

NOTES FROM THE MAYOR

January 21, 2015

Each year the Coffee County Industrial Development Board publishes a Directory of Manufacturers for the county. Of the 59 industries in Coffee County, 32 have Tullahoma addresses. The 32 employ 2,326 people! It is interesting to note that of the 32, two were established in Tullahoma prior to 1910 (Coca Cola Bottling Works of Tullahoma in 1906 and Tennessee Apparel in 1901), one in the 1940s, four in the 1950s, one in the 1960s, three in the 1970s, five in the 1980s, six in the 1990s and ten since 2000. According to the document, 2,107 are employed at AEDC.

Cleaner roads

I hope you have noticed parts of Tullahoma are cleaner of roadside litter since Public Works has been trying to hit some of the hot spots lately. Two weeks ago they concentrated on the New Manchester Highway and picked up 94 bags of trash. All together they have picked up over 200 bags of litter in two weeks. Unfortunately, some of these same roadways are being trashed again. I just don't understand the mindset of some people. It is very disappointing. If you see people littering, please call 1-877-8LITTER and report. Please join us February 14 for our community-wide Clean-up Day. More details to follow. I am convinced 99.5% of residents want to live in a clean and attractive community.

Exciting Night

The TNAchieves mentoring meeting at Central High School in Manchester Tuesday night was standing room only. I estimate 500 THS and CHS seniors, their mentors, and some parents were present. The effort is part of a state-wide initiative of Gov. Haslam's to increase the number of high school graduates who go to college or technical school. I am a volunteer mentor to six seniors and five of them attended. All seemed to be anxious to get started on this next phase of their lives. Thanks, mentors, for your help, and students, for your initiative. I believe your efforts will pay dividends in the future.

Magazine recognizes Tennessee

The other day I received a letter from Tennessee Economic Commissioner Bill Haggerty noting that Tennessee was named 2014 State of the Year by Business Facilities magazine. Tennessee is the only state to earn this distinction for two consecutive years. This award recognizes the state most ready for business relocations and expansions.

Things to do!

Do you enjoy ping pong? How about pool? Tournaments are being held in February. Are you interested in a chartered bus Day Trip to Nashville for only \$25? Call Parks and Rec at 455-1121 for more info and to sign up. Sounds like fun!

Informative meeting

At the monthly Planning and Coordinating meeting last week I learned the Tullahoma Community Pride Foundation Facebook calendar page had 29,101 page views last year. This is up 25% from 2013. Patricia Lee is the volunteer administrator of this page. Check it out. I also learned the Coffee County Industrial Development Board has 17 pending projects. This is also up considerably from 2013. I was interested to learn the 62 acres off I-24 at the AEDC exit were recently sold by the Industrial Board. I understand the new owner has several ideas in mind to develop the property.

Mayoral candidate

Perhaps some of you will recall Dr. Willie Wilson of the Chicago area. He is a retired, multi-store McDonald's franchise owner that diversified into manufacturing – specifically medical glove manufacturing. Several years ago he bought the Oak Grove manufacturing facility in the Tullahoma Industrial Park. In addition to being a very wealthy entrepreneur, Dr. Wilson also enjoys gospel music and heads his own gospel music band. Dr. Wilson has made several trips to Tullahoma and has even brought his band to perform at a local church a few times. He donates nearly a million dollars to churches annually.

I understand that Dr. Wilson has decided to run for Mayor of Chicago. In Tullahoma it takes 25 signatures from local registered voters to get one's name on the ballot. In Chicago I noticed it takes 12,500. The vote takes place in late February.

Thought of the week: "When you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change." – Wayne Dyer

Have an idea or suggestion? Contact me at mayor@tullahomatn.gov, voice mail 581-0630, PO Box 807, or Facebook.