# BRENTWOOD CITY UPDATE Store St

# Brentwood's New 9-1-1 Center Page 8







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> Photo: The City of Brentwood's new 9-1-1 Communications Center, located in the Brentwood Police headquarters.

Your Official City of Brentwood, Tennessee News Source

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# CITY CONTACTS

City Hall	615-371-0060
Planning/Codes	615-371-2204
Water Billing	615-661-7061
Water Maintenance	615-371-0080
Public Works	615-371-0080
Service Center	615-371-0080
Police	615-371-0160
Fire	615-371-0170
Wm. Co. Ambulance	615-794-2800
Library	615-371-0090
Parks	615-371-2208
Emergency	

The City Update is published semi-annually by the City of Brentwood. Comments and suggestions should be directed to news@brentwoodtn.gov.

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# **KIRK'S CORNER**

By City Manager Kirk Bednar

Last year in the Spring 2022 newsletter I wrote about the challenges the City was having in finding enough applicants for most of our vacant positions across all departments. At that time, it wasn't just us, but businesses in all sectors that couldn't find enough employees. In response, our City Commission authorized significant pay and benefit adjustments as part of the fiscal year 2023 budget. While this certainly helped, and we are expecting significant pay adjustments in next year's budget as well, the reality is that if the only reason our employees want to come to work is for the pay, then we are not really achieving what we need to as an employer.

Our senior leadership team recently completed a brainstorming session facilitated by our Human Resources Department that looked at why employees come to work for the City, why they stay with us, and why they leave. While pay and benefits are certainly big drivers of these employment decisions, I was struck by the fact that the culture and reputation of the City's organization as well as community support ranked so high as reasons employees come to work for us and stay with us.

Workplace culture can be a difficult thing to define. We don't pick our culture off the shelf and then just put it in place and say we are done. Culture evolves from the people we hire and the leadership we put in place. Even if we pay our employees at the very top of the market, if they don't enjoy coming to work, aren't proud of the work they do, and don't truly like and trust the people they work with, then we haven't accomplished anything.

One of the stories shared in this session was about an employee who was having car problems and struggling to find the money to get the repair completed. This employee's coworkers took it upon themselves to collect enough money and give it to the employee so he could get his car fixed, with no expectation of ever getting anything back in return. I don't know if that employee will make a career out of working for the City of Brentwood, but I'd like to think that we've got a better shot at retaining him because of that kindness culture.

# **BRENTWOOD ELECTS NEW MEMBER TO CITY COMMISSION**

Allison Spears is the newest person to become a Brentwood City Commissioner. Elected with 2,315 votes in the January 12 special election, Spears will serve until May 2025. Spears is fulfilling the remaining term of former Commission Regina Smithson who passed away last year.

Spears joins six other City Commissioners elected to make policy decisions for Brentwood City government. Each of the seven commissioners serve as an elected representative of the entire city for four-year terms. The City Commissioners appoint the Mayor and Vice Mayor for two-year terms. The Commissioners enact ordinances and serve on various boards.

The City Commission meets twice a month for regularly scheduled meetings at 7pm at Brentwood City Hall located at 5211 Maryland Way. All meetings are made available online for public viewing.



# **MAY 2023 GENERAL ELECTION**

The next general election is set for May 2, 2023 where four City Commissioners will be elected. As of the candidate filing deadline, only the four incumbent Commissioners had filed to run. Since the election is uncontested, there will not be an early voting period. Election Day is May 2, 2023.

To find voting locations and times, check the Williamson County Election Commission website.



From left to right: City Manager Kirk Bednar, City Commissioner Ken Travis, City Commissioner Anne Dunn, Vice Mayor Nelson Andrews, Chief Brian Goss, Deputy Chief Brian Collins, Division Chief Nicholas Adams, and Division Chief Jeff Pender.

# **STATION 5 GRAND OPENING**

In December 2022, Brentwood celebrated the official grand opening of the City's fifth fire station and the arrival of a new fire apparatus. The \$8.6 million project now places Brentwood's newest fire station in the fast-growing, southeast portion of Brentwood at 9551 Split Log Road.

#### **Building Design**

The new two-bay, two-story fire station houses a single company, or a fire crew of three to four personnel, depending on staffing schedules. The building is approximately 10,000 square feet and includes a public restroom, water fountain, and water bottle fill station for people using the nearby City trail system.

City of Brentwood Vice Mayor, Nelson Andrews, who spoke at the event, said this state-of-the-art facility was built with residents in mind. "Beginning with the initial concept of the building design, we wanted to make sure it fit into the community. You'll notice the building facade, materials, and colors of stone and brick chosen are all similar materials used in nearby homes," Vice Mayor Andrews said. "We kept each of you and your desires in mind when starting to conceptualize this building years ago," he added.

Brentwood Fire and Rescue Chief Brian Goss added, "Early on we said we wanted to create a space where residents could stop in, talk to our firefighters, fill their water bottles, and really use this as a community space." Goss elaborated, "The number of incidents within this newest fire district has increased from 85 in 2014 to 224 in 2022. That's a 165% increase in eight years."

#### Apparatus Design

Along with the new building, Station 5 includes a front-line fire engine and a reserve apparatus. A committee of Brentwood Fire and Rescue staff led by Lt. Cody Johnson helped create and build Engine 55 to meet the specific needs of Brentwood and specifically Fire Station 5's response district which is nearly 100% residential.

Brentwood Fire and Rescue Deputy Chief Brian Collins said, "National Fire Protection Standards change over the years, and each change adds additional safety design features and equipment. The design of our two newest engines, Engine 51 and 55, utilized best practices and helped create the Brentwood apparatus standards for years to come."

The event concluded with a ceremonial hose uncoupling. In the firefighting industry, when firefighters successfully extinguish a fire, the last task is to uncouple the hoses. At that time crews drain the water and return the hose to the fire truck. "Today, as we celebrate the completion of Brentwood's Fire Station 5, we uncouple the hose and officially open this fire station," said Chief Goss.

#### **Push-In Ceremony**

Immediately following the hose uncoupling was the fire apparatus push-in ceremony.

The City of Brentwood started its fire protection service for citizens in 1986 when the population was about 15,000. Today, the population is more than 45,000 and the department averages over 4,000 calls per year. Chief Goss enlightened the crowd about the history of firefighting when equipment was pushed back into the station by hand.

"Beginning in the 1800's, horse drawn steam engines were used but it was difficult to align the steam connections on the engine with those in the station, so the horses were unharnessed, and the steamers were also often pushed back into the station by hand," Chief Goss said.

Once motorized engines went into service, the hand pushing was history. "The fire service is rich with tradition, so that is what we are doing today with the push-in—we want to pay homage to the past," Chief Goss added. Both current and retired Brentwood firefighters placed their hands on the new truck and collectively pushed it in Fire Station 5.

Brentwood Firefighter Charles Boehmke took drone footage of the Station 5 site every week during construction. You can watch a two-minute time lapse of the station being built on the City of Brentwood's YouTube channel.



Current and retired Brentwood firefighters push the new truck into Fire Station 5 during the Station 5 grand opening.



Aerial view of the completed Fire Station 5.

# THE Brentwood Historic Commission presents THE BUGLE

#### Volume 23, Issue 1

# THE BATTLE OF BRENTWOOD: 160TH ANNIVERSARY IS MARCH 25, 2023

Written by Kathie Greaves, photos from Joe Grosson

Prior to the Civil War, the village of Brentwood was a thriving agricultural area. There were many slave holders and plantations flourished as evidenced by the stately fields and homes, and most Brentwood families sided with the Confederacy.

Transportation through Brentwood included an improved Franklin Pike that had been "Macadamized" (hard surfaced) providing an all-season route for transport including troops, artillery and supplies. Brentwood was also a station on the Nashville & Decatur Railroad, completed in 1859, that connected Middle Tennessee with sites further south. The 1860 census noted only 9 structures in the village of Brentwood, including a railroad depot and telegraph office. Nashville fell to Union forces in Feb 1862 and remained firmly in Union hands throughout the war while opposing armies clashed nearby. Franklin was in and out of Union hands several times while Spring Hill remained a strong Confederate holding. Brentwood was caught in the middle, and home to dozens of skirmishes often centered on foraging trains sent from Nashville to plunder the local countryside.

Union forces garrisoned at Brentwood were intended to help support Franklin forces and secure the transportation corridors which included the strategic supply depot railroad storehouse at Brentwood Village center and the railroad bridge over the Little Harpeth River (near Franklin Road & Murray Lane).

In Nathan Bedford Forrest: First with the Most, Robert Selph Henry wrote:

"Arrived at Brentwood, Forrest went ahead with his plans. At the hamlet there was an entrenched camp, surrounded by a quartermile belt of felled trees and garrisoned by more than 500 Wisconsin troops. A mile and a half to the south, where the railroad crossed the Little Harpeth River was a strong stockade garrisoned by nearly 300 Michigan troops. Forrest determined to capture both garrisons with all their equipment, stores and wagons, and to burn what he could not carry off."

Once Confederate artillery moved into place, the Union commander Lt. Colonel Edward Bloodgood surrendered in a short period of time. Forrest then moved quickly to the Little Harpeth River stockade. One cannon round persuaded a surrender. The Confederates burned the stockade and railroad bridge and started moving approximately 800 prisoners westward. Union Calvary sent from Franklin made contact with the retreating contingent sent with the slower confiscated wagons and prisoners several miles west of the stockade. Both Confederate Generals Starnes and Forrest responded to the sounds of guns and came to the aid. The Union troops fell back and Confederates moved towards Spring Hill. The Battle of Brentwood was a Confederate victory.

Read more at The John P Holt Brentwood Public Library:

- Brentwood, Tennessee a Crossroads of the Civil War by Joe Lassus
- Historic Brentwood and When Cotton Was King by Vance Little
- The Nashville and Decatur in the Civil War: History of an Embattled Railroad by Walter Green



Confederate army bringing an artillery piece to start shelling the Union position.







Confederate dismounted cavalry firing a company volley.

# BOILING SPRING ACADEMY

Monthly open houses are the third Sunday of the month, April through October, 2-4 pm. Interested in being a Docent Volunteer? Contact Kathie Greaves at Drgrema1@aol.com or 615-776-2268 Homeschoolers can choose how to experience the Academy:

#### In-person field trip on-site at Boiling Spring Academy

History comes alive for students when they have the opportunity to participate in an immersive history experience going back 150 years. Students will pretend they are living in that former historical time and participate in lessons such as elocution, reading, arithmetic/cypher, penmanship and spelling. A history walk down to the Little Harpeth River (weather permitting) provides more history of the area which was inhabited over a thousand years ago by the Mississippian culture Native Americans. If interested, make inquiries to Kathie Greaves at the email or phone listed above.

#### Online virtual field trip

Don't have time in your schedule for a traditional field trip? If your class is unable to attend, we encourage you to consider our Boiling Spring Academy Virtual Field Trip which was created in partnership with Williamson County School System. This includes a 360 degree tour of the Academy with written and verbal descriptions of the Academy. There are also 5 video lessons with a teacher's guide and student activities. Available at: www.brentwoodtn.gov/ boilingspringacademy.

# **HISTORICAL MARKERS**

Have you noticed a variety of historical signs and markers as you drive or jog through our city? If your home or property is of a sufficient age and has historical significance it may qualify for a city approved historic marker. Submit applications on Brentwood's website under Historic Commission. You can also help us maintain the markers by advising when you see one that needs repair or replacement. For more information, contact the marker chairman at loseph.Grosson@comcast.net.



# MAYFIELD CEMETERY



#### From: www.brentwoodgreenspace.org

After years of planning and hard work, the descendants announced the completed restoration on October 22, 2022! The completely restored Mayfield Cemetery on Wilson Pike in Brentwood was blessed by Pastor Josh Huisman of the New Hope Community Church in Brentwood. The repair of stones was done by Army Veteran Jeanna Spain Bradley. The oldest grave in the cemetery is 190 years old and the youngest grave is 143 years old.

# MORE STORIES ABOUT THE CIVIL WAR IN BRENTWOOD

From Previous Editions of The Bugle



Turner Property and the Battle of Brentwood

Bishop Quintard and the **Episcopal Church** 





Nolensville and Knob Gap

Blue and Grey Find Common Ground, the Civil War in Brentwood



#### The Brentwood Historic Commission www.brentwoodtn.gov/about-us/history

The goal of the Historic Commission is to preserve Brentwood history and educate others about the past. We invite you to help us accomplish our goal with a donation to the Brentwood Historic Commission. Detach this form and send with your check payable to:

Brentwood Historic Commission			
City of Brentwood Attention: Charles Booth			
PO Box 788 Brentwood, TN 37024-0788			

Individual	\$15
Family	\$25
Contributing	\$50
Corporate/Benefact	tor \$100+

\_\_\_\_\_

Street Address:

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Name:

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number:

E-mail Address:



### BRENTWOOD'S NEW 9-1-1 CENTER

Three years after the groundbreaking of the Police Department Headquarters, Brentwood's new state-of-the-art 9-1-1 Communications Center opened on November 29, 2022. This \$1.13 million center is a large corner office located on the second floor, with two walls of windows overlooking a pond. It also has a private balcony off the break room, a media wall, larger ergonomic workstations with individual heat and fans, and large computer monitors.

"The new center is the penthouse of the police headquarters," says Emergency Communications Director Kathleen Watkins. "It is aesthetically pleasing and offers a more serene environment, which adds a level of calm during periods of crisis. The mental health of the telecommunicators is as critical as physical health."

The Communications Center is also equipped with the latest technology: Customized Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) for the City of Brentwood, RapidSOS-Cellular 911 location database with Axon body camera integration, Weather Ops-Long term weather forecast, Brentwood live traffic cameras, TDOT traffic cameras, Vigilant Solutions-License Plate Reader, eAgent 2.0-a web application that allows law enforcement and public safety professionals to query NCIC, NLETS & State databases, and ECaTS-9-1-1 data recording software.

The newest communication capability coming to Brentwood in 2023: text-to-9-1-1. This new feature will help those who are deaf, hard of hearing, have a speech disability, experiencing a medical emergency that prevents the ability to speak, or in a situation where it is not safe to make a phone call to 9-1-1. However, a voice call will always be the fastest way to receive help. If in an emergency, call if you can, text if you can't. The City of Brentwood and Williamson County will release more information about text-to-9-1-1 as it is implemented.

Annual operational funding for the Communications Center from the Tennessee Emergency Communications Board is budgeted at \$864,126, with excess revenue budgeted at \$369,255.00 per year. The City of Brentwood contributes \$488,000 to the Communications Center each year.



The new center has two walls of windows with a peaceful view, designed to help the mental health of dispatchers and provide a more comfortable work environment.



Public Safety Dispatchers are civilian employees who answer all incoming emergency and non-emergency calls to the Brentwood Police Department, and dispatch all Brentwood Police and Fire & Rescue calls. All calls requiring medical assistance are transferred to Williamson County Emergency Communications, though Brentwood Firefighter Paramedics are dispatched to all medical calls within Brentwood.

### Citizen's Update



## BRENTWOOD'S HISTORY OF STATE-OF-THE-ART STATUS

The last time Brentwood's 9-1-1 center was featured on the cover of City Update was in Spring 2012, with the tagline "Brentwood's 'New Next Generation' 911 Center."

Newly renovated at the time in City Hall, this center had five dispatcher stations, reflective of an increase in permanent 24/7 staffing after the May 2010 flood. New features included an updated battery power supply, radio equipment that allowed dispatchers to communicate directly with surrounding agencies, and traffic cameras.

In the Spring 2012 newsletter, "next generation" referred to future capability for alternative forms of communication, such as texting, videos, photos, and OnStar. Brentwood was also already considered progressive in its 9-1-1 abilities when it began in the 1980s. With its previous center in City Hall and the new center being used today, Brentwood 9-1-1 is continuing its "state-of-the-art" status.

# WINDY HILL PARK

After five public engagement meetings, master planning for Windy Hill Park is complete. Input from those meetings has been incorporated into the final layout and amenities to be included in the 52-acre park, set to begin construction later in 2023 and open in 2024.

Windy Hill Park will be a passive recreational park, meaning open space and multi-purpose trails will be the predominate features. It will also include small picnic facilities, a gazebo, and a playground. Trails will be 10 feet wide, with perimeter sections incorporating an additional two-foot aggregate shoulder for those who prefer not to run on pavement. A 400-meter loop trail will also be incorporated in the north section of the park. Parking will include two areas, one on the north end with 58 spaces, and one on the south with 43 spaces. Restrooms will be located on the north end. A small airplane hangar still exists on the property from a time when the site served as a private airstrip. The City hopes to incorporate an aviation theme into some of the amenities.

# **FINANCIAL REPORTING**

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the City of Brentwood for the 36th year in a row.



The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting. The report has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story. The Annual Consolidated Financial Report can be accessed on our website.

# **NEW BODY CAMERAS**



Brentwood Police Department recently implemented a new body camera system. Learn more on our YouTube channel.

# **OLD SMYRNA ROAD STUDY**

Old Smyrna Road is currently a narrow and heavily traveled east-west connector in Brentwood, carrying traffic between Wilson Pike and Edmondson Pike. There are multiple new developments planned or currently under construction along the roadway. A study is underway of the roadway's existing conditions, along with proposed conceptual modifications.

The western half of this Old Smyrna Road Improvement Study area (about <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> of a mile in length) contains a narrow roadway with large trees, stone walls, and a drainage channel within a few feet of the edge of the traveled way. These present concerns for improvement, especially for wider vehicles such as school buses and those driven by first responders.

This study will provide an initial in-depth analysis of existing conditions, along with some proposed design options for improving the roadway. Existing historic features will be considered during this process. There currently is no timeline for any proposed construction improvements to the roadway.

# **LIBRARY OUTREACH**

The John P. Holt Brentwood Library has always focused on the community. Their programs, events, resources, spaces, and catalog are curated to support and supply their beloved patrons. This year they turned the page and took a step further when they ramped up their community outreach once Maddie Hicks became the Community Engagement and Outreach Coordinator in December of 2021.

This last year, the library collaborated with the Brentwood Deaf Church on both an ASL Series for Beginners and Deaf Santa, an immersive holiday program that served over 70 patrons.

They hosted their first city-wide scavenger hunt with over 300 participants. Dive into Brentwood highlighted several local parks and historic sights, including Ravenswood Mansion, Deerwood Arboretum, and Crockett Park.

Splash into Summer, the library's first-ever Summer Reading Kickoff event, featured carnival-style games, two local food



Deaf Santa



Summer Reading

trucks, a craft project, and a sign-up table for the Summer Reading Program.

"The best part about Outreach Programs is that we get to bring the joy and community-building aspects of library services to people who may not otherwise have access to them," Hicks says. "The library isn't confined to a physical space anymore."

The staff has provided library programming to Bright Stone, The Martin Center, and the Rowen Glenn Center at Brentwood Baptist. These programs include Bingo, Arts and Crafts, and a Murder Mystery party.

In the last six months, they have reached 475 people through Outreach Programs.

These events will continue to be on the roster, so watch out for more events, more ways to see the city, and more opportunities to connect with your community.



Rowen Glenn

# LED STREETLIGHTS

In November 2022 the Brentwood City Commission approved an agreement with the PATH Company to upgrade nearly four-thousand streetlights with new LED lighting. Part of this agreement also included updates to the streetlight agreements with both of the City's electric service providers. This nearly \$3.5 million dollar project will result in long term reduced electric and infrastructure costs for Brentwood.

The full installation will take three to four months and the entire project is expected to be completed in the late spring of 2023. In many locations, new streetlight fixtures will be installed. However, in neighborhoods with decorative streetlights, the aesthetics of the poles and fixtures will not change, but new LED bulbs will be installed. New light locations will not be added to the system, the project focuses on converting existing lights.

"This project will ultimately pay for itself through reduced electric use and energy costs. Beyond the financial benefits, the newer technology will provide a safer and more consistently lit street to drive, walk, and cycle through Brentwood for many years to come," said City Manager Kirk Bednar. The LED fixtures and bulbs have a lifetime expectancy of twenty years.

A feasibility study conducted in July 2021, showed that a retrofit project to replace the current high pressure sodium bulbs and fixtures to more energy efficient and reliable LED bulbs and fixtures, would provide a significant savings on the city's annual streetlight costs for both the investment and energy usage.

Other factors that led to securing the project include general aesthetic improvements across the city with consistent lighting levels, improved public safety with enhanced lighting and safer driving conditions, fewer outages as LED lights last much longer than current bulbs, and significant environmental impacts through reduced energy consumption. It is projected that this project will result in a total energy reduction of 1,911,951 kilowatt-hours of electricity annually.

Bednar added, "residents will notice the difference between the old lights and the new ones on day one. There will be improved and consistent lighting on streets, without the 'dead zones' that Brentwood is used to today."

# **2023 COMMUNITY EVENTS**

- Friends of the Library Used Book Sale Easter Egg Hunt at the Library Boiling Springs Academy Open House Spring Cleanup Collection Spring Cleanup Collection Spring Cleanup Collection Brentwood Summer Concerts feat. WannaBeatles Brentwood Summer Concerts feat. Music City Stones Brentfest feat. Rubiks Groove Red, White and Boom in Brentwood feat. The Smoking Section Friends of the Library Used Book Sale Public Safety Day Fall Cleanup Collection Fall Cleanup Collection Fall Cleanup Collection Friends of the Library Used Book Sale **Environmental Education Day** Morning with Santa Christmas Tree Lighting Neighborhood Luminaries
- March 31-Apr 2 April 8 April - October April 22 April 29 May 6 June 11 June 18 June 24 July 4 July 14 - 16 September 30 October 21 October 28 November 4 October 20 - 22 October TBD December 2 December 4 December 9

# **2023 COMMISSIONERS**

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Rhea Little, III



#### COMMISSIONER

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