



## NEWS RELEASE

### **Mike Browning**

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

Twitter: @cityofmborotn

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/cityofmurfreesborotn](http://www.facebook.com/cityofmurfreesborotn)

PHONE: 615-848-3245/642-3230 mobile

EMAIL: [mbrowning@murfreesborotn.gov](mailto:mbrowning@murfreesborotn.gov)

Website: [www.murfreesborotn.gov](http://www.murfreesborotn.gov)

---

## **Rutherford County Archives featured in May episode of ‘Murfreesboro Storytellers’**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** May 2, 2016

**MURFREESBORO, Tenn.** – The May edition of “Murfreesboro Storytellers” features the Rutherford County Archives, a department of county government and keeper of permanent government records, local history and genealogy in Rutherford County.

The May 2016 episode can be viewed on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/nJbTIT1mjpw>. It can also be seen on CityTV Sunday, 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Monday, 7:30 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30 a.m. and Saturday, 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Storytellers, with host John Hood, features an interview with John Lodl on the following archival topics:

- The Rutherford County Archives, a county-owned and operated facility, began operating in August of 2006 with a new \$1.3 million archives facility and John Lodl as the first director. The Archives is tasked with keeping permanent legal and historic records for the county including *older* marriage records up to 1940, wills, property tax records, court records, and some birth/death records. Some records date back to 1804.
- Director of Archives John Lodl, a Nashville native and MTSU Public History graduate, discusses the “Historic Bottoms.” The low-lying area for freed slaves following the Civil War is currently part of a 10-month land-use study initiated by the City of Murfreesboro for historic, cultural, and commercial redevelopment.
- Lodl discusses a personal struggle in locating copies of old African American newspapers such as The *Murfreesboro Union* started by Mary Ellen Vaughn around 1920.
- Lodl and the Archives are currently engaged in a project mapping small family cemeteries throughout the county. Currently, roughly 800 small cemeteries have been discovered <http://www.rutherfordcountyttn.gov/archives/projects.htm>.

- Lodl discusses requests the Archives frequently receive, including information pertaining to genealogy research, local history, exhibit research with the various local historic sites, and photographs obtained from Shacklett's Photography.

This month's Storytellers was recorded on location at the Rutherford County Archives building, a 10,000 square feet facility, located at 435 Rice Street in Murfreesboro. Storytellers is produced by CityTVs Michael Nevills.

You can watch "Murfreesboro Storytellers" on CityTV (located on Comcast Xfinity Channel 3 and AT&T Uverse channel 99) or view the program online by visiting [www.murfreesborotn.gov/storytellers](http://www.murfreesborotn.gov/storytellers).

The Rutherford County Archives' staff assists researchers seeking access to government records, genealogy requests, historical property information, and more. For more information on the Rutherford County Archives open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., visit <http://www.rutherfordcountyttn.gov/archives/> or call (615) 867-4609.

For City News online, visit [www.Murfreesborotn.gov](http://www.Murfreesborotn.gov).

**Photos attached:**

*CityTVs John Hood interviews Rutherford County Archivist John Lodl for the May edition of Storytellers' on City TV.*

1. L/R John Hood and John Lodl.