

NOTES FROM THE MAYOR

September 24, 2014

Thanks, Pride Foundation

One of the hardest working groups of citizens in Tullahoma are the volunteers of Tullahoma's Community Pride Foundation. They recognize businesses around town that have beautified their buildings' appearance, host community events and so much more. Their facebook pages: Tullahoma Pride, Tullahoma Calendar and Tullahoma Help Wanted, are very popular. From January 2014 through September 11, 2014, the Tullahoma Calendar page had over 19,000 visits and their Help Wanted Page had over 5,000 likes. Thanks for all you do.

Band scores well at competition

Congrats to the THS marching band for a great showing at a competition in Hickman County Saturday. They won second place band overall; first place guard, first place field commanders, and second place percussion. Great job, band members, directors, parents and all others who played a role.

THS boasts 5 finalists

The National Merit Scholarship Program administers the very difficult SAT test to about 1,500,000 students each year from 22,000 high schools. The program awards \$35,000,000 in scholarships to about 15,000 National Merit Finalists each year. These students are judged to have the strongest combination of academic skills, achievements, extracurricular accomplishments and potential for success in rigorous university studies. Many high schools do not have any National Merit Finalists, but I'm pleased to announce THS had five this year! Our National Merit finalists are Matthew Crowson, Adam Daniel, Austin Poff, Ashley Roepke and Ashley Stevens. Scholarship winners represent less than 1% of the initial pool of student entrants. Way to go, and congratulations!

Retirees welcome!

My main focus as mayor is to help design a Tullahoma where young families want to remain, return, or relocate. No question we are making progress on this front, as I see more and more young families investing in Tullahoma. This past week I learned Tullahoma has been identified on the other end of the age spectrum. Credit Donkey, a credit and financial education website, has identified the best cities to retire in Tennessee, and Tullahoma makes the list at number 10 in the state and number two in the mid-state. This is great news! The cities that make the top 10 are the ones that scored the best overall across each of the categories: senior population, housing, income, recreation and healthcare/social assistance. Here's part of what they said about Tullahoma in their report:

"Tullahoma scored the best (of the 10) in terms of its low ratio of people to healthcare providers. Nearly 19,000 people live in the city and almost 18% are over 65. There are several parks and historical sites to explore, as well as a dedicated senior recreation center."

Time to sign up

September is Lannom Library's "Library Card Sign-Up Month". If you refer a friend to the library and they get their own library card, you earn a small token of thanks from the library, like first choice at book sales, book marks, etc. Remember, Sharing is Caring.

Punt, Pass and Kick

Saturday morning was the annual Punt, Pass and Kick Competition sponsored by Tullahoma Parks and Rec. When I stopped by I was pleased to see kids of all ages – both girls and boys – participating. Winners of each of the five age groups will travel to Chattanooga and participate in Regional competition.

Music and Arts Fest this weekend

Don't forget the annual 41A Music and Arts Festival this Friday and Saturday downtown. The members of the Highland Rim Kiwanis Club and other volunteers have worked hard to make the weekend a fun event. Hope to see you there.

Little Free Library

Thursday morning I attended the dedication of the Little Free Library at Farrar Elementary School. The Little Free Library is wooden box full of books that sits on a post (similar to a large bird house). The books can be taken out by the children, read and replaced, or shared with a friend. The Little Free Library at Farrar was beautifully decorated by Sara Liechty, a former principal at Farrar. On the door is a Farrar frog. The Little Free Libraries in Tullahoma are a joint project of the Sunrise Rotary Club, Literacy Council and the Children's Section of Lannom Library. This is the fourth Little Free Library in Tullahoma with seven more in the works. The libraries have been constructed by members of the Tennessee Valley Woodworkers and Rotarian Joe Loggins. Thanks to all for a job well done.

Thought of the week: "Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow." Albert Einstein

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