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Fountain City Auction Kicks Off New Year With Huge Advertisement Auction

By Amy Box Fellhoelter

You can't put a price tag on reminiscing over a display of vintage Pepsi-Cola wooden crates or a five-cent gumball machine, but coming to the 14th Annual Advertisement Auction at Fountain City Auction will let you relive days of ole with no entrance fee. This exciting live and online auction becomes the largest of its kind in the area this Saturday, January 5.

"This auction brings in a high quality of items and sellers. We collect items for it all year. You can't go out and get this every day. Some of this stuff is hard to find," says Greg Lawson, owner of Fountain City Auction.

Fortunately for customers, an extensive collection of popular items will be available such as antique gas and oil items, retro vending machines, vintage toys and cap guns, bicycles, and a selection of old-fashioned Coca Cola

logo items like a ten-cent soda vending machine, chest coolers, and a five-cent pedal car. Some unique pieces to claim are a World Fair pinball machine, a 1924 antique pair of Tennessee license plates, a Wheelman Big Wheel Bicycle, a Dale Earnhardt Coca Cola machine, and a "Stuart Little" motorized ride-on car. All of these items can be found amid historic TEXACO, SHELL, and SUNOCO gas pumps, a huge selection of pedal cars and tractors, and hundreds of signs in neon, metal, and porcelain varieties.

Lawson says the biggest change in the past 14 years of running the auction is the online element which made this event the sixth most viewed online auction in the nation last year, and the number one most viewed in the state of Tennessee on the AuctionZip website.

Continued on page 2



PHOTO BY AMY BOX FELLHOELTER

Greg Lawson of Fountain City Auction is ready for the first big sale of the year. The 14th annual Advertisement Auction is this Saturday at noon.

Ring in the New Year on Market Square

What are you doing tonight?

One way to celebrate is at New Year's Eve on Market Square, presented by Lloyd's Electric Service Inc., on Monday, Dec. 31. The Holidays on Ice open-air ice skating rink, presented by Home Federal Bank, is open 1 - 10 p.m. The all-ages celebration begins at 10 p.m. with The Bicho Brothers performing classic rock favorites on the Market Square stage. The countdown to midnight begins at 11:55 p.m., followed by the ball drop, fireworks and a group sing-along of "Auld Lang Syne."

Frank Murphy from Classic Hits 93.1 FM and Kelli Smith of WATE Channel 6's program "Living East Tennessee" will emcee the event. Party favors, including foam "2019" hats and inflatable "thunderstick" noise makers, will be available while supplies last. No mobile food or alcohol sales will take place on the square on New Year's Eve. However, downtown restaurants, including those participating in the Peppermint Trail, will be open and offering specials; it's always a good idea to call ahead for hours and dinner reservations.

Visitors should be aware of temporary closures around Market Square. Parking on Wall Ave will be prohibited starting at 3 p.m., and the road will be closed 5 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Parking on Union Avenue between Walnut and Gay streets and Market Street between Union and Clinch avenues, ends at 7 p.m. Those streets will be closed between 9 p.m. and 12:30 a.m.

Free parking after 6 p.m. is available in all City-owned garages, including Market Square, Locust Street, Langley, City County Building and Dwight Kessel Public parking spaces are currently limited in State Street garage during the construction project that will increase its capacity by 570 spaces. For a map of available garages and lots, visit DowntownKnox.org/Parking.

Visit www.knoxvilletn.gov/christmas for more details on New Year's Eve on the Square and www.downtownknoxville.org/holiday/peppermint/ for a list of Peppermint Trail participants.

'Violins of Hope' coming to Knoxville

By Mike Steely
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"They once asked a Jewish musician why are there so many Jewish violinists. He looks at the violin, how small it was, and said 'It's one of the only instruments you can grab and run. Unfortunately too many times we have to do that.'"

Those were the opening words of Rabbi Yossi Wilhelm of the Chabad of Knoxville when addressing the Knoxville City Council recently.

"Violins of Hope" is a collection of over 50 violins," he continued, "that were rescued, saved and restored from the holocaust era. Some were played during the holocaust, in ghettos and concentration camps. The Nazis had symphonies so that when Jews arrived at the death camps the symphonies played and they thought 'How bad can it be?'"

"Some of those who played— their lives were actually saved. After the war when they looked at the violin they couldn't play it any more. Many of them stored it in their attic or some drawer," the rabbi said.

Rabbi Wilhelm was



Violins that survived the Holocaust have been reassembled and restored by Israeli master violin-maker and founder of Violins of Hope, Amnon Weinstein. His son and a co-founder of Violins of Hope, Avshi Weinstein, will be making the trip from Israel to visit middle school and high school students in East Tennessee schools with the violins and will be accompanied by musicians who will play them. Students will have the opportunity to ask questions and touch the violins.

speaking on the request of Mayor Madeline Rogero who had appropriated \$2,000 from her budget to assist the Stanford Eisenberg Knoxville Jewish Day School bring the Violins of Hope to Knoxville.

"Violins of Hope: Strings of the Holocaust" will be on exhibit January 4 through January 27 at the UT Downtown Gallery, 106 Gay Street. Additional information can

be obtained by calling (865)245-0202.

Concerts are scheduled for January 23 and 24 at 7 p.m., at the Tennessee Theater and will feature some of the restored violins being played by the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra. The Jewish Day School is sponsoring the event and information about tickets is available at www.violinsofhopeknox.com.



Rabbi Yossi Wilhelm tells the story of "Violins of Hope" a display and Knoxville Symphony event coming to the Tennessee Theater in January. Photo by Mike Steely.

Happy New Year!