



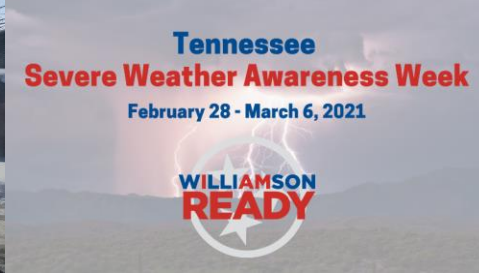
Friday, February 26, 2021

February is Black History Month –A street sign unveiling will happen today at 1:00 p.m. in honor of **Franklin’s first black firefighter**, retired **Assistant Chief John Fitzgerald**. **Chief Fitzgerald** was hired in 1972, and rose through the ranks, serving in nearly every position, including Interim Fire Chief. When Chief Fitzgerald retired in 2006, he was Battalion Chief of B-shift. Chief Fitzgerald attended Natchez High School on Strahl Street through his junior year in 1967 when Natchez High School closed due to the full implementation of integration. He graduated from Franklin High School in 1968. Upon graduation he was hired by Vanderbilt University as a maintenance worker. Four years later Chief Fitzgerald’s brother, Bolin Fitzgerald, a Franklin Police Officer at the time, told him the Franklin Fire Department was hiring firefighters. Chief Fitzgerald said he went to Fire Chief Johnny Smith’s house on a Sunday afternoon and told him he wanted the job. Chief Smith agreed to hire him, and he started two weeks later on April 1, 1972. The new road, which leads to **the Franklin Fire Department’s new Station 7 in Southeast Franklin**, is located immediately south of the Williamson County Ag Expo Park. Chief Fitzgerald will be present for the ceremony, along with his wife, Bernice. The address of the station, **1972 John Fitzgerald Drive**, commemorates the year that Chief Fitzgerald was hired. **You can watch the ceremony on the City’s Facebook page, www.facebook.com/cityoffranklin at 1:00 p.m. today!**

You may have heard about the new City Hall design process happening over the last couple months. Community Impact magazine interviewed **Assistant Planning Director Kelly**



Dannenfels about the project. If you didn’t know, our current City hall was a shopping mall in the 1970’s. The city envisions a new city hall that is more functional and fit better with the historic square’s surroundings. You can read the article here <https://communityimpact.com/nashville/franklin-brentwood/history/2021/02/15/franklin-eyes-new-city-hall-building/>



Here is a thank you note for the Water

Management Department and Parks Dept. (Dusty Leeth, Jimmy Fitts, Paige Cruse, Brian Walker, James Bilbo, Mark Root, Lee Williams) :

Michelle (& Lisa), I want to extend gratitude to you and your staff for the assistance provided last week in clearing snow and ice from our school campuses. Without your help it would have been difficult if not impossible to return to normal operations this past Monday. With your efforts, we were able to clear our parking areas, main drives and other areas required for our staff to safely return to our schools. Again, please thank all individuals who had a part in coordinating this effort. We greatly appreciate the partnership we have with the City of Franklin. Best Regards, Chip Sternenberg, FSSD

Next week is Tennessee's Severe Weather Awareness Week and the Williamson County Emergency Management is using this week to promote preparedness to citizens. A highlight of the week will be the statewide tornado drill NWS will conduct at 9:30 a.m., CST, on Wed., Mar. 3, 2020. The drill will also include a statewide test of NOAA weather radios. Residents should also sign up for the Williamson County Emergency Alert System. This system is shared between the County, Spring Hill, Fairview, Thompson's Station, Nolensville, Franklin and Brentwood. The sign up is available here: <https://member.everbridge.net/3531635643383845/login>

REMINDER The Human Resources team continues to provide tools to the City team to assist in navigating Covid-19. Attached is an **updated Covid Toolkit** for use when there are any questions/concerns regarding employee exposure, return to work protocol, travel and more. We wanted to ensure that our policies and procedures are in accordance with updated guidance given by the CDC. The attached will replace the July 2020 version of the toolkit. As always, please contact your Human Resources department representative for any specific questions you may have.

Our next **Blood Drive** is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 16th**, in the **City Hall Training Room** from **9 a.m. until 2 p.m.** To make an appointment, you can go to the online scheduling system at www.redcrossblood.org. and enter sponsor code: FranklinTN19. You can streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

Here is the COVID-19 case update for Thursday (2/25/21):

Key Changes:

Up 1,994 More positive cases day over day in the State of Tennessee (770,940 total positive cases)

Down 7 Fewer active cases day over day in the State of Tennessee (14,419 total active cases)

Up 70 More positive cases day over day in Williamson County (25,081 total positive cases)

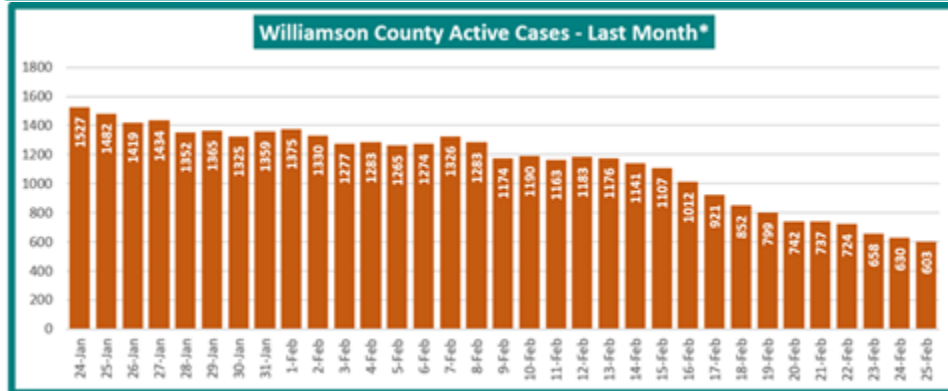
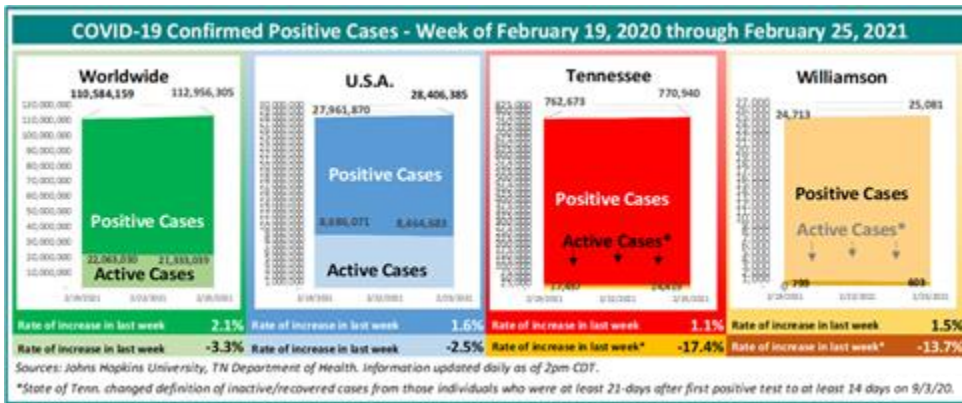
Down 27 Fewer active cases day over day in Williamson County (603 total active cases)

Level Williamson County share of total positive cases within Tennessee at **3.3%**

Down Percent Positive / Total Tested at **12.53%**

Level Williamson County **Seventh** highest # of positive cases in Tennessee

Level **No New** deaths in Williamson County (202 total deaths)



Have a great weekend. Thanks for *all* you do!

ERIC STUCKEY
CITY ADMINISTRATOR

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