

## NOTES FROM THE MAYOR

May 27, 2015

### Classroom visits

For the past several years I have visited all 75 classrooms in our four elementary schools. Last Tuesday I visited my 75<sup>th</sup> and final classroom of the school year – the kindergarten students at Farrar Elementary School. It is always a treat to visit the classrooms and watch these children grow up year after year. At the end of our discussion, I ask the children to line up, and we practice shaking hands. It is an important skill to say your name proudly, make eye contact, and shake hands firmly. During our discussions we talk about being responsible, being kind, and being helpful. These visits are often a highlight of my week and I already look forward to my classroom visits next school year. These children are our future!

### Grapes and Grain a hit!

Beautiful weather, a terrific venue and twelve enthusiastic vendors made for a great first-ever Grapes and Grains Festival at Waggoner Park. Thanks, Highland Rim Kiwanis Club for a successful event. I hope it was the First Annual.

### Relay for Life event held

I was so proud of the survivors, caregivers, sponsors, and other team members who participated at the Relay for Life event Friday night at THS. From 6 pm to 6 am, one member from each of the eleven teams walked around the gym. Monies raised go to support a cure for cancer. I was pleased to attend and support the effort.

### Senior center now open

Last Tuesday I stopped by the Senior Citizens Center on N. Collins Street to buy two tickets to their fundraiser June 6<sup>th</sup>. While there I took a quick tour. As you might recall, the center was closed for six months because of extensive flood damage. The building has been renovated and looks great. There were seniors all over the building having fun. Some were playing cards, others playing pool, others enjoying a nice lunch. I encourage all seniors to stop by and get involved in your center.

### Astronaut keeps audience spellbound

On Monday I visited UTSI to hear Murfreesboro-born astronaut Captain Barry Wilmore speak. I guess the UTSI auditorium holds 400+ people and it was packed. It was great that eight school systems were represented. I'm confident his talk turned on some young people to the idea of a career in aeronautics, perhaps even being an astronaut. Captain Wilmore's talk was fascinating and inspiring. His first-hand account of living aboard the Space Station for five months kept everyone spellbound. While travelling at 17,500 mph he would see 16 sunrises and sunsets daily.

### Congrats, NJHS members

It was an honor to speak to the West Middle School Junior Honor Society's newly-inducted 24 members, their family members, and friends last Tuesday. I'm looking forward to great things out of this group over their next five years and beyond. To be a member of the society one has to have a minimum 3.75 GPA. All have contributed many community service hours.

#### School news

There is an important collaboration between the Chamber of Commerce and the school system called Creating Educational Opportunities (CEO). Over 70 local businesses participate in the program, providing funding and manpower to assist our schools. On Wednesday afternoon the Chamber hosted a CEO Appreciation reception to thank the 72 businesses for their support. At the reception Director of Schools Dr. Dan Lawson announced Farrar Elementary School Principal Susan Fanning is moving to the Administrative Building as the new Director of Instruction, replacing Dean Holland, who is retiring. Current East Middle School principal Debbie Edens is the new principal at Farrar School and THS Assistant Principal Charles Lawson is the new principal at East Middle. THS band director Greg English is the new THS Assistant Principal. Congratulations to all!

#### Lady Cats celebrate

On Thursday evening, I was invited to the THS Lady Cats Softball banquet. It was a very nice affair with many of the young ladies earning special recognition. Thanks to the players and coaches for an exciting season. Looking forward to next season!

#### Congrats to grads

Congrats to the THS seniors who are graduating Friday night.

Thought of the week: It is never too late to be what you might have been. ---GEORGE ELIOT

*Have an idea or suggestion? Contact me at [mayor@tullahomatin.gov](mailto:mayor@tullahomatin.gov), voice mail 931-581-0630, PO Box 807, or Facebook.*