



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

Re: Quarterly Ascertainment Report

Dates: January, February, March (1st Quarter, 2014)

Filed: April 2, 2014

1. **STATE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** Tennessee's 108th General Assembly is facing major issues in 2014. It includes wine in grocery stores, homeless issues, medical marijuana, education improvement, gun laws, and more. On Jan. 1, 2014, State Rep. Mike Sparks focused on the growing homeless population in Rutherford County, and how the state might offer assistance. The local state senators and state representatives were also on Jan. 31, Feb. 28 and March 28, 2014.
2. **LAW and ORDER:** As Murfreesboro's population passes 110,000 and Rutherford County exceeds a quarter of a million, crime and traffic issues explode. Fireworks safety was a major topic on the July 3rd broadcast. Murfreesboro Police were on Jan. 8, Feb. 5, and March 5, 2014; Rutherford County Sheriffs Office on the radio Jan. 15, Feb. 19, and March 19, 2014.
3. **WORK OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE:** Since the Rutherford County District Attorney's office is involved in almost all of the criminal cases, WGNS felt it important to update the public on work in that office. This includes updates on current cases as well as a review of the cold cases being worked by law enforcement. District Attorney General Bill Whitsell and Assistant DA J. Paul Newman presented local updates on Jan. 3, Feb. 7, and March 7, 2014.
4. **JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM:** Rutherford County Juvenile Court Judge Donna Scott Davenport is using this forum to get public feedback from unique programs there as well as to make the public aware of activities. The judge interacts with listeners on parenting issues, and how they can "walk-in" any Wednesday for help and guidance. Topics were covered Jan. 7, Feb. 4 and March 4, 2014.
5. **CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES:** On Jan. 22, 2014, Kerry Boylan interacted with listeners about changes at Project Help that would expand these services to infants to early elementary students. The MTSU program is undergoing a major revamp.
6. **Middle Tennessee State University:** The largest undergraduate population in Rutherford County is at MTSU, and this has an impact, not only economically, but health, quality of life and other ways. Jan. 14, Feb. 17, and March 18, 2014, MTSU covered the nursing program and the nursing shortage, English writers program, local history, studies on medical marijuana, same-sex marriage, Common Core, helping students succeed, and readying students for business.

7. CITY OF MURFREESBORO POLITICAL FORUMS : Early voting is March 26-April 10, 2014 with election day being April 17, 2014 for city races. The forums began where questions were phoned-in "live" by listeners starting March 3, 2014 with the two candidates for Mayor of Murfreesboro; March 11 featured candidates for Murfreesboro City Council; and March 21 all candidates for Murfreesboro City School Board.

8. LITERACY: Rutherford County still has an illiteracy problem. On March 14, 2014 Read to Succeed's Executive Director Lisa Mitchell interacted with the public on the free adult reading programs that they offer. 14% of adults can not read, 21% are at below 5th grade level, 63% of prison inmates can not read, 19% of high school graduates also can not read.

9. GROWTH ISSUES IN MURFREESBORO: Murfreesboro Mayor Tommy Bragg answered calls about traffic conditions, red light cameras, construction of the bridge over Broad that connects the Old Fort Parkway with Memorial Boulevard, and education. This was covered Jan. 8, Feb. 12, and March 12, 2014.

11. PUBLIC LIBRARY: Linebaugh Library Director Rita Shacklett interacts with the public on new technology and improvements at the local facility. This quarter much discussion has focused on e-books along with the possibility of a new e-library and public meeting area to be developed in the Mercury Boulevard area. The library was the topic on Jan. 21, Feb 19, and March 19, 2014.

12. PUBLIC EDUCATION: The public school system is facing many issues from finances, Common Core, teacher pay, parental involvement, e-books vs paper books, etc. Murfreesboro City School Director Dr. Linda Gilbert shared information on Feb. 24, 2014. Rutherford County School's Community Relations Coordinator James Evans was on the broadcast Jan. 27, 2014 to tell about new ways the system connects with parents during weather issues, safety situations or other necessities. On March 24, 2014 County School's Superintendent for Engineering and Construction Gary Clardy told how new technologies are making the school's more efficient and safer for students.

All of these topics were covered 8:10-9:00AM on Mondays through Fridays on WETV (TV 11). To the best of my knowledge, these are the major concerns of this quarter and were addressed with specific broadcasts on the dates listed above.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bart Walker

Chief Operator
April 2, 2014