



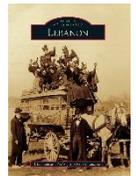
HISTORIC LEBANON

a Tennessee Main Street community

2015 Year in Review

In 2015, the focus was on economic development for our Main Street area, centering on the Public Square, then expanding out several blocks in all directions. Of course, all of our projects/activities are undertaken with the motivation to preserve Lebanon's unique history and use it for positive economic impact.

- The year began with strong sales of our book, *Images of America, Lebanon* released November 2014. To date, over 830 copies have sold.
- In February, HL wrote the application for a State of Tennessee Historical Marker for the Wilson County Election Commission offices (former Lebanon Post Office). This was approved by the Tennessee Historic Commission in June.
- Attended the National Main Street conference Atlanta in March. Great opportunity for networking and professional training.
- April brought the debut of the Lebanon/Wilson County Historic Driving Tour. Twenty-eight sites, most listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A unique feature of the tour is the mobile website; www.hldrivingtour.info. The tour signs have a QR code that takes you right to the mobile site with all the info plus extra features such as bonus photos and audio.



- Also in April, Historic Lebanon started in earnest on the application for a TN Main Street CDBG Commercial Façade Grant. If Lebanon is awarded the grant, we will receive \$100,000 to administer to property owners on the Square for façade renovations/upkeep. The grant requires a 25% match from the owner. One of the first steps was to gain approval of a resolution supporting the grant from the City Council. Approval was granted in April. Other steps were public meetings and a detailed application packet. All materials were submitted by the deadline of July 17. Notice of grant is still pending.
- In May, HL wrote and prepared an application packet for a National Endowment for the Humanities grant for Cumberland University's Stockton Archives.

- The annual Friends of Historic Lebanon dinner was held on May 5. State Main Street director, Nancy Williams was the featured speaker. HL also awarded two lifetime achievement award at the dinner. Mrs. Mary Harris and Mr. Thomas Partlow were the recipients.



- The Tour of Possibilities for the Lebanon Square was held May 28. This event showcased available properties in the downtown Main Street area and targeted investors, developers and entrepreneurs. The event was a success and we have continued to receive inquiries about opportunities in the area.



- Historic Lebanon was a major sponsor of Jammin with the General in June and July. This year's event drew the largest crowds yet. Also held in July was our annual Tomato Festival.



- The TDOT Square Safety project was completed in July and a ribbon cutting was held July 21.
- August brought a Creative Community Summit for more professional training as well as the first of a monthly column for the *Wilson Post*.

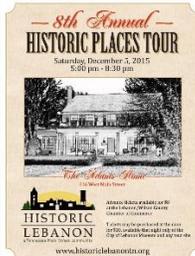


- Historic Lebanon participated with the Chambers in the Wilson County information area at this year's fair. We included signage on the new Historic Driving Tour, our sponsors and the HL organization.
- City Historian and HL board member, Rick Bell and I facilitated /received the donation of Brent McClain's Spanish American War uniform from the Palmer family also in August.
- Also in August, Historic Lebanon took on an intern, Sarah Tiger, from Cumberland University's history department.
- September brought the completion of Historic Lebanon's new website; www.historiclebanontn.org
- As part of the our grant application for CDBG grant program, our Success Starts on the Square plan was revized and new booklets printed. This is also available in electronic form.

- October was the last month for our partnership with Cumberland University. HL vacated the old office space by the end of the month
- Drafts of the Main Street area map were received and graphic work for the kiosks posters continued.
- First ad of our new marketing campaign came out in the *East of the City* Magazine
- New office opened at 324 B West Main on November 1st.
- November brought the Small Business Saturday –Shop Small event held in partnership with the Chamber.



- Lebanon’s second historic district, the East Spring Street District, was approved by City Council in Nov. 2015.
- 8th Annual Historic Places Tour kicked off December. We had over 300 participants, our largest crowd ever for this tour.



- We ended the year with our first year-end donation campaign. This included a mailer to 200, an email blast, and a Facebook campaign.



Historic Lebanon’s overall goal is to use historic preservation for economic development. Our focus is concentrated in our Main Street area, specifically to increase tourism, entice more retail and businesses and to create a sense of place with Lebanon’s rich history and to create a market identity for the whole community. We strive to enhance Lebanon’s quality of life and to increase our profile as a great small town.