



THE COUNTY CONNECTION

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



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Blake Hall, District 9**

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A Word from Mayor Hutto...

There's always something to do here in Wilson County, and this month is no different! The Lebanon Senior Citizen's Center will host its annual Valentine's Dinner and Dance on the 17th, and the Wilson County Black History Committee will host its annual Black History Month Celebration on the 18th. There's plenty more of events where that came from, so be sure to look through this newsletter. On another note, my staff and I would like to go ahead and wish you all a very Happy Valentine's Day. For us, home is where the heart is. We are proud to call Wilson County home, and we are honored to serve our community. Together, we make Wilson County the Place to Be!

Commissioner Spotlight: Blake Hall District 9



Contact INFORMATION

Phone: 615-403-3148

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**

PEAK POTHOLE SEASON IS UPON US

Peak pothole season is upon us. Do you have a road repair request?

For state roads and highways, TDOT's maintenance team has it covered! Call 833-TDOTFIX (836-8349) to report potholes, debris litter and more!

For county road repairs, the Wilson County Road Commission can be reached at 615-444-9022. Our state, county and city road departments are working diligently to keep our roadways as safe as possible. Drive safely, everyone!



MRS. LINDA GRANSTAFF RECEIVES HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD

The Daughters of the American Revolution's (DAR) recently presented an award to the Wilson County Archives Director, Mrs. Linda Grandstaff. Caney Fork Chapter DAR surprised her with an Excellence in Historic Preservation Award (pictured right). Here's what they had to say about Ms. Linda:



Listing the many contributions of Linda Granstaff to preserving Wilson County would take more than one sheet of paper and more time than we can spend before the Archives closes today. Not only has she organized and preserved important Wilson County documents, maps, and family histories but she has also assisted in the restoration and preservation of historic buildings in Wilson County, as well as being the curator of the Wilson County Veterans Museum.

One example that comes to mind is the work she contributed to the Fite-Fessenden House. The 4 volumes of historic photograph books donated by Wilson County residents are another example of how she not only works with the historic paper records but also works to preserve family histories in photos. Mrs. Linda has also traveled... (continued on page 07).



Human Resources is doing a monthly employee giveaway. Winners will receive a Wilson County pullover, please let us know your size. All Wilson County Employees will have a chance to win each month. Please contact HR at 615-206-5065 to claim your prize.

*February
Winners*

**Alexander
Armstrong,
WEMA**

**Christopher
Vaughn,
WEMA**

**Matt Apple,
Sheriff's Office**

**Dillon Johnson,
Sheriff's Office**

**Lakeisha Davis,
Judicial
Commissioners
Office**



February 03
Four Chaplains
Day

February 17
Random Acts of
Kindness Day

February 19
President's Day

Black History
Month

American Heart
Month

**JOIN US FOR THE
LEBANON SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER**

VALENTINE'S DAY



*Dinner
& Dance*

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17
5:00PM - 9:00 PM**

Dinner tickets are \$50 per person

**THE MILL AT LEBANON
300 NORTH MAPLE STREET**

**FORMAL DINNER AND DANCE
DOORS OPEN AT 5PM | DINNER AT 6PM**

DINNER MENU: CHOICE OF PRIME RIB OR CHICKEN
GREEN SALAD, ROASTED POTATOES, GREEN BEANS, ROLL
CHEESECAKE

TEA, COFFEE, WINE, BEER

BENEFITING THE LEBANON SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER

**CALL 615-449-4600
FOR MORE INFORMATION**

CONGRATULATIONS, GOVERNOR'S VOLUNTEER STAR AWARDS NOMINEES AND WINNERS!

By Sara Davenport

Wilson County is pleased to announce the nominees for the 2023 Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards. These nominees were recognized for their diligent volunteer efforts throughout Wilson County.

The 2023 nominees included: youth nominee Jonathan Richerson, Jr. who serves with a homeless ministry for at risk elementary and middle school students. Robert Disalvo was recognized for the work he does with the Mt. Juliet Breakfast Rotary Club.

Wilson Rides, Inc. nominated 4 volunteers for a GVSA award including: Diana Cavender, Nancy Hodny, Bob Morrison, and Randy Ryan. *Continued on next page.*



Wilson Co. Archives
Volunteers



Matt McPeak



Nancy Vardell



Jonathan
Richerson, Jr.

Congrats!
2023
**VOLUNTEER
STARS**



Wilson Rides, Inc.



Bob Disalvo



Missy Elrod



Alan McFarland



Haywood Norman



Charis Health

CONGRATULATIONS, GOVERNOR'S VOLUNTEER STAR AWARDS NOMINEES AND WINNERS!

By Sara Davenport

Continued from last page... Charis Health Center nominated 2 volunteers: Dr. Mart Amick and Ashley McCormack while the Wilson Co. Election Commission nominated Ms. Nancy Vardell for her volunteer contributions. Wilson Co. Archives nominated 4 volunteers: Shirley Wilson, Arretha Oakley, Catherine Nolen, and Lee Atwood. Mr. Haywood Norman was honored for his work with the VVA while Mr. Matt McPeak was recognized for his volunteer work with DrugFreeWilCo. Nominations wrapped up with Missy Elrod who volunteers with the Mt. Juliet Help Center, Salt, and Compassionate Hands and Alan McFarland who volunteers at Springdale Elementary. Each nominee was presented with a plaque sponsored by Wilson Bank and Trust.

Congratulations! We appreciate your work and dedication to your community!

The Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards (GVSA) is an initiative from Volunteer Tennessee that seeks to recognize outstanding volunteers from each of Tennessee's 95 counties. With the program now in its 16th year, participating counties conduct a call for nominations and recognize one outstanding youth and one outstanding adult volunteer. Stay tuned for information on the adult and youth winners!



WILSON COUNTY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, CONVENIENCE CENTERS, AND LANDFILL WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH IN OBSERVANCE OF PRESIDENT'S DAY. OFFICES, CONVENIENCE CENTERS AND LANDFILL WILL RETURN TO THEIR REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH. WE WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY PRESIDENT'S DAY!

GSVA 2023 WINNERS HONORED

By Sara Davenport

Wilson County is pleased to announce the adult and youth winner of the 2023 Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards. Lexi Potter and Anita Woolard were recognized during the Lebanon Wilson Co. Chamber of Commerce Awards banquet on January 25th. These outstanding volunteers were presented with plaques sponsored by Wilson Bank & Trust and honored for their commitment to their community.

Youth winner, Lexi Potter was nominated for her own unique way to spread kindness through Kindness Clay's by Lexi. Lexi makes bracelets bearing phrases like, "Be Kind". She does this free of charge in hopes that others will see the bracelets and be encouraged to do the same. While the bracelets are free, Lexi does accept donations that are then donated to local charities.

Adult winner, Ms. Anita Woolard received 5 nominations from separate individuals all noting her commitment to the All for Him ministry. Anita has volunteered 10+ years with this volunteer group in multiple capacities. From food and warehouse coordination to caring for the unhoused, Anita displays a true servant's heart. One nominee commented, "...She helps with feedings on Sundays ... and worries



Pictured left to right: Wilson Co. Mayor, Randall Hutto, Anita Woolard, Lexi Potter, Curt Baker

about her unhoused friends all the time but is always just a phone call away for them. She will give the shirt off of her back for anyone who needs it."

Congratulations Lexi and Anita! We are humbled by your volunteer spirit and honored to recognize you as Governor's Volunteer Stars. As a GVSA recipient, Lexi and Anita have been invited to GVSA State of TN banquet in February where they will be recognized along with other counties across the state.

Be on the lookout for outstanding volunteers in your community and be ready to nominate them for a Governor's Volunteer Stars Award this fall. For more information, contact Sara Davenport at the Wilson County Mayor's office at 615/444-1383. The Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards (GVSA) is an initiative from Volunteer Tennessee that seeks to recognize outstanding volunteers from each of Tennessee's 95 counties. With the program now in its 16th year, participating counties conduct a call for nominations and recognize one outstanding youth and one outstanding adult volunteer.

MRS. LINDA GRANSTAFF RECEIVES HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD

(Continued from page 03)...throughout the county taking photos of old homes and buildings that are in danger of being demolished to include in these books. She has been very involved in the design, construction and exhibits in the Wilson County Veterans Museum located on Main Street.

She has been especially generous with her time to our Caney Fork DAR Chapter.

Many of our members have come here to research their family genealogy and meet others to have their papers checked. She

graciously let our chapter meet here, not once but twice and gave tours of the facility to the members explaining the various types of documents preserved here. For these examples of her contributions to historic preservation and the many more that we have not mentioned the Caney Fork Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution would like to donate this Historic Preservation Award to Mrs. Linda Granstaff.

We appreciate the D.A.R. taking the time to recognize Mrs. Linda Grandstaff for all that she does for our county. Thank you to all the ladies in the chapter for making this possible. Congratulations, Ms. Linda!



Looking into the Future

MAYOR'S SESSION INFRASTRUCTURE



February 6, 2024

Farm Bureau Expo Center
South Hall
945 E. Baddour Pkwy
Lebanon

Networking & light breakfast
7:30AM
Program 8AM - 9:30AM

Join the County and City
Mayors as we explore the state
of Wilson County's
Infrastructure.

RSVP

615.444.1383
shawsu@wilsoncountyttn.gov

presenting sponsor



partners



NATIONAL WEAR RED DAY COMING UP FEBRUARY 2ND

On January 31, 2024 Mayor Hutto signed the American Heart Month Proclamation, proclaiming February 2024 as American Heart Month in Wilson County, Tennessee. This proclamation recognizes that cardiovascular diseases kill one in three women in the United States. According to the American Heart Association, 80% of these diseases are preventable. Nearly 45% of women aged 20 and older are living with some form of cardiovascular disease. The American Heart Association's Go Red for Women® movement motivates women to learn their family history and to meet with a healthcare provider to determine their risk for cardiovascular diseases and stroke.

Mayor Hutto encourages all residents to join the American Heart Association in fighting cardiovascular diseases by identifying symptoms and taking preventive measures that will increase survival rates and save thousands of lives each year. February 2, 2024 is National Wear Red Day! The American Heart Association asks that everyone wear red to show their support to end heart disease and stroke in women. To learn more about the American Heart Association and Wear Red Day, visit [GoRedForWomen.org](https://www.GoRedForWomen.org).



**HEART ATTACK AND STROKE ARE LIFE-OR-DEATH EMERGENCIES —
EVERY SECOND COUNTS. IF YOU THINK YOU OR SOMEONE YOU'RE WITH
HAS ANY SYMPTOMS OF HEART ATTACK OR STROKE,
CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY.**

WINTER CARE OF PLANTS *submitted by Lucas Holman*

The weather has played havoc with our travel plans recently and forced us to stay home. We've been getting some questions regarding how the weather is going to affect the current landscape plants. The weather that we have recently had is nothing like last year. We slowly acclimated to the low temperatures as opposed to dropping 60 degrees in a 12-hour period. Luckily most of our landscapes will not see any damage from the current situation. We do have some plants that skirt the hardiness zone that may see damage, and this includes Indian Hawthorn, Distylium, and Gardenia.

This current system that we had was mostly snow. Snow acts like an insulating blanket and it will prevent the ground from freezing which could damage roots and bulbs. Since we had negative temperatures with this storm along with snow cover, our plants should not be damaged. Another benefit of snow is that it prevents the ground from drying out. Plants are more apt to get winter damage if they are dry. Ice is completely different, and we normally see some damage from ice. It will build up on branches and could cause them to snap due to the sheer weight. The main point is that snow is better than ice.

If we are consistently seeing winter damage on some of our landscape plants, let's try and focus on plants that usually won't get damaged. Last year's polar vortex was a good indicator of which plants will come through a sudden drop in temperature. We haven't seen anything like that in a long time, but there is always the possibility that it will happen again. In a landscape recently that had damaged Distylium, the landscaper put more Distylium in the same spots. If we repeat the same mistakes, we're going to expect the same results. With the rise of many new plants coming on the market each year, it's hard to determine which ones will do well for us. Don't let your garden become a trial garden for new plants. Let someone else kill it first before you attempt growing it in your landscape.

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

VOLUNTEER NETWORK TN TO HOST DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TRAINING

The Volunteer Network (TVN) is known as a landing pad where community members can come to serve their community in ongoing needs and in times of disaster. The organization works to help build bridges to connect nonprofits, churches, and businesses with the broader Wilson County Community and equips our community to best serve our neighbors in need.

TVN partners alongside the Wilson County Emergency Management Agency (WEMA) and first responders in the community to be the space for volunteers to give their time in initial disaster response. The Volunteer Network is the facilitating nonprofit to coordinate Long Term Recovery Groups in times of disaster.

The Volunteer Network will host a virtual disaster volunteer orientation on February 7th. It is open to all! Become part of the team that helps Wilson County come together when we need each other the most!

Preparedness is key! Don't wait for disaster to strike. Sign up at: <http://tinyurl.com/TVN-DVorientation>



VOLUNTEERS ARE CRUCIAL

WHEN DISASTER STRIKES, VOLUNTEER NETWORK PARTNERS WITH WEMA AND WILSON COUNTY'S VOAD TO MANAGE VOLUNTEERS FOR CLEANUP AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT. VOLUNTEERS AND VOLUNTEER LEADERS ALLOW OUR STAFF THE ABILITY TO EXTEND OUR REACH TO MAKE OUR DISASTER RESPONSE AS EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT AS POSSIBLE. WE COULD NOT ASSIST OUR COMMUNITY WITHOUT THE HELP OF TRAINED VOLUNTEERS.

BECOME A TRAINED DISASTER VOLUNTEER TODAY!



Four Chaplains Day

FEBRUARY 3, 2024

WILSON COUNTY BLACK HISTORY COMMITTEE

Proudly Hosting the Annual Black History Month Celebration

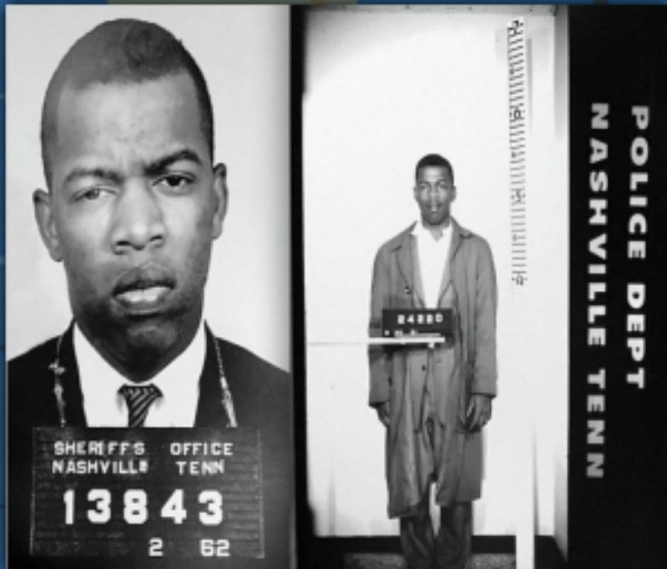
"WE THE PEOPLE"

Honoring

CONGRESSMAN JOHN R. LEWIS

"Freedom is not a state; it is an act. It is not some enchanted garden perched high on a distant plateau where we can finally sit down and rest. Freedom is the continuous action we all must take, and each generation must do its part to create an even more fair, more just society."

— From his 2017 memoir, "Across That Bridge: A Vision for Change and the Future of America"



Nashville changed U.S. Representative John Lewis when he arrived at 17 to study at American Baptist College, and then Lewis changed Nashville forever. His activism is embedded in the DNA of the city where he came of age, learned the language of protest and joined forces with an army of civil rights luminaries who harnessed their potential in local churches and at downtown lunch counters. Together with a core group of Nashville students, he changed the face of activism in America, embracing nonviolent civil disobedience that became the bedrock of the modern fight for racial equality.

No Admission for Celebration Event • Donations Appreciated

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2024 • 2 - 4 PM

LEBANON FIRST BAPTIST ROCK & HISTORIC PICKETT CHAPEL

209 East Market Street • For information call 615-444-9487

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, April 27th, 2024

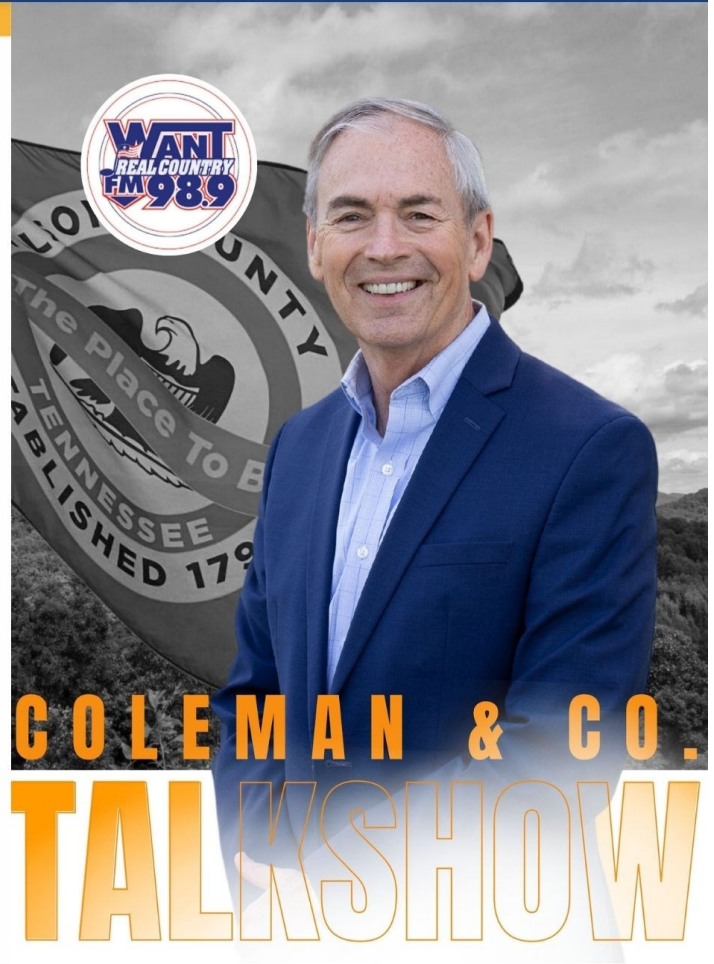
Wilson County Heart Walk

NASHVILLE SUPERSPEEDWAY

4847F MCCRARY ROAD | LEBANON, TN



American Heart Association.
Healthy for Good™



WANT 98.9 FM / WCOR AM 1490

GUEST, MAYOR RANDALL HUTTO

FEB. 26TH | WITH COLEMAN WALKER

TUNE IN AROUND 7:40AM!

Happy Valentine's Day, Wilson County!

HOME

is where the heart is

Valentines Themed "Dad Jokes"

Valentine's Day Word Search



Can you find the words hidden in the puzzle?

Answers located at the bottom of this page.

1. WHAT DID ONE SCIENTIST SAY TO THE OTHER?
2. WHAT DID ONE VOLCANO SAY TO THE OTHER?
3. WHY DIDN'T THE SKELETON WANT TO SEND ANY VALENTINE'S DAY CARDS?
4. WHAT FLOWER GIVES THE MOST KISSES ON VALENTINE'S DAY?
5. HOW DO FARMERS CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY?
6. WHAT DID ONE OAR SAY TO ANOTHER?
7. WHAT DID THE CUCUMBER SAY TO THE PICKLE?



- | | | | |
|-----------|------|-------|----------|
| FLOWERS | GIFT | CARDS | KISSES |
| CHOCOLATE | HUGS | HEART | ARROW |
| VALENTINE | LOVE | CUPID | FEBRUARY |

1. WE'VE GOT GOOD CHEMISTRY.
2. I LAVA YOU.
3. HIS HEART WASN'T IN IT.
4. TULIPS.
5. BY GIVING HOGS AND KISSES.
6. CAN I INTEREST YOU IN A LITTLE ROW-MANCE?
7. YOU MEAN A GREAT DILL TO ME.