BRENTWOOD CITY UPDATE BRUNDER BRUNDER

Ravenswood Mansion's 200th Anniversary

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CITY CONTACTS

City Hall	615-371-0060
Community Relations	615-371-2259
Fire	615-371-0170
Library	
Parks	615-371-2208
Planning & Codes	615-371-2204
Police	615-371-0160
Public Works	615-371-0080
Service Center	615-371-0080
Water Billing	615-661-7061
Water Maintenance	615-371-0080
Williamson County Ambulance	615-794-2800
Emergency	911

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

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BRENTWOOD NAMES JASON GAGE AS CITY MANAGER

The City of Brentwood has named Jason Gage, a seasoned professional with more than 30 years of municipal government management experience, as Brentwood's next city manager. He will assume his new role on April 28.

"We are pleased to announce our decision to hire our new City Manager, Jason Gage," Brentwood Mayor Mark Gorman said. "We believe Jason matches the culture and performance expectations of all stakeholders. Jason understands we are looking for incremental improvement and not structural change. Please join me in welcoming Jason Gage as our new city manager."

On Jan. 31, former City Manager Kirk Bednar retired, ending his more than 24-year career in Brentwood. The City Commission hired Government Professional Services (GPS), an executive search firm, to conduct a national search for Bednar's replacement. The firm received more than 50 applications from highly qualified candidates, and the City Commission narrowed that pool to five finalists.

Those five finalists visited Brentwood in February to meet with community members, city staff, and the Brentwood City Commission. After those interviews, the commission selected Gage to lead the Brentwood city team.

"I am very excited to be selected as Brentwood's next manager," Gage said. "Brentwood is a very special place. It is my privilege to work for this city commission, lead their highly qualified staff team, and serve this incredible community!"

A southwest Missouri native, Gage earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Missouri Southern State University and a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Missouri. He is a credentialed member of the ICMA, and he previously served as the city manager for Salina, Kansas; Stillwater, Oklahoma; and De Soto, Missouri. Recently, Gage spent more than six years as city manager of Springfield, Missouri. While in Springfield, he oversaw 2,113 full-time employees and a \$507 million budget.

In 2013, he received the Buford M. Watson Jr. Award for Excellence in Public Management from the Kansas Association of City/ County Management, the highest honor for a city manager in Kansas.

Gage has served on various professional and community boards, including the Kansas Association of City/County Management (past president), the American Red Cross, the United Way (board chair), and the Community Partnership of the Ozarks.



On hot Tuesday mornings in August, Brentwood residents can use around 50 to 75 gallons of water an hour. That number sounds reasonable, but on Wednesdays, if the sun is out, the city's usage can spike to over 700 gallons of water an hour.

The reason for this drastic fluctuation is that most automated irrigation systems in the city are programmed to water on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings in the summer. The ticking sound of sprinklers practically disappears on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

With warmer weather approaching, Brentwood Water Services wants to spread that usage out by encouraging residents to follow an Address-Based Irrigation (ABI) program. Under this voluntary program, residents with odd numbered street addresses will schedule their irrigation systems for Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Individuals with even numbered addresses will water their lawns on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

"This would promote a reduction of the peak M/W/F water demand and spread that water usage out more evenly throughout the week," Chris Milton, Brentwood Water Services Director, said. "The plan objective is to reduce peak day demands and aid in reducing long-term capital project costs, offset future rate increases and reduce the likelihood that water restrictions might be required during drought conditions or during emergency events."

More and more, water utilities are turning to ABI programs as they have been proven successful. In recent years, Nashville, Spring Hill, and Nolensville have promoted ABI programs because they have the potential to lower peak demands for water by as much as 40%. Some of those are mandatory programs. Brentwood is only recommending residents follow the ABI schedule..

"During those summer months, we're able to provide water without issues," Drew Muirhead, assistant director of Water Services, said. "Our water capacity is fine. We can provide water. This is more of a long-term, sustainable project we're looking at doing."

On hot Tuesday mornings in August, the city can supply more than 12 million gallons in a day. That amount can cause wear and tear on equipment and require the department to install larger pipes throughout the community. Conversely, during non-irrigation months, supply is typically around 3-4mgd.



"This is voluntary," Muirhead said. "We're not talking about any type of restrictions. It's completely voluntary. We figure it's better to be proactive and slowly roll this out to our customers and get buy-in from our irrigation companies that do a lot of work in the area, and from HOAs that have irrigation systems for their open space, so that in three to four years we're in a place where we want to be."

The city will issue letters to HOAs and irrigation companies this month, announcing the voluntary program. All Brentwood Water customers are encouraged to water their lawns as before, only that they follow the proposed ABI program to determine which days they water.

Left: During the summer months, Brentwood's water usage spikes to over 700 gallons an hour on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

MURRAY LANE MEDIAN AND STONE WALL RESTORATION

When Murry Lane was widened in the early 1990s, the City of Brentwood created a tree-lined median to protect a historic cemetery and a stacked stone wall along that roadway. Over the years, the median's vegetation has thickened considerably, and last fall, City officials began discussing a project to clean up this undergrowth.

"There was funding in the budget to do a cleanup of the median, but City staff wasn't sure how extensive of a cleanup the community would support," Former City Manager Kirk Bednar said. "We met onsite with HOA (Homeowner's Association) officials from McGavock and Princeton Hills. They came back to us saying they were in favor of a full cleanup of the median."

The City's Public Works Department quickly went to work, clearing away invasive species growing along the median while preserving the mature trees and the remnants of the historic wall. In some areas, only a few stones remained, scattered in piles that didn't resemble the wall's original purpose.

As this vegetation removal work continues, City officials are working on rebuilding a portion of the median's historic stone wall. A contractor recently restored a test section of stone wall at the corner of Murray Lane and Franklin Road. Todd Hoppenstedt, director of Brentwood Public Works, made sure the wall's historic integrity was maintained during this preliminary work.

"This work has been purely labor, no mortar or other materials used," he said. "The existing stones are simply just being pulled apart and restacked."

The vegetation clearing portion of the Murray Lane project should be completed early this spring, with the stone wall work to follow.

BRENTWOOD BRIEFS

Bite-Size Updates

FRIENDS DONATION

On Jan. 27, The Friends of the Brentwood Library attended the City Commission meeting to show its continued support for the John P. Holt Brentwood Library. During its 48-year history, the organization has donated approximately \$1.6 million to the library. At the meeting, members presented a \$50,000 check to the city.

"The \$50,000 we are presenting tonight for programming is only a portion of the funds that the Friends will provide to the library," Tricia Allison, president of the Friends, said. "We will continue to fund capital projects for the library as well."

The friends also donated \$7,000 for library staff development. That money will be used for conferences and other professional development opportunities for library staff.

TREE CITY USA

The Arbor Day Foundation named Brentwood a 2024 Tree City USA in honor of its commitment to plant, grow, and maintain trees for the benefit of its community. This marks the 36th consecutive year that Brentwood has received this honor.

"We all have a role to play in shaping our future and tree champions like Brentwood are leading the way," Michelle Saulnier, vice president of programs at the Arbor Day Foundation, said. "Trees are critical infrastructure, building resiliency and fostering good health in our nation's cities. We're proud Brentwood is among the Arbor Day Foundation's growing network of communities dedicated to creating positive impact through trees."

SCAM ALERT

Some Brentwood residents have received phone calls soliciting donations for the Brentwood Fire & Rescue Department. Remember, the department will never solicit funds over the phone. If you receive a call asking for donations, please hang up and report it to the department at 615-371-0170.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION DAY

The City Engineering Department hosted its annual Environmental Education Day for Ravenwood High School's 11th and 12th grade students on March 31st.

The event was held at Deerwood Arboretum and featured ten educational stations where students participated in hands-on activities covering topics such as water filtration, stream ecology, water chemistry, illicit discharge, stormwater control measures, and erosion control maintenance.

The goal of the event was to educate students on a variety of environmental issues, developing a future generation of individuals knowledgeable about ways to help and preserve the environment. Each station was led by a few instructors from various local companies, agencies, and vendors.

This year, approximately 220 students attended the event. Ravenwood High School provided a dozen volunteers who assisted in ensuring the event ran smoothly.

THE BRENTWOOD BULLETIN

Interested in receiving city news and information every month? Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter, The Brentwood Bulletin. See previous issues and sign up at: https://www.brentwoodtn.gov/departments/communityrelations/brentwood-bulletin.



THE LEGACY OF AVIATION AT BRENTWOOD'S NEWEST PARK

In 1974, shortly after Wilbur and Lucy Sensing purchased the historic Windy Hill Farm in Brentwood, the couple had lights installed along the bumpy field next to the house. It was their first major investment in the nearly 200-year-old farm, but the lights were essential from a safety standpoint. If Wilbur wanted to land his single-engine airplane at night, he'd need to see the grassy runway.

"The first money we spent when we lived here is he lit the runway," Lucy said.

The addition of those lights officially established what the family jokingly called the "Windy Hill Airport." For the next 25 years, Wilbur was a regular in the skies above Brentwood. As the owner of Enco Materials, he used the plane to visit the company's eight locations throughout the southeast, places like Albany, Georgia, and Little Rock, Arkansas.

When someone asked Wilbur if he flew for business or for fun, he said he flew "to make business fun."

In 2020, the Sensing family sold a portion of their farm, including the runway, to Brentwood for the creation of a new city park. The couple released a statement at the time, saying, "We have enjoyed the pastoral beauty of Windy Hill for the past 45 years and now are thankful it will be preserved for all to enjoy."

The Windy Hill Park is set to open later this year, and the city is making sure the land's aviation history will live on with an airplane-theme playground and a mural developed by Leadership Brentwood.

'I always liked aviation'

Sometimes, on Saturday afternoons, kids from the neighboring Carondelet subdivision would sit on a rock wall to watch Sensing land his plane. When he saw them, he'd take them up in his Cessna 182, letting them see their homes from high in the sky. During these flights, he remembered his own childhood fascination with flying.

"I built a lot of model airplanes when I was younger," he said. "I always liked aviation and wanted to fly an airplane. My daddy wanted to fly too, but his wife was too restrictive. My mother wouldn't let him fly."

But she let Wilbur take flying lessons when he was 16. The hobby became a way of life for him, with Sensing flying regularly for work or taking his family to Disney World for summer vacations.

"But I kept getting older and older, finally retired from my business, turned it over to my sons, and they used the airplane," Wilbur said. "Since I didn't have any place to go, I sold it (the plane) and retired from flying. That was about the end of my flying experience."

SNA Skylane



'There wasn't much room for error'

According to the FFA's Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge, "During each flight, the single pilot makes many decisions under hazardous conditions. To fly safely, the pilot needs to assess the degree of risk and determine the best course of action to mitigate the risk."

Flying into the Windy Hill Airport could sometimes be considered a "hazardous condition," especially at night, but Wilbur was more comfortable landing in the bumpy field than on the paved runway of a traditional airport.

Returning home from a business trip, in the days before GPS, Wilbur would tune his radio into Brentwood's massive WSM radio tower. When it came into view, he would begin his approach to Windy Hill Airport.

"I would come in and line up with the radio tower like it was a runway light," he said. "If I lined up to the north and to the east, I could come in and make a right-hand turn and land it. I did that quite a bit."

He makes it sound easy, but for other pilots, it was anything but easy. Some neighbors even nicknamed him "Crazy Wilbur." It took an accomplished pilot to land at Windy Hill.

"The only real problem is there were two big, tall trees on each side of the runway, and you had to guide the plane through them without the wings hitting the trees," he said. "I never had any problem with it."

His son, Ben Sensing, is also a pilot, and he said it was a little more challenging than his father said.

"There wasn't much room for error stopping, because there was a rock wall on one end and a creek on the other," he said.

One day, returning from a business trip with one of his employees, Wilbur landed on the wet grass. The plane kept going toward the rock wall.

"He put on the brakes and spun it around right before they hit it," Lucy said.

The employee never flew with Wilbur again.

Another challenge for the pilot was Windy Hill remained a working farm. Lucy was in the house one afternoon when she heard Wilbur's plane circling above.

"It made enough noise you could hear it," she said.

When she looked outside, she noticed the problem.

"The cows had gotten into the field and on the runway," Ben said. "So, she had to go run them off the field so he could land."

Wilbur brought the plane down safely, as he always did, and on July 20, 2019, the Federal Aviation Administration presented him with the Wright Brothers "Master Pilot" Award for his "50 years of dedicated service to aviation safety."

The Windy Hill Airport is now officially closed. No more planes will take off or land on that grassy field. But this summer, Brentwood residents will get to visit Windy Hill Park and imagine those days when Wilbur's single-engine plane circled the sky above.

The Brentwood Historic Commission presents

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Volume 25, Issue 1

Historic Commission Members: Commissioner Anne Dunn, Chairman Ashley McAnulty, Preston Bain, Amy Brothers, Joe Crockett, Joe Grosson, Loyce Hooker, Nicole Smith, Alison Stabile, Susan Tabor, Tara Volpintesta, Tracy Zimmerman, and Charles Booth, City of Brentwood Director of Community Relations

HISTORY BOWL

The Brentwood Historic Commission hosted its 14th annual "Battle of the Minds" Sarah Bayrd American History Bowl on Feb. 27, and the Ravenwood High School team took home the competition's first-place trophy. Second place went to Franklin High School team, and Summit High School earned third place during the event.

Dan Thomas, WSMV Channel 4 Meteorologist, and Chuck Sherrill, retired State Librarian and Archivist, hosted the game-show style competition at Brentwood City Hall. In addition to the winning teams, Brentwood, Nolensville and Page high schools also participated.



Above: The winning team from Ravenwood High School.

BRENTWOOD AND AMERICA 250

On July 4, 1776, the delegates to the Second Continental Congress signed the Declaration of Independence, establishing what would become the United States of America.

Next summer, the nation will celebrate its 250th anniversary, and the Brentwood Historic Commission is already planning how it will commemorate this milestone.

In the coming months, the Commission will chronicle Brentwood's connection to the American Revolution with articles about the Land Grant settlers and eight Revolutionary War veterans who are buried in the city.

For more information on America 250, visit america250.org.

PAVILLION

Shortly after the Brentvale cabin at Crockett Park was dismantled, because the structure was determined to be unsafe, the Brentwood Historic Commission developed an innovative plan to revive a piece of that building's history.

In 2023, the commission proposed building a pavilion on the original cabin's footprint and enclosing a portion of that pavilion with siding from the cabin's original log timbers. The City Commission approved of this plan, and the city hired Homestead Timber Frames to build the pavilion and Majors Construction to oversee the project.

That project is now complete. The pavilion, with its two stone chimneys, sits where the Brentvale cabin once stood in Crockett Park. The Historic Commission is now planning to host a grand opening ceremony for this facility sometime this summer.





Above: The completed pavillion, front and back.

SCHOOLMARMS / SCHOOLMASTERS WANTED

Take a historic landmark building, a 16th century Native American Mound, a flair for the dramatic and a class of kids—mix well and you have an unforgettable field trip.

The Brentwood Historic Commission is looking for former or retired teachers at our c1833 Boiling Spring Academy on Moore's Lane to join our teaching team this fall.

In the spring and fall, area 3rd grade students spend time immersed in the 1800s rural one-room education with our Living History Program. You will receive a stipend for your teaching time from the Brentwood Historic Commission. For more information, email info@Brentwood.com with "BSA Teacher" in the subject line.



Above: Primm Park, with Boiling Spring Academy.





EST. 1825 | BRENTWOOD, TENN.

This 200 year old historic home is located in the heart of Brentwood at Marcella Vivrette Smith Park.

It's available to rent year-round for events, including weddings, business gatherings, graduation and holiday parties, bridal and baby showers, and more.



RAVENSWOOD MANSION'S 200TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

In 1825, James Hazard Wilson II and his wife, Emeline, moved into the grand Federal and Greek architectural-style house in Brentwood known as the Ravenswood Mansion. In 1961, Reese and Marcella Vivrette Smith Jr. purchased the historic house, and the family called Ravenswood home until they sold it to the City of Brentwood in 2010.

Today, the city-owned home at 1825 Wilson Pike is a popular event space, but on May 18, the descendants of the first and last families to live in Ravenswood – James Hazard Wilson III and Reese and Steve Smith – will join the Historic Commission in hosting a 200th anniversary celebration of the home.

The free event, from 1-5 p.m. that Sunday, will feature live music, a DJ, food trucks, inflatables, face-painting, and balloon artists. At 2 p.m., a parade will take place on the roads surrounding the mansion, and throughout the day, members of the Wilson and Smith families will speak about living in the home.

At 2:30 p.m., Brentwood Historic Commission members will give tours of the mansion and the enslaved cabins behind Ravenswood.

For more information on Ravenswood history, including how the home is named in honor of Sam Houston – Governor of Tennessee and Texas, and first president of the Republic of Texas – visit **ravenswoodmansion.com/history**.

NEW CHIEF OF POLICE AND BRENTWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT LEADERS



Jim Colvin, Chief of Police

Feb. 24 marked the beginning of a new era for the Brentwood Police Department (BPD). That Monday evening, the Brentwood City Commission officially recognized Jim Colvin as the Department's new Chief of Police. He is the fifth person to lead the department since it was founded in 1971.

"We couldn't be more thankful to have you for our new Chief of Police," Mayor Mark Gorman said.

Colvin joined the BPD in December 2004, serving over the last 20 years as a patrol sergeant, a detective, a patrol lieutenant, and a captain over the City's Patrol Division. He was named assistant chief of police in 2022.

An unconventional mix of well-wishers attended Monday's meeting, from family members to people Colvin helped arrest and motorists he once pulled over for speeding. No matter how these individuals first met him, they now consider the new chief one of their closest friends.

Colvin thanked them for their support, but he saved his highest appreciation for the BPD officers he now leads.

"The men and women of the Brentwood Police Department are the ones that I want to mention last because I will reap a lot of praise for their hard work," he said. "And I'm keenly aware of that. I will always try to make a point to let everyone know that while I may be someone who is in front of a camera or in front of a microphone, they're the ones that are doing the hard work, the shift work, answering calls, reviewing the reports, keeping our vehicles running, doing payroll – all the things that it takes to keep this operation running. And they do it so well.

"I'm grateful to be a part of this and to represent them as a chief of police."

During the meeting, Colvin also introduced several newly promoted BPD officers who will help him lead the department.

Nick Surre, Assistant Chief of Police

Capt. Nick Surre, a dedicated law enforcement professional with 18 years of experience, was named the BPD's new assistant chief of police. A Michigan native, Surre attended Saginaw Valley State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice.

He joined the BPD in April 2007, serving in various roles over the years, including crime scene technician, field training officer, patrol sergeant, patrol lieutenant, and tactical response team commander. In 2022, he was promoted to captain of the city's Patrol Division.

"Nick is one of those guys," Colvin said. "You can give him anything and he's going to run with it. And he's going to do four or five more steps than you ever thought he would. He's a perfectionist, and one of the hardest working people I know."

Capt. Anthony "A.J." Weakley

Lt. Anthony Weakley, who previously oversaw the department's second shift patrol, was promoted to captain, overseeing the BPD's Patrol Division.

Weakley joined the department in 2016, and he's served as a field training officer, a crime scene technician, and a fitness instructor, and he was one of the founding members of the department's Tactical Response Team. He earned his associate degree in criminal justice from Illinois Central College.

"A.J. has been promoted about as often as you can be promoted," Colvin said. "You'll rarely find someone rise as fast as he has, and you know how we structure our promotions – they're all earned. A.J. has earned every single promotion, from sergeant to lieutenant and now to captain."

Lt. Chris Woodard

Sgt. Chris Woodard, a Middle Tennessee native, was promoted to lieutenant, and he will take over the BPD's second shift patrol. Woodard began his law enforcement career with the Williamson County Sheriff's Office, and he joined the BPD as a patrol officer in 2002. He has served as a sergeant for the last 11 years, and he is the leader of the department's Crisis Negotiator Team.

"Chris brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the street," Colvin said. "He's a calm in the storm a lot of times, and I've worked very closely with Chris over the years. It is my great honor to announce the promotion of Lt. Chris Woodard."

Sgt. Chuck Castleberry

Officer Chuck Castleberry, one of the department's lead firearms instructors, was promoted to sergeant. Born in Atlanta, Georgia, Castleberry attended Tarleton State University in Texas, where he earned a bachelor's degree in natural resource management.

He joined the Williamson County Sheriff's Office in 2013, where he was a canine handler and a member of the SWAT Team. About six years later, he joined the BPD and currently serves on the Department's Tactical Response Team.

"He's the guy you want when things go south," Colvin said. "Chuck has been a great resource to us."

Lt. Adrian Breedlove

Det. Adrian Breedlove joined the BPD 28 years ago, and for the last 23 years, he's served in the department's Criminal Investigations Division (CID). On Monday, he was named lieutenant for the CID.

"He is an absolutely outstanding detective," Colvin said. "He is the one you want working on your case."

For eight years, he served on a DEA Task Force, and he's currently on a TBI Task Force focused on human trafficking. He also is an adjunct professor at Trevecca Nazarene University.



From left to right: Sgt. Chuck Castleberry, Lt. Chris Woodard, Capt. AJ Weakley, Chief Jim Colvin, Chief Nick Surre, and Lt. Adrian Breedlove at the February 24th City Commission meeting.

BRENTWOOD MUNICIPAL ELECTION

The Brentwood Municipal Election will be held on May 6, 2025, at which time the registered voters of Brentwood will elect three City Commissioners to serve four-year terms. Precincts will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Please visit the Williamson County Election Commission website for your precinct location and additional information.

About the Commission

The Brentwood City Commission is made up of seven people 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 City boards. The City Commission meets twice a month for regularly scheduled meetings at City Hall located at 5211 Maryland Way in Brentwood.

There will be two locations where early voting will be available for the 2025 spring municipal election:

Early Voting

April 16 to May 1* The Election Commission Office, 1320 West Main Street, Franklin, TN 37064 Weekdays: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturdays: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 pm Noon *Office closed April 18th for Good Friday

Early Voting

April 24 to May 1 The John P. Holt Brentwood Library, 8109 Concord Road, Brentwood, TN 37027 Weekdays: 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturdays: 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm

Election Day

May 6, 2025 Precincts open: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m John P. Holt Brentwood Library, 8109 Concord Road, Brentwood, TN 37027 Brenthaven Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 516 Franklin Road, Brentwood, TN 37037



MMER CONCERT

MONSTERS OF YACHT at **YACHT ROCK NIGHT**

at Crockett Park **MUSTACHE THE BAND** at COUNTRY NIGHT SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 6-8 PM SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 6-8 PM

RUBIKS GROOVE & CRUZIN KEYS at **BRENTFEST** TURDAY, JUNE 28, 6-9 PM

THE DOWNTOWN BAND at RED, WHITE, AND BOOM FRIDAY, JULY 4, 7-10 PM

