



Tax Relief approved for seniors and disabled veterans & residents

An ordinance that establishes a property tax relief program to benefit elderly low income taxpayers, totally and permanently disabled taxpayers, and disabled veteran taxpayers was approved by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen on October 4, 2011.

While qualified residents are not exempt from paying property tax, a city check for the tax relief amount will be reimbursed to you following state approval. The city will match the amount of the state relief check, but no check shall exceed the amount of property taxes actually paid.



An application would be required for the first year only. After that, the eligible resident would still show proof of income prior to being issued a property tax relief voucher along with the property tax bill.

The program is modeled after the state program which capped the total household income in 2010 at \$26,830.

Eligibility requirements for the elderly include:

- 65 or older on or before December 31, 2012.
- Must provide evidence of age.
- Must own and use the property on which you are applying as your primary residence.
- Combined 2010 annual income for you, your spouse and all other owners of the property cannot exceed amount specified by state.
- Income sources include (but not limited to): Social Security (after Medicaid deducted), supplemental Security Income (SSI), retirement or pension benefits, Veterans' Administration benefits, Workers' Compensation, salaries or wages, and interest or dividends.

Eligibility requirements for the disabled homeowner include:

- Must have been rated totally and permanently disabled by Social Security Administration or other qualified agency on or before December 31, 2011.
- Must provide evidence of age.
- Must own and use the property on which you are applying as your primary residence.

For more information about tax relief, contact the City Tax Department at (615) 793-6295.

Sewer Lines to Undergo "Smoke Testing" in December

The City will conduct "smoke testing" of the entire sewer system beginning in December, weather permitting. The testing will determine where breaches are occurring within the sewer lines, which have been causing higher fees being paid to Metro Nashville for sewage treatment.

The "smoke testing" process involves the pressure injection of a nontoxic smoke into the sewers. A crew of technicians will then canvas the area being tested looking for smoke coming from storm sewers, holes in the ground, and other places that indicate broken lines that allow rainwater to enter the sewer system.

You may notice smoke coming from yard cleanouts, roof vents, or house gutters. The smoke should not enter your home unless you have defective plumbing or dried up drain traps. If smoke enters your home there is a good reason to assume that sewer gases may also be entering your home or business. You should evacuate immediately and notify work crews. The fire department will be with the crews to quickly respond to any calls of smoke getting into homes through dry traps in floor drains, broken pipes, or other sources. If you are not home and discover smoke when you return, please call 793-9891.

The city will post what neighborhoods are being tested each week in the announcement section of the webpage (www.lavergnetn.gov), as well as updates on Facebook (www.facebook.com/LaVergneTN). When your neighborhood is scheduled, it is advisable to pour a gallon of water into each floor drain prior to testing.

EVENTS

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| Dec 3 | LaVergne Holiday Celebration
6:00pm, Parade of Lights
(start at Veterans Memorial Park)
7:00pm, Tree Lighting Ceremony,
Fireworks & Meet Santa (City Hall) |
| Dec 1-15 | Food for Fines, LaVergne Public Library
For every food item donated (unexpired can or box),
one dollar will be waived from your library fine. |
| Dec 16 | Christmas Lunch & Dance, LaVergne Senior Center
12:00n, Featuring Snappy Pappy Band (Ticketed
event, pick up free tickets at Senior Center) |
| Dec 17 | The Magic of Santa featuring Magician Bruce Amato
2:00pm, LaVergne Public Library |
| Dec 30 | New Year's Eve Eve Party, LaVergne Senior Center
5:00-8:00pm, Featuring Snappy Pappy Band |

Parade of Lights Coming to LaVergne for Holidays

The City of LaVergne is hosting a holiday parade on December 3rd. The nighttime light parade will begin at Veterans Memorial Park at 6pm (line-up at 5pm) and end at City Hall.



The parade theme is "Winter Wonderland" and the grand marshal is historian and lifelong La Vergne resident Margie Murphy.

Following the parade, the official tree lighting ceremony will take place and choirs from schools in the community are being invited to perform. Additionally, B&B Family Fireworks will host a fireworks show to usher in and celebrate the holiday season.

Parade entry forms can be found online at the city webpage or contact Parks & Recreation at 793-3224.

Police Response Saves Lives

In September of 2010, the La Vergne Police and Fire departments began training for an advanced level of care at the scene of emergencies. Because these first responders often deal with people who are experiencing the worst events of their lives, not only do they have to quickly provide for the physical safety of life, but they also respond to the emotional impact the event is having on the victim, families, and friends.

By virtue of their positions as police officers, they are often first on the scene, therefore life-saving measures often fall to them. In the last several months, several lives have been saved because of the quick action taken by our La Vergne police officers:

- Vanderbilt University Medical Center confirmed that Lt. Chris Goins saved a life when he responded to an incident involving a severe gunshot wound to the arm.
- Officer Matt Garrett performed CPR and revived a victim who was unconscious and in cardiac arrest.

The level of professionalism and service provided by members of our police force and the dispatch team is extraordinary. The police answer nearly 3,000 calls every month, including (but not limited to) vehicle accidents, domestic assault, burglary, fires, child neglect, and DUI's.

"The first responder training our officers receive provides the knowledge and skills needed to save lives," said Police Chief Mike Walker. "We anticipate eventually all of our La Vergne police officers will be trained as first responders."

City Employees Complete Homeland Security Training in Incident Command

During the past six months, 100 percent of city workers have answered the challenge to be trained in the FEMA courses for Incident Command offered by Homeland Security.

An incident command system is activated at the scene of every emergency. Depending on the scope of the emergency situation, incident command could be simple (with only two or three responders) to very complex covering multiple counties or states.

In addition to the basic ICS training, the management team and first responders have also been certified for Intermediate and Advanced ICS. In December more than half of all city employees will have completed advanced training.

"Unfortunately there have been many weather-related incidents that have impacted La Vergne residents," said City Administrator Steve Mayer. "While we hope nothing more serious than these occur, the potential is there for a major emergency so this training is a priority. We also use the Incident Command System for events like Old Timers Festival and National Night Out."

The training is important to La Vergne for several reasons, including the rail and highway transportation systems that cut through the town. Also, the city is located exactly between the two largest airports in Middle Tennessee with one runway leading directly to the largest subdivision in the state. Additionally, several industries located in La Vergne use and store highly complex and hazardous materials. Should a major accident occur trained personnel would have the ability to efficiently respond and – if necessary – multiple agencies would come together without interruption of top priorities: life safety, incident stabilization, and preservation of property.

Welcome New Businesses!

On behalf of City Hall, welcome **Cort Furniture, Custom Cleaning Services, Papa Johns Pizza, Sam's Phone Supplies, Southern Accents Realty, and U-Haul Co.** If your business is new to La Vergne and you'd like to be listed, email ktyson@lavergetn.gov.

City Meetings

- Dec 1 Board of Mayor & Aldermen Workshop, 5pm
- Dec 7 Board of Mayor & Aldermen Meeting, 7pm
- Dec 12 Library Board Meeting, 4:30pm
- Dec 14 Economic Development Committee, 2:30pm
- Dec 20 Beer Board, 6pm
- Dec 27 Board of Zoning Appeals, 5:30pm
Planning Commission, 6pm

All meetings are at City Hall unless otherwise noted.