



**WGNS Talk Radio**  
**Broadcast Plaza**  
**306 South Church Street**  
**Murfreesboro, TN 37130**  
**Phone 615.893.5373**

***Your Good Neighbor Station since 1947***

### **WGNS Community Ascertainment Report**

**Period:** 3rd quarter 2019 (July, August and September 2019)

**Filed:** October 2, 2019

1. **MURFREESBORO:** Murfreesboro continues to be Tennessee's fastest growing city and the 10<sup>th</sup> in the nation. Murfreesboro Mayor Shane McFarland was on WGNS July 10, 2019 to update on the rapidly filling Middle Point Landfill. He also updated efforts to increase the historic downtown footprint. July 16, 2019 MTEMCO's President and CEO told of efforts to purchase Murfreesboro Electric and how it would improve service now and in the future. July 31, 2019 City Manager Craig Tindall interacted with listeners about traffic, historic district renovations, along with improved emergency services.
2. **JUDICIAL SYSTEM:** The court dockets, cold cases, and news from the courts. July 5, 2019 DA General Jennings Jones, Past DAG Bill Whitesell and ADA J. Paul Newman went over the court dockets and then spoke with a detective who had "cold case" information.
3. **MTSU:** On July 15, 2019 MTSU's Dr. Tony Johnson told of the new "Fermentation" degree. Aug. 19, 2019 Dr. Ben Stickle gives study results showing crime has gone down as the population explodes, therefore it is said to be safer today, but people don't believe this because of "instant news" from social media.
4. **LAW & ORDER:** On July 7, 2019 RCSO Sgt Michael Rodgers and THP Sgt. Joe Agee interacted with the public about the new Rutherford County Traffic Task Force. Traffic is one of this area's major issues, and this program is designed to improve the problem. District Attorney General Jennings updated the court docket on August 2, 2019. MPD Chief Michael Bowen addresses the issue of continued shootings at private apartment complexes in the university area. There were 6 fatalities this quarter.
5. **LOCAL HISTORY:** On 7/4/2019 the local Hardy Murfree DAR Chapter's Regent Karen Hudson was on July 4, 2019 to talk about Independence Day and how it was being preserved in

Murfreesboro. July 12, 2019 featured Civil War history with Jim Lewis from the Stones River Battlefield and Oaklands Mansion Educational Director Mary Beth Nevills telling about Nathan Bedford Forrest's historic raid on the courthouse that occurred 157-years ago on this date.

6. **HEALTH ISSUES:** July 1, 2019 Alzheimer's Association's Dena O'Neal and Emily Pegg interacted with concerned residents about Alzheimer's disease. August 9, 2019 focused on the opioid crisis as well as drug and substance abuse and addiction. Prevention Coalition for Success Director Sarah Murfreesboro along with Drug Court representatives talk with residents about their services. Obesity continues to be a major health issue in the Southeast, but especially in Rutherford County—Tennessee's most obese communities. Despite Mayor McFarland's health initiatives, the weight problem does not appear to be changing. Aug. 13, 2019, has bariatric physicians from St. Thomas telling about new ways using DNA to control weight and health issues. Sept. 12, 2019 reveals that more babies are born early, and the St. Thomas Hospital's NICU is "thinking out of the box" to better serve this community.

7. **PUBLIC LIBRARY:** On July 19, 2019 RCLS Director Rita Shacklett and guests from the Technology Engagement Center, told how the expanded library system is better serving the 300,000+ residents of the area.

8. **PUBLIC EDUCATION:** On July 22, 2019 Principals from the new Rutherford County School's Rockvale High and Rocky Fork Elementary told about their new facilities that would open in a few weeks. This system is now the fourth largest in Tennessee and only 3,000 fewer than #2 Knox county. Discussion on Sept. 23, 2019, that County Schools are already 1,100 students above all of last year, and we are only in the first quarter. They need a school off I-840 toward Williamson County, but the land will not perk and there are no sewers there.

9. **RUTHERFORD COUNTY ISSUES:** On July 31, 2019 Rutherford County Mayor Bill Ketron shared about the visit to Republic Disposal in San Jose, CA to see their re-cycling and turn the majority of the trash into compost which is sold. Sept. 30, 2019, Habitat for Humanity building a subdivision to low-income residents—providing "the American dream".

10. **MAIN STREET MURFREESBORO:** Main Street Murfreesboro has been renovating the historic business district for decades. On July 2, 2019, the new Executive Director Sarah Callender shared her goals as the new leader.

These topics were broadcast between 0810 and 0900 on the dates outlined above. The topics were developed through a process of checking local news stories, public input (phone calls, e-mails, daily "man on the street" interviews, opinion polls on the station's website, and other methods of getting public response on issues of importance.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Walker  
Chief Operator