, they're here for three hours, and then they leave. It's not a typical car show where everything's organized."

In addition to buildings downtown, Wolfe is also renovating a historic home.

"It's an 1873 Italianate on West 6th Street," he explains. "I fell in love with and decided I'm going to restore this house."

Wolfe has found a way to balance his many restoration projects

and his traveling for American Pickers. He also owns two Antique Archaeology stores that sell the items he collects along the way. One of the stores is located in Nashville, the other in LeClaire, Iowa. After fourteen years of doing the show, he still enjoys it.

"I have fun with it because I like the travel, I like the people, I like the discovery, and I like making something out of nothing every day," he says. "And that's what we do when we're on someone's property. We have to kind of figure out what's the approach, what's important here, what's the story?"

That skill set has come in handy in his efforts to help promote and develop Columbia. It's been rewarding to see the growth so far, while continuing to build for the future.

"We keep chipping away at these projects," Wolfe says. "And now we have people coming here from all over. It's cool to see people experiencing Columbia. Everybody I've talked to that comes to town absolutely loves it. So, that's really neat."



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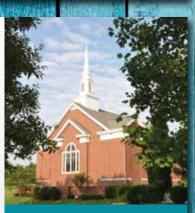
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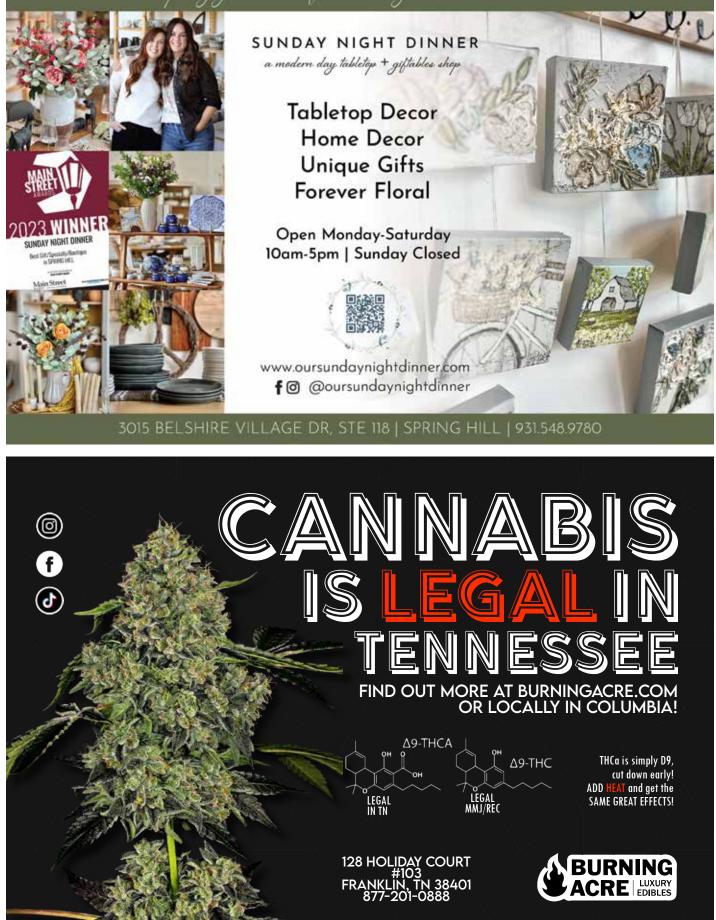
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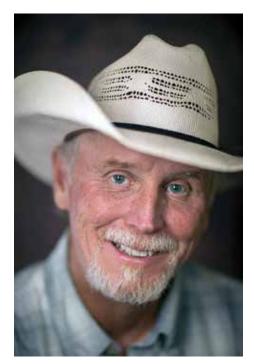
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# **Cinnamon Rolls Recipe**

#### **DOUGH MIXTURE:**

MIX IN A STAND MIXER WITH A DOUGH HOOK: **2 TBSP DRY ACTIVE YEAST** <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> CUP SUGAR

2 CUPS MILK (WARM 1 MINUTE 25 SECONDS IN MICROWAVE)

Whisk together in large mixing bowl and let bloom. (15-20 minutes) Set bowl with above mixture into stand mixer with dough hook, turn on mixer to low and add:

#### 2 EGGS 2 TSP KOSHER SALT 1/2 CUP ROOM TEMPERATURE BUTTER 7 TO 7-1/2 CUPS BREAD FLOUR

Mix on low till combined and then continue to mix on medium speed for 2 minutes (dough should be soft, fairly smooth).

Remove dough from bowl onto slightly floured surface with a tuck and fold method, form the dough into a ball and place into a very lightly oiled bowl to rise. Cover and let rise till slightly more than doubled. Gently remove dough again to a lightly floured surface and divide in half, setting one aside.

#### **CINNAMON ROLL MIXTURE:**

#### MIX 1 AND ½ STICKS BUTTER (VERY SOFT), 1 CUP BROWN SUGAR, 1/3 CUP OF SAIGON CINNAMON.

Roll dough into an approximate 12" by 18" rectangle, using half of cinnamon roll mixture: spread evenly on dough, leaving a good 1" empty on the edge closest to you as you roll. As gently and tightly as you can, roll the dough towards you. Slice with non-flavored dental floss into approx.. 1-1/2" slices (slide floss under roll, pull up on both sides and towards the center for a smooth cut).

Arrange in lightly greased pan and let rise, covered and in a warm place for 1 hour or till a little more than doubled in size.

Bake in a 350-degree oven for 25-30 minutes.

#### **FROSTING:**

1-8 OZ. PKG CREAM CHEESE, ROOM TEMPERATURE 1 STICK BUTTER, ROOM TEMPERATURE 3-1/2 TO 4 CUPS OF POWDERED SUGAR

Whip till silky smooth, frost rolls.



# From the Kitchen of **Karen Johnson**

Karen gives credit to her mother-in-law, Marjorie Johnson, who taught her this recipe which originated from a recipe for cinnamon swirl bread. These cinnamon rolls were a favorite in Karen's Iowa small-town Swedish community of 783.







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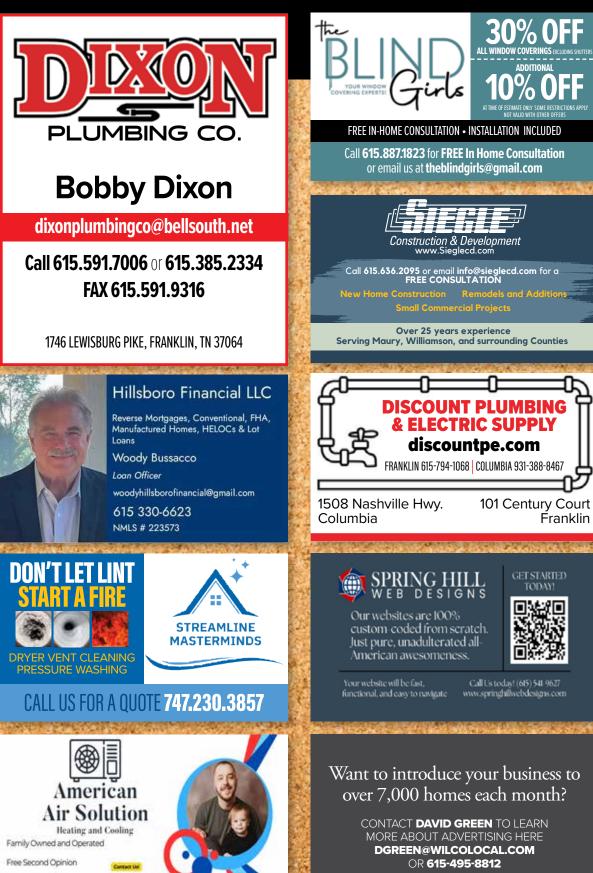
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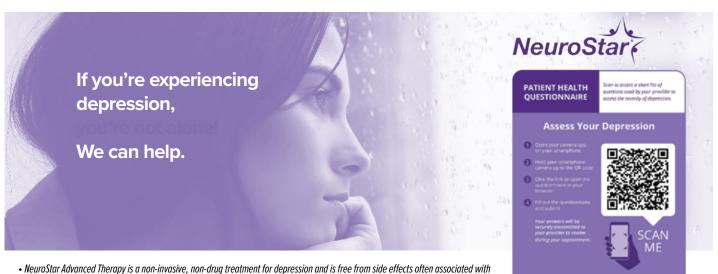
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