



WILSON COUNTY CONNECTION

Lebanon Mt. Juliet Watertown



December 2017

Volume 7 Issue 12

A Word From Your County Mayor Randall Hutto

It's hard to believe another year has gone by. 2017 has been an incredible year for Wilson County. Though we have had our share of trials, for the most part, 2017 has been nothing short of a blessing.

December is always one of my favorite times of year. It seems as though everyone is just a little kinder around the holidays. Families come together, relationships are restored and love seems to permeate through our differences. No matter your background or religion, the sights and sounds of celebrations across the world just seem to unite us all—even if only for a moment.

In the trying times that our world is

currently facing, the peace found throughout this holiday season—as we unite together—is something I pray we hold fast to in 2018. We may not all agree, but we can all be respectful, kind and bring peace into any situation we face.

This holiday season, I encourage you to look around and give thanks for things we often take for granted: safety, shelter, food, an opportunity to work. Some people, including individuals right here in Wilson County, for one reason or another, are not as fortunate. There are children and families that won't wake up to gifts on December 25th. They may not even

wake up in a house. Some individuals aren't worried about where to find the latest gadget or gift, but instead where to find the next meal. It's a sad but true reality here in our own community. This holiday season, I am especially thankful for organizations in our government (such as our police officers and first responders) and our community (such as Compassionate Hands, among many others) that care for those that need a "hand up" this December.

As County Mayor, I strive to help each and every individual that reaches out to my office, but that's not always



possible. It truly takes a village and I am thankful that our community is one that steps in to make a difference in each citizen's life.

This holiday season, more than ever, I am so thankful for the opportunity to serve each of you in this role. I pray you have a very Happy Holiday season and a blessed 2018.

WILSON COUNTY DISTRICT 11



John Gentry
District 11

John P. Gentry

300 Infantry Run

Mt. Juliet, TN 37122

615-689-3890



Compassionate HANDS

Emergency Overnight Shelters

Every night December 1—March 15

**5:50-6:30 Nightly Check-In at
Cross Style Church**

Dinner, overnight lodging, and breakfast
provided by local churches.

Courtesy Van Pick-ups

- **5:15 PM** Leave Pilot Truck Stop—Car Wash
921 Murfreesboro Road (Highway 231)
- **5:25 PM** Leave Applebee's on Hwy. 231
609 S. Cumberland Street
- **5:35 PM** Leave Love's Way Church
310 Coles Ferry Pike

HR CORNER

WILSON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Human Resources is doing a Monthly Employee Giveaway. We have several fun items for you to pick from. All Wilson County Employees will have a chance to win during their anniversary month. Please contact HR at 615-466-5152 or 615-466-5138 to claim your prize.

December Winners:

Wayne Crook (Maintenance)

LeAnne Atwood (Register of Deeds)

Scott Goodall (County Clerk)

Tammy Knowles (County Clerk)

Lindsey Roberts (Veterans Office).

WILSON COUNTY SOLID WASTE

WINTER HOURS



LANDFILL:

MONDAY-FRIDAY: 7AM-3PM
CLOSED ON SATURDAYS

CONVENIENCE CENTERS:

FRIDAY-TUESDAY: 7AM-5PM
WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY: 7:30AM-5PM

Norene WEMA Station

The Norene Station is well underway! Paving is almost complete, and on the inside, flooring is being installed. Looking forward to a great grand opening celebration soon. Stay tuned to our social media outlets for an official announcement of a date for the Grand Opening!



BECOME A MENTOR

APPLY AT WWW.TNACHIEVES.ORG

TN Achieves
Changing Lives, Transforming Communities

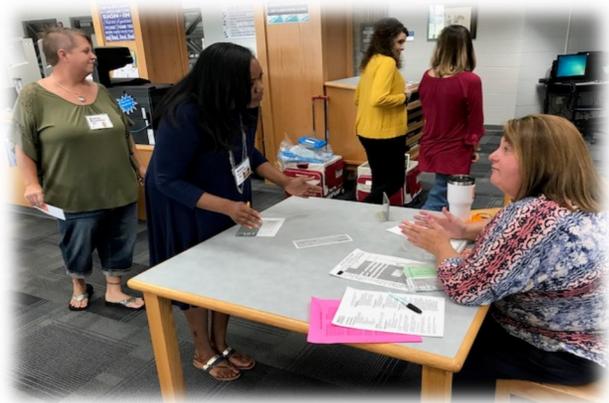
Wilson County Battles Poverty Through Education and Experience

Recently, Mayor Hutto was invited to participate in a Poverty Simulation hosted by University of Tennessee Extension Agent, Shelly Barnes, in partnership with Wilson County Schools Federal Projects Supervisor and Homeless Liaison, Julie Harrison and the Lebanon Special School District. A poverty simulation consists of an intensive 1-day workshop that allows participants to role play in situations often faced by families living in poverty. Participants are required to “acquire or maintain food, shelter and other basic necessities while interacting with various community resources staffed by volunteers. The simulation uses props, play money and fictional scenarios to enable participants to view poverty from different viewpoints in an experiential setting.” Volunteers from community agencies and businesses “staff” the simulation following a brief orientation. Following the completion of the simulation, both volunteers and participants complete a debriefing to discuss the simulation and share feelings, ideas and experiences.

Poverty simulations have several goals; the most important being to increase awareness and empathy among educators and community leaders about the issues and struggles faced by low-income families. Poverty simulations also “build and strengthen partnerships and are effective tools for engaging coalitions and volunteers”.

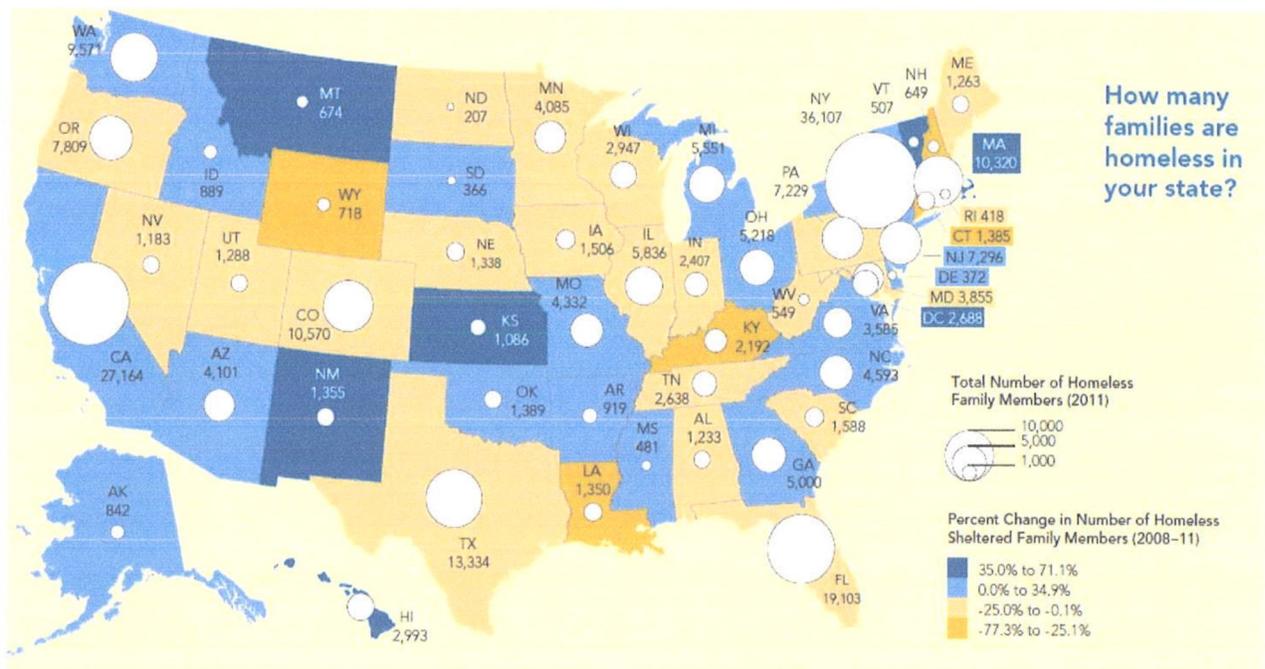
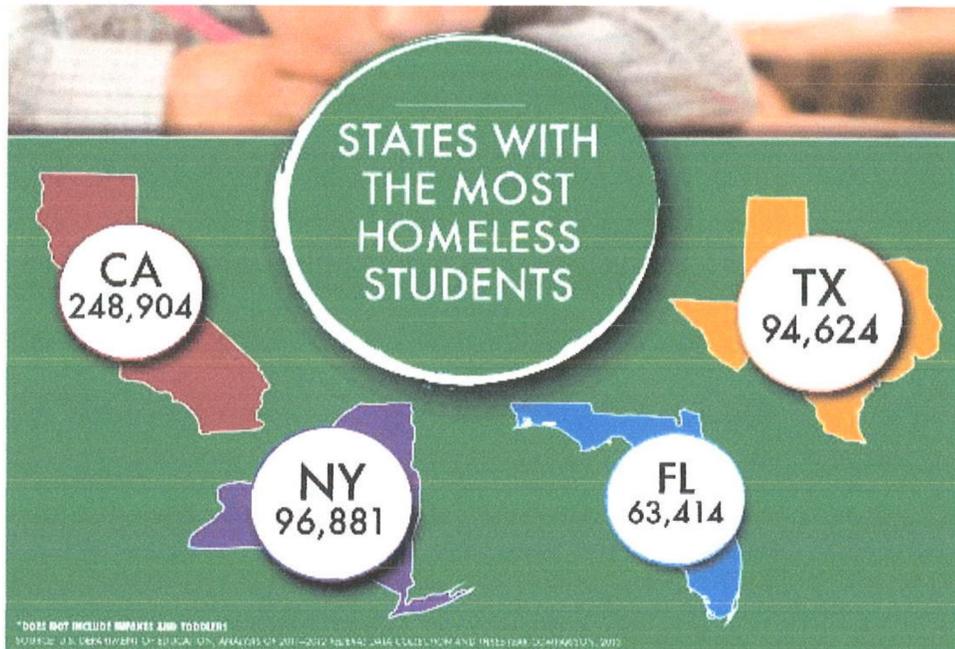
The Poverty simulation used in Wilson County is called the Community Action Poverty Simulation (CAPS) originally developed by the Missouri Association for Community Action. The implementation and results of the original Poverty simulation held in Wilson County was published in the *Journal of Extension* in February 2016.

According to statistics and graphics from the Institute for Children, Poverty and Homelessness ICPH, there are 2,638 homeless families in Tennessee. Wilson County is fortunate to have community leaders taking a stand against poverty through education and experience.



Barnes, Shelly, Karen L. Franck and Julie Harrison. "Poverty Simulations: Building Relationships Among Extension, Schools and the Community." Journal of Extension. 54.1 (2016): Journal of Extension. Org. WEB. 28 November 2017.

Photos were submitted by Shelly Barnes.



1.1 Million Students Are Homeless

These children and their parents are often hidden homeless—living with friends or relatives, in cars, or in hotels or motels.



A typical homeless family . . .

- ◇ Is headed by a single mother
- ◇ Lives “doubled-up” in houses of friends and relatives
- ◇ Is not homeless because of substance abuse or mental illness

Poverty Simulations can:

- ⇒ Increase awareness
- ⇒ Increase empathy
- ⇒ Start a dialogue about community poverty issues

WILSON COUNTY SURVEY RESULTS

41 participants completed online surveys

- 20 teachers and school professionals
- 21 community business leaders

99% felt the simulation was worthwhile

54% changed attitudes about homeless parents and children

32% identified changes that they planned to make

Participant Quotes

I will listen to family problems

I will be more sympathetic to those that have fallen on hard times

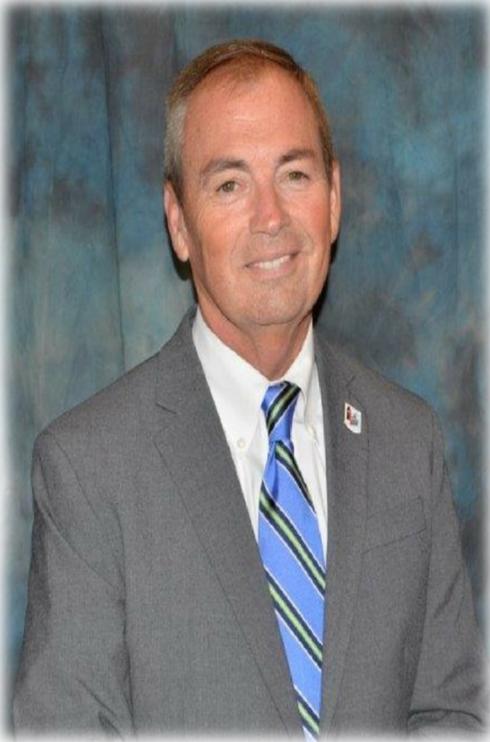
I will make a better effort to form positive relationships



<http://fcs.tennessee.edu>



Meet the Mayor



Every month, Mayor Hutto travels to each city in the county to meet with citizens in a neutral, laid back environment. These meetings are completely free and do not require an appointment. It is simply a chance for citizens to come and meet Mayor Hutto

and talk about questions or concerns. Mayor Hutto spends an hour and a half at each location and there is no set agenda. Meet the Mayor takes place the last Wednesday of every month. If for some reason Mayor Hutto cannot attend, a representative from

the County Mayor's office is always in attendance to assist citizens in any way possible. Meet the Mayor takes place at the following locations and times: Mt. Juliet Chamber of Commerce, 8:30 AM-10:00 AM; Mi Ranchito Mexican Restaurant in Watertown.

11:00 AM-12:30 PM; and the Lebanon Wilson County Chamber of Commerce, 1:30 PM-3:00 PM.

If you have any questions or concerns about Wilson County, or simply want to meet Mayor Hutto in person, please make plans to attend!



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:

www.wilsoncountyttn.gov/volunteer-stars-awards

Or

Lebanondemocrat.com/GVSA

Application deadline is December 15, 2017



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As a Cigna customer, through the Cigna Healthy Rewards® program, you have access to the Active&Fit Direct™ program beginning September 1, which offers fitness center memberships to 8,000+ fitness centers nationwide for \$25 a month (plus a \$25 enrollment fee).

The program offers:

- Online directory maps and locator for fitness centers (available on any device)
- A free guest pass to try out a fitness center before enrolling (where available)
- The option to switch fitness centers at any time
- Online fitness tracking from a wide variety of popular wireless fitness devices, apps, and exercise equipment

To learn more, visit ActiveandFitDirect.com/fitness/Cigna.

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Employee truly Benefits with County Insurance

During the month of November, the Wilson County Insurance Department held open enrollment. Open Enrollment allows employees an opportunity to enroll in various insurance benefits for the upcoming year. As a county employee, there are a variety of benefits available. These benefits ensure that employees of Wilson County Government have access to the care that they need in every area of life. The

Wilson County Insurance Department along with the Insurance Committee of the Wilson County Commission work together to provide Wilson County Government employees with a variety of affordable, quality options for their insurance needs.

Most recently, the Insurance Department along with the Insurance Committee of the Wilson County Commission proposed two resolutions that would allow for an increase in life insurance for both current employees and retirees. The Wil-

son County Commission voted to pass both resolutions. Resolution 17-11-8 called for an increase in the death benefit for life



son County Government insurance coverage from \$10,000 to \$25,000 for current employees. Resolution 17-11-7 called for an increase in the county's retiree death benefit. Retirees now qualify to receive \$5,000 in life insurance benefits. Life insurance is provided by Wilson County Government at no cost to the employee. The changes will go into effect into January 1, 2018.

Terry Ashe is the Chairman of the Insurance Committee of the Wilson County Commission and had the following to say about the overall success

of the Insurance Department for Wilson County Government: *"We are pleased with the results of the County Commis-*

sion vote Monday night and are excited to offer this increased benefit to our employees. It has been a work in progress as chairman of the Insurance Committee the last 2 years. Insurance is such a moving target for Wilson County, as well as the country overall. The rising cost of health care is what drives our plan for our employees. Our committee continues to review the plans that are currently in the marketplace. I have spent hours upon hours working with a great staff in the Insurance Depart-

ment, which is under the direction of our Finance Department and they are doing a wonderful job.

Moving the Insurance Department to a separate space to themselves has helped so much with privacy and service to our employees. I want to brag on our employees in the Insurance Department for helping all employees understand the problems with insurance and the importance of making good lifestyle

choices to keep everyone's cost down for every employee. We do not have a crystal ball to see into the future, but we plan to continue the path of being good stewards of county funds and the health care that the County Commission seeks to provide the employees of Wilson County Government. Our government is proud everyone is working so hard to make Wilson County a great place to live and work."

(see next page for continued story)

In addition to life insurance, employees of Wilson County Government have an option to enroll in various other insurance services including health insurance, short term and long term disability among others. The option to enroll in health insurance through Wilson County Government is included in the overall benefits package available to Wilson County employees. In regards to health insurance, Wilson County Government offers a three tier plan with Cigna. The three tiers are broken down as follows: More than or equal to fifteen years of service, less than fifteen years of service and new hire. These three tiers were created as of January 1, 2016. Therefore, the tier an employee was placed in as of January 1, 2016 is the tier that employee will remain in. All employees hired after

January 1, 2016 are placed in the new hire tier.

Employees are encouraged to download the My Cigna app. The app allows employees allow employees an opportunity to access their information at any time. Some of the features include the option to view the status of your deductible, the status of current and past claims, and a list of in network physicians for easy viewing. The app also allows employees an opportunity to estimate health care costs and compare the costs for various procedures.

Wilson County Government works closely with THW Insurance and Tennova Hospital. In addition to promoting the county's local hospital, Wilson County Government also works to allow employees options to choose. Wilson County Government also

provides employees with an employee clinic that treats many conditions and keeps many maintenance drugs and antibiotics on hand.

The Wilson County Government Insurance Department and Insurance Committee of the Wilson County Commission work on behalf of both the county and the employee. With the constant benefit of the employee in mind, and the determination to be good stewards of county funds, both the committee members and the employees that work on insurance benefits truly strive to make Wilson County Government a great place to work.

Mayor Hutto had the following to say in response to the success of the Insurance Committee and Insurance Department of Wilson County:

“As County Mayor, I am thankful for all of the hard work our Insurance Department employees put in to the day to day management of employee benefits. I am especially grateful to Insurance Committee Chairman Terry Ashe and his committee members Vice Chairman John Gentry, Commissioner Gary Keith, Commissioner Sue Vanatta and Commissioner Jerry McFarland for all of the hard work they put into developing a quality product that our employees deserve.”

Stay Connected

**Stay Connected with Mayor Hutto and the Wilson County Mayor's Office!
Follow Mayor Hutto on Twitter and Facebook. Also be sure to check out our website for information on all county offices.**



Wilson County
www.wilsoncountyttn.gov



Wilson County Hires New Ag Center Director

Quinten Smith is poised to be the next Director of the James E. Ward Ag Center. Mayor Hutto made the decision based on the recommendation of the Ag Center Director Search Committee and a rigorous interview process. **County Mayor Randall Hutto** commented, *“The committee reviewed over 50 applications and interviewed a number of those applicants. Then, they recommended the top 2 candidates and based on their interviews and credentials, I felt Mr. Smith was the best candidate. He is a Wilson Countian through and through who has a deep love of agriculture and that’s what the Ag Center is all about. Mr. Smith is a hard worker with a great work ethic. As a longtime supporter of the Ag Center and a charter member of the Ag Management Committee; he has many years invested in the Ward Ag Center. A volunteer and supporter of the Wilson County Fair, he wants to see its success continue. His years of personal experience in agriculture will serve the county well.”*

The job was posted on October 2nd through October 30th. Applicants were ranked and scored by HR

according to the job description. The committee



first met on Nov. 7th to review the applications. The recommendation committee consisted of members of various organizations who work closely with the Ag Center. The Ag Center Management Committee was represented by Chairman Jeff Joines who then selected 3 other members: Sonja Robinson, Terry Scruggs and Melanie Minter; Wilson County Promotions by Randall Clemmons and Helen McPeak, the Expo Center by Charity Toombs and Zendell Murphy; the Ag Center by Donna Banes and Randy Davis, Ag Extension Director, Ruth

Correll and HR Director, Von Barr.

During the 1st meeting the applications were reviewed and narrowed down to an appropriate number to interview. In the days that followed, the committee conducted first round interviews, then reviewed the rest of the applicants for possible interview sections and then held second round interviews before recommending the top two candidates to Mayor Hutto and current Ag Center Director, Larry Tomlinson, who conducted the final interviews.

“I understand that the committee had a lot of good candidates to choose from and it was no

doubt difficult but I believe they made a good choice with Quintin. I’ve known him a long time and he’s been around the Ag Center since day one. As a young man, he put on the first cattle show we ever had at the Ag Center under a tree before we even had a cattle barn. He has seen the property evolve into what it is today. I’m sure he’ll take the knowledge he’s gained over the years as a successful businesses man and manager of his own family farm and bring that knowledge to this job. I look forward to working with him and will help in any way I can.” - Ag Center Director, Larry Tomlinson

Smith’s first day of employment will be December 11th and he work side by side with Mr. Tomlinson until his retirement, January 1st,2018.

Smith comes to the James E. Ward Ag Center with more than 40 years of experience maintaining pastures, managing employees (some bi-lingual) and working with every kind of farm animal you can imagine.

(continued on next page)

This experience also includes maintaining structures including electrical and plumbing and experience in creating and maintaining herd books including all registration data.

equipment maintenance; so much so that some of his personal equipment has lasted throughout his 40-year agriculture career.

Smith has received nu-

merous awards and is a member of many organizations all centered around agriculture stretching across the country and into Canada. His background and current involvement with various organizations in the ag world, provide a unique opportunity to promote the Ag Center and bring a variety of events to Wilson County.

"We look forward to the days ahead as Mr. Smith leads the James E. Ward Ag Center into the future. We know he will continue to promote our agricultural heritage, educate the public and expand on the successes of the organization in our county. Mr. Smith will continue to promote the Ag Center as one of Wilson County's largest economic engines.

I'd like to say a very special thank you to our recommendation committee for their hard work. The selection process can be stressful and tedious but I believe we've all come together and made the best decision for the betterment of the James E. Ward Ag Center and our county." -**County Mayor, Randall Hutto**

Southside Students Visit Courthouse



Second graders from Southside Elementary recently took a field trip to the Wilson County Courthouse. Students listened to a presentation by Mayor Hutto on the different branches of government and how they operate. Students also got a chance to tour the new Veterans Museum. It's always a great day when students come to visit and learn more about Wilson County!

CHRISTMAS PARADES



City of Mt. Juliet

December 9, 2017

11:00 AM

City of Lebanon

December 3, 2017

2:00 PM

City of Watertown

December 9, 2017

2:00 PM

Possum Town Parade

December 10, 2017

1:00 PM