



La Vergne Chronicle

November

LFD Battalion Chief Certified as Fire Officer IV

One of the La Vergne Fire Department firefighters is now a certified Fire Officer IV through the State of Tennessee Fire Commission.

Battalion Chief Marcus Harney was certified on October 4th after passing the Fire Officer IV test. The course teaches those enrolled about on scene command and control, leadership skills, administration and human resources, as well as fire and incident command. Harney says "training like this means not sitting still. It helps me progress as a person and as a member of this department. This profession changes every day. If you're not willing to keep up, you'll get lost and that means the department will get lost as well."

Only 57 firefighters in Tennessee have earned the rank of Fire Officer IV since its inaugural graduating class in March 2018.

"As the new Chief, I want to take us to a new level," says Fire Chief Chris Clark, "and that starts with training like this. When our people decide to go above and beyond to become more knowledgeable, it takes us to a new level and provides progression in the department. We encourage training, not only at a firefighter level but also at a leadership level."

Three LFD employees are currently enrolled in the Fire Officer III course. The La Vergne Fire Department requires its lieutenants to be Fire Officer I certified and requires its Battalion Chiefs to be Fire Officer II certified.

Harney has been in the fire profession for 19 years, first serving for the Giles County Volunteer Fire Department. Harney served as Chief of the volunteer department for two years before retiring from their department and working full time for the City of La Vergne Fire Rescue Department in 2012.

The two-week course is designed for Fire Department Chief and Company Officers who are preparing to enter upper management level of their department. The objective of this course is to develop the Chief Officer for the administrative and operational challenges of the fire service in the 21st century.



2019 Property Taxes Due for La Vergne Residents

Property Taxes have been sent out by the City of La Vergne Tax Department. The tax rate is currently \$0.71 per \$100 of assessed value.

The rate was set by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen in June. Assessment rates for residential properties are 25% of the appraised value, 40% of the appraised value for commercial properties and 30% of the declared value for personal properties. Property taxes are due by February 29, 2020. Taxes paid after that date will be charged 1.5% interest each month they are due. Courtesy bills were

sent the first week of October. Property taxes can be paid by cash, check or money order at City Hall.

There are two assistance programs available for those who qualify. The property tax relief program is for applicants over 65 years old with a maximum income of \$29,860. For questions or assistance contact Tax Specialist Becci Steed at (615) 287-8676 or email bsteed@lavergnenetn.gov. There is also a senior tax freeze, which is available through the Rutherford County Trustee's office. To apply or for more details, call (615) 898-7705.

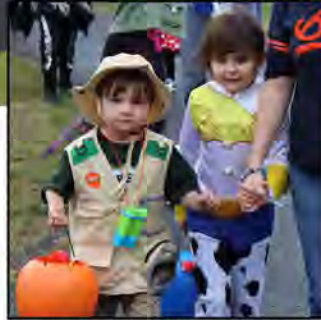
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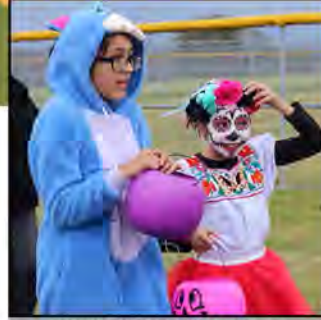
GOBLINS AND GOODIES AT THE PARK



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Board & Committee Opportunities

Are you interested in giving back to the community? Then you may want to serve on one of our various boards or committees! Applications are available online at www.lavergnetn.gov. Applications can be returned to City Hall or emailed to brichardson@lavergnetn.gov.

There are several vacancies at this time:

- Construction Board of Adjustment and Appeals. (One term is vacant.)
- Greenway Advisory Committee. (One term is vacant.)
- Historical Preservation Advisory Committee. (One term is vacant.)
- Planning Commission. (One term expires 10/31/19.)
- Senior Citizens Advisory Committee. (One term is vacant.)
- Stormwater Appeals and Advisory Board. (One term is vacant.)

Veterans Day Celebration

In honor of the Veterans who have served in the armed forces, the City of La Vergne will be holding its annual Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11 at Veterans Memorial Park located at 115 Floyd Mayfield Drive.

The ceremony will begin at 11:00 a.m. We will have speakers and will spend some time honoring and thanking military veterans. More details and a list of speakers will be available at a later date.

The Parks and Recreation Department will be offering flags that can be purchased for \$10 to honor your veteran. The flag will be a 3' x 5' American flag attached to a 6 ft. pole that will also display your veteran's information. Anyone who has served honorably in the armed forces or is currently on active duty is eligible to be put on the wall. The cost of a brick is \$35 and you may select up to 4 lines, with 21 characters per line (including spaces and symbols).

For more information, or to purchase a flag or brick, contact Parks and Recreation at (615) 793-3224.

Channel 3 Down for Upgrades

The system upgrade has been completed for La Vergne's government access Channel 3 but it will still be some time before the signal can be restored. Staff is working with TDS, Comcast and AT&T to fix a connection error and restore the signal. Videos of all city meetings are available on the City's YouTube account, [LaVergne37086](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC37086). At this time there is no estimated timeframe for the signals to be restored. For questions, contact (615) 287-8678.

Parade of Lights

The Parks and Recreation Department is now accepting applications for the 10th annual Parade of Lights, which is scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. on December 7, 2019.

This year's theme is the 12 Days of Christmas. A Grand Marshal has not yet been selected. The parade will start at Veterans Memorial Park and travel along Murfreesboro Road, ending at City Hall.

All parade participants are being asked to decorate their cars, floats, or signs with lights for the event which takes place after dark. In addition, no candy or other handouts are allowed to be tossed along the parade route for safety reasons. Candy may be handed out by walkers.

Hot chocolate and cookies will be available at City Hall after the parade. The La Vergne High School Choraliers will perform holiday songs and, after the lighting of the tree, the evening will end with the free fireworks show for the community.

Santa and Mrs. Claus have already told city staff they will make a special stop in La Vergne for the Parade and will sit with kids and families to hear what they want for Christmas and for free pictures.

To participate in the parade, applications must be sent in to Parks and Recreation by November 29th at 4:30 PM. Applications are available online at www.lavergnetn.gov or print copies can be picked up at Parks and Recreation or at City Hall. It is free to participate. Volunteers are also needed to help with the parade. For questions or to sign up to volunteer, contact (615) 793-3224.

Police Collecting Food, Toys for Christmas Drive

The La Vergne Police Department is asking for donations that will be handed out to those in need this holiday season.

Every year, the F.O.P. Percy Priest Lodge #85 collects donations for the Christmas for Kids and Seniors program, which has helped hundreds of La Vergne residents by providing meals, clothing, toys and basic toiletries. Nearly all members of Lodge #85 are officers of the La Vergne Police Department and the City of La Vergne donates \$3,000 dollars to the program every year.

Non-perishable items such as canned foods, dried goods, chips, peanut butter, etc. will go in Thanksgiving

and Christmas food boxes. They are also asking for basic toiletries like toilet paper, tooth brushes and tooth paste, hair brushes, shampoo and conditioner and deodorant. Only new clothing and winter items such as coats, gloves, socks, hats and scarves will be accepted and only new, unwrapped toys for children will be accepted.

All donations can be dropped off all day, every day at the La Vergne Police Department, located behind City Hall at 5093 Murfreesboro Road. All donations are tax exempt through Lodge #85.

For more information, contact Sgt. Sheree Robertson at srobertson@lavergnenetn.gov.

City Leaders Focus on Economic Development



Economic development has been a major focal point for elected officials and staff as they city looks to the future.

Mayor Jason Cole, Economic Development Specialist Thomas Broeker, and Assistant Julie Wilson have attended several nationwide conferences this fiscal year, most recently a conference in Chicago, to promote the City of La Vergne and its economic potential to

developers, retailers and businesses looking to come to the middle Tennessee area. The conferences provide a great opportunity to present all the strengths La Vergne has to offer to a wide variety of developers and business who all have different visions to find what works best for La Vergne and best fulfills the City's needs.

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen recently appointed an Industrial Development Board (IDB) that will promote and actively pursue economic development and redevelopment within the city. This board will lay out an Economic Development Impact Plan and have many tools at its disposal including Tax Incremental Financing and Payments in Lieu of Taxes to promote manufacturing, industrial, and commercial growth within La Vergne.

La Vergne's elected officials and city staff are working hard and are excited about what the future will bring for the city and its residents.

Picture (left to right): Asst. City Administrator Kyle Brown, Mayor Jason Cole, Vice-Mayor Melica Brown, PR Specialist Anne Smith, Alderman Calvin Jones, Economic Development Specialist Thomas Broeker

Playground Closed for Repairs

The Lake Forest Playground will be temporarily closed for several weeks. The rubber surfacing was destroyed and is



not safe to play on. The swings in the park have also been removed until repairs can be made. Follow the La Vergne Parks and Recreation Department's Facebook page for updates.

HOWL AT THE MOON 5K



Josh Coleman and Lexie Labac
Top Male and Female Finishers

Employee Spotlight

Mary Brent was hired as an assistant to the Children's Librarian at the La Vergne Public Library in 1998. They would research brain games and different ways to increase children's learning abilities. Several years later Mary shifted roles and went on to work in the regular library section where she's been ever since. "I really love the library and everything it stands for," says Ms. Brent. "It is a light for the community and a place to come for any need you have."

Mary was born in and grew up in Madison, Tennessee. Growing up they always had a large garden where they'd plan hundreds of yards of butter beans. She has two older brothers, John and George.

Mary has enjoyed a lot of books and series but one of her favorites is the Bible. Her dad read it all the way through to her and her siblings twice when they were growing up. "Reading the Bible has made a big difference in our lives. I would have to say now that the reason it is my favorite book is because it is the instruction book my maker has given me to guide my life and I think my borthers would say the same thing."

A lot of her coworkers tease her for being a "speedster" because she's gotten a couple of tickets. Mary has always enjoyed go-carting as well as paticipating in sports like basketball, softball, roller skating, and even hang gliding. Now, however, she enjoys crafting, crochet and working in her flower beds or vegetable patch.



Mary Brent

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- November 11 - Veterans Day Ceremony
- November 28 - Thanksgiving Day (Offices Closed)
- November 29 - Black Friday (Offices Closed)
- December 7 - Parade of Lights
- December 24 - Christmas Eve (Offices Closed)
- December 25 - Christmas Day (Offices Closed)

NEW EMPLOYEES

- Danielle Barker - TIBRS/NIBRS Specialist
- Donald Bebout - PT Senior Center Assistant
- Madeline Berry - Evidence Property Tech
- Lilliam Blasingame - PT Library Clerk
- Joshua Boswell - Street Laborer
- Ayman Boulad - PT Library Clerk
- Danny Hatcher - Street Laborer
- Marta Smith - Library Clerk
- Ryan Travis - Fire Fighter
- Winston Yancy - Fire Fighter

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Workshops (6:30 pm)

- November 5
- December 3

Meetings (7:00 pm)

- November 7
- December 5

CITY DEPARTMENTS

City Court	615-287-8630
City Hall	615-793-6295
Codes Department	615-213-2624
Economic Development	615-793-6295
Finance Department	615-287-8629
Fire Department	615-287-5832
Human Resources	615-287-8622
Parks and Recreation	615-793-3224
Police Department	615-793-7744
Public Library	615-793-7303
Public Relations	615-287-8690
Public Works	615-793-9891
Tax Department	615-793-3388
Water & Sewer Billing	615-793-5932

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Jason Cole	615-308-3565
Vice-Mayor Melisa Brown	615-653-0787
Alderman Matt Church	615-499-2731
Alderman Calvin Jones	615-653-8075
Alderman Steve Noe	615-490-4602

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