



# The La Vergne Chronicle

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[www.lavergnetn.gov](http://www.lavergnetn.gov)

## Mayor Waldron Gives 2017 State of City Address



### Dates to Remember:

- 9/4 Offices Closed - Labor Day
- 9/5 City Council Meeting
- 9/6-9 Carnival at Veteran's Park
- 9/9 Old Timers Festival
- 9/22 Music in the Park
- 9/28 City Council Workshop
- 10/03 City Council Meeting
- 10/20 Howl at the Moon 5K
- 10/28 Trail of Treats
- 11/02 City Council Workshop
- 11/07 City Council Meeting

To the citizens of the great city of La Vergne: first of all, thank you for allowing me to serve you over the years as alderman and as Mayor. Two years ago, you gave me the honor to serve the city I love as Mayor, and I will forever be in your debt for that distinction. I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on the state of our city and to discuss our priorities, goals, and proposals for the upcoming fiscal year. First, I would like to reflect on our accomplishments. It is no secret that La Vergne is growing. That growth has attracted franchise developers who have invested in our city and have provided us with more dining and shopping options. Since 2015, economic development in our city has led to the additions of: Bojangles, Checkers, Taco Johns, Dunkin' Donuts, Fiesta Azteca, Ascend Federal Credit Union, Margarita House, Streetside Classic Cars, Advance Auto Supply Center, Pool and Spa Depot, Mason Square Family Dental, Ebuys and Hot Topic distribution centers. The remodeling of the McDonald's and Waffle House off of Waldron Road has helped to modernize the franchises previously in place. The grand opening of Walmart is an achievement I know we are all especially proud of. The sales tax revenue has already boosted the city's budget, providing funding

for more growth in La Vergne. The Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce has reported that in the 2015-2016, over 1,000 new jobs were created. It is estimated that in 2017 over 1,000 additional new jobs will be available to citizens. In our city parks, we completed the Veterans Memorial Wall and are expecting to open the second phase of the Hurricane Creek Greenway this summer. While other cities are struggling with rising taxes, La Vergne is financially sound, and this stability has led to a decrease in city debt. We have lowered property taxes, while still improving infrastructure, updating equipment, and increasing staff. The city has increased the police and fire department budgets by over a million dollars. In 2016 alone, we completed over 75 drainage projects and have applied for over 2 million dollars in state and federal grants. The city has also received submittals of 16 major commercial and industrial development site plans. To further bolster our economic growth, La Vergne hired Buxton Customer Analytics to help with economic recruiting. La Vergne is now ranked in the top 10% of Tennessee cities that are financially stable, and the lowering of the ISO rating from 5 to 3 allows our citizens to save money on their insurance Premiums.

These achievements would not be a reality without the hard work and dedication of the employees of the city of La Vergne. Their diligence and determination has made this progress possible. Our city is stronger than ever before, which is only possible because of the spirit of our community, rising to the occasion to meet any challenge or tackle any crisis. Though we are a strong city, we do have our challenges. In the 2017 fiscal year, La Vergne plans to continue to replace outdated city equipment, provide more in-depth training to city employees, and increase city employment in needed areas. We will also continue to work on reducing the city's water loss issues, and we hope to purchase land for future city needs, begin preliminary work on widening Old Nashville Highway and a future splash pad, all while continuing to improve our existing city streets and infrastructure. We have motivated ourselves to keep pushing forward and continue transitioning into an economically booming city that attracts even more economic interest. We are not waiting for a better future in La Vergne, we are *building* one. That future is only a possibility if we all work together for the greater good. Thank you for your time and thank you La Vergne!

*- Mayor Dennis Waldron*

### Citizens Police Academy

The La Vergne Police Dept. believes good citizen-police interactions and cooperation are necessary for an exceptional quality of life in the community. The way to achieve this goal is through an exchange of ideas and education. The Citizen Police Academy (CPA) at the La Vergne Police Dept. is an excellent

way to achieve this end. Across the country, this idea has been met with enthusiasm. Once a week for 12 weeks, the Citizen Police Academy meets from 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm at the Police Dept. behind City Hall. For more info call (615) 793-7744

*"We strive on a daily basis to make this city safer."  
- Chief Walker."*

**New Hires, Transfers and Promotions**

**June 2017**

- Debbie McClendon - Asst. Library Director
- Jacob Morris - PT Library Clerk
- Nathan Winters - Parks General Laborer

**July 2017**

- Chadwick Hulshof - PRN Firefighter
- Christopher Atkin - Fire Lieutenant
- Curtis Brinkley - Fire Life Safety Officer
- Elaine Scruggs - Fire Admin. Asst.
- Jacob Welbaum - PRN Firefighter
- John Bolen - Firefighter
- Jonathan Armstrong - PRN Firefighter
- Justin Anderson - PRN Firefighter
- Keith Holtje - Firefighter
- Kemishia Sadler - City Court Clerk
- Kevin Douglas - Fire Lieutenant
- Matthew Frye - Fire Lieutenant
- Michael Blanks - Building Inspector
- Nicholas Davis - Firefighter
- Bo Logan - City Planner
- Shane Richardson - Fire Engineer
- William Abernathy - Fire Engineer



Did you know that the La Vergne Food Bank has re-branded? Now called Nourish, this food bank serves to feed as many hungry people in our community, and to make residents of La Vergne and Smyrna and surrounding communities aware of food assistance by their neighbors. For more info visit [www.nourishfoodbank.org](http://www.nourishfoodbank.org).

# Crime Drops in La Vergne

Though calls for service are up, the crime rate itself has dropped in La Vergne this year. LPD Chief Mike Walker says, "When we look at our reported crimes for the first six months of the calendar year (Jan-Jun 2016 vs 2017), crimes are down 38.9%! This is a decrease of 992 reported crimes." At this point in 2016, La Vergne's crimes against persons were at 781 -- that number has dropped significantly to 441 so far in 2017. So why has crime dropped, while calls for service have increased? "Calls for service" include any request for an Officer, as well as any Officer-initiated call. Incident reports are not always crime related. "I am very proud to see the decrease in crime. We strive on a daily basis to make this city safer," said Chief Walker. He credits the decrease to aggressive and targeted patrols, data-driven patrols, and the hard working men and women on his team." He also credits watchful citizens who are "always alerting police when they see something suspicious." Recently, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen approved the budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018, which included an additional 3 new police officer positions. If you are interested in joining La Vergne Police Department, go to the city's website at [www.lavergnetn.gov](http://www.lavergnetn.gov).

## LFD to get a new Sutphen Rescue Pumper

In July, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen approved the purchase of a new Sutphen rescue pumper for the La Vergne Fire Department. The need came about after ongoing maintenance for two of the older trucks became too costly. "We really are in need of at least one new truck. Currently, we do not have housing for a second truck," said Chief McCormick. The city is purchasing a demo pumper at a reduced cost. The new truck should be delivered to the city in October.



### Old Timers Festival - Sept. 9th!

We are excited to announce this years Old Timers Festival theme is "Our Roots Run Deep"...celebrating 45 years of the City of La Vergne. Our first female Mayor Ms. Shirley Winfree will be our Grand Marshal! We are currently taking applications for vendors and floats for our parade. Go to [www.lavergnetn.gov](http://www.lavergnetn.gov) to sign up!



### City Receives \$500K HOME Grant!

The Tennessee Housing Development Agency has awarded and presented the City with a \$500,000 HOME Grant. This grant will be used to make repairs for local homeowners who cannot afford to bring their homes up to code.

Don't forget the Farmer's Market! It's held every Tuesday through September from 3 pm to 7 pm at the Bicentennial Park between City Hall and the Library.

