

# News from the City

## Summer 2011

5093 Murfreesboro Rd.  
La Vergne, TN 37086  
www.lavergnetn.gov



### Water, Sewer Rates Increase

As most citizens are aware, the rates for water and sewer usage increased effective June 1st. The decision to increase these fees was not easy, however several factors led up to it.

The State Comptroller's Office identified La Vergne as a distressed utility because the city was operating with a negative change in net assets for the last several years. We were spending more than we had. The city was instructed by the state to fix it or the state would. La Vergne requested the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) conduct an independent study on the water and sewer rates. The MTAS recommendation was adopted by the Board. Funds will go toward the sewer fees the city pays to Nashville for disposal of waste, the cost of producing the water provided by the Corps of Engineers, and to fix the infrastructure for better service and emergency protection (example, replacing water lines too small to handle the flow a fire truck would need to put out a blaze).

The sewer rate increased by 60 percent and the water by 40 percent (a water/sewer bill previously \$30 is now \$45).

As a result of the Board action, the State Comptroller's Office removed La Vergne from the "distressed" list on July 14<sup>th</sup>. During a formal hearing, the Water and Wastewater Financing Board stated the city is now in compliance with state regulations.

### Taxes Go Up First Time in 18 Years

As experienced in all other parts of the economy, the cost of providing basic city services has increased, including fuel, chemicals, machinery parts, and more. As a result, property tax rates increased to \$1 p/\$100 assessed value.

Following a population jump from 18,000 to 32,588 – by 74 percent – in the last decade, the city faced doubling the services provided to residents. All department directors were instructed by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to review needs for the next five years to function on a minimal budget, while also addressing the city's infrastructure currently in disrepair.

"While these increases are going to be hard on all of us given today's economy, we can expect eventual savings," said Mayor Senna Mosley. "As our insurance (ISO) rating decreases, our property insurance will also go down and we will be able to attract more business to La Vergne.

"However, what's most important is the safety of our residents. We must have adequate police and fire protection for all neighborhoods and this does not come free."

### "Like" La Vergne on Facebook & Follow Us on Twitter

Like millions of other people, companies, and governments, LaVergne has jumped into social networking in an effort to bring timely information to residents. The city now has an official Facebook page and Twitter account.

Instrumental in sharing national and international news, social networking sites can also be valuable at the local level. "I envision using these sites to keep the public informed in extreme emergencies," said Vice Mayor Chris Farmer who chairs the city's Local Emergency Planning Committee. "If you have a cell phone with texting capability, you can set it up so you are notified when the city's Twitter and Facebook pages are updated by the site administrator."

La Vergne's first official tweet was, "The City of LaVergne is now officially on Twitter! We welcome followers to keep up with news, talk, and general info!" Since then, followers of Twitter can find meeting announcements, Old Timers Festival updates and information about city events. The city's Twitter address at [www.twitter.com/LaVergne37086](http://www.twitter.com/LaVergne37086).

Fans of Facebook can now officially follow city news and join in the conversation at [www.facebook.com/LaVergneTN](http://www.facebook.com/LaVergneTN) (look for the dogwood flower). The LaVergne Public Library and the Senior Center are online as well and can be found via the City's "like" pages.

<b>E V E N T S</b>	August 12	Howl at the Moon 5K Race 8:00pm, Veterans Memorial Park
	Sept 9-11	La Vergne Pageants LaVergne Middle & Multipurpose Bldg.
	Sept 15-18	Old Timers Festival Veterans Memorial Park Carnival Rides, Sept 15-18 Free Concert-WannaBeatles, Sept 16 Country Ham Breakfast, Sept 17 Parade, Sept 17 Crafts, Food, Entertainment, Sept 17 OldTime Gospel Homecoming, Sept 18
	October 28	Gross Grub 3:00-4:00pm, LaVergne Public Library
	October 29	Trail of Treats 2:00-4:00pm, Veterans Memorial Park

Sign up for city announcements online at [www.lavergnetn.gov](http://www.lavergnetn.gov).

## 101 Critical Days of Summer

The military has a safety campaign called the "101 Critical Days of Summer." Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, the likelihood of injury or fatality hugely increases, so safety campaigns are conducted throughout the nation to increase the knowledge and understand the dangers involved with recreational activities and common summer tasks.

Typically auto crashes are the biggest source of summer injuries, caused by drinking and driving, speeding, sleepy or careless driving, and texting while driving for example.

Child safety is another huge concern. Remember, kids are kids, they are not little adults ... their minds work differently than ours and they may do other than what we expect. If there is something you don't want a kid to get into, lock it up. If you say your kid wouldn't do that, you'll probably be right at least 50 percent of the time.

### **NEVER leave a child unattended in a car!**

If you go boating or hiking, tell someone where you are going and when you will be back. Always check the weather and water conditions before leaving. Take a radio with you and listen to updated weather reports.

And finally for swimmers, never swim alone, even if you are an experienced swimmer. Don't drink and swim! Swim only at supervised areas. Never swim when exhausted, overheated, or immediately after eating. Before diving, make sure the water is deep enough. Don't depend on a tube or inflated toy for buoyancy. Whenever a storm approaches, get out of the water. Don't swim in extremely cold water.

These are just a few of many safety precautions that people should take during the summer months. Stay safe!

## City welcomes new firefighters

The LaVergne Fire Department has hired six new firefighters. Please welcome Matthew Frye, Ashley Johnson, Jamie Lawrence, John Rutledge, Cody Wilson, and Chad Williams.

"They have completed their 16 hours of training and begin fire school on August 1<sup>st</sup>," said Assistant Fire Chief Robert Kimbrough. The city now has 21 firefighters and will hire three additional firefighters every year for the next five years.

## Volunteers Needed

The Meals on Wheels program is seeking volunteers to deliver food in the La Vergne area. For more information, contact Audrey Wildes at 459-2227 or visit [www.mchra.com](http://www.mchra.com).

## Welcome New Businesses!

On behalf of City Hall, welcome these new businesses to La Vergne: Ajax Turner, Essex Distribution, HOLDRITE, Mid-State Services, Nacarato Trucks, Inc., Tottser-Iroquois, and Xpedx.

If your business is new to La Vergne and you'd like to be listed, email [ktyson@lavergnetrn.gov](mailto:ktyson@lavergnetrn.gov).

## Old Timers Festival features new events and old favorites

"New Beginnings" is the theme for this year's Old Timers Festival, an event that has grown to a multiple-day celebration for residents and visitors. Old Timers Festival is scheduled September 15-18 at Veterans Memorial Park on Floyd Mayfield Dr.

New activities planned for 2011 are designed to



enhance pride in the community. While pageants have been held in La Vergne in the past, it has been a couple of decades since a "Miss La Vergne" has been crowned. This year, the following royalty will be named:

- ☞ Little Miss La Vergne
- ☞ Little Mister La Vergne
- ☞ Young Miss La Vergne
- ☞ Young Mister La Vergne
- ☞ Junior Miss La Vergne
- ☞ Miss La Vergne

In addition, a Mr. and Ms. Old Timer will be crowned for residents aged 55 and up. For more details including pageant rules, qualifications, and grade categories, visit [www.oldtimersfestival.com](http://www.oldtimersfestival.com).

On Friday, the very popular band The WannaBeatles will perform a free concert at 7:00 pm. Sunday welcomes an Old Time Gospel Homecoming with musical performances by local churches.

Old Timers Festival is kicking off Saturday morning with the traditional country ham breakfast sponsored by the Rescue Squad, followed by the parade Saturday morning.

Other features this year are juried crafters and artisans, the popular Kids Zone with bounce castles and an animal circus, the Community Stage, and a Food Court. The stage will feature local talents, including the La Vergne High School Choir, Roy Waldron School students, and more. The food court will include a tent providing shaded seating for guests.

Throughout the festival visitors and residents can enjoy carnival rides! Come by and visit our sponsors, crafters, and civic groups the weekend of Sept 15-18!