



Employee Spotlight

Lt. Chris Goins has been with the La Vergne police department for 23 years, rising in the ranks to become one of five department lieutenants.

Originally from Murfreesboro, Lt. Goins put himself through the Academy before applying for and becoming part of LPD. He's an avid crafter and enjoys working with his hands, building furniture and doing remodeling around his house. He also enjoys traveling.

One of the proudest moments of his career is when officers who he trains or supervises get promoted or awarded. "I am blessed to have had several of these moments in my career," says Lt. Goins.

Last year Lt. Goins was involved in a pursuit that ended with a shooting that was highly publicized. "It changed a lot," he said. "No one got hurt and we arrested the guy but it was still one of the scariest moments of my career."

One thing Lt. Goins wants the public to know is that he and his fellow officers are just like the average citizen. "We're humans just doing a job. Most of the time it's thankless but it's a job I'm proud to do and I'll continue to do it until I can't do it anymore."



Lt. Chris Goins

Before retiring Lt. Goins says he'd love to see a new facility for LPD. "That tops my priority list. It's the same building I started in 23 years ago when we were a much smaller department serving a much smaller population."

City Awarded \$2M Grant for Murfreesboro Road Improvements

The City of La Vergne Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) Project has been approved by the Tennessee Department of Transportation, awarding more than \$2.6 million for improvements to Murfreesboro Road.

The project's purpose is to install sidewalks along the entirety of Murfreesboro Road as well as crosswalks to every lighted intersection.

"This is another step forward for our great city," says Mayor Jason Cole. "We are providing safe alternatives for traveling down Murfreesboro Road while also improving the look of the entire area."

The grant will be funded with \$2,675,750 in federal CMAQ funds and will require a match from the city of \$86,150. The total project cost and the federal and local match amounts are subject to change.

"I am so excited for La Vergne to receive this grant for sidewalks and crosswalks along Murfreesboro Road," says Vice-Mayor Melisa Brown. "This will greatly improve the City's walkability and safety on the main thoroughfare. It's a win for all La Vergne residents."

The project has been a long time coming, says Alderman Steve Noe. "I think this is a great asset to the city. I believe it's something that we have needed for a long time not only for safety but also to improve the looks of Murfreesboro Road."

Alderman Calvin Jones commented, "I think it's a well needed project and will really benefit the citizens of La Vergne and anyone else who travels along Murfreesboro Road."

This project must have the construction funding authorized by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) by July 16, 2023.

Citizen of the Year 2020

Mayor Jason Cole has selected the 2020 Citizen of the Year as part of his initiative for honoring citizens who make a difference in the community. This year's recipient is Melissa Joyner.

Joyner is the wife of a La Vergne Police officer and is very involved in the Tennessee Strikers youth baseball/softball program, working hard to make sure the program is successful and as many children are able to participate as possible. She's also very involved with the Fraternal Order of Police Percy Priest Lodge #85 which is mostly made up of LPD officers. Joyner has also been very involved with

the community at Christmas time, going above and beyond to help families in need during the holidays.

The Citizen of the Year award was started in 2019 as a way for citizens to be recognized for their contributions and volunteerism for the community of La Vergne.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- August 14 - Movies in the Park
- October 2 - Howl at the Moon 5K
- October 17 - Old Timers' Festival

NEW EMPLOYEES

- Ronny Beasley - Fire Chief
- Jacob Smith - Street Laborer
- Esmeralda Wilson - Exec. Admin Asst.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Workshops (6:30 pm) | Meetings (7:00 pm) |
| July 30 | August 4 |
| August 27 | September 1 |

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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



City Buildings Remain Closed

As the Coronavirus pandemic continues to escalate, the City of La Vergne has chosen to keep the doors to city buildings closed to ensure the safety of residents and city staff.

The lobby closures began in late March. Staff has been reevaluating the closure on a weekly basis to determine the time frame for these temporary measures. This includes City Hall (5093 Murfreesboro Rd.), Stormwater (5175 Murfreesboro Rd.), Parks and Recreation (294 Sand Hill Rd.), and Public Works (148 International Blvd.).

City staff is making every effort to ensure citizens can still conduct city business in a timely and safe manner. Water billing, property taxes, business licenses and city court will all operate out of the City Hall drive thru. Payments can also be paid online by visiting lavergnen.gov and clicking "Online Payments" or by dropping off cash, check or money order at the drive thru dropbox or behind City Hall. Water bills can also be paid over the phone by calling (844) 347-8367.

Everyone is encouraged to conduct business online but if you have questions please contact the corresponding city building for assistance:

City Hall – (615) 793-6295; City Court, Tax Department/ Business Licenses, Water Billing Department

Parks and Recreation – (615) 793-3224

Public Works – (615) 793-9891; Street Department, Water Department, Sewer Department

Stormwater Building – (615) 213-2624; Codes, Engineering, Planning, Stormwater



City Brush Truck Operations

The City of La Vergne Public Works department wants to remind citizens about daily brush truck operations.

Two brush trucks are able to cover the entire city over a six-week period and are actively working, weather permitting. Recently, it has been difficult to run the brush truck as the department was assisting in clean up efforts for the recent Wilson County tornado and has been on a modified work schedule until recently due to COVID-19.

For citizens who need brush disposal more often than the City provides, free brush disposal for Rutherford County residents is offered by Rutherford County (not the City) at Murfreesboro Mulching Operation, 4765 Florence Road, Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

The Department strives to maintain this schedule; however, it may be altered during times of heavy workload or inclement weather. If there are any questions regarding this service or these guidelines, please call Public Works at 615-793-9891.

Trade School Planned for La Vergne

A new business is planning to expand into La Vergne in the near future.

Mid-South Carpenters Regional Council Training Trust Fund provides "one of the top carpenter and millwright apprenticeship and journeyman upgrade training programs in the nation" according to their website. They will be opening a new training center in La Vergne. The new facility is expected to be completed in mid-2021.

"This is an exciting time for La Vergne," says Mayor Jason Cole. "We are expanding in so many great industries and are attracting more businesses to set up shop in La Vergne for our citizens."



Basketball, Tennis Courts Open After Resurfacing, Striping Project

The Parks and Recreation department is happy to announce the newly resurfaced basketball and tennis courts have been reopened.

The courts at Veterans Memorial Park are almost 20 years old and have never been resurfaced. Both projects took about a week each to complete. The tennis court was finished at the end of June and basketball court was finished in the first part of July. The tennis court was also striped for pickleball to allow for more sport options for residents.

"We're excited to have these newly resurfaced courts available for residents," says Parks Director David McGowen. "A lot of folks use the courts every week and we're proud of just how good the courts look now."

The cost for resurfacing and striping the courts cost \$14,500 for the basketball court and \$14,400 for the tennis court.



Former Fire Chief Donates Family Piano to Library

The family of former fire chief Chris Clark has donated an antique piano to the La Vergne Public Library. The piano is from the early 1920's and has been in Emily Clark's family for more than 50 years, first being owned by her grandparents Jack and Evelyn Hiett.

"This was the fun piano growing up," says Emily Clark. "It feels good to know it's going to be taken care of and we appreciate the library's willingness to add it to their collection."

"La Vergne has taken great care of my family," added Chris Clark. "There's a lot of great memories here and when Alderman Jones suggested putting the piano here we were very excited to feel like we could give something to the community that has a special place in our hearts."

The piano will be added to a new collection in the library that showcases the history of La Vergne. Once tuned, it will be available for any library patron who wishes to play. "The library is the heart of the community," says Library Director Donna Bebout. "It's going to be that much more special to anyone who comes in to know the piano came from the Clark family."

"As soon as I heard the piano needed a new home I knew we had to find it a spot at the library," said Alderman Calvin Jones. "Reading and music are two great things that bring people together and we're glad we could do that for this community."

Library staff plan to formally dedicate the piano with a plaque. A date has not yet been set.

