



La Vergne Chronicle

September

City Building Lobbies Reopen to Public

The City of La Vergne will be reopening its building lobbies beginning September 1.

At City Hall, visitors are required to wear a mask and check in with a front desk receptionist who will direct them to the appropriate office. If an office is at capacity then the Board Room will serve as an overflow waiting area. There will be hand sanitizer stations and staff will be cleaning high touch surfaces on a regular basis as per CDC guidelines.

Lobbies at Public Works, Stormwater, and Parks and Recreation will be limited as to the number of people allowed in their lobbies at any given time. Masks will be required. Hand sanitizing stations are set up at all building lobbies and staff will be constantly cleaning and wiping down high touch surfaces. The La Vergne Police Department and Fire Administration building will also be open to the public starting September 1.

The La Vergne Public Library will be opening to patrons beginning September 8. There will be no seating, no programs, and no meeting rooms available to the public at this time. Visitors are required to wear masks and are encouraged to use social distancing and the provided hand sanitizing stations. For the time being the library will be closing at 7:00 p.m. to give staff additional time to clean the building each day.

No date has been set for the reopening of the La Vergne Senior Center.

“The numbers have shown a steady decline,” says Mayor Jason Cole. “Because of that, we feel now is the appropriate time to reopen to the public, but we will continue to evaluate on a regular basis so we can best protect citizens and our employees.”



Application Window Closes for November Election

Three alderman positions are up for election this November. Two alderman positions are four-year terms while one position is a special two-year term.

The two-year term will be a separate item on the ballot from the other two four-year Alderman positions. Applicants cannot run for both the four-year and two-year terms.

Graeme Coates was chosen by the Board of Mayor and Alderman in August to fill the

vacant seat left by Matt Church following his resignation in July. Coates will only serve until the November election at which time the winner of the special election will be sworn in.

Early voting will be from October 14 through October 29. Election day is November 3. The last day to register to vote is October 5.

A full sample ballot is available online on the Rutherford County Election Commission's website.

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Halloween 2019



Halloween 2019



Halloween 2019



Halloween 2019

Police Chief Announces Retirement Property Tax Relief

The City of La Vergne is preparing to bid farewell to its police chief after nearly a decade of service. Chief Mike Walker announced his upcoming retirement at the Thursday night Board of Mayor and Aldermen workshop.

Chief Walker was sworn-in in August of 2011. He was recently retired from the Tennessee Highway Patrol after serving there for 33 years and earning the rank of colonel. His last day will be September 7, 2020.

“My love, care, and devotion to each of you has not diminished, nor will it ever,” says Chief Mike Walker. “The nine years I have spent with you have been some of the best of my life... [this job] has given me the opportunity to work along-side some of the best and most competent law enforcement professionals I have ever known.”

“It breaks my heart to see him go but we all have lives to live and families to love on,” says Mayor Jason Cole. “I wish nothing but the best and will cherish the time we’ve had together over the years.”

“Chief Walker will be greatly missed. He is an outstanding leader and has had a tremendous impact to everyone in the city, including me,” says City Administrator Bruce Richardson. “He has made many needed changes to the Police Department over the years and the city is much better because of it. We will begin the process of choosing an interim chief to lead the department through this transition period.”



Tax relief is available for those who may need help with their upcoming property taxes. Relief varies based on property assessment and the tax rate. To apply, or if you have any questions, contact the city’s Tax Specialist Becci Steed at (615) 793-3388.

Courtesy tax bills are sent in early October. Taxes are due by February 28th. They can be paid with cash or check in person at the tax department window, by mail, or left in the dropbox at City Hall.

Eligibility Requirements	Elderly	Disabled	Disables Veteran Homeowner	Widow(er) of Disabled Veteran Homeowner
Must be 65 by 12/31/2020	YES	NO	NO	NO
Must own home & use as primary residence	YES	YES	YES	YES
Max. income for applicant, spouse & all owners of property	TBA	TBA	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Must be totally & permanently disabled on or before 12/31/2020	NO	YES	YES	NO

Fire Explorer Program

Is your son or daughter interested in the fire profession or just wanting to learn skills that will help them mature and succeed in life? The La Vergne Fire Explorer program is now accepting applications for new recruits.

The program is run through the Boy Scouts of America and the La Vergne Fire Marshal’s office. Registration is open to any teenager between 14 and 18 years old and each explorer may remain with the program until the age of 21. The La Vergne explorers will have the opportunity to learn the basic skills needed to become a firefighter including the advanced technical skill also taught to fire personnel.

Once minimum qualifications have been met La Vergne fire explorers will have the opportunity to conduct ride alongs and assist fire personnel on emergency calls. Applications can be filled out online at www.lavergnethn.gov/480/Fire-Explorers-Program.

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Employee Spotlight

Lt. Donald Whitley has been with the City of La Vergne for more than 20 years. He first started his career with the city in 2002, working in the Parks and Recreation department. He later began working for the Fire Department in 2008 when it was still privately owned. The city later purchased the fire department in 2014.

Lt. Whitley is a big outdoorsman and enjoys bass fishing on Percy Priest Lake. He also enjoys hunting and playing softball.

“There’s so many memories, it’s hard to pick just one,” Lt. Whitley said when asked what his favorite memory was while working for the city. “I was excited when the city purchased the fire department. I had a lot of time invested in the city and it was great to rejoin that community.”

Lt. Whitley is originally from La Vergne. “I’m a hometown kid,” he says. “I grew up here. I’m a LHS grad and in 1998 was a starter for the baseball team.”

His favorite part about working for the city fire department is the family atmosphere. “We always do what we can to help our fellow firefighters reach and achieve their goals. We can count on each other and without that relationship we’d just fall apart.”

Lt. Whitley says he has always wanted to work for a city government because his father also worked for a city government. “The only difference is everything I do, I do for La Vergne.”



Lt. Donald Whitley

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- October 2 - Howl at the Moon 5K
- October 17 - Old Timers' Festival
- October 23 - Zombie Walk
- October 24 - Goblins and Goodies

NEW EMPLOYEES

- Alexandra Stark - Stormwater Coordinator
- Ethan Bogle - Meter/Leak Detection Tech

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Workshops (6:30 pm)

- October 1
- November 12

Meetings (7:00 pm)

- October 6
- November 17

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