

Kentucky Wine and Vine Festival gains two title sponsors

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Mollie McClure, left, Toyota manager Dave Conley, Nicholasville Now Executive Director Tonya Coleman and Vice President Tommy Cobb are shown in photo with the \$15,000 check from the dealerships.

For the first time in its five-year history, the Kentucky Wine & Vine Fest has a title sponsor.

Toyota on Nicholasville and Chrysler Dodge Jeep on Nicholasville pledged their support for the event and presented Nicholasville Now Vice-President Tommy Cobb and Executive Director Tonya Coleman with a check for \$15,000 at a press conference Feb. 27.

Toyota on Nicholasville manager Dave Conley said

his team was proud to support Nicholasville Now, the non-profit organization that promotes historic preservation and revitalization of historic downtown Nicholasville.

“We’re proud to serve as title sponsor of an event that brings thousands of people to Nicholasville and Jessamine County,” Conley said. “Through our support of Nicholasville Now and the Kentucky Wine & Vine Fest, we’re able to support a number of worthy Nicholasville events and programs. It really is a great opportunity to make a significant contribution to the community.”

Former Nicholasville Now President Brian Goettl said Toyota’s sponsorship shows how far the festival has come in a short time.

“I remember five years ago when a group of people sat down trying to figure out what we could do to help downtown, and the Wine & Vine Fest was conceived,” Goettl said. “Now, to be here today and have a great local business like Toyota on Nicholasville as a sponsor is wonderful.”

The 2008 festival, which runs from May 8 through 10, will include several new elements to its already successful lineup of events, including a Commercial Wine Making Competition and a Kentucky Wine Country Bus Tour.

The Commercial Wine Making Competition is presented in partnership with the Kentucky Grape and Wine Council and the Department of Agriculture.

University of Kentucky Extension Enologist said the idea behind the competition was to encourage vineyards to make good wine.

The competition which will be held April 12, is open to any commercial wine company in Kentucky and will be judged by judges from outside the state.

Cost of the competition is \$20 per entry and winners will be announced during the festival.

The bus tour, presented in partnership with WineTutor.com, will take wine enthusiasts on a fun and informative “vine to winery” tour of vineyards and wineries in several Kentucky counties.

The fine arts festival poster contest which was introduced last year has been changed for this year. Instead of having one artist create the poster, the festival committee has authorized a statewide fine arts competition with a \$250 prize to the artist with the winning design. Deadline for submissions is March 27.

Other festival favorites include: The Grape Growers Barbecue and Dance at the R. J. Corman Hanger, May 8, Kentucky Wine & Vine Fest Golf Tournament at Connemara Golf Course and the Wine Social Dinner and Dance at Chrisman Mill Vineyards, May 9, and cooking and wine demonstrations, Run for the Merlot competition, and international and domestic wine and Kentucky wine tent, May 10. The Kentucky Wine tent will offer tasting from approximately 12 Kentucky vineyards and wineries.

Tickets to the Grape Growers Barbecue are \$15, tickets to the Kentucky Wine & Vine Dinner and Dance at Chrisman Mill Winery are \$50 and Kentucky Wine Country Bus Tour tickets are \$65.

Tickets and information are available at www.kywineandvine.com or by calling Coleman at (859) 881-3820.

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