

"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

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.

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PHOTO BY AMY BOY FELLOWES/STREET

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.

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

'Violins of Hope' coming to Knoxville

By Mike Stealy
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"They once asked a Jewish musician why are there so many Jewish violinists. He looks at the

