

# WILSON COUNTY CONNECTION

Lebanon Mt. Juliet Watertown



November 2016

Volume 6 Issue 11

## A Word From Your County Mayor Randall Hutto

On October 28, I dressed as Uncle Sam and made a visit to Southside Elementary. There, I made a presentation for children in kindergarten through the eighth grade regarding the importance of exercising the right to vote in our local, state, and national elections. I began by talking about how Americans received the right to vote in the first place as well as the history of voting in America. I then had students participate in an activity displaying the levels of government in our country and elaborated on how each branch works together. Throughout my presentation I

also highlighted those who currently served in an elected office on the local, state, and national level. I concluded by having students select a representative and vote on issues

and it is important to exercise the right to vote.

November 8, 2016 is election day. I encourage each and every



ry elected office serves an important role in the overall structure of our government. We as citizens are privileged to play such a large role in the decisions that affect our country, such as who is elected to office, by exercising the right to vote. This November 8, I encourage you to go to the polls and vote on the candidates you feel will best serve our community, our state, our nation, and our world.



that were important to school aged children. This brief discussion and activity with the students of Southside Elementary was a success. Students learned that though they are too young to vote in an election right now, each and every person still has a voice

person to exercise their right to vote in the upcoming election. Not only does this election determine who will serve as the next President of our country, but it will also determine both local and state offices as well. Every elected official holds an important office. Eve-

ry elected office serves an important role in the overall structure of our government. We as citizens are privileged to play such a large role in the decisions that affect our country, such as who is elected to office, by exercising the right to vote. This November 8, I encourage you to go to the polls and vote on the candidates you feel will best serve our community, our state, our nation, and our world.

### WILSON COUNTY DISTRICT 23



Sue Vanatta  
District 23

Sue Vanatta

2004 Hartman Plantation

Lebanon, TN 37090

615.218.5526

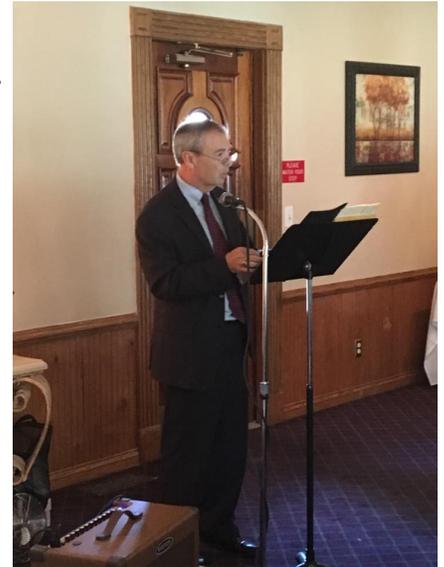


## Mayor Hutto Presents Wilson ONE Proclamation

On October 6, 2016, Mayor Hutto attended the 15th anniversary luncheon for Wilson ONE. Wilson ONE stands for Wilson County Organization for Networking and Education. Wilson ONE is a networking group that seeks to empower

women and promote community involvement. The group meets the first Thursday of every month at the Lebanon Golf and Country Club. Together they share a meal while enjoying an educational guest speaker. Mayor Hutto spoke at the 15th an-

niversary luncheon of Wilson ONE and presented the organization with a proclamation declaring October 6, 2016 as Wilson One Day.



## Wilson County Annual Surplus Auction

November 4, 2016

9:00 AM

James E. Ward Ag Center

# Mentors Needed to Work with Third Class of TN Promise Students

Mayor Hutto currently serves on the Local Advisory Council for tnAchieves. tnAchieves, partnering organization for Governor Bill Haslam's TN Promise, is currently seeking volunteers to serve as mentors for program's third class of students. TN Promise offers every high school senior the opportunity to attend one of the state's 13

colleges or 27 colleges of applied technology tuition free with a last dollar scholarship. The program also pairs each applicant with a volunteer mentor to ease the transition from high school to college.

Tennessee's Commissioner of Economic and Community Development Randy Boyd has been a mentor with the program since its inception in 2008. "With the idea of eliminating the barriers keeping Tennessee students from entering the post-secondary pipeline, Tennessee Promise provides a last-dollar scholarship with mentor support to our state's high school seniors," said Boyd. "It sends the message to students and

families that college is within everyone's reach at all of the state's public schools regardless of zip code or higher education institution. tnAchieves, socio-economic back-tions increased 10 per-



ground. It also communicates to business and industry that Tennessee is intensely focused on creating the workforce to meet their demands." TN Promise is one program of the state's Drive to 55 initiative that aims to increase Tennessee's adult population with a post-secondary credential to 55 percent by 2025.

In the first two years of the program almost 120,000 students have applied. In the first year, 16,291 students began college TN Promise eligible. The state's college going rate increased 4.6 percent, more than the previous seven years combined. Enrollment at the state's community and technical colleges increased more than

20 percent and enrollment increased approximately 4,000 new students entering the college pipeline.

The scholarship dollars are important, and often creates excitement around going to college, but the support of the mentor can be critical to many students' success. Most of the students participating in the program are first generation college attendees and navigating the admissions and financial aid processes can seem overwhelmingly. Mentors spend about one hour per month reminding students of deadlines, serving as a trusted resource, and encouraging students to reach their full potential. The time commitment is small, but the

impact can be life changing.

tnAchieves Director of Community Partnerships Graham Thomas explained the importance of the role of the mentors. "Mentors provide the encouragement and support students need to be successful as they begin their college careers," Thomas said. "Mentors ensure barriers that might cause students to quit are overcome, processes that

might prove to be intimidating are completed, and vocabulary that was foreign becomes everyday language."

tnAchieves needs more than 9,000 volunteers statewide to serve as mentors to meet student demand. The program operates TN Promise in 84 counties and each county has a specific mentor goal. To learn more and apply you can visit [www.tnachieves.org](http://www.tnachieves.org) or contact Thomas at [graham@tnachieves.org](mailto:graham@tnachieves.org) or (615) 604-1306.

# Waste to Energy Open House



Mayor Hutto attended the City of Lebanon's Waste to Energy Open House on October 13, 2016. The event allowed guests to tour Lebanon's new Gasification plant. The facility will recycle materials such as biosolids, commercial wood waste, and scrap

tires to make an alternative energy source for the city. The plant diverts over 8,000 tons of waste from the landfill each year, offering the City of Lebanon an environmentally friendly energy source. Pictured (left to right) is Commissioner Dan

Walker, Commissioner Annette Stafford, County Mayor Randall Hutto, Commissioner Sue Vanatta, Mrs. Darlene Craighead, and Lebanon City Mayor Phillip Craighead.

## Robotics Program Launched at Two Wilson Co. High Schools

This week, the Wilson County school system is unveiling two industrial robots that'll be used to train students in the STEM programs at Mt. Juliet and Watertown High school about the latest automated technology. The Fanuc robots, which were purchased by the district for 37-thousand dollars each, are used in more manufacturing and industrial facilities than any other brand in the world. By receiving this training, students will not only learn how to program and utilize this technology for real-world manufacturing, but they'll also receive a Handling Tool & Operations Certificate, which will equip them to go right to work, upon graduation.

Statistics show that 80-percent of all

manufacturers report having a shortage of skilled workers. Over the next decade, there will be a shortage of 2-million skilled manufacturing workers worldwide. Wilson County Schools Director, Dr. Donna Wright, says this is an investment



that'll pay big dividends for students, as they pursue their long-term career goals. ***“Clearly, this is a highly sought-after skillset. I'm thrilled that we're able to offer our students this opportunity. Regardless of whether they decide to***

***enter the workplace immediately or pursue a postsecondary education, this is the kind of training that will give Wilson County students a leg up over the competition.”*** Once the programs are fully up and running, each school will be able to train anywhere from 20-25 students per year. Right now, Hamilton County has the only other high school in the state with a FANUC robot and certified training program on-site. The robots will be unveiled during two separate community events. The first one was held on November 1st at Watertown High School. At 10:00 AM The second will be held on November 4 at Mt. Juliet High School at 9:00 AM.

**–Jennifer Johnson, Wilson County Schools**

# ***In the Spirit***

CONCERT

featuring

## ***The Fisk Jubilee Singers***



## ***The Fairfield Four***



***Sunday, November 13, 2016***

***2:00 PM***

Capitol Theatre · 110 West Main Street, Lebanon, TN

\$25 in advance · \$35 at the door

Proceeds benefit Pickett Chapel Restoration

THE SOUNDTRACK OF AMERICA  
MADE IN  
**TENNESSEE**  
☆☆☆



# Wilson County Employee Health Fair

The Wilson County Employee Health and Benefit Fair took place on Thursday, October 27, 2016 at the James E. Ward Agricultural Center. The Health Fair provided employees with flu shots as well as an opportunity to take a health risk assessment. There were mini seminars held throughout the day as well as a variety of refreshments. Benefit representatives were also on site to help answer any questions regarding voluntary plans. It was a great success! Below are photos from the HR Photo Booth.



## Wilson County Employee Health Fair Continued



## The Mt. Juliet Pow Wow

The 35th annual Mt. Juliet Pow Wow took place on September 24-25, 2016 at Mundy Park in Mt. Juliet. Mayor Hutto spoke at the event. The Pow Wow featured competition pow wow, tribal dancing, Native American food, Native American arts and crafts, Native American music and more.



WILSON COUNTY  
**EXPOSITION** CENTER



**THE WILSON COUNTY EXPOSITION CENTER**  
invites you to a  
**COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE**

**Tuesday, November 14, 2016 | 5-7pm**

**945 E. Baddour Parkway | Lebanon, TN 37087 | 615.450.3049**

*Enjoy a tour of Wilson County's premier venue while experiencing an evening of local culinary display, event showcase, and live music.*

Public Address from Wilson County Mayor, Randall Hutto  
Silo Steps - 4:30pm



[wilsoncountyexpo.com](http://wilsoncountyexpo.com)

 /wilsoncountyexpo  @WilsonCoExpo

# HALLOWEEN AT THE COURTHOUSE





Each year on November 11, Americans everywhere stop and take time to honor those that sacrifice daily to serve in the armed forces. The freedoms that are exercised and enjoyed in the United States come at a very high cost. Without the brave men and women that serve in the United States military, our country would not be what it is today.

Wilson County will be hosting a Veterans Day parade on

November 11 at 10:00 A.M. The parade will begin at the Lebanon Wilson County Library and end at the Veteran's Plaza located next to the Wilson County Courthouse. The parade is hosted by the Wilson County Veteran's Affairs Office and is sponsored by the American Legion Post 15. The parade honors veterans that have passed away and those that are still living. Following the parade,

a ceremony honoring all veterans will take place at the Veteran's Park. The flame that is displayed at the Veteran's Park represents those that paid the ultimate sacrifice and died while serving in the military. The black monuments displayed around the flame represent all veterans. The guest speaker at the ceremony will be General Jon Pickler.

The Veteran's Plaza and Museum is under construction at

the current time. The opening date for the facility is scheduled for the end of November once the construction of the facility is complete. Though the Plaza and Museum are not open to the public at this time, we invite everyone to come out to the Veteran's Park on November 11, 2016 to honor all of our veterans.



**Retire Ready TN** will be at the Courthouse in the 2nd floor conference room on the following dates to answer any questions about the new 401K or 457B plans.

November 2

November 10

November 4

November 14

November 7

November 30

November 9

Please **Contact Brian Huffman** with Retire Ready TN questions regarding times. His number is 615-719-1790