



THE COUNTY CONNECTION

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



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A Word from Mayor Hutto...

We've got an exciting month ahead of us here in Wilson County! Teachers and students return to the hustle and bustle of the new school year. Education is the #1 reason who people move to Wilson County. We have phenomenal school systems and educators in Wilson County, and we are truly grateful for their dedication to our students. August is also an exciting month because it brings with it the Wilson County/Tennessee State Fair, which will be here before we know it! The fair is coming up during August 15th-24th. Locals and visitors alike will flock to the James E. Ward Ag Center to enjoy games, rides, food and fellowship. I hope to see you there! Until then, we wish all of our students and educators a wonderful school year. Students, we can't wait to see all that you will accomplish!

Commissioner Spotlight: Chris Dowell District 15



Contact INFORMATION

Phone: 615-812-2972

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



EXPUNGEMENT CLINIC Tuesday, September 24, 2024 | 4PM - 7PM

Wilson County Judicial Center | 115 E. High Street, Lebanon, TN 37087
Find out if you have a path to clear your legal record during this unique expungement event.
You **MUST REGISTER** by September 3rd so your records can be retrieved by the Court Clerk before the clinic.
Please, use the QR code to register, or email for more info.

WILSON COUNTY RECORDS ONLY:

- Criminal Record Review
- Judge On-Site
- Expungement Advice & Preparation
- Meet 1:1 with an Attorney

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Mobile American Job Center
- Justice Bus
- Adult Education Resources
- Second Chance Employers

SCAN TO REGISTER
<https://tinyurl.com/vycu2kab>



Supported by:



For more information email: Sarah.Buckles@tn.gov



JOB FAIR

Your career starts here.



Wednesday, July 31st



9:30am - 1:30pm



415 Tennessee Boulevard
Lebanon, TN
Inside the Lebanon TCAT!



Tennessee Driver Services Centers to Honor Organ Donors and Transplant Recipients

Nearly all Tennesseans that are registered organ and tissue donors registered while applying for or renewing their Driver License or ID. Donate Life Tennessee, Tennessee Donor Services and Mid-South Transplant are now collaborating with the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security to implement their Honoring Local Heroes campaign in Driver Service Centers across Tennessee. Honoring Local Heroes tribute plaques will be displayed in the centers to honor the legacy of local donors and the impact that their choice to become organ donors made on the lives of transplant recipients.

"Registering as an organ donor at your local Driver Services Center is more than just checking a box, it's a lifesaving opportunity," said Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security Commissioner Jeff Long. "With this one decision, you can have an immeasurable impact on a countless number of people in your community." The Tennessee Donor Services Executive Director Jill Grandas also expressed her gratitude for the selfless generosity of the donor heroes and their families that have saved and improved lives through organ, eye, and tissue donations.

Every day in the U.S., approximately 110 lives are saved by donation and transplantation, yet more than 100,000 men, women, and children await their lifesaving organ transplant. To register as an organ, eye and tissue donor, visit DonateLifeTN.org.

Show your heart 
Join the Registry. Save Lives.



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.

August Winners

**Jackie
Turnipseed**
Finance

Judge Tatum
General Sessions.

Ken Hammonds
IT

Elijah Tomlinson
Sheriffs Dept.

Zackrey Wilkins
WEMA

Pick Tennessee Products Partners with Homegrown By Heroes

Pick Tennessee Products (PTP) has joined forces with Homegrown By Heroes to promote local agricultural products produced by Tennessee veteran farmers. The Homegrown By Heroes label is administered by the National Farmer Veteran Coalition and certifies ranchers, farmers, and fishermen from all military branches to sell their products as veteran-owned and produced. For over 30 years, PTP has been dedicated to promoting the wonderful farm and food businesses that Tennessee has to offer. Their logo verifies that all products displaying it were produced in Tennessee. By creating a logo that merges the Homegrown By Heroes and PTP logos, the goal of this partnership is that all of the admirable men and women veteran farmers in Tennessee will have the ability to stand out in markets and increase their customer base.



For more information on Homegrown By Heroes, visit farmvetco.org/hbh/. For local products, places, and recipes, visit www.picktnproducts.org/.

Register Now for Sherry's Run 5K Run/Walk!

The annual Sherry's Run 5K is the largest fundraiser event benefitting Sherry's Hope. Registration is now open for this wonderful community event where thousands gather to run or walk in support, in memory, or in honor of friends, family members, co-workers, church family members, and neighbors who have been affected by cancer. Funds raised provide assistance to families fighting cancer in Wilson County.



REGISTER NOW!

SEPTEMBER 14TH AT 8 AM

623 W MAIN ST, LEBANON

Visit
www.sherrysrun.org
for more information!

The 2024 Wilson County/Tennessee State Fair is Here!

Are you ready for a week full of family fun at the Tennessee State Fair? Recently named the 4th best state fair in the country by Time Out, global media and hospitality business, our Wilson County Fair just keeps getting better and better! Time Out's ranking highlighted our Made in Tennessee Building along with rides and competitions, other fair activities include a bike ride across Wilson County, Farm to Table Dinner, live music across eight stages, livestock shows, a honey show, the antique car show, skill demonstrations, recycled garden art, home brewing and even a husband calling competition.

New competitions being introduced this year include the Back Seat Driver Competition, Festival of Breads - Sourdough Bread Competition, Home Brewing, Tennessee Christmas Tree & Wreaths Competitions, Tennessee Nursery & Landscaping Competitions, and a Live Blacksmith Competition.

We are beyond excited for this year's fair and all it has to offer! Don't forget to schedule your visit from August 15th-24th, 2024, you won't want to miss it!



Participation From Local Businesses in the Red Sand Project Continues to Exceed Expectations in Wilson County

The Red Sand Project is a project that was first launched by Molly Gochman in 2014 to raise awareness for human trafficking. Today, over 50 million people worldwide are being trafficked or live in modern slavery. Slavery occurs in every industry from farming to mining to industrial work, and it touches almost everything we put in and on our bodies: food, clothes, shoes, jewelry, etc. Gochman knew that the first step in combating an issue this vast would be to initiate public awareness and engagement on a large scale. She began her work by pioneering the first Red Sand Project action in Miami, where she filled the cracks of sidewalks in and around the Art Basel Miami Beach pavilion with red sand. The approach was symbolic, with the grains of red sand representing those individuals who fall through the cracks- whether the cracks of our social, economic, and political systems or those of our personal consciousness. Gochman hopes that the Red Sand Project will allow participants to see themselves in the process of filling sidewalk cracks with sand and realize that they have the power to make a difference. Humans created this issue, and by unifying communities under the consensus that it must end, we have the power to fix it.

The movement has gained traction all over the world since 2014. In a successful effort to keep the momentum of the project in Wilson County, County Mayor Randall Hutto, Lebanon Mayor Rick Bell, Mt. Juliet Mayor James Maness, and Watertown Mayor Mike Jennings came together to declare the week of July 28th through August 3rd as “Red Sand Project Awareness Week.” This is the third year that Wilson County has participated in this project through partnership with various government departments, local businesses, and local organizations. We are proud of the effort that our Wilson County community has put into protesting human trafficking and slavery and hope that our efforts will make a difference.

If you would like to take part in raising awareness, join the movement by filling sidewalk cracks with red sand and documenting it on social media using [#RedSandProject](#).

For more information on the project itself, visit <https://redsandproject.org/>.



#RedSandProject
AROUND WILSON COUNTY!



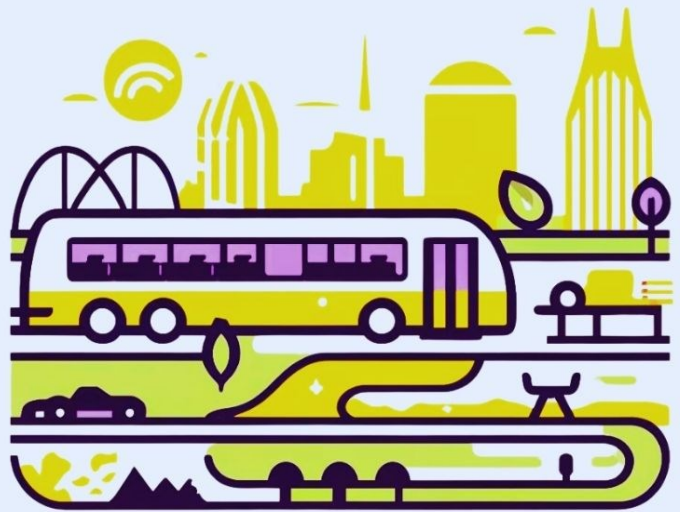
SAVE THE DATE

Breakfast for Better Mobility

Transit Alliance Annual Awards + Fundraiser

October 3

TRANSIT ALLIANCE
OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE



Mark Your Calendars for the Fall Mile Long Yard Sale!

The Fall Mile Long Yard Sale will be Saturday, October 5th, 2024, rain or shine! With hundreds of booths, the mile long yard sale is full of antiques, flea market items, tools, collectibles, food, and so much more you won't want to miss! For info on vendor reservations visit the Watertown Chamber's website. We hope to see you all there!



RAIN OR SHINE!

FALL MILE LONG YARD SALE

- ▶ HUNDREDS OF BOOTHS
- ▶ THOUSANDS OF SHOPPERS
- ▶ ANTIQUES, FLEA MARKET ITEMS, TOOLS, COLLECTIBLES, FOOD & MUCH, MUCH MORE!

Booth Rental and Application
(615) 237-1777 or WatertownTN.com

Excursion Train Ticket Info
(615) 244-9001

Directions: From Nashville, I-40 East, Exit 239A, 12 miles

Watertown
Tennessee



learn more online at:
WatertownTN.com

The Kim Alverson Foundation is Launched to Show the Love of Christ by Providing Support to Caregivers of Those Battling Cancer

Kim Alverson's life was a radiant testament of love, faith, and selflessness. She was a loving wife to Travis Alverson for nearly 30 years, a dedicated mother to two children, Tyler and Kristen, a proud grandmother to Anna Jean, a dedicated labor and delivery nurse for 18 years, and, most of all, a devout follower of Christ. She spent most of her life serving the Lord and serving others. Even amidst her grueling fight with an aggressive type of colon cancer, her faith in Christ grew stronger, and finding a way to help others fighting the same fight was on the forefront of her mind.



After a harsh 22-month battle with cancer, Kim passed away on January 22, 2024. Even after her passing, Kim is continuing to touch the lives and hearts of so many through the Kim Alverson Foundation.

In honor of Kim and her desire to help others, her family (Travis, Tyler, Kristen, and Leslie) began the Kim Alverson Foundation, a resource for caregivers that is dedicated to showing the love of Christ by providing spiritual, emotional, and financial support. Caregivers are crucial to cancer patients as they provide much needed love and encouragement during such a trying time. The foundation strives to help all of those involved in the battle with cancer by helping caregivers help their patients.

If you or someone you know is providing care to a cancer patient, the Kim Alverson Foundation is readily available to provide prayers, love, and other means of support.



You can find them on Facebook at [The Kim Alverson Foundation](#) or on their website at <https://www.kimalversonfoundation.org/mission--story--team>. If you are willing and able to support the cause, a donation link can also be found on their website.

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission Announced Significant Momentum in Increasing the State's College-Going Rate for the Class of 2023

According to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC), the class of 2023 held a 56.7% college-going rate in Tennessee, a 2.4 percentage point increase compared to the previous year. This is the largest year-over-year increase since the implementation of the tuition-free Tennessee Promise scholarship in 2015. This percentage indicates that 56.7% of Tennessee's public high school graduates seamlessly enrolled in a postsecondary education immediately after graduating.

The THEC compiled a report with valuable insights into the trends and progress of college enrollment among Tennessee's high school graduates, also taking socioeconomic data into account. Here are some of the highlights.

These findings showed economically disadvantaged students in the class of 2023 had a 39.3% college-going rate, while those non-economically disadvantaged reached a 65.3% rate. Taking demographic disparities into consideration, the THEC found that the college-going rate was up across all race/ethnicity and gender pairs for the class of 2023. Three groups in particular saw statewide growth higher than the 2.4 percentage points; these groups being: white females, Hispanic/Latino males, and females in the "Other" race/ethnicity category. Lastly, the THEC highlights the notable role that Dual Enrollment has played in these increases in college-going rates. Participation in the Dual Enrollment Grant continues to increase as the state invests in widening the dual enrollment opportunities for students. These courses have been critical in fostering college readiness in high schoolers, and those who participated in Dual Enrollment courses were found to have consistently higher college going rates than their peers.

These notable highlights are absolutely a reflection of Tennessee's dedication to its students and the fostering of their education. For more information about the THEC and access to the full class of 2023 college-going rate report, visit www.tn.gov/thec/research/college-going-reports.

Mt. Juliet Movies in the Park

Shown at the Charlie Daniels Park amphitheater.

Bring your blanket or chairs to sit on.

Concessions are available for purchase.

Following Movie Dates:

June 7th- Back to the Future- 8:30 PM

July 12th- Finding Nemo- 8:40 PM

August 2nd- Shrek - 8:20 PM

September 13th- Zootopia-7:30 PM

October 4th- The Goonies- 7:00 PM



Save the Date for Lebanon's Charter Day Picnic

Join the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce for a special picnic to celebrate our official 100th Anniversary! On September 5, we will be gathering on the beautiful Cumberland University lawn for an unforgettable outdoor celebration. Enjoy delicious food from local food trucks, games, Chamber History and more.

The Lebanon Driver Service Center Temporarily Closing for Remodeling

The Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security's Driver Service Center located on Maddox Simpson Parkway in Lebanon will be closed beginning July 15, 2024 and will reopen in January of 2025. This remodel will result in new flooring, fresh paint, an expanded parking lot, and additional building space.

To accommodate citizens during the remodel, resources are available such as nearby Driver Services Centers, the Wilson County Clerk's Office, nearby Self-Service Kiosks, Mobile Units, and online services. Teenagers between 15 and 17 years of age can take the knowledge test online under a parent or guardian's supervision via the Tennessee Proctor Identification (PID) app.

Nearby Driver Services Centers:

- Gallatin Driver Services Center - [855 North Blue Jay Way, Gallatin, TN](#)
- Murfreesboro Driver Services Center - [1035 Samsonite Boulevard, Murfreesboro, TN](#)
- Murfreesboro Express Driver Services Center - [3906 Blaze Drive, Murfreesboro, TN](#)

County Partnership:

- Wilson County Clerk - [129 South College Street, Lebanon, TN](#) - By appointment only

Nearby Self-Service Kiosks:

- Mt. Juliet Police Department - [1019 Charlie Daniels Parkway, Mt. Juliet, TN](#)
- Smith County Clerk's Office - [122 Turner High Circle, #104, Carthage, TN](#)
- Sumner County Clerk's Office - [355 North Belvedere Drive, Room #105, Gallatin, TN](#)

At a self-service kiosk, citizens are able to renew a handgun carry permit (Enhanced only), order a duplicate handgun carry permit (Enhanced, lifetime and concealed carry), upgrade to a lifetime handgun carry permit, pay full reinstatement fees (Partial payment plans are not accepted), reissue a driving privilege after reinstating (If customer has an ID, they must visit a Driver Services center for re-issuance), add emergency contacts, update, replace or renew their regular driver's license, change an address, voter registration, or advance a graduated driver license. Kiosks only accept credit or debit card payments.

WILSON COUNTY KIND SPOTLIGHT

Rachel August has embodied exactly what it means to be #WilsonCountyKind through her heartwarming service to the foster care children of Wilson County. Since December, she has dedicated her time and effort to making personalized birthday baskets for foster children--free of charge. She begins by having a DCS worker or foster parent fill out a form with some of the child's favorite things. She then uses her closet as a workspace to get a basket made and hands them off to be delivered on the child's birthday. Rachel has worked in foster care for the past three years and expressed that the children she interacts with never seem to be excited about their birthday, knowing they won't get anything. She hopes that the birthday baskets will be a reminder to them that they are worthy and deserve to be celebrated. Thank you, Rachel, for helping these children feel special.



Wilson County's Mid-Cumberland Community Action Agency is One of Five to Receive TUFF Funding in Tennessee

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) announced the five businesses to receive funding from the Tennessee Urban Farm and Forestry (TUFF) cost share program. The program was designed to help increase production for small farming and forestry businesses and increase access to nutritious food in Tennessee's urban areas. This cost share funding has been productive in improving quality of life for citizens while also strengthening Tennessee's agricultural economy.

The TDA received 19 applications for TUFF funding in this round, with funding requests exceeding \$3.3 million. These applications were first scored independently by three TDA staff members. They were then reevaluated by a larger group of TDA staff with agribusiness expertise. An independent consulting firm assisted with the process by advising on the application, the scorecard, and data management.

The Mid-Cumberland Community Action Agency (MCCAA) was selected to receive TUFF funding for the construction of a new food storage building in Wilson County. The MCCAA is a Non-Profit organization founded in 1971 as part of the National Community Action Network. They work to improve the lives of low-income families, children, and individuals by offering services such as Head Start, home energy assistance, and USDA Commodities.



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





**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
MARINE CORPS RESERVE**



August 26, 2024



**HAPPY
NAT'L
DOG DAY!**
from Mayor Hutto & Coop



NATIONAL PURPLE HEART DAY

*A day to honor the brave men and women
of the U.S. military who have been wounded
or killed in action.*



NATIONAL



AWARENESS
DAY!
AUGUST 19, 2024



WILSON COUNTY OPIOID REMEDIATION FUNDING COMMITTEE

APPLY FOR OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDING

Applications for funding will be made available and accepted beginning August 1st through September 30th, 2024.

Applications can be picked up at Wilson County Finance, and completed proposals must be submitted to Labraunya Horton at Wilson County Finance no later than 4:00pm on the last business day of September.

OVERVIEW

In response to the extensive damage and loss of life caused by the opioid crisis, a consequence of the unethical and over-prescribing of opioid medications, the state of Tennessee will be receiving settlement funds over the next 18 years from several large corporations. Wilson County has been allocated a portion of these funds, which will be received in the form of annual payments. The Wilson County Opioid Remediation Funding Committee has been established by the County to oversee the spending of these funds for the abatement and remediation of opioid use and misuse, exclusively for the benefit of Wilson County.

Applications will be accepted from community non-profit organizations and government agencies that serve residents of Wilson County within the approved Remediation Uses set forth by the TN Opioid Abatement Council. The Committee will dispense funds in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations that counties must adhere to when allocating funds to community organizations. After reviewing and scoring all applications received, organizations can expect to receive notice of award in January.



ELIGIBILITY

TYPES OF ORGANIZATIONS

- Non-profit charitable organizations with 501(c)(3) status
- Non-profit civic organization
- Government organization in Wilson County

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- Application for Opioid Settlement Funding
- Wilson County Budget Template
- Budgeted Annual Revenue and Expense (prior year)
- Actual Annual Revenue and Expense (prior year)

If applicable, the following documents must also be included

- 501(c)(3)
- State certification, licensure, or accreditation
- List of Current Board Members

APPROVED REMEDIATION USES OF FUNDS

- Primary Prevention
- Harm Reduction
- Treatment
- Recovery Support
- Education / Training
- Research & Evaluation



Labraunya Horton



WCOpFund@wilsoncountyttn.gov



Wilson County Finance
228 E. Main Street
Lebanon, TN 37087

County Leaders are Asking for Public Input as They Update the Master Land Use Plan for Wilson County

County leaders are updating the master land use plan to develop goals, objectives, and policies to guide growth and development over the next 20-30 years. The process to update the plan is an opportunity to engage residents and others in a conversation about future growth.

Public participation is critical to the success of the Wilson County Master Land Use Plan. Join us in workshops, town hall meetings, and surveys to contribute to the development of the land use master plan. Together, we can create a vibrant and resilient future for Wilson County.

To learn more, visit <https://www.planwilson.org/>.



TDH Urges Measures To Prevent Tick and Mosquito-Borne Diseases

The Tennessee Department of Health wants to remind Tennesseans take steps to avoid mosquito and tick-borne diseases while enjoying outdoor activities this summer.

“Many of us are spending more time outdoors which is good for everyone, but it’s also important to take steps to protect yourself from tick and mosquito bites,” said TDH Deputy State Epidemiologist Mary-Margaret Fill, MD, MPH. “ Understanding simple preventive measures can reduce the risk of tick and mosquito-borne illnesses.”

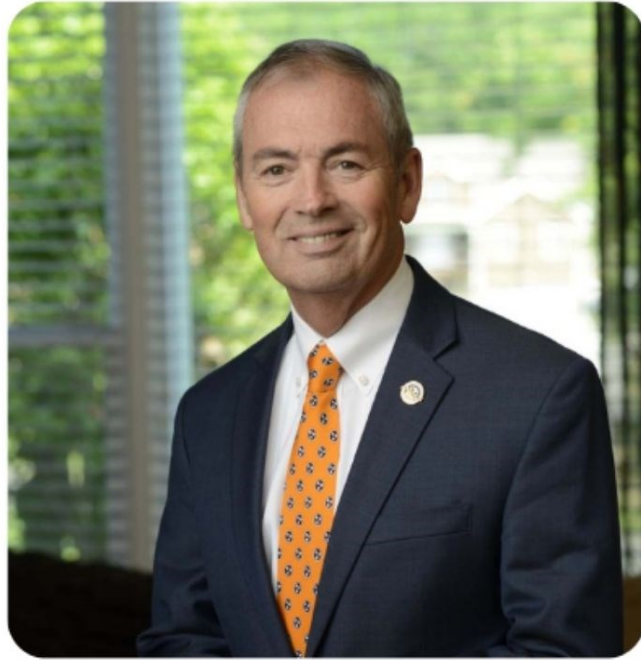
Skin irritation or possibly flu-like symptoms are the most common results for people that are bit by a tick or mosquito. However, some might develop serious illnesses that could lead to pain, long- term or permanent nerve and brain damage, or even death. Prevention of tick and mosquito bites is key to avoiding these potential outcomes considering there are no vaccines or specific treatments for these tick and mosquito-borne illnesses.

For information on tick and mosquito bite protection go to www.tn.gov/health/cedep/vector-borne-diseases/tick-borne-diseases.html or <https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/vector-borne-diseases/mosquito-borne-diseases.html>.

MEET THE MAYOR



WILSON COUNTY MAYOR RANDALL HUTTO



WHEN:

LAST WEDNESDAY
OF EVERY MONTH
1: 00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

WHERE:

THE LEBANON
WILSON COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
149 PUBLIC SQUARE,
LEBANON, TN 37087

MEET THE MAYOR

SEPTEMBER 16 @ 5:30PM

WILSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

MEET &
With County Commissioners
GREEN

Proclamation to follow at 7PM Commissioner's meeting



MOBILE FOOD GIVEAWAY

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10
9:00-11:30am (while supplies last)

SALT FOOD PANTRY
7019 HICKORY RIDGE ROAD
LEBANON TN 37090

615-965-5361
SALTMINISTRY2015@GMAIL.COM

Available to all in need in Wilson County.
Proof of residency not required.
Food will be loaded in your vehicle;
please make sure there is room!

WILSON CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE



2024 CITIZENS ACADEMY

SEPTEMBER 17 – NOVEMBER 5, 2024

An 8 week course meeting every Tuesday from 6–9 p.m. The academy is designed to give the citizens of Wilson County an in-depth look at our agency and the training our officers receive through interactive training.

Participants who complete the program will receive a certification of completion at the Citizens Academy Graduation. However this is not a program to become a sworn officer.



- Corrections & Patrol Operations
- Criminal Investigations
- Identify Scams & Frauds
- Dangerous Drug Awareness
- Situational Awareness & Defensive Tactics
- Firearms Safety
- S.W.A.T. Operations & Live Scenarios
- Building Communication

Requirements:

Applicants must be 18 and live or work in Wilson County. You must also pass a background check. No physical requirements are required to attend the Citizens Academy.

“Don’t miss this opportunity to engage with your community and gain valuable insights into the operations of the Wilson County Sheriff’s Office. It is our goal to create a bridge of communication between our officers and the community“

HOW TO APPLY:

WCSO95.ORG
APPLICATIONS CAN
BE MAILED, FAXED, OR
HAND DELIVERED TO THE
SHERIFF’S OFFICE

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT
CPL. MATT BUSH
AT 615-444-1412 EXT. 272
OR MBUSH@WCSO95.ORG

The Annual Dewaal Shoe Giveaway: A Huge Success

A team of over 75 volunteers from our community came together to help families get ready for the new school year by joining the Annual Dewaal Shoe Giveaway, hosted by the Wilson County Salvation Army. The giveaway provided about 415 pairs of shoes along with 830 pairs of socks and undergarments to the participants. The giveaway would not have been possible without support and gifts from so many individuals, churches and other organizations. Thank you to everyone who helped make this special event such a success!



Please Join Us For The

9.28.2024

WILSON COUNTY VETERANS BENEFIT BALL

VET GALA

5:30pm -9:30pm

THE MILL
EDGERTON HALL
300 North Maple Street
Lebanon, TN 37087

Ticket Pricing: Veterans \$50 | Non-Veteran \$75| Table Sponsor \$1000
Tickets Available in person at Wilson County Veterans Service Office | 304 East Main Street, Lebanon, TN |
Monday - Friday 8am -4pm

Formal Attire

No Vet Left's Behind
@wilsoncountytv
venmo

WILSON COUNTY RESOURCE FAIR

Bring your family and meet your local community agencies who can get you connected with resources such as job placement assistance, physical and mental health aid, education information, school supplies, resources for seniors, pet care assistance and more!



WHO WILL BE THERE?



AND MORE!

WHEN AND WHERE?

August 9th: 5pm-7pm

August 10th: 8am-12pm

415 Harding Dr. Lebanon, TN 37087