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21c Selects Historic Bank Building
For New Museum Hotel

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September 2012
Volume 4, Issue 2



COVER STORY

“Wheel of Fortune” by Anne Peabody is a site-specific installation at 21c in Louisville that is physical record inspired by the artist’s memory of the tornado that leveled much of the city on April 3, 1974. 21c will take Central Kentucky by storm when it opens in 2014 in downtown Lexington.

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Some of the finest Thoroughbreds in training and the most successful trainers and jockeys will compete during Keeneland’s 17-day fall racing season, Oct. 5-27.

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21c Museum Hotel owners Laura Lee Brown and Steve Wilson plan to transform Lexington’s historic First National Bank building, bringing 21c’s unique brand of arts hospitality to Central Kentucky.

26 JUST FOR FUN

Walt Arnett of Lexington has entered hundreds of essay, photo and video contests and sweepstakes. He has lost most of them, but had his share of victories, including winning a MINI Cooper, a Costa Rican vacation, \$10,000 and a year’s supply of Dunkin’ Donuts coffee.

28 FEATURED COUPLE

Seth and Renée Brewer took very different career paths but ended up in the same place: in love in Lexington. She owns Wine + Market; he’s in the natural resources industry and enjoys restoring and renting out downtown properties. Together, they’re a complementary couple.

30 EAT & DRINK

Central Kentucky diners have given a rousing reception to Shakespeare & Co., a unique restaurant chain with 15 locations in the United Arab Emirates. Its assortment of food and beverage choices from all over the world has made it a hotspot in downtown Lexington.

32 SPORTS

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Is it the right time to buy a home? Popular television shows and Internet sites have helped potential homebuyers feel more prepared, but there is still much to consider. Realtor Meredith Lane offers before-you-buy tips to help you prepare for the biggest purchase of your life.

36 10 THINGS WE LOVE

Small-town charm, big city taste. Lexington offers a vast array of culinary options, but just outside the county line, small-town restaurants are serving up great meals. Here’s a list of a few of our favorites.

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Central Kentucky Has Got It Going On

I have to say, this region is ROCKIN' IT OUT!

On a recent flight home to Lexington, I couldn't help but feel proud to be from this area, as we flew over the manicured and majestic horse farms surrounding the city. But horse farms (like the one at right) are not all Central Kentucky has to offer.

We are still a mid-sized city, but in the past few months alone, Lexington has gotten a number of new retail stores and restaurants, including Trader Joe's grocery store off Nicholasville Road; the



Meredith Lane is the editor of BG Magazine and is a full-service Realtor with Milestone Realty Consultants in Lexington.

internationally-popular lululemon athletica on Euclid Avenue in Chevy Chase; The Village Idiot on West

Short Street; Shakespeare & Co. on West Short Street; Glenn's Creek Brewery on East High Street in Chevy Chase; Rosetta on North Lime-stone; and Baba Sushi, Teriyaki, Seafood Restaurant, just to name a few!

Plus, there are plans in the works for a Costco supermarket in Hamburg, Anthropologie in Lexington Green and 21c Museum Hotel in downtown Lexington.

On top of that, our housing market is booming with the sales of new construction and resale homes in Fayette and the surrounding counties, and the Commission on Presidential Debates selected beautiful Centre College in Danville to host the 2012 Vice Presidential Debate in October again!

Lexington continues to garner national attention as well, collecting numerous awards in 2011, including:

No. 1 The Best Cities for Finding a Job – *Forbes*

No. 1 Top 10 Mid-Sized Counties, *Fourth Economy*

No. 4 Best Place for Business and Careers – *Forbes*

No. 6 Best Value City – *Kiplinger*

No. 9 Best Places for Retirement – *Forbes*

Top 10 Cities of The Future – *FDi Intelligence*

WOW! I am so proud of our amazing area, which continues to grow despite a down economy. New companies continue to locate their businesses here, successful young entrepreneurs are making their dreams a reality and the thriving arts and entertainment scene continues to get more exciting all the time.

Flip through the pages of this issue of *BG Magazine* and see for yourself — Central Kentucky has got it going on.



Kentucky's business news as it happens

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Susan believes **change** comes through **action** and by **giving back**.



Susan S. Kennedy is involved in charitable causes and organizations like the Woodford Humane Society and Sunflower Kids Inc. She serves Sunflower Kids Inc. as Board President, a nonprofit organization that envisions diverse communities that are free of violence where every family has an equal opportunity for safety, justice and respect.

Susan's commitment to helping others extends to her leadership of the Fowler Bell Family Law Group where she guides her clients through the delicate negotiation of prenuptial agreements, dissolution of marriage, child custody and child support issues. Susan is committed to treating each of her clients with dignity and respect through the emotional challenges which often accompany family law matters.



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New Location For Antique Jewelry Restorers



September becomes the birthday of **St. John & Myers Jewelry** store's new location on Old Vine Street. Louis and Olivia Scholz moved to the Chevy Chase/downtown area after spending five years in Elkhorn Village. The company specializes in the sale and restoration of antique and period-correct jewelry from Edwardian and Victorian to art deco and art nouveau.

Cool Off With Sav's

Sav's Chill is open on Limestone at Maxwell, where the original Joe Bologna's was years ago. Daily from noon to 10 p.m., the carry-out spot will get you fixed up with cones, cups or milkshakes in 24 flavors of ice cream, gelato, sorbet and sherbet made by **Valentine's Ice Cream** of Winchester. KISZITO cookies and brownies from Louisville also are available. Mamadou Savané owns **Sav's Chill** and **Sav's Grill & West African Cuisine** across the street.



Pick Up *BG* at These Locations

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Custom Fit Athletic Wear

lululemon athletica is a chain of yoga-inspired athletic clothing with locations in five countries. And now in Chevy Chase. For runners and work-outers, the line of clothing is known for having a custom fit in moisture-wicking fabrics that resist chafing, like the Nada jacket, the Run for Your Money tank and the Light As Air tunic. It's also just super soft clothing to wear when you want to feel comfy. Check "lulu" out in its new standalone location on Euclid or at **Pure Barre** and **Sweat Fitness** around the corner on High Street.



Arts Renaissance

Artists selling their own art in their own collective art gallery? Yep. **The Collective** is a retail gallery on Ashland at Euclid with the works of 18 artists on display and for sale, from paintings and pottery to fused glass and leather goods. This business model of artists paying rent and selling their own merch, not in booths but integrated throughout the store, is fairly common in other parts of the country. The concept for Lexington was spearheaded by Celeste Lewis, who is excited about the renaissance Lexington is experiencing with the arts.



Running Rock 'n' Rollers Half Marathon

The **Rock 'n' Roll Lexington Half Marathon** is set for March 30, 2013, starting and finishing at Keeneland. San Diego-based Competitor Group Inc. has partnered with the **LeXenomics Group** and **Keeneland Race Course** for the event, which replaces the Run the Bluegrass Half Marathon. Live bands will entertain runners along every mile and at the finish line. Register at Competitor.com.



Most Important Meal of The Day

Coming this fall to the corner of Richmond Road and Man O' War is a new breakfast and lunch restaurant called **First Watch** — a popular spot in the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky area. The chain is headquartered in Sarasota, Fla., and the local franchise owner is **Holland Rosen Group**. Look for omelets, pancakes and house-made granola for breakfast or brunch, fun sandwiches and salads for lunch, all prepared with no deep fryers or heat lamps, thank you. Hours will be seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Free Wi-Fi.



Victorian Square to be Re-invented

The **Webb Companies** plans to re-invent **Victorian Square** in downtown Lexington, which it developed nearly 30 years ago. The company purchased the complex for \$1.7 million and is teaming up with the Cincinnati-based **Jeffrey R. Anderson Real Estate, Inc.**, to breathe new life into the aging mixed-use building. Chairman Dudley Webb estimates that it could take as much as \$10 million to rejuvenate the property. If redeveloped and leased correctly, Victorian Square could attract visitors to the area and provide a meeting and social gathering place for residents of the entire region, said Mark Fallon, vice president of real estate leasing for Anderson. The developers are focused on finding the right eclectic mix of existing tenants and new national and locally-owned restaurants and entertainment facilities, he said. Within a year, "you won't believe your eyes," Fallon said.



UK Hospital Ranked Kentucky's Best



University of Kentucky Chandler Hospital has been ranked No. 1 in Kentucky by *U.S. News & World Report*. This is the first time state rankings have been included in the listing, giving consumers a way to compare hospitals to other neighboring institutions across the state. The hospital was also nationally ranked in orthopedics and listed as “high performing” in 10 specialty areas. Overall, UK was among 140 of the 4,825 U.S. hospitals ranked in one or more 16 specialties.



Taste of Texas

Mary Lou's Texas BBQ opened in April on Walton Avenue. Dine inside or on the patio, order carryout or have them cater an outing anywhere in the state for crowds as large as 5,000 people. Mary Lou's is open Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., specializing in smoked brisket, ribs and pulled pork. Texas-style means a dry rub “smoked to perfection” on an open pit by pitmaster John Dance. There's also banana pudding and sweet tea.



The Village Idiot

Owner Tom Behr and general manager Brian Behr, father and son, recently opened **The Village Idiot** in the former **Metropol** restaurant on West Short Street downtown. Local trivia: this is the same spot of Lexington's first post office, built in 1825. After extensive renovation, the new gastropub is open seven days a week offering 20 beers on draft (no domestic macrobrews in the house), with signature dishes of duck and waffles, foie gras and scallops benedict, truffle and crab mac and cheese, and an oversize onion ring on top of a braised short rib called the idiot burger.



Frogdice Adds New Free Games, Opens New Office

The online game Threshold RPG was created in 1996 and now the **Frogdice** company has a new collection of free role-playing games



called **Coin 'n Carry**. Frogdice also has a new office on Winchester Road, known as the lily pad. The interns are called pollywogs. "Our company will grow only as fast as we get new players for all of our games," said owner Michael Hartman. "So if Lexington and Kentucky want to help the growing tech and gaming sectors, all they need to do is play Frogdice's free games."



Alltech's Dr. Pearse Lyons introduces a Town Branch bourbon in named in honor of the UK Wildcats, the 2012 NCAA Men's Basketball Champions, at an event announcing that Lexington Brewing and Distilling Co. is now a stop on the Kentucky Bourbon Trail.

Lexington Now a Stop on Kentucky Bourbon Trail

The Kentucky Bourbon Trail, created in 1999, now has a stop in Lexington at **Alltech's Lexington Brewing & Distilling Co.** Look for tours to be available by October at the 20,000-s.f. distillery, home of **Town Branch** bourbon. Alltech's new distillery is the first to be built in Lexington in more than 100 years. The other six brands on the Kentucky Bourbon Trail are **Four Roses, Heaven Hill, Jim Beam, Maker's Mark, Wild Turkey** and **Woodford Reserve**.



KEENELAND

OCT 5~27





Homage to Henry

Henry Clay's Public House opened over the summer on North Upper Street. It took owners J.D. McHargue and Doug Breeding a year to tear down and rebuild the historical building as a pub – or “public house” as they were once called in the old country (the other UK). Built in 1805 as a townhouse for Henry Clay, the modern owners wanted to pay homage to him with the name and décor and keep things vintage. The watering hole has a Bourbon library, beer and wine menu, and house drinks. No cover charge for live entertainment on the weekends.

A New Place For Pilates



Lexington's newest Pilates studio, **Reform Pilates**, is on High Street, offering classes and individualized training for all fitness levels. It is the second business venture for co-owner Wesley Rainey, who opened his personal training studio, **LIFT Fitness & Wellness**, in 2010. Bryan and Allyson Lyster are the other co-owners of Reform, which is right next door to LIFT. Reform has a mat class as well as reformer machine/mat combo classes.



Joseph-Beth Transforms



Joseph-Beth Booksellers has undergone a remodel of the Lexington flagship store in the **Mall at Lexington Green**. **Avant Travel** has a new location upstairs in the former music section; **Baby Bundles** is open downstairs, lakeside, offering unique children's clothing and gifts; the fiction section now has a sitting area with views of the lake; the periodicals are closer to the front of the store. Still to come, a **Brontë Bistro** remodel with lakeside seating views and a new coffee bar at the front of the store.

Appalachian-Style Moonshine

Lebanon has a new distillery just down the road from **Maker's Mark**. **Limestone Branch Distillery** is the home of **Sugar*Shine**, an Appalachian-style moonshine made from 50 percent heirloom and stone ground white corn and 50 percent sugar cane. A 150-gallon hand-hammered copper potstill produces small, one-barrel batches. Founded by brothers Steve and Paul Beam, Limestone Branch offers tours of the still and its gift shop seven days a week.





'After the Races' Cooking Series

Wild Thyme cooking school will be hosting an "After the Races" cooking series every Saturday in October during **Keeneland's Fall Meet**. Each week will have a different theme, including "Classic Steakhouse," "Traditional Kentucky Fare," "Game Night," featuring wild game like duck and quail, and "Kentucky Proud Autumn Harvest," which will be a farm-to-table dining experience. The chef will prepare dinner table-side, with how-to instruction and a four-course plated dinner. It's BYOB. Price per person is \$65. Visit wildthymecooking.com.

I'll Drink To That

The tasting room at **Grimes Mill Winery** celebrates its first anniversary in September. Owners Philip and Lois DeSimone planted their first vines in 2003 on five acres of a former tobacco field and are the only producers of Malbec in Kentucky. They also grow grapes for cabernet sauvignon, cabernet franc, merlot, pinot grigio and others. You'll see three horses in a paddock next to the tasting room, which is located in former horse stalls and is still attached to an old tobacco barn. The Grimes Mill tasting room is open Thursday through Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. Private parties for up to 30 people are available.

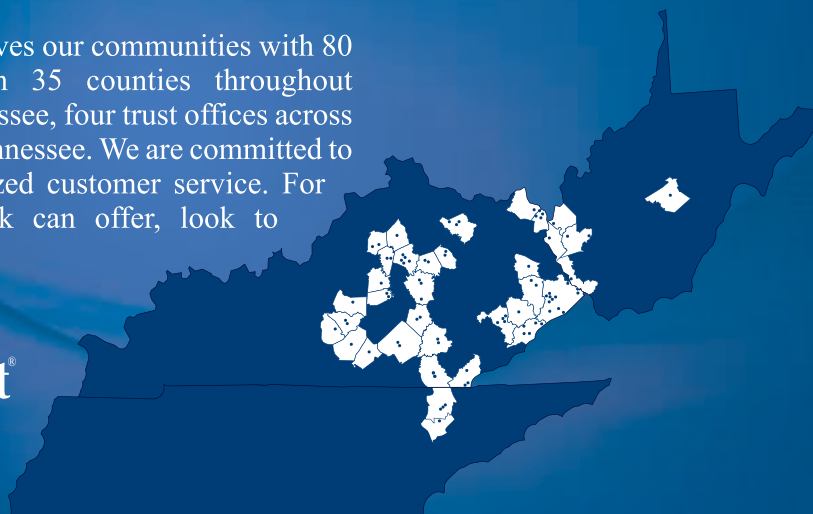


Philip DeSimone and his wife, Lois, planted their first grapevines in 2003 at a former tobacco field on Grimes Mill Road in southern Fayette County. This month, the Grimes Mill Winery's tasting room celebrates its first anniversary.

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BBQ Time in The City

City BBQ opened this summer on Richmond Road near Man O' War. The chain is based in Dublin, Ohio, with local managing partner Collin Kinsey running the second Kentucky location (the other is in Florence). With seating for 18, the restaurant is open seven days a week to serve up pulled pork, sausage, turkey breast, chicken breast and ribs slow-smoked over aged hickory wood. Sides from scratch include green beans, corn pudding and fried pickles. In addition to catering, the company offers whole hog pig roasts for events and fundraising opportunities.



Doughnuts, Cookies and Pies, Oh My!

Chef/owner **Ouita Michel** has started yet another culinary project, the **Midway School Bakery** on South Winter Street (formerly the cafeteria of Midway High School), featuring the sweet skills of pastry chef **Carrie Warmbier**. Preserving local traditions and supporting local farmers and producers, the bakery's yummys include handmade doughnuts, cookies, pies, scones, baby butter biscuits, bagels and home-cured lox, sugarless blueberry cheesecake squares, local honey and sorghum, along with coffee and espresso. Open seven days a week.

Trader Joe's in Lex

Grocery shopping is fun at **Trader Joe's**. The California-based chain opened one of its 370 stores in Lexington this summer on Nicholasville Road, with an adjacent wine shop. Trader Joe's carries an array of foods and beverages from basic to exotic, including artisan breads and Arabica bean coffees, international frozen entrées and deli items, and all manner of basic groceries. Look for about a dozen new items each week, many under the Trader Joe's private label to keep costs as low as possible.



A Grand Event Venue

The Grand Reserve opens this fall as a new public venue for events from fundraisers to reunions and weddings, accommodating up to 900 guests.



Located on Manchester Street in Lexington's distillery district, owners Judy and Jill Bakehorn are the mother and daughter who also own the **Barrel House** and **Bluegrass Catering**. The Grand Reserve will offer full bar service, a private shower and bathroom for guest speakers or brides, and



lots of character to honor the 150-year-old history of the area, like a 100-foot brick wall from the former **Old Tarr distillery** and a stave wall made from the planks of wine and Bourbon barrels. Ten enormous chandeliers were all handcrafted by local artisans.



A Stampede of Medals for Buffalo Trace

When the **Los Angeles International Wine & Spirits Competition** announced its 2012 winners, all 11 whiskeys from Frankfort-based **Buffalo Trace Distillery** were awarded medals, including four in the “best of” category for **Col. E. H. Taylor Jr.** single barrel Bourbon whiskey, **Pappy Van Winkle**, **Sazerac** straight rye whiskey and the **Buffalo Trace Kentucky** straight Bourbon whiskey. The award-winning entries will be displayed during the Los Angeles County Fair in September.



Paisley Polkadot Makes Its Move

Paisley Polkadot is moving into the former **Mod Boutique** space in Ashland Plaza. Tonya and David Daugherty, who also own **Evantti and Frames** by James in **Brannon Crossing**, are moving Paisley to a place of its own, to showcase the unique clothing, shoes and jewelry Paisley Polkadot is known for (lots of bohemian and vintage) and offer their own accessories.



Are you new to the area, a recent college graduate, or looking to get involved in the community?

Join LYPA Today

www.lypa.org

The Lexington Young Professionals Association provides social, professional development and community service opportunities to young professionals in the local community.

Follow us!



by Meredith Lane

The Domino's of Laundry

When Lexington, Ky. natives, Tony Bonner, 35, his brother-in-law Joe Putnam, 33, and their friend Jimmy Turek, 35, were devising new business ideas, they weren't sure which one would rise to the top. They wanted to create a successful company that would thrive, while improving the quality of life for the people who live here. (It's the little things, right?) They settled on taking care of other people's dirty laundry.

A laundry and dry cleaning delivery service, the business caters to college students at the University of Kentucky and Transylvania

University, and as of June, the University of Louisville as well. In addition, Laundry 101 serves non-students in apartments, single-family homes and businesses in Lexington and Louisville.

The business is just a year old, but it is quickly gaining a solid client base and successfully working on its expansion into the Louisville market with their partner there, Jordan McCoy.

The beginning: During their brainstorming sessions, "Joe [Putnam] mentioned a business at Southern Methodist University that delivered laundry to students on campus," Bonner said. "We immediately liked

**Tony Bonner,
Joe Putnam and
Jimmy Turek**

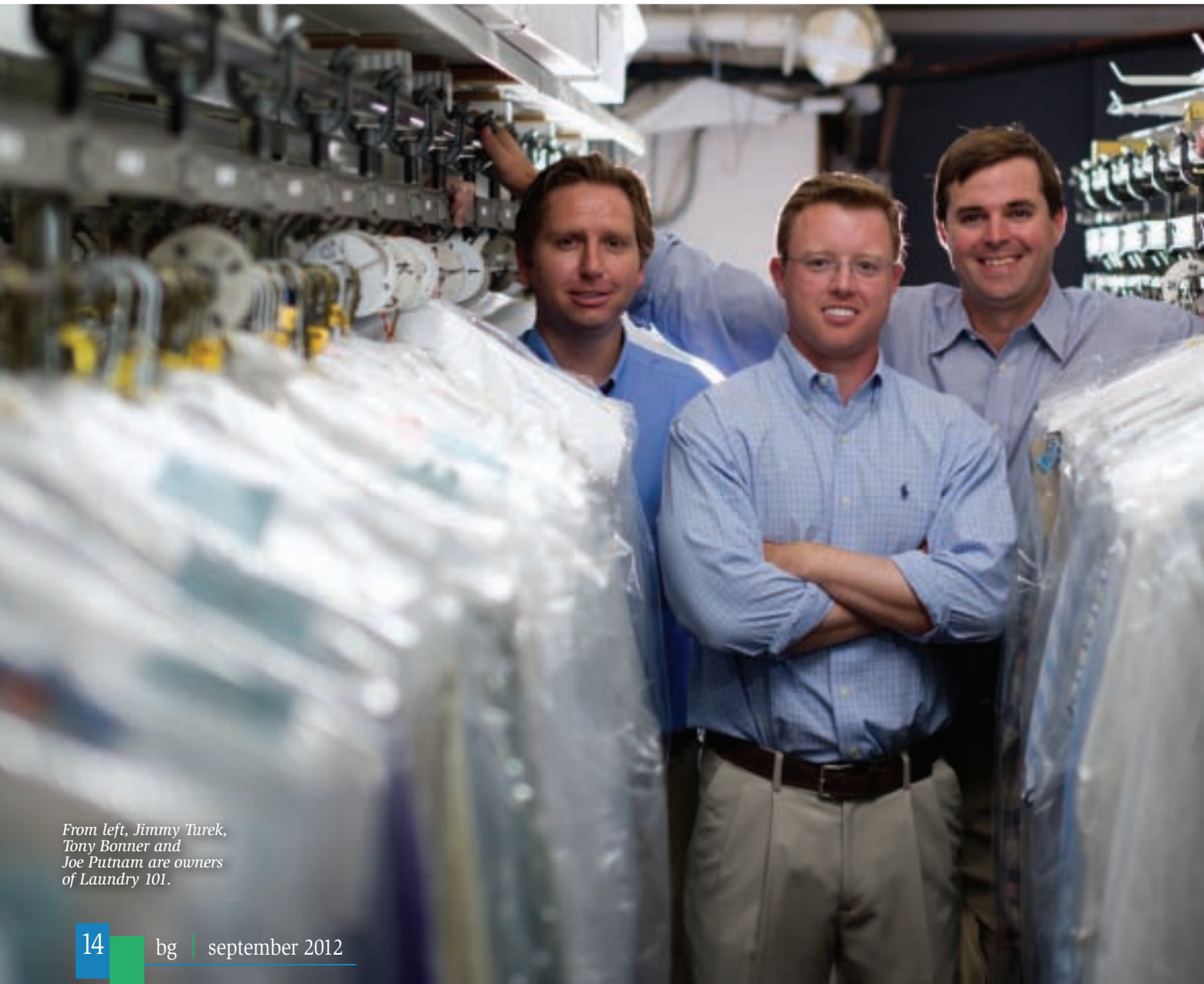
Owners
Laundry 101

710 East Main Street
Lexington, KY 40502
laundry101.com

the idea and began researching similar businesses throughout the country, as well as similar business that had failed in Lexington. Once we acquired

agreements with our providers, we had the knowledge to improve upon the existing businesses, as well as avoid the pitfalls that the failed businesses had experienced."

The day-to-day process: Based on their individual pick-up days, customers put their dry cleaning outside their front door in a garment bag provided by Laundry 101. It is cleaned to the clients' specifications and returned two days later. "We provide a customized client experience. For



From left, Jimmy Turek, Tony Bonner and Joe Putnam are owners of Laundry 101.

example, we have a text reminder system that many of our clients really appreciate. The frequency of communication is based on the customer's specifications," Bonner said.

Putnam added: "We are a purely customer service-driven business. We realize customers like things a certain way, and we want to be able to provide whatever level of service they need."



The challenges: "People have always driven their own dry cleaning to the dry cleaners and washed their own clothes. The biggest challenge is changing people's behavior and showing them that they don't have to do that. Some people assume that we must cost more

than other cleaners or be of lower quality, but because we are not a traditional 'brick and mortar' business, our overhead is lower, and we can provide better service, the best quality and still beat just about every cleaner on price," Bonner said.

developed a marketing strategy that allows healthy growth that will ensure that we are still able to provide the best customer service available."

The key to success: "There really is not a business like ours in Kentucky," Turek said. "Some cleaners deliver, but they do not have the website, billing infrastructure, etc., that Laundry101 has. Nobody in the area provides the same service, quality and price. Despite that, we understand that customer service is our biggest priority. We make it our goal to respond to all questions and comments within one business day. However, if a customer has an issue or an emergency situation, we are available seven days a week to make sure they are completely satisfied."

Mentors: The men agree that their families, wives and girlfriends have helped support and mentor them throughout their lives and this business venture.

Advice to others: "The key to starting a small business is filling a need that is not currently being filled," Bonner said. "We feel our company provides a new business model that identifies a need that people did not realize existed. You also have to figure out what you can offer your customers that your competitors don't."

Also, Turek added: "Be ready to work. All business is about work, and to provide the best, you have to work the hardest. With that said, your work should be fun. I think that one of the reasons that Laundry101 has been successful is that my partners and I all work very hard, but we have a passion and enjoyment in the business itself."



Shaun Ring Photography

Budding Business Growing Family

When Canadian Matthew Wiley, 35, came to visit some of his hockey-playing friends living in Lexington back in 2000 (remember the Kentucky Thoroughblades?), he had no idea he'd fall in love with the Bluegrass State and its people as quickly as he did.

"They invited me to Keeneland, and that alone sold me on this city — plus the great weather, active social scene and great people here," Wiley said.

And while his relatives still live in Onatario (they love to visit), 12 years later, Wiley has created his own family and two successful businesses here — Artemetrx, a

Robert McIntyre, in late 2007," Wiley said. "We funded the company along with some great local investment partners, many of whom were part of the Bluegrass Angel group of which I am a member.

"Stepfan and I became operating partners

immediately and together we have grown the company from its infancy to be a nationwide firm with dozens of locations nationwide with over 135 clients, including more than 80 Anheuser-Busch

distributors, Renasant Bank, Ale-8-One, A&W Restaurants and Setzer Properties. We also have 150 full and part-time team members."

Matthew Wiley

President and CEO
uHAPS Media

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uhapsmedia.com

The day-to-day process:

"Essentially we are providing what we call 'multi-touch, hyper-local social marketing.' The challenges we solve for our clients are helping them organize an effective marketing campaign, on a local level, to a consumer base that is constantly evolving the way it communicates and uses media. We employ a number of social tools, in an integrated way, to help connect our clients' brands with the target consumer; whether that is face-to-

face engagement by our event teams, social media, text and mobile or the Web. We get our brands connected to the consumer on a local level.

"Like any young company, our days are always different. Particularly in the early stages of company building, you spend a majority of your time problem-solving and making sure that you avoid any catastrophic mistakes. When operating capital is scarce, you have little room to make mistakes; so you have to apply what you have learned with previous ventures to make the best

moves for the company and its future. Fortunately, both Stepfan and I have a business track record, in terms of good and bad decision-making, that we are able to apply to this company. Thus far, it has paid off. Now that we are in year five, the daily challenges are still there, but the mania that you face in the first years of growing a company have passed."

The challenges: "Because we are a people- and service-driven company, the biggest challenge for us early on was finding the 'right' people to represent us in our local markets. We succeeded and failed based on how well our team members represented the company; so the biggest challenge was building an organization that could easily identify, train, motivate and manage

healthcare technology company that was sold in 2011, and uHAPS Media, a social media marketing company with locations in more than 30 states in which he serves as president and CEO.

In addition to his budding business, his family continues to grow as well; his wife Kirstin and their 2-year-old daughter Alexandra are expecting a second baby this winter.

The beginning: "The creation of uHAPS Media was an idea brought by Stepfan Jefferies to me and my Artemetrx partner,



Shaun Ring Photography

— bright and ambitious young people that we didn't have a face-to-face relationship with on a daily basis.

"The selling process, unlike previous ventures, was actually much easier because it is a product that is in-demand and makes sense to our clients. We don't have to do too much education when it comes to our sales presentation; plus Stepfan is a pit bull of a salesperson."

The key to success: "It's people. Ideas and money can sit on a shelf, but it takes good people, good relationships and precise execution to make a company work. I've seen a lot of great ideas fail because of poor execution, and I've seen a lot of mediocre ideas do really well because of great execution. That execution has everything to do with you surrounding yourself with good

people, your ability to motivate them and get them to understand that they are meaningful to the process.

"We are truly blessed to have a team here that would do anything to help this company win, and that's the biggest part of the success of uHAPS Media."

Mentors: "I've worked with a lot of great people in Lexington and a lot of people who not only helped me financially, but intellectually. I owe a lot to people like Robert McIntyre, Rob Maclin and Keith Levy, as well as my time with my partners in Artemetrx, Dr. Robert Littrell and Dr. John Langefeld. They all helped teach me how to be a more balanced thinker and rational decision-maker, and to problem-solve judiciously without getting personal feelings in the way."

Advice to others: "Make sure it's something you are passionate about and for which you are willing to work tirelessly. Surround yourself with great people who are happy to be in the trenches with you, including your investment partners. Take any free expert advice you can get; take anything free you can get, frankly.

"Take every meeting, regardless with whom. Relationships are the best investment of your time and money. Don't raise more money than you need and only spend money if it is critically important to the business — don't waste it and don't dilute your equity if you don't have to. I owe a lot of success to the great people I've met in my time in Lexington, as well as to this great city itself. Without question, it is one of the most favorable environments in the country for aspiring entrepreneurs to leverage local resources and turn their ideas into functioning business."

by Anne Sabatino Hardy

Laura Coleman Pritchard was just a high school senior when the first vice presidential debate was hosted at Centre College in 2000. She enrolled at Centre the following year.

After graduation in 2005, Pritchard moved from Danville to start her career at the



Kentucky Historical Society. She also received a master's degree from University of Kentucky.

When her dream job opened up back at Centre, she found herself returning to Danville and Centre only a few years later. Little did she

know, her dream job was about to get a lot more interesting. Soon after she returned to

Q. What is your job like working for Centre and for the debate?

A. With all of us here at Centre, we have our regular full-time jobs, which are very busy and exciting and then you put on top of that a major, large-scale event such as the VP debate. It's a lot of fun thinking about how our students get to participate, and I'm personally floored to be involved with this. I love being at my alma mater, but I'm also thrilled to be involved in VP debate.



professionals especially regarding this event are almost endless.

We expect that hundreds of students will be helping with the debate. What we learned in the 2000 debate is that students who volunteered have been

able to get jobs and build their resumes with the experience. We will need and want the help of alums and a lot of community members as well. It's a good way for young professionals to show that we are energized. We are not apathetic toward politics like some people might think, and we are ready to put

the best foot forward for the state of Kentucky as well.

Q. What is your advice to young professionals?

A. The thing I've learned throughout my

career so far is, you need to find a way to make yourself indispensable. Say yes, get involved in the culture of your organization, the town where your organization is, where you live. Don't shy away from responsibility, and challenge yourself.

Q. When is the debate?

A. It's pretty easy to remember actually. It's at 9 p.m. on 10, 11, 12.

Q. So Thursday, October 11 at 9 p.m. (EST). Which stations will carry the debate?

A. The debate will be aired on six networks: CBS, ABC, NBC, CNN, CSPAN and FOX.

Q. Can locals attend?

A. The Commission on Presidential Debates controls ticketing, so we don't have much control over that. However, people can volunteer — it takes a village to host a debate."

For more information about the vice presidential debate at Centre, how to get involved and the latest on events surrounding the debate, visit centre.edu/centredebate2012.

Centre-Stage

Centre, the college secured its second vice presidential debate.

As assistant director of communications for marketing and PR at Centre College, Pritchard now finds herself filling roles working for the college, the debate and the Bluegrass as an advocate, supporter, organizer and ambassador.

Q. What are you doing to prepare for the influx of journalists and others associated with the event?

A. We are preparing workstations for 750 print journalists as well as broadcasters and camera crews. There will be 50 platforms for satellite trucks from the networks. In 2000, the college was very successful to partner with the city of Danville to host a festival and watch the debate live on a Jumbotron outside. We're hoping to do some similar things this time.

Q. What will this mean for Danville, Centre and the Bluegrass?

A. We have taken the approach that all of this exposure is good for everyone. We had an increase in student applications after 2000. Danville and the whole state did a great job of putting a good foot forward with the media and being hospitable. It led people

to say nice things about Centre, Danville and Kentucky. My favorite thing is that someone described this whole thing as "Norman Rockwell meets Alexis de Tocqueville." I love to see this kind of exposure for both places.

Q. What does this mean for young professionals in Bluegrass?

A. I think that the opportunities for young



Q. Who is involved?

A. The key people working most closely with the debate are Clarence Wyatt, Richard Trollinger and Michael Stryck, and obviously Centre President John Rousch. Michael [Stryck] and I will be working closely with the media hall.



Anne Sabatino Hardy is a writer for BG Magazine. She can be reached at editorial@lanereport.com.

by Lorie Hailey

Shaking Hands and Lending Them

Benefits of LYPA Membership Beyond Networking

For Marlena Stephens, joining the Lexington Young Professionals Association (LYPA) was a no-brainer.

Because she works in the healthcare industry — at Registrat-Mapi Na, one of the largest clinical research organizations in the



Marlena Stephens

country — and recently completed a master's degree in Health Administration from the University of Kentucky, Stephens had surrounded herself with other healthcare professionals. But, she wanted to meet other young professionals on different career paths.

"I joined LYPA to meet other young professionals in Lexington," she said. "I felt I needed to meet people outside my profession."

When she and her husband joined last year, they dove right in.

Right away, Stephens was appointed chair of the group's professional development committee.

"Marlena joined LYPA and expressed interest in being in a leadership position right off the bat. With her professional achievements, community-service oriented background, and eagerness to be a part of the steering council, I knew she would be a great fit," said LYPA president Brittney Edwards, who joined the group in 2007. "I admired her willingness to jump right in and fulfill whatever leadership role was needed. She has been a tremendous asset to our organization."

Stephens' committee, which has few members, is responsible for planning the association's signature event, the Rising Stars program. It honors young professionals who are emerging leaders in the community, both professionally and philanthropically.

Nominations are accepted from community members, and honorees are selected by a diverse panel of community business leaders.

Organizing Rising Stars is a big job. Planning begins in the late spring, and it "takes

monthly committee meetings up until right before the event in September," Stephens said.

"I have the help of my committee members volunteer to serve on my committee, which helps quite a bit."

The nomination period for this year's event recently ended. The awards ceremony is set for Tuesday, Sept. 25.

The professional development committee also conducts networking/professional luncheons and events several times a year.

LYPA was formed in 2000 by eight young professionals who wanted to place an emphasis on personal, civic and professional development for people between the ages of



The 2011 Rising Stars Award Winners

21 to 40. Its goals are to improve networking opportunities; retain young talent in Lexington; establish an economic voice for Lexington's young professionals; create a more diversified base of social activities; and provide philanthropic opportunities for members.

"Our organization is for anyone looking to meet new people, make professional contacts, volunteer with local charities and find a variety of events that meet their interests," Edwards said. "Our goal is to provide a diverse program of events and opportunities throughout the year that enrich the lives of young professionals and focus on their professional, civic and personal development."

Lately, LYPA has been focusing on growing the association's membership and engaging its members in more activities. It can be tough for young professionals to

balance their careers, families and altruistic endeavors, Stephens said.

The organization partners with other Kentucky associations to provide seminars or webinars throughout the year. While many LYPA events focus on networking, they often have a charity fundraising component.

A monthly happy hour, for example, benefits a local charity. The group also hosts a community night at a Lexington Legends game, tailgates at Keeneland for charity, and hosts an annual Christmas party to benefit Toys for Tots.

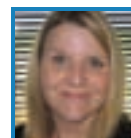
"Being a member of LYPA I have been exposed to numerous charities to volunteer

with that do great things for Lexington and surrounding areas," Stephens said. LYPA has enriched Edwards' life, she said, helping her expand her professional network, provided opportunities to volunteer with local organizations,

challenged her with leadership roles and introduced her to new friends, she said.

"Some of the friends I have made through LYPA were from Kentucky but the majority have been from all over the country; young professionals who relocated to Lexington and were looking for new friends and things to do, which made LYPA the perfect place for them," Edwards said.

Young professionals who would like to join LYPA should visit the group's website at lypa.org. Those interested in joining a committee, which both Edwards and Stephens encourage, can email development@lypa.org.



Lorie Hailey is associate editor of BG Magazine. She can be reached at lorie@lanereport.com

Rising Stars
The Rising Stars program honors young professionals who are emerging leaders in the community, both professionally and philanthropically. This year's awards ceremony is Sept. 25 at Malone's Banquet Hall. For more information, visit lypa.org.

Legends of the Fall

Watch Thoroughbred racing's finest compete at Keeneland's Fall Meet



Patrick Bradley Photography

Nowhere are champions more treasured than in the Bluegrass, and that goes for champions with two or four legs. Both can be found at Keeneland, where some of the finest Thoroughbreds in training and the most successful trainers and jockeys in the sport will compete during the track's 17-day fall racing season from Oct. 5-27. The meet features 17 stakes – the premier classification of horse races – with prize money totaling \$4.5 million.

The season begins with FallStars Weekend, which features nine stakes worth more

than \$3 million. The richest of those is the 27th running of the \$750,000 Shadwell Turf Mile Stakes, which received a \$150,000 purse increase and now ranks with the Toyota Blue Grass Stakes in the spring as Keeneland's most valuable races in terms of prize money. The Shadwell is for 3-year-olds and older horses and is – you guessed it – a one-mile race on the turf course. Thoroughbreds generally specialize in certain types of races based on distance, surface and level of competition, and racing a mile on the turf is one of the sport's glamorous divisions. The winner of the Shadwell Turf

Mile in 2010 and 2011 was a horse named Gio Ponti, who was so good that he was voted a champion for both of those years.

Keeneland's big race is sponsored by Shadwell Farm, one of those gorgeous horse farms you see out your airplane window during take-offs and landings at Blue Grass Airport. Owner Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid al Maktoum of Dubai, one of the world's most successful racehorse breeders and owners, established Shadwell in 1985. The farm is home to such stallions as 2006 Belmont Stakes winner Jazil.

The Shadwell Turf Mile and six other stakes FallStars stakes comprise part of the Breeders' Cup Challenge series of automatic qualifying races – think “win and you're in” – for the Breeders' Cup

World Championships on Nov. 2-3 at Santa Anita Park in the Los Angeles area. The winner of the Shadwell Turf Mile will earn an automatic berth to the \$2 million Breeders' Cup Mile and face horses from around the globe. Even if Keeneland won't be hosting the event, you can still go there to watch and wager on the Breeders' Cup, which offers 15 races worth a total of \$26 million over the two days.

Keeneland opened in the fall of 1936, and Thoroughbred racing has been conducted as an organized and documented sport since the 1700s. Horse racing has a lot of history and

Keeneland Fall Race Meet

Dates: Oct. 5-27

Schedule: Wednesdays through Sundays

First race: 1:05 p.m.

General admission: \$5

Parking: Free or \$5, depending on area.

Lextran also offers bus and trolley service.

Program: \$3

Special activities/events include: Keeneland Kids Club (for fans 12 and younger), Breakfast With the Works (trackside commentary while horses train, children's activities, breakfast; Saturdays, 7 a.m.), free trackside handicapping seminar (Saturdays, 11 a.m.), College Scholarship Day (scholarships awarded after each race; Fri., Oct. 12)

More information: Keeneland.com

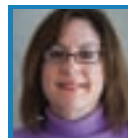
tradition, and Keeneland promotes the sport and all the track has to offer in the most high-tech manner possible. This summer, Keeneland launched a new website that can be easily viewed in a tablet or iPad format. You can watch the races, access a wealth of free handicapping information and learn about everything that's going on even when the track isn't racing horses. (Have you ever shopped in the Keeneland Gift Shop, eaten breakfast in the Track Kitchen or attended

an event somewhere on Keeneland's 1,000 acres?) You even can use your smartphone to wager on Keeneland races through Keeneland Select, a free online wagering service that allocates a portion of its profits to benefit the Thoroughbred industry through increased purses, generous player rewards and other activities.

The fall season also marks the first race meet for Keeneland's new president and CEO, Bill Thomason, who on Sept. 1 moved into the position held for nearly 13 years by Nick Nicholson. Thomason, who most recently has served as Keeneland's vice president and CFO, becomes the seventh president in track history. The Kentucky native graduated from the University of Kentucky with a B.S. in accounting in 1977 and a master's degree in business administration in 1978.



Thomason has something in common with a lot of the people who will be at Keeneland in October. He first went to the track when he was a freshman in college.



Amy Owens is a writer for BG Magazine. She can be reached at amyowens@lanereport.com.

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ASK ABOUT OUR HOLIDAY PACKAGES

by Anne Sabatino Hardy



The First National Bank building will be transformed to Lexington's own 21c Museum Hotel.

Banking on

Company to transform historic Lexington bank into arts hospitality mecca

A group of heavy hitters from Louisville recently made a scene in downtown Lexington. It wasn't a basketball team coming for a tussle, though, it was the founders of 21c Museum Hotel — and they came bearing art.



Of course, Lexington visitors will not see red when they check into 21c. Lexington is all about the blue.

Steve Wilson and Laura Lee Brown announced plans for a new 21c Museum Hotel in Lexington at a meeting with local officials, and they were accompanied by a familiar sight for 21c fans: the penguin. But this time, it was not 21c's famous Red Penguin, as originally

created by Cracking Art Group, but one ever so slightly better adapted to its future habitat. This time, the penguin was blue.

That meeting confirmed rumors, breathless whispers and blatant hopes that 21c would in fact bestow upon Lexington its acclaimed brand of artsy hospitality. Properties in

Cincinnati, and Bentonville, Ark., still are in development (expected in 2012 and 2013, respectively), but the original location in Louisville has been recognized by *Travel + Leisure* as one of the world's best hotels (2010, 2011, 2012). Plans recently submitted for review to the Courthouse Area Design Review Board for the Lexington property, the historic First National Bank

Building, include potential for a similarly recognized experience in Central Kentucky.

The hotel will offer a unique dining experience. One feature of the proposed layout is a glass wall facing the street that will provide a view directly into the kitchen, and



a venue for the performance art of gourmet food preparation. There are expected to be approximately 80 guest rooms, one of which will be a penthouse suite spanning two floors with a rooftop terrace.

While details such as financing and a final close on the property are pending, there is broad local support, and indications are that the plans will move forward to an opening date for 2014.

Lexington's thriving and growing downtown will swell just a bit more when the project is complete, but in the meantime, its movement toward art, community and downtown life is what drew in 21c Museum Hotel from the outset.

"21c looks for places with strong local partners and somewhere that there is, or going to be, a vibrant art scene," said Chelsey Cox,

The Pan statue – known as Randy – perched atop the bar at Proof provides bartenders and patrons alike company, and much more. Rub the apple if you dare get that close and, legend has it, Randy will send some luck your way.

brand marketing administrator at 21c Museum Hotel. “And with all the sports and people who are coming to Lexington. There’s a need for downtown hotels. Our founders, Steve Wilson and Laura Lee Brown, the passion that’s close to their hearts is revitalizing downtowns. That’s been the case here in Louisville; that’s been the case in Cincinnati and Bentonville and will continue to hold true Lexington as well.”

The 21c Experience

All the talk of plans for 21c Museum Hotel’s Lexington location have you curious about the 21c experience? You don’t have to wait until 2014 to take it all in. With the original location in Louisville so nearby, a quick trip may be in order for a weekend getaway, gourmet dinner at the hotel’s restaurant, Proof, or a tour of the new exhibitions.

The sights

“One of the great things about 21c is that you don’t have to be an overnight hotel guest to get the full experience,” Cox said. “We host frequent events, like artists lectures,



that are free and open to the public. We also participate in local events like Louisville’s First Friday trolley hop, but you can also walk in any time and tour the museum spaces. The thing our guests enjoy the most about 21c is the element of surprise. There is art everywhere: in the elevators, in the bathrooms,

in the hallways, in every nook and cranny. That’s the great experience of 21c – everybody is able to engage with contemporary art.”

And you can engage entirely on your own schedule. Stop by at your leisure. Exhibitions are open seven days a week, 24 hours a day, every day of the year, free of charge. Or check

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One of 21c's unique aspects is the art everywhere concept. In the main dining room of Proof, art installations surround patrons, even above their heads.

out the website for updated information on events such as gallery hops. Cox said one of her favorite parts of 21c is the artists lectures that are frequently offered.

"Even living in New York, I didn't have the same opportunities as I do in Louisville to meet artists," she said. "And because we collect contemporary art, the artists are living. To be able to meet the artists face to face, that is such an amazing opportunity. I think the thing that struck me the most about 21c is the fantastic art programming and that we're able to bring such a high caliber of artist here."

A new exhibit just installed at the 21c Museum Hotel lobby gallery in Louisville is

called "Blue: Matter, Mood and Melancholy" and features works by artists from around the globe. The multi media exhibition features meditations on the color blue, its meaning, interpretation and feeling. In the atrium galleries, new pieces were added to "Convergence: Highlights from the Collection 2012," which features photography, video, paintings and sculptures that comment on our lives and work in a changing global community.

For the more playful art admirers, check out the larger-than-life, 30-foot golden replica of Michelangelo's David that was installed just prior to Derby. He's taken up Louisville residency along with several Red Penguins outside 21c

following a trans-oceanic trip from Turkey, where workers constructed him, along with another statue, at the behest of artist Serkan Ozkaya. The twin David remains in Istanbul.

The tastes

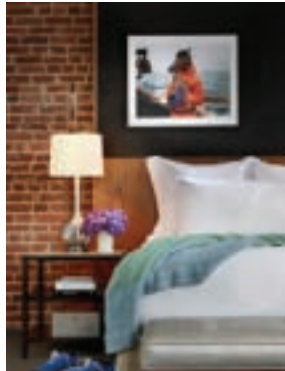
The property's restaurant, Proof, has become a destination itself and is worth a trip just to try one of the fresh and innovative dishes (try the Bison Burger or Curried Quinoa), or a signature cocktail, many of which have been dreamed up by bartenders and include tasty garnishes. Proof also celebrates Kentucky's signature spirit, Bourbon, with style and creativity.

As with the rest of the property, Proof features art installations that surround diners, enveloping the space in a brash but comfortable atmosphere of art. Even a leer-

If You Go
Louisville's 21c
Hotel Museum,
located downtown
at 700 West Main
Street, is 75 miles
from Lexington.



Clockwise from left: The press conference to announce 21c Lexington included the unveiling of a new blue – penguin that is. Guest rooms at 21c all feature unique art and an urban feel that jibes with the founders' mission of downtown preservation. Dishes and drinks at Proof are artfully conceived, not to mention delicious – and reasonably priced. The curried quinoa features a delightful blend of flavors and textures and is complemented with poached eggs and sourdough toast. The Ambassador's Wife is one of several drinks mixed up especially for Proof by one of its enterprising mixologists.



ing boyish statue of Pan isn't too intimidating, offering a forbidden fruit (rub it for good luck) as he perches on the end of the bar.

The feel

Cox does acknowledge there's something to booking a stay at the hotel. Various room types, from basic to over-the-top, are available, though even the basic room is a study in contemporary

aesthetics with exposed brick and photography or paintings on the wall that far exceed typical hotel art.

"Staying here is amazing — the guest rooms are both modern and comfortable, and include Malin & Goetz amenities," she said.

"We have a list of packages on our website and we're always updating those, so prospective guests can check the site for the most recent offerings."

For more information, pricing, packages and a calendar of events and exhibitions, visit 21cmuseumhotels.com/louisville.

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The Contest Conquest

Lexington man makes hobby of entering contests, often bringing home top prize

In the mid-1990s, Lexington resident Walt Arnett watched an episode of “Oprah” in which one of the featured guests had won thousands of dollars in cash and prizes by entering various sweepstakes. Arnett never guessed at the time how that one-hour program would influence the next several years of his life.

Since the day he turned 18, Arnett, now 31, has now entered thousands upon thousands of contests.

The Charleston, W.Va., native, who moved to Lexington in 1999 to get a bachelor’s degree at the University of Kentucky, works in UK Healthcare’s Information Technology department for a living. But the thrill of entering – and occasionally winning – competitions and sweepstakes has become his true passion.

Who can blame him? Over the years, Arnett has won a wealth of prizes, ranging from a pair of kitchen towels to a brand new car.

Arnett, who said he has entered “way too many contests to count,” starting engaging in the process as a hobby.

For several years, he won mediocre prizes such as socket sets and sweatshirts. But, as his fascination grew, Arnett began acquiring more lucrative prizes by entering and winning picture, essay and video contests. The latter category is where he has found his niche.

“I’m addicted to the thrill of winning,” said Arnett. “Just like a drug, I get a high from winning, but my favorite part about entering contests is the idea creation phase. My dream job would be to get paid to sit around and brainstorm all day. I usually try to make my videos as funny and entertaining as possible. I enjoy entering on my own, but I really enjoy when I can create an entry with someone else and win together. It is fun to share in the excitement!”

A few highlights from Arnett’s contest-entering career include winning a trip to Costa Rica and a year’s supply of coffee from Dunkin’ Donuts; receiving

\$10,000 for being the winner of a rap contest sponsored by Cash America; and winning a MINI Cooper from Dairy Queen. Most recently, he received a \$5,000 runner-up prize in the “Oh Chuck I Blew My Cash” video contest held by Charles Schwab.

“I was featured on ‘This Morning’ on CBS (July 28) for a whopping four seconds,” said Arnett. “It was a very proud moment.”

But nothing tops the prize Arnett received this spring from being victorious in a contest sponsored by Pita Pit and Coca-Cola.

“It’s a memory I’ll cherish for the rest of my life. I won a chance to see the Wildcats win it all at the Final Four (in New Orleans) this past April,” he said. “I never thought I’d see the day. It was so exciting!”

Arnett recently entered a handful of essay contests, a category he said isn’t his strong suit, but that hasn’t discouraged him from still giving it a try.



Walt Arnett of Lexington has entered so many contests, he has lost count.

At press time, Arnett was a top three finalist for an Orbitz contest in which the grand prize is \$25,000. Search "Orbitz Vacation Party Candidate" on Facebook to watch the videos and vote.

"I'm not the most prolific writer," he said. "I'm determined to win one, though! Persistence is the key in the sweepstakes and contests."

Arnett often tries to include his friends and family in his video contest entries.

"They aren't even fazed at this point when I call up and say I've won something," he said. "Some of them think it is really neat and help me make videos, while others seem to avoid my calls. I think it is probably because I never quit talking about it. Not a lot of people share my passion for contests."

If he could pick any contest to win, Arnett said it would most definitely be the Dorito's "Crash The Superbowl" contest, where contestants must create their own Super Bowl-worthy commercial.

"It is the holy grail of contests," he explained. "The top prize is \$1 million. They get about 6,000 entries every time they run the contest. I have never gone to film school or worked for an advertising agency,

so I like the idea of just a regular guy like me winning such a highly coveted contest. I teach myself everything as I go, and when I win (a video contest), I

reinvest in my equipment. Hopefully, I can get my production skills up to commercial quality so I can have a decent chance at winning one day."

When Arnett isn't entering contests, he often is working on a sports charity he created called Greater Than You. Not surprisingly, the organization revolves around contests.

"The main purpose is to hold competitions to raise money and awareness for charities chosen by the participants," he said. "I have used a portion of my winnings to purchase sports equipment and transportation."

It's hard not to root for a guy like Arnett, who refuses to give up no matter how many contests he may lose and, most importantly, gives back to others, including his mother, for whom he has a goal to win a trip "to somewhere really cool."

"Entering contests is fun, but it is a lot of hard work," he said. "I lose most contests I enter, but I do win sooner or later. People don't realize the effort it takes to make a winning entry. I think one of my main advantages is that I never quit thinking. I'm always working on an idea for a video."

"That is really the most rewarding part — coming up with an idea and then seeing it become a reality. Oftentimes, I will get frustrated in the execution of my idea because I don't have the skill level, equipment, or budget to create something that matches up with the vision in my head," he said. "I stubbornly try to tackle all aspects of the process by myself. I'm slowly learning and getting better, so maybe one day I'll be satisfied with my work."

Whether Arnett is ever content with his contest entries, at least he's having fun in the process. It doesn't hurt that's he's winning a little, too.



Esther Marr is a writer for BG Magazine. She can be reached at editorial@lanereport.com.

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featured couple

by Anne Sabatino Hardy

Natural gas and wine; Eastern Kentucky and world travels. They may seem unusual pairings, but when joined by passion, drive, energy, ambition and love, they're the makings of a life and love that's bloomed on the corner of Jefferson and Second Streets in downtown Lexington.

Hometowns

Seth Brewer is certainly a Kentuckian. It's obvious from his response to a question about his hometown. "Lawrence County" is the answer.

"It's far enough Eastern Kentucky and



Shaun Ring Photography

Complementary Pairing: Seth & Renée Brewer

Scotch-Irish enough that we refer to (where we live) by county," he said.

His wife, Renée, likewise, is a Kentucky native, and though she's traveled the world, her home and birthplace is Lexington.

How They Met

Renée's early experience in the wine industry came as a child visiting a friend's vineyard in Louisville with her mother, a

Centre College with a degree in psychology and was working in North Carolina, but finding his career in social work to be lacking.

"I didn't really get the memo that you needed to go on and get a master's degree and probably a Ph.D to succeed in psychology," he said.

Instead of more school, Seth returned to Central Kentucky to be near his son and picked up a couple of jobs, one at Equus Run Vineyard.

It was at Equus Run that they met and began dating. Even though they were only to be together geographically for a short time, they committed to one another and began to work out the details of their long-distance love.

"We realized it was really ... we had something," said Renée. "But I wasn't going to give up my opportunity to go study wine around the world, so we decided to try and work things out. If it didn't work, it didn't work, but at least we tried."

"If there wasn't something there, it wouldn't have made sense," Seth said. "We weren't children - when she left, it would have been a natural break point if it hadn't been something. We were

both busy, so we just both did what we needed to do and spent a lot of money on phone cards."

After hundreds of dollars on phone cards, many foreign visits and trips around the world, and a final stop for Renée in California for an internship period, she returned home and they started the next phase of their relationship and their life together.

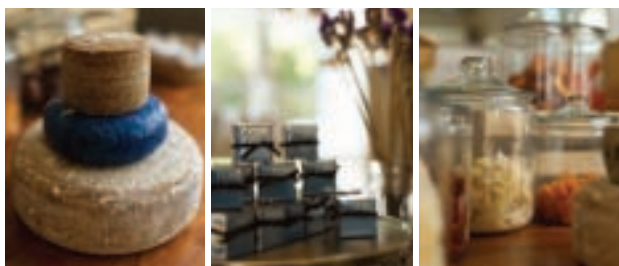
Careers That Work

Renée took what Seth calls a "linear path" toward her career.

"She's a good example of following your passion," he said.

Indeed, when Renée returned to Lexington, she began working with a boutique wine wholesaler and later took a job at Wine + Market, then owned by Krim and Andrea Boughalem. When the Boughalems were ready to sell and move

into new areas, Renée was a logical buyer. She now owns the shop, which features her hand-selected wines as well as accessories for the kitchen and bar, and gourmet grocery



horticulturalist. After studying agricultural economics and French at the University of Kentucky, she moved to France for a year and taught English, contemplating her next steps.

She decided on a graduate program in France at the International Organization of Wine and Vine (OIV) that focused on the wine industry. She chose wine in a close call over coffee and chocolate, two other favorites. She headed home to Kentucky for the summer and looked for a job.

Meanwhile, Seth had graduated from



items from local farm offerings to specialized imports. There's also a cafe menu that features dishes crafted from the charcuterie and cheese selection, and freshly baked goods.

Seth, on the other hand, who had taken jobs in social work, glass blowing and wine wholesaling, became involved in the natural resources industry (he had an "in" from family connections) with a job well-tending old gas wells.

"In the process of that, I saw some opportunities for drilling, and the gas industry was just beginning its upward trajectory into what it is now," Seth said. "So it was a good time to get in. I put together some partnerships and drilled some wells and have continued to maintain them."

That was the beginning of his work in natural resources, but he diversified and also fills his time purchasing, restoring and renting

Check out wineandmarket.com for information on weekly Friday wine tastings, wine of the month club, Wine + Market field trips, private events, and classes on beer, wine, liquor and cheese. Get the Wine + Market newsletter by emailing Renée@wineandmarket.com.

for themselves near Wine + Market.

Words of Advice to Young Professionals

Whether linear or not, the passion and pursuit of a fulfilled life and successful career seem to be Seth and Renée's priorities. While it may not be easy, their words of advice are fairly simple.

"'Follow your heart and do what you want to do,' is very challenging and hard to translate if you're like I was and still am – you don't know what your passion is. Your passion might change," Seth said. "The secret to success is get up early and go to work. Do good work. Be honest."

Renée suggests good, old-fashioned hard work.

downtown properties – a passion he pursues today, as he's a fan and advocate of downtown life in Lexington. Together, the Brewers also are restoring a home

"I would say to anybody, with whatever it is that you are studying and doing, just do it to the fullest and work your hardest and don't put off for tomorrow what you can do today," she said. "Because if you do work your hardest at whatever it is you're doing, you'll feel better, people will notice and you



will get things done, and you'll earn the respect of your community. Just work hard and don't be lazy."

"My dad has a saying that I really like: 'How you do anything is how you do everything.' I don't know if that's entirely true, but there's a lot of truth to it," said Seth. "I think that you should just try to do whatever it is that you do well."

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by Anne Sabatino Hardy

Standing Ovation For Shakespeare & Co.

Lebanese couple's unique restaurant gets rousing reception in Lexington, its first North American location



Try It, You'll Like It

For a slightly adventurous snack, try the Moroccan Mint Tea, featuring gunpowder green tea and mint leaves, just like you'd find in the Medina of Fez. Pair it with some Zaatar and Saj – flatbread with a mix of herbs that is common in the Middle East. If you're a breakfast fan, branch out from the common country offerings such as grits and hash and give the English breakfast a try – sautéed mushrooms are a surprisingly welcome addition to breakfast, which is served all day.

Shakespeare & Co. is filling up rapidly, even on a Tuesday at 11 a.m. It has been the same during other visits. No matter the day or time, the restaurant is well populated with couples, birthday parties, families, groups of friends (both young and old) and business diners.

As a matter of fact, the only time it seems not to be busy is during Ramadan, a period of Islamic religious observance, at one of the 15 locations that operate in the United Arab Emirates, where the restaurant opened its first location in 2000.

Now, 12 years later, Dr. Edward Saad and his wife, Aline – a designer – have introduced this unique brand of hospitality to North America. And their first market is Lexington, Ky.

Coming to Lexington was a decision borne of personal preference, experience and comfort for the Saads, who, despite being Lebanese and living abroad for many years, have ties to the Bluegrass. After receiving a Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky, Saad traveled the world working in the oil business and later married Aline. Together, while in Dubai, they had four children, Anthony, Paul, Georgia and

Chris, and they began Shakespeare & Co.

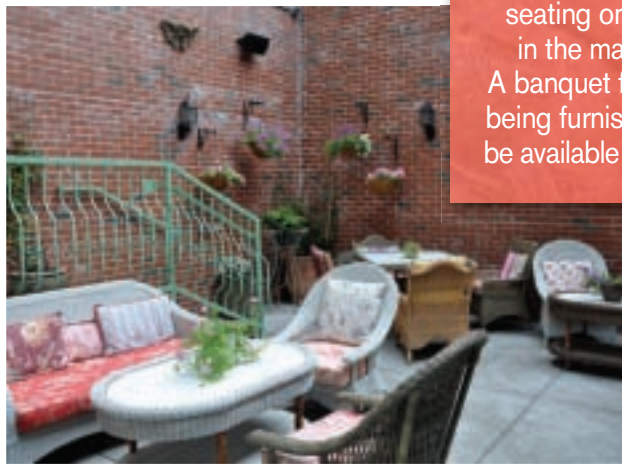
He handles the business side, she the decor and design. While he has not left his career in oil and energy, Shakespeare & Co. is a family project and labor of love.

“I continue to work in the energy business – I’m an oil man – but I love the hospitality industry,” he said. “She is involved in everything creative. That is



her touch in all those things. We are a good team.”

The result is a finely tuned, yet eclectic aesthetic full of rich, warm colors, leather, cushy pillows, lace and heavy drapes, and details such as the bar’s cherub light fixtures. Part lounge, part living room,



Shakespeare & Co. offers a wide array of food and beverage choices from all over the world, from Mediterranean to English to French, surely to appeal to the largely-expatriate population in Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

Likewise, the Lexington location has been embraced by the community. Since opening in late May, the reaction has been stunning, Dr. Saad said. Perhaps it is the great location, the cozy atmosphere, the friendly staff

or the variety of dishes to explore that have been enticing. In any case, the Saads are hoping the formula will be a successful one. They’ve moved their family to Lexington and have plans to continue an expansion outward from Central Kentucky to other areas of the United States, with the base of business operations here.

Let's Party

In addition to the lounge area, there is ample outdoor seating on two patios and in the main dining room. A banquet facility is currently being furnished and will soon be available for private parties.



Women Leading Kentucky

Join Us For Our Roundtables This Fall!

Views From The Top!

Thursday, September 20

Sal's Chophouse, Lexington
12 - 1:30 p.m.



Cheryl Norton

President, Kentucky American Water

Tuesday, October 23

Sal's Chophouse, Lexington
12 - 1:30 p.m.



Connie Harvey

COO of Commercial Operations
Xerox Services

Thursday, November 15

Sal's Chophouse, Lexington
12 - 1:30 p.m.



Mary Pat Regan

President, AT&T Kentucky

Register at womenleadingky.com

by Mary Jo Perino

November 26, 2011: Kentucky's season finale against Tennessee at Commonwealth Stadium. It had been 26 long years since UK had beaten Rocky Top. The most unlikely of victories came that day when wide receiver Matt Roark started at quarterback and remarkably finished the afternoon with just 15 yards passing and a ride out of the stadium

Matt Roark did the "Y" in the "Kentucky" cheer later that night during the UK basketball game at Rupp Arena and got one of the louder ovations I've ever heard. So why hasn't that enthusiasm carried over to this season?

Kentucky was predicted to finish dead last in the SEC East by the media, and most fans seem to buy in to that notion. Vandy is projected to finish sixth of seven teams, and they beat Kentucky by 30 points last season.

the horizon. But with another daunting SEC schedule, that won't be easy.

The Cats kicked off their season in Louisville, followed by non-conference opponents Kent State, Western Kentucky and Samford. With the likes of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Arkansas and SEC newcomer Missouri, getting back to a bowl game will be a significant challenge for this group.

Joker is very excited about his young

Exciting Season Ahead

Kentucky college football teams hoping to build on progress

Heading into his third season, Kentucky's coach Joker Phillips found himself not just having to sell his program to recruits, but to fans as well. Phillips and some of the UK players have asked fans on several occasions to stick with them this season, promising better things on

squad. Twenty-six of the 44 players on the two-deep roster are sophomores or redshirt freshmen, and that's not counting the true freshmen he's hoping to see make plays.

Last season, two promising players, running back Josh Clemons and wide receiver Daryl Collins, got hurt. Both are expected to return this season. They



University of Kentucky wide receiver La'Rod King makes the catch.

on the shoulders of fans. The scoreboard read Kentucky: 10, Tennessee: 7. Fans rushed the field, hugging and high-fiving the players who had finally ended the streak.

should only help the offense, which was disappointing last season.

Offensive coordinator Randy Sanders is excited about this season. He says there are plenty of playmakers that perhaps you haven't heard of yet who will make an impact. He also believes the quarterback battle will only make both Max Smith and Morgan Newton better. Defensive coordinator Rick Minter believes the Cats will handle the loss of their two best defensive players just fine. Danny Trevathan and Winston Guy are no longer stalking in the secondary, making tackles all over the field. While Minter believes the Cats are still a year or two away from being a complete SEC defense, he says the guys up front are looking more and more like their league counterparts. He also says the recruiting has been impressive the last two seasons, and the dividends should start showing up this season.

Elsewhere in Central Kentucky, Georgetown College is coming off a season where it played in the NAIA national championship game after a perfect 10-0 regular season record and a couple of playoff wins to go with it. Bill Cronin received coach-of-the-year honors after the season and he hopes to work his magic again this season. The Tigers also will be playing their home games on a brand new field this season, going from grass to turf.

Over in Danville, Centre College is looking to build on what was an outstanding 2011 campaign. The Colonels went 9-2 during the regular season, with an undefeated record at home,

Georgetown College's football team is playing this year on the new iHigh.com Field at the college's Toyota Stadium.



Centre College's football team is in its first year of play in the new Southern Athletic Association.



before losing in the second round of the NCAA D III playoffs to the undefeated No. 2 team in the country in Mount Union.

The Kentucky State Thoroughbreds have eight players named to either the preseason all-SIAC first or second teams, the second most of any team in the league. KSU was one game away from tying its best record since 2004 when it went 7-4, so this season it's possible we

could be watching one of the best KSU teams we've seen in a decade.

This is going to be an interesting football season in the commonwealth to say the least. There are winning programs expected to keep winning, teams on the rise, and a couple that are hoping for better. For the Cats, if they don't return to a bowl game, will the season be considered a disappointment? Time will tell, but perhaps at some point this season, another long-standing streak will be broken.

Any given Saturday ...



Mary Jo Perino is a sports anchor for WLEX-TV in Lexington. She can be reached at editorial@lanereport.com.

by Meredith Lane

Buyers are more informed than ever, but there is still much to consider

With popular TV shows such as HGTV's "House Hunters" and "Property Virgins," plus hundreds of real estate websites like Zillow and Trulia, some potential home buyers may feel like they're a real estate expert ... before they actually ever consult with a real one.

And while a lot of what you see on TV is just for ratings, there are some useful tidbits of info you can pick up from watching other people's house-hunting experience. Further, the various types of information found on reputable

However, there are additional things to consider in your home-buying search that you may not find online or from your favorite show.

Is buying a home right for you?

- Housing affordability is about the best it has ever been and tight lending conditions are now protecting buyers much better than before.

negatively affected as they have been nationwide. Prices here also remain affordable. In many cases, it's even cheaper to pay a monthly mortgage payment than your monthly rent. Plus, when you go to sell your home, you can recoup the purchase price and hopefully, earn a profit, too. However, if you're planning on moving out of town in the next couple of years, buying right now is probably not the right choice for you.

Make a list (mentally or on paper) of what you're looking for in a home.

- Choose your style of home. Do you like older and traditional, newer and modern, fixer upper, an older home that's already been updated, etc.

- Choose what area of town or neighborhoods you want to be in. Do you want to be downtown, in an older neighborhood, do you like new construction? Are school districts important to you? Also, the type of style of home you like (new or old) will help determine what part of town you likely will end up in.

- Decide your price range. What monthly payment feels most comfortable to you? Talking to a lender will help you determine the price point you should start your home search in, in addition to helping you decide which loan program is best for your financial status.

- Decide what your must-haves in a house are. Square footage; number of bedrooms; number of

bathrooms; two-story or ranch; big or small backyard; townhouse, single-family home or condo; basement; garage; lots of storage; big kitchen ... you get the picture. Figure out what the "needs" and the "wants" are and make your priority list from there. Remember that you may have to compromise a bit when it comes to getting all the features you want in a mortgage payment you can afford.

Internet sites are great to mull over to get a baseline of data such as what a seller paid for their home, the taxable value of a home for sale, neighborhood comparables, etc.

- Interest rates are at historic lows, which means buyers are getting a lot more bang for their buck when it comes to affording nicer, larger homes for the same monthly payment as what a smaller, more basic home may have cost them a few years ago.

- Is renting or buying better? Kentucky has been fortunate in that the housing market and home values haven't been as

A large, three-dimensional red sign with white text that reads "The Right Time to Buy a Home?". The sign is mounted on a white wooden post and is slightly tilted. It has a white border and is held in place by two metal clips. The background is a light blue sky with some white clouds.

What steps do I take to buy a home as a first-time or experienced buyer?

- Find an experienced and professional real estate agent to guide you through the process. They should hold your hand and walk you through the process, being available to answer questions for you and handle any situations that arise. Their job is to find you the best house, for the best price and have your back along the way. Bonus ... using an agent to buy a home doesn't cost you anything!

- Find a lender who can get you prequalified and give you an estimate of what your monthly payments would be. Using someone local will benefit you much better than finding an out-of-town lender online. Your Realtor likely can recommend some hard-working, trustworthy mortgage brokers who offer competitive rates.

- Determine how much money you want to spend on your down payment. Depending on what type of loan you choose, your

lender will require different down payments. Talk with them about which option is right for you. Some banks even have in-house loans with 100-percent financing for qualified homebuyers.

- Determine where the down payment cash is coming from. Do you have it in savings? Will a family member "gift" it to you? Will you need down payment assistance? Will you qualify for 100-percent financing? Your lender also can help you get creative with this.

- Look at homes for sale online and in person with your agent.

- Be realistic on the price and conditions when you make an offer – not all homes in this market are "fire sales." Your agent will be able to guide you through making a reasonable yet competitive offer on the property you love.

- Once you've found "the" house and negotiated the contract, hire a licensed home inspector to thoroughly inspect all aspects of the home. You'll also want to call a termite inspector to make sure there's no wood destroying insects making this property their home.

- If applicable, negotiate repairs with the seller. Then do a final walk-through before closing to make sure the agreed-upon items have been repaired and your new home is in as good as, if not better, condition than when you originally made your offer.

- Before closing, shop for home insurance and consider if you need additional title insurance. Your lender and real estate agent can likely recommend some good companies to contact.

The typical homebuyer today is much more educated about their local housing market than in years past. But, when deciding whether or not homeownership is right for you, make sure you talk to a professional who has your best interests in mind to help you establish a financial game plan for the future.



Meredith Lane is the editor of BG Magazine and is a full-service Realtor with Milestone Realty Consultants in Lexington.



Small Town Restaurants

Sure, the vast culinary options in Lexington are a no-brainer when it comes to choosing a place to enjoy a great meal, but what about when you're outside the heart of the city or are feeling adventurous to hop the county line? Here's a list of 10 (plus) restaurants we love – both simple and fancy – in the areas surrounding Fayette County.



Fayette County – While the **Windy Corner Market** technically has a Lexington address, this quaint little place on the outskirts of town is surrounded by horse farms and serves an array of menu items from healthy to decadent, made with local products. Try one of their unique Po' Boy sandwiches for a special treat.

Winchester – **Stinky and Coco's** – This precious little place named after the owner's two cats takes you back in time with its classic diner feel, but brings you right back with its modern twist on popular menu items like shrimp and grits and a goat cheese hamburger.



Midway – This small Woodford County town has become a dining destination, with too many top restaurants to narrow down, including **Heirloom**, **Gray Goose**, **Wallace Station**, and **Holly Hill Inn**, just to name a few.

Paris – **Varden's** is nestled along the historic buildings downtown and is the go-to spot for a nice meal out in Bourbon County. The restored building still has reminders of the pharmacy it used to be, with its tin ceiling, tile floors and apothecary drawers and shelving lining the walls.

Nicholasville – **Euro Wine and Tapas Bar** is a fun and cozy spot with awesome atmosphere along Main Street. Offering small plates, wines from around the world and unique cocktails, this is a great place for a girls' night out, a date or even to watch the game.

Georgetown – **Red State BBQ** – Owned by a former Texan, this roadside eatery located on U.S. 25/Georgetown Road, four miles north of New Circle, offers succulent brisket, ribs and pulled pork.



Richmond – **Madison Gardens** – Anyone who has stopped through Madison County and hasn't stopped at this college sports-themed bar (with a clever name) is missing out. The spicy, dry-rubbed chicken wings paired with a cheap beer makes this place a winner in our book.

Slade – **Miguel's Pizza** – Located near Natural Bridge at Red River Gorge, this place is famous for its large slices and extensive list of toppings including pasta spirals, chick peas, tofu, Kielbasa, along with all the regulars.

Fayette County – Just minutes away from the Madison County line, we had to include **Jean Farris Bistro and Winery**, which is a great place to try a decadent wine tasting or gourmet meal. The property is magical too – we've even had friends get engaged here. Enjoy the works of local artist Tuska as well.

Danville – The eclectic atmosphere at **Mermaids Bar & Bistro** is enough of a draw to make a special trip here. The décor is a mix of "small town feel" with its location inside an old home complete with exposed brick fireplaces, modern décor (the bar glows with an iridescent blue light and there's also a disco ball in the place) and upscale (white table clothes and gourmet food).





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