

WILSON COUNTY CONNECTION

Lebanon Mt. Juliet Watertown



December 2016

Volume 6 Issue 12

A Word From Your County Mayor Randall Hutto

As 2016 comes to a close, I can't help but think to myself "what a memorable year". Wilson County had many accomplishments throughout the past year. Some of the most recent, and most memorable, will be highlighted throughout the pages of this newsletter. Our county continues to grow and continues to excel. We had many large companies locate to our area. We have also seen many small businesses flourish. Our three cities - Lebanon, Mt. Juliet, and Watertown - continue to put Wilson County on the map.

I am honored to serve the

citizens of Wilson County as Mayor and I look forward to another successful year with our County Commission in 2017. On that note, I want to take a moment to highlight our County Commission. I personally believe we have one of the greatest groups of individuals in the State of Tennessee representing every part of Wilson County. Our County Commission works very hard to make decisions on behalf of citizens that are fair and in the best interest of everyone involved. The projects they have

completed this year have been no easy task. Not everyone agrees on every issue; however every Commissioner works together to make Wilson County what it is today. I am thankful for each and every one of our Commissioners and all they do for this county.

This time of year always brings so much hope as we reflect on the past and look to the future. We have WEMA services across the county. We have a brand new Expo Center that will be



such an asset to our community. We have new schools and additions to existing schools being built across our county to accommodate our students. Most of all we continue to be the "place to be" because of the great citizens of Wilson County. I hope each and every one of you have a safe and happy holiday season and look forward to serving you all again in 2017.

WILSON COUNTY DISTRICT 24



Joy Bishop
District 24

Joy Bishop

201 Blair Lane

Lebanon, TN 37090

615.449-9773



December

Wilson County Surplus Auction

The Wilson County Government Surplus Auction was held on November 4th, 2016. The annual event was held at the James E. Ward Agricultural Center and drew a crowd of over 70 buyers. The sale started at 9:00 AM and lasted a total of 5 ½ hours which according to the Wilson County Finance Department, was much longer than

usual. The sale brought in a total of \$41,452.65. This figure does not include the \$5,817.35 spent in advertising and auction fees. The cost of the advertising and auction fees were split between each department that participated in the sale.



The departments that participated in the sale were Wilson County Schools, Wilson County General, the Wilson County Sheriff's Department, the James E Ward Agricultural Center and WEMA.

Lebanon Special School District sold a bus in the auction for \$4,092.00. This figure is not reflected in the total auction amount. Overall the Surplus Auction was very successful. A special thanks to Debbie Green and all of those that participated in the event.



Wilson County Government
will be
CLOSED
the following dates:

DECEMBER 23, 2016
DECEMBER 26, 2016
DECEMBER 30, 2016
JANUARY 2, 2016

'tis the season...
TO ROCK
UGLY
SWEATERS



Friday, December 16

Wilson County Courthouse

2016 Veterans Day Parade

We observed Veterans Day on November 11, 2016. The county courthouse was closed. However, many people lined the streets of Lebanon and

filled the Veteran's Plaza to pay respects to all of those that serve in the armed forces. The parade began on West Main Street and ended at the

Veterans Plaza. The Veterans Plaza will also be home to the new Veterans Museum and Veteran's Service Office. The program was lead by

Lt. Col. Jim Henderson. The grand marshal of the parade and guest speaker was Lt. Gen John Pickler. Veterans of every branch were honored as well as Gold Star Mothers.



Photo by The Lebanon Democrat

WEMA Station 11 Groundbreaking

This past month we celebrated the expansion of WEMA services to the rural parts of the county with the opening of WEMA Station 7 in Statesville and the groundbreaking of WEMA Station 11 in Norene. WEMA Station 11 hosted a groundbreaking ceremony on November 28, 2016. The groundbreaking ceremony took place at 2:00 PM at the site of the new WEMA station in Norene. Commissioner Terry Ashe, WEMA director Joey Cooper, and Mayor Hutto spoke at this event.



WEMA Station 7 Grand Opening

WEMA Station 7 hosted a Grand Opening and Open House November 28, 2016 following the groundbreaking of WEMA Station 11 in Norene. The Grand Opening and Open House was open to the public from 4:00 PM until 7:00 PM that evening. This station is located in the Statesville community and will provide much needed access to emergency services provided by Wilson County Emergency Management Agency. The Grand Opening and Open House included comments from WEMA director Joey Cooper as well as Commissioner Sara Patton.



Wilson County Christmas Parades

City of Watertown- December 3rd, 2016

2:00 PM

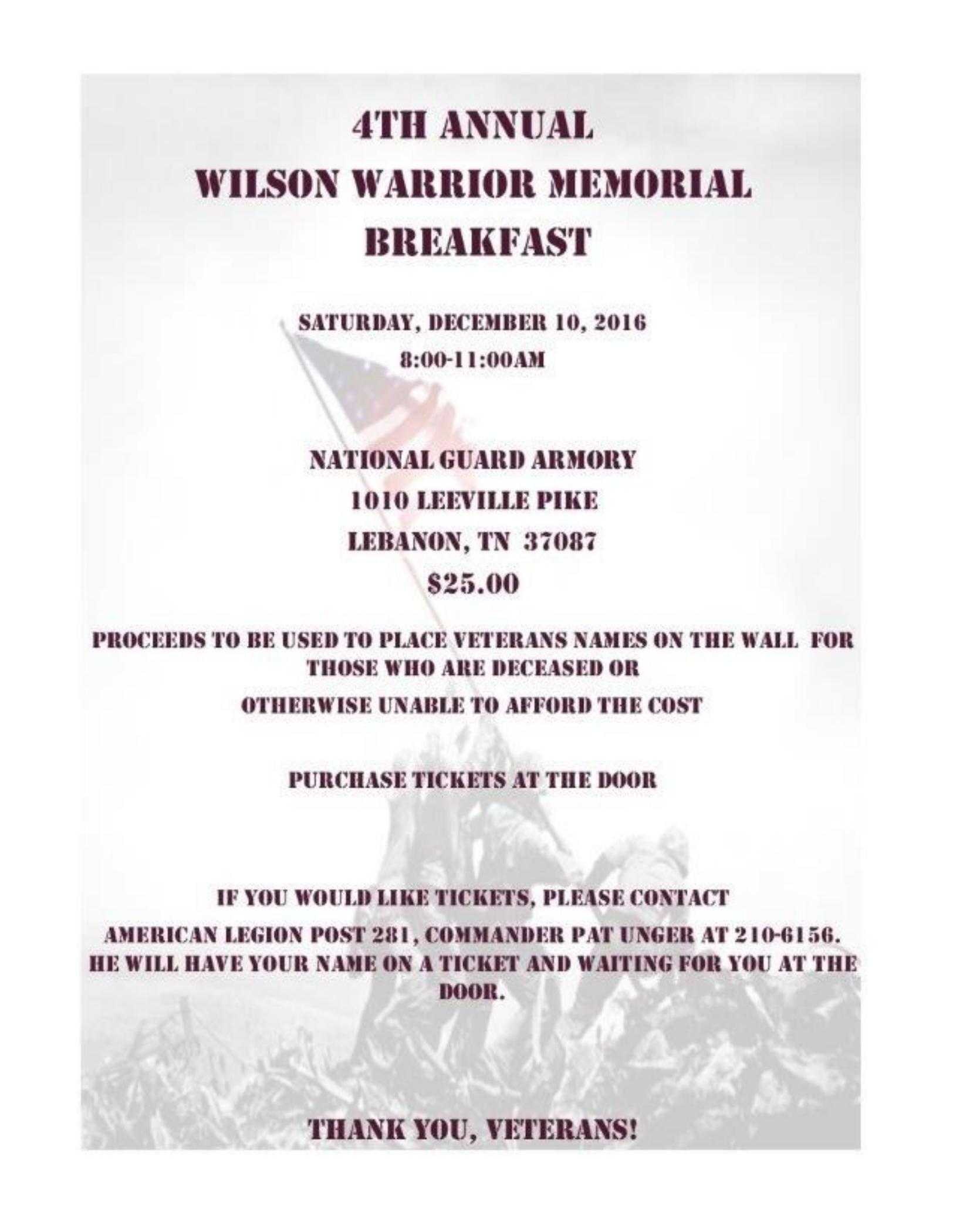
City of Lebanon- December 4th, 2016,

2:00 PM

City of Mt. Juliet-December 10th, 2016

11:00 AM





**4TH ANNUAL
WILSON WARRIOR MEMORIAL
BREAKFAST**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2016

8:00-11:00AM

NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY

1010 LEEVILLE PIKE

LEBANON, TN 37087

\$25.00

**PROCEEDS TO BE USED TO PLACE VETERANS NAMES ON THE WALL FOR
THOSE WHO ARE DECEASED OR
OTHERWISE UNABLE TO AFFORD THE COST**

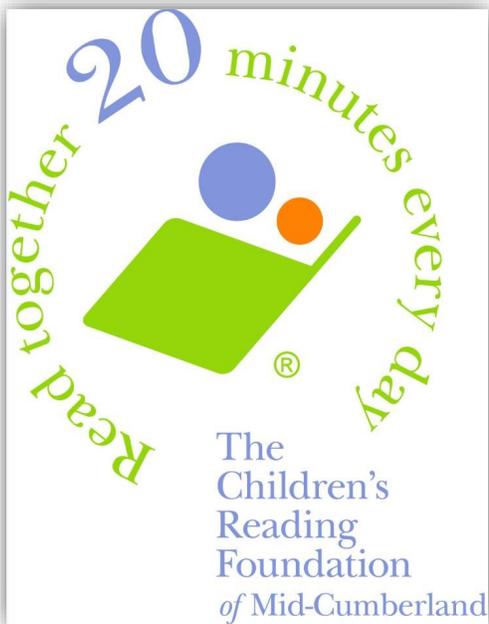
PURCHASE TICKETS AT THE DOOR

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TICKETS, PLEASE CONTACT
AMERICAN LEGION POST 281, COMMANDER PAT UNGER AT 210-6156.
HE WILL HAVE YOUR NAME ON A TICKET AND WAITING FOR YOU AT THE
DOOR.**

THANK YOU, VETERANS!

Wilson County Schools Are Growing!

Wilson County Schools recently held a groundbreaking for the new Central Office which will be located in the old Lebanon High School. The Central office space will not only provide office space, but will also include an auditorium and training space. Mayor Hutto attended the groundbreaking along with several members of the Wilson County Commission and the Wilson County School Board. In addition to the groundbreaking for the new central office, Mayor Hutto also had an opportunity to tour the construction projects taking place across the county to improve existing schools.



Read 20 Campaign

You may have seen signs all over Wilson County that read "Read Together 20 Minutes Every Day". These signs are a way to promote a new partnership between the Wilson County School System, Lebanon Special School Dis-

trict, and The Children's Reading Foundation of Mid-Cumberland. This partnership is a campaign that encourages parents to read with their child for 20 minutes every day. Though it is important to read with children of every

age, it is especially important to read to children between ages 1-5 years old. Reading to your child not only prepares them for school, it also sets a foundation for student success. To find out more information contact

Yvonne Smith or Kimberly Bell with Wilson County Schools at 615/444-3282 or Nancy Ash and Penny Thompson with the Lebanon Special School District at 615/449-6060.



Do you know someone who should be acknowledged for their volunteer work?

Nominate them for the

Governor's Volunteer Star Award

For more information visit:

Wilsoncountyttn.gov

Or

Lebanondemocrat.com/GVSA

Application deadline is December 16

Stay Connected

Follow Wilson County Mayor Randall Hutto on social media and on our website to stay in the loop on all of the exciting things happening in Wilson County



Wilson County

www.wilsoncountyttn.gov



Commissioner's Night at the Expo

The County Commission is instrumental in every decision our county government makes. Each member of the Commission works hard to make sure the resolutions set in place by the county are fair and in the best interest of every citizen. Because they work so hard on county related issues, they very seldom get time to fellowship with one another as citizens. Every

year since Mayor Hutto has been in office, he has orchestrated an evening to thank the members of the County Commission for all of the hard work they do throughout the year. This year Commissioner's Night was held at the new Wilson County Exposition Center. Mayor Hutto along with the Expo Center staff worked together to provide the County Commission with

a sneak peak of all that the Expo Center has to offer. The night consisted of a light meal donated by the Expo Center catering partners. There was also live entertainment provided by several staff members of the county government, including Finance Director Aaron Maynard, who was a crowd favorite. The County Commission also enjoyed a guided tour

throughout the building and had a chance to ask questions to the Expo Center Staff. The night ended with ice cream provided by Two Fat Men Catering. Businesses throughout all parts of Wilson County donated door prizes, décor and more for the event. The annual event was a success and a wonderful time was had by all.



Wilson County Commission 2014-2018



***Thank you for all that you have
done for the citizens of Wilson
County in 2016!***

Wilson County Expo Center

Grand Opening and Open House

Wilson County celebrated a historical day on November 14, 2016 with the opening of the Wilson County Exposition Center. A dream come true for many Wilson County residents, the Wilson County Expo Center now stands as a premier event venue in Middle Tennessee. The grand opening consisted of speeches, recognition of all those that played a part of the making of the Expo Center, and an open house for the public to enjoy. Mayor Hutto addressed the public at 4:30 PM followed by remarks from James E Ward Ag Center Director Larry Tomlinson and Wilson County Expo

Center Marketing Director Charity Toombs. Mayor Hutto recognized



the County Commission as well as all of those that played a role in the making of the Expo Center over the years. Many people attended the grand opening before enjoying the Open

House. The Wilson County Expo Center Open House was a public

event for all citizens of Wilson County to come and tour the new Expo Center. The South Lobby was set up with cocktail tables to highlight the multi-functional aspects of the space. The Ban-

quet hall was set up as a meeting space, as well as a wedding and reception venue. The concourse showcased live music, a coffee bar, and a lounge area. The main exhibit hall was filled with a showcase of all of the different events that are coming to the Expo Center throughout the next year.

The Wilson County Expo Center has filled up quickly for 2017 with every weekend booked throughout the year. If you are interested in hosting your next event at the Wilson County Expo Center, contact Charity Toombs at 615-450-3049.



Wilson County Expo Center Grand Opening and Open House Cont.



Wildfires in Sevier County, Tennessee

The recent wildfires in East Tennessee caught the attention of individuals throughout the country. As one of the most visited National Parks in the United States, the Great Smokey Mountain National Park is a familiar place for many Americans. Here in Tennessee, it seems as though every person has fond memories of vacations in the mountains and the surrounding tourist towns of Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge. So when Wilson County was asked to provide mutual aid to the Gatlinburg/Pigeon Forge community, there was no hesitation among our county's leaders and emergency personnel. Wilson County, as always, was ready and glad to assist. Mayor Hutto spoke with WEMA Director Joey Cooper about the assistance WEMA was able to offer to the people of Sevier County. The



following was used to aid the people of Gatlinburg/Pigeon Forge:

- 1 DART Team with 6 volunteers.
- 1 fire engine with 8 personnel = Lebanon
- 1 Chief's vehicle = Lebanon
- 1 ladder truck with 6 personnel = Mt. Juliet
- 1 Brush tuck with 2 people = WEMA
- 1 ambulance with 2 people = WEMA
- 1 EMS Strike Team = WEMA

Many of you have contacted our

office seeking a way to personally help those affected by the recent wildfires in Sevier County. Our office is partnering with the Wilson County Extension Office and the Sevier County Extension Office to collect gift cards that will be distributed to families and students in need. The Extension Office in Sevier County will work with the local school system and senior organizations to deliver any gift cards received to the needed families. Gift card options are as follows: Walmart, Kroger, Publix, CVS, Walgreens or Dollar

General. Gift cards are a great way to offer assistance to those in need when donations of items begin to run low. You can drop off the gift cards at the Wilson County Extension Office or at the County Mayor's Office. We will be collecting gift cards until December 15th at 4:30 PM. We will then send all of the gift cards to the Sevier County Extension Office and they will distribute them to families and children in need. Though many of our emergency personnel have returned home, there are others that are still assisting in the Gatlinburg area. Please continue to keep the people of Gatlinburg/Pigeon Forge in your thoughts and prayers. Also, please pray for the safety of our volunteers and staff as they assist those in need.

Compassionate HANDS

Winter is here, and Wilson County churches are prepared to host overnight homeless guests. However, they could use your help. Nineteen churches from across the county will open their buildings one night per week for the fourth winter of the Compassionate Hands ministry. The program will be open every night from December 1 through March 15.

The program has several needs where community support is welcomed:

-Volunteers to provide meals and snacks.

-Volunteers to stay in homeless shelters.

-Organizations with buses that hold at least 15 passengers.

-Additional churches to host six overnight guests one night per week.

-Tax-deductible donations to help cover medical and administrative costs (payable to any of the host churches).

Compassionate Hands began in December 2013, with eight host churches. That first winter, the program provided 444 beds. The program has grown each winter, with over 100 guests spending 1,317 nights in 2015-16.

The ministry begins each night with church buses picking up guests at three stops:

- **5:10 PM** Leave Pilot Truck Stop (921 Murfreesboro Road - Highway 231 at I-40)

- **5:20 PM** Leave Applebee's on Hwy. 231 (609 South Cumberland Street)

- **5:35 PM** Leave Love's Way Church (310 Coles Ferry Pike)

Guests eat dinner and register for the shelter each night at Cross Style Church in Lebanon (104 Trinity Drive—[\(615\) 443-4485](tel:6154434485)).

After dinner, church buses take men & women to separate sites, where they enjoy a warm night's sleep in a safe environment. Church members volunteer at each site to care for the needs of guests.

In the morning, the host church provides breakfast. Then a church bus picks up guests and returns them to the pick-up sites. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Joyce Gaines, Mark Taylor, Michelle Wilde, Steve Wheely, or John Grant with College Hills Church.

Meet The Mayor

The last Wednesday of every month
at the following locations:

Mt. Juliet Chamber of Commerce
8:30AM to 10AM

Watertown Mi Ranchito
11AM to 12:30PM

Lebanon Chamber of Commerce
1:30PM to 3PM

