

## NOTES FROM THE MAYOR

April 15, 2015

### Passing it forward

Evelyn's sister, Marlena, shared a very nice story. She and her husband were eating dinner at a local restaurant on Good Friday and happened to strike up a conversation with two men who were also eating there. The two men were passing through on their way from Florida to Michigan and had made a special stop in the area to visit the Beechcraft Heritage Museum, as they are airplane buffs. They had gone by the museum earlier that day but it was closed for Good Friday. Somebody saw them there, let them in and gave them a tour (free of charge). They were blown away by the hospitality and very much impressed with Tullahoma in general.

Now the rest of the story.....as a result of my top-notch investigative skills, I found out the friendly man at the airport who graciously welcomed our two visitors was none other than Charles Parish, a museum director. Charles told me he has been in their shoes while traveling and appreciated a friendly conversation with locals.

"They will remember Tullahoma as a friendly and interesting place.....just passing it forward," added Charles.

Thanks, Charles, for going the extra mile for these two travelers, presenting Tullahoma in such a positive light, and 'passing it forward'.

### Horse Play

It was a sunny but blustery day the Saturday before Easter, but that didn't stop a crowd of 40 or so from gathering at the Horse Play facility on Westside Drive for the dedication ceremony of the 'John Freeman Riding Arena'. John, a talented and loving high school senior, was tragically killed in an automobile accident several years ago. His parents, Dr. Bill and Patsy Freeman, long-time supporters of Horse Play, (a therapeutic riding program for handicapped children), continued their support of the program by helping with the construction of an indoor arena that now bears John's name. This arena has been much-needed and allows riding sessions for the children in inclement weather. Bill and Patsy have been ardent supporters of Horse Play since day one. As someone said at the ceremony, something tragic was turned into something beautiful. Thanks, Bill and Patsy for this wonderful memorial to your son, John.

### History Series continues

Lannom Memorial Library has started hosting a Local History Series featuring speakers on a variety of topics. Last Thursday evening, David Hiebert, retired historian at AEDC, presented a program on Project Paperclip, which was the code name for the government project to bring specialized German

scientists and equipment to the United States in the wake of World War II. One of the beneficiaries of this controversial project was AEDC. Thanks, Dave, for sharing your expertise on this interesting topic.

#### Industry leaders honored

Thanks to the Coffee County Industrial Development Board for hosting a dinner for local industry officials last Thursday evening. April is Industry Appreciation Month and it is appropriate we thank our local industries for the work they do and the citizens they employ. Coffee County is fortunate to have a diverse group of industries.

#### Blood drive a success

Last Wednesday the THS Club HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) hosted a blood drive at THS. When I stopped by to thank the club Members and blood donors, nearly every Red Cross station in the gym was occupied. Thanks, THS teacher Deanna Bratcher and your team for a job well done. Over 180 students and visitors donated blood that day!

#### Fundraising effort starts

Last Tuesday we hosted the second "Friends of the Tullahoma Animal Shelter" meeting. Local businessman Lincoln Brown agreed to chair the fundraising effort to raise funds for a new and improved shelter. Look for many fundraising initiatives over the next year to raise money to build a new shelter.

#### Let's compost!

If you are interested in learning about composting, please attend the Go Green! Tullahoma meeting tomorrow at 5:30, upstairs at City Hall. AEDC Composting Coordinator Annie Clements will lead the discussion. Too many of us simply toss away things like food scraps that can easily be composted. Remember, everything we throw away in our garbage containers gets buried and that costs us each money. It's time for each of us to get serious about recycling!

Thought of the Week: "We find comfort among those who agree with us, growth among those who don't." – Frank Clark

*Have an idea or suggestion? Contact me at [mayor@tullahomatin.gov](mailto:mayor@tullahomatin.gov), voice mail 581-0360, PO Box 807, or Facebook.*