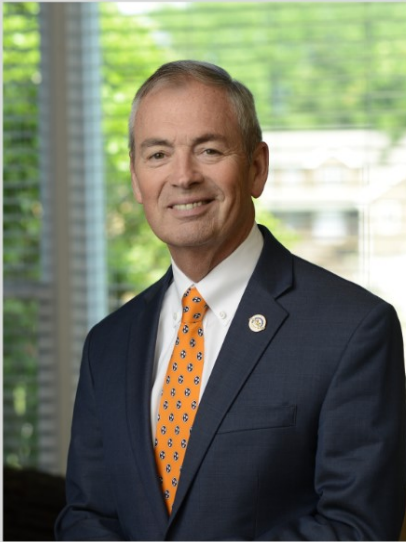




THE COUNTY CONNECTION

A Monthly Newsletter from Mayor Randall Hutto
Mt. Juliet | Lebanon | Watertown



In this newsletter:

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Mike Kurtz, District 21**
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**Tips for Growing Healthy
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Happy Retirement!**
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A Word from Mayor Hutto...

Happy New Year! It's time to flip our calendars over and turn the page to 2023. Each new year brings with it a season of hope and inspiration for tomorrow. While there's an air of mystery of what is to come, we know one thing for certain: Wilson County is the Place to Be because of the people like YOU who live and work here! With that said, many of our friends and neighbors showed us just that when we experienced the tremendously cold weather. Compassionate Hands made sure that warm beds and hot meals were provided for the unhoused. The Wilson County Community Resource Center gave space heaters to those without heat, and neighbors checked in on one another. While the circumstances were difficult, countless organizations, volunteers, and individuals stepped in to spread a little Christmas cheer. To those who lent a helping hand, your hard work was sincerely appreciated. While the new year brings us a blank canvas, it is important to remember that we are all a piece of the bigger picture. My office and I are excited to serve our citizens and work with you to continue making Wilson County the Place to Be in 2023!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randall Hutto".

Commissioner Spotlight: Mike Kurtz District 21



Contact INFORMATION

1414A Trousdale Ferry Pike
Lebanon, TN 37087

615-218-8014

Wilson County LANDFILL

Winter Hours

MONDAYS - FRIDAYS
7:00 AM - 3:00 PM

ALL LOADS MUST BE
CHECKED INTO THE
SCALE HOUSE BY
2:30 P.M.

CLOSED SATURDAYS

PLEASE DIRECT QUESTIONS
TO 615.449.6684

STORY TIME WITH WILSON RIDES, INC.

STORY
TIME 
with Wilson Rides

“Story Time with Wilson Rides” is a brand-new podcast series featuring true and remarkable stories from senior residents of Wilson County, Tennessee. Wilson Rides is a non-profit organization in Wilson County, TN, that provides rides to seniors who no longer drive or seldom drive. Gaye Lynn Wilson, Executive Director of Wilson Rides, Inc., discovered that as she and other drivers transported area seniors with their ride service, the trips seemed to always go by quickly because they were filled with stories. Wilson explains the idea for the podcast came from these drives. “Tales of growing up in the 30’s, 40’s and 50’s, living through the Great Depression or World War II, these are treasures that should be shared.”

Continued on page 12...

WILSON COUNTY

The Place to Be



Sales of these specialty license plates will benefit Wilson Rides Inc., a 501c3 non profit organization that provides safe, affordable transportation to seniors 55+ who no longer drive or seldom drive in Wilson County, TN.

700 pre-ordered 1000 needed **WE'RE SO CLOSE!**
pre-order yours today!

For more information,
FAQs and/or to purchase a
plate, visit

wilsonridesinc.org/product/license-plate/



SCAN ME

TIPS FOR GROWING HEALTHY POINSETTAS

submitted by Lucas Holman

This is my favorite time of year because the stores are starting to sell poinsettias. Growing up, I worked at my aunt's greenhouse, and she raised thousands of poinsettias each year. I love all the new cultivars that come out each year and I always buy more than I have space. Red is just too common for my taste therefore I prefer pink and the variegated ones.

Poinsettias require minimal care if you give them some basic needs. The first thing that is required is that you must keep them warm. Do not place them near a draft such as beside the front door. They are tropical plants, and they require warmer temps, such as the temps inside our homes. If they are constantly battling cold drafts, they will quickly shed their leaves. Be sure to also keep them away from any vent that may blow hot air on them constantly.

The second requirement is the one issue that kills the majority of poinsettias in the home. Only water poinsettias when they need it. Most of the time they are in a foil pot cover and these pot covers hold water. If you allow your poinsettia to sit in water constantly, it will rot. Normally when root rot sets in, they will not recover, and you are left with a twisted pile of dead leaves with bare stems. It's not appealing to have that sitting in the middle of the dinner table. Use your finger or a sharpened pencil to determine if your plant needs water.

Lastly, do not fertilize it. We do not fertilize poinsettias when they're in full color in our homes because it might cause burn on the leaves or have them shed leaves. If you decide to keep them until next year, you will fertilize them during the growing season. It is a challenge to get them to be full and color up at the correct time unless you are prepared to put in the work. To be honest, it is easiest to chunk it in the trash and buy a new one next year.

If you have any questions regarding horticultural matter in your garden or lawn, feel free to contact Lucas Holman, Horticulture UT-TSU Extension Agent, Wilson County at 615-444-9584 or Lholman1@utk.edu.

The University of Tennessee Extension offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability and is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Through its mission of research, teaching and extension, the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture touches lives and provides Real. Life. Solutions. ag.tennessee.edu



January 01
New Year's Day

January 16
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Human Trafficking
Prevention &
Awareness Month

National Blood
Donation Month

WISHING DIANE MAJOR A HAPPY RETIREMENT!

The new year certainly brings with it many changes. After serving Wilson County for 26 years, Mrs. Diane Major retired last month. The Wilson County Commission presented her with a special resolution during their December meeting.

Diane was the Administrative Assistant for the Wilson County Soil Conservation District, landowners, and youth of Wilson County. Diane made her mark on the agriculture community through her involvement in countless projects all geared toward preserving the farmer's way of life. Originally a Murfreesboro native, Diane made Wilson County her home in 1976 when she married Mr. Roy Major. Their three sons and grandchildren all enjoy working on their family farm – the Major Dairy.

Throughout the years, Diane's love for agriculture has given her opportunities to be involved with county youth who share the same passion. She has worked with numerous 4-H Dairy Judging Teams over the years; several of whom went on to win National competitions. Diane also planned and organized the Farm Day event for the second-grade students of Wilson County Schools for the last 20 years. She was a major player in organizing the board responsible for establishing the Wilson County Ag Hall of Fame, a recognition program that has been honoring Wilson County's farmers for approximately 15 years. Diane also served for many years as the livestock chairman for the Tennessee State Fair Wilson County Fair Dairy Show. She has worked timeless and tireless volunteer hours to ensure all the livestock shows run smoothly during the fair.

After 26 years of dedicated service, Diane is ready to start a new chapter in life and retire. Her future plans include sitting on porch swing and enjoying the view - a worthy goal after 26 years. Diane, we wish you a wonderful retirement! Congratulations!





Mayor Hutto's
CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE





**LEBANON
WILSON COUNTY**
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



149 Public Square
Lebanon, TN 37087
Bloodmobile parked in
front of Chamber



Thursday, January 5th
11am - 3pm



Each donor receives
this cozy blanket

Save A Life
Donate Blood

**It's National
Blood Donor Month!**



**BLOOD
DRIVE**

One donation can save three lives



**SIGN UP
HERE!**

Remember:

- Eat a good meal
- Bring your ID
- Avoid energy drinks
- Drink extra water



bloodassurance.org/lebchamber15



615-444-5503



★ ★ ★ ★ ★
**MARTIN LUTHER
KING, JR. DAY**

**Wilson Co. Government Offices will be closed on
Monday, January 16, 2023 in observance of
Martin Luther King Day. Offices will return to their
regular business hours on January 17, 2023.**

ROCKWOOD HOSTS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Rockwood Sustainable Solutions is pleased to announce the “Merry Mulching” initiative is back again for the 5th consecutive year providing Wilson County residents a convenient way to recycle, for free, live Christmas trees.

Now through January 10, 2023, residents are invited to participate in “Merry Mulching” by dropping off their live Christmas trees in the designated recycling bin placed at the entrance of the Rockwood property located at 510 Hartman Drive in Lebanon, Tenn. All decorations, including lights, ornaments and tinsel must be removed from the tree prior to being placed in the recycling bin. The bin is accessible seven days a week, 24 hours a day. All lights must be removed but a separate bin will be onsite for the collection and recycling of Christmas lights.

“We are honored to partner with Mayor Hutto and Wilson County to provide our neighbors free live Christmas tree recycling” said Lincoln Young, CEO of Rockwood Sustainable Solutions. “This is our fifth consecutive year to offer this service, and we are amplifying our efforts this year with the launch of the ‘Merry Mulching’ initiative, encouraging every live tree owner in Wilson County to recycle.”

Once processed by Rockwood, the recycled live trees will become landscaping mulch used to beautify, and enrich the soil at, commercial and residential properties across Wilson County. Wilson Farmer’s Coop is the local retailer of Rockwood’s range of mulch offerings. In addition to the environmental benefits of recycling live Christmas trees, doing so is much safer than breaking down and burning a live tree in a residential fireplace. Rockwood will also make a monetary donation to the Wilson County FCA for each tree recycled during the “Merry Mulching” initiative.



MERRY MULCHING

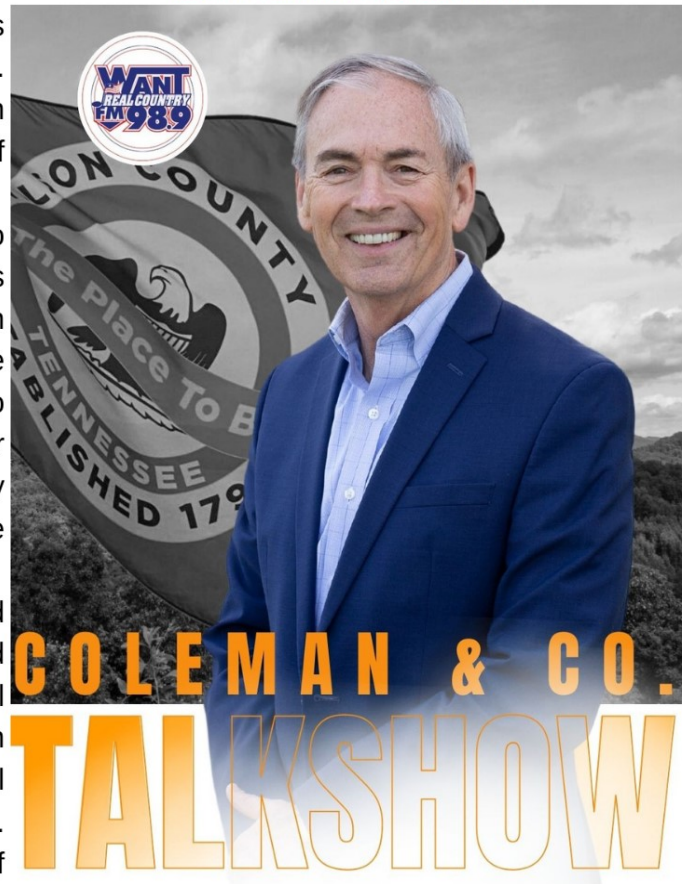
LIVE CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

DEC. 25 - JAN. 10

510 HARTMAN DRIVE - LEBANON, TN 37087

PLACE LIVE TREE IN BIN LOCATED AT ENTRANCE
NO DECORATIONS • NO LIGHTS • NO TINSEL

FINANCIAL DONATION TO WILSON COUNTY FCA FOR EACH RECYCLED TREE
MORE INFO AT ROCKWOODRECYCLING.COM



TUNE IN AROUND 7:40AM!

GUEST, MAYOR RANDALL HUTTO

WANT 98.9 FM / WCOR AM 1490

JAN. 23RD | WITH COLEMAN WALKER



Winter Shelters

December 1—March 15

Food and lodging provided by local churches

Center for Hope & Renewal

214 North College Street

4:00-5:00 pm Nightly Check-In

Impaired guests will not be allowed entry

No entry past 5:00 pm

If you need late entry due to work...
please call 615-784-9897 for late check-in

Courtesy Van Pick-Up

4pm pick up on Legacy Lane, wooded spot across from Demos' entrance

What You Need to Know

- Women stay at local host churches. Men stay at the Center for Hope & Renewal. No spaces for kids.
- To keep everyone safe, guests agree to a code of conduct that includes no alcohol or drugs, no weapons, no fighting, no racial slurs.
- Impaired guests are not allowed to stay.
- No background check for guests... so children are not allowed.
- No pets allowed. Service animals must be verified.
- Registration closes at 5pm. If you are working, you can request late check-in by calling 615-784-9897.

Need additional help?

Suicide Prevention - dial 988

Housing - HART hotline 844-556-7626

Domestic Violence 800-356-6767
Homesafe 24hr 615-452-4315

Veteran Crisis 800-273-8255 or text 838255
Veterans' housing hotline 877-424-3838

Food/clothes/utilities
WC Help Center 615-449-1856
Mid-Cumberland CAA 615-742-1113

Disability Consulting 615-453-9151

Addiction 800-889-9789
Upper Cumberland 931-528-1127



*Ugly Christmas Sweater Day
Thanks to all the county employees who participated!*



COUNTY EMPLOYEE EVENT BENEFITS FOSTER 180

Last month, the Wilson County H.R. Department hosted a holiday giveaway event for county employees. Qiana Scruggs and Bethany Massey of H.R. put together a wonderful gathering with treats, fellowship, prizes – and the opportunity to help foster families! County employees were asked to bring a donation of baby wipes with them to benefit Foster 180.

Foster 180 is located here in Wilson County, Tennessee, and their mission focuses on optimizing family connections and creating resources that empower a community and make it a better place to live. To engage the worth of at risk children and their families is not an easy task, but a critical and worthwhile pursuit. Well trained teams deliver resources and tools to individuals in partnership with DCS, foster families and community partners. Our success comes by effective listening and working hard to create practical, effective, and meaningful solutions for the family. To learn more about Foster 180, visit www.foster180.com.

We send a big THANK YOU shout out to our H.R. Department and their sponsors for making the event possible. It certainly got us in the Christmas spirit!

Photos continued on next page...



Pictured left to right: Wilson County Mayor, Randall Hutto; Foster 180 Director, Jenny Sanders



Pictured left to right: Bethany Massey and Qiana Scruggs, Wilson County H.R. Department



Congratulations to the big prize winners!

Zendel Murphy, Ninja Foodi 2 basket air fryer
Jennifer Goode, Ninja Foodi 2 basket air fryer
Tammy Knowles, Pioneer Woman cookware set
Wade Miller, Pioneer Woman cookware set
Susan Gregory, Car Emergency kit



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 09...



MAYOR HUTTO TO PROCLAIM JANUARY 2023 AS HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION & AWARENESS MONTH IN WILSON COUNTY

This month, County Mayor Hutto will sign a proclamation which declares the month of January as Human Trafficking Prevention and Awareness Month. Human trafficking continues to be a global public health concern which targets individuals from any class, religion, or cultural or ethnic group. January 11th is annually known as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, and those who wish to raise awareness can wear a blue ribbon or blue item of clothing. Through Mayor Hutto's proclamation, Wilson County citizens will be encouraged to raise awareness of human trafficking by wearing blue on January 11th. Together, we can end it!

MORE INFORMATION FROM THE TN DEPT. OF HEALTH

The Tennessee Department of Health encourages Tennesseans to learn risk factors, red flags, and resources for human trafficking that could help save a life. The following signs may indicate that a person is the victim of human trafficking:

- Unable to leave or come and go as desired
- Unpaid or paid very little or only through tips for his/her work
- Excessively long and/or unusual work hours
- Not allowed breaks or subjected to unusual restrictions at work
- Few or no personal possessions and/or identification documents
- Lack of control of his/her own money
- Not allowed to speak for him/herself
- Numerous inconsistencies in his/her stories
- Fear, anxiety, nervousness, depression, paranoia, submissive behaviors
- Signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, or torture



If you think you may know someone who needs help or have met a potential victim of human trafficking, please contact the **Tennessee Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-855-558-6484** or text **"BeFree" to 233722**. If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, please call 911. For more information on human trafficking, please visit <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/about/what-is-human-trafficking>.

Tennessee continues to take a proactive approach to address this public health issue. New laws have been passed every year since 2011 to assist victims of human trafficking and increase punitive action against traffickers. Learn more about these laws at <https://ithastostop.com/>.

National Human Trafficking Awareness Day is recognized each year on January 11. Please join us to raise awareness of human trafficking by taking photos wearing blue and sharing them on social media, using the hashtag #WearBlueDayTN. For more information on the Blue Campaign, please visit <https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/wearblueday>.

STORY TIME WITH WILSON RIDES, INC.

Continued from page 02...Story Time with Wilson Rides features true-life stories from seniors who are part of the Wilson Rides Program as well as other senior residents of Wilson County, TN. In this inaugural season of Story Time, award winning writer and storyteller Jules Corriere sits down with some of Wilson County's local seniors and asks them about their lives. This project was created with a Creative Aging Grant from the Tennessee Arts Commission and is a project of the State of Tennessee's ECD ThreeStar Program.

The podcast is free and can be heard at: <https://story-time-with-wilson-rides.simplecast.com/> or by downloading the free app, "Story Time with Wilson Rides" on Apple Podcasts, iHeart, Spotify, Google Podcasts, Amazon, Audible, Overcast and most other major podcast platforms. New episodes are added every other week!

Story Time with Wilson Rides was sponsored in part by a grant from the Tennessee Arts Commission, and is a project of the State of Tennessee's ECD ThreeStar Program. For more information, contact Gaye Lynn Wilson at gayelynn@wilsonridesinc.org or by calling 615-622-5557.



MID-CUMBERLAND
COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY
Helping people. Changing lives.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Wilson County

MCCAA

104 Webster Street
Lebanon, TN

- October 8, 2022
- January 7, 2023
- April 8, 2023
- July 8, 2023



GET INVOLVED TODAY!

Are you looking for a way to become a part of or give back to your community? Are you looking for a way to get involved? Do you have a youth group or team looking for volunteer hours? Consider joining our valued family of volunteers!

**SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION ON WAYS
YOU CAN VOLUNTEER WITH MCCAA TODAY!**

