

# discover

**CHESTER COUNTY** 

11th edition | 2019-20



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A Future To Serve...A Heritage To Preserve Tony W. Hysmith, Manager

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#### **CHOOSING HENDERSON/CHESTER COUNTY**



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#### **DISCOVER CHESTER COUNTY**

is produced by the Henderson/Chester County Chamber of Commerce in association with Bramblett Group.

PRODUCTION

Emily Johnson; Channing Carroll; Dawn Bramblett; Jason Bramblett; Melanie Davis; Emily Ervin; Bret Jones; Megan Luffman; Kait Martin; Courtnee Williams

WRITING

Nancy Bennett; Dawn Bramblett; Tajuana Cheshier; Melanie Davis; Jamie Fuqua; Haley Hysmith; Kallan Lewis; Megan Luffman; Kait Martin

DESIGN

Courtnee Williams

PHOTOGRAPHY Jason Bramblett, Melanie Davis, Emily Ervin, Submitted Welcome! We are glad you're here, whether you are a lifelong resident, have made FHU your college home, recently moved here or are visiting our community.

We are grateful for each member of our community who comes together with others to accomplish what none of us could alone. The strength of our Henderson/Chester County Chamber of Commerce lies in our diverse pool of resources — both natural and human — that cultivates ideas, energy and dreams.

Thank you for being a volunteer, student, retiree, teacher, entrepreneur, public official, health care provider or employee who makes Henderson and Chester County a place where pigs fly — where the seemingly impossible comes to life!

Emily Hunt Johnson Executive Director Craig Casey President

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#### 2019-2020 HENDERSON/CHESTER COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD MEMBERS

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# CAESET COUNT



51.5 inches of rainfall 69.8 average high 45.5 average low

#### **INDUSTRY**

Agriculture Manufacturing **Education Services** Healthcare

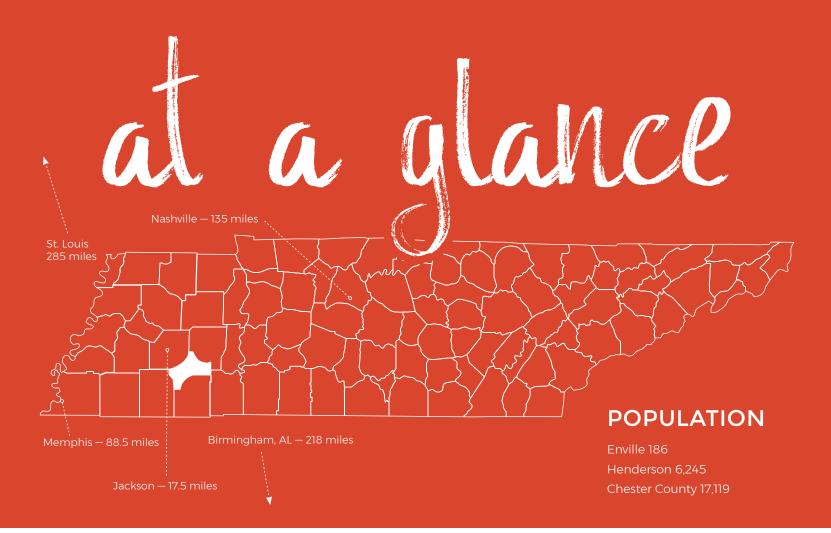
#### **SCHOOLS**

Chester County School System Freed-Hardeman University Tennessee College of Applied Technology (Crump & Jackson Extension Campus)

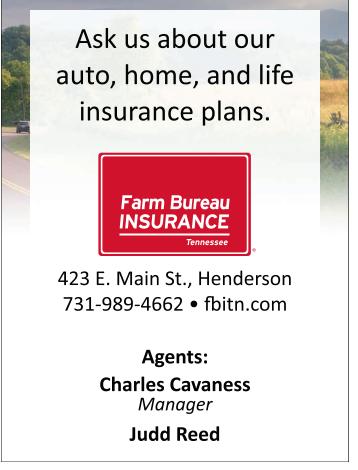
LABOR FORCE

286 Square Miles | Elevation 446 Feet











Tommie Kirk makes a difference in young people's lives every day. He is married to Shiradon Howard Kirk, an educator who serves families and a native Chester Countian, and they have one daughter.

Tommie grew up in a military family, living in different parts of the world, including Florida and Egypt. He moved to Henderson as a Freed-Hardeman University student but had no plans of staying in Chester County . . . until he was walking out of church on a Sunday afternoon.

He recalled that the sun was shining and the wind was blowing when he saw a beautiful girl who would later become his wife. Together, they decided to stay in Henderson. Kirk said that they haven't regretted it since.

"When disaster strikes, whether a death in the family or a house fire, this community comes together in a way I've never

seen before," Tommie said. "People here have genuine love for each other. From the school system to churches and all other organizations, everyone helps each other. You just can't get that in a big city."

In discussing her time growing up in Henderson, Shiradon said that she was able to avoid many of the trappings of a large city. She added, "As I was growing up I didn't always appreciate that, but as an adult, I am glad I was able to mature before being exposed to those things. I was able to learn about God and see the love of God and Christ in many ways including having a Christian university right in town. I was also able to learn about family, heritage, and having pride in my community."



"If you can upgrade your quality of life without sacrificing all the things you love, why wouldn't you?"



The Wests, both alumni of FHU, had discussed making Chester County their retirement home one day because of familiarity with the community and connections to family and friends. Two years ago their timeline accelerated, though, when discussions of opening a community-focused coffee shop began.

"What we have found is a vibrant community focused on enriching the experiences of its families," Wendi said. "We assumed it would take awhile to get settled in and feel a sense of home and belonging; however, the feeling of 'home' was almost immediate. We think it is because so many people invited us to be part of so many good causes and encouraged us to use our talents and experiences to help enrich the lives of others."

The Wests said they are constantly surprised by the number of great local events. Some of their favorites include joint worships at Freed-Hardeman University, a thriving arts community with terrific plays and live performances, cool festivals and service opportunities. They were also pleasantly surprised by the affordability of the area.

"Being here takes so much pressure off the push to stretch our lives and allows us to refocus on family," Tim said. "If you can upgrade your quality of life without sacrificing all the things you love, why wouldn't you?"

The close-knit community and the accessibility Henderson brings them to their family are their favorite things about living in Henderson.

"I absolutely love the fact that Tim and I can walk over to FHU's campus on a whim, drop by to see my sister and her family in town or plan a quick trip to visit family in Union City," Wendi said. "I miss my friends in Nashville, but I am thankful for this time with family. We are counting down the days until we can have more presence and serve this amazing community through Besso's!"

# CULTIVATING GREEN THUMBS

By Tajuana Cheshier

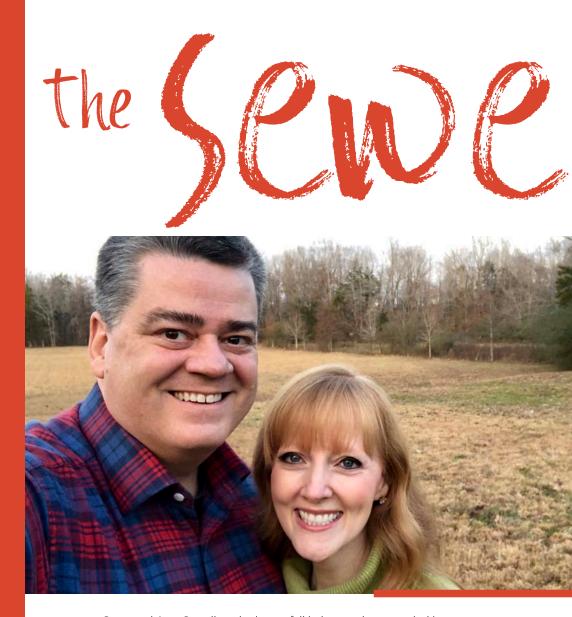
Chester County students are learning the value of growing plants, fruits and vegetables and how to take care of the planet through a new partnership between the student groups, Eagle Earth and the Student

"Our goal is to show students how to grow fruits and vegetables and how that can turn into income," said Heather Griffin, school health coordinator. "Students need to know they don't have to be farmers but can still have a love for the land and all it provides. It's important that we're putting the earth back in its healthiest form."

This summer Griffin, along with Amy Eads and Teresa Crouse, transformed a storage building into a gardening shed that will eventually serve as a greenhouse and classroom for student learning. With help from a few students, they also planted 500 mums in assorted colors — orange, red, yellow and a yellow/orange mix — to sell this fall.

"There has been a lot of excitement about what we're doing, and we can't wait to show everyone in the community," Griffin said.





Scott and Amy Sewell worked, met, fell in love and got married in New York City. After years in The Big Apple, however, they now call Henderson home — and they love it.

Even though Scott had fond memories of living in Chester County as a child and still had family here, he never imagined he would return to live and work in Henderson. Amy, who grew up in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, has always had an appreciation for the life of a small, southern university town.

While enjoying life in NYC, the Sewells felt the appeal of moving closer to family continue to grow through the years. Scott works for Microsoft as a Dynamics 365 Global Black Belt in the financial services sector, and Amy owns her own company, Shop with Style, representing national consumer brands on television across the country. Their respective careers made the idea of working from Henderson seem unattainable.

Initially thinking of larger cities like Nashville as their only option, they soon realized that as a Gig City, Henderson already had everything they needed. The growing acceptance of telecommuting and video conferencing meant that in Chester County they could continue to remain close to their customers and colleagues across the country.

However, more than just connectivity to technology, it's the connections with the community that made Chester County so attractive to Scott and Amy. They enjoy the convenience of living

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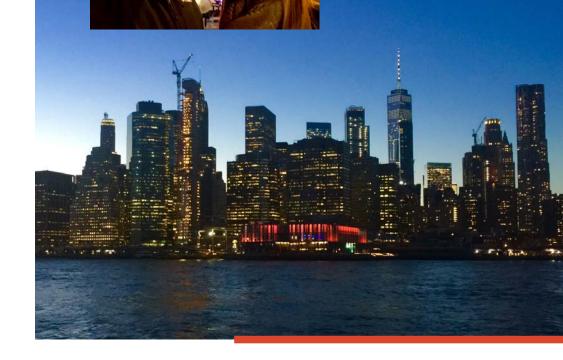


downtown with easy access to the post office, bank, gym, coffee shops, drugstore, grocery store, church and events at Freed-Hardeman.

"New York versus Henderson? Well, both have a Subway, so that's one thing they have in common!" laughed Scott. They also cite the rejuvenation and walkability of downtown and surrounding areas as essential to the quality of life in Henderson.

They believe that the city and county governments, chamber of commerce and the renewal underway at the university, along with so many other people and organizations, are creating a positive environment and forward movement that make Chester County a great place to live!





the 1000s

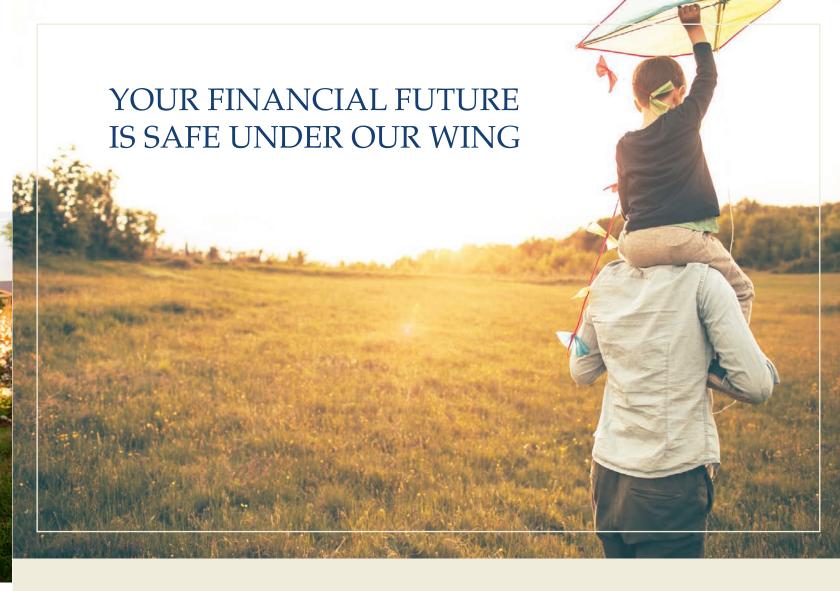


Scott and Christy both grew up in Wyoming and later moved to Augusta, Georgia, for Scott to attend medical school. Falling in love with the wonderful culture, they knew they would make the South their home. After an Air Force assignment in Columbus, Mississippi, and one year of sports medicine training in Cincinnati, Ohio, they were ready to find a place to raise their sons.

In 2010, the Johnsons discovered a job opportunity at Sports Orthopedics and Spine. As Scott traveled covering local sports teams, they explored many surrounding communities and searched for a place to buy a home. Chester County quickly rose to the top of their list.

"Good schools, an easy commute, plenty of outdoor activities and community events made Henderson an easy choice," Christy said. "We have loved living in Chester County and have met so many wonderful people we now call friends. Our boys have been supported by outstanding teachers and mentors in school, sports, theater, band and scouting. The fact that we made a good decision in choosing Henderson has been confirmed over and over because of the high quality people and many opportunities available to us in this community."

"Good schools, an easy commute, plenty of outdoor activities and community events made Henderson an easy choice."



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the accualis







Since relocating from Monterrey, Nuevo León in Mexico to Moscow, Tennessee, to Henderson, Tennessee, Claudia Aleman has become a beloved member of the community. She found her home in Chester County after receiving an offer to work for the local Mexican Restaurant, El Ranchitos, as a dishwasher. In the decades since then, she has become the owner of the restaurant that is a regular gathering place for friends and family.

"I came from a big industrial city; living in a small town that represents the big heart of the U.S.A. is everything I need," she said.

Aleman gushed over the qualities of Chester County when asked about living here. She said she feels safe with the great law enforcement, loves her church and the generations of people from around the country whom she gets to know through Freed-Hardeman and has been embraced by the local community.

Her service to community goes well beyond her restaurant and catering business. Aleman also volunteers and serves on boards for the Senior Citizens Center, the Exchange Club-Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse, the Ram Clinic, Henderson/Chester County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the local school system and many more nonprofits.

"...living in a small town that represents the

big heart of the U.S.A. is everything I need."





# CCHS UNVEILS NEW ATHLETIC LOGO

By Kait Martin

Chester County High School's new identity honors the school's history while conveying a fresh image. "I'm so excited to have a logo that uniquely represents and belongs to CCHS," said Principal Ricky Catlett. He added that the goal of the new logo was to pay tribute to the legacy of Chester County High School and honor those who have come before them.

The idea for a new logo began a few years ago. Catlett intentionally took the time to seek participation and feedback from different stakeholders as discussions began. He added that Eagle pride is at an all-time high because of the ways individuals saw that their opinions mattered.

"Our team worked together to select a logo that embodies the guiding principles of Chester County High School — respect, trust and honor," Catlett said. He reiterated the school's philosophy — that every student who walks through the doors has potential and opportunity. "The end result of this collaboration has been a fresh, new look that makes all of us happy."

Since Bramblett Group completed the CCHS identity, Catlett has been excited to see many ways the community has embraced and used it, including Mayor Bobby King and the City of Henderson's wrapping an electrical box with it in Summer 2019.





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# SHARE YOUR MEMORIES OF DOWNTOWN HENDERSON

Friday, November 22, 2019 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Bramblett Group 117 West Main Street in Henderson

Schedule a time to record your story by emailing info@bramblettgrp.com.

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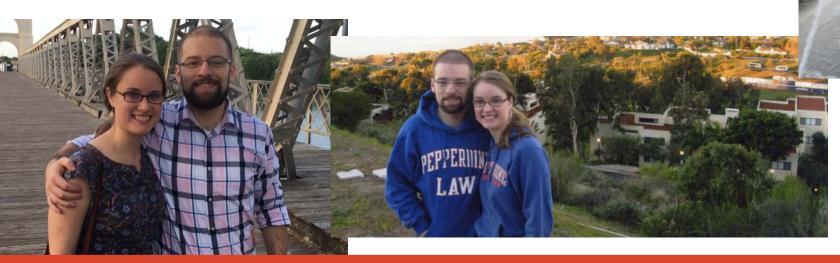
# the Wall

Nathan and Loren Warf were high school sweethearts from Dickson, Tennessee, before moving to Henderson to attend Freed-Hardeman. After graduation, they married and moved to Malibu, where Nathan attended graduate school and Loren worked in the communication division at Pepperdine University.

After moving away and living in larger areas such as Malibu and Waco, Nathan and Loren were repeatedly surprised to

see Henderson in national news. No matter where they went, everyone seemed to be familiar with Kid President. They were also excited to read about technology-based businesses choosing to operate in Henderson. "Henderson made the news as a Gig City, at a time when they were so rare that few knew what it meant," Nathan said.

It was the opportunity for Nathan and Loren to work at Freed-



#### **IMAGINATION LIBRARY DEVELOPS YOUNG READERS**

By Jamie Fuqua

Chester County Elementary teacher Sara Beth Connor believes in the benefits of the Imagination Library and the love for reading it promotes, as it provides books for children from birth to age five. "All three of my children have loved this program," Connor said. "They love receiving their own books in the mail." With more than 700 children registered, Chester County's

Imagination Library program has grown steadily since it began in 2006. In fact, it has one of the highest enrollment rates in the state.

"Over the last three years, Chester County has seen tremendous growth in enrollment," Emily Johnson, Chester County's Program

Singer/songwriter Dolly Parton launched Imagination Library

Hardeman and move closer to family that ultimately influenced their decision to move back. After eight years of living far from family, they were glad to move closer.

"We loved the idea of a simpler, quieter life — one with less traffic!" Loren said. "We have loved all the places we've lived, but we were ready to put down roots. Chester County seemed like a great place to do that. We loved Henderson when we were college students, but we wanted to get to know the town itself beyond the university."

Since moving back to Henderson, the Warfs have continued to be pleasantly surprised by the growth of Henderson and all the opportunities the community has to offer.

"We do not take for granted our quality of life in Henderson," Loren said. "Our ability to walk to work every day, receive curbside service from our leading recycling program and enjoy the arts are just a few aspects that we appreciate. We love being regulars at local businesses and living in town on a street that we used to walk when we were students."



"We do not take for granted our quality of life in Henderson. Our ability to walk to work every day, receive curbside service from our leading recycling program and enjoy the arts are just a few aspects that we appreciate."





in 1995 to provide free books for children from birth until they reach school age. More than a decade later, 70 million age-appropriate books have been delivered throughout the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Australia and, most recently, Ireland.

Individuals can learn more about the Imagination Library at imaginationlibrary.com.



"Opening Cogan's Farm to the public for weddings and events has just enhanced our experience in the area. We love being a part of a community that has given our family so much happiness."





Twenty-six years ago, Brian and Fran Whitehead moved to Henderson from Pedricktown, New Jersey, about 20 minutes south of Philadelphia, in search of a slower-paced life — an escape from the rat race of the city.

With two young children at the time, they wanted to provide them with an opportunity to grow up on a farm. The Chester County public school system, as well as the opportunity to have more land for their horses, drew them to Chester County. Eventually, they found the perfect spot in Henderson, now known as Cogan's Farm.

"We absolutely love the small town lifestyle," Fran said. "The people are wonderful, and we have made so many life-long friends in our 27 years here. Opening Cogan's Farm to the public for weddings and events has just enhanced our experience in the area. We love being a part of a community that has given our family so much happiness."



#### FARMERS MARKET

By Jamie Fugua

Ice cream, goats and more — the Henderson Farmers Market has expanded during its third year, providing even more variety for residents and visitors to shop.

In addition to new vendors, many individuals and businesses have been regulars since the Farmers Market began in May 2017. That consistency has made the weekly gatherings a time for catching up with neighbors, as residents purchase fresh produce, meat and baked goods.

Ralph Austin of Austin Farms is one of those regular vendors. Austin and his wife, Martha, greet customers as they offer fresh fruits, vegetables, pickled items and jams. Referring to their experience as vendors at area farmer markets, Ralph stated, "The Henderson Farmers Market is great not only because of the items that are sold but especially because of the people who shop at it each week."

In describing the diversity of items offered, Destiny Burns said, "Previously, I had to travel to the Amish market to buy some of these items. It's great to have a farmers market in

The Henderson Farmers Market is open every Friday from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m. late May through October.

Individuals may contact Chester County UT Extension Agent Steve Rickman at 731-989-2103 for vendor information.





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# reunion at chickasaw

While Chickasaw provides a beautiful, natural retreat for residents, it also attracts visitors from well beyond the Southeast.

The Fearn-Cooper Family Reunion began in Colorado in 1974, and a reunion in Dallas, Texas, followed about five years later. Soon afterward, it moved to Chickasaw because of family connections in the area. Since that time, the group has returned to Chester County and Chickasaw State Park every two or three years.

Family member Cathy Collins said, "We chose Chickasaw because its price and amenities are hard to beat."

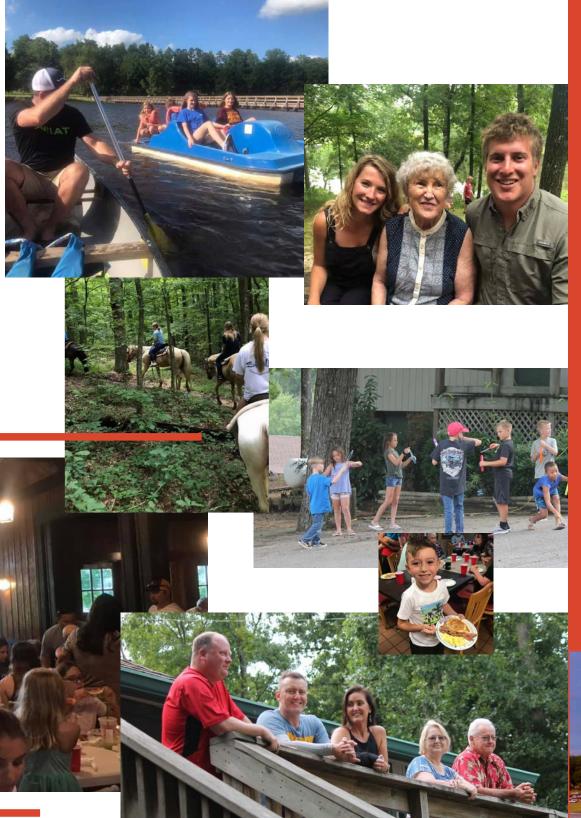
Local entrepreneur and family member Patricia Jones, helps organize the reunion. She said, "We enjoy area attractions including the Chickasaw Golf Course. Swimming, horseback riding, hiking, paddle boating, canoeing, playing ball and a family improvised water slide keep us active for the week." Jones added, "The layout of Chickasaw has been great, as we have many

children who enjoy the playground located close to the cabins. In 2019, we enjoyed the new walking bridge across the lake. The campground has been used for past reunions, and we are excited about the new campground renovation. We rent all 13 cabins, the group lodge for cooking and serving breakfast and lunch and the Sagamore Lodge for catered evening meals."

Jones said that the group typically serves about 110 to 120 people per evening meal. At the 2019 reunion, they had more than 150 attendees from California, Texas, Nevada, Colorado, Missouri, Florida, Louisiana, Nebraska and Tennessee.

The gatherings at Chickasaw State Park have led to impromptu birthday parties, bridal showers and baby showers. Jones closed by saying, "This family is built on love and respect for each other and the seven siblings who started it so many years ago."





### SHOP, EAT, STAY IN CHESTER COUNTY

Those who are looking for the latest boutique trends, an afternoon of pampering at a spa, downtime in a specialty coffee house or a delicious steak dinner find them in Henderson. Residents and guests enjoy strolling through the weekly farmers market spring through fall, resting and unwinding at beautiful bed and breakfasts or enjoying local music, art and theater. They also access free Wi-Fi and enjoy time with friends at the City of Henderson's Gene Record and Sue Shelton White Parks. Of course, everyone meets downtown the last weekend in September to enjoy friends and food at the annual Chester County BBQ Festival, a beloved

"Swimming, horseback riding, hiking, paddle boating, canoeing, playing ball and a family improvised water slide keep us active for the week. The layout of Chickasaw has been great, as we have many children who enjoy the playground located close to the cabins. In 2019, we enjoyed the new walking bridge across the lake. . . . We are excited about the new campground renovation."

















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SMITPU When the Tennessee Army National Guard transferred Chad and Michelle Shirley from Nashville to West Tennessee in 2007, the couple extensively researched the area, quality of schools, availability of medical care, youth activities and sense of community. Those factors contributed to their decision to

Since moving here, the Shirleys have been impressed with Chester

"After getting to know

the people who organize

and invest their time and

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bit that Chester County

excel at such a high rate."

continues to grow and

County's strong roots in patriotism, history and community pride.

"In the relatively short years we have lived here, we have seen so many improvements in the area, from the expansion of Gene Record Park to Sue Shelton White Park downtown," Chad said.

The Shirleys also enjoy watching the community come together to

orchestrate the BBQ Festival and events that support the arts and to encourage young people.

"We have been humbled and blessed by the level of caring that our teachers and administrators have for our children," Michelle said. "After getting to know the people who organize and invest their time and talents into all of these events and activities, it doesn't surprise us a bit that Chester County continues to grow and excel at such a high rate."

In 2012, the Shirleys were offered a military transfer back to Nashville. They declined because they were so happy with their Chester County home.

"Fast forward seven years, and now we own Pearce Point, a farm offering grass-fed beef, and we operate The Inn at Pearce Point, a farmstyle bed and breakfast," Chad said. "We've had the privilege of hosting families who have accepted jobs here and are looking for a house, and we've met parents who are anxiously and excitedly dropping their children off for their freshman year at Freed-Hardeman University. We have truly enjoyed having the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people as they visit Henderson and stay with us."



Valeria Pitoni was a sixth-generation Floridian with no plans of ever leaving the Sunshine State, but 2005. She and her husband, Rich, had outgrown their four acre farm in Titusville, Florida and were looking for more land.

"We knew that we needed room to expand," Valeria said. "We knew the vision was bigger than us, and we felt that our limited sight was holding us back. So, after prayerful consideration, we embarked on a search for our new location."

Rich asked Valeria to find a place within one day's drive for them to get away and clear their minds. She said the only place in the entire southeastern United States she could find a place available on the Fourth of July weekend was in Corinth, Mississippi.

"We decided to look around while we were there, and we ended up buying our farm during the visit," Valeria said. "My husband thought it was 80 acres at most, but it was actually 131, which we found out at closing."

The Pitonis had no ties to Henderson at all — not a single friend, family member or familiar face. When they toured the farm for

the first time, it was in disarray. There was no fencing, and the grass was several feet tall.

"It was in shambles, but for some reason when we came around the corner and saw the land, we both instantly felt the sense that this was home," Valeria said.

Since moving, they have expanded the farm to 153 acres, and they have properties for rent including The Cottage at Stillwaters Farm and The Airstream Glamper. They are currently working on a renovation of what will be The Urban Cottage, The Urban

# "...the people here are so welcoming.

Farmhouse and Chester County's first vineyard. In

addition to that, Valeria makes homemade soaps, coconut wax candles, bath bombs and more, which she sells in The Silo Farm Boutique.

"I love the laid back lifestyle here," Valeria said. "There is also a very business-friendly climate here. The community makes it so easy for you to be in business. The regulations here are so much more relaxed than in Florida, and the people here are so welcoming. We are proud to call Chester County home."



# AGRICULTURE DAY 2019: BRINGING THE FARM TO THE CLASSROOM

By Jamie Fuqua

The annual 4-H Ag Day gave students the chance to learn about livestock and farming. Approximately 1,100 4-H students gathered at Chester County Middle School where they interacted with small and large animals and learned about beekeeping, dairy and poultry production.

UT Agricultural Extension Agent for Chester County Steve Rickman described Ag Day as a fun way for the youth to learn about agriculture from those who work in the agricultural industry.

Fourth through 12th grade 4-H student volunteers showed their projects and their animals. Students were able to get up close and personal with the livestock and even milked goats.

"I would like to thank everyone involved for making Ag Day 2019 a great success," Rickman said.







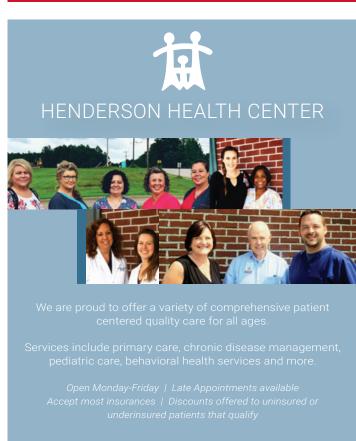
#### **ZACH HANNIS**

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Affiliate Broker - CASEY REALTORS A History of Serving Families







# RECYCLING PROGRAM CONTINUES GROWTH THROUGH CARTS

By Haley Hysmith

From bags to bins, the local recycling program is making an even larger impact on the environment by increasing participation and spreading the word about the importance of recycling. The program's upgrade to 96-gallon blue carts allows residents to wheel their recyclables to the curbside.

When Danielle Cook moved to Henderson last year, she noticed blue recycling bags in city hall and inquired about the program.

"Recycling helps improve the environment and eventually will improve the world around us for our kids and grandkids," Cook said. The new bins have made it easier for her whole family to be involved in recycling, improving their quality of life.

For resident Debra Newberry McAnally, using the carts achieves three purposes. She saves money on garbage bags, has an easier time dealing with all of her garbage and is instilling environmental values in her son.

Henderson City Mayor Bobby King said the bins benefit everyone and he looks forward to even more green growth for the City of Henderson.

The Chester County Recycling Hub is a leader in the state, serving eight communities in addition to local residents.

To find out more about the program, residents may call 731-989-9855 or email recycle@hendersontn.gov to ask questions or sign up for delivery every two weeks.





the COOKS



After Officer Danielle Cook's brought her family to Chester County, the community atmosphere made it feel like home. "Chester County is very community oriented," she said. "The people of Chester County are eager to give aid to those in need."

Jeremy and Danielle Cook and their six children moved to Chester County from Hardin County, where they had lived for six years. Before Hardin County, they were from Council Bluffs, lowa. The Cooks looked for their new home for a few years before deciding on this area.

"Chester County takes care of their own," Cook said. "If someone has a need, the community is willing to step up and help however they can. This community cares about each other."

Jeremy works for Easter Seals of Tennessee, and Danielle works for the City of Henderson Police Department.

"The people of Chester County are eager to give aid to those in need."



# the Orackins

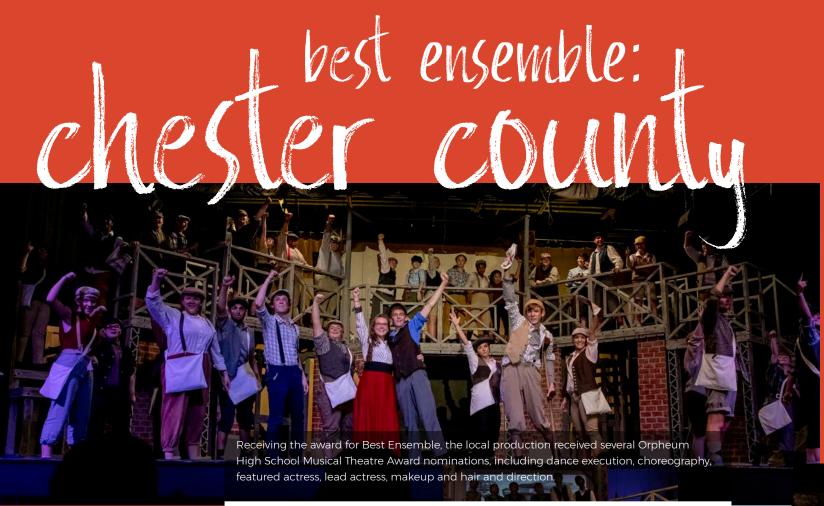


Stewart and Mandy Brackin grew up in the busy metropolitan area of Southern California, but they had always wanted to move to a rural area. When their oldest son decided to attend Freed-Hardeman, they researched the Chester County community and decided to make their move. Steve Rickman with the UT Extension Office in Chester County assisted the Brackins as they entered the world of agriculture in their new home.

In talking about the assistance and welcome they received after crossing the country, Stewart said, "People here are so nice. They look you in the eye and greet you. Instead of saying 'I appreciate that,' people say, 'I appreciate you,' exemplifying the kind emphasis on people rather than on things."

The Brackins had a life change that surprised them after they were established as local residents, when Stewart became the FHU Director of the Office of Safety and Security. In commenting on this role that builds on his earlier career as a police captain, Stewart said, "We believe the Lord has opened doors we never anticipated, and we're just grateful we were able to take advantage of walking through them. Everything has been such an absolute blessing, and we owe it all to God."





By: Tajuana Cheshier

Local talent took center stage this year, with youth theatre's show-stopping performances of Disney's "Beauty and the Beast Jr." and Chester County High School's production of "Newsies," winner of the Orpheum High School Musical Theatre Award for outstanding large ensemble.

Theatre teacher Mary Hicks credits community support and her dedicated cast for making the production a success. Disney released the production rights to high schools in 2018, and Chester County was one of five high schools in the nation to perform "Newsies" as a full-length musical.

In addition to being named Best Ensemble, the local production received several other Orpheum HSMTA nominations, including dance execution, choreography, featured actress, lead actress, makeup and hair and direction.

In its fourth year, the Chester County Youth Theatre's twoweek summer theater camp (sponsored by the Henderson Arts Commission), pulled off its largest cast and most ambitious performance to date.

"Our campers prepare in two weeks for a show that normally takes two months to pull together," Becky Hartle, youth theatre director said. "Between opening night and our second performance, we celebrate each participant. This year, I tried to focus more on the process of the camp (the kids' experience) than the product (the production)."



# Cate

Rebecca Maness's two daughters were part of the "Beauty and the Beast Jr." ensemble cast. "It's great for them to be involved in something with children their age, build a work ethic for something besides school work and learn the value of teamwork," Maness said. "It means a lot to us to have this program locally and for it to be well supported."

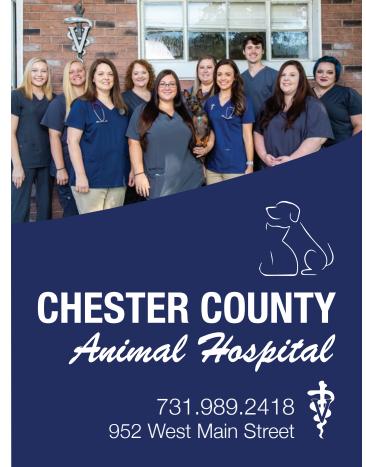
The "Beauty and the Beast Jr." cast performed for West Chester Elementary's summer camp students, hoping to spark the interest of future theatre campers.

"My cast loved their reactions, and I realized how special this program is for our Chester County kids," Hartle said. "I'm thankful for this camp experience and the amazing team members who help make this camp a reality each and every year."















Above: Old Main

#### By Nancy Bennett

As Freed-Hardeman
University begins a year-long
celebration of its 150 years
of history, two buildings
have been restored to
continue playing a major
role in meeting campus and
community needs.

Old Main, built in 1908 by N.B. Hardeman and A.G. Freed, has been restored to its former glory, while making it functional for today's students. Well-

known architect Hubert T. McGee, a native of Jacks Creek and an alumnus of Georgie Robertson Christian College (a predecessor of FHU), designed the building. Local craftsmen using local materials built Old Main.

Chester County residents contributed more than \$1 million of the \$5.5 million needed to restore Old Main. A committee comprised of Regina East, Kay Tignor and the late Larry Tignor led the local effort.

In addition, the N.B. Hardeman home located at 307 White Avenue also received extensive repairs and restoration. Members of the Hardeman and Bradshaw families funded the project. N.B. and Joanna Tabler Hardeman built the house in 1915 for their family.

## FREED-HARDEMAN



Upon occasion, female students also boarded with the Hardemans.

Also designed by McGee, the house features a series of twins: twin bay windows, twin staircases and twin fireplaces. When the house was built, it included two bathrooms, although running water was not yet available in town. That came a year later. The house was the first in Chester County

to have electric lights; however, kerosene lamps were still necessary when the town's power went off each evening at 11 p.m.

The FHU Associates' office is in the house, and the venue is available for meetings, luncheons, receptions and small weddings.

FHU began its 150th anniversary celebration with the Tolling of the Bell Aug. 21, 2019. A series of events are planned throughout the year, culminating with commencement exercises in May 2020. The university traces its origins to 1869, when the state granted Henderson businessmen a charter for Henderson Male and Female Institute. It opened that year on the northwest corner of Main Street and White Avenue.

Below: Hardeman House and 2019 Tolling of the Bell.









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— Claudia Aleman, Owner

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#### **OCT 2019**

- 3 HENDERSON ARTS COMMISSION'S INAUGURAL CROOKOUT MUSIC FESTIVAL
- 8-13 FHU THEATRE: "AS IT IS IN HEAVEN"
- 8-13 FHU THEATRE: "GOD'S MAN IN TEXAS"
- 18-20 CHICKASAW FRONTIER DAYS
- 24 MISS HENDERSON PAGEANT
- 27 SIDEWALK PROPHETS: THESE SIMPLE TRUTHS TOUR

#### **NOV 2019**

- 8 REDEDICATION OF FHU'S RESTORED OLD MAIN
- 12-16 FHU THEATRE: "THE YELLOW WALLPAPER"
- 15-16 7TH ANNUAL HEE HAW HOOTENANNY
- 29 PUMPKIN SPICE AND THANKSGIVING HIKES

#### **DEC 2019**

- 5 ANNUAL HENDERSON CHRISTMAS PARADE
- **6** FHU'S BENEFIT DINNER FEATURING DALE EARNHARDT, JR.
- 13 ANNIE MOSES BAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT
- 13-15 THE LIGHTING OF CHICKASAW PARK

#### **JAN 2020**

- 18 WINTER SING: AN EVENING OF BLUEGRASS AND GOSPEL
- 25 LIONS CLUB'S IMPLEMENT SALE

#### **FEB 2020**

- 2-6 FHU'S ANNUAL BIBLE LECTURESHIP
- 7-8 CHESTER COUNTY YOUTH THEATRE:
  "THE WIZARD OF OZ"
- 14 HENRY CHO: FUNNY BUT CLEAN COMEDY TOUR AND DINNER
- 18-22 FHU THEATRE: "ALICE!"

#### **MAR 2020**

- 3 ANNUAL HENDERSON/CHESTER COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BANQUET
- 13-16 CHESTER COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE: "CRAZY FOR YOU"

#### **APR 2020**

- 3-4 FHU'S MAKIN' MUSIC
- 11 CHICKASAW STATE PARK'S ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT
- 21-25 FHU THEATRE: "BOOK OF WILL"
- 24 ANNUAL HENDERSON/CHESTER COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GOLF TOURNAMENT

#### **JUN 2020**

- 13 CHICKASAW STATE PARK'S ANNUAL FISHING RODEO
- TBD HENDERSON ARTS COMMISSION'S SUMMER YOUTH THEATRE EXPERIENCE

#### **SEPT 2020**

25-26 43RD ANNUAL CHESTER COUNTY BBQ FESTIVAL

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E & T Contracting 731-989-2470

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**Edward Jones Investments** 731-989-0127

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Height's Finance 731-989-1006

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The Peoples Bank 731-989-2840

Thrivent Financial 731-435-3125

West Tennessee Bank 731-989-0204



#### WHITE & ASSOCIATES 731-664-2700

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Norma Jean (Cox) Meissner
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have so many friends and family members
to spread the word, in addition to becomin
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731-435-1459 | Amy Washburn
The small town atmosphere has been the driving force behind our business. We wanted a place for ladies to shop locally for fashionable, gorgeous and affordable clothing and accessories. We love that we know our customers by name and they know us and know that we are here to help them have an amazing shopping experience.



#### LULAROE

409-939-3733 | Rebecca Wilbanks Being in a small town has helped me get to know customers personally and respond to their needs quickly. Being a member of the chamber has helped me show the

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731-695-9555 | *Gaye Phillips* Running a business in Chester County is unique because the customers are friends that I have known and new friends that I am making through the business. The smal town atmosphere gives me a chance to really know my customers on a first name basis. I enjoy being able to serve others in the community with a place to buy for yourself or others at a reasonable price.



#### **PONYTAILS SALON**

731-989-5089 | Shelley Emison Henderson is a great place to have a small business because most locals are very supportive.



#### SIMPLE CITY CBD

731-435-5050

We want to thank the Chamber of Commerce for their continued support in helping us grow our business. We also wan to thank all of our clients for supporting and welcoming our business into Chester County. We love the small town feel and are very glad to provide our fellow resident with high quality and 100% safe products. Come see Josh or Mikki, we would love to answer all your questions.



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Chester County Library 731-989-4673

Chester County Lions Club

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Elizabeth Stokes, ACS Community Development Manager 731-512-5003

#### CHESTER COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD

Dillion Faulkne

The Chester County Rescue Squad is one of the newer members to the Chester County Chamber but not new to Chester County. The squad was begun by a group of citizens who were dedicated to the people of Chester County. These people felt the need for an organized group with special skills who could assist their friends and neighbors. This commitment continues today with a squad that is continuing to train on new possible problems and assist our community as needed.

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Gately Collision 731-608-4576

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#### **DUSTY'S OUTDOOR MEDIA**

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731-819-2872 | Samuel Bryant Chester County is a small community where everybody knows everybody. I grew up in a small town, and this reminds me of home. Growing up Dresden, Tennessee, all the business owners (my family included) were always doing things within the community. Everyone that I've met to date has been friendly.



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Tourism Association of Southwest Tennessee 731-616-7474

West Star Leadership -UT Martin 731-881-7298

congratulations

Congratulations to Adrienne Lamb, the first Miss Chester County BBQ Festival, crowned September 2019. The Texas native relocated to Tennessee to attend Rhodes College. She chose the Mid-South Peace and Justice Center as her platform. Through the Miss America Organization, Lamb plans to use her scholarship earning to complete a master's degree.

As Miss Chester County BBQ Festival, she looks forward to serving as an ambassador for both the festival and the Henderson/Chester County Chamber of Commerce

She looks forward to making her supporters, some of which are pictured here at the Mayor's Lunch in Henderson City Hall at the 2019 BBQ Festival, proud at Miss Tennessee 2020.





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#### Chester County Senior Center

**COMMUNITY** 

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#### CITY OF HENDERSON OFFICIALS

Henderson City Hall 731-983-5000 121 Crook Ave. Mayor's Office 731-983-5000 Recorder's Office 731-983-5000 hendersontn.org

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133 East Main St.	731-989-2233
County Mayor's Office	
159 East Main St.	731-989-5672
County Trustee	
159 E Main St.	731-989-3993
Elections Commission	
133 East Main St.	731-989-4039
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East Main St.	731-989-7938
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