

# WILSON COUNTY CONNECTION

Lebanon Mt. Juliet Watertown



February 2017

Volume 7 Issue 2

## A Word From Your County Mayor Randall Hutto

On Wednesday, January 25th, 2017 I gave the State of the County address to the Government Relations Division of the Lebanon Wilson County Chamber of Commerce. I make multiple State of the County speeches throughout the year in all parts of the county. However, this was the first one of 2017. As I was preparing my notes, I realized that Wilson County is in a great position. The Expo Center is off to a fantastic start with many events booked throughout the year. We

were just awarded a "AA+" bonding by Standard and Poor's Rating Service. We have new schools being built and are on



track to eliminate all portables throughout the county school system. This will ensure students a safe environment to learn and grow. We now have WEMA services all throughout the county and are currently construction a station in the

Norene community. Our Commissioners are working together to provide Wilson County citizens with a safe, re-warding place to live. They have done an excellent job managing all of Wilson County's resources. In addition to all of the exciting things I have already mentioned, Wilson County has recently made new additions to our staff. Michael McPherson has



assumed the role of Veterans Services Officer for Wilson County. He began work on January 24th following approval from the County Commission. Ms. Jenny Bennett is our newly hired Convention and Visitors Bureau Director. Ms. Bennett began her career with Wilson County on January 30th. I am confident that these two new hires will only add to the success of Wilson County. 2017 is off to a great start!

## WILSON COUNTY DISTRICT 1



Becky Siever  
District 1

Becky Siever

104 Greenwich Court  
Old Hickory, TN 37138

615-779-3137



# SPOTLIGHT ON... **Tennova™** Healthcare

Mayor Hutto serves on the Tennova Health Board here in Wilson County. He works closely alongside other board members to ensure Wilson County residents are provided with the best possible care for their health needs.

A recent press release from Tennova Hospital reads "Tennova Healthcare-Lebanon has reached another milestone in cardiac care by completing its 100th Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI), which includes a procedure commonly known as coronary angioplasty...PCI is a

non surgical procedure



used to treat the narrowed coronary arteries of the heart found commonly in coronary heart disease. It is used primarily to open a blocked coronary artery and restore blood flow to

heart tissue, without requir-

ing open-heart surgery. The procedure typically includes the insertion of stents. The completion of its 100th PCI is the latest milestone for the hospital's interventional cardiology

program, In November 2013 the hospital broke ground on its cardiac catheterization, or "cath" lab, offering the most current technology and equipment, By December 2015, the hospital expanded capabilities to provide intervention 24/7 during a heart attack or screening services to diagnose blockages. "

The Wilson County Mayor's Office is proud to support our local hospital. Tennova Healthcare at Lebanon continues to succeed at providing advanced medical care to the citizens of Wilson County.

## 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





# POLAR PLUNGE

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER • DONATIONS ACCEPTED

## Wilson County Special Olympics

- Date: Feb 4, 2017 | Time: 8:00 AM
- Place: Jimmy Floyd Family Center
- Register at [polarplungetn.com](http://polarplungetn.com)
- Or in person at *JFFC*

Take the plunge and challenge friends to do the same, for a good cause! It only takes a few minutes of bravery to get wet, be wild and have some crazy cold fun!

Award for best individual or team costume.

Top donor receives *1<sup>YR</sup> MEMBERSHIP* to JFFC.

FREEZIN' FOR A REASON



For more information please contact **ALEX** at the Jimmy Floyd Family Center: 615.453.4545 x6108.

**Special  
Olympics**  
Tennessee

# Wilson County Achieves 105% Mentor Goal

Our office has actively promoted tnAchieves over the last year. We are excited to report that Wilson County not only met our mentorship goal, but exceeded it. tnAchieves is an organization in partnership with the Drive to 55 campaign; Governor Haslam's plan to achieve 55% post-secondary attainment by 2025. tnAchieves provides at-risk students with scholarship funds as well as a volunteer mentor to encourage students to pursue and complete post-secondary

education. Wilson County set a goal to recruit 240 mentors before the November 2016 deadline.

Our county recruited 252 volunteers to mentor for this program; totaling in 105% achievement of our

goal. At risk students in Wilson County that are pursuing a post-secondary education of every kind will now have the support they need to complete their education, and complete it well.

Thank you, Wilson County, for your continued support of students. Your investment in future generations will yield incredible results.

To find out more about tnAchieves, please visit [www.tnachieves.org](http://www.tnachieves.org)

CONGRATULATIONS  
WILSON COUNTY



105% MENTOR RECRUITMENT

# Wilson County Received "AA+" Bond Rating

Standard and Poor's Rating Service recently upgraded Wilson County's bond rating from "AA" to "AA+", one of the rating agency's highest rating categories. After an extensive review and evaluation of the County's financial performance, management policies and procedures, and economic factors, the rating agency announced the good news. The rating reflects the strong economic base in Wilson County, the strong management policies and practices, budgetary performance, and liquidity as factors in the rating deci-

sion process. County Mayor Randall



Hutto said "we appreciate the rating agency recognizing the strength of Wilson County and the factors that make this such a desirable community." He added "the rating upgrade also provides significant savings for the County by reducing the interest to be paid on the County's outstanding bonds." He said the sav-

ings will help the County meet its annual operating needs as the operating

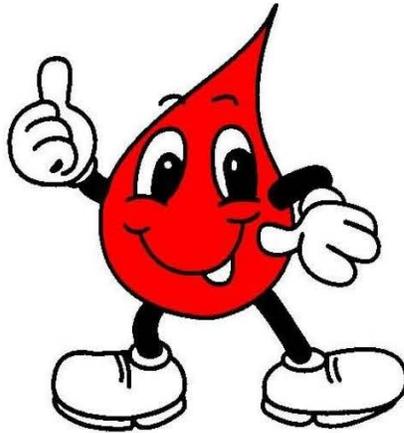
departments continue to provide quality services for residents and businesses located in Wilson County.

The County Mayor, along with the members of the County Commission and finance department staff, have over the last couple of years established policies and procedures that

will result in continued strengthening of the County's financial and budgetary performance.

The County's bond rating upgrade expands the number and type of investors willing to invest in the County's bonds and ultimately results in lower interest rates and potentially interest savings for Wilson County.

County Mayor Hutto also said he "will continue to work with the County Commission to identify ways to save money on other outstanding bonds in the future."



**The Wilson County Health Department is hosting a Blood Drive  
on March 9, 2017 from 11 am to 3pm and you are invited!**

**The American Red Cross blood supply is extremely low and every  
drop is extremely valuable! Please consider giving the gift of life.**

**Contact for Scheduling: Betty Barnes, RN [Betty.A.Barnes@tn.gov](mailto:Betty.A.Barnes@tn.gov)  
Wilson County Health Department  
927 East Baddour Parkway  
Lebanon, TN 37087  
(615)444-5325**



**American  
Red Cross**

*Together, we can save a life*

# WILSON COUNTY NEW HIRES



Wilson County Government recently welcomed three new additions to its staff.

Following the resignation of Terri Merryman, former Wilson County Tourism Director, Wilson County

Government is proud to welcome Jenny Bennett as the newest addition to the Tourism staff.

Jenny has made Lebanon her home for fifteen years. After graduating from Cumberland University with a Bachelor's in Liberal Arts, she was fortunate enough to support Dr. Paul Stumb for several years in his role as Dean of the Labry School of Business and Technology. While obtaining her Master's Degree in Business Administration, she transitioned to the Alumni Office where she worked in donor steward-

ship and provided support with the Phoenix Ball. She most recently worked in the Retail/Visual Merchandising segment at the Cracker Barrel Old Country Store Home Office. Jenny has also been featured in local newspapers as a guest columnist, sharing stories from her childhood in the out islands of the Bahamas.

Born in Knoxville to a family of die-hard Tennessee Vols, Jenny moved with her parents to Grand Bahama Island as a small child. Her family owned and operated a small fly fishing resort in paradise—

a lifelong passion of her parents. It's safe to say that tourism and hospitality are in her blood. Her family later relocated to Orlando, Florida and finally made their way back to Tennessee, where Jenny has been ever since.

She and her husband, Louis, have two children, ages 8 and 4. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family, writing and traveling. Jenny started working with Wilson County on January 30th.



Wilson County Government is honored to welcome Mr. Michael McPherson as the new Veterans Services Officer for Wilson County. Mr. McPherson assumed the duties of Veterans Services Officer on January 24, 2017 following confirmation from the Wilson County Commission on January 23, 2016. Mr. McPherson will be responsible for overseeing the

Veteran's Services office. He will work closely with Wilson County Veterans to ensure they receive and understand the benefits and services allotted to them.

"Michael McPherson was born in Opelika, Alabama. As part of an Army family, his childhood years were spent in various states. Michael joined the United States Army in December 1985, completing basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia Home of the Infantry. Throughout his twenty-year career, Michael served in numerous leadership positions including Team Leader, Squad Leader, Platoon Sergeant, and Team Chief. His assignments included Berlin Germany, Schoefield Barracks Hawaii,

Fort Lewis Washington, Fort Jackson South Carolina, Fort Campbell Kentucky, and Fort Benning, Georgia from which he retired. Additional assignments included Egypt, Columbia and Turkey.

Upon retirement from the United States Army, Michael returned to Clarksville where he completed his education, earning a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Healthcare Administration. Michael began his second career as a Veteran Benefits Representative with the Tennessee Department of Veteran Services. Michael was assigned as an independent to the Dickson Field Office. He relocated

to the Appeals Division at the Regional Office in Nashville where he continued to serve veterans of Middle Tennessee and assist the Appeals Division. Michael's assistance was requested at the Veteran Administration Medical Center in Nashville Field Office, serving a year at the VA Medical Center. Michael was then recruited as the State Trainer for the Tennessee Department of Veteran's Services where he revamped the training program and created an innovative learning experience. Michael is married to Tracy McPherson and has four children."



## GIVE YOUR VALENTINE THE GIFT OF A HEALTHY HEART

**Lebanon, TN, 1/30/2017** – This year, Americans will spend approximately \$2 billion on candy gifts for the special Valentines in their lives. That’s good news for the chocolate industry, but it’s a whole lot of sugar. If you’re looking for a non-traditional Valentine gift for someone you love, consider giving the gift of a healthier heart.

*“Every year, heart disease claims the lives of a half million men and women in the United States alone – husbands and wives, moms and dads, with loved ones left behind wondering if the loss could have been prevented. Many times, it could have been,” said Fathi I. Ali, M.D, FRCPC, FACC, director, Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory & Cardiac Services.*

While we’ve made much progress in diagnosing, preventing and treating heart disease over the past three decades, it is still the leading cause of death by far – responsible for more deaths than all forms of cancer combined. The greatest accomplishment in this area has almost certainly been the acknowledgement that women are at equal risk to men for heart disease, while their symptoms may be significantly different. With millions of adult men and women living with heart disease, and millions more living with the risk factors that precede heart disease, here are some things you can focus on this Valentine’s Day to help protect your heart – and the heart of your sweetheart.

- **Evaluate and address metabolic syndrome.** This is a group of health risks — large waist size, elevated blood pressure, glucose intolerance, low HDL cholesterol, and high triglycerides — that dramatically increases your chance of developing heart disease. But metabolic syndrome is reversible, and your doctor can help you determine your ideal numbers. **Ideal Valentine’s Day gifts: tandem bike; healthy cooking classes; beginners’ yoga DVD.**
- **Address diabetes head-on.** Diabetes increases the risk of heart disease in women even more than it does in men. Although women usually develop heart disease about 10 years later than men, diabetes erases that advantage. Type II diabetes is highly treatable, and in some cases even reversible. Work with your doctor to prevent or manage the condition and add years to your life. **Ideal Valentine’s Day gifts: fresh strawberries; gift cards for smoothies; personal blood glucose monitor.**
- **Stop smoking.** Smoking remains one of the greatest independent risks for heart attack and stroke in both sexes, but women who smoke are twice as likely to have a heart attack as male smokers. **Ideal Valentine’s Day gifts: quit smoking together; ask your doctor for an appropriate “stop smoking aid” if either of you struggle to quit.**
- **Get moving.** We’ve all heard it – “sitting is the new smoking.” Even if you work out for an hour a few days each week, sitting more than 6 hours a day increases your risk of heart disease almost as much as smoking. **Ideal Valentine’s Day gifts: standing work desk; mini stair stepper; activity band or pedometer; high quality running shoes.**

- **Chill out together.** The dangers of chronic stress, overwork and sleep deprivation cannot be overestimated in terms of their impact on your heart health. Americans' lives are notoriously busy and stress-filled, so use Valentine's Day to focus on happiness and relaxation. **Ideal Valentine's Day gifts: couples' spa day; weekend vacation (or staycation); local meditation or yoga classes.**
- **Get peace of mind.** If you have risk factors, symptoms or a family history of heart disease, invest in appropriate diagnostic testing to ensure your risk is managed. Work with your doctor to determine which testing is best for you. **Ideal Valentine's Day gifts: scheduled visit with a cardiologist, EKG, cardiac stress test, C-reactive protein, cardiac calcium scoring test.**

The greatest gift you can give your loved one is the gift of health, strength and long life. So instead of candy or flowers, get creative this Valentine's Day. If you need assistance finding a physician partner to help you diagnose or manage heart disease, please call us at 615-453-7434.

**About Tennova Healthcare – Lebanon:**

Tennova Healthcare – Lebanon is a 245-bed, two-campus acute health care facility with over 230 physicians on staff and we are fully accredited by the State of Tennessee as well as the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. It is the seventh largest hospital in Middle Tennessee. We have over 600 full and part-time employees and are the only acute care hospital in Wilson County, Tennessee.

For more information, please contact us at (615) 444-8262 or visit our website at [www.tennova.com](http://www.tennova.com)



**PEDAL  
FOR PAWS**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**April 15, 2017**

Gallatin Civic Center in Gallatin, TN

Facebook.com/PedalforPawsTN

Register at ACTIVE.com



## ***Interested in a Highway Construction Career?***

- TDOT is offering a **FREE** Highway Construction Certification Program.
- Located at Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) 415 *Tennessee Boulevard, Lebanon, TN.*
- Includes one month paid internship with a local contractor.
- Successful participants will be offered full time employment.

*Only 24 spaces available – Submit application to TCAT on line at: [www.TCATHartsville.edu](http://www.TCATHartsville.edu) by February 17, 2017. Under the News Column, click the *Interested in a Highway Construction Career?* click *Application link.**

### **Free Training criteria:**

1. Must have a valid TN Driver's License
2. High School Diploma or GED
3. 18 years of age or older
4. Must be legally able to work in Tennessee
5. Physically able to do construction work
6. Have an interest in highway construction as a career

*For more information contact TDOT AA Program*

**615-741-5996**

# Batch and Bushel

## A Celebration of the Handmade and Homegrown

The Wilson County Expo Center recently hosted “Batch and Bushel: A Showcase of the Handmade and Homegrown”. The event highlighted agriculture in Wilson County while also promoting small businesses. Booths ranged from local agricultural related organizations such as 4-H and FFA to local businesses, food trucks and more. Live music played as visitors shopped and browsed through the exhibits. There were even live animals for all to enjoy including chickens, a calf, goats, sheep and pigs.



# Expo Ribbon Cutting

The Wilson County Expo Center had a ribbon cutting ceremony on January 23rd hosted by the Lebanon Wilson County Chamber of Commerce and the Mt. Juliet Chamber of Commerce. As you can see, we had a lot of support from the community at this event. We are excited about all of the new things happening at the Wilson County Expo Center and know it will only add to the success of Wilson County. A special thanks to Olivia, National Miss Teen Tennessee for joining us to commemorate this event!



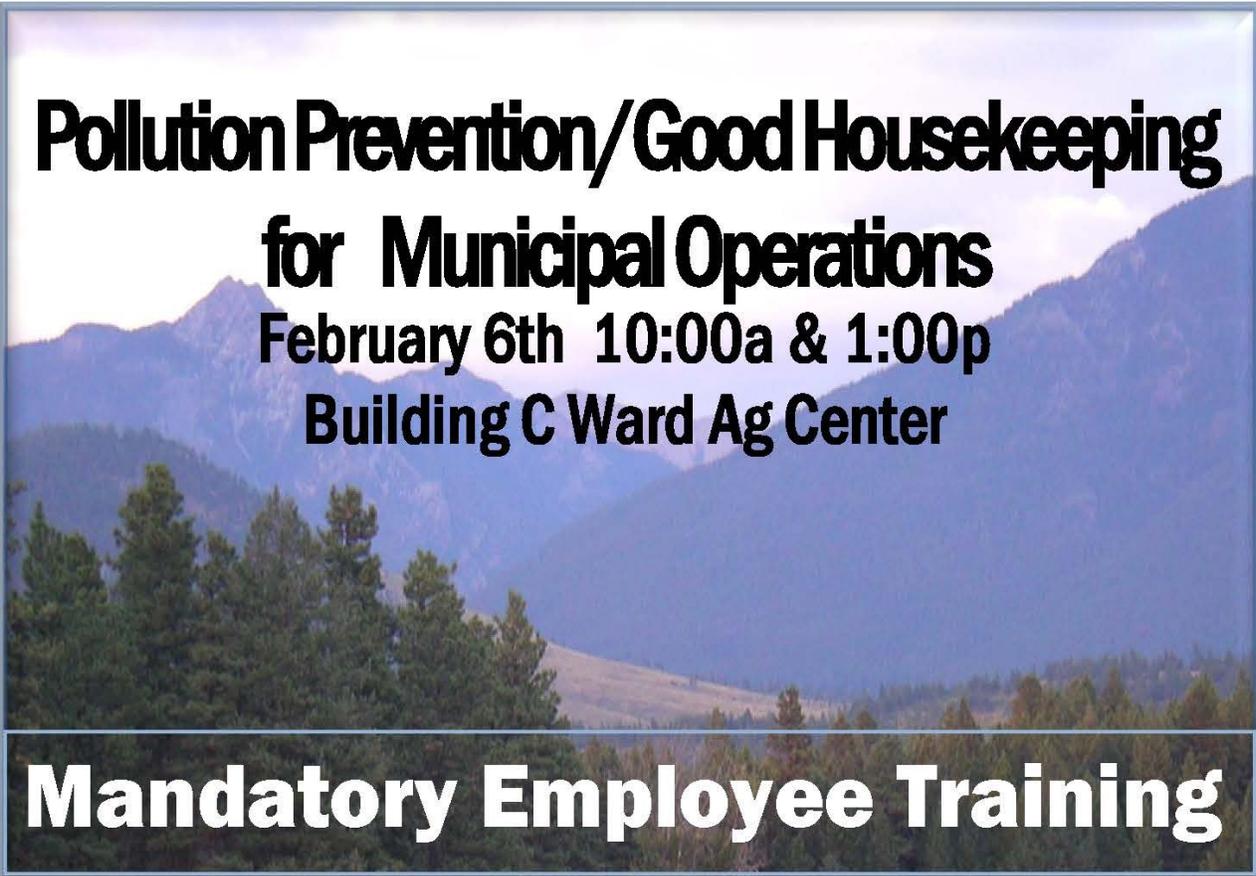
## Stay Connected

**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](http://www.wilsoncountyttn.gov)





# **Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations**

**February 6th 10:00a & 1:00p  
Building C Ward Ag Center**

## **Mandatory Employee Training**

### **4.2.6. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations**

The permittee must develop and implement an operation and maintenance program that has the ultimate goal of preventing or reducing pollutant runoff from municipal operations.

The permittee must develop or continue to develop and implement an annual employee training program for employees responsible for municipal operations at facilities within the jurisdiction of the permittee that handle, generate and/or store materials which constitute a potential pollutant of concern for MS4s. Examples of these materials may include, but are not limited to, lubricants, fuels, sand, gravel, soil, salt, pesticide, fertilizer, garbage, trash, clippings, vehicles, equipment, and other wastes. The goal of the training program should be to identify pollutants and prevent and/or reduce stormwater pollution from activities such as park and open space maintenance, fleet and building maintenance, new construction and land disturbances, and stormwater system maintenance.



**Municipal Technical Advisory Service**

*In cooperation with the Tennessee Municipal League*