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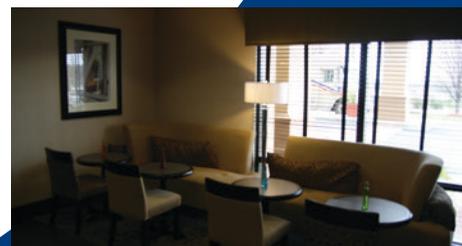
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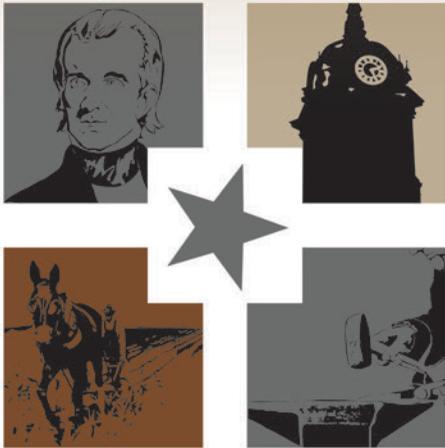
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MAURY COUNTY

BUSINESS

2016 EDITION | VOLUME 20

ON THE COVER

The Muletown coffee shop on the downtown square in Columbia, Tenn., offers a view of the Maury County Courthouse. Photo by Jeff Adkins



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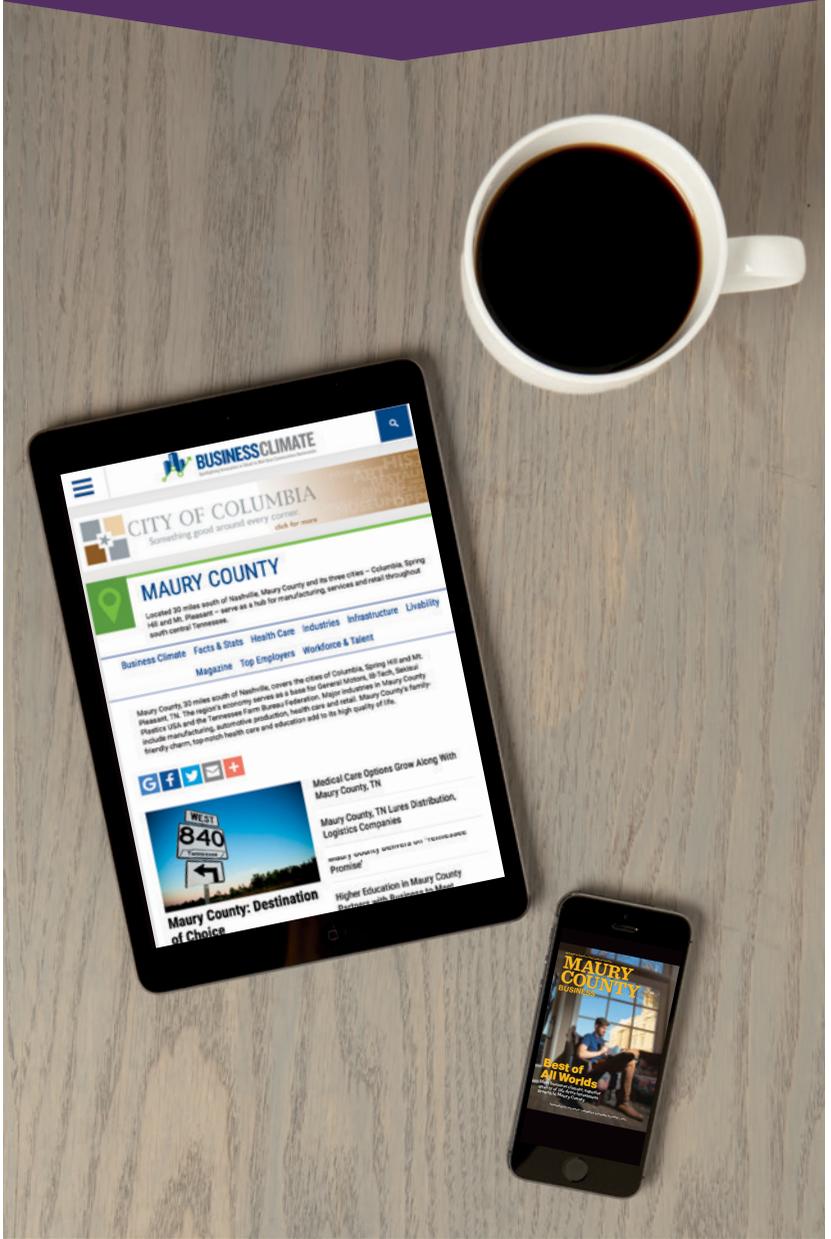
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Maury County Blends The Ideal Mix of Big-City Access, Small-Town Charm

AREA KNOWN FOR ITS LOCATION, WORKFORCE, LIVABILITY ADVANTAGES

In 2014, the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance unveiled a five-year strategic plan, focusing on a diversified economy for Maury County. The emphasis of this strategy is about capitalizing on the unique assets of the community to create jobs.

One such asset is Maury County's strategic location on Interstate 65. This enviable location translates into great accessibility and cost effectiveness for a company considering Maury County. Currently, we are in the planning stages to potentially develop a business park along I-65 that will offer companies exceptional access to our regional transportation infrastructure, including I-65, I-24, I-40 and TN-840.

Another asset to help our economic diversification is the Northfield Building in Spring Hill. Formerly GM's Saturn corporate headquarters, Northfield offers plug-and-play office space to companies looking to be operational in a short timeline.

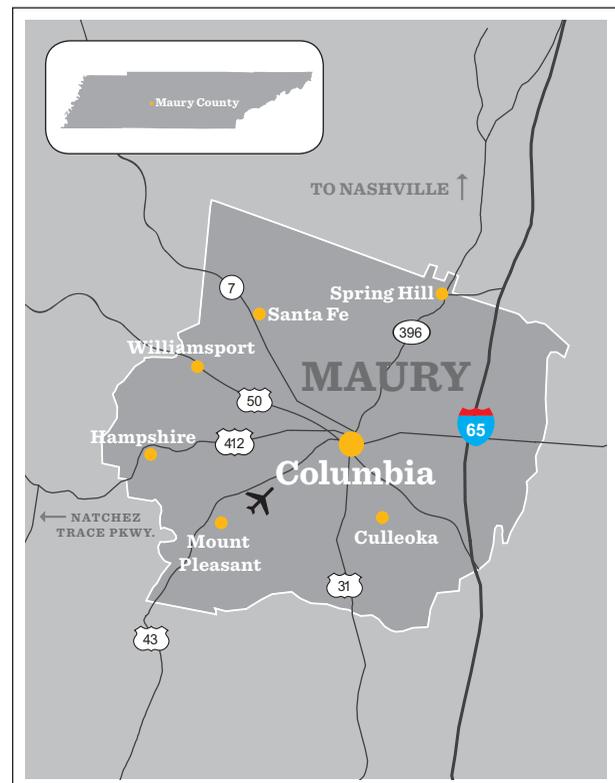
The Northfield building is home to IBEX Global, a leading global business process outsourcing provider of customer management solutions. The company occupies 60,000 square feet of the property and employs more than 1,000 people.

Finally, Maury County has a livability factor that is unique among its peers. Not only are we located on I-65, but our proximity to Nashville (30 minutes) and Huntsville, Ala., (50 minutes) provides residents with easy access to metropolitan amenities while also giving them a low cost of living and a great small-town atmosphere.

Known as the Antebellum Capital of Tennessee, Maury County's rich history and stately old homes help give the cities a distinctive sense of place. Ancient and beautiful natural landmarks, such as the Stillhouse Hollow Falls and Southport Saltpeter Cave, are complemented by modern recreational facilities in more than 240 acres of parks.

The Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance invites you to see what Columbia, Spring Hill and Mount Pleasant have to offer. To see for yourself, visit www.mauryalliance.com. Or just call Maury County Alliance Director of Economic Development Travis Groth. You are invited to take a look at the old and new advantages a Maury County location offers businesses.

Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance
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Ryan Pastrana of Clarcor, which chose Columbia in Maury County for a new Innovation Center.

RECORD SUCCESS

NEW AND EXPANDING BUSINESSES DRIVE
JOB AND POPULATION GROWTH IN MAURY COUNTY

By Bill Lewis

With an unmatched combination of advantages that include a low cost of doing business, affordable real estate, a dedicated workforce, a high quality of life and a central location along interstate highways and rail lines, Maury County is setting new records for business recruitment, job creation and population growth.

New and expanding businesses created 1,316 new jobs in 2015 and committed \$120 million in capital investments, outpacing the previous year's totals.

New residents are flocking to Maury County to fill these jobs and take advantage of home prices well below those in nearby locations. Following them are retirees drawn by the affordable cost of living, quality of life and desire to be close to family members who have moved to the county for career opportunities, says

John Hill, affiliate broker for Maury County Realty.

"Our location is very good, with close proximity to Nashville and Cool Springs," he says. "The affordability of homes in Maury County is substantially better. It's like daylight and dark with some nearby locations."

Top 100 County

Those new arrivals have propelled Maury County into the rankings of the 100 fastest-growing counties in the United States. In the latest listing, Maury County ranks 89th nationwide.

"Our job market is booming, with over 1,000 jobs landed last year, and people are likely moving closer to seek employment," says Wil Evans, President of the Maury County Chamber and Economic Alliance. General Motors will build the 2017 Cadillac SRX and Acadia at its plant in Spring Hill and is doubling its



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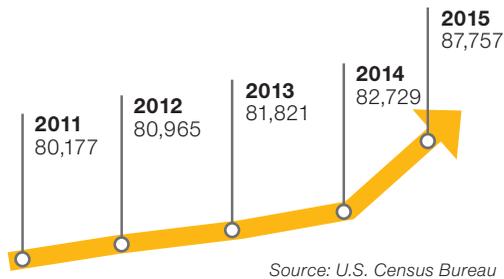
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Population Growth in Maury County



High Marks for Business

Maury County ranks as one of the most successful locations, not only in Tennessee, but the U.S. The county ranked No. 3 among Tennessee's 95 counties in drawing investment, according to a list compiled by New York-based financial company **Smart Asset**. Nationally, Maury County's standing was even more impressive, ranking at No. 86 out of 1,993 counties surveyed. SmartAsset evaluated counties on business growth during the last two years, inflation-adjusted GDP growth, the number of new building permits and the five-year average of per capita municipal bond investment. The survey showed Maury County had 19.1 new building permits per 1,000 homes.



Made Here

One of the most popular vehicles on the road gets its start in Maury County. General Motors' manufacturing plant in Spring Hill produces the **Chevy Equinox**, which ranks as one of the nation's best-selling SUVs. Since 2012, the plant has assembled more than 100,000 and expects to double its 1,800-plus workforce to meet growing market demand in the U.S. and China. The plant also makes parts and components for Corvettes and for SUVs, as well as the four-cylinder Ecotec engine used to power several of its models. In 2016, GM launched production of its next-generation **Cadillac XT5**, along with small gas engines, the **2017 Acadia** and the V-8 engine.



workforce of 1,800 to meet the rising production demand. Auto parts suppliers are also expanding in Spring Hill. Magna Seating built a \$16 million manufacturing facility that is creating more than 350 jobs, and Sekisui Plastics recently completed a \$5 million expansion. Third-party logistics provider Comprehensive Logistics is investing \$30 million in an auto manufacturing support facility that will create over 200 jobs, while Ryder Supply Chain Solutions is investing \$16 million to expand existing operations, creating 606 jobs.

Other companies growing in Maury County include Franklin-based global filtration products provider Clarcor, which is investing more than \$10 million and creating 25 jobs in Columbia; metal processor and distributor Samuel, Son & Co., Limited, which is investing \$32 million in a Columbia facility and creating 42 new jobs; and Sleep Solutions and Services (S3), which is investing \$3.6 million to locate a new call center in Columbia that will create 137 jobs.

Local Advantage

Locating in Maury County is a key move in the growth strategy for S3, a medical software and support company specializing in respiratory services, according to David Baxter, owner and president.

"Columbia is a regional hub for health care, which is advantageous," Baxter says. "In addition, the ability to recruit employees without excessive overhead helps keep our cost structure reduced and helps leverage our company nationally."

Global tile maker Gruppo Concorde is investing \$80 million and creating 180 new jobs in Maury County. Its subsidiary, UST, will operate the facility.

"We have chosen Tennessee for a number of reasons, including the state's vibrant and business-friendly environment and the warm and proactive welcome we have received from the local community in Maury County," says Gruppo Concorde executive and UST Inc. President and CEO Federico Curioni.

The county achieved a goal with its designation by the Tennessee Valley Authority as a Valley Sustainable Silver Community. "That status ensures businesses that there are community-wide sustainability initiatives in place," Evans says.

"Maury County is well positioned to continue its record of growth with a combination of affordability and a strong transportation infrastructure that includes I-65, State Route 840 and U.S. highways 31, 99 and 43 as well as two different rail providers," he continues. "The workforce is equally as strong, with a labor shed providing access to more than 400,000 workers."

» Find more about business in Maury County at businessclimate.com/maury-county.

Ready to WORK

NEW INVESTMENTS, EXPANSIONS
BREED OPPORTUNITIES, DIVERSITY
IN MAURY COUNTY WORKFORCE

By Teree Caruthers

Maury County's competitive advantages – chief among them a strategic location, affordable housing and enviable quality of life – have attracted a record amount of economic investment and reinvestment that is bringing an influx of new jobs requiring a diverse range of skills.

Most recently in Mt. Pleasant, UST Inc, the U.S. subsidiary for global high-end porcelain tile manufacturer Gruppo

Concorde, announced construction of an \$85 million manufacturing plant, the company's first in North America. Newcomer Clarcor, a global manufacturer of filtration systems, opened its \$10 million research and development Innovation Center in Columbia, also bringing more high-tech positions to the county. Other new arrivals include metal processor and distributor Samuel, Son & Co., Limited, and medical software and support firm Sleep Solutions and Services (S3).



Patrick Farquhar works on an engine dynamometer at filtration manufacturer Clarcor, which opened a \$10 million Innovation Center in Maury County.



General Motors will invest \$185 million at its Spring Hill manufacturing complex to add production of small gas engines.

Driving Job Growth

One of the county’s largest employers, General Motors Manufacturing, is significantly increasing the workforce at its Spring Hill plant over the next two years to meet demand generated by production of a new Cadillac XT5 and GMC Acadia, as well as a new, fuel-efficient engine program. The investment has also attracted supplier companies, such as Comprehensive Logistics and Magna Seating, both of which

located to the new supplier park in Spring Hill, along with Ryder Supply Chain Solutions, which is expanding its operations there.

These companies alone are projected to bring more than 1,000 new jobs to Maury County. That’s why the county’s industry and education leaders are actively working to ensure the workforce continues to grow and keep pace with increasing demand. General Motors, for example, is tackling its rising workforce demand head on by

not only working with local community and technical colleges to customize training programs, but also reaching out to more unconventional sources to help recruit top talent.

“Ongoing training is critical to the quality of everything that we manufacture at Spring Hill and the safety of our employees,” says Don Rich, personnel director at GM Spring Hill Manufacturing. “Last October, we advertised that we were seeking applications for local talent to our hourly hiring pool. We reached out to media, job placement organizations for veterans, individuals with disabilities and minorities, area chambers of commerce, economic development organizations, civic organizations and nonprofits in this community in our search for potential job candidates.”

Building a Talent Base

Rich says recruitment efforts have also been aided by availability of training programs throughout the area and access to a first-rate school system.

“The efforts of the South Central Tennessee Workforce Alliance, Columbia State, the Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology and other local

>> By The Numbers

\$105M

New capital investment in Maury County

1,316

New jobs created in Maury County

\$221M

GDP growth in Maury County in 2015

NEW JOBS IN MAURY COUNTY

Company	Number of Jobs	Industry
General Motors	1,800+	Automotive Production
Ryder Supply Chain Solutions	600+	Logistics
Magna Seating	350	Automotive Production
Comprehensive Logistics	200+	Logistics
UST	180	Advanced Manufacturing
Sleep Solutions and Services (S3)	137	Call Center
Global Manufacturing Services, Inc.	43	Automotive Production
Samuel, Son & Co. Ltd.	42	Advanced Manufacturing
Clarcor	35+	Advanced Manufacturing
Sekisui Plastics	32	Automotive Production

schools help ensure that this community has candidates with the training that they need to succeed on the job,” Rich says. “In the future, we see a greater importance for STEM education. As a result, we have been supportive of several programs, including one at Columbia State, for children in our community.”

“Schools have a responsibility to ensure students are well-prepared for these high-tech jobs of the future,” says Maury County Director of Schools Dr. Chris Marczak.

As a result, Maury County Schools has invested more heavily in partnerships with businesses such as Clarcor to give students hands-on training and exposure to a variety of fields.

“It’s our job to get kids a good job,” Marczak says. “Whether they go to college or straight to the workforce, we need to make sure they’re prepared and have the skills to be successful.”

The school system is working on offering more industry certifications that will qualify students for high-paying jobs and give them the option of joining the workforce immediately or attending college first and working in an industrial position part-time while completing a degree.

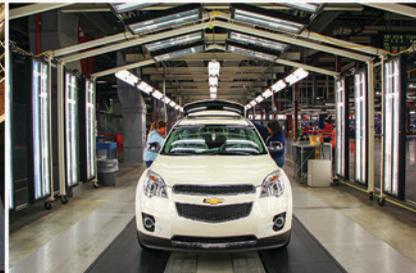
An even more important goal is ensuring students are able to fill jobs close to home, Marczak adds.

“The community told us that was important,” he says. “Our job is to develop some of those actions during the day so that kids can walk out of high school, and if they don’t want to go to college, they are still well-equipped to get a job somewhere here in Maury County – making good money with good benefits and possibilities for advancement.”

» Find more about workforce growth in Maury County at businessclimate.com/maury-county.

EMERGING INDUSTRY

Ceramics production is growing in Maury County. More than 150 companies within 200 miles of the area produce raw materials used in tile manufacturing, such as feldspar, gypsum, shale and ball clay. The region also has interstate, rail and waterway connections that give ceramic makers a geographic edge. One of the world’s leading ceramic tile makers, Italian-based **Gruppo Concorde**, is opening its first U.S. manufacturing plant in Mt. Pleasant through its North American subsidiary, **UST Inc.** The \$80 million plant will create 180 jobs in the area and produce high-end porcelain tile for global markets. Gruppo Concorde operates sites all over the world and exports its products to more than 130 countries around the globe.



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RIGHT THIS WAY

HIGHWAY, RAIL AND AIR INFRASTRUCTURE
ADVANCE ECONOMY OF MAURY COUNTY

By Kevin Litwin

Location, location, location is the key reason why several major companies have recently opted to establish their businesses in Maury County.

Five major projects were announced in 2014, and another four projects worth \$105.7 million in capital investment and 966 new jobs were announced in 2015, says Travis Groth, Director of Economic Development for the Maury County Chamber and Economic Alliance.

“Transportation is a key reason why several of those companies chose Maury County,” he says.

Groth says Maury County is blessed with a top location in the central United States, including being within an hour’s drive of downtown Nashville and the Nashville International Airport.

“We have a great local highway system with I-65 and highways 396, 31, 43, 431, 50 and 7, along with close proximity to State Route 840,” he says. “Truckers and motorists can get to places in all directions on outstanding highways that are well maintained.”

Also contributing to the excellent transportation network is rail service, with CSX in the northern part of Maury County, and Tennessee Southern in the southern portion. Easy access to rail played a major role in landing two recent manufacturing projects to Maury County.

UST Inc., a subsidiary of Italian-based Gruppo Concorde, is constructing an \$80 million porcelain tile manufacturing plant in Mount Pleasant because the company will have convenient access to rail, Groth says. And

Canadian-based metal processor and distributor Samuel, Son & Co. Ltd. chose Maury County, in part, because of rail access.

“Rail service sites are getting harder to find in Middle Tennessee, but Maury County still has several, along with available land in three industrial parks and a development in Spring Hill,” Groth says.

Another positive aspect of transportation in Maury County is that Tennessee Southern rail, along with U.S. Highway 43, connect directly with the Port

Class I rail carrier CSX is a key part of Maury County’s ability to land and retain major manufacturing operations.



of Florence (Ala.) for companies that want to ship long distances by barge, Groth says.

Ryder to Quadruple Workforce

Trucking transportation giant Ryder Supply Chain Solutions announced in August 2015 that it will invest \$16.5 million to expand its warehouse and transportation operation in Spring Hill. Ryder provides hauling services to the General Motors Spring Hill assembly plant that produces the next-generation Cadillac SRX and a variety of engines.

Ryder officials say they will double the existing Spring Hill warehouse from 300,000 square feet to 600,000 square feet, and quadruple its local workforce from 200 to more than 800 over the next five years.

“We have served Spring Hill for decades, and business is growing in this market,” says Steve Sensing, president of Ryder Supply Chain Solutions. “The area is flush with talent enabling us to meet our customers’ logistics needs.”

Business Flocking to Airport

Maury County is served by Maury County Regional Airport, which in 2015 underwent \$3.3 million in improvements to relocate its taxiway, add new LED lighting and striping, and upgrade its drainage system.

“It looks like a new airport,” says Paul Turner, director of Maury County Regional Airport. “Our rental hangars are full, and our 6,000-foot runway allows us to land DC-9s, which are the same size as Southwest commercial jets.”

Turner says the airport keeps its fuel prices low, which attracts many pilots who fly out of other airports in Tennessee, as well as nationally.

“I’m proud of our facility,” Turner says. “The military uses our airport, as well as companies like GM, JCPenney and Hobby Lobby. We are very busy and like it that way.”



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Training Ground

PARTNERSHIPS BUILD
A WORKFORCE BASE FOR
THE FUTURE IN MAURY COUNTY

By Raven Petty

In the emerging industries of today, technical skills are crucial. That's why Maury County is taking the lead in training the local workforce to meet the needs of present and future fast-growing industries.

One leader is the South Central Tennessee Workforce Alliance (SCTWA), an organization that focuses on workforce development in eight counties in Middle Tennessee. The alliance helps students achieve career goals, while working with businesses to fulfill workforce needs.

"In order to feed the pipeline and meet the needs of local industries, workforce leaders and facilities must stay abreast of changes and demands," says Jan McKeel, SCTWA executive director. "It's crucial to economic development to keep that linkage between companies and the pipeline."

The SCTWA also works with The Northfield Workforce

Development and Conference Center in Spring Hill. At the Northfield center, middle and high school students can enter dual-enrollment programs that provide college credits toward certifications and degrees. The center also partners with area colleges to offer hands-on training, programs and classes to current employees who wish to further their career and stay current with industry demands.

"Acquiring a high school diploma in today's workforce is not enough," McKeel says. "We work alongside area educational providers and employers to ensure the opportunities that are needed are available."

Strong Partnerships Build Success

Participating schools at Northfield include Columbia State Community College, Tennessee College of Applied Technology and Martin

Methodist College.

Columbia State offers STEM-based programs at Northfield in health care, IT and manufacturing to help fulfill the STEM graduate shortage in computer information and advanced manufacturing industries.

"In an effort to attract more students, we added more appealing courses, such as mobile apps development and robotics," says Dearl Lampley, dean of science, technology and math at Columbia State. "Engineering and engineering technology programs are also more popular and have grown greatly over the past five years."

Columbia State also partners with local companies specializing in agriscience, mechanical engineering, information systems and IT systems. These programs help students go from the classroom to the workplace after graduation.

"Industry alliances are the success story so far with our programs," Lampley says. "Manufacturers, no matter the size, have shown interest and provided input in our program development."

Other workforce training programs at Martin Methodist include business-to-business marketing, negotiations and conflict management, as well as company-specific supervisory training.

Exposure For All Ages

In the summer of 2015, the ASM Educational Foundation's Teacher Boot Camp program at Northfield provided 26 Middle Tennessee teachers with STEM training. Lightweight Innovations for Tomorrow (LIFT) and Tennessee's Labor Education Alignment Program (LEAP) hosted the one-week camp, which focused on STEM knowledge and content about new technologies and materials.

The Spring Hill GM Academy, held in the summer of 2015,

welcomed 20 students to the manufacturing facility to learn the ins-and-outs of auto manufacturing and assembly line work. W.R. Grace and Company also hosts manufacturing camps at Northfield and at its Mt. Pleasant facility. At the 2015 Mt. Pleasant event, students had to run the business.

This hands-on experience helps students get a feel of what to expect when they enter the workforce, and teaches them to band together to solve problems, overcome obstacles, take leadership, and overcome failure and setbacks.

“The camps are powerful for participating companies as well because they have to prepare and teach the techniques,” says Patrick Kieffaber, operations manager at W.R. Grace. “As they teach the techniques, they get stronger at applying them in their daily jobs.”



Maury County offers a number of coordinated initiatives around workforce training, such as Columbia State Community College's Advanced Integrated Industrial Technology program at the Northfield Center in Spring Hill.



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ACHIEVEMENT A COMMUNITY PRIORITY

By Teree Caruthers

One of Dr. Chris Marczak's first actions as new Maury County Director of Schools was to reach out to area businesses for ideas on improving the school system, citing research that shows when the schools are strong, the business community thrives. Together with the Maury County Chamber and Economic Alliance, Maury County Public Schools launched "The Grass Is Greener Where You Water It" campaign to make educational achievement the community's highest priority through a series of marketing messages and community outreach programs.

"The more effort we put into what we are doing, the better the outcomes are going to be," Marczak says.

Good Business Partners

Mary Beth West is a Maury County Schools alumnus whose communications firm was retained to work on marketing for the initiative.

"One of the first questions any company asks before it makes a major relocation or an expansion decision is, 'Will this community provide the well-trained, quality workforce my company needs in order to be competitive immediately and, longer term, to grow in the future?'" West says. "Nearly every Maury County employer will look to Maury County Public Schools and Columbia State Community College as a key source for employees, so it's critical for the entire community to support these institutions for the highest quality outcomes."

"From a livability perspective, a strong education system attracts people and enhances population growth," says Wil Evans, president of the Maury County Chamber and Economic Alliance. "That is often the No. 1 reason people cite for relocating to a particular community."

Maury County has made large strides in the past year to ensure its education will be tops in the

state, Evans says, and programs and partnerships offered by Columbia State and Maury County Public Schools are keys to future growth.

Maury County Schools has launched a Keys to College and Career Readiness program. The "keys" represent key performance indicators — a comprehensive list of academic goals for students to help align all the schools' resources with the expectations of the community and business leaders. The school system solicited educational goals from community members, generating more than 9,000 responses.

Respondents were asked three questions: What should a student know and be able to do by the time they leave elementary school, middle school and high school?

"By that end, we had seven key performance indicators," Marczak says. "So if you move here or your employees move here and put your kids in our schools, this is what we are going to emphasize, and this is what

our schools are going to be focusing on.”

Columbia State Community College – which celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2016 – works with Maury County Schools to provide students with extra educational and enrichment opportunities in a fun environment. One of its most popular youth programs is STEM Girls, which provides junior high girls with a day of classes and fun activities that introduce them to the real-world applications of science, technology, engineering and math. In its first two years, more than 600 girls attended.

“Our mission is to increase the education level of our communities,” says Columbia State College President Dr. Janet Smith. “By increasing the education level, it increases the quality of life. Above and beyond that, a student can come to Columbia State and receive a certificate in a year and begin work, or they can stay and receive an associate degree or transfer to a university. We provide an opportunity for them to get an affordable, high-quality education close to home – and it adds to the economy.”



Columbia State Community College is nurturing the future workforce of Maury County with programs such as the STEM GiRLS workshops, aimed at middle school students.

PHOTO: MICHAEL CONTI



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Keeping It LOCAL

UNIQUE RETAIL, SERVICES AND EVENTS
INFUSE MAURY COUNTY'S DOWNTOWNS
WITH RENEWED VITALITY

By Laura Hill

As the old Petula Clark tune once went, “Downtown, everything’s waiting for you,” a promise that’s nowhere truer than in Maury County.

New and relocating businesses, growing dining and entertainment options, wineries and a mix of traditional and new community events and festivals are bringing a newly energized vibe to Maury’s downtowns, bringing locals and visitors alike to the heart of its communities.

“I’ve been saying for the past 10 years that malls, chains and big boxes are going away, as people are realizing that it’s all about local and smaller,” says Lucy Fleming McEwen, who moved her popular Lily Jane ladies’ clothing store to the Columbia square in 2015. “Shopping and supporting small business is becoming important to people. I feel like we’re at the forefront of something good down here.”

A Vibrant Mix

The mix of businesses in downtown Columbia includes veteran retailers such as Ted’s Sporting

Goods, which just celebrated its 60th year in business, and newcomers like Southern Exposure, an outdoor outfitter launched by two young Columbia natives in 2015. Spaces on the square offer affordability and amenities, such as free WiFi. Entrepreneurial enterprises, such as digital design firm neXpiria are finding a home downtown, as is internationally known record company Putamayo World Music, which recently moved its distribution hub to Columbia from Brooklyn. In addition to Lily Jane, which has tripled its business since moving downtown, Variety Records, Muletown Coffee, Pie Sensations and Old Curiosity Book Shop are drawing enthusiastic customers to the heart of Columbia.

“People here are very happy with their small-town life, but they want to try new things, have new experiences, have new places to eat,” says Shorn Barbers owner Lance Penley, who opened his shop in 2014 and has already built a database of more than 500 customers. “The more things we have for Columbia residents, the more they will stay here and spend their money here. It takes a crowd to draw a



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crowd. The more people stay here and do business here, the more people will come.”

Mt. Pleasant Renaissance

Downtown Mt. Pleasant is enjoying its own renaissance, with the opening of shops like Sweet Pickins and Too Much Stuff and the launch of an impressive community theater group. Its first presentation, “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever,” attracted enthusiastic audiences in December 2015 and its theater, dance and music programs in local middle and high schools are gaining popularity.

The community’s Mid-South Barbecue Festival in October 2015 brought 7,000 people and 36 barbecue teams from as far away as South Africa to town. The community also came together to construct a new Trail of Tears memorial, devoted to Native Americans in local history.

Local residents are excited about evolving plans to rehab downtown buildings.

“For the last 30 years, nothing has been done to them,” says Donna Morency, executive director of the Mt. Pleasant Community Development Corporation. “A local investment group is looking to revitalize

downtown, fix the buildings and bring in retail for the people of Mt. Pleasant — places they need to live here and make it a working city. We need the sales tax dollars that tourism generates, but we want it to be a city that people here feel is their city.”

Music and More

Across Maury County, music continues to grow. Audiences applaud live performances at Marco’s at 822 South and Puckett’s in Columbia, Venue Ten and the Mt. Pleasant Grille. The new Muletown Music Festival offers two days of free music inside and outside businesses along Columbia’s square, and joins such popular events as Mule Day, Columbia’s new Muletown BBQ Cook-Off and Spring Hill’s Ham Festival. Also on the community calendar are the Vines and Vintage festival and Swanky Plank Marketplace at Spring Hill’s Rippavilla Plantation, and the Spring Hill Art Walk on Main Street. A different entertainment option is offered at the county’s three flourishing wineries, Natchez Hills Vineyard, Amber Falls Winery and Cellars, and Keg Springs Winery, which hosts tastings and events.



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Best of All Worlds

MAURY COUNTY OFFERS AFFORDABILITY, AMENITIES AND SO MUCH MORE

By Bill Lewis

From young families in search of good schools, affordable homes and close-knit neighborhoods to retirees looking for a lower cost of living, top-notch health care and shopping, entertainment and recreational opportunities, record-setting numbers of new residents are discovering Maury County. A growing number of tourists are also flocking to the area to explore its thriving music scene, wealth of historic sites, and hiking, biking, kayaking,

canoeing and fishing opportunities at area parks.

Together, tourists and new residents are spurring a building boom of new hotel rooms, restaurants, entertainment venues and single-family houses throughout the county.

That boom is getting bigger. In Spring Hill, national retirement community builder Del Webb is launching Southern Springs – the community will have 600 homes and is expected to attract active adults from across the country.

“Active adults are a tremendous asset for the communities they call home,” says Ramay Winchester, director of Retire Tennessee, an organization that promotes locations in Tennessee, including Maury County, as retirement destinations.

“Attracting retirees is an economic development strategy,” she says. “They buy housing, spend their money locally and tend to be great leaders and volunteers for community service organizations.”

Low Cost, High Value

Retirees are not the only demographic discovering Maury County. Rising home prices in Nashville are drawing homebuyers and commuters to Spring Hill and Columbia, where building permits are being issued at the fast pace of about 19 permits per 1,000 existing homes.

Those new residents discover a community with a high quality of life, where the cost of living is 12 percent below the national average, but all the amenities of a big city are only a short drive away.

Residents can also find confidence that their families and property are well protected. All of Maury County’s cities have high ratings from the national Insurance Services Office for their fire protection. In fact, Columbia became the first city in Tennessee to achieve the ISO’s highest rating.

Ryan Fowler and his family were considering moving from Memphis to Nashville until they found Maury County.

“Over time, as we rattled off our list of desires for an area, we kept saying to ourselves, ‘I wish this (Nashville) neighborhood had the community feel of a place like Columbia.’” Fowler says. “Eventually, we realized that instead of looking for a place that was ‘like Columbia,’ we should just move to Columbia.”

All the Ingredients

“Columbia has the historic charm we were looking for, affordability and is still accessible to the amenities of Nashville and the airport, which I need for my job,” Fowler continues. “We didn’t take the idea seriously at first, but after a few cups of Muletown Coffee and some walks along the beautiful River Walk, we were hooked.”

Residents and visitors alike have a wide choice of destinations and activities to enjoy in Maury County, from touring antebellum homes in the area to checking out the burgeoning live music and dining scene at Puckett’s Grocery and Restaurant, Venue Tenn and Marco’s at 822 South. Variety Records on the Columbia square is another place to explore musical roots, says Erin Jagers, executive director of the Maury County Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Wineries, distinctive shops and art galleries are top attractions in Maury County. So are festivals such as the Mid-

South BBQ Festival in Mt. Pleasant, the Country Ham Festival in Spring Hill and Muletown Music Fest in Columbia.

Residents can enjoy shopping and entertainment at The Crossings in Spring Hill, home to restaurants and the Carmike 12 movie theater. Those looking for outdoor experiences can find a variety of parks. Spring Hill recently opened its new 30-acre Port Royal Park, which features a playground, splash pad, football fields, and basketball and tennis courts. In Columbia, Ridley Park draws crowds for its baseball, softball, soccer and football fields, and Woodland Park is developing a disc golf course. The Riverwalk Park has been a hit with its walking trail, and the Columbia Fresh Market draws many people to the farmer’s market pavilion during the growing season. For outdoor adventurers, Chickasaw Trace Park offers more than eight miles of mountain bike trails, along with Duck River access and picnic areas.

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Medical Merit

RESIDENTS FIND EASY ACCESS TO SUPERIOR HEALTH CARE IN MAURY COUNTY

By Jessica Walker Boehm

Maury County is home to two major health-care providers that have built reputations for providing residents with first-class medical care and continue to grow their influence through programs and partnerships dedicated to enhancing wellness throughout the community.

Located in Columbia, Maury Regional

Medical Center is the flagship hospital for the Maury Regional Health Care System, which also includes medical and health centers in Lewisburg, Waynesboro and Hohenwald, multiple outpatient facilities, and more than 200 physicians and mid-level providers. Known for its cutting-edge care, the system has scored a spot three times on Truven Health Analytics' list of Top 15 Health Systems

HIGHLY RANKED FOR HEALTH

In 2015, Truven Health Analytics named Maury Regional Health as one of its 15 Top Health Systems in the U.S. for the third time.

Other accolades include:

- An A rating for patient safety at Maury Regional Medical Center in The Leapfrog Group's fall 2015 Hospital Safety Score study
- Maury Regional was the first Tennessee hospital to be recognized as a "Planetree Designated Patient-Centered Hospital"



in the U.S., including in 2015.

“Our commitment to excellence sets us apart,” says Maury Regional CEO Alan Watson. “We are in constant pursuit of being better today than we were yesterday.”

To achieve that goal, Maury Regional has implemented several new programs, including its palliative care program that launched in the fall of 2014. The program had 950 consults in its first year, and it continues to grow as patients with chronic illnesses seek help in managing their conditions and navigating the health-care system

Another enhancement to Maury Regional’s services is the consolidation of all cancer services to the Maury Regional Cancer Center at Columbia Mall. Open since the summer of 2015, the 30,000-square-foot facility houses medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, clinical staff and support services in one convenient location. The cancer center also offers a tranquil garden area, an educational resource center and a monthly cancer support group.

“Patients can have all of their physician visits and treatments right there in a very healing, soothing environment with plenty of space for them to receive care and for their families to relax,” Watson says.

Maury Regional’s next project is a joint venture with National HealthCare Corp. for a transitional care center to replace NHC’s 92-bed Hillview facility and Maury Regional’s former 20-bed skilled nursing unit to be completed in 2016. MRMC is also affiliated with Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, and this collaboration helps to further serve patients’ needs as they continue on their respective health-care journeys.

“The VUMC affiliation is designed to help us create a clinically integrated network that helps us manage the continuum of

care and ensure that information is flowing across that continuum,” Watson says. “For example, if a patient receives treatment here, then needs to be seen at Vanderbilt, we can easily share information between the hospitals.”

Lifesaving Care

Providing top-notch emergency care close to home, the TriStar Spring Hill ER, part of TriStar Centennial Medical Center in Nashville, opened in February 2013. With 12 private patient rooms and a goal of treating emergency patients within five minutes of their arrival, the TriStar Spring Hill ER features advanced testing and imaging technology and a comprehensive medical laboratory, along with outpatient services.

“As a patient, you can expect to be seen quickly by a board-certified physician and receive appropriate treatment, including immediate pain control, if warranted,” says Keri McKamey, director of the TriStar Spring Hill ER. “With a full staff of certified, experienced emergency care specialists standing by, you can expect to be evaluated and treated within minutes.”

The TriStar Spring Hill ER also features telemedicine technology that easily connects patients to specialists at the TriStar Centennial Medical Center, and patients with critical injuries or illnesses – including those suffering from chest pain or other heart attack symptoms – are quickly transported to the medical center by helicopter. This established, coordinated system for rapid acceptance and treatment helps ensure patients receive the proper care and is essential to improving patient outcomes and saving lives.

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ECONOMIC PROFILE

† Population

Maury County: 87,757

Population Growth in Maury County

2000 Census: 69,498
2010 Census: 80,956
2014 Estimate: 82,729
2016 Projection: 94,487

Labor Force

42,050

Income

Per Capita Income (2014):

\$36,646



Increase in Household Income since 2000

Major Population Centers

Columbia:

36,071

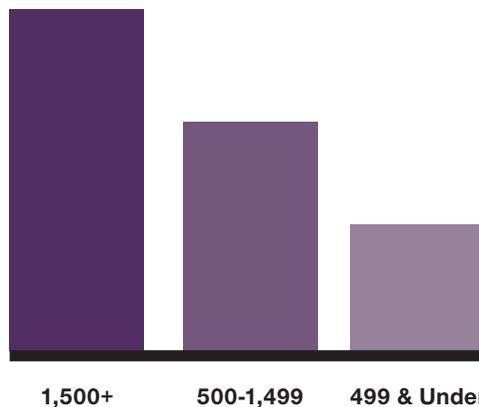
Spring Hill:

34,269

Mount Pleasant:

4,654

Top Employers



■ Maury Regional Medical Center, GM Spring Hill Manufacturing, Maury County Public Schools

■ IBEX Global, Tennessee Farm Bureau, Wal-Mart

■ IB Tech, City of Columbia, First Farmers & Merchants Bank, Maury County Government

Cost of Living

🏠 Median Household Income:

\$53,728

🏠 Medium Home Sale Price:

\$118,420

💰 Estimated Rent for a 2BR Apartment:

\$713

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance

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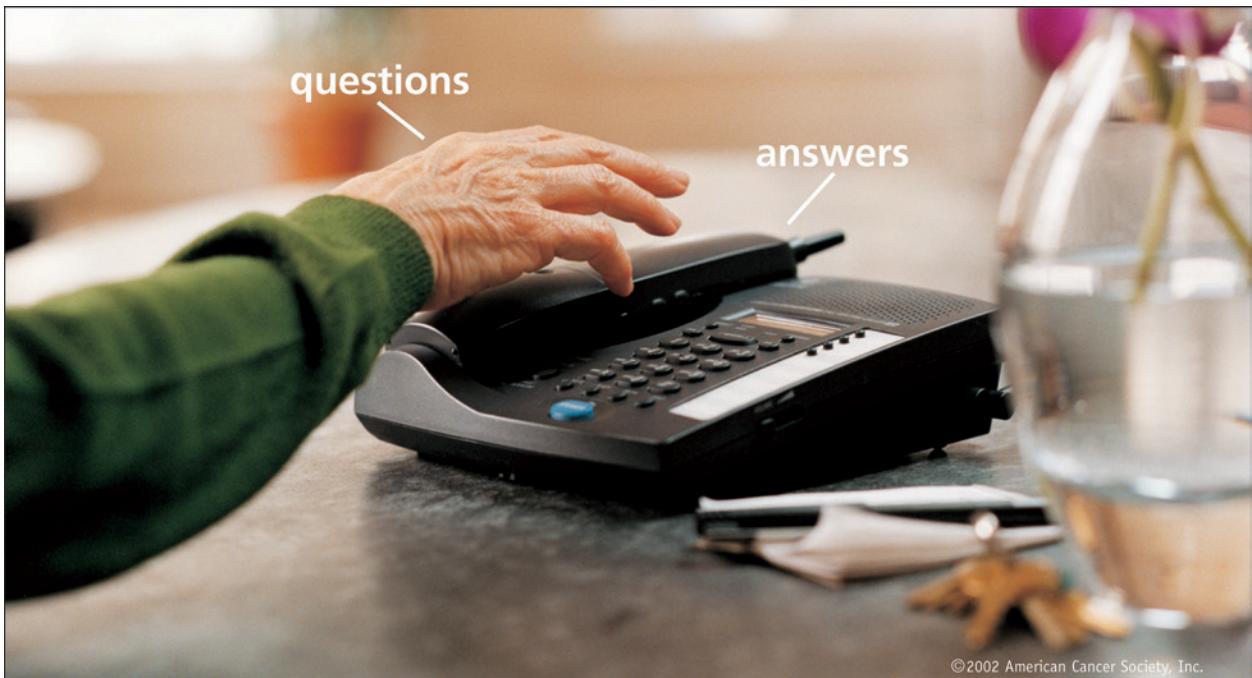
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