

2023
NASH
COUNTY

Published by The Nashville Graphic

Fall FESTIVALS



50th Annual Spring Hope Pumpkin Festival

OCTOBER 6-7, 2023

Live Entertainment
Food ~ Crafts
Pumpkin Contest
Parade & More!



Spring Hope Chamber of Commerce



16th Annual Eastern Carolina BBQ Throw Down

OCTOBER 13-14, 2023



Entertainment, Kids Activities & More!



ROCKY MOUNT, NC
THE CENTER OF IT ALL



City of Rocky Mount



SPRING HOPE PUMPKIN FESTIVAL SCHEDULE



FOUNDED
AND PRESENTED BY
*Spring Hope Chamber
of Commerce*

*Parade begins at
1 p.m. Saturday*

FRIDAY - OCTOBER 6, 2023

- 8:45 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. Pumpkin Recipe Contest / Town Hall
- Noon..... Food vendors open for lunch and dinner
- 5-7 P.M. Bubble Party
- 5-10 p.m. Chamber Tent open with souvenir items/shirts
- 6-7 p.m. Preston Wilder on stage
- 7-10 p.m. East Coast Rhythm & Blues Band

SATURDAY - OCTOBER 7, 2023

- 8 a.m. Giant Pumpkin Weigh-in
- 9 a.m. Craft Vendors and Food Trucks open
- 10 a.m - 1 p.m. The Monitors perform
- 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Petting Zoo
- 11 a.m. Pumpkin Creation Contest for kids at Town Hall
- 1 p.m. PARADE
- 2-4 p.m. Zach Wynne performs
- 2-5 p.m. Train Rides
- 4-7 p.m. Ginger Thompson Band
- 7:15 p.m. Fireworks at playground of
Spring Hope Elementary School



~FIREWORKS - 7:15 p.m.~



East Coast Rhythm & Blues Band ~ October 6 • 7-10 p.m.



Ginger Thompson Band ~ October 7 • 4-7 p.m.



**PRESTON WILDER
October 6
6-7 p.m.**



**ZACH WYNNE
October 7 • 2-4 p.m.**

**THE MONITORS
October 7
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**



Pumpkin Festival celebrates 50 years!

The Spring Hope National Pumpkin Festival will celebrate its 50th Anniversary this year. The event, as tradition, is organized and hosted by the Spring Hope Chamber of Commerce.

This year's festival will take place in downtown Spring Hope on Friday, Oct. 6 and Saturday, Oct. 7.

Festival organizers encourage people to enter their favorite pumpkin recipe in the annual Pumpkin Festival Recipe Contest. Baked goods may be dropped off at Town Hall Friday from 8:45 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

A Bubble Party will begin at 5 p.m. Friday night while the live music begins at 6 p.m. with Preston Wilder. The customary street dance will feature the East Coast Rhythm and Blues Band performing from 7-10 p.m.

The festival opens at 9 a.m. Saturday morning with over 60 crafters and a variety of food trucks for lunch and dinner.

The pumpkin weigh-in will begin at 8 a.m. with pumpkins as large as 1,000 pounds from North Carolina, Virginia,

West Virginia, Tennessee and South Carolina.

Live entertainment begins at 10 a.m. Saturday morning with The Monitors who are widely known for recording with Motown during the mid 60s. They have performed with Ray Charles, Otis Redding and Roberta Flack during their career.

A petting zoo and pony rides will take place from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. behind the Auction House on East Railroad Street.

The Wilson Tobs and Mudcats mascots will be in downtown Saturday morning and will also be featured in the parade.

The children's pumpkin decorating contest will be held at 11 a.m. in front of Spring Hope Town Hall.

The Spring Hope Pumpkin Festival Parade will begin promptly at 1 p.m. Saturday with WRAL's Gerald Owens serving as Grand Marshal. Local veterans will serve as honorary Grand Marshals.

Live music cranks back up at 2 p.m.

with Zach Wynne followed by The Ginger Thompson Band at 4 p.m.

Train rides will run in downtown from 2-5 p.m.

Fireworks will begin at 7:15 p.m. at the community park next to Spring Hope Elementary School.

Festival organizer Karen White praised past organizers and volunteers for keeping the festival running for 50 years, "Give all the credit to Spring Hope and its people for keeping such a great event going so long," she said.

White reflected on the history of the festival, "In 1971 when Ralph Bass, a local businessman, and Elmo Tant, a local pumpkin farmer, decided to celebrate the harvest by holding a pumpkin festival in downtown Spring Hope the population was most likely less than 1,000 people," she said, "I doubt anyone envisioned this event becoming one of the most popular attractions in southern Nash County 53 years later."



WRAL's Gerald Owens will serve as Grand Marshal of the 2023 Spring Hope Pumpkin Festival Parade.

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Spring Hope's 2022 queens will reign over the this year's festival.



**2022 Little Miss
Pumpkin Queen**
Carter Grace Etheridge



**2022 Miss Pumpkin
Queen Chloe Scott**
50th Anniversary
Miss Pumpkin Queen

The official kick off of the Spring Hope Pumpkin Festival has traditionally been a pageant featuring many contestants vying for the crown of Little Miss Pumpkin Queen and Miss Pumpkin Queen. Due to unforeseen circumstances there was no 2023 pageant. However, the 2022 queens will reign over the 2023 Pumpkin Festival since they were slighted their opportunity in 2022 when a hurricane caused the event to be cancelled.



Cliff Joyner,
CFP®, AAMS®

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SPRING HOPE PUMPKIN FESTIVAL PARADE

SATURDAY OCTOBER 7 • 1:00 PM



For additional information on the Pumpkin Festival, call
the Spring Hope Chamber of Commerce
252-478-1919
or visit www.visitspringhope.com

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50th Annual Spring Hope Pumpkin Festival

OCTOBER 6-7, 2023
Downtown Spring Hope

**Bands, Food, Crafts
Pumpkin Contest, Parade & More!**

FRIDAY - OCTOBER 6, 2023
5-7 P.M. Bubble Party
6-7 p.m. Preston Wilder on stage
7-10 p.m. East Coast Rhythm & Blues Band

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1 p.m. PARADE
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2-5 p.m. Train Rides
4-7 p.m. Ginger Thompson Band
7:15 p.m. Fireworks at playground of Spring Hope Elementary School

~FIREWORKS - 7:15 p.m.~
Spring Hope Chamber of Commerce



16th Annual Eastern Carolina BBQ Throw Down

OCTOBER 13-14, 2023
Downtown Rocky Mount
Helen P. Gay Historic Train Station

Entertainment, Kids Activities & More!

Friday, October 13, 2023
5:00pm-9:00pm BBQ Kick Off Party – Kids Zone, Beer Garden & Food Vendors
7:00pm-9:30pm On Stage: THE TAMS

Saturday, October 14, 2023
Food & Commercial Vendors, Rocky Mount Public Utilities Exhibit Area, Kids Zone, Live Music, Beer Garden

On Stage:
11:00am-12:30pm Denver Nixon
1:00pm-2:30pm Chris Hagan
3:00-4:30pm Push Play

City of Rocky Mount




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Spring Hope Pumpkin Festival
October 6-7

Annual Eastern Carolina
BBQ Throwdown
October 13-14



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BBQ Throwdown set for October 13-14

16th Annual Eastern Carolina BBQ Throw Down



OCTOBER 13-14, 2023

Downtown Rocky Mount

Helen P. Gay Historic Train Station

Entertainment, Kids Activities & More!

Friday, October 13, 2023

5:00pm-9:00pm..... BBQ Kick Off Party – Kids Zone,
Beer Garden & Food Vendors

7:00pm-9:30pm..... On Stage: THE TAMS

Saturday, October 14, 2023

Food & Commercial Vendors, Rocky Mount Public Utilities
Exhibit Area, Kids Zone, Live Music, Beer Garden

On Stage:

11:00am-12:30pm..... Denver Nixon

1:00pm-2:30pm..... Chris Hagan

3:00-4:30pm..... Push Play



ROCKY MOUNT, NC
THE CENTER OF IT ALL



2023 Eastern Carolina BBQ Throwdown comes to downtown Rocky Mount on Oct. 13-14. Graphic file photo

Eastern BBQ Throwdown will be held at the Helen P. Gay Rocky Mount Historic Train Station

Make plans to attend the Eastern Carolina BBQ Throwdown October 13-14 on the lawn of the Helen P. Gay Rocky Mount Historic Train Station at 101, Coastline Street in downtown Rocky Mount.

At least 25 pitmasters will prepare their tastiest barbecue to impress a panel of judges in hopes of winning the coveted Grand Championship. The Eastern Carolina BBQ Throwdown is sanctioned by the Kansas City Barbecue Society. The competition features a total of \$20,000 in cash prizes in four categories: chicken, pork ribs, pork and beef brisket. Those attending the event

will be able to help choose the People's Choice winner.

There will also be live music, including a Friday night concert by The Tams. In addition to food vendors and a beer garden, there will be a kids zone - plus a chance to win \$100 off your Rocky Mount Public Utilities bill.

The Eastern Carolina Barbecue Throwdown is hosted by the city of Rocky Mount. Sponsors include North Carolina Wesleyan University and PNC Bank.

For more information visit www.downtownrockymount.com



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The TAMS to perform at BBQ Throwdown

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13
7-9 P.M.**

The TAMS have been entertaining and thrilling audiences for over 50 years.

Known for such hits as “Be Young, Be Foolish, Be Happy”, “What Kind of Fool”, “I’ve Been Hurt” and “Untie Me #12 on the R&B Charts”, The Tams have had several Gold Records, and one Platinum Single.

“What Kind of Fool” hit #9 on the Billboard charts, and #6 on the R&B charts. “Hey Girl Don’t Bother Me” hit #1 in the UK in 1971. While “Be Young, Be Foolish” only hit #26 on the Top 40,

the single sold over 1,000,000 copies, sending it to Platinum status. In 1986, “Ain’t Nothin Like Shaggin’ “ hit #6 in UK Billboard charts, before being banned due to the UK’s definition of “shag”.

Though their style of music has historically been referred to as Beach Music which they have had many Beach Music hits, it can be also classified as a mixture of Smooth Soul, and R&B. Their show is fun, fresh and exciting and appeals to audiences of all ages and musical tastes.



**16th Annual
Eastern Carolina
BBQ Throw Down**



**PUSH PLAY BAND
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14 • 3:00 -4:30 p.m.**

Push Play offers a variety of music from 70s to current rock, pop, soul, R&B, country and current Top 40 hits. The band will perform on Saturday, Oct. 14 from 3-4:30 p.m.



**CHRIS HAGAN
SATURDAY
OCTOBER 14
1:00 -2:30 p.m.**

Born into a musical family in Eastern North Carolina, Chris started out young and was destined for a life of music. Playing in bands and backing solo artist all up and down the east coast until it was time to break out on his own. Years of broken relationships, traveling and playing have made him a seasoned musician and singer with plenty of stories to tell and write about.

Now fronting his own Pop/Rock band, Chris Hagan is steadily growing a reputation for his live shows, packed with hard hitting songs, and energetic stage presence making each show better than the last.



**DENVER NIXON
SATURDAY
OCTOBER 14
11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

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50th Annual Pumpkin Festival
October 6 & 7



16th Annual EASTERN CAROLINA BBQ THROW DOWN
October 13 & 14

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Reg \$8.49	
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THURSDAY • #3 Sirloin Tips	\$7⁴⁹
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