

THE COUNTY CONNECTION

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



A Word from Mayor Hutto...

Wilson County has really shown its strength these past few weeks. Our residents and leaders from all levels came together to support our community and its future. The outcome reflected that united effort, and we are grateful to everyone who contributed. My office and I are truly thankful for everyone who helped spread the word, worked hard throughout the process, and made sure our citizens' voices were shared and heard.

This spirit is nothing new for us. We have quite literally been through storms such as these and each time we come out stronger than before. It is important to remember that now more than ever, how we treat one another matters. As we look ahead, let's continue choosing compassion over judgment and faith over fear. Wilson County is strong, and together, we'll keep creating a future worthy for generations to come.

In this newsletter:



Commissioner Spotlight:
Tyler Chandler, District 10
(Page 02)

TDOT Expands HELP
Program to Rural Tennessee
(Pages 03-04)

Wilson County Courthouse
to Host Traveling Exhibit
"Our American Story: Voices
from Tennessee"
(Page 09)

Commissioner Spotlight: Tyler Chandler District 10



Contact INFORMATION

Phone: [615-697-9020](tel:615-697-9020)

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**

STORM DEBRIS PICKUP

Winter Storm Fern debris pickup is underway across the county, and crews are moving through as quickly and safely as possible. With the amount of debris, it may take some time for them to reach every area, especially along busier roads where extra safety steps are required. Each city municipality is handling its own cleanup, and TDOT is coordinating debris removal for residents along state roads. Custom Tree Care will make a full second pass once the first loop is complete. The Volunteer Network has been a tremendous help by organizing community cleanup efforts. They can be reached at volunteernetworktn.org. For specific questions, call Mayor Hutto's office at 615-444-1383. Thank you for your patience and cooperation as cleanup continues!

Wilson County Courthouse
to proudly present traveling exhibit
March 30-April 20, 2026
See page 08 for details!



**Our American Story:
Voices from Tennessee**

TDOT EXPANDS HELP PROGRAM TO RURAL TENNESSEE

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) is expanding its successful HELP Program to better support motorists in rural areas. This major enhancement is made possible through the General Assembly's investment of new recurring transportation funds in the state budget.



TDOT Commissioner Will Reid, P.E., emphasized the importance of the expansion, noting that rural crashes are often more severe due to higher speeds, limited detour options, and longer distances to hospitals. The new Rural Service Patrol will help close critical gaps in emergency response, improve safety, and reduce incident clearance times.

What's Changing

- New Rural Service Patrol launches this spring in Region 2
- Statewide coverage by summer 2026, spanning more than 870 interstate miles
- 24/7 statewide operations, with active patrols from 6 a.m.–10 p.m. and overnight on-call support
- Coordinated through TDOT's Transportation Management Centers for rapid response

Services Provided

- Motorist assistance: fuel, water, minor repairs
- Incident response: first aid, traffic control, debris removal
- Support for first responders and maintenance reporting



TDOT EXPANDS HELP PROGRAM TO RURAL TENNESSEE

Continued from previous page... Since 1999, TDOT's HELP Program has reduced congestion, improved safety, and assisted thousands of drivers. The new rural expansion strengthens TDOT's commitment to keeping Tennessee's highways safe and moving. Last May, TDOT announced that the state's annual budget included additional dedicated, recurring General Fund dollars for transportation. The \$80 million in recurring revenue is made possible by reallocating a portion of the existing Tire Sales Tax revenue to TDOT. This innovative funding approach doesn't raise taxes but does increase TDOT's ability to deliver a higher level of service across Tennessee. This additional money is primarily planned for state-of-good-repair maintenance of pavement and bridges, ensuring the state's existing infrastructure is properly maintained for years to come. Approximately \$16.7 million will be funded for Rural Service Patrol. Following a competitive RFP process, the contract was awarded to AutoBase, Inc., an industry leader with over 25 years of experience augmenting DOT capabilities across the country. With more than 600 employees and a fleet of 400 patrol vehicles operating across 10 states, AutoBase brings significant scale and expertise to Tennessee's rural interstates.

WILSON COUNTY
ANIMAL CONTROL

ADOPTABLE DOGS



PLEASE SHARE
AND HELP US
FIND THESE
PUPS LOVING
HOMES!

615-444-9775



DO YOU KNOW YOUR SAFE PLACE?

Basement or interior room.
Lowest floor.
Away from windows.



SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK

WILSON COUNTY
GOVERNMENT



Meet *Your* Mayor

LEBANON

Lebanon Wilson
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 Livestock 911 Training




EVENT DETAILS:

 March 26th, 2026

 Registration: 8:00 A.M.
Training Begins: 8:30 A.M.

 Q-Barn (Livestock Complex)
James E. Ward Agriculture Center
945 E. Baddour Pkwy
Lebanon, TN 37087

 Free to attend. Lunch is provided!

Scan the QR Code to Register!



Training will focus on providing information regarding farm animal welfare for law enforcement, animal control officers, extension educators, farmers, and others involved in animal agriculture.

TRAINING WILL COVER:

- Livestock Welfare in Tennessee
- Livestock Welfare Prosecution
- Fence Laws and Livestock Running at Large
- Livestock Body Condition Scoring
- Livestock Mortality and Disposal



**P.O.S.T Credit
Available**

The University of Tennessee is an equal opportunity provider.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Jessica Young at:

 615-444-9584  jessicayoung@utk.edu

UT EXTENSION
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

tsu COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

**Co-Host and Lunch
Sponsor:**



LEBANON SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT CELEBRATES KINDNESS AND WILSON COUNTY KIND CAMPAIGN

Last month, the Lebanon Special School District celebrated kindness in a big way! Throughout February, students, staff, and families came together to highlight the power of compassion, connection, and positive actions across all campuses.

From classroom activities to school-wide initiatives, the district embraced opportunities to uplift one another and reinforce the importance of treating everyone with respect.

Teachers incorporated kindness-focused lessons, students participated in themed events, and schools showcased creative projects that encouraged empathy and inclusion.

LSSD's commitment to fostering a supportive and welcoming environment continues to shine through these efforts. The district's celebration not only strengthened school culture but also reminded students that even small acts of kindness can make a meaningful impact.



WILSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE TO HOST TRAVELING EXHIBIT “OUR AMERICAN STORY: VOICES FROM TENNESSEE”

The Wilson County Mayor’s Office is thrilled to announce that, in honor of our nation’s 250th Anniversary, the traveling exhibit Our American Story: Voices from Tennessee will be on display at the Wilson County Courthouse Monday, March 30 – Monday, April 20, 2026.

Created as an extension of the acclaimed Tennessee Voices, American Stories exhibit, this special anniversary edition invites visitors to reflect on a powerful question: “How will you make history?” As the United States marks 250 years, this exhibit celebrates the Tennesseans whose courage, leadership, and innovation helped shape the nation we know today.

A Celebration of Tennessee’s Legacy

Visitors will explore compelling stories from remarkable Tennesseans, including:

- Cherokee leader Ostenaco
- Revolutionary War messenger Joseph Greer
- Tennessee’s first governor John Sevier
- Suffragist Abby Crawford Milton
- Tennessee Supreme Court Chief Justice Adolpho A. Birch
- NASA astronaut—and *Wilson County native!*—Barry Wilmore

“These stories remind us that Tennessee’s history—and Wilson County’s history—are deeply woven into the fabric of our nation,” said Mayor Randall Hutto. “As we celebrate America’s 250th Anniversary, we are honored to bring this exhibit to our community. We hope it inspires future generations to see themselves as contributors to our shared American story. We are grateful to the Tennessee State Museum for partnering with us to make this possible.”

Plan Your Visit!

The exhibit will be open Monday, March 30 – Monday, April 20, 2026, and is free to the public. Visitors are welcome weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. during regular courthouse business hours.

For questions, contact Brooke Cummings in the County Mayor’s Office at 615-444-1383.

FEBRUARY WAS RECOGNIZED AS “TEEN DATING VIOLENCE PREVENTION & AWARENESS MONTH”


Mayor Hutto signed a proclamation declaring February as Teen Dating Violence Prevention & Awareness Month in Wilson County. Dating violence is a pattern of behavior involving the use or attempted use of physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, financial, technological, or other abusive behaviors by one person to harm, coerce, control, threaten, intimidate, harass, isolate, restrain, or monitor another person with whom they have or have had a social or dating relationship. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that millions of high school students nationwide experience physical or sexual dating violence each year. Youth who experience dating violence are at significantly greater risk for depression, anxiety, substance misuse, suicidal ideation, and other long-term health consequences. Mayor Hutto was joined by representatives from Trust Yourself, Inc. We are so appreciative of these organizations, as well as the many others in Wilson County, that work tirelessly to provide guidance and assistance to teens, adults, and families facing these sadly all-too-common issues. Together, we can raise awareness, promote healthy relationships, and support those impacted by dating violence. *Pictured: Matthew and Haniyfa of Trust Yourself, Inc. with Mayor Hutto*



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH THE VOLUNTEER NETWORK

The Wilson County Schools Family Resource Center needs a few helping hands to move boxes onto shelves and roll supplies down the hall — and they need you!

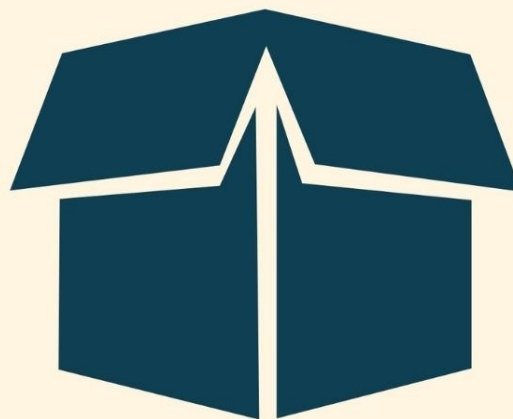
 Tuesday, March 3, 2026

 10:00–11:00 AM

Burn some calories, lend a hand, and make a real impact for local families — all in just one hour. Helping out + a mini workout = a win-win.

Sign up and let's get moving!

LEND A HAND *and a back*



Burn calories and give back - what a great way to spend an hour!

TUESDAY, MARCH 3 | 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

<https://www.volunteernetworktn.org>

National READING Month



11th Annual
Wilson County
DUCKY DERBY

MAY 2ND 2026
Saturday 5 PM - 10 PM

Cedar Springs at Bone Hollow
784 Phillips Rd • Lebanon, TN 37087

Benefiting
Wilson County HELP CENTER

— Sponsor Spotlight —
Jockey Sponsor

LIGON & BOBO
FUNERAL HOME INC
A Heritage You Can Trust
615-444-2142

wilsoncountyhelpcenter.org/ducky-derby-2026

"KNOW BEFORE YOU SHOW" CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED TO PROTECT TENNESSEE LIVESTOCK

As fair and show season approaches, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) Animal Health Division launched the "Know Before You Show" campaign to remind livestock exhibitors, families and fair and exposition managers that simple biosecurity steps can prevent the spread of disease and protect Tennessee's livestock industry.

"Everyone involved in Tennessee's livestock and animal agriculture has a role in keeping diseases from spreading," State Veterinarian Samantha Beaty said. "Healthy animals make for a successful show experience, and early action protects not only the exhibitor's animal but others at the event and our broader agricultural community."

Livestock shows bring animals from many farms together, increasing the risk of contagious diseases spreading through direct animal contact, shared equipment or human movement. Common conditions such as pinkeye, warts, abscesses, respiratory illness and gastrointestinal distress can spread quickly in these settings if precautions aren't followed. Exhibitors are encouraged to inspect their animals carefully before attending events, isolate new animals and disinfect equipment and trailers. After returning home, continued monitoring and proper cleaning help prevent the spread of illness to other herds.

TDA's "Know Before You Show" guidance offers practical steps to reduce risks before, during and after shows. Exhibitors are urged to call their veterinarian if they observe signs of illness such as fever, lethargy, eye ulcers or abnormal behavior.

For more information about the campaign, visit the Animal Health Division's "Know Before You Show" web page.

<https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/animals/animal-health-resources/know-before-you-show.html>



SCAM ALERT FROM THE WILSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Wilson County Sheriff's Office released a notice on February 25th that stated: The Wilson County Sheriff's Office has been made aware of an ongoing phone scam in which individuals are falsely using the names of our deputies and members of our administration to threaten citizens with arrest unless a specified fine is paid immediately.

The latest version of this scam claims the victim failed to appear in Federal Court and must pay a fine to avoid arrest.

Please remember:

- The Sheriff's Office will never call you to demand payment to avoid arrest.
- We do not collect fines over the phone.
- We will never request payment through gift cards, cryptocurrency, or electronic payment apps.
- Legitimate court matters are handled through official written documentation and proper legal procedures — not threats over the phone.
- Scammers often "spoof" phone numbers to make it appear the call is coming from our office. Do not rely on caller ID alone.
- If you receive one of these calls:
 - Hang up immediately.
 - Do not provide personal or financial information.
- Report the incident to our office.

Please help us spread the word to protect others in our community — especially elderly family members who are often targeted. Stay alert. Stay informed.



GrandFam Fest
**FOR KINSHIP PARENTS
& THOSE RAISING GRANDCHILDREN**
Saturday, April 18th
9:30 AM- 12 PM
Space limited, register today!

Family Center of FUMC
415 W Main St, Lebanon, TN 37087

TBRI Learning | Resource Fair | Kids' Activities | Brunch Provided !!

SCAN TO REGISTER

FAM Essentials | LANTERN LANE FARM | Foster 180



World Day of Prayer
March 4, 2026

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



Stop by the County Courthouse March 30-April 20 to see the TN 250 exhibit and learn about some of the marvelous women who contributed to our nation's history!

Medal of Honor Day
March 25, 2026



Honoring the heroism and sacrifice of Medal of Honor recipients for the United States of America.



Vietnam War Veterans Day
March 29th

On Vietnam War Veterans Day and every day, we honor the bravery and sacrifice of our Vietnam Veterans. Thank you to all who serve.



K-9 Veterans Day
March 13th

Military Working Dogs are trained to protect humans in dangerous situations, and today we honor these unique members of our military. Happy Birthday, United States K9 Corps!

LEBANON
WILSON COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Special Events Division Presents



WILSON CO. RESTAURANT MAR 16-20 *week*



Visit our Social Media and Website
for participating restaurants and
specials throughout the week!

#WilsonCoEats