



THE COUNTY CONNECTION

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



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A Word from Mayor Hutto...

It's difficult to believe that another year has already come and gone. For some of us, 2023 was a great year. For others, 2023 brought with it many challenges. Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." No matter what we may face, let us be hopeful for what 2024 brings us. Happy New Year, Wilson County!

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

Commissioner Spotlight: Kevin Costley District 8



Contact INFORMATION

Phone: 615-496-7419

Wilson County **LANDFILL**

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

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

**FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE
CALL 615.449.6684**

Tornado Relief

Follow these trusted organizations for ways to help our neighbors in Davidson, Montgomery, and Sumner counties.

Nashville VOAD

Hands On Nashville

Community Resource Center

United Way of Sumner County

TORNADO RELIEF

Our community knows all too well that storms are nondiscriminatory and can strike at a moment's notice. Please continue to pray for our neighbors who lost property and loved ones during the deadly tornado outbreak. For those who would like to help in some way, there's plenty of opportunities to get involved. Contact one of the trusted organizations listed to the left or call the Volunteer Network at 615-212-5326.

SEED CATALOGS TO CHEER WINTER BLUES *submitted by Lucas Holman*

Seed catalogs have started to hit my mailbox in full force. The seed companies seem to have the ability to send them when you're missing the garden the most! Seasonal affective disorder is real in the winter and the seed catalogs seem to brighten up those cold and muddy days that we will have in the winter. It's always exciting to see the new flowers and vegetables that are going to be coming out in the next year though. Here are some tips when you are trying to watch your spending when it comes to seed catalogs.

First, organize what seeds you have and make an inventory of what you need. Seeds, if stored properly, will last many years. They should be stored out of the sun in an area that is cool and dry. A refrigerator will also extend the life of seeds, but make sure they are completely dry before storage. It's easy to get caught up and purchase a lot of different seeds when you get started buying. So only purchase those seeds that you will grow.

Secondly, purchase those seeds that are true performers in your garden. Ask other gardeners locally what they have success with. I always find it interesting that we see so many new cultivars of vegetables come out, but many of those won't be available after the first year. I do grow a few new ones because I may find a new favorite. The University of Tennessee trials vegetables and they also use local gardeners across the state. Look for their trials data at uthort.com to see what cultivars of vegetables performed well this past year and the previous years.

Lastly, wait until you have received all your catalogs. I haven't a tendency to purchase seeds from the first catalogs that arrive out of sheer excitement. Seed companies all charge different prices and it's better to see where the deals are when it comes to price. Be sure of the exact amount you're purchasing also...*continued on page 06.*



January 1
New Year's Day

January 15
MLK Day

January 19
Nat'l Popcorn Day

January 23
Nat'l Pie Day

January 29
Nat'l Puzzle Day

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**National Blood
Donor Month**

Second Harvest Food Bank SNAP Outreach Partner Program



Types of SNAP Outreach Partnerships

There are two ways you can partner with Second Harvest Food Bank: refer individuals to our SNAP Application Assistance line or become a SNAP Outreach Partner.

SNAP Referral Partners

Referral partners will refer individuals interested in applying for SNAP to Second Harvest's SNAP Application Assistance line (615-310-0752). We will provide you with outreach materials you can hand out to individuals or hang up within your organization. A member from Second Harvest's SNAP Outreach team will contact the individual to assist them in applying for SNAP benefits.

SNAP Outreach Partnership

Organizations and Agencies that want to become a SNAP Outreach Partner will be trained and authorized to assist individuals directly with applying for SNAP benefits rather than making a referral to us.

SNAP Outreach Partner Criteria

- Community organization that serves neighbors who may be eligible for SNAP benefits, located within our 46-county service area.
- Have a designated staff member or volunteer located on site to assist neighbors with SNAP applications, as needed.
- Have the ability to meet with individuals in a confidential, safe space to complete SNAP applications.

SNAP Outreach Partner Responsibilities

- Attend an initial SNAP Outreach Partner Training (virtual or in-person), and participate in an annual Civil Rights Training (online) provided by SHFB.
- Sign and abide by the SNAP Outreach Partner Agreement and Civil Rights Agreement.
- Help individuals determine if they may be eligible for SNAP benefits.
- Assist individuals with application completion and submission.
- Report the number of individuals assisted each month to SHFB.
- If able, join the quarterly SNAP Outreach Partner convenings (virtual) to stay up-to-date on SNAP

SHFB Responsibilities

- Provide SNAP Materials.
- Provide ongoing Policy and Procedure updates.
- Help with individual cases if needed.
- Conduct support trainings and quarterly SNAP convenings.
- Assist with marketing strategies, if desired.

Contact:
Client Outreach Manager
615-782-2071, snap@secondharvestmidtn.org

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LOCAL FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

We may be past Christmas, but it's still the season of giving! This time of year, local food pantries experience low stock on their shelves. The Jesus Provisions Ministries announced just that last month when they sent out a list of items for anyone who would like to drop off a donation. The items needed included:

- Cereal
- Pop tarts
- Soups
- Pasta
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Canned Fruit
- Snacks for families and for our unhoused
- Baby Wipes

Other items included:

- Gloves, hats, and scarves
- Men's underwear all sizes,
- woman's Underwear all sizes.
- Sleeping bags.

Jesus Provisions Ministries are located at 505 Sunset Court, Mount Juliet, TN. For questions, they can be reached at (615) 424-9422 or by email at JesusProvisions@yahoo.com.



WE NEED YOU

FOOD

Pantry needs

HELP DONATE TO THOSE IN HUNGER

www.jesusprovisions.org

JPM | Jesus Provisions Ministries



SEED CATALOGS TO CHEER WINTER BLUES

submitted by Lucas Holman

...continued from page 03...Some seeds may be sold individually while others may be sold by weight. For example, a pound of sweet corn is around 3,000 seeds, but the company may not say that it is one pound. The company may only say one pound and that's quite a bit to a small vegetable gardener.

There are many new seed companies that have come out over the last few years, and you may not be on their mailing list. Look online and request a catalog from them because you may be pleasantly surprised at how beautiful some of the catalogs are!

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.



CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING CONTINUES NOW THROUGH JANUARY 10TH

Rockwood Sustainable Solutions is pleased to announce the “Merry Mulching” initiative is back again for the 6th consecutive year providing Wilson County residents a convenient way to recycle, for free, live Christmas trees. Now through January 10th, 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, TN. 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. *Continued on page 08...*



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

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING CONTINUES NOW THROUGH JANUARY 10TH

Continued on page 07...“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 sixth 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.

WHAT: Merry Mulching, Live Christmas Tree Recycling

WHEN: Now - January 10, 2024. Bin accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week

WHERE: Rockwood Sustainable Solutions 510 Hartman Drive Lebanon, TN 37087

About Rockwood Sustainable Solutions: Rockwood Sustainable Solutions is a progressive leader in preserving valuable resources through a responsible holistic approach to sustainable material management. Founded in 2014, the company is headquartered in Lebanon, Tenn., specializing in construction and wood recycling and serving businesses, manufacturers, distribution centers and municipalities across Middle Tennessee. To learn more visit rockwoodrecycling.com.

TENNESSEE STATE FAIR RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FAIRS AND EXPOSITIONS (IAFE) AWARDS

The 2023 Wilson County – Tennessee State Fair was a great year and the second largest attended Fair in its history! Last year, the Fair showcased 95 Reasons to Celebrate Tennessee – All Rows Lead to Tennessee in '23 as well as the agriculture commodity Year of Corn. Events and activities from 2023's Fair were entered into competitions amongst other Fairs from around the world to display the great fun, education and competitions that take place at agriculture-based Fairs.

Over 1,900 entries were judged by Fair industry professionals and awards were presented during the 2023 Virtual Award Show broadcasted via Facebook Live. Winners were selected from the membership of the IAFE which has over 1,000 agricultural member fairs of all sizes from the U.S., Canada, England and Australia. The Wilson County – Tennessee State Fair received a total of 23 awards with 13 first place accomplishments, awards in all five categories: Agriculture, Communication, Competitive Exhibits, Non-Fair and Sponsorship Awards!

Agriculture Awards:

- 1st Place—Technique/procedure/policy developed by Fair Management to correct an issue or challenge related to an agricultural issue: Adding a 3rd Livestock show ring.*
- 1st Place—Agriculture Individual Photo (Miscellaneous): FFA Members enjoying delicious corn at the Fair to celebrate the Year of Corn as the Fair's selected agriculture commodity.*
- 2nd Place—Agricultural exhibitor events, awards, participation incentives or retention programs: Ag Agents incented to enter State Hay & Field Crops*
- 2nd Place—Unique exhibit/promotion/special event/community engagement/competition showcased during the year: Pick Tennessee Products Experience*
- 2nd Place—Agriculture Individual Photo (Equine): Showing Mules at the Fair created lifelong memories!*
- 2nd Place—Any other agriculture program/exhibit: Tennessee Forestry at the Fair...Continued on next page.*

TENNESSEE STATE FAIR RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FAIRS AND EXPOSITIONS (IAFE) AWARDS

continued from previous page...

- *3rd Place—Agriculture Individual Photo (Rodeo): Caught in action—the thrill of pole racing is both exciting and exhilarating as this contestant raced to win the first-place prize!*

Communication Awards:

- *1st Place— Digital Advertising Video: Instagram Reel*
- *1st Place—Miscellaneous Marketing: Corn Ink Pens with Fair logo*
- *2nd Place—Online Advertisements: Instagram Ad Competitive*

Exhibits Awards:

- *1st Place— Use of Theme Throughout Multiple Divisions of Competitive Exhibits: “All Rows Lead to Tennessee in ‘23” & “Year of Corn” Fair Theme and Agriculture Commodity*
- *1st Place—New Division of Competition: Travel Tennessee*
- *1st Place—Strategy or Tactic to Engage Competitive Exhibits Participants: Social Media Influencers*
- *1st Place—Creative Display: Uses of Corn Education Display*
- *1st Place—Competitive Exhibits Event/Contest/Activity Occurring During the Year: Ag Day on the Hill Corn Shelling Competition*
- *2nd Place—Display Method and/or Prop: Fine Arts Display Prop*
- *3rd Place—Special Contest: Mom Calling Competition*

Non-Fair Facility Usage Awards:

- *1st Place—Facility Beautification Project: Updating Building with TN Hardwood Walls*
- *1st Place—Capital Improvement Plan & Execution: Made in Tennessee Building*
- *1st Place—Facility Partnerships: Middle Tennessee Electric (MTE)*

Sponsorship Awards:

- *1st Place—Sponsor Continuity: Vanderbilt*
- *2nd Place—First Time Sponsorship: Hiller*
- *2nd Place—Sponsor Exposure: Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)*

IT'S NAT'L BLOOD DONOR MONTH

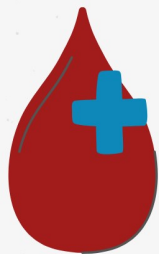
January is annually recognized as National Blood Donor Month. This month, help save lives by making a donation. Just one donation can save up to three lives! Schedule your appointment today through the Red Cross website or keep an eye out on Mayor Hutto's social media for updates on local blood drives.



Save A Life

Donate
Blood

January is National
Blood Donor Month



Schedule an appointment to
donate blood by visiting
rcblood.org/donate

Shhhh...

It's a surprise!

Retirement
Celebration

Honoring

Mary Scruggs

Thursday | 18 | January
5-8pm | 2024

Wilson County Fairgrounds
Cabin by the Arena

You're invited to a come-and-go gathering to celebrate Mary's retirement! Join us for BBQ and the fixins' while we shower her with our endearments.

For more info, reach out to Paula with Animal Control at 615-440-6696.

HISTORIC LEBANON'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KIM PARKS ACCEPTS NEW POSITION AS DIRECTOR OF THE TENNESSEE MAIN STREET PROGRAM

Kim Parks, Executive Director of Historic Lebanon, the organization behind the revitalization of Lebanon's Public Square, has accepted a position with the State of Tennessee as the new Director of the Tennessee Main Street Program and will be leaving her local position soon. The Historic Lebanon Executive Committee will begin the hiring process for Parks' replacement in the coming month.



Ms. Parks came onto Historic Lebanon's board in 2009 and has served as Executive Director since 2012. Under her leadership, Historic Lebanon has been awarded over \$350,000 in state and federal money for facade improvements, an entrepreneur center and the upcoming PROOF restaurant incubator.

Among her many accomplishments, in 2023, Parks achieved Main Street America Revitalization Professional (MSARP) certification, the highest level of certification offered by Main Street America. In 2020 Parks became the first certified facilitator for Tennessee for the Jon Schallert's Destination Creation Course. Also in 2020, Parks completed training for Historic Lebanon to become an official Tennessee SmartStart™ Community partner.

Parks directed several public history projects including a community effort to enact historic zoning, which resulted in the City Council's approval of historic district guidelines and the appointment of a Historic Zoning/Preservation Commission for the City of Lebanon. Parks also created a twenty-eight-site historic driving tour for Wilson County in 2015, which was awarded a Certificate of Merit from the TN Historical Commission in 2016. *Continued on next page...*

HISTORIC LEBANON'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KIM PARKS ACCEPTS NEW POSITION AS DIRECTOR OF THE TENNESSEE MAIN STREET PROGRAM

Continued from previous page... Parks holds a Bachelor of Science in Design with an emphasis in Historic Preservation. She has authored and brought to publication two books on local history. Parks is a 2014 graduate of Leadership Middle Tennessee.

Historic Lebanon is a community based, independent non-profit organization whose mission is the revitalization of Lebanon's Public Square and surrounding neighborhoods, an area placed in 1999 on the National Register of Historic Places as the Lebanon Commercial Historic District. The organization is an accredited Tennessee Main Street program and accredited member of Main Street America.

"We sincerely thank Kim Parks for her tremendous service to our community and congratulate her on her new role with the state. We wish Kim the best in all her endeavors. Thank you for all that you've done for Lebanon and Wilson County over the years, Kim!" said Wilson County Mayor, Randall Hutto.

Pictured: Kim Parks in April 2023 after achieving the Main Street America Revitalization Professional (MSARP) credential, the highest credential currently available through the Main Street America Institute (MSAI).





MLK Day

Wilson County Government Offices, Convenience Centers, and Landfill will be closed on Monday, January 15th in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Offices, Convenience Centers and Landfill will return to their regular business hours on Tuesday, January 16th. We wish you all a Happy MLK Day!



WILSON COUNTY TENNESSEE

KINDNESS IS OUR THING!

Help us spread awareness of kindness by doing these 3 things:

1. See it.
2. Do it.

3. Share it.   

#WilsonCountyKind



FIND FOOD ASSISTANCE

Find a food pantry in your area by visiting secondharvestmidtn.org/get-help or scan the QR code with your smartphone's camera



EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION EVENT DEC. '23

We would like to send a special thank you shout-out to the HR and Employee Benefits Departments for hosting such a wonderful event last month! There was plenty of delicious food, fellowship and fun! Each year, the HR department chooses a non-profit and asks employees to bring a donation. This year, employees were asked to bring a roll of paper towels which went on to benefit the Brooks House. Thank you, ladies, for making this possible!





MAYOR HUTTO'S ANNUAL
Open House
DECEMBER 2023

