

## Tennessee recognizes Lauderdale County's 'outstanding' volunteers

Conner Wright of Halls and Danny Hartsfield of Henning received the Governor's Volunteer Star Award for their dedicated service to the citizens of Lauderdale County. The awards are part of an initiative from Volunteer Tennessee that seeks to recognize outstanding volunteers from each of Tennessee's 95 counties.

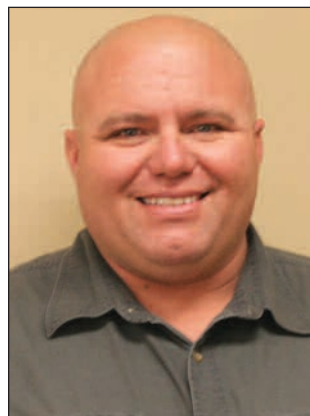
Both Hartsfield and Wright have served as volunteers and leaders through various organizations. Conner, the youth volunteer recipient, is a senior at Halls High School and the son of Kevin and Kami Wright. Hartsfield is employed by Lauderdale County.

Gov. Bill Haslam will honor the award winners at a banquet March 11.

The State of Tennessee is a national leader in the promotion of volunteerism, community service initiatives and partnerships in which its citizens of all ages and backgrounds engage in services addressing the educational, public safety, environmental, and other human needs of the state and nation.



Conner Wright



Danny Hartsfield

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- Friday, March 30, for Good Friday
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Master Gardener interns and graduates volunteer throughout the county, including in the Be More garden in Henning. Food from the garden was used in the Bags of Hope program and was given to other needy families. At right, volunteers stake tomato plants.

## Master gardeners share their knowledge, time with their communities

For those who love working with the soil, planting and encouraging flowers and plants to grow, becoming a "Master Gardener" just may appeal to you.

"It's an opportunity to expand your knowledge of gardening," said Rachel Howell, a horticultural extension agent with the Tennessee State University Cooperative Extension Program.

Master Gardeners, however, are more than people who are armed with knowledge about gardening. An important element of the program is the service learning work that Master Gardener interns and graduates do in the community, Howell said.

Operated by the

Registration for the 2019 Master Gardener class begins this fall. Contact Rachel Howell at 731-635-3101 or [rparker12@tnstate.edu](mailto:rparker12@tnstate.edu) if you are interested; she will notify you when registration begins. The cost is \$150 for one person, \$175 for a couple. Class times and dates are determined after the class is set.

Continued on the next page ...





From above left, last year's class members, pose in their "Be More" T-shirts and learn how to plant from cuttings.

## Master gardeners ...

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University of Tennessee Extension Office, the program trains and certifies volunteers who provide community service through county extension offices.

The Master Gardener program has been active in many Tennessee counties for years. Lauderdale County now offers the program; its first class of Master Gardeners graduated in January. Class members were Jean Belton, Brenda Campbell, Barbara Cartwright, Rodney Cartwright, Beth Cunningham, Mike Cunningham, Debbie Demeris, Becky Hendrix, Keith Kluttz, Rosie Lemons, Tom Scott and Carolyn Simpson.

The second class of Master Gardener interns, which started

in January, is meeting weekly to learn about many topics relating to gardening. Each week, there's a guest speaker. Topics include landscaping, vegetables and produce, basic botany, disease and pest management, and soils. Class members usually wait to do their service learning requirement until after they've gone through several classes, said Howell. They must complete 40 hours of service learning, and 20 of those hours must be a group project, she said.

The cost of the class is \$150 per person or \$175 per couple. To keep the Master Gardener certification, you must pay \$25 and complete eight hours of continuing education and 25 hours of service learning each year, Howell said.

## Volunteer wins 'Best of the Best' statewide award

On any given day, you'll find Carolyn Simpson volunteering her time somewhere — whether she's working at the Bags of Hope Food Pantry or the exhibit building at the fair or attending a meeting of one of the many community boards on which she serves.

Many of those activities are through her membership in the Lauderdale County FCE (Family, Community and Education) Clubs. Nominated by Lauderdale County FCE for a statewide award, Simpson won at the regional level and then was named the Best of the Best in FCE for the state of Tennessee.

It's a rare day that she doesn't have a meeting to attend, she said. "I have a calendar that has my whole life in it."

For more than 40 years, Simpson was a hairdresser in the Curve community. Every Monday through Thursday, she also



Carolyn Simpson won the Best of the Best FCE Award for the state of Tennessee.

building at the fair.

"It's important to make a difference," she said. "If you don't make a difference, I feel there is no reason to be here."

made lunch and took it to her family members who were working in the fields. She and her husband, Charles, raised three children.

She had to give up her shop when she started loosing feeling in her hands because of carpal tunnel.

"I retired," she said. "For weeks, I didn't know what to do with myself. Then, I just started saying 'yes' when people asked for help."

Her community boards include the Lauderdale County Commission on Aging, county Health Council and Curve Community Center Board. She volunteers at Ripley First United Methodist Church and with organizations all over the community. For years, she was in charge of the exhibit

## The right light bulbs can save you money

Nearly 11 percent of your home's electricity bill is attributed to lighting. Changing your old incandescent bulbs to new ENERGY STAR®-certified compact fluorescent lighting (CFL) and/or light-emitting diodes (LED) is a simple step you can take to make your home more energy efficient.

If every household in the United States replaced its five most frequently used incandescent bulbs with ENERGY STAR-certified bulbs, we would save about \$8 billion in annual electricity costs.

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ENERGY STAR-certified lighting saves you money because it meets strict performance requirements that are third-party-certified to provide the following benefits:

■ **Less Energy:** ENERGY STAR-certified bulbs use about 75 percent less energy than your old incandescent bulbs while producing the same amount of light.

Each ENERGY STAR-certified bulb will save about \$6 per year in electricity costs, or more than \$40 over the lifetime of the bulb, which pays for itself in about six months. For the greatest savings, install ENERGY STAR-certified bulbs in the fixtures that you leave on the longest.

■ **Less Heat:** ENERGY STAR-certified bulbs produce about 75 percent less heat than incandescent bulbs, which makes them safer to operate and reduces the amount of energy needed to cool your home in the summer.

■ **Long Life:** ENERGY STAR-certified bulbs last six to 25 times longer than incandescent light bulbs and are backed by manufacturer warranties. Since these bulbs need to be replaced less often, they're also convenient for those hard-to-reach fixtures.

### Choosing the right replacement bulb

The light from a bulb is described in two ways ...

■ **Brightness:** The amount of light produced by a light bulb is measured in lumens, not watts. The more lumens, the brighter the bulb.

However, since most consumers are familiar with the amount of light produced by incandescent bulbs, most light bulb manufacturers conveniently indicate on the packaging the equivalent incandescent wattage as a point of reference.

■ **Color Shade:** The color of light produced by a light bulb is measured in Kelvins (K). A higher number means that the light is whiter (3000K) or bluer (4100K). A lower number means that the light is more yellow (2700K). Most ENERGY STAR bulbs produce light that matches the color of incandescent bulbs in the range of 2,700K to 3,000K, but other varieties are available.

— Source: Tennessee Valley Authority

