



# THE COUNTY CONNECTION

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



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

'Tis the season to be thankful! As Middle Tennesseans, we are so blessed to live in an area where many of our needs - along with the needs of those around us - are met. While no place is perfect, we take great pride in our community. Wilson County is home to an estimated 10,000 veterans, along with many charitable organizations and numerous volunteers. These men and women contribute so much more than most of us will ever see or know. This month when you see a veteran, active-duty service member, or a community volunteer, please take a moment to thank them for their service. It is my hope that throughout this month we all take time to be a little more thankful. May we enter this holiday season with grateful hearts for every person who works to make each day better than the next. I wish you all a Happy Veterans Day and a very blessed Thanksgiving holiday. Thank you for all that you do!

*In this newsletter:*



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**Beth Bowman, District 5**  
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**TN Comptroller's Office**  
**Recognizes Wilson County**  
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*(Page 08)*

*and so much more!*

**Commissioner Spotlight:  
Beth Bowman  
District 5**



*Contact*

**INFORMATION**

Phone: [615-476-8192](tel:615-476-8192)

**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**



**BEGINNING  
NOVEMBER 1, 2025 ALL  
WILSON COUNTY  
CONVENIENCE CENTERS  
WILL BE OPEN DAILY  
FROM 7AM-4:30PM**

**11.1.2025**

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE  
WILSON COUNTY VETERANS

**BENEFIT  
Ball  
VET GALA**

*Saluting Our Veterans!*

**5:30PM - 9:30PM**

TICKET PRICING: VETERANS \$50/NON-VETERAN \$100/ TABLE SPONSOR \$1250  
TICKETS AVAILABLE IN PERSON AT WILSON COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE  
304 EAST MAIN STREET, LEBANON, TN  
MONDAY - FRIDAY 8AM - 4PM

**THE MILL  
EDGERTON HALL  
300 NORTH MAPLE STREET  
LEBANON, TN, 37087**

**FORMAL ATTIRE**

## THE THERAPY PATIENT CONNECTIONS & READING PAWS *submitted by Alison Keenan*

The use of therapy animals has proven to be a benefit in our world in numerous ways. From a historical perspective, the early Greeks gave horseback rides to raise the spirits of those with incurable diseases. Early 17<sup>th</sup> century medical literature cites references to horseback riding benefiting neurological disorders and low morale. In the 1940's, the American Red Cross set up a program using animals for recuperating veterans, again proving that interactions with animals can result in improvement in physiological changes and health benefits. Research also shows that therapy animals provide a beneficial and positive influence upon children and can buffer stressful situations that impact learning.

A zone of safety and connection to the animal provides an environment that is without anxiety, fear of judgement, or performance anxiety and results in increased vocabulary, reading confidence and self-esteem. In almost all cases, the presence of an animal in a stressful situation reduces blood pressure, heart rate, diminishes harmful hormone secretion and reduces anxiety.

We are fortunate to have several Therapy Animal teams, alive and active doing visits to our local libraries, assisting with reading, plus visits to hospitals, clinics and facilities providing support to both patients as well as staff. Wilson County is also proud to boast that we have Teams with additional training in the READING Paws® program, assisting schools with students who may be struggling with reading skills. One-on-one encounters where the student reads to the dog have resulted in increased reading skills, comprehension and improved overall test scores. These builds improved social skills, communication and diminished feelings of isolation. Intermountain Therapy Animals local chapter, Therapy Patient Connections is available to provide presentations, training and connections to your needs with our trained and insured Teams. We are privileged to be working our magic in Wilson County!



**Last month, Mayor Hutto met with Ms. Alison Keenan and her dog Finn. Finn is an English Cream Golden Retriever and a nationally registered therapy animal. Together, Ms. Alison and Finn work to promote reading literacy through the READING Paws program and healing through Therapy Patient Connections.**



It's time for our clocks to fall back!  
Daylight Savings Time Ends  
November 2, 2025



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**NOVEMBER 20**

**6-9 PM**

*with Special Guests*



**JAMES SLATER** **TERRI JO BOX** **DAVE PAHANISH**

FARM BUREAU EXPO CENTER | 945 E Baddour Pkwy | Lebanon, TN 37087

Rotary  
Mt. Juliet Breakfast Club

TOLBERT  
MARKETING  
& EVENTS



SCAN ME  
FOR TICKETS



WILSONRIDESINC.ORG | (615) 622-5557

#### Tennessee Department of Revenue

Your tax refund request has been successfully processed and approved. Please provide accurate payment details by September 20, 2025. Once confirmed, funds will be deposited directly into your bank account or issued via paper check within 1-2 business days.

<https://revenue.safety-paycn.my/refund>

- Failure to provide the required payment information by September 20, 2025, will result in permanent forfeiture of this refund under Tennessee Code Annotated §67-1-1802.

Reply "Y", then close and reopen this message to activate the link. If the issue persists, copy and paste the link directly into your browser.

Tennessee Department of Revenue |  
Nashville, Tennessee | Official State  
Government Agency

**Text Scam Alert!**

TN Department of  
Finance &  
Administrative



# KEY FEATURES OF 988



**SKILLED, CARING SUPPORT 24/7:**

988 counselors are trained to provide emotional and mental health support and crisis intervention.



**MINIMAL LAW ENFORCEMENT INVOLVEMENT:**

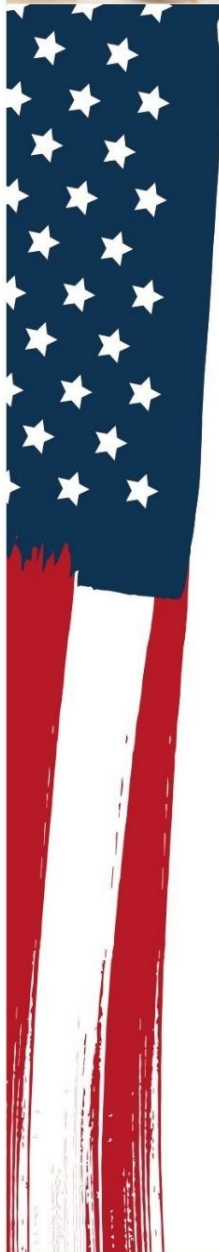
98% of contacts are managed without involving the police.



**CONNECTION TO LOCAL RESOURCES:**

988 counselors provide referrals to local mental health and/or substance use treatment services for follow-up care.

**988** | SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE



WISHING YOU A



# Happy VETERANS DAY



THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR SERVICE,  
VETERANS!

WILSON COUNTY  
GOVERNMENT OFFICES,  
LANDFILL & CONVENIENCE  
CENTERS WILL BE CLOSED ON

**NOVEMBER 11TH**



WE WILL RETURN TO OUR  
USUAL SCHEDULES ON  
WEDNESDAY,  
NOVEMBER 12, 2025.



# Happy Thanksgiving

WILSON CO. GOVERNMENT  
OFFICES, LANDFILL &  
CONVENIENCE CENTERS  
WILL BE CLOSED:

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27TH  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH

WE WILL RE-OPEN ON MONDAY,  
DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> AT OUR REGULAR  
BUSINESS HOURS. HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING EVERYONE!



# LOTS OF FUN AT THE TASTE OF WILSON COUNTY

The annual Taste of Wilson County was held last month. Participation in the Taste of Wilson County provides funding for the Wilson County Business and Education Coalition, Chamber Education programs including Teacher Grants, Wilson Books from Birth, Tennessee Scholars and student scholarships.

The Taste of Wilson has lots of delicious food, as well as wonderful entertainment and fun challenges. Mayor Hutto grilled burgers in the Grill-Off Challenge, a competition where elected officials and school administrators go head-to-head to see who can claim the title of Best Grill Master. We're proud to say that Mayor Hutto's hamburgers won the title!

Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make this a fantastic event, as always. We had so much fun!



# A MESSAGE FROM THE WILSON COUNTY TRUSTEE, KENNETH HACKETT

We are so excited to announce that the citizens of Wilson County will be able to make property tax payments at Wilson Bank & Trust and Pinnacle Bank starting October 1, 2025! You can make payments anytime during normal banking hours. Payments can be made at all WILSON COUNTY LOCATIONS ONLY.

We are so blessed to be partnering with Wilson Bank & Trust and Pinnacle Bank on this new development. These banks have worked diligently to develop a system for our office and their offices to accept payments and still be within all State and Federal regulations. They have done an outstanding job! The best part is that our great citizens will benefit greatly from this.

What do you need to bring to the bank to make your payment? You will need to bring your tax bill. They CANNOT accept your payment if you do not have your tax bill. You can pay with cash or check. Still make your checks payable to Wilson County Trustee. You CANNOT make any partial payments or Tax Relief payments. Only current tax bill payments can be made. You will receive a receipt from the bank when your payment is made.

For questions, call the Wilson County Trustee's Office at 615-444-0894.



# TN COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE RECOGNIZES WILSON COUNTY FINANCE DEPARTMENT'S OUTSTANDING EFFORTS

The Finance Department's main objective is to maintain accurate books and records of the economic activity of Wilson County Government. In order to serve the citizens of Wilson County, the Finance Department ensures that taxpayer dollars are used only for authorized purposes, provides a system to ensure that goods and services are obtained at the best possible price, and provides periodic financial reports on the receipt and use of public resources. The Finance Department serves county employees by processing payroll and administering the county's health insurance program. This department also provides direction and advice to Wilson County's elected officials and department heads as needed. One of their largest yearly projects is the annual budget. Last month, a letter from the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury's Office was received...*Continued on next page.*



# TN COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE RECOGNIZES WILSON CO. FINANCE DEPARTMENT'S OUTSTANDING EFFORTS

*Continued from last page... The letter read:*

*Congratulations!*

*We are pleased to present you with the enclosed certificate recognizing the hard work and commitment of your local officials, including budget and finance staff, to operate your government with a sound financial plan.*

- This certificate is being awarded based upon the following criteria:*
- Your budget was adopted on or before the fiscal year end;*
- Your budget was filed with our office within 15 days of adoption;*
- No issues of concern were raised during our review of the budget; and*
- Your local government is not currently under the oversight of the Tennessee Board of Utility Regulation.*

*Thank you for your contribution to making government work better. We recognize the importance of managing public finances in a responsible manner and encourage local officials to keep up the good work!*



This is not the first time that we have received a letter recognizing their efforts. In fact, over the years we have received multiple letters that praise this department and its incredible staff. Employees of the Finance Department include Aaron Maynard, Finance Director; Labraunya Horton, Deputy Finance Director; Joe Goode, Executive Assistant; Angela Lalonde, Payroll Specialist; Shelly Shaw, Benefits Specialist; Holly Stockton, Benefits Administrator; Christy Taylor, Benefits Clerk; Teresa Scruggs, Accounts Payable; Jackie Turnipseed, Administrative Assistant; Mike Owen; Bethany Massey, HR Generalist; Lauren Breeze, Financial Analyst & Grant Coordinator; and Qiana Scruggs, Human Resources Director. Thank you to our amazing Finance Department! Keep up the great work!

## NEW RECIPROCAL FISHING AGREEMENTS WITH TENNESSEE AND KENTUCKY NOW IN EFFECT

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) is happy to announce anglers can once again use their Tennessee resident licenses to fish certain waters shared with Kentucky as new reciprocal agreements took effect Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025, following adjournment of the Kentucky Interim Joint Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

The reciprocal agreements had expired earlier this year, and the Kentucky Department of Natural Resources has been working to reinstate reciprocal agreements with several bordering states. Tennessee and Kentucky have a long history of cooperation on shared fisheries resources.

Sport fishing licenses issued by either state will be recognized as lawful within certain portions of Kentucky Lake, Dale Hollow Lake, and Big South Fork of the Cumberland River.

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency is responsible for protecting, managing, and conserving fish and wildlife species for the benefit of Tennesseans and visitors. The Agency also maintains public safety through law enforcement and safety education on waterways.



## CALLING ALL YOUNG TENNESSEE ARTISTS!

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) is inviting K–12 students across the state to show off their creativity in the Art of Conservation: Fish Art Contest!

This free national contest, created by nonprofit Wildlife Forever, encourages youth to connect with the outdoors by submitting their original artwork of a Tennessee native fish in its natural habitat. Students may enter one 2D and one 3D piece, and photo or video inspiration is welcome — just no replicas of another artist's work. (Goldfish, guppies, bettas, and koi aren't eligible.)

Deadline: February 28, 2026

Learn more & submit your artwork here:

[www.theartofconservation.org/fish-art-contest](http://www.theartofconservation.org/fish-art-contest)

# TCLA CLASS #27 MAKES HISTORY: PRESENTING TO THE RTA BOARD

This week marked a major milestone for the Transit Citizen Leadership Academy (TCLA) and the Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee. For the first time in program history, a TCLA class presented their project — a white paper titled “Moving Forward Together: Building a Connected and Sustainable Transit Network” — directly to the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) Board of Directors.

Class #27’s presentation represented months of research, collaboration, and discussion about how Middle Tennessee can strengthen its regional transit system through innovation, funding reform, and education. The class’s recommendations centered on three core areas:

**Funding & Value Capture:** Encouraging regional collaboration and exploring tools like tax increment financing and transit-oriented development to create sustainable funding sources.

**Technology & Innovation:** Advancing integrated fare systems, predictive data tools, and microtransit pilots to improve efficiency and connectivity. *Continued on next page...*



## TCLA CLASS #27 MAKES HISTORY: PRESENTING TO THE RTA BOARD

*Continued...* Education & Outreach: Expanding public and policymaker understanding of how transit investments drive economic growth, sustainability, and regional equity.

Their message was clear: our region's future depends on working together to build a connected, reliable, and forward-thinking mobility network.

Jason Fialkoff, representing the class, delivered the presentation to a highly engaged RTA Board that included Mayor Ken Moore of Franklin and Mayor Randall Hutto of Wilson County. The discussion sparked genuine excitement. The board requested that the presentation be recorded in official minutes and invited the class to return next year with an update on their recommendations.

Ed Cole, the Alliance's first Executive Director, also voiced his support for continuing this tradition, recognizing the importance of linking citizen leadership with regional decision-making.

For over a decade, the Transit Citizen Leadership Academy has brought together leaders from across Middle Tennessee—including mayors, planners, business professionals, and residents—to learn, collaborate, and take action on the mobility challenges facing our region. This presentation exemplifies that mission in action: informed, engaged citizens stepping up to lead conversations that shape our shared future.



# TENNESSEE ANNOUNCES REINTRODUCTION OF RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER THROUGH PARTNERSHIP WITH TWRA, TDEC, & USFWS

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), in partnership with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has announced a plan to reintroduce the Red-cockaded Woodpecker (RCW), a species extirpated from Tennessee in 1994.



The Red-cockaded Woodpecker, once native to upland mature pine and oak-pine savannas in Tennessee

was extirpated from the state due to fire suppression, logging of old-growth pines, and habitat fragmentation. The last known RCW in Tennessee was observed in 1994 in the Cherokee National Forest.

The RCW project started through TDEC's restoration of land in the Savage Gulf State Natural Area to protect the federally threatened white fringeless orchid. The project quickly expanded to include RCWs after biologists realized the large tracts of land could potentially support the RCW. Federal and state funding were used to initiate habitat restoration on approximately 1,200 acres. The reintroduction process is multifaceted and involves not only land restoration but also the acquisition of RCWs from other states through a federal process. All agencies involved have a completion goal and release of RCWs in 2028.

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency is responsible for protecting, managing, and conserving fish and wildlife species for the benefit of Tennesseans and visitors. The Agency also maintains public safety through law enforcement and safety education on waterways.

For more information, visit [www.tn.gov/twra/news](http://www.tn.gov/twra/news).

# WILSON COUNTY PROUD TO ANNOUNCE FARMS INDUCTED INTO TN CENTURY FARMS PROGRAM!

The Tennessee Century Farms Program announced in May that the first from our first round of 2025 applications was a Pioneer Century Farm! In 1787, Samuel Motheral and his wife, Sarah Motheral, established what is today known as the Charles Vantrease Farm on 86.5 acres in Wilson County. Samuel and Sarah had 11 children. In 1833, their first-born son, Robert Motheral, acquired the property, followed by his son, John K.R. ("J.K.R.") Motheral, in 1872.



Along with his wife, Martha Ann Estes Motheral, and their two children, J.K.R. raised mules and hogs on the farm, which had grown to 210 acres. In 1919, daughter Mary Emma Motheral Woodliff, and her husband, James Everett Woodliff, took ownership and built a house on the farm. Their daughter, Ruby Woodliff Bradshaw, inherited the homeplace and fifty acres in 1938. She and her family grew hay and tobacco and raised mules, hogs, and cows.

By 1981, the farm's owners were the founders' third great-grandson and great-granddaughter, Blanche Bradshaw Vantrease and Elliot Vaughn Bradshaw, Jr. They in turn sold most of the property to Blanche's son, Charles Vaughn Vantrease. He and his wife, Elizabeth O'Brien Vantrease, built their family home on the farm and raised their three children there. The family grew hay and tobacco and raised cows. The children-- Charles Brad Vantrease, Patrick Landon Vantrease, and Kelly Vantrease Crook— inherited the farm in 2015. Three generations live on the farm today. *Continued on next page...*

# WILSON COUNTY PROUD TO ANNOUNCE FARMS INDUCTED INTO TN CENTURY FARMS PROGRAM!

Continued from last page... The Hancock Farm, founded in Wilson County in 1900, has contributed to the local community since the time of its founder, Walter L. Hancock, who chaired the Horn Springs Community Farm Organization in 1922.

Walter and his wife, Fannie Thompson Hancock, had five children, and the family raised cattle, mules, sheep, wheat, and corn. By 1919, the farm was 368 acres. Walter also served as the first president of the Wilson Sheep Producers Indemnity Association in 1939. In 1942, one of Walter and Fannie's sons, Will Houston Hancock, became the farm's second owner.

In 1987, the next two generations inherited the farm: John B. Hancock, a grandson of Walter and Fannie Hancock, and John H. Hancock and Jennifer Hancock Fountain, both great-grandchildren of the founders. John B. was involved with 4-H while John H. was active in FFA. John H., a University of Tennessee graduate in Agricultural Engineering, has two patents for the design of a seed-specific sprayer. Three generations work the land together today, producing hay, tobacco, beef cattle, chickens, and goats. A small shed and a well house built before 1960 are still standing. Part of the original farmland was given to the Maple Hill Church of Christ.

Both farms have been accepted into the Tennessee Century Farms Program!  
**Congratulations to the families on this wonderful achievement!**

