



THE COUNTY CONNECTION

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



A Word from Mayor Hutto...

As we close the chapter on 2025 and step confidently into 2026, this is a meaningful time to reflect on the progress we've made together and the lessons we've carried forward. The new year brings fresh opportunities to set goals, explore new ideas, and continue fostering the strong foundation that is our county. At the heart of that foundation is our shared spirit of community. Wilson County is fortunate to be home to individuals who generously give back and work side by side for the greater good.

While we may face challenges along the way, we can rest assured that the new year will bring with it opportunities for new achievements and continued success. With optimism, collaboration, and a steadfast commitment to service, we look forward to building on our momentum in the months to come. My office and I wish you a blessed New Year, and we thank you for all you do to make Wilson County such a vibrant, kind, and caring community!

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**Commissioner Spotlight:
Kevin Costley
District 8**



Contact

INFORMATION

Phone: [615-496-7419](tel:615-496-7419)

**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**



**WILSON COUNTY MAYOR'S
LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE
SERIES 2026**

Part 1: Disaster Recovery Panel Discussion

save the date
02.03.26

sponsored by:



**Made in Tennessee
Building
945 E. Baddour Pkwy,
Lebanon, TN 37087**

**7:30A NETWORK & BREAKFAST
8:00A - 9A PROGRAM**

**RSVP
shawsu@wilsoncountyttn.gov**

WILSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE TO HOST TRAVELING EXHIBIT IN SPRING 2026

The Wilson County Mayor's Office is excited to announce that, in celebration of our nation's 250th Anniversary, the traveling exhibit *Our American Story: Voices from Tennessee* will be on display at the Wilson County Courthouse in the spring.



Developed as an extension of the acclaimed Tennessee Voices, American Stories exhibit, *Our American Story* invites audiences to reflect on the inspiring question: "How will you make history?"

This captivating exhibit shines a spotlight on the remarkable lives of Tennesseans whose stories connect with and contribute to the broader history of the United States. Visitors will discover powerful narratives from:

- Cherokee leader Ostenaco
- Battle of Kings Mountain messenger Joseph Greer
- Tennessee's first governor John Sevier
- Suffragist Abby Crawford Milton
- Tennessee Supreme Court Chief Justice Adolpho A. Birch
- Astronaut (and Wilson County native!) Barry Wilmore

"This exhibit is a powerful reminder that Tennessee's history—along with Wilson County's history—is woven into the fabric of our nation's story," said Mayor Randall Hutto. "We are honored to bring these voices to our community and hope they inspire future generations to see themselves as history-makers in meaningful ways. We are deeply grateful to the curators and staff of the Tennessee State Museum for partnering with us to bring this opportunity to Wilson County residents and visitors."

The exhibition will be available for viewing weekdays during the Wilson County Courthouse's regular business hours and will be free to the public. For questions, call Brooke Cummings in the County Mayor's Office at 615-444-1383.

TUNE IN TO THE LATEST HAPPENINGS IN WILSON COUNTY!

Did you miss Mayor Hutto on Coleman & Company this month? Don't worry—they've got you covered!

Each episode is recorded and uploaded to WANT 98.9FM's YouTube Channel, so

you can catch up anytime. It's the perfect way to stay connected with the latest news and conversations happening right here in Wilson County.

Mayor Hutto meets with Coleman the 3rd Monday of every month before the county commission meeting. The County Attorney, Mike Jennings, meets with Coleman the following day to discuss the happenings from the meeting. If you can't tune in to the radio while it's live, you always have the chance to listen in later! Check it out at wantfm.com/coleman/archive/.



WILSON COUNTY
GOVERNMENT



Meet *Your* Mayor

LEBANON

Lebanon Wilson Chamber
Chamber
149 Public Square
Lebanon, TN
11 - 12NOON

MT. JULIET

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

WATERTOWN

The Adopted
Farmhouse Social Co.
100 Public Square
Watertown, TN
1 - 2PM



LAST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH

Spend some time with
Wilson Co. Mayor Randall Hutto
as he answers your questions and provides
important county updates.
- no appointment necessary -

WILSON COUNTY – TENNESSEE STATE FAIR RECEIVES 16 INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FAIRS AND EXPOSITIONS (IAFE) AWARDS *submitted*

Following the second-largest attendance in history of the Fair, the 2025 Wilson County – Tennessee State Fair documented its success and competed for top honors against fairs from around the world in the Annual IAFE Awards. Over a couple months, the Fair assembled comprehensive entries highlighting every aspect of the event – from its theme and sponsors to events, activities, educational programs, innovative competitions, exhibits, commercial, agriculture, concessions, communications and year-round activities held on the Fairgrounds beyond the official Fair dates.

IAFE award recipients were selected from the 2,093 entries submitted by member fairs of all sizes across the United States, Canada, England, and Australia. Entries were evaluated by fair industry professionals with awards presented during the 2025 Virtual Awards Show. The Wilson County – Tennessee State Fair earned a total of 16 awards across five categories, including five first-place awards and two prestigious Best of Division Awards.

Headquartered in Springfield, Missouri, the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) is a voluntary, nonprofit organization founded in 1885 by a small group of fairs. Today, the IAFE represents more than 1,100 fairs worldwide and over 900 members from allied industries. For more than a century, the organization has remained committed to promoting and advancing the growth, education, and excellence of agricultural fairs, shows, and expositions.

The 2026 Wilson County – Tennessee State Fair will take place in Lebanon, TN from August 13- 22, 2026.

We'll see YOU at the Fair!

Picture Caption: The Wilson County – Tennessee State Fair team (left to right) Myle Crowder, Robin Holcomb, Anna Cate Kulas, Helen McPeak, Terry McPeak, Shari Bazydola, David Hale, Lanah Hale, Lyndon LaFevers, Felicia Johnson, Jane LaFevers, Phyllis Webb and Johnnie Webb attended the IAFE Convention in Denver, Colorado, from November 29 to December 3, 2025





MEET THE LADIES OF THE COUNTY MAYOR'S OFFICE

Over the past 15+ years, Mayor Hutto's administration has accomplished remarkable milestones for our county. Behind the scenes, four dedicated women play an essential role in keeping the county mayor's office running smoothly. In this newsletter, we'll introduce you to each of them, highlight the important work they do, and their office door is always open. Read about them on the next page.



Wilson County Mayor's Office
County Courthouse, Suite 104
228 East Main Street
Lebanon, TN 37087
(615)444-1383



SARA DAVENPORT

Executive Assistant

Sara is a valued member of our team and plays an essential role in keeping the Mayor's Office running smoothly. Raised in Smith County in the community of Difficult, she went on to graduate from Tennessee Tech University.

Sara accepted the role as the mayor's Executive Assistant in 2015. Since then, Sara has become the go-to person for managing the mayor's busy schedule—a task that requires both skill and patience—and she knows the inner workings of the office better than anyone.

Beyond her professional dedication, Sara enjoys a full life outside the office. She and her husband, Richard, have been married for 16 years and are proud parents of twin boys, Owen and Collin. Her commitment to both her family and her work reflects the heart of public service we value so deeply in Wilson County.

"Thank you for all you do for us, Sara. We love working with you every day!" - Mayor's Office Team



"I truly believe that it is a God thing! It is such a blessing to work in Mayor Hutto's office, work with an incredible team and serve my community."

A fun fact about Brooke: Her pet is a 5-year-old Black Angus steer named Larry. He was bottle raised and is happily living on the family farm as a pet.

BROOKE DRIVER CUMMINGS

Executive Assistant

Brooke is a lifelong Wilson Countian who grew up on her family's farm in Watertown. A graduate of Middle Tennessee State University with a bachelor's degree, she is now married to her husband Brian and is the proud mother of six-month-old Andrew. Brooke has served in Mayor Hutto's office since 2019, and after time away for college and career opportunities, she considers it a blessing to return home to serve her community.



CHRISTY MULLIGAN

Administrative Assistant

Originally from New Smyrna Beach, Florida, Christy brings both professional expertise and a warm personality to the Mayor's Office. A graduate of Volunteer State Community College with an AAS in Business Marketing, Christy serves as an Administrative Assistant and also administers a grant awarded to our water authorities by TDEC.

With four years of dedicated service in the Mayor's Office, Christy has become an integral part of the team.

Beyond professional responsibilities, Christy is a mother of two sons, named John and David. She is also known for her love of animals—always ready with dog treats at the desk and a smile for any furry friend who comes along.

We're proud to highlight Christy's contributions and commitment to both the office and the community.



SUSAN SHAW

Special Projects Administrator



Originally from Berwyn, IL—a suburb just outside Chicago—Susan has always loved the energy of growing up in the Windy City. After earning a B.S. from the

Contact information:

shawsu@wilsoncountyttn.gov

Main line: 615-444-1383

Works Tuesdays-Thursday

University of Tennessee (Go Vols!) and adding both an Associates in Risk Management and a Project Management Institute Certification to the mix, Susan brought that expertise to public service.

Though retired from a previous career, we were fortunate to bring Susan out of retirement in 2017 to serve as Project Administrator for Mayor Hutto. She works Tuesday through Thursday, where every day brings the chance to collaborate with a fantastic team.

Outside the office, Susan is honored to serve on the Boards of DrugFree WilCo and Wilson Rides, helping support programs that make a real difference in the community. For Susan, it's all about working alongside great colleagues and giving back in meaningful ways.

AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY CITIZEN TIPS

submitted by Susan Shaw

In November, the Wilson County Mayor's office met with Mrs. Robyn Householder, President and CEO of the local Better Business Bureau. Our local BBB serves 45 counties in Middle TN and Southern KY. Their efforts help consumers find BBB Accredited businesses, brands and charities they can trust. Every now and then, we will receive calls from citizens asking about possible scams. Our local BBB is a great resource for us in that they can research and confirm which businesses are safe and which are scams. If you suspect a scam and want to report it, or want to know if something is a scam, check their free scam tracker tool at The Wilson County Mayor's Office is excited to announce that, in celebration of our nation's 250th Anniversary, the traveling exhibit *Our American Story: Voices from Tennessee* will be on display at the Wilson County Courthouse beginning in Spring 2026.. You can check by type of scam such as 'tech support', 'home repair' or 'caregiver' scam.

If you would like to reach out to the BBB, their address and phone number is:
BBB serving Middle TN and Southern KY
25 Century Blvd, Ste 101, Nashville, TN 37214
Office: 615-250-4235
BBB.org



12 DAYS
OF PREPAREDNESS

**Sign Up for
Weather Alerts**

*Follow credible and
trusted sources!*



TN Department of Military TEMA

SHARING IS CARING

Mayor Hutto had the privilege of participating in The Salvation Army's annual Red Kettle Campaign last month. The annual holiday tradition we see every year around the holidays uses donations to make a meaningful impact by helping those in need navigate food insecurity, unexpected job loss, housing instability, and so much more. While making a donation helps change a life, it also brings the giver the joy that comes from making an impactful difference. Mayor Hutto stated, "I had so many generous people stop by



and donate while I rang the bell at Walmart, and it truly put me in the Christmas spirit. A huge thanks to our friends at the Salvation Army for all you do and for inviting me to be part of this tradition." To learn more about The Salvation Army, visit their website at salvationarmyusa.org, or reach out to a local representative of The Salvation Army at southernusa.salvationarmy.org/lebanon-tn.

The Salvation Army Mission Statement

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE NOW POWERED BY SECOND HARVEST

submitted by Susan Shaw

We're excited to share an important update! The Emergency Food Assistance Program is now administered by Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee, ensuring strong support for our community.

Second Harvest partners with at least 20 local agencies within 20 miles of Wilson County, connecting individuals and families with essential food resources. Some of the agencies serving our area include:

Wilson County Help Center

Mt. Juliet Help Center

First United Methodist Church

Joseph's Storehouse

SALT

If you or someone you know needs assistance, visit secondharvestmidtn.org/find-resources/find-food to locate resources near you.

Together, we're working to fight hunger and strengthen our community. Please share this information with anyone who may benefit!

EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE NOW POWERED BY SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK

ensuring stronger
support for our
community



Find help today at
secondharvestmidtn.org/find-resources/find-food



“Growth presents challenges, but it also creates opportunities for regional collaboration, innovation, and stronger communities. These mayors’ stories made it clear that no community faces these issues alone—learning from peers and working together is essential.”

WWW.YOURCRT.ORG

UPCOMING FEDERAL HOLIDAY REMINDER:

WILSON COUNTY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, CONVENIENCE CENTERS, AND THE LANDFILL WILL BE **CLOSED ON MONDAY, JANUARY 19TH** IN OBSERVANCE OF **DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY**. THESE DEPARTMENTS WILL RETURN TO THEIR REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS ON **TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026**. **WE WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY MLK DAY!**



PROUDLY PRESENTS

MERRY MULCHING

LIVE CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

DEC. 25 - JAN. 10

510 HARTMAN DRIVE - LEBANON, TN 37087

PLACE LIVE TREE IN BIN LOCATED AT ENTRANCE
NO DECORATIONS ◦ NO LIGHTS ◦ NO TINSEL

FINANCIAL DONATION TO WILSON COUNTY FCA FOR EACH RECYCLED TREE
MORE INFO AT ROCKWOODRECYCLING.COM