



The La Vergne Chronicle

FEBRUARY 2017

La Vergne Chooses Cole and Jones

Ebuys Inc. announced the company will open a new distribution facility in La Vergne. The global online shoe retailer will create approximately 340 new jobs in Rutherford County as part of the expansion.

EVENTS:

- 2/1 La Vergne Turns 45!
- 2/4 Father and Daughter Dance
- 2/7 City Council Meeting
- 2/11 Women's Awareness and Response Class
- 3/4 Women's Awareness and Response Class
- 3/7 City Council Meeting
- 4/4 City Council Meeting
- 4/14 City Offices Closed - Good Friday

2016 Outstanding Year:

Increased general fund.
 LFD lowered their ISO rating from a 5 to a 3.
 Filled key vacancies and increased manpower.
 Road improvements: E. Nir Shreibman Blvd, Sanders Dr., Hazelwood Ln., Woodland Hills Dr., Cherokee/Carterhouse, Fergus, Hollandale, and Crestview
 New Road completed: W. Nir Shreibman to Davids Way.
 Economic Development completed: Walmart, Fiesta Azteca, Ascend Federal Credit Union
 Let's keep pushing La Vergne forward!

Jason Cole and Calvin Jones were officially sworn in December 6, 2016 prior to the La Vergne Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting. It was an especially meaningful night for Jones as he was sworn in as the first African American elected as Alderman. Jones was appointed Alderman in 2014 to fill a vacant seat that the current Mayor held. Jones credits his achievements as appointed Alderman over the past 2 years as to why the citizens chose to elect him. "I think what they saw is that we are on the road moving forward and they wanted that momentum to continue to grow," said Jones. This is the

first time Jason Cole has been elected as Alderman. Cole has been a long-time community volunteer, and has served on the Parks and Recreation Advisory committee, as Vice-



Jason Cole, Calvin B. Jones

Chairman on the Beer Board, and on the Greenway Advisory Committee. Cole is eager

to get to work. "Now we have to turn to do the work of the people by addressing the increasing crime problem and focus on bringing new retail businesses to our city." Supporters of Cole and Jones packed city hall for the swearing in ceremony and La Vergne City Judge Ed Hiland officiated the ceremony. Mayor Dennis Waldron was in attendance and said "Cole and Jones will do a great job representing La Vergne."

Did You Know?

Rutherford County is

5th

In the U.S. For Job Growth

From Feb. 2015-Feb.2016

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

More Dining Options Come to La Vergne

City officials are happy to announce that more dining options are coming to the City of La Vergne. Checkers, Dunkin' Donuts and Taco John's will be debuting in La Vergne this year. Alderman Melisa Brown said, "We are happy to be able to fulfill our citizen's requests for more restaurants in La Vergne. We hope to make more announcements about additional retail stores and restaurants in the near future." Dunkin' Donuts will be located at the corner of Floyd Mayfield and Murfreesboro Road near the Post Office, while Taco John's and Checkers will be located at the corner of Jordan Drive and Murfreesboro Road near the Suntrust Bank.

La Vergne Citizens get Opportunity to Meet with Employers

The city of La Vergne and Nashville Career Advancement Center have partnered to offer job seekers an opportunity to meet with employers looking to hire. A job and resource fair will be held February 8th from 10am-2pm at the La Vergne multi-purpose building, located next to city hall at 5093 Murfreesboro Road. Some of the employers who plan on attending are: Ajax Turner, Bridgestone, Walmart, Senior Solutions Homecare and many others. Job seekers will have the opportunity to meet with business professionals and career coaches.



A Road Trip Down Old Nashville Highway

By: Rachel Heggen



“Roads tell the greatness of a nation.”

President Theodore Roosevelt



Since joining the city of La Vergne, I can't help but notice the very old overpass that crosses the narrow road known today as Old Nashville Highway. Discussion of this road piqued my interest when La Vergne Mayor Dennis Waldron decided to bring the topic up in a recent Board of Mayor and Alderman meeting. It has been said that "Roads are a record for those who have gone before," and I couldn't help but ask myself: "How this road did become the Old Nashville Highway that we travel so often today?"

Old Nashville Highway was previously named "The Dixie Highway," or US 41-70, with the purpose of connecting the North to the South. It was part of National Auto Trail system, and grew out of an earlier Miami to Montreal highway. The idea of connecting the two regions was that of the automotive and real estate entrepreneur, Carl G. Fisher. Fisher served on the Lincoln Highway Association which organized the Lincoln Highway, the first road across the United States. He then brought the idea to Chattanooga in 1914. At this time, most southern states had thin and often treacherous dirt roads – those became extremely difficult to travel during severe weather. Flash flooding in particular brought hazardous conditions for travelers, causing mud slides and flooding. Though automobiles were available at this time, they really only appeared to a niche market, so these dangerous dirt roads were mostly traveled by horse and buggy. Residents in La Vergne also say that rocks covered the road at one time giving it an ancient Roman look. Late in the 19th century, the federal government instituted the Rural Free Delivery service, offering mail delivery to farmers, freeing them from hours spent traveling to and from town for mail pick up. In response to the US Post Office's refusal to accept applications for delivery where the

roads were not passable throughout the year, farmers began to improve their local roads and joined Good Roads associations. The Dixie Highway was overseen by the Dixie Highway Association, and funded by a group of individuals, businesses, local governments, and states. However, The Dixie Highway Association was disbanded in 1927 when the U.S. Route system took over. With the completion of The Dixie Highway, small rural towns like La Vergne became more accessible, bringing a much needed economic impact. The western route ran from Nashville, on US412 to the Sam Davis home in Smyrna, then to Murfreesboro continuing south to Tullahoma, and eventually hitting East Tennessee in Chattanooga. From here, the highway would run through Georgia farther away from Tennessee. Country artist Alan Jackson wrote and sang about those parts in his song titled "Dixie Highway."

Years after the completion of the Dixie Highway, the state decided to change the name of the highway to Old Nashville Highway. In La Vergne, Old Nashville Highway runs under a railroad overpass that still stands today. Larger trucks couldn't go under the railroad overpass and had to travel through Mrs. Annie "Tude's" Bruer's place and pay a small fee in the 1920s. Below are pictures of when the underpass flooded in La Vergne. Fisher may not have ever realized that his idea of a road connecting the

north to the south had in fact helped fill the dark chasm that was left with the American people after the Civil War. This highway brought people together, and produced more businesses and opportunities for small towns. The industrial revolution was booming, making way for more opportunities. Today, the Old Nashville Highway isn't much different than it was in the late 1920s, with the exception of an increase in commuters and higher-quality road infrastructure. Recently, La Vergne Mayor Dennis Waldron proposed "getting the ball rolling" when it came to plans to widen the highway. "I want to decrease traffic congestion, and allow for a smoother route for motorists traveling to and from Smyrna," said Waldron. "It is our turn to further progress Old Nashville Highway." The city is currently looking for funding to purchase rights-of-way, and looking to eventually get design plans in place. President Theodore Roosevelt once said, "Roads tell the greatness of a nation" – what will Old Nashville Highway tell of La Vergne in years to come?

References:

Tennessee's Dixie Highway: The Cline Postcards
The Tennessee State Library and Archives
Margie Murphy - La Vergne Historian

LA VERGNE TURNS 45!

On February 1st, 1972 La Vergne had it's incorporation election and on February 29th the city of La Vergne held it's first city council meeting. We at La Vergne are honored that our city has reached this milestone. Have an old timey memory from when the city of La Vergne was just starting out? Email your story to Rheggen@lavernetn.gov

