



Greg Larson shows Rick DeMarino a vintage Coca-Cola medium backpack dispenser with the original cups used for dispensing Coca-Cola. This is one of the unique items that will be auctioned on Saturday, January 4th. The auction starts live and online at noon. The doors open at 8 a.m. for preview.

Fountain City auction opens year with Advertisement Auction and Toy Sale

By Ron Lay

Fountain City Auction will soon begin the New Year with its biggest event of 2009.

On Saturday, January 4th will host its 15th annual Advertisement Auction and Toy Sale.

The day-long event will be conducted live at Fountain City Auction and shoppers may also participate online where pre-bidding began earlier this month. Potential customers can preview each item and its current bidding price online. Customers may bid online through Hbid.com, which can be linked through www.fountaincityauction.com and the

enjoyed selling these vintage items. I love what I do."

The timing of the event always falls in early January, just after Christmas, but Larson said that is never problematic.

"Last year, we had over 300 people here and I have people who save up money all year to come to this," he said. "Last year, I had people come here from 14 states."

Buyers never know what they find at this particular auction. They may find old gas station machines, vintage Coca-Cola machines, signs from old gas stations or other retro goodies such

as 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."

The finds may be rare but shoppers can find a wide array of items including antique vending machines and vintage toys and old gas and oil signs.

Since the auction went online, it is the top rated auction in the state of Tennessee and the sixth most viewed auction nationally on the AuctionZip website.

Fountain City Auction is located at 4009 Central Avenue (the next to the Merchant Drive

on the corner) and is open to the public occasionally at odds with the mayor or his fellow council members, but always in a civil manner.

Aside from the restrictions and ordinances, the public forum saw Wallace's wife, Stephanie, take the podium and give the audience a peek at what a council member and his family go through. Wallace served eight years on the body and Stephanie's talk was so insightful and humorous that it drew a standing ovation. The retired Knox County teacher's words were inspirational.

"Make no mistake, serving on council is a sacrifice not only for the one serving but for the family," she said, adding, "and now, at the conclusion of this meeting, life returns."