



# THE COUNTY CONNECTION

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



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## ***A Word from Mayor Hutto...***

Summer is a wonderful time in Wilson County! Despite the heat, we have many fun community events each summer! Our three cities will host their annual Fourth of July parades and fireworks shows. The Annual Dewaal Shoe Giveaway for kids will be held on July 25<sup>th</sup> from 4-6pm at the First Baptist Church in Lebanon (*see page 09.*) This event is held each year and gives new shoes, socks, and undergarments to children in our area. We sincerely thank the Dewaal family and their partners for making this wonderful giveaway possible! Later this month, my office will partner with the TN Department of Health to recognize Tennessee's End Human Trafficking Week (*July 28<sup>th</sup> - August 4<sup>th</sup>.*) We will commemorate this week by taking part in the Red Sand Project, and we would love for you to participate with us as well! (*Stay tuned for details.*) Forced labor and human trafficking should not exist in any nation, let alone the greatest nation of all. This month, we will celebrate our nation's independence and hope for a brighter tomorrow. We wish you all a very Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!

**Commissioner Spotlight:  
Robert Fields  
District 1**



*Contact*

**INFORMATION**

Phone: [615-519-1819](tel:615-519-1819)

**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**

## A Note from the Editor...

**H**ello all! I'm sending out a quick reminder that I will be on maternity leave this summer and will have limited access to my phone/email. If anyone needs immediate assistance, please call the mayor's office at 615-444-1383. I would like to send you all my utmost thanks for all the prayers, gifts, and words of encouragement! I am looking forward to this time so that I may fully prepare and adjust to the life of parenthood. Thank you all so much!

*Brooke Cummings*

Brooke Driver Cummings





HAPPY  
*4th of July*

Wilson County Government Offices, Convenience Centers, and the Landfill will be closed on Friday, July 4, 2025, in observance of Independence Day. Offices, Convenience Centers, and the Landfill will return to their regular business hours on Monday, July 7th.

We wish you all a blessed and Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July as we celebrate our nation's independence!

# Red Sand Project

## TN End Human Trafficking Week July 28<sup>th</sup> - August 4<sup>th</sup>

Wilson County will once again participate in the Red Sand Project this July. Make plans to join us and take a stand against forced labor and human trafficking! Keep an eye out on Mayor Hutto's social media this summer for more information.

# National Postal Workers Day!



Thank you to all the dedicated postal workers who help keep us connected every day—your hard work is truly appreciated!

July 1, 2025

## CHECK OUT OUR COUNTY LIBRARIES



All summer long there are events happening at the library!

Mt. Juliet - Public Library

Lebanon - Public Library

Watertown - Public Library

Check out their websites for details!



JULY IS  
**SARCOMA**  
AWARENESS MONTH



International Day  
of Friendship

JULY 30

**Movie in the Park  
"Moana 2"**

**Date:** July 11, 2025

**Time:** 4-8PM

**Time Details:** Movie expected to begin around 8:40pm

**Location:** Charlie Daniels Park - Amphitheater

**Address:** 1075 Charlie Daniels Pkwy  
Mt. Juliet, TN 37122

**Cost:** Movie FREE to the public  
Concessions available for purchase.

Mark your calendars for August 1, 2025! Showing "Mufasa: The Lion King" at 8:20 PM.

**Mt. Juliet Parks & Rec**

**MOVIES IN THE PARK**

Bring your blankets & chairs. Concessions available for purchase. Movie will begin at dusk.

**MOVIE FREE TO PUBLIC**

**MT. JULIET PARKS & RECREATION**  
LET'S PLAY IN THE PARK! FITNESS AND FUN!

**CINEMA**

## PROPERTY TAX FREEZE ELIGIBILITY REACHES MORE WILSON COUNTY SENIORS

The monthly Wilson County Commission meeting was held on June 16, 2025. During the meeting, several resolutions were passed regarding Wilson County's budget and the upcoming tax year. One such resolution was passed that will increase the income limit for property tax freeze eligibility. The property tax freeze is a program for senior adults ages 65+ who are on a fixed income. The income limit for the tax year 2026 will be raised from \$51,790 to \$63,470. This is good news, as it will allow more senior adults to qualify for the tax freeze! The resolution applies for the tax year 2026. Currently, tax year 2025 is still taking place and residents will be paying 2025 taxes when they receive their bill in October. Next year, when commissioners set the tax rate in June 2026, qualifying residents will be frozen at that rate.

The process to qualify for the program can be found on the back of the property tax bill. Those interested in applying will need to meet with Dawn Bennett or Lisa Crockett in the Trustee's Office. For the 2026 tax season, applicants will need their 2025 (since taxes are a year behind) tax return, Driver's License, and Social Security and Medicare cards. This information applies to everyone listed on the property deed which is verified by the Trustee's Office. The adjusted gross income and social security benefits are calculated after medical is deducted. If that amount is under the income limit (\$63,470) the applicant is approved, and their property taxes would be frozen until the next tax year at which time they would need to reapply.

"As always, Wilson County strives to assist our senior adults in any way that we can. Last October, Wilson County received a Certificate of Commitment for becoming an Age-Friendly Community in the AARP network. At the time, Wilson County was 1 of only 2 counties in the state to achieve that certification. Our community supports senior adults in many ways, and the property tax freeze is one small way that we can help enhance the quality of life for our seniors," said Mayor Randall Hutto. "This resolution would not have been possible without the efforts of the Wilson County Commission, spearheaded by Commissioner Haskell Evans. We sincerely thank our commissioners for all they do for the citizens of Wilson County!"

The Wilson County Trustee's office is located in the Wilson County Courthouse, 228 E. Main St., Room 103, Lebanon, TN 37087. Regular office hours are Monday – Friday, 8:00am-4:00pm, excluding federal holidays. For more information, call their office at 615-444-0894 or visit [wilsoncountyttn.gov](http://wilsoncountyttn.gov).

# MEET in the MIDDLE

All roads lead to Wilson County.

Book Your Event **HERE!**

- Business Meetings
- Trade Shows
- Concerts
- More!

Farm Bureau EXPO CENTER

# Visit Wilson County!

Wilson County welcomes visitors with open arms! Whether you're soaking in the excitement of a local event, wandering through breathtaking state parks, enjoying a homegrown theater performance, browsing one-of-a-kind boutiques, or indulging in exceptional cuisine we would LOVE to have you!

# CELEBRATE MT. JULIET

## JULY 4<sup>th</sup> FIREWORKS

### CIRCLE P RANCH

JULY 4, 2025 | OPEN 4 PM | EVENT 5PM

FEATURING COLLINS GIRLS  
SUGAR LIME BLUE  
SWEETN3 • CHAPEL HART

PRESENTED BY: Volunteer BANK

Tune in to *Coleman & Company*

**LIVE ON 98.9 FM**

with guest, Mayor Randall Hutto every 3rd Monday of the month **around 7:50am**

Be sure to tune in and stay up to date on the latest happenings in Wilson County!

# STARS STRIPES and Squirt Gun PARADE

**FRIDAY, JULY 4TH ★ 4:00 PM**

**PARADE STARTS AT  
ROUND LICK  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
745 WEST MAIN STREET**

**PARADE ENDS AT  
JEWEL'S MARKET  
EAST MAIN ST · HWY 70**

**FIREWORK DISPLAY  
STARTS AT DARK  
THREE FORKS  
COMMUNITY PARK**



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SIGN UP  
TO BE IN THE PARADE, PLEASE VISIT [WWW.WATERTOWN,TN.COM](http://WWW.WATERTOWN,TN.COM)

JOIN MAYOR RICK BELL  
FOR LEBANON'S 2025

# 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

**FRIDAY, JULY 4TH • 5:00PM-9:30PM**

**THE MIDWAY AT THE  
WILSON COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS  
GATES OPEN AT 4:00PM**

- ★★ LIVE MUSIC ★★  
Double Take & El Dorado
- ★★ GAMES AND KIDS ACTIVITIES ★★  
Cornhole, Face Painting, Inflatables & Balloon Art
- FOOD TRUCKS • SELFIE STATION
- ★★ FIREWORKS BEGIN AT 9PM/DARK ★★

City of Lebanon TN | City of Lebanon | lebanontn

# TAX FREE!




# WEEKEND

July 25th - July 27th


During this time clothing, school supplies and computers may be purchased tax-free. Certain restrictions apply. Items sold online are also eligible. Items must be purchase for personal use, not for business or trade.

# FIELD OF FLAGS

## BENEFITING LOCAL VETERANS


**JUNE 30 - JULY 5, 2025**

JAMES E. WARD AGRICULTURE CENTER  
LEBANON, TENNESSEE



# FLY A FLAG HONOR A HERO

Individual Flag Dedications  
Business Sponsorships  
& BBQ Pre-Orders

Purchase and dedicate a flag.  SCAN ME

# MEET OUR INTERNS



## CLAIRE SHELTON

Wilson County Government is participating in the Summer Youth Employment Program for the second year in a row! While the grant funding has been reduced, Wilson County Government was very pleased to still be able to partner with Workforce Essentials, Inc. and participate in the youth employment program. This program is funded through the TN Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The state handles the interns' time sheets, wages, and worker's comp. Thus, there is no cost to Wilson County! This is a great way to accomplish extra projects while providing experience to young professionals!

Claire Shelton is interning with the Wilson County Mayor's Office this summer. She is a local Wilson Countian from Mt. Juliet, Tennessee. Claire recently graduated from Cumberland University with her Associates of the Arts Degree in Criminal Justice. She is currently in her Junior Year at CU and is working on her bachelor's degree in criminal justice. One of her future goals is to work for a police department as an Investigative Analyst. Here's what Claire had to say about what she's learned so far! "I have learned so much about county government and important it is to my community. I have been able to help create some of Mayor Hutto's social media posts, put together the June Newsletter, and so much more! I look forward to the Red Sand Project (*the annual human trafficking prevention and awareness project*) and the impact it will have on our community this year."

Claire has done a tremendous job so far and we look forward to working with her this summer! If you happen to stop by our office, be sure to introduce yourself to her!

**EMPOWER ME CENTER**  
**SHOOTING**  
**FOR THE FUTURE**



**JULY 12, 2025**

**REGISTER A TEAM**

**BECOME A SPONSOR**

THANK YOU TO OUR  
 EVENT & LUNCH  
 SPONSOR



LEARN MORE AT  
[HTTPS://WWW.EMPOWERMECENTER.COM/CLAYSHOOT](https://www.empowermecenter.com/clayshoot)

**WILCO  
 POW WOW**

**Save the Date: September  
 27th and 28th, 2025**

[www.wilcopowwow.com](http://www.wilcopowwow.com)

(615) 512-0952

[WilCoPowWow@Gmail.com](mailto:WilCoPowWow@Gmail.com)

The Middle-Tennessee Pow Wow, Inc, AKA the WilCo Pow Wow (formerly Mt Juliet PowWow) is a 501(c)(3) organization chartered in the State of TN.

**2025 Annual Dewaal Back-to-School**

**SHOE  
 GIVEAWAY**

**Join Our Shoe Drive and  
 Make a Difference**

The Annual Dewaal Shoe Giveaway team will be distributing new shoes, socks, and undergarments to students in grades K-12.

- Children must have an adult with them to receive one (1) pair of tennis shoes, socks and undergarments
- While supplies last
- Monetary donations in support of the shoe giveaway are greatly appreciated.

For more information:

**Call: (615) 394-3347**  
 John Dewaal

**FRIDAY  
 JULY  
 25**

**TIME:  
 4:00 PM -  
 6:00 PM**

**PICK UP  
 LOCATION:  
 FIRST  
 BAPTIST  
 CHURCH  
 PARKING  
 LOT**



**2025 ANNUAL  
 DEWAAL BACK-TO-  
 SCHOOL SHOE  
 GIVEAWAY!**

For anyone who wishes to donate to this need: First Baptist Church Lebanon, 227 E. Main St., Lebanon TN 37087 has an account for donations.

All gifts are tax deductible. Checks may be made out to First Baptist Church and need to be designated as Annual Dewaal Shoe Drive.

For questions, contact John Dewaal 615-394-3347 or via email at [ddewaal@bellsouth.net](mailto:ddewaal@bellsouth.net).

Thank you for your support and for coming by the shoe drive!

## LEBANON HONORS VETERANS ANTHONY GARNES (GAINES) AND MARK MURRAY WITH POMEROY MARKER

**Anthony Garnes (Gaines)**, born around 1759 in North Carolina, was a free man of color who served as a private in the 7th North Carolina Continental Regiment during the Revolutionary War. He fought in key battles including Brandywine and Monmouth, endured the harsh winter at Valley Forge, was captured at the Battle of Charleston, escaped, and rejoined the army. Garnes served until 1782 and received pay, land, and a pension. He later settled in Wilson County, Tennessee, where he raised a family. He likely died between March and September 1840. In 2013, he was honored by North Carolina's General Assembly for his service.



**Mark Murray**, born in 1756 in North Carolina, was a free man of mixed Irish and African descent. Encouraged by his father, he volunteered to fight in the Revolutionary War in 1780, serving over six months. Despite filing three pension applications, he was never granted one, lacking discharge paperwork. He lived in Wilson County from 1810 until his death in 1853. A woman named Elizabeth Pope later testified to his service and good character. Murray's life reflects the dedication and perseverance of many unsung Revolutionary War veterans.



The Tennessee Society Daughters of the American Revolution coordinated the event on June 14, 2025. Appearances were made by the Wilson County Black History Committee President, Mary Harris and many members of the TSDAR.

This Pomeroy marker is a historical roadside marker installed as part of the William G. Pomeroy Foundation's efforts to preserve history and promote education and tourism through historical recognition. Wilson county gets the opportunity to honor and remember these men who graciously served our country.



# SUMMER SCHEDULE

## FREE BREAKFAST, LUNCH, & BOOKS

JUNE 2-30, & JULY 1-11

**BUSES DON'T RUN ON JULY 4TH**



**Monday, Wednesday, Friday**

- 10:45 - 11:05 Upton Heights
- 11:15 - 11:35 Inman Court
- 11:45 - 12:15 Ironwood Apts.
- 12:40 - 1:00 Wood Falls Apts.
- 1:15 - 1:45 Limestone Apts.

**Tuesday & Thursday**

- 11:00 - 11:15 Head Homes
- 11:30 - 12:00 Bluebird Rd.
- 12:10 - 12:30 Peyton Apts.
- 12:45 - 1:00 Tater Peeler
- 1:15 - 1:30 Weatherly Estates

**Monday, Wednesday, Friday**

- 11:00 - 12:30 Don Fox Park
- 12:45 - 1:15 Greentree Pointe Apts.
- 1:25 - 1:45 Rollingwood Apts.

**Tuesday & Thursday**

- 11:00 - 12:30 Don Fox Park
- 12:45 - 1:15 Villages of Hunters Point
- 1:30 - 1:45 The Ridge



FREE FOR ALL 18 & UNDER. THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER

## WE NEED YOUR HELP! WILSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE PHOTO PROJECT

The Wilson County Courthouse proudly displays photos of former elected officials and buildings. The collection of photos in the County Commission room is nearly complete, but a few photos have yet to be found, so we're reaching out to the community for help finding them! Every four years, a group photo of the county's elected commissioners is taken. (See the photos to the right for reference.) All of these group photos are accounted for except the terms during 1938-1950, 1962, 1970-1990, and 1998. If any of you know of an office or family member that may have these, please ask them to go through their old photos. We would like to display all of the County Commissioners throughout the years, as they do so much to represent our community. Thank you for your help!



Wilson County Quarters Court 1927 1927



Wilson County Quarters Court 1958 1958



Wilson County Commissioners 1994 1994

# TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY AND TENNESSEE HIGHWAY PATROL WARN OF “OUTSTANDING TRAFFIC TICKET” SCAM

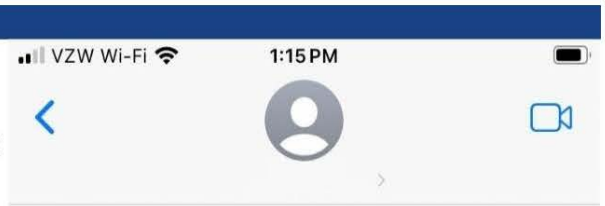
The Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security (TDOSHS) and the Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP) are alerting Tennesseans about yet another scam that involves text messages claiming to be from the Tennessee Department of Vehicles (DMV).

The scam text makes it appear like the recipient has an outstanding traffic ticket fine and warns them that their vehicle registration and driving privileges will be suspended if the amount is not paid. Some of these scammers have gone the extra mile in include a link that resembles the official TDOSHS website.

These messages are not from the TDOSHS or the THP! Note that the TDOSHS will not send out a text message about overdue traffic fines, fees, payments, or license suspensions.

If you are a victim of this scam, please report your interaction to the Internet Crime Complaint Center.

Stay Vigilant Wilson County!



Tennessee Department of Vehicles (DMV) Final Notice: Enforcement Penalties Begin on June 8.

Our records show that as of today, you still have an outstanding traffic ticket. In accordance with North Tennessee State Administrative Code 15C-16.003, if you do not complete payment by June 7, 2025, we will take the following actions:

1. Report to the DMV violation database
2. Suspend your vehicle registration starting on June 8
3. Suspend driving privileges for 30 days
4. Transfer to a toll booth and charge a 35% service fee
5. You may be prosecuted and your credit score will be affected

Pay Now:

<https://tndmv.gov-xkbbk.icu/pay>

Please pay immediately before enforcement to avoid license suspension and further legal disputes.

(Reply Y and re-open this message to click the link, or copy it to your browser.)

**Fight Back Against Phone Scams**

**TN** Department of Commerce & Insurance | Consumer Affairs



## Download the FREE Swim App

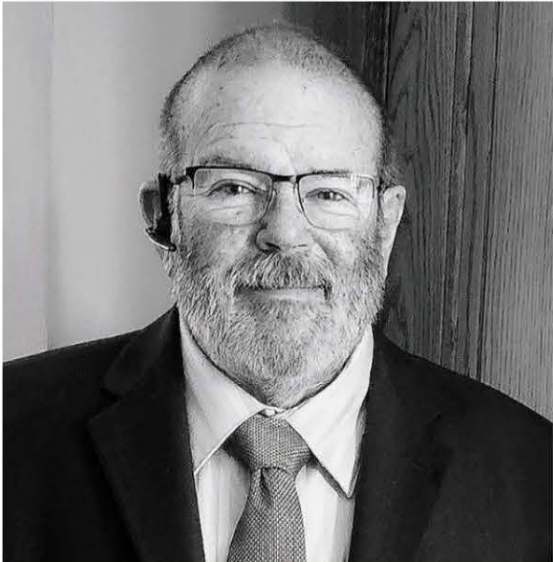
### Help Your Family Be Safer in and Around Water.

Children and adults can learn to be safer in and around water with Swim by the American Red Cross. Knowing how to swim is exciting and opens the door to many opportunities, but water is not without risk. Learning to enjoy the water safely should be the first step for anyone who will be around water. Have fun learning water safety in an engaging way with video and activities for kids and families. Track your kids' progress with this FREE app as they learn to swim.



Or text: "SWIM" to 90999

Thanks to our sponsor



### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY DR. SCOTT GILES, FORMER WILSON COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER

October 6th, 1959-June 6th, 2025

## 8 TENNESSEE STATE PARKS ADD ADULT-SIZED CHANGING TABLES

Tennessee State Parks recently announced the installation of adult-sized changing tables at eight state parks to increase accessibility for all visitors, bringing the total number of state parks with the tables to 18 and further entrenching the state park system as the most accessible in the nation.

These parks are: Chickasaw State Park, Justin P. Wilson Cumberland Trail State Park at Head of Sequatchie, Mousetail Landing State Park, Pinson Mounds State Archaeological Park, Cedars of Lebanon State Park, Harrison Bay State Park, Warriors' Path State Park, and Bledsoe Creek State Park (two tables).

The changing tables enhance accessibility for tasks such as toileting. They assist changing for adults with disabilities, children, and teens. Beyond being more convenient and dignified for visitors who need them, tables like these open new possibilities for traveling and enjoying parks for many visitors and their caregivers. The tables utilize a remote to adjust the height of the table. Each table lowers to approximately 12 inches off the ground and reaches a height of 39.5 inches when raised.

Tennessee...



You are Invited...

Join us for Prayer at  
YOUR LOCAL  
COUNTY GATHERING  
in July for a special

Sacred Assembly

for all who are spiritually inclined and physically able!

for your county schedule go to:  
[www.Pray4TN.us](http://www.Pray4TN.us)

Pray4TN.us  
PO Box 17247, Nashville, TN 37217  
(615) 933-3131 office cell  
admin@Pray4TN.us

## ALEXIS HAMNETT



Join us in congratulating Alexis Hamnett on being selected as the Tennessee Justice Center's June School Health Hero!

Alexis is an art teacher at Jones Brumett Elementary School. She has been with the Lebanon Special School District teaching art since 2005.

"Being an art teacher is the perfect balance for me. I get to be creative, but also problem-solve and nurture these creative little minds." - Alexis shared in an interview with the TJC



## WAY TO REPRESENT WILSON COUNTY!

## Fireworks Safety Tips

### Use only legal fireworks.

Buy only fireworks that are approved by your state. Avoid buying fireworks that are packaged in brown paper.



### Keep water close.

Do not forget to place a bucket of water nearby in case of emergency. Keep in mind to douse burned fireworks with water before throwing to the trash bin.



### Keep a distance from the firework.

Once you've lit the fuse, move away immediately. In case the firework did not light properly, douse it with water and do not attempt to relight it.



### Use fireworks outdoors.

Remember to use only fireworks outside and away from wooden and other flammable materials. Make sure children are away from fireworks.



# Know Where to Go

When Sheltering from a Tornado



Top floor rooms  
DO NOT protect you.

If you have no basement,  
move to an interior room  
with no windows.

Exterior rooms and rooms with  
windows DO NOT protect you.

NO PLACE OUTSIDE  
is safe from a tornado.

Quickly move to your  
basement and bring your  
emergency supply kit.



[weather.gov/safety/tornado](http://weather.gov/safety/tornado)

# Save the Date

for Rest Stop Ministries  
*13th Annual Gala*

## FAITHFUL 2025

God has been faithful through ten years of impact.  
Join us to celebrate!

*Friday, September 12*



# Summer Food Program

...when your summer grocery budget is stretched thin!

FREE nonperishable groceries  
(breakfasts, lunches, & snacks)  
for elementary through high school kids  
and their younger siblings  
living in western Wilson County!  
No registration required.

**Tuesday, May 27 through  
Saturday, July 19**

**TUESDAYS 4PM - 6PM**

OR

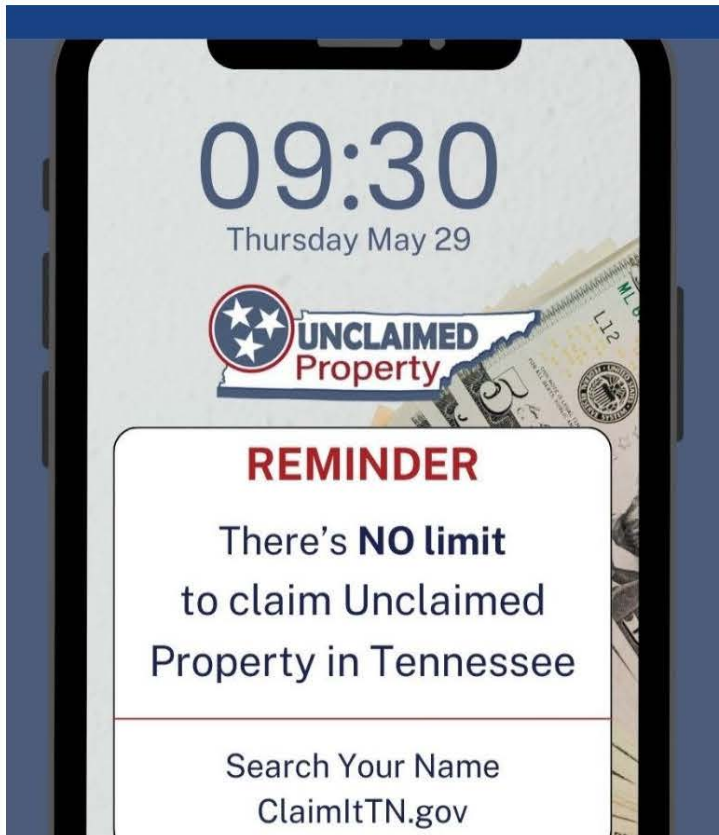
**SATURDAYS 9AM - 11AM**

**Mt. Juliet Help Center  
3425B N. Mt. Juliet Road**



Mt. Juliet Help Center  
Compassion Caring Community

Questions?  
Call 615-754-HELP



## ESSENTIAL INSIGHTS ON HEALTH CARE SCAMS: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Health care scammers often target older adults by offering fake health plans, services, or medications. Their ultimate plan is to steal personal or financial information.

How do they do this?

- Fake Insurance Plans
- Medical Discount Plans
- Marketplace Navigators Charging Fees
- Fake Medicare Requirements
- Government Imposters
- Fake Pharmacies
- Bogus Supplements
- Health Insurance Fraud

To ensure you are not a victim of these scams make sure you are taking your time when agreeing to anything. Never give your personal or financial information to strangers or someone you may not know. Use extra caution on social media, there's a chance a scammer could use your profile information. Lastly, take extra time talking to your doctor or provider and review bills to ensure everything is correct.

For more information, visit the Federal Trade Commission's website at [http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/topics/healthy-living\\_](http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/topics/healthy-living_)

## SHARE YOUR VOICE: AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY SURVEY

Wilson County invites residents to participate in the Age-Friendly Community Survey. This survey is a vital tool to understand and address the specific needs and wants of our community. It's a great opportunity for residents of all ages to contribute to shaping a community that reflects their aspirations. Take part in this important survey and add your voice to the future of Wilson County. Access the survey online at

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=mTtmFQnSJ0K9juemXpxMi4DV29OECIRGqrgXJgbIb01UNDhMMldUMDZWSFNJUK8xOTNJMk1GSjNWS C4u&route=shorturl>.



# Meet The Mayor

Come out and meet your mayor on the last Wednesday of every month right here in Wilson County—your voice matters!



## *a Message from Mayor Hutto...*

Our hearts and prayers go out to the City of Gallatin's building inspector, Hunter Pryer, who was severely injured on June 5, 2025. Please join us by continuing to keep Hunter and his family in your prayers during this time. Thank you!

### MT. JULIET

**Mt. Juliet Chamber of Commerce**

2055 N. Mt. Juliet Rd, Ste 200  
Mt. Juliet, TN 37122  
8:30AM - 9:30AM

### WATERTOWN

**The Depot Junction Cafe**

108 Depot Ave.  
Watertown, TN 37184  
11:00AM - 12:00PM

### LEBANON

**Lebanon Wilson Co. Chamber of Commerce**

149 Public Square  
Lebanon, TN 37087  
1:00PM - 2:00PM

## WILSON COUNTY SCHOOLS PRE-K

### We are accepting applications for:

- Children who are 4 years of age on or before August 15, 2025,
- members of families with incomes that meet the income eligibility requirements according to US Dept of Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines (see below) AND
- zoned for a WCS elementary school

Contact Us:  
[Carrb@wcschools.com](mailto:Carrb@wcschools.com) or  
[Humblesj@wcschools.com](mailto:Humblesj@wcschools.com)

[Registration Link](#)

US Dept of Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines

You can learn more about eligibility requirements and find the application tab in this link  
<https://www.wcschools.com/.../pre.../voluntary-prek-program>

## LET'S TALK TRASH...



Summer is here and for many of us that means garage sales and clean outs. Here's some tips to make your trip to your local convenient center or landfill quick and easy.

### ☆ Know Before You Go

Call ahead before heading to your local convenient center or landfill. TN has lots of rules and regulations when it comes to disposing of trash so be sure to visit the Landfill/Solid Waste page on the Wilson Co. website at [wilsoncountyttn.gov](http://wilsoncountyttn.gov).

### ☆ Hours of Operation

Wilson Co. Solid Waste operates 7 convenient centers throughout the county. The centers are open 7AM-5PM Friday to Tuesday and 7:30AM-5PM Wednesdays and Thursdays. The Wilson Co. Landfill is open Monday-Friday 7AM-3PM.

### ☆ Locations

Find a convenient center near you.  
Wilson Co. Landfill  
378 Dump Rd  
Lebanon, TN 37087

### ☆ Questions

Convenient center phone numbers can be found [here](#).  
Wilson Co. Landfill  
615/444-8360



# TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES OPENS 2025 FAMILIES FIRST COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

The Tennessee Department of Human Services (TDHS) has opened applications for the 2025 Families First Community Grant Program, an initiative that will make available approximately \$27 million in funding to non-profit organizations



2025 Families First Community Grants

**Now Open for Applications**

Deadline to apply: July 10 at 5 p.m. CT

Link to apply: [https://stateofennessee.formstack.com/forms/2025\\_tanf\\_community\\_grant\\_application](https://stateofennessee.formstack.com/forms/2025_tanf_community_grant_application)

providing direct services to strengthen Tennessee families in need and promote self-sufficiency. **Qualifying non-profit organizations are invited to apply now through July 10 at 5 p.m. CT.** Applications can be submitted at [https://stateofennessee.formstack.com/forms/2025\\_tanf\\_community\\_grant\\_application](https://stateofennessee.formstack.com/forms/2025_tanf_community_grant_application).

The Families First Community Grant program was created as an additional method to invest TANF funds in ways to help low-income families overcome barriers and help them move towards sustainable economic stability. The grants will support a wide range of services in the areas of education, health and well-being, economic stability and fostering safe, stable, and nurturing relationships. Grant recipients will be selected through a competitive application process and evaluated based upon their ability to provide effective services and programs that address the specific needs of the community.

TDHS encourages all community-based, nonprofit organizations ready to play a central role in the design and implementation of programs that address the unique problems of low-income families in their communities and fosters at least one of the federal TANF goals to submit an application for a Families First Community Grant. The department is focused on partnering with organizations that can provide family-focused solutions that demonstrate measurable impacts designed with the goal of transforming Tennessee's safety net by growing the capacity of vulnerable families to self-sufficiency and economic prosperity.

## EARN POINTS, GET SWAG, KEEP TENNESSEE BEAUTIFUL!

Are you passionate about keeping our beautiful state clean and litter-free? Join Nobody Trashes Tennessee's Trash Masters Rewards program and turn your good deeds into awesome prizes. Whether you're out cleaning highways, spreading awareness, or disposing of your trash properly at events, every action you take helps make a difference for our environment — and you'll get rewarded for your efforts! Visit [nobodytrashestennessee.com](http://nobodytrashestennessee.com) for more information.



## TRASH MASTERS REWARDS

- Mobile exclusive
- Instantly delivered via text and email
- No apps to download
- Earn prizes along the way!
- A fun way to participate in TDOT's Nobody Trashes Tennessee activities

FREE

## EARTHQUAKE – DID YOU FEEL IT?

On the morning of Saturday, May 10, 2025, a 4.1 magnitude earthquake struck near Greenback, Tennessee, about 30 miles south of Knoxville. The tremor was felt across multiple states, including Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina, reaching as far as Atlanta.

The earthquake prompted over 29,000 "Felt Reports" to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) within the first hour. In total, more than 45,000 reports from Knoxville to Atlanta were collected through citizen science data.

The Tennessee Emergency Management Agency worked quickly with our state, regional, and local partners to identify any impacts Saturday morning, which included any needs for...*continued on next page.*

## EARTHQUAKE – DID YOU FEEL IT?

*Continued from last page...* Tennessee has two seismic zones – the New Madrid Seismic Zone (NMSZ) in the west and the East Tennessee Seismic Zone in the east.

TEMA works closely with the CUSEC, an eight-state partnership that facilitates earthquake preparedness and mitigation efforts across the region. Together, CUSEC, TEMA and the other member states, collaborate to conduct earthquake drills, provide technical expertise, and support opportunities for seismic hazard mitigation projects.

By acting today, you can reduce your vulnerability to earthquakes that may happen in the future. To protect your family and home, consider:

- Securing heavy items like bookcases, refrigerators, televisions, and objects that hang on walls.
- Storing heavy and breakable objects on low shelves.
- Making improvements to your building to fix structural issues that could cause your building to collapse during an earthquake.
- Obtaining an earthquake insurance policy, especially if you are located in a seismic zone.

While earthquakes most often occur with little to no warning, knowing what to do if one occurs will help protect yourself and your family.

Practice **Drop, Cover, and Hold On** with family, friends, and coworkers.

- **DROP** to the ground,
- Take **COVER** by getting under a sturdy desk or table, and
- **HOLD ON** to it until the shaking stops.

Additional earthquake resources are available here: <https://cusec.org/>.

View the full press release at: <https://www.tn.gov/tema/new-tema/news/the-pit/2025/6/16/earthquake-did-you-feel-it.html>

# FEDERAL DISASTER DECLARATION APPROVED FOR TENNESSEE COUNTIES FROM APRIL STORMS

Tennessee Governor Bill Lee announced President Trump's approval of his request for a Major Disaster Declaration, making FEMA Individual Assistance available for nine counties and Public Assistance available for 19 Counties impacted by the severe weather and tornadoes that occurred over April 2-6, 2025.

The Tennessee counties named in the Major Disaster Declaration to receive FEMA Individual Assistance include Cheatham, Davidson, Dickson, Dyer, Hardeman, McNairy, Montgomery, Obion, and Wilson Counties. The Tennessee counties that are approved to receive FEMA Public Assistance include Cheatham, Davidson, Decatur, Dyer, Fayette, Gibson, Grundy, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henry, Hickman, Lauderdale, Madison, McNairy, Obion, Perry, Stewart, and Tipton.

Individuals in the declared counties can apply now for direct assistance through FEMA's Individual Assistance (IA) program online anytime or by phone at 1-800-621-3362 between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. CT. Multilingual operators are available.

Those eligible for FEMA's IA program may receive help with rental assistance, home repair and personal property replacement, in addition to other uninsured or underinsured disaster losses. More information on FEMA's IA program can be found at <https://www.fema.gov/assistance/individual>.

Information about FEMA's PA program and its eligible reimbursement categories can be found on the FEMA website at <https://www.fema.gov/assistance/public>.

This request was made after an impactful storm system entered the area on April 2 and stalled until moving out of the state on April 6. During that time, impacted areas experienced an unprecedented period of severe weather and prolific rainfall. This weather event claimed 10 lives and left significant damage across West and Middle Tennessee. Resources and updates for survivors can be found on the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency website at <https://www.tn.gov/tema.html>.

# SECRETARY OF STATE TRE HARGETT AND STATE OFFICIALS ENCOURAGE PARENTS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FREE ‘BABY IN THE BACK’ CAR HANGTAG PROGRAM

Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett, State Rep. Scott Cepicky, the Tennessee Department of Health, the Tennessee Department of Safety, and AAA are urging parents and caregivers to use the free ‘Baby in the Back’ car hangtag program to help prevent heat-related illnesses and deaths among children during the summer months.

“This program is a small way we can raise awareness about the dangers of heat-related illnesses and deaths among our youngest Tennesseans,” said Secretary Hargett. “I am grateful to Rep. Cepicky for approaching us with the idea for ‘Baby in the Back’ and for his trust in our office to administer it. Thanks to the Department of Health, the Department of Safety and Homeland Security’s Highway Safety Office, and AAA — The Auto Club Group, for joining us this year as we all work together to prevent these tragedies involving children.”

Tags will also be available through the Department of Health at all local health departments, and the Tennessee Office of Vital Records. The Department of Safety and Homeland Security will also distribute the hangtags at Driver Services Centers, Tennessee Highway Patrol District Headquarters, and upcoming Tennessee Highway Safety Office events, including Car Seat Checkpoints. Drivers can also stop by their local Tennessee AAA branch to pick up a free “Baby in the Back” hangtag while supplies last. To find your local branch, visit: [AAA.com/branches](http://AAA.com/branches).

Tennesseans can request free hangtags online through the Secretary of State’s office by visiting [sos.tn.gov/requesthangtags](http://sos.tn.gov/requesthangtags).



# WILSON COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL DOGS LOOKING FOR FOREVER HOMES

Lots of adoptable dogs are looking for their forever homes! Are you thinking about adding a new best friend to your life? Call 615-444-9775 to set up a meet & greet or browse them all on the Wilson County Animal Control's Facebook page or online at [wilsoncountyanimalcontrol.petfinder.com](http://wilsoncountyanimalcontrol.petfinder.com).



## PROTECT THOSE PAWS!

**WHY HOT PAVEMENT IS DANGEROUS**  
Pavement can become 30-60 degrees hotter than the air.

**AT AN AIR TEMP OF 95 DEGREES:**


**CONCRETE: 140 DEGREES**  
**ASPHALT: 155 DEGREES**  
**SAND: 120 DEGREES**



**THE SEVEN SECOND TEST**  
Lay the back of your hand on the surface for 7 seconds. If it's too hot for you, it's too hot for your dog!



**THE RISK TO PAWS**



At 125 degrees, burn injuries can begin within 60 seconds (which means there is risk even with an air temp of 75 degrees!)

**Symptoms include redness, limping, blistering, or reluctance to walk.**

**PROTECT YOUR PET**

- walk early or late to avoid mid-day heat
- stick to grass or shaded routes
- use paw protection (booties or wax)

**IF BURNS OCCUR SEEK VETERINARY CARE IMMEDIATELY.**

# Summer Volunteer Orientation

Saturday, July 19  
10:00 AM



REST STOP  
ministries  
*restore survivors, stop oppression.*

## REST STOP MINISTRIES HOLDS SUMMER VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

You'll learn more about human trafficking, how we serve the survivors in our care, and some of the ways you can join our mission to restore survivors and stop oppression. Sign up now to reserve your spot!

<https://reststop.kindful.com/register/volunteer>

# 2025 FORESTRY JOBS CAMP IS BACK FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS IN TENNESSEE

High schoolers in Tennessee can join at no cost this September to explore careers in the forest. From logging and sawmilling to wildlife and land management, participants get the chance to visit active job sites, meet professionals in the field, and dive into the world of natural resource management. The camp will take place at Natchez Trace State Park during September 17 - 19, 2025. Registration is still open! Visit [www.tnforestry.com/camps](http://www.tnforestry.com/camps) to download the application, which is due by August 20th, 2025.



**Tennessee Forestry**  
Jobs Camp

*Registration  
open!*

September 17-19, 2025 · Natchez Trace State Park

# COMMEMORATING THE 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADA

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), signed into law on July 26, 1990, stands as a pivotal civil rights statute that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities across various facets of public life, including employment, education, transportation, and access to public and private spaces. As we approach its 35th anniversary on July 26, 2025, the ADA continues to be celebrated for its profound impact on promoting equal opportunities and fostering inclusive communities.

These commemorations serve not only as a reflection on the strides made over the past 35 years but also as a reminder of the ongoing efforts required to ensure that individuals with disabilities have equal access and opportunities in all aspects of society.

**FREE slurpee day! July 11th**

**7-ELEVEN DAY**

Celebrate 7/11 Day with a cool treat—stop by a local 7-Eleven gas stations for a free Slurpee and beat the summer heat!

**JULY IS UV SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH**

- drink plenty of water
- stay cool indoors
- wear light colored & loose fitting clothing
- wear sunscreen
- check your car before you get out

*Be hot weather prepared!*