

NOTES FROM THE MAYOR
September 10, 2014

Happy 100th birthday

A special happy birthday to a special individual. On the 16th of this month Martha Dougherty of Tullahoma will be celebrating her 100th birthday! On Saturday her family hosted a party for her and the house was full of well-wishers. I was honored to visit and present her a Birthday certificate acknowledging the 16th as “her” day in Tullahoma. I had an opportunity to visit briefly with Mrs. Dougherty during her party and what a delightful person. She was wearing a big smile the whole time I saw her at the party, but after meeting her I suspect she wears a big smile all the time. Happy 100th birthday, Mrs. Dougherty.

Urgent Team Health Fair, Fitness and Green Expo Saturday

This Saturday from 9 am to noon is our Free Family Fall Health/Fitness Festival at Northgate Mall. Please stop by and visit with all the vendors and learn how you can get fit and stay fit. It doesn't matter your current fitness level, as there will be something for everyone. It's all about healthy living. There will be several types of health screenings available. And something special at the festival this year will be “green” booths. Learn how to be more energy-efficient and how you can do your part by recycling.

School visits begin

For the past several years I have had a goal to visit all 75 elementary school classrooms in the Tullahoma City schools during each school year. My first visit this year was to the second graders at Bel-Aire School. Ironically, the room where we met was my second grade classroom 52 years ago. I shared with the students the importance of being kind to each other, the importance of learning to read, and the importance of knowing you can be and do anything you want when you grow up if you are willing to work hard enough. At the end of my visit the students line up and we practice shaking hands. Three classrooms visited, 72 to go. And I look forward to each and every one!

Mayor's Youth Council meets

On Wednesday evening students interested in learning more about leadership, city government and Tullahoma attended the first meeting this school year of the Mayor's Youth Council. This is at least the 23rd year the Mayor's Youth Council has met. During the school year they work on special projects. The council has many ambitious plans this year. I attended the meeting to provide a little direction on the correct procedure to elect officers. THS senior Ashley Roepke was elected Youth Mayor, and the other officers will be elected at future meetings.

Meet and Greet

I appreciate the large number of citizens who turned out Thursday to Meet and Greet our newly-elected local and county officials that serve Tullahoma. I believe there were 25 elected officials present, including judges, clerks and commissioners. Meetings like this are an excellent way to build relationships. A special thank you to Northgate Mall and Cherokee Plaza for hosting the event.

Car show a hit

On Saturday I was pleased to attend and judge an antique car show hosted by Emeritus. Several residents' family members brought their own cars for display. I don't normally agree to judge events like car shows but I am glad I did – it was a lot of fun.

Tullahoma historical tid-bit

At the conclusion of Bob Couch's funeral, one of my favorite people of all time, Pastor A. Richard Smith, approached me and asked for a minute of my time. Of course, I would take as long as he wanted. He asked if I was familiar with the song that is often heard at Christmas-time, "Go Tell It On the Mountain". Pastor Smith told me the author, John Wesley Work, III was born in Tullahoma. It turns out composer, educator and choral director John Wesley Work III was born June 15, 1901 in Tullahoma to a family of professional musicians. He later taught at Fisk University in Nashville for 39 years, composing many songs and receiving much national recognition. During his time at Fisk he was Chairman of the Fisk University Department of Music and director of the famous Fisk Jubilee Singers from 1947 to 1956. Now you know. Thanks, Pastor Smith for sharing this important piece of Tullahoma's history.

Thought of the Week: "The only place where success comes before work is in the dictionary." Vidal Sassoon

Have an idea or suggestion? Contact me at mayor@tullahomatn.gov , voice mail 581-0360, PO Box 807, or Facebook.