



La Vergne Chronicle

Census Bureau working to make sure every person counts in 2020 Census

January

The 2020 Census is just a few months away and the U.S. Census Bureau is ramping up efforts to get the word out to make sure that every citizen counts.

Census Day is April 1, 2020 but the public will be able to start responding with their counts online, via phone or mail starting in March.

The U.S. Census Bureau is also looking to hire part-time local workers for the count. Interested citizens can join the 2020 Census team by applying online at www.2020census.gov/jobs. The temporary jobs start at \$21/hour, have flexible hours, and come with paid training.

Billions of dollars in federal and state funding every year is allocated to communities based on the collected census data. In 2018, the City of La Vergne conducted its own Special Census. Final results recorded the total number of residents was 34,423, a 6% increase over the last federal census in 2010. The increase should bring in approximately \$233,045 more in annual state shared revenue.

The last Census took place in 2010 and recorded roughly 308 million people. More than 635,000 temporary enumerators were hired for the Census that cost \$13 billion, about \$42 for each person counted. The Census Bureau is not allowed to publicly release any responses in any way that could identify a citizen.



Message from the Mayor

As 2019 draws to an end, I want to take this opportunity to thank the employees of the City of La Vergne for all their hard work and dedicated service to our citizens. Since becoming Mayor in November 2018, I've gained an even greater appreciation of the job performed by our staff because of their professional response to the challenges I've presented them. With the support of our City Council, this Administration has aggressively pursued new directions in economic development, infrastructure improvements and

municipal operations. As 2020 arrives, I can assure you we will only work harder for La Vergne and her citizens. We have begun laying the groundwork for new development across the city and we have formulated plans to address some of La Vergne's lingering problems. We will be challenged again in 2020 and we will respond as La Vergne has always responded, with diligence and determination.

Thank you, La Vergne. And Happy New Year!

Mayor Jason Cole

La Vergne Chronicle



PARADE OF LIGHTS 2019



PARADE OF LIGHTS 2019



PARADE OF LIGHTS 2019



PARADE OF LIGHTS 2019 TREE LIGHTING

2020 Election Information

With the new year comes a new chance for your voice to be heard. There are several different opportunities for you to get out and vote this year.

The Presidential Preference Primary election is set for **March 3rd**, with early voting from February 12th through 25th. **August 6th** is the State and Federal Primary and Rutherford County General Election. Early voting is on July 17th through August 1st. Finally, **November 3rd** is the State and Federal General and Municipal election for La Vergne. Early voting is from October 14th through 29th.

There are two Aldermen seats open for this year's election in La Vergne. If you're interested in running contact the Rutherford County Election Commission by calling (800) 232-5454 or visit election.rutherfordcountyttn.gov.

Property Taxes Due February 29

2019 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. Courtesy property tax bills were sent the first week of October.

Property taxes are due by February 29, 2020. Taxes paid after that date will be charged 1.5% interest each month they are due.

Taxes can be paid by cash, check or money order at City Hall. Online payment and payments via debit card are not currently available. Checks and money orders may be left in the drop box to the left of City Hall's back entrance.

Some residents may qualify for the 2019 Property Tax Relief Program. For questions or assistance contact Tax Specialist Becci Steed at (615) 287-8676 or by emailing bsteed@lavergnen.net.

A new tax freeze is available to La Vergne's senior residents for their 2019 property taxes. All tax freeze applications must be submitted through the Rutherford County Trustee's Office. For questions call (615) 898-7705. All applications must be submitted before April 5, 2020 to qualify for the 2019 tax freeze.

Free Self-Defense Class for Women

The La Vergne Police Department is hosting another self-defense classes for women on Saturday, January 11 from Noon until 3:00 p.m. The Women's Awareness and Response (W.A.R) class instructs students on how to escape and evade as well as using basic tools/weapons, confident body posture, situational awareness and more. The class is free and on a first-come, first-served basis for females ages 13 and up. To sign up, call (615) 287-8618.

Grinch finally arrested by LPD

After weeks of chasing him, La Vergne officers were finally able to catch up to and arrest the Grinch that's been both tormenting and blessing the La Vergne area since Thanksgiving.

The Grinch was pulled over for speeding on Christmas Eve. When the officer ran the Grinch's driver's license he found an old warrant put out by Whoville PD for stealing Christmas. The Grinch was arrested and taken back to the La Vergne Police Department to be booked and processed. Santa Cop worked with officials in Whoville to get them to drop the charges and let him go on his way, now a changed Grinch.

The Grinch posted on his Facebook page, "La Vergne, you have changed me. You have humbled me. Your kindness, acceptance and your generosity have changed lives this Christmas season. Please hold onto that and carry it all year." Over the last month the Grinch collected hundreds of dollars that were then donated to the Fraternal of Police Lodge #85, which is mostly made up of La Vergne officers. Thanks to donations from people in the community the Grinch was able to provide Christmas dinners, turkey and all, to seven La Vergne families and gifts to three other La Vergne families.



CASE	19 0490-5	DATE	12-29-19
NAME	GRINCH	OFFENSE	1. Homicide
DOB	07/27/57		
SEX	M	RACE	W
SS	36-67-9489		
CHARGE	Warrant with address on file of person.		

JROTC donates \$1,000 to Police Department for holiday traffic stops

The La Vergne High School Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) went above and beyond in their donation to the La Vergne Police Department to help spread a little holiday cheer this month.

LHS' JROTC donated \$1,000 to the La Vergne Police Department so they could give out gift cards instead of tickets. Officers across all shifts were given cards to hand out to the drivers of vehicles they pulled over while on duty.

"These young people are a great example of what the Christmas holiday is really about," says Police Chief Mike Walker. "Their donation gave us an opportunity to make a different kind of connection with the people we interact with every day."

One woman who was pulled over reached out to Chief Walker expressing her gratitude for the officer who pulled her over for not wearing a seatbelt, thanking him and his officers for their professionalism and kindness.

The JROTC members started with the goal of bringing in \$500 for the gift card donation but dropped off twice that much when they stopped off at LPD to drop off the cards.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Remembrance Ceremony

The City of La Vergne invites the community to celebrate the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. at the 8th annual remembrance ceremony.

The remembrance ceremony will be held at La Vergne City Hall on Monday, January 20th at 10:00 a.m. Speakers have not yet been announced.

"When discussing the legacy of a person as celebrated and influential as Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," says Mayor Cole, "it often becomes a habit to look back on the past and remind ourselves how far we've come, but in looking back we also come to realize how much more we still have to do. Today we honor who Rev. King was, the vision that he set, and his legacy that will live on well past our own days as we strive to fulfill it."

Light refreshments will be served following the event. Please note that all city buildings will be closed on January 20th in observation of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Christmas Tree Recycling

Are you looking for a place to recycle your Christmas tree once the season is over? You can recycle your Christmas tree at the La Vergne Public Works facility, located at 148 International Blvd, La Vergne, TN 37086. Please make sure your tree is free of any decorations, lights and ornaments before dropping off your tree.

You can drop off your tree any time after December 26th through January 31st. Public Works is open Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Call (615) 793-9891 if you have any questions.



La Vergne Chronicle

Employee Spotlight

Jonathan Ballard has been working for the City of La Vergne since 2012. He has worked for the Parks and Recreation and Maintenance Departments as a maintenance department laborer.

His favorite part about his job is the comradery between him and his coworkers. He loves that he's able to come to work every day and not only enjoy his work but also the people he works with. "There's always something new going on," says Jon, "and I love that I have a great relationship with my coworkers and that we can cut up while working or during breaks."

Jon and his coworkers are called to different departments and city buildings every day. "There's a great wealth of knowledge to this job," says Jon. "I've learned a lot while on the job since we're here to help any department in the City, from fire to public works to City Hall, it's a revolving door of tasks and we get to figure out how to fix everything."

Jon is originally from Oklahoma and moved to Nashville for college. He stayed in the Nashville area where he eventually met his wife and they now have a son and daughter. Their family worships and serves at Grove Hill Southern Baptist Church. Jon is a big college football fan and every weekend you can find him rooting for the Oklahoma Sooners.



Jonathan Ballard

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- January 1 - New Year's Day (Offices Closed)
- January 20 - Martin Luter King Jr. Day
Ceremony (Offices Closed)
- February 8 - Winter Formal

NEW EMPLOYEES

Todd Russell - Stormwater Laborer II

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Workshops (6:30 pm)

- January 7
- January 30

Meetings (7:00 pm)

- January 9
- February 4

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