



From the Mayor

A Look at the Year to Come

Welcome 2012! I sincerely hope it will be a happy and prosperous year for the city and members of our community. I want to take this opportunity to thank residents who have shown kindness to me, city workers, and to their neighbors during this past year.

When I took the oath of office on November 18, 2010, my first order of business was to instruct all employees to perform their jobs ethically, morally, and legally. City employees are now held accountable in their jobs because our citizens deserve professionals who are hard-working and honest. If employees are not qualified or unwilling to perform the tasks that are set before them, they are no longer allowed to just get by. On behalf of the department directors, I can say the current city employees are the cream of the crop.

Our next task was to identify public safety needs and balance these with prioritizing long overdue repairs to our water lines, sewers, and roads. It was no small challenge to figure out how to achieve this when our capital funds were exhausted. While 2011 was the year that very difficult decisions had to be made, we are now in a position where funding is now coming in.

As a result, vital infrastructure repairs have begun. Our public works employees have identified the following roads as priority paving projects for this year: Old Nashville Highway at Chaney Road, Waldron Road (near Mapco), the bridge on Carothers Rd., Dick Buchanan Rd., Lavergne Lane, Holland Ridge, Knollwood, and two sections of Sanford Road.

Additionally, sidewalk projects are underway this year, paid both through grant (including Safe Routes to School) and city funding. Sidewalks are being built along Chaney Rd (from Old Nashville to the high school), Fergus Rd (from Heritage Circle to just past Fisk Dr), and Floyd Mayfield from Sand Hill to Anna Gannon Dr.

My other primary focus is on public safety. Our aging dispatch system (CAD) must be replaced as soon as possible. Because our police have experienced dropped 9-1-1 calls, it is imperative to invest in a new system. The city also needs to add more police officers and give them the proper equipment to safely perform their jobs. We have 1.44 officers per 1,000 people, compared to 2.10 average in our region.

Continued next column ...

Mayor's Column Continued

Additionally, the newest police car we now have was purchased in 2011 after another was damaged from extensive flooding of 2010. To give you an idea of how old our fleet actually is, the police department has seven cars made in 1997, 12 cars from 1999, nine from 2000, three from 2002, three from 2004, eight from 2005, five from 2006, five from 2007, and six from 2008. One car actually has 193,000 miles on it. I am proud that our officers have taken pride enough to care for vehicles so they still look good, but – like so many other needs – we are beginning to see extensive wear and tear on this equipment.

Let's all make 2012 a year that we work together to rebuild this wonderful city we live in!

~Mayor Senna Mosley

Water intrusion found in sewer lines

Smoke testing began in December on the city's sewer system. Early results show there are multiple breaches in the sewer lines, including 10,000 gallons per day in just one spot. That single breach equates to approximately \$600 per year paid to Metro.

After a rain, the increased amount of 1.5 million gallons more per day in waste from just the Hollandale Road Pump Station after a rain demonstrates multiple water intrusions in the sewer system. The city will save at least \$20,000-30,000 per year after repairs are made.

Smoke testing will continue through the winter and spring, weather permitting. Watch for a yellow information door hanger the week before your neighborhood will be tested.

EVENTS

- | | |
|----------|---|
| March 10 | Celebrate LaVergne History, 3-5pm
Commemorate the city's rich past with museum quality antiques, photos, and living history demonstrations. |
| March 31 | LaVergne Baseball & Softball Opening Day |
| March 31 | Egg Hunt, 9am, Bicentennial Park
Games, crafts, and a massive egg hunt are held on this special spring day. |
| April 22 | Earth Day, Brookside Park
LaVergne celebrates Earth Day at the new Brookside Park. Join us as we plant flowers, trees, and spruce up the beautiful park. |

City News on Facebook, Twitter

Keep up-to-date on city activities by following us on Facebook and Twitter.

www.facebook.com/LaVergneTN
www.twitter.com/LaVergne37086

Foreclosure Prevention Help

Help is available for homeowners facing potential foreclosure. At a November event, more than 50 families were aided and 25 qualified for the "Hardest Hit Funds" – relief on their mortgage payments. The next workshop is scheduled on Saturday, March 10th from 10:00am – 4:00pm at Life of Victory Church, 599 Waldron Road. For more details, call (615) 213-1468.

Section of Waldron Road Opens

Construction crews opened a finished section of the Waldron Road expansion project in late December, relieving some travel congestion by the Interstate.

About 15 business and retail locations were relieved to see the orange barrels removed as the construction shifted to a more industrial area. Some businesses said their sales had been down by as much as 50 to 60 percent due to the construction project. Business is picking up again now that easier access is available.

Mayor Senna Mosley encourages residents to shop local. "We have a lot of really great business owners who depend on support from the local community. LaVergne offers a variety of great services and products. I hope that our residents make an effort to shop at all local businesses, but especially those on Waldron Road that have suffered both through this recession and the road construction project.

"We want to show potential businesses that we support our retailers," said Mosley. "Our success as a town is tied to the success of these businesses."

As the economy begins its recovery, La Vergne anticipates a jump in retail growth because there are an estimated 85,000 people in a five-mile radius and 1.3 million in a 30-mile radius. With several prime real estate spots for new business available, business and industry ranging from food and clothing to storage facilities are expected to locate in the area.

City Meetings

- Mar 1 Board of Mayor & Aldermen Workshop, 5pm
- Mar 8 Board of Mayor & Aldermen Meeting, 7pm
- Mar 14 Economic Development Committee, 2:30pm
- Mar 15 Senior Citizen Advisory Committee, 4pm
- Mar 20 Beer Board Meeting, 6pm
- Mar 21 Local Emergency Mgmt Committee, 3:00pm
- Mar 27 Board of Zoning Appeals, 5:30pm
Planning Commission, 6pm
- Mar 29 Board of Mayor & Aldermen Workshop, 5pm

All meetings are at City Hall unless otherwise noted.

Welcome New Businesses!

On behalf of City Hall, welcome **7 Pearls Grill, 250 Plus Cleaners, Bell Custom Metal, Colonial Carwash, Images Hair Salon & Barber Shop, Kinetic Concepts, Maria Mariah Restaurant, Nashville Machine Elevator Co., Mi Casita Regina, New Hope Income Tax, and Sole Society Boutique.**

Crime Down, Arrests Up

Four new police officers became members of the LaVergne Police Department at a swearing-in ceremony on January 5th. The officers were hired from funds put in place as part of the five-year plan city leaders adopted in early 2010.

"I am excited about the opportunity to hire four new officers," said Police Chief Mike Walker. "More boots on the street are a general deterrent for crime, along with aggressive patrols. These additions will certainly help us meet our goal of reducing crime."

The LaVergne Police Department made huge strides in crime reduction. Crimes in the following areas were down in 2011, compared to 2010: Residential burglary 13%, Business burglary 41%, Drugs 10%, Vandalism 20%, and Theft 30%.

Additionally, the number of arrests increased as follows: Burglary 68%, DUI 12%, Theft 25%, Drivers license violations 14%, and Vandalism 70%.

New patrol officers include Daniel Bean, 23, a former U.S. Marine; Stephen Hale, 35, a former U.S. Marine and current member of the Army National Guard with experience from both the Murfreesboro and Metro Nashville police departments; Travis Wilson, 28; and Matt Fracker, 32. Both Wilson and Fracker served as reserve officers prior to joining the force full-time.



Of the 48 current sworn law enforcement officers in LaVergne, nearly 20 percent began as reserve officers. These officers go through standard hire procedures that include physical and mental tests; however, they are volunteers who are able to get a feel of police work before leaving their regular jobs.

"Our officers are doing outstanding work under the quality leadership of Chief Walker," said Mayor Senna Mosley. "We are now seeing very tangible numbers from last year's planning and these fantastic results have gone beyond our wildest expectations. Congratulations to both our existing officers and to the new ones for a job well done."