



THE COUNTY CONNECTION

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



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A Word from Mayor Hutto...

This month, we celebrate two very important groups of people: our mothers and our military. Mothers go above and beyond for their families, just as our service members go above and beyond for our nation. Both make a choice every day to put other's needs before their own, and both are our heroes. Maya Angelou said it best when she said, "How important it is for us to recognize and celebrate our heroes and she-heroes!" Thank you to all the mothers, mother figures, and military members who go above and beyond for us!

**Commissioner Spotlight:
Haskell Evans
District 12**



Contact
INFORMATION

Phone: 629-207-0391

**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**



MEMORIAL DAY

WILSON COUNTY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LANDFILL AND CONVENIENCE CENTERS WILL BE **CLOSED ON MONDAY, MAY 27TH** IN OBSERVANCE OF MEMORIAL DAY. OFFICES, LANDFILL AND CONVENIENCE CENTERS WILL RETURN TO THEIR REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS ON TUESDAY, MAY 28TH. WE WISH YOU ALL A BLESSED MEMORIAL DAY AS WE REMEMBER AND HONOR THOSE WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SERVE!

CATFISH STOCKED IN TENNESSEE FISHING LAKES *submitted*

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) announced their plans to stock channel catfish in community fishing lakes in late April. The locations include Cameron Brown Lake in Germantown, Cedar Hill Lake in Nashville, Dickert Pond in Chattanooga, Greenbelt Lake in Maryville, and Fountain City Lake in Knoxville.

The regulations for the catfish are 5 per day. In addition to the catfish, other species and their limits are bluegill and redear (20 per day), black bass (1 per day), crappie (30 per day), and trout (5 per day). There are no size limits. The locations will be stocked again in May and June.

A fishing license is required at these locations. Children under 13 years of age are not required to have a license. For more information on where to fish, videos on how to fish, and fillet a catfish, visit www.gofishtennessee.com/.



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.

May Winners

Elizabeth Anderson
Sheriff's Department

Kevin Brogan
WEMA

Judith Harris
Archives

Charles Moss
Circuit Court

Donald Eldridge
Building Inspector's Office



STRAWBERRY SEASON IS HERE IN TN! *submitted*



It's time to Pick Tennessee Products and pick Tennessee strawberries. Strawberry season is underway. Most strawberry farms are planning to begin selling strawberries in mid-April.

Check out the list of local strawberry farms below to find fresh berries near you.

With warm spring days in the forecast, Tennessee farms will quickly have fields turning red with juicy and sweet strawberries. If you are looking for the freshest berries, head straight to the farm.

It's always best to call a berry farm in advance to learn picking procedures and to determine availability. Depending on weather, the typical strawberry season lasts four to six weeks, so head to a farm now for the freshest, best tasting strawberries!

Circle S Farms

1627 East Old Laguardo Road, Lebanon, TN 37087
615-405-6860

Evans Produce

5925B Franklin Road, Lebanon, TN 37090
615-308-5861

Jammy Farms

2650 Harkreader Rd, Mt Juliet, TN 37122

Lester Farms

2822 Coles Ferry Pike, Lebanon, TN 37087
615-564-0871

Marie's Self Service Produce

1707 Benders Ferry Road, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122
615-444-5500

Shop Springs Farms

3939 Sparta Pike, WATERTOWN, TN 37184
615-406-1333

The Sunday Farm & Apiary

602-677-0127

Underwood Farms

615-598-2962

Support your local economy and buy fresh strawberries from your local farmer. Use the free Pick Tennessee mobile app or go to www.PickTNProducts.org to find a farm near you. Follow @PickTNProducts on Facebook, X, and Instagram to learn more about seasonal recipes, products, and activities.

WILSON COUNTY RECEIVES BRC GRANT FOR LIBRARY SYSTEM

Wilson County, along with several other Tennessee counties, will be awarded broadband and digital literacy grants by the TN Department of Economic and Community Development (TNECD). Wilson County will receive \$100,000 which will go to broadband accessibility and digital literacy programs through the Wilson County Library system. Congratulations to our Wilson County Library Director Alesia Burnley, as well as her incredible staff! This grant will help our local libraries further opportunities for citizens and residents of all ages.

This news was announced by Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee and Department of Economic and Community Development (TNECD) Commissioner Stuart C. McWhorter on April 30, 2024. TNECD's investment of \$97.2 million in broadband infrastructure will provide access to more than 58,200 Tennesseans across 23,000 locations in 37 counties. The BRC grants, totaling \$6 million, will be distributed among 64 local governments and support community-based digital skills training, public Wi-Fi projects, distribution of free or low-cost devices and marketing for low-cost internet plans.

For more details, see TNECD's full press release at <https://tnecd.com/news/governor-lee-commissioner-mcwhorter-announce-163-million-in-funding-to-further-expand-broadband/>. To learn more about Tennessee's broadband initiatives or apply for these programs, please visit <https://www.tn.gov/ecd/rural-development/broadband-office.html>.

The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development's mission is to develop strategies that help make Tennessee the No. 1 location in the Southeast for high quality jobs. To grow and strengthen Tennessee, the department seeks to attract new corporate investment to the state and works with Tennessee companies to facilitate expansion and economic growth.

LEADERSHIP WILSON PRESENTS: CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT FOR WEMA

Join us on May 19th for a Cornhole Tournament benefitting our WEMA stations! Funds raised will be used to purchase needed supplies for WEMA stations. Cornhole Boards (with WEMA's logo) will be donated to the WEMA stations throughout the county after the tournament!

Date: Sunday, May 19, 2024. Registration begins at 1:30pm.

RSVP your team at: <https://forms.gle/j24QgmWau8gc4BxR7>

Event Location: First United Methodist Church

Address: 415 W Main St, Lebanon, TN 37087

Entries: Cost to Enter is \$50 (Covers a two person team). Entry fees will be taken upon registration on May 19. Please bring Cash or Check (made payable to Leadership Wilson) for entry fees.

Blowin' Smoke Barbecue and The Pink Truck food trucks will be available!



MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

This May, Wilson County Government Offices and organizations are partnering together to recognize the importance of Mental Health Awareness Month (see the flyer below). Mayor Hutto and representatives of TN Voices will sign a proclamation on May 1st in recognition of children's mental health awareness. The official color for mental health awareness is green. This color represents hope, renewal, and strength. The lampposts surrounding the Wilson County Courthouse will be lit in green each evening this month. If you would like to get involved during this Mental Health Awareness Month, it's easy! Simply wear the color green to show your support!



You're invited!

Mental Health Fair

*Hosted by the Wilson County Mental Health Committee
In conjunction with the Wilson County Health Council
And the Wilson County Health Department*

Join us, come relax and help us celebrate the official launch of the Wilson County Mental Health Committee

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May 4th, 2024 10 AM - 2 PM 228 E Main St, Lebanon, TN 37087 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several mental health organizations and resources will be available • Food trucks, hot dogs, and giveaways • Family fun activities and bouncy houses • Many community partners will be present!
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Estás invitado!

Feria de Salud Mental

Organizado por el Comité de Salud Mental de Wilson en colaboración con el Consejo de Salud del Condado de Wilson y el Departamento de Salud de Wilson.

Únete a nosotros, ven a relajarte y ayúdanos a celebrar el lanzamiento oficial del Comité de Salud Mental del Condado de Wilson

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> El 4 de Mayo del 2024 10 AM - 2 PM 228 E Main St, Lebanon, TN 37087 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varias organizaciones y recursos de salud mental estarán disponibles • Carritos de comida, hot dogs, y regalos • Actividades divertidas para toda la familia y casas inflables • Muchos socios comunitarios estarán presentes
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LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE: BROADBAND & UTILITIES

Broadband providers and utility providers joined Mayor Hutto for a panel discussion on April 30th at College Hills Church of Christ. A light breakfast was served early that morning before the program began. This free public event was the 2nd of a 3-part series called “Looking into the Future.” Special thanks go to Middle TN Electric for sponsoring the event, College Hills Church of Christ for lending us their sanctuary, and the Lebanon/Wilson County Chamber of Commerce! The broadband and utility providers that were present included: United Communications, DTC Communications, Gladeville Utility District, West Wilson Utility District, LaGuardo Utility District, and the Wilson County Water & Wastewater Authority. Thank you to all the providers and utility districts for participating!



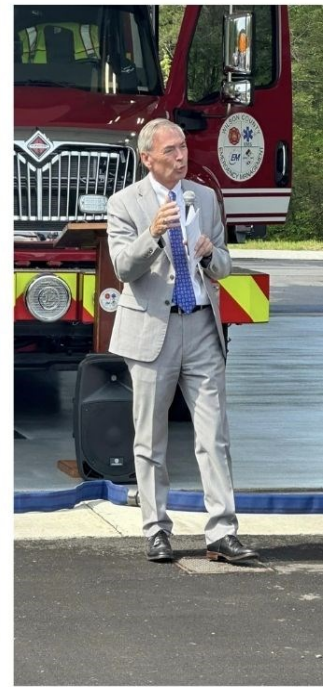
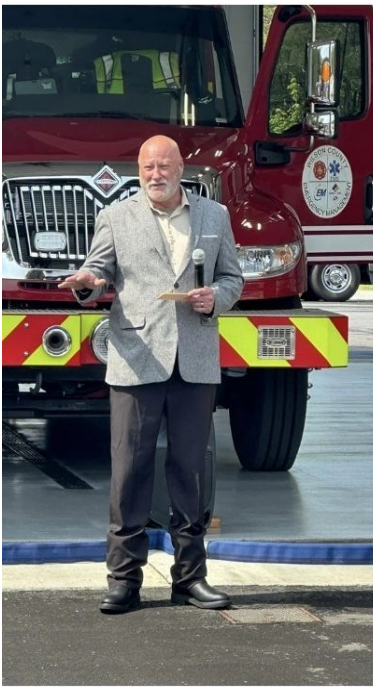
The 3rd “Looking into the Future” session will be held on October 1, 2024 at Providence Church and it’s focus will be on planning and growth. There is no cost to attend, so make plans to join us that morning and learn about city and county plans for the future!



A GRAND OPENING FOR WEMA'S STATION 10

The Wilson County Emergency Management Agency's (WEMA) new Station 10 is now open! The grand opening ceremony for the new station was held on April 26th. It was a fantastic event! Here's what WEMA had to say about their new station in Mt. Juliet:



"WE ARE SO GRATEFUL TO MAYOR HUTTO, ALL THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, SENATOR PODY, AND EVERYONE WHO JOINED US IN CELEBRATING THE GRAND OPENING OF STATION 10 THIS MORNING! YOUR PRESENCE MEANT THE WORLD TO US. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT, AND A SPECIAL SHOUTOUT TO HCA TRI STAR FOR GENEROUSLY SPONSORING TODAY'S REFRESHMENTS. HERE'S TO SERVING OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER!"



COLEMAN & CO.
TALKSHOW

WANT 98.9 FM / WCOR AM 1490

GUEST, MAYOR RANDALL HUTTO

MAY 20TH | WITH COLEMAN WALKER

TUNE IN AROUND 7:40AM!

LEBANON

SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

SMALL BUSINESS BUCKS!

Pick up at the Main Office at Wilson Bank & Trust



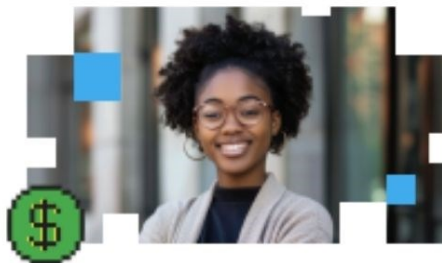
Use the Small Business Bucks at local retailers and restaurants! During the week of April 28- May 4, 2024



Sunday, May 12th

Get Paid TO ADULT

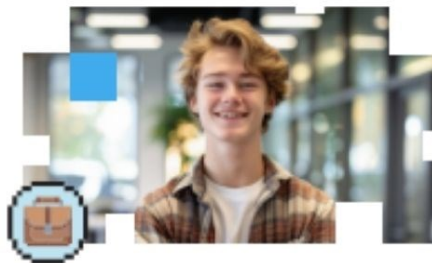
Tennessee's Youth Employment Program (YEP) links ambitious young adults aged 14-24 with employers in diverse industries across Tennessee. Participants dive into hands-on workforce experiences, gaining invaluable skills and test-driving future careers while earning up to \$4,000 along the way. This year-round program from the state of Tennessee offers much more than youth job opportunities — it teaches lifelong and life-changing skills. YEP is THE vibe to thrive in the workforce.



MAKE YOUR OWN MONEY

Turn Potential Into Paychecks

Take charge of your future, build your resume, and gain real-world experience all while earning up to \$4,000.



TEST DRIVE CAREERS

Explore Your Interests

Pursue your passion and discover firsthand insights and mentorship to help guide the right career fit for your future.



GAIN EXPERIENCE

Prepare For Your Future

Every career rockstar started as a rookie, and YEP is your ultimate training ground for building foundational skills for long term success.

First Jobs Lead to Lasting Success

YEP isn't just another internship; it's a paid job that instills discipline and vital soft skills. By encouraging youth to participate, you're helping tomorrow's business leaders cultivate the confidence, resilience, and adaptability needed to thrive in today's dynamic career fields.

WHO: 14-24 YEAR OLD TENNESSEANS

WHEN: YEAR-ROUND

WHERE: STATEWIDE

HOW MUCH: EARN UP TO \$4,000



Sign up and find answers to frequently asked questions at YepTN.com



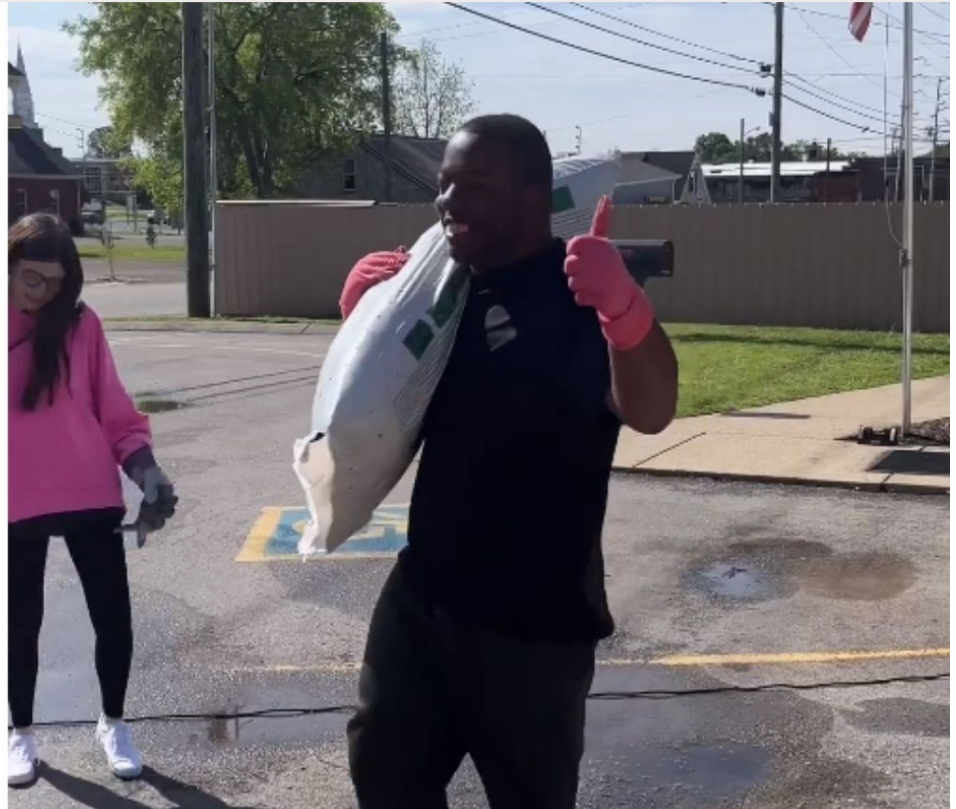
The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Minorities and women are encouraged to apply. We are an equal opportunity employer. We are an equal opportunity employer. We are an equal opportunity employer.

Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development
1000 Belmont Blvd., Nashville, TN 37203
www.tn.gov

WILSON COUNTY KIND SPOTLIGHT



Wilson County is blessed with so many groups and organizations that dedicate their time to lift others up. Last month, a young adult group from UniteWilsonCo went to work by helping two local ministries and a school with their outdoor cleanup projects. As the day went on, they worked in flower beds, pressure washed, washed windows, and much more - all without asking for anything in return. Thank you to these awesome young adults for all their hard work!



wilsoncountydayofprayer.org

WILSON COUNTY NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER



LIFT UP THE WORD
LIGHT UP THE WORLD
1 Samuel 22:29-31

Thursday
May 2 7PM

Guests include
Senator Mark Pody
Mayor Randall Hutto
Mayor Rick Bell
Representative Clark Boyd
Representative Susan Lynn

You are invited to join with
local government and
community leaders as we
pray for our county, state
and nation

Made in Tennessee Building | Wilson County Fairgrounds
945 E Baddour Pkwy
Lebanon, TN 37087

HIMMEL'S

ARCHITECTURAL DOOR & HARDWARE

JOB FAIR

"GET YOUR FOOT IN THE DOOR"

Saturday, May 4th
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

12021 Volunteer Blvd.
Mt. Juliet, TN 37122



Bring Your Resume!

Open Positions:

- Assistant Fabricator
- Counter Sales
- Project Managers
- Maintenance Coordinator

Contact: 855-446-6357 marketing@himmels.com

Military Appreciation Month

Thank you to all who serve!





Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Registration and Health Fair

- ★ Byars Dowdy Elementary
- ★ Castle Heights Elementary
- ★ Coles Ferry Elementary
- ★ Jones Brummett Elementary
- ★ Sam Houston Elementary



Requirements:

*Pre-Kindergarten:

- ✓ Age 4 on/by August 15
- ✓ Zoned for LSSD

**The Pre-Kindergarten program is voluntary and eligibility is based on income, at-risk factors, and program availability.*

Kindergarten:

- ✓ Age 5 on/by August 15
- ✓ Zoned for LSSD

WHEN: Tuesday, May 7, 2024
WHERE: College Hills Church of Christ
 1401 Leeville Pike
TIME: 10:00 a.m. ~ 6:00 p.m.

COMPLETE YOUR REGISTRATION PACKET ONLINE

For **FASTER REGISTRATION PROCESS** - Parents are encouraged to register their child online at www.lssd.org and upload all required documents. Please bring extra copies of your TN Certificate of Immunization documents on registration day.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

(K and PreK Applicants)

- Certified Birth Certificate
- Two Proofs Of Residency
- TN Certificate of Immunization
- Current Physical

(Additional Documents for PreK Only)

- Proof of Income (pay stub, W2, etc.)
- Income Eligibility Form (see link on Pre-K Registration page on LSSD website)



For more information, visit www.lssd.org



Screenings for Speech, Hearing, Vision and Dental
(Required for Pre-K)

****Physicals** will be given to children upon request. This service will be billed to child's insurance**



Inscripción de Pre-Kinder y Kinder y Feria de Salud

- ★ Byars Dowdy Primaria
- ★ Castle Heights Primaria
- ★ Coles Ferry Primaria
- ★ Jones Brummett Primaria
- ★ Sam Houston Primaria



Requisitos:

*Pre-Kindergarten:

- ✓ Edad 4 antes/para Agosto 15
- ✓ Zonificado para LSSD

**El programa de Pre-Kindergarten es voluntario y la elegibilidad se basa en los ingresos, los factores de riesgo y la disponibilidad del programa.*

Kindergarten:

- ✓ Edad 5 antes/para Agosto 15
- ✓ Zonificado para LSSD

CUANDO: MARTES, 7 de Mayo 2024
DONDE: College Hills Church of Christ
 1401 Leeville Pike
HORA: 10:00 a.m. ~ 6:00 p.m.

Para un **PROCESO DE REGISTRO MÁS RÁPIDO:** se alienta a los padres a registrar a su hijo en línea en www.lssd.org y cargar todos los documentos requeridos. Por favor lleve copias extras del certificado de inmunización de TN el día de la inscripción.

DOCUMENTOS REQUERIDOS:

Solicitantes Pre-kinder y K

- Acta de Nacimiento Certificada
- Dos Pruebas de Residencia
- Certificado de Inmunización de Tennessee (vacunas y exámenes físicos actuales)

(Documentos adicionales necesarios solo para solicitantes de pre-kinder)

- Comprobante de salario (Talon de pago, W2, etc.)
- Formulario de elegibilidad de ingresos. (Ver el enlace en la página de inscripción para Pre kinder en la página web LSSD)



Para más información, visite nuestro sitio web www.lssd.org



Exámenes de Habla, Audición, Visión y Dental

(Requeridos para estudiantes de Pre-K)

Se darán Exámenes Físicos a los niños que lo soliciten. Este servicio se facturará al seguro médico del niño.

Voluntary Pre-K Registration

WILSON COUNTY SCHOOLS



**Applications will open online on February 26
for the 2024-2025 school year!**

Priority for enrollment is given to children who:

- ◆ Turn four years old by August 15, 2024, **AND**
- ◆ The family meets federal income poverty guidelines

If there are spaces still available:

- ◆ We may enroll children based on Community Pre-K Advisory Council priority for enrollment those that do NOT meet the income criteria, but have other at-risk factors (in state or foster care, parent deployed in active military duty, IEP, ELL etc.)

We are not able to start enrolling children from our wait list until AFTER September 15. They will be selected based on at-risk factors and when they completed the application process.

***This is an application process. Admittance to the program is based on the priorities listed above.**

Directions for completing the Voluntary Pre-K Application

- Go to www.wcschools.com
- Click on Students and Family
- Click on Pre-Kindergarten Program under Enrollment and Registration
- Click on Pre-Kindergarten Enrollment (Required documents for Pre-K are listed here)
- Read through the information then click on **New Student Enrollment** under Application Directions
- Scroll to **Instructions for Completing Online Enrollment**
- Read through the two options (currently have a student enrolled in WCS and need to enroll a new student **OR** you are new to the WCS system)
- Follow the directions under the option that applies to you
- Complete **P4** application and **upload** required documents. You will **not** be able to go back in and upload documents once submitted.
- Once you have submitted your complete application, the Pre-K department will review and process your application, and someone will contact you regarding your application status.

Documents to upload to Pre-K Application

- Official Birth Certificate
- Current Shot Record (**with signed physical**)
- 2023 tax return or W-2s for household
- Two Proofs of Residence
- Custody Papers and parenting plan (if applicable)
- IEP and/or evaluations (if applicable)

Your child's application will not be complete until all documents have been submitted (including income verification.) Please upload all required documents to avoid a delay in your child's application being processed.

For additional information or questions visit www.wcschools.com or contact:

Jessica Humbles
Elementary Secretary
615-444-3282 ext. 7801
humblesj@wcschools.com

Brooke Carr
Pre-K Lead
615-444-3282 ext. 7434
carrb@wcschools.com



WILSON COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE ANNOUNCES RECORD BREAKING YEAR FOR PASSPORTS

submitted by Jessica Hamblen

The Wilson County Clerk's Office announced that 2023 was another record-breaking year for processing passports. The County Clerk's Office started doing passports in the early 2000's and have continued to see an upward track with a constant increase in the demand for passports. In 2020 the Clerk's office decided to move the Passport Acceptance Facility from its long-time home located at 228 East Main Street in Lebanon to its new



location of 129 South College Street in Lebanon. With that move, the Clerk's Office implemented some changes to the process, such as requiring an appointment for each applicant. Now agents can provide adequate time and attention to each application by way of a 15-minute appointment. Further, in August of 2022 the South College Street location started providing services for passport pictures within the facility, sort of a "one stop shop" for their customers. With the changes within the Passport program the Wilson County Clerk's Office was able to achieve record breaking numbers in 2022 and again in 2023. The Clerk's Office Agents processed a total of 4,615 passport applications for their customers in 2023, generating \$161,525.00 in revenue for the County Clerk's budget, \$40,000.00 over the previous year.

The Wilson County Clerk, Jim Goodall, would like to recognize and show his appreciation to his Passport team, Jessica Hamblen, Passport Program Manager, Ann Kneisel and Wynter Balthrop, Passport Agents and Scott Goodall and Ronda Whitley, Deputy Clerks.

For information, Appointments, Location, Required Documents and Applications: Please visit our website at wilsoncountyclerk.com or visit our Acceptance Facility located at 129 South College Street Lebanon, TN 37087.

RUN FOR THE WALL XXXIV RIDERS TO VISIT WILSON COUNTY VETERANS' MUSEUM

Each year, Run For The Wall® (RFTW) riders pack up their gear and hit the road, ready for a long journey with the end goal of honoring our veterans and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Riders travel across the country on motorcycles all the way to Washington, D.C. The run ends when they visit and touch the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall.



It is a somber moment, filled with thoughts of lost Brothers and Sisters in Arms. Since their first ride across our nation, Run For The Wall has experienced phenomenal success and growth, as they have carried out their Mission each May from 1989 to the present-day, excluding 2021, which was cancelled due to COVID-19 precautions.

On May 15, 2024, riding groups will once again begin their journey. To date, nearly 1,200 riders are registered to participate, with four routes to choose from. The three traditional routes are called the “Central Route”, “Midway Route”, and “Southern Route.” All three lead to the same destination: the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The newest route is called the “Sandbox Route”, which goes “Wall to Wall” from Washington, D.C. to the Middle East Conflicts wall in Marseilles, IL. Each morning before the ride begins, riders will read the biography of a Vietnam soldier who lost his/her life on that same day. A rider will then volunteer to take the biography to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., where he/she will lay it under the soldier’s name.

Midway Route riders are expected to refuel at Uncle Pete’s Truck Stop in Lebanon, Tennessee, on May 19th at 3:30pm. *Continued on next page...*

RUN FOR THE WALL XXXIV RIDERS TO VISIT WILSON COUNTY VETERANS' MUSEUM

Continued from last page... On Monday, May 20th, local law enforcement agencies will escort a group of riders to the Wilson County Veterans Museum for a lunch program. The public is invited to attend and greet the riders upon their arrival at the Veterans Museum.



Guest speaker, Susan Hunter, will be in attendance to discuss her book, “77 Letters: Operation Morale Booster: Vietnam.” The book tells the story of her mother, Joan Hunter. In 1966, Joan was an ordinary housewife and mother of four from the small, idyllic coastal town of Scituate, MA. During the Vietnam War, Joan spearheaded Operation Morale Booster, a mission to ensure that every deployed American G.I. received mail at weekly mail call.

“Wilson County is home to over 9,200 veterans. In Wilson County, there is great admiration for these brave men and women. We sincerely thank all our service members and their families for all that they do for our nation. The Run For The Wall is a tremendous way to honor our service members, and we sincerely thank all of the riders that are participating this year. We wish them all a safe journey and plan to give them a very warm welcome into Wilson County, Tennessee!”— Randall Hutto, Wilson County Mayor

The goal of RFTW is to promote healing among ALL veterans and their families and friends, to call for an accounting of all Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action (POW/MIA), as well as to honor the memory of those Killed in Action (KIA) from all wars, and to support our military personnel all over the world. For more information about Run For The Wall, visit <https://rftw.us/>.