



news



Fall/Winter 2018

Mayor

Tony R. Aikens

City Council

Eddie Simpson, Vice Mayor

Mike Henline

Douglas "Buddy" Hines

Bobby G. Johnson

Jim Shields

Jennifer L. Wampler

City Recorder

Jim Wilburn

City Administrator

Amber Scott

City Judge

Robin M. McNabb

City Attorney

Gregory H. Harrison

Important Phone Numbers

City Hall

986-2715 / 986-7915

Police Department

986-2005

Fire Department

986-2310

Parks & Recreation Dept.

986-1223

Lenoir City Utilities Board

1-844-OUR LCUB (687-5282)

Lenoir City School Board Office

986-8058

Lenoir City Planning Office

986-2715

The Venue at Lenoir City

986-8340

Loudon County Economic Development Agency

458-8889

Loudon County Chamber of Commerce

458-2067

Loudon County Visitors Bureau

986-6822

From the Desk of the Mayor

Greetings, once again! It may come as no surprise to you when I say that 2018 has been a year filled with many new, exciting developments in Lenoir City! As we close the year, I would like to take a moment and reflect on a few of the occurrences.



In the last newsletter, I mentioned that we were beginning preparations for the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year Budget. I am proud to report that this was yet another year with no tax increases to the citizens of Lenoir City. This is the result of continued conservative leadership and sound management of City Council - all the while completing and beginning projects that will ensure the successful future and enhanced quality of life for the citizens and visitors of Lenoir City.

In June, we announced the location of River Sports Outfitters in Lenoir City Park. River Sports offers canoe, kayak, and paddle board rentals to be enjoyed on the lake surrounding Lenoir City Park. This location is based on the model located in Concord Park in

Knoxville. River Sports has experienced a great turnout thus far and hopes to continue into the future. Seasonal hours of operation are Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sundays from 12 to 7 p.m. There are signs posted in the park directing to the location.

In August, we received notification of award from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation of a \$500,000 matching grant for a splash pad to be placed in the Downtown Central Park, located in the 300 block of Broadway. The grant comes from the Local Parks and Recreation Fund for which we applied in April.

As you know, Central Park currently contains an All-Access Playground, which is utilized heavily by families in the area. The splash pad will be accompanied by a pavilion, as well as restrooms equipped with changing rooms. Like the playground, the splash pad will be accessible to children of all ability levels – allowing all children the opportunity to play together. The

Continued on page 3

KAYAKS • CANOES • PADDLEBOARD
**RENTALS NOW OPEN
 AT LENOIR CITY PARK**

SATURDAY 10 am - 7 pm • SUNDAY 12 pm - 7 pm
 PARK IS LOCATED AT 6707 City Park Drive 37772

ALL RENTALS \$12 per hour (includes tax & no refunds due to weather)
 All participants will be issued a PFD along with appropriate paddling equipment

VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE for up to date weather related cancellations
 VISIT RIVERSPORTSOUTFITTERS.COM/EVENTS for a listing of our current courses and events at all rental locations

LIVE YOUR PASSION River Sports

f t www.riversportsoutfitters.com



Mayor Aikens and Ed McAlister, River Sports, at the announcement of the new venture at Lenoir City Park.

Parks & Recreation Department

COMING SOON Phase 2 of the Lenoir City Central Park.

Includes: Splash pad, large event pavilion, additional parking and landscaping



Contact Information:

Steve Harrelson, Director
sharrelson@lenoircitytn.gov

Zack Cusick, Program Coordinator
zcusick@lenoircitytn.gov

Jennifer Clabough, Adm. Assistant
jclabough@lenoircitytn.gov

Office: 530 Hwy. 321 N, Suite 301
Lenoir City, TN 37771

Phone: 865-986-1223

Hours: M-F; 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Shelter Reservations: 986-1223

or lenoircitytn.gov

Like our Facebook Page -
facebook.com/lcparksandrecreation

ATHLETICS



Youth Basketball Registration

Boys and girls ages 5-14

Office Registration: Monday through Friday beginning October 15th

After Hours Registration Dates:

October 16, 23, 30 from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

All registration is held at the Parks and Recreation Office

Registration fees are \$40 per child or \$75 per family. Includes a reversible game jersey.

Practices begin the first week in December. Games start January 5.



Spring Youth Baseball Sign-ups

Boys and girls ages 4-13

Coach pitch and kid pitch

Lee Russell Recreation Complex.

Office registration: begins February 4th (Monday through Friday)

Saturday Registrations at Lenoir City High School Gym

February 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

\$40 per person or \$75 per family

SPECIAL EVENTS

Downtown Street Festival

The Parks and Recreation Department is partnering with the Lenoir City Civitan Club for our Annual Street Festival which includes a classic/antique car show, live music, arts and crafts vendors, children's play area and food vendors. The event takes place in the beautiful Historic Downtown Lenoir City area.

Saturday, September 29

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.



Park After Dark

Fun event for the whole family! Includes a costume contest, games, hayrides, inflatables, face painting, fall pictures, and light refreshments.

Thursday, October 25, 5-7 p.m.

Wampler-Keith Park



Breast Cancer Awareness Night

Friday, October 26

Lenoir City High School Stadium

Lenoir City vs Catholic

Christmas Tree Lighting and Evening with Santa

Kick off the holiday season with the Annual Lenoir City Tree Lighting and an Evening with Santa. This event includes: Lighting of the Lenoir City Christmas Tree, Live Christmas Music, 1-1 time with Santa, light refreshments, and a keepsake photo of your child with Santa.

Lenoir City Central Park

Thursday,

November 29

6-7:30 p.m.

Event is free



Christmas Parade

Each year, thousands of families come together on a magical December night to watch the excitement of our Annual Christmas Parade. Historic downtown Lenoir City provides beautiful lights and sounds that will please parade fans everywhere! Get your float and parade entry ideas ready and help us bring the magic of Christmas to Broadway! This year's theme is "Light Up Christmas"

Thursday, December 6

Parade starts at 6:30 p.m.

Line-up at R&L (formerly Yale)

parking lot beginning at 5 p.m.

All parade participants must pre-register.



Family Movie Night

Come out and enjoy a movie and refreshments with your son or daughter. While having some great quality time with your kids you can take pleasure in a movie, popcorn, snack and drink. Free admission includes a complimentary concessions combo.

Lenoir City War Memorial Building
Thursday, February 28, 2019
Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
Movie starts at 6:30 p.m.

AQUATICS



The CDAC (Claire Donahue Aquatic Center) Winter Season is Saturday, October 6, 2018 through Saturday, March 2, 2019. The pool will be closed for all activities on November 22nd, December 24th, December 25th, December 31st and January 1, 2019.

Pool Parties

Saturdays: 5-7 p.m. or 7-9 p.m.
Sundays: 1-3 p.m. or 3-5 p.m.
\$200 for a 2-hour party
(includes 2 lifeguards)

Open Swim

Every Saturday from 12-5 p.m.
\$3 for students
seniors/\$4 for adults

Water Aerobics/Lap Swimming

Mondays – Tuesdays – Thursdays
2:30-3:30 p.m.
\$4 per session or
\$125 for season pass

From the Desk of the Mayor From page 1



Ribbon Cutting at Central Park celebrating the planned addition of a splash pad, pavilion, additional parking and rest rooms.

pavilion will provide the additional shading options for the area.

We have enjoyed much success and accomplishment with the current City Council leadership. I hope that you feel the same way as I do - just look around at the positive growth and change that we have undertaken in the past several years – doing so without a tax increase!

I take great pride in serving the outstanding citizens of Lenoir City! As many of you know, I grew up in Lenoir City and raised my family here. As a result of this, my passion is with Lenoir City, and I want to see it grow and prosper for us all. If I may do anything for you, please do not hesitate to contact me at 865-986-2715. ■

Department of Codes Enforcement and Planning

Lenoir City has been very fortunate with a continued growth in our commercial and residential building. Recent commercial new construction includes several new eateries: The Burgers; Joe's Italian Cuisine; Flamingo's Snoballs; and Waffle House which is doing a complete tear-down and rebuild which will be slightly larger. Other commercial new business includes: BusMax; Bart Howell Nationwide Insurance; Affordable New and Used Tires; Cook's Pest Control; Fairfield Inn and Suites; Southern Bliss Boutique; Signature Nail Bar; Lavish Nail Salon; Tennessee Eye Care Clinic; and Benchmark Physical Therapy.

Residential construction has continued to grow with the expansion of Oak Hills subdivision Phase 3; Stone Harbor subdivision Phase 3; and Emily's Landing subdivision Phase 2. Stone Harbor and Emily's Landing subdivisions are not inside the Lenoir City limit jurisdiction; however, they are inside the city's Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). The UGB is an area outside the city limits that the city has some jurisdiction over. Any site plan approvals or subdivision

of property plats in this area would be approved by the Lenoir City staff and/or Lenoir City Regional Planning Commission. City staff works very closely with the county staff to ensure all regulations are being followed.

As part of the department's efforts to address ADA concerns and issues, staff has been walking the city's sidewalks and documenting areas to be addresses. This is a major task and will take some time to complete. In doing this assessment it has come to the department's attention that many people are parking vehicles on the city sidewalks. Although citizens may have been doing this for a long time, it is not allowed as per city code. Please move all vehicles off the city's sidewalks for them to be truly pedestrian functional.

Call the Department of Codes Enforcement and Planning with any issues or questions at 865-986-9876; or email Rondel Branam, Building Official/Codes Enforcement Officer/ADA Coordinator at rbranam@lenoircitytn.gov; or Beth Collins, Office Manager/City Planner at bcollins@lenoircitytn.gov. ■

Working Together with the People's Council

It's time again for another edition of "Working Together with the People's Council," where each edition will feature a different member of our City Council, explaining their respective backgrounds and contributions to the City. For the current edition, we spotlight Councilman Mike Henline; Councilman Douglas "Buddy" Hines; and Councilman Jim Shields.

Councilman Mike Henline

Councilman Mike Henline was born and raised in Lenoir City and is a graduate of Lenoir City High School. His roots run deep in our fine City.



Councilman Henline has served on City Council since 2006, and he feels the most rewarding committee for which he has served upon while being on City Council is the Budget Committee (also known as Purchasing Committee) - he has held a seat on that committee since 2008. The Budget Committee is responsible for overseeing City spending. Councilman Henline views his role on this committee as acting as a good steward of taxpayer dollars by helping to control departmental spending. This has led to an increase in our fund balance over the years, while not having to implement an increase in property taxes for the residents.

Prior to serving on City Council, Councilman Henline served 14 years on the Lenoir City Board of Education, with 10 of those years as Chairman. When he was elected to the school board, he became passionate about establishing an on-campus technology center for students of Lenoir City High School. In 2006, that dream was realized when the "G. Wayne Miller Career and Technical Center" was opened. The center offers many programs including Pre-Engineering, Family and Consumer Sciences; Agriculture; Digital Arts and Design; Health Science; Marketing; Carpentry; and Criminal Justice. Additionally, the programs offers internships to students so they can experience "real world" situations to see if they may be interested in a future career in such field. Statistics show that as of 2017, an estimated 96% of seniors had taken at

least one course in the program throughout their duration in high school.

Councilman Henline also takes pride in an exciting event known as "Lenoir City Cars and Coffee" – an event spearheaded by him. The exciting event - taking place in downtown Lenoir City – is held on the 3rd Saturday of each month between April and October. The event is currently in its fourth year and usually has around 150 cars present and approximately 300 spectators. Councilman Henline says Cars and Coffee creates an opportunity for people to come together and enjoy one another's company, while also experiencing the many shops and other offerings of Historic Downtown Lenoir City.

Councilman Douglas "Buddy" Hines

Councilman Douglas "Buddy" Hines has resided in Lenoir City his entire life, graduating from Lenoir City High School and then earning his Bachelor's Degree from Carson-Newman College. He is a veteran of the United States Army, serving in the Korean Conflict, and is a proud member of the American Legion Post #70. Councilman Hines is a retiree from Oak Ridge National Laboratory, having worked as a supervisor for 34 years.



Councilman Hines has served on City Council for a total of 16 years, serving four terms: 1993-1997; 2006-2010; and 2010-present. According to Councilman Hines, one of the most exciting roles he has played while on City Council is serving as Parks and Recreation Commissioner. Councilman Hines is proud of his contribution in starting the Downtown Street Festival, which has been held since 1993, and has grown in popularity over the years – a fun-filled event with live music, games, food, and other vendors. He understands that a strong Parks and Recreation Department leads to improved quality of life experiences for the residents and visitors alike. In 2018, Councilman Hines was part of the opening of River Sports Outfitters in Lenoir City Park, as well as the awarded splash pad grant for the Downtown

Central Park expansion.

Councilman Hines has a deep-rooted passion for serving our City and helping our community. He says he always tries to give back to Lenoir City what it has given to him throughout the years.

Councilman Jim Shields

Councilman Jim Shields has resided in Lenoir City for nearly 50 years and is a graduate of Karns High School. He is a 32° Mason and Shriner, as well as a member of various other civic organizations in the community.



Councilman Shields has served on City Council since 2010, and he has been an active member of the Loudon County Chamber of Commerce and Lenoir City Committee of 100 during that time. He has been involved in many projects that have served to improve Lenoir City, including several transportation projects. He was part of getting the War Memorial Building placed on the National Register of Historic Places, which allowed it to receive grant funding for improvements. Councilman Shields is delighted to see the renovation and restoration that was done to that beautiful, historic building. Further building on his desire to see downtown Lenoir City prosper, he has overseen and helped to secure funding for Downtown Streetscapes Projects. He strongly believes that the sidewalk and lighting improvements carried out in the Streetscapes project, as well as working together with the downtown merchants, will lead to even more downtown revitalization and positive growth than we have already seen.

Councilman Shields expresses that he is humbled and blessed to serve the citizens of Lenoir City. He enjoys working alongside Mayor Aikens and City Council and strongly believes their unity is a key factor in accomplishing the goals that have already been reached, as well as those to be accomplished in the future. He is proud to see all the development and improvement in service taking place without there being a tax increase – he states that will continue to be his top priority. ■

Lenoir City Police Department

Construction zone travel in Lenoir City has become part of the daily commute for so many of our citizens and visitors. Many of you have expressed your concerns and frustrations as it relates to the Tennessee Department of Transportation project on Hwy 321. Emergency services personnel such as police, fire and EMS are equally impacted by the road closures and traffic pattern changes that each of you experience. However, we realize that projects such as these are necessitated by congestion, outdated traffic patterns, and simply the need to update the road's ability to handle the volume of traffic. We appreciate the patience and courtesy that so many of you are generous to give as you travel through these areas. It is also the mission of Lenoir City Police Department to offer some information and relevant knowledge about traveling through construction zones safely.

Reducing your speed at through construction zones will provide the greatest safety for motorists, as well as workers within the zone. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported that in 2016, speeding killed 10,111 people which accounted for 27% of all traffic fatalities that year.¹ The Federal Highway Administration even reported that in 2014 there were 607 fatal work zone crashes involving 669 fatalities, which accounted for 2% of all roadway fatalities that year, equaling 1.8 work zone deaths per day. Speed was the leading factor of the crashes at a 28% rate of involvement. 65% of fatal crashes occurred during the daytime and most of the crashes occurred on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.² Rear-end collisions were the most common among fatal accidents in work zones. It would be safe to assume that speed reduction in these work zones will save lives.

Aggressive driving is a term that is associated with speeding in excess of 15 miles over the posted speed limit, failure to obey traffic signals and controls, and tail gating. The AAA Foundation for Safety compiled a study addressing "Road Rage: How to Avoid Aggressive Driving." Below are several safety suggestions that will help to avoid situations that pose a danger to you and others on the highway³:

Don't Offend

Allow plenty of room when you merge or pull out. Use signals to make your intentions known.

Avoid driving slowly in the left lane or just doing the "speed limit" in the left lane. Even though you are in the right by doing the speed limit, it is a courtesy to move over and let other drivers pass.

Allow at least a two second space between you and the car in front of you. Tailgating can easily agitate other drivers and creates a significant safety risk.

Avoid making any type of hand gesture or motion towards other drivers. Harmless gestures have often been mistaken and could lead to anger or irritation.

Don't Engage

It takes more than one angry driver to start a fight, unless the other party is willing to participate. Give angry drivers plenty of room. Never under any circumstance should you pull to the side of the road to try and "settle things."

Avoid eye contact. Focus on the task at hand, safely arriving at your destination!

Get help. If you think another driver is following you or trying to start a fight, call 911 on your cell phone. If you lack a mobile phone, drive to a place where there are other people around such as a convenience store, police station, shopping center or hospital. Use your horn to attract attention. This will often cause the angered driver to leave. Never drive to your home or get out of your car.

Adjust your attitude

Winning does not come into play when you are driving. Always give yourself adequate time when traveling. In doing so, you will arrive at your destination more relaxed and hopefully in a stress-free state of mind.

Put yourself in the other driver's shoes. We may never know the circumstance causing the person to drive the way they are. Whatever the reason, we can't take it personally. It has nothing to do with us. Stay cool and don't take the actions of others personally.

If you believe you have a problem, ask for help. There are anger management resources that can be found.

As we have addressed the factors related to speeding and fatalities in

construction zones, and aggressive driving; we should conclude by giving you several safety tips for driving safely in road construction zones:

- Expect the unexpected in road construction zones. Speeds are typically reduced and fines are increased or doubled for speeding in construction zones.
- Slow down and be alert to signs which often detail lane changes or upcoming work zones.
- Comply with personnel working in the construction zones. In a construction zone a flagger has the same authority as a regulatory sign and you can be cited for disobeying their directions.
- Be patient! These work zones are not present to cause you an inconvenience, but to improve the road for the benefit of everyone.
- Slow Down – Do not drive too fast for conditions. If you are going 60 mph and pass a sign that says "Road Work 1,500 feet" you'll be in that work zone in 17 seconds. Meaning traffic can and will back up quickly. Be prepared!
- Drive defensively. Do not tailgate the car in front of you. Rear-end collisions are the most common in work zones.
- Keep a safe distance between your vehicle and traffic barriers, construction equipment and construction workers.
- Obey posted signs until you see signs indicating you have left the work zone.
- Expect delays! Plan ahead to reach your destination on time.

These are just a few of the things that motorists can do to ensure the safety of others, as well as their own. Common sense, defensive driving, courtesy and planning go a long way toward your safety. If we all work together employing the topics discussed, we can hope to reduce violations and actions that could lead to accidents. Safe travels to each of you. ■

(1) National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, <https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/speeding>, "Speeding"

(2) U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/resources/facts_stats/safety.htm, "Facts and Statistics – Work Zone Safety"

(3) AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, <https://exchange.aaa.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Road-Rage-Brochure.pdf>, "Road Rage: How to Avoid Aggressive Driving"

Venue Staff adds Heart and Soul to Facility

The Venue at Lenoir City is still going strong, with both repeat business and new clients discovering this wonderful community asset. Lenoir City is blessed with this beautiful, spacious, and functional event facility, which certainly helps the staff keep bookings so plentiful.

However, without the service side of the equation, The Venue would not maintain 5-star reviews throughout social media and via its satisfaction survey cards. So, in this edition, we'd like to introduce you to the key staff who help make The Venue thrive.

Allison Sousa – Director

Allison Sousa joined the City of Lenoir City as director of The Venue in August of 2016.

“Starting four months prior to The Venue being complete and open to the public was very helpful,”

she said, as she was able to focus on research, pricing, policies, staffing, marketing, supplies, and other tasks necessary to ensure her team could hit the ground running.

Allison's background includes work in the private and public sectors, concentrating in the areas of marketing, hospitality, financial services, and non-profit management. Most notably, she was president of the Loudon County Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau for almost eight years, during which time she helped found the Loudon County Education Foundation and Leadership Loudon County. Just prior to working at The Venue, she managed her own marketing company for six years.

When discussing her current position, she tells the story of reading about the city's new event center being approved by City Council, turning to her husband, Steve, and saying, “that's my job!” They'd intentionally drive by the site while The Venue was under construction to monitor the progress, just waiting until the day when Allison could apply to manage it.

“Back in my Chamber days, we talked extensively about the need for an event center. In my mind, being hired as the director brings my Loudon County



journey full-circle and utilizes all the skills and talents I've developed in my other positions over the years,” she said.

Allison is involved in numerous local volunteer organizations and is the mother of two sons; one a senior at Lenoir City High School and the other a Private First Class in the United States Marine Corps.

Stephanie Nelson, Assistant Director

Stephanie has been on board at The Venue since the building was only steel and concrete. She began her journey with the staff as a part-time event coordinator; but was recently promoted to full-time assistant director due to her outstanding service and sales abilities. As she humorously shares with people, “in the event Miss America can't perform her duties, number two steps in to run the show!”

Prior to working at The Venue – or even relocating to Tennessee, for that matter – Stephanie managed her own wedding planning business in Indiana and earned her Certified Wedding Planner certificate. When she moved to Tennessee in 2012, she became very involved in numerous community and volunteer events. In 2017, she was asked to join the Creative Committee for East Tennessee Children's Hospital's Fantasy of Trees and manage her own creative team.

When asked about the talents or skills she feels she brings to her job, she said, “I am very creative and crafty, and can usually enhance a client's vision for their event.” She added, “I am able to easily develop connections with clients and add a level of trust and personal responsibility to each and every event I execute.”

Stephanie's favorite part about her job at The Venue is the team with which she works. She “enjoys the feeling of accomplishment when we work hard as a team to produce an amazing event for a client.”

Stephanie is a married mother of three children, so she remains very active in school organizations. She added that she's a talker...but anyone who's met her already knows that!



Jessica (Fain) Fritts – Executive Assistant

Jessica has been working at The Venue since December of 2016. While her title is “executive assistant,” she's really a secret weapon, as she is a troubleshooter extraordinaire! Jessica works part-time at The Venue and is also a biology professor at Roane State Community College.

“Since the beginning of last year, I have had the privilege of being a part of the small, intimate events, as well as the larger cultural events we are now hosting,” said Jessica. She also assisted Stephanie on her ETCH Fantasy of Trees creative team in 2017.

When asked what talent or skill Jessica feels she brings to her job, she responded, “I am very creative and can usually come up with unique ways to decorate or problem-solve.” She added that she's a people-person and enjoys getting to know The Venue's clients and learn about their events and cultures. Her favorite part of the job is being a part of an important event in someone's life.

Something many people may not know about Jessica is that she currently holds two Guinness World Records for living underwater (73 days, in case you're curious). She also enjoys working on cars and recently completely restored a 1975 Toyota LandCruiser.

Unfortunately, The Venue will be losing Jessica soon. Her husband, Thorne, joined the United States Air Force, so she is relocating to Spokane, Washington at the end of the year to be with him. We are thankful for their service to our country.

Madison Chambers – Event Captain

Madison became a part of The Venue family in April of 2017 as an event attendant and was quickly promoted into her current, part-time event captain role. Her friendliness, positive attitude,



willingness to learn, and excitement for the event business make her a valuable member of The Venue's team, as do her social media and public relations skills.

During her college years at UT Chattanooga, Madison worked for a production company involved with executing festivals and concerts. Currently, in addition to her work at The Venue, she also substitute teaches for Lenoir City Schools.

Madison never met a stranger and considers herself a people-person. "I love to help guests with what they need during an event and make them feel welcomed," she said.

Like many of the staff members, Madison enjoys the variety of events coming through the facility. She said, "The Venue has hosted some incredibly elaborate weddings and parties, but the corporate events are terrific, too." The bottom line is that Madison enjoys her job and has fun with every event.

Madison is a newlywed and she and her husband reside in Lenoir City. Something many people might not know about Madison is that she used to be a gymnast. "It has proven more useful than I ever expected," she said. "I'm usually the one elected to crawl under the stage and maneuver around to plug things in!"

Brittany Mashburn – Event Captain

Brittany joined The Venue as a part-time event attendant in the spring of 2018; but has since been promoted to a part-time event captain. It became clear very early on that Brittany's initiative, work ethic, organization skills, abilities, and desire to learn made her the perfect candidate for advancement. She is also a pre-K teacher at the Farragut Church of Christ Preschool.



Prior to her position at The Venue, she always held positions that allowed her to work with the community and get to know other people in the area.

The number one skill Brittany feels she brings to her job is organization. "I am a very organized person and want our staff members and clients to know events will go smoothly in the back of the house, event before they begin," she said. Her favorite part of the job is the "family feeling" that exists with The Venue staff. "My position at The Venue is a dream come true and a step into a door God has opened for me." She also enjoys taking every opportunity to tell people about The Venue and to learn about cultural events that represent the diversity of the community.

Something some people might not know about the married mother of one is that she's a Disney World addict! But you won't find her at the beach in Orlando; she doesn't like sand! ■

Business Spotlight: American Commissary

by Amber Scott

I recently had the distinct pleasure of meeting with Ms. Rose Wood at the site of her general store located at 1211 East Broadway. Her business has been open for a little over five years and offers a plethora of unique goods that are all proudly made in America. She works with over 70 vendors, the majority of which are from the Tennessee region. The store serves with an important, overarching goal...to offer "unique, high-quality products, reasonably priced – and while doing so, help create jobs by buying and selling products made in the United States of America." Rose stands firm on the belief that the best way to make a positive impact on the future is to grow locally. She states that "as we work together, we can apply our entrepreneurial skills to develop high quality products – much the same as the previous generation that made this country great."

The name of the store, American Commissary, was influenced by several factors. Rose says, "'American' stands for so many wonderful things – freedom, liberty, and justice for all – the country where anyone, willing to work, can have a job and can achieve

the 'American Dream.'"

Furthermore, "Commissary" is a significant part of the name because to Rose and her family, it symbolizes an achievement of the American Dream. In the early 1900s, Rose's family resided in a coal mining camp, and she recalls only one store serving the area...the "Commissary." She believes that "remembering from where we came, keeps us humble and thankful to live in America."

The eclectic store, filling roughly 3,000 square feet of space, offers many various items such as locally handmade cutting boards, jewelry, and toys; art and pottery; books by local authors; homemade cards, soaps, jams, jellies, and canned goods; featuring ladies clothing by Clara Sun Woo and Dream Dance; nostalgic, antique-style signs; décor pillows; mailbox covers; and garden flags...just to name a few. You are sure to find something for yourself or someone else as you peruse the shop!

Rose offers such a warm, welcoming presence and makes you feel like



Shop owner, Rose Wood, and Mayor Aikens looking at merchandise

part of her family. She says one of her favorite parts of having the American Commissary is that it gives her the opportunity to interact with people in and around the community, as well as visitors to the area.

The American Commissary's hours are Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Special holiday hours from November 2 to December 24 are Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., as well as Sunday from 1 to 6 p.m. The store can be reached via Facebook at www.facebook.com/AmericanCommissaryLLC or by phone at 865-816-3519. ■

Lenoir City Fire Department ISO Rating of Class 2

The mission of the Lenoir City Fire Department is to protect the lives, property, and environment for the community by providing prompt, effective, and efficient emergency response activities along with proactive community risk reduction services.

P.S. Smoke Alarms are the first line of defense to save lives and property!

Lenoir City Fire Department

Richard Martin, Fire Chief
Phone: 986-2310

The City and Lenoir City Fire Department reports effective October 1, 2018 that the City of Lenoir City improved two classifications according to the Insurance Services Office (ISO), the New Jersey-based organization that collects fire protection information in communities throughout the United States to help establish insurance premiums for residential and commercial properties.

Using its Public Protection Classification (PPC™) scale of 1

(representing exemplary public protection) to 10 (indicating that an area's fire-protection does not meet ISO's minimum criteria), ISO evaluation resulted in the Lenoir City Fire Department earning a Class 2 rating.

Among ISO's database of over 47,500 fire jurisdictions nationwide (850 in Tennessee), just over 1545 in the United States (32 in Tennessee) hold a Class 2 or better. (ISO website 2018 data)

Chief Richard Martin says, "With the blessing of our mayor, council, city leaders, our personnel and fire officers we are always planning together to increase the level of service and protection that we as a city are able to provide. ISO's recognition of our rating improving from a Class 4 to a Class 2 is a public acknowledgement that our efforts are paying off for our residents and businesses."

According to public information published by ISO, objective evaluations

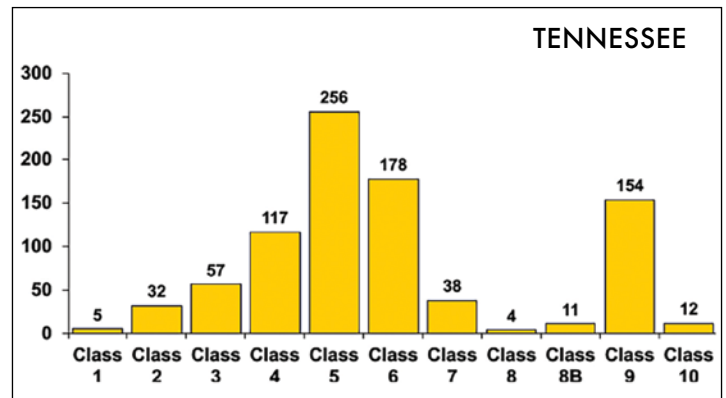
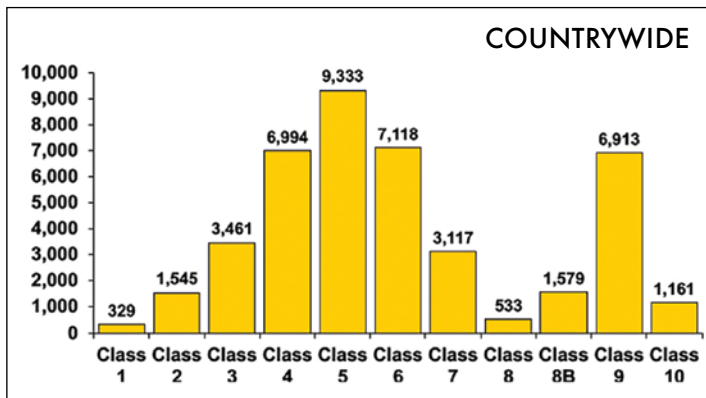
of a city's fire jurisdictions focus on four major areas:

Emergency Communications Systems (10%) – Focusing on a community's facilities and support for handling and dispatching alarms for structure fires,

Fire Department (50%) – Measuring a community's fire suppression capabilities by reviewing such items as engine companies, ladder or service companies, deployment of fire companies, equipment carried on apparatus, pumping capacity, reserve apparatus, company personnel, and training,

Water Supply (40%) – Evaluating a community's water supply system to determine the adequacy for fire suppression purposes, and

Community Risk Reduction (+5%) – Examining reduction efforts such as fire prevention code adoption, fire inspection and enforcement, public fire safety education, and fire investigation. ■



Stormwater Department News

Lenoir City Stormwater Department welcomes Chantelle Fortier, originally from Michigan, she came to Knoxville, Tennessee after completing a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology with a Minor in Geographic Information Systems from Central Michigan University. She is currently studying in the same field at the University of Tennessee for graduate school. Chantelle Fortier is passionate about the interaction between public health and aquatic

habitats and enjoys camping, fishing, hiking, and mountain biking.

Chantelle will be working with the City for the next 10 Months. She will be working on public education with the schools and the public. She will be heading up stream clean up days in the Fall and Spring. Chantelle will also be assisting in stream assessment, site inspections, infrastructure mapping, and data entry as well as assisting the Tennessee Stormwater Association. ■



Chantelle Fortier

Streets/Sanitation Department

Contact Information:

J.J. Cox, Street Superintendent Phone: 865-986-2715

The Lenoir City Street Department always stands proudly ready to serve you!

I would like to start with a maintenance reminder. Please remember that all household garbage needs to be placed in a garbage bag, with bags to be placed in a garbage can. Taking these simple actions will help to ensure that our alleyways and streets will remain clean and clear of debris. All brush needs to be piled with the cut ends in one direction and placed near your garbage cans or along the front streets (depending on where you are located). Our brush and landfill trucks try to run the same day as your regular household garbage collection. Please remember that for larger piles of brush and debris, it sometimes takes an extra day for pick-up. For larger, heavier piles, such as logs, concrete, or other heavy materials, you may be required to pay a "tipping fee" for landfill service.

This year, the City milled and resurfaced Hickman Street, Pine Top Street, South Grant Street, Bussell Ferry, and Lee Drive. We had great success in doing this and will continue with our annual, rotating paving schedule in the coming year.

The autumn season is upon us, and so is leaf season! In order to get your leaves picked up, please place them on the front street because our equipment is too large to fit in the alleyways. We try to conduct leaf collection the same day as your regular household garbage collection.

Are you cleaning out a house or property in the City and in need of a truck in which to load the debris? Please contact J.J. Cox, Street Superintendent, at 865-986-2715 to request a truck to be brought for your convenience. A "tipping fee" will also be associated with this service - depending on the size/weight of the load. Additionally, if you become aware of potholes, signage, or other roadway issues, please contact J.J. Cox at 865-986-2715.

Please take a look at the included Household Garbage Collection Schedule for information on when garbage will be collected in your area. Please keep in mind that it is your responsibility to ensure the area around your garbage receptacle/dumpster is free from trash and other debris. If you have any questions or comments to share, please contact J.J. Cox at 865-986-2715.

Have a wonderful and safe Fall and Winter Season! ■



Garbage Collection Schedule - Fall 2018

MONDAY:

Pick-up from D Street West to E, F, G, H, I, J, K, M, N, and Q Streets; both sides of West Broadway from D Street to O Street; West 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Avenue; Crestwood Hills Subdivision; and Chestnut Ridge Subdivision off Harrison Road; Halls Ferry Road

TUESDAY:

Pick-up from D Street West to C, B, A Streets, and East side of Kingston and Hill Streets; East 1st; East 2nd; East 3rd Avenues; Pine Ridge Apartments; Pinewood Condominiums. Pick-up on Simpson Road; Twin Lakes Drive; Pinetop Street; Highland Park Drive; Pearl Drive; all of Harmony Heights sub-division; Sharp Estates; Carrington Subdivision; Myers Road; Tom Lee Road; Town Creek Road West; Allenbrook Subdivision.

WEDNESDAY:

Pick-up on Rock Springs Road; 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th Avenues and West Side of Kingston Street. Pick-up on A, B, C, D, E, F, and G Streets. Pick-up on Oakland Avenue; Coffey Circle; and Browder Hollow Road from Highway 11 to Finley Drive. Pick-up on Mincey Street and all of 10th Avenue. Pick-up on West Hills Drive; Emerald Court; Oak Hills Subdivision; Visitor's Center; and Jan Way

THURSDAY:

Pick-up on Johnson Drive from Finley Drive to West Hills Drive including Johnson Circle. Pick-up on Tracy Lane and Frances Drive. Pick-up on Church Drive and all dead ends off Church Drive. Pick-up in Hamilton Subdivision; Ivy Avenue; Candlenook Drive; Ash Avenue; and Rogers Circle. Pick-up on Harrison Road; Harrison Woods; Norwood Drive; Harrison Avenue; and Reeves Street. Pick-up on Wilson Street; Kirk Avenue; Harrison Glen Subdivision; Acadia Villas; Kennedy Drive; Coley Lane; and Heape Road.

FRIDAY:

Pick-up on Nelson Street; Depot Street; Rear-side of town; and Bussell Ferry Road. Pick-up on Lee Drive; Hillcrest; Executive Meadows; Green Meadows Lane; Happy Hollow Road; Poplar Street; Pike Street; Locust Street; Bon Street; and Maple Street. Pick-up on Bell Avenue; North and South Cherry Street; North and South Walnut Street. Pick-up on 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Avenues off Highway 321; North and South Oak Street. Pick-up on Highland Circle; Hall Street; and Simpson Road (behind Bimbo's Convenience Store).



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Lenoir City Finance Department

As we all begin to transition into Fall and cooler weather, the Lenoir City Finance Department has a couple of changes, as well. We now have an easier way to pay property taxes online, and the State of Tennessee has made some updates to the Tax Relief Program. Below are the step-by-step instructions on how to pay your Lenoir City Property Taxes Online.

Step 1: Go to our website
www.lenoircitytn.gov.

Step 2: Under the picture of Mayor Tony Aikens on the homepage, there is a button that says, "Click Here." You will need to click here.

Step 3: On this screen, you will see different ways you can make a payment with the City of Lenoir City. In all red, you will see "PAY ONLINE" in the gray box, click on "View or Pay Property Tax."

Step 4: Input the Owner's First and Last Name. Also, make sure that the tax

year is 2018, then click "Search for Information."

Step 5: If the website finds any matches, you will then see "Matches Found-Owners as of January 1st." Click the hyperlink that says "View Bill" for the property tax that you want to pay.

Step 6: If you want to make a payment, please fill out the appropriate boxes for your payment to be processed. Also, please note that all credit card and E-Check transactions will have a fee associated with each payment. Processing Fee – 1.75% of total Convenience Fee – \$1.00

Step 7: Click on the small box to proceed with your payment.

Step 8: Click "Make a Payment." By clicking this button, you agree that the convenience and processing fees charged are non-refundable.

Step 9: Once you have made your payment, you will be able to print out a receipt from your computer.

HOURS: Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Phone: 865-986-2227; **Fax:** 865-988-5143

Lastly, the State of Tennessee offers a Tax Relief Program which helps the Disabled, Elderly, Disabled Veterans, and Widow(er) of a Disabled Veteran Homeowner. If you are 65 years of age and made less than \$29,270 in the calendar year of 2017, you may be able to receive these benefits. Also, if you have a letter from the Social Security Administration OR the Veterans Affairs Office that states you are totally or permanently disabled, then, you, too may be able to receive these benefits. Please contact our office at 865-986-2227, if you have any questions.

Important Information: You can pay your Loudon County Property Taxes at our office during the months of October 2018 - February 2019.

A representative from the Loudon County Court Clerk's Office will be here Monday and Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for anyone needing to register their vehicle. ■