



WGNS RADIO • 306 S. Church St. • Murfreesboro, TN 37130 • 615-893-5373

WGNS Community Ascertainment Report

Period: 2nd quarter 2013 (April, May, and June)

Filed: July 2, 2013

1. **CRIME, LAW AND ORDER:** Despite an improved economy, burglaries and robberies still create problems in this community. Murfreesboro Police Chief Glenn Chrisman interacts with the public about ways to reduce crime in broadcasts on April 3, May 1, and June 5, 2013. Rutherford County Sheriff Robert Arnold interacted with local residents about their concerns on April 17, May 15, and June 19, 2013.
2. **JUVENILE COURTS:** Juvenile Court Judge Donna Scott Davenport brings a guest each month to addressing raising children, parenting and keeping youth safe and in school. This allows parents, relatives and concerned citizens an opportunity to talk directly to professionals on getting advice about youth. The broadcast was aired on April 2, May 7, and June 4, 2013. She continues to stress that this court's purpose is not to sentence offenders, but to change their behavior before they reach the legal age to be tried as adults.
3. **YOUTH CHALLENGES:** Infants and youth are often the victims of society, illness and other challenges. WGNS continues to do broadcasts that give information about local services that address these issues. April 1, 2013 brought a discussion of the local work by Multiple Sclerosis Society. It talked about how Tennessee has one of the nation's highest premature birth rates, and what is being done to lower that. On April 9, 2013, former MTSU Basketball Coach Andy Herzer told how the First Shot Basketball program takes a sport that youngsters enjoy and teaches at-risk youth the importance of teamwork. In addition, the program incorporates elements of the arts, math and science in an effort to prepare these students for continuing their education. April 12 and May 10, 2013 Rutherford County District Attorney General Bill Whitesell interacted with the public about the local Child Advocacy Center, which works with youth who have been abused.
4. **EDUCATION:** Tennessee schools are making strong efforts to change this state's low rankings in student rankings. A series of broadcasts where the public can interact on this issue with leaders in the local teaching community have been very successful in getting out ways parents, grandparents and guardians can help area youth. Murfreesboro City School's Director Dr. Linda Gilbert interacted with the public on April 22 and June 24, 2013. Officials from the Rutherford County School Board were on WGNS May 28, 2013. Middle Tennessee State University told about higher education on April 15, May 20, and June 17, 2013.
5. **STATE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** The 108th Tennessee General Assembly was in session during the first several months of the year. Several times Rutherford County State Senators and State Representatives were on WGNS to update issues facing the legislative body and to receive feedback from the public. This was done on April 26 and May 31, 2013.

6. **LITERACY:** The inability to read at the proper age level continues to be a challenge with 44% of Rutherford County residents reading below the third grade level. Linebaugh Library's Director Rita Shacklett interacted with listeners about new programs for all ages that are available at the public library. On May 24, 2013, Read to Succeed Director Lisa Mitchell told how her non-profit organization was making a difference to many challenged adults. On May 31, 2013 Rutherford County School's Adult Education Director Joe Herbert told about his program.

7. **PRESERVING HISTORY:** Preserving local history for future generations becomes a greater challenge as Rutherford County continues to be one of the fastest growing counties in the United States. On May 17, 2013, Main Street Murfreesboro/Rutherford County Director Kathleen Herzog shared how the on-going renovation of century buildings around the square back to their original styling has breathed new life into the area. This is more meaningful as history shows that in the 1950's a group of citizens almost got approval to raze the pre-Civil War Rutherford County Courthouse and replace it with a parking lot. That did not occur, and we still have and use one of only six similar structures of that era in the entire state. Honoring the past was a focus on May 27, 2013, as area military were honored in a broadcast about the Noon Exchange Club's fifth annual "Healing Fields, Flags of Remembrance" where almost a thousand American flags were placed in a field next to the Avenue of Murfreesboro over the Memorial Day weekend.

8. **ECONOMY:** The economy continues to be a concern. On May 20, 2013, MTSU Economic Research Center Director Dr. David Penn interacted with citizens about Rutherford County having an increase in home construction for the first quarter of 2013.

9. **HEALTH MISSIONS:** On June 3, 2013, Kathy Ferrell shared how medical mission work did not always strictly deal with distant lands. She told about Middle Tennessee Medical Center's mobile health unit that travels around the area to give health screenings, dental and eye care to low-income children.

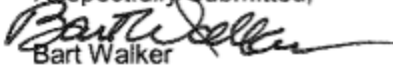
10. **LEGALLY ARMED:** Reports indicate that more and more Tennesseans are obtaining "gun carry permits". Gene Kennedy, who is nationally known for his expertise in this field, and is a Murfreesboro resident, shared who is eligible and what is required to obtain a permit.

11. **DIVERSE CULTURES, DIVERSE SOCIETY:** As the population passes 275,000, Rutherford County becomes a more diverse community. On June 17, 2013, Dr. Shelley Thomas told how MTSU is teaching a new method of learning languages through total emersion. With English, approximately 800 words are used to make-up most of our day to day conversations. That same principal is incorporated in teaching how to speak and read other languages fluently.

12. **HOMELESS POPULATION:** As Rutherford County's regulation population increases dramatically, so does the homeless segment. On June 21, 2013, attention was brought on a unique way to help the homeless become more productive citizens. Tom Maddox interacted with the public about his rural farm, Hippy Hill, that takes-in, nurtures and encourages the homeless.

These topics were covered in detail over WGNS (Murfreesboro, Rutherford County, TN) 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 WGNS' website, and other methods of getting public response on issues of importance.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bart Walker
Chief Operator