



Friday, November 19, 2021



The City is looking for **PAID** volunteers/city employees to work the **Christmas Tree Lighting on December 3**, the best tree lighting event in Middle Tennessee! There are several **shifts available between 4:00p.m. and 9:00 p.m.** **Freedom Intermediate School Honors Choir** will sing. We'll also have special guest performances from five-time Grammy nominee, and Christian Music Songwriter/Artist of the Year winner **Matthew West**. He's headlined this event before and we are so excited he's coming back for 2021! Country singer **Layla Tucker** will also join us. If the name sounds familiar, a former Franklin resident is her mama, and her name is Tanya. **Rudolph and Bumble** from Gaylord Opryland's **Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer** will be available for photo opportunities as well as our local princesses from **Dreams Do Come True Princess Parties**. And, of course, **SANTA will be there!**

If you are interested in volunteering (and getting paid for it!) Positions will be filled on a first-come, first-assigned basis, so sign up as soon as possible here!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4AABA72BA5F4C61-christmas>

Don't have lunch plans today? **Williamson County** has invited City of Franklin team members to their "**Food Truck Friday**" event today happening from **11:00 a.m.-1:00p.m. at the Williamson County Administrative Complex on West Main**. The food trucks include: Mojoes Tacos, Phat Pizza, Smokey Dawgs, Gourmet Hot Dogs and the Baking Room!

Franklin Tomorrow announced their award recipients for their **15th annual Exemplary Community Volunteer Awards** this past Tuesday. **65th District Tennessee Rep. Sam Whitson** was given the **Charles M. Sargent Legacy Award**, which recognizes an individual who has made significant impact in the areas of business, quality of life, and leadership. It is named for the late 61st District Tennessee Rep. Charles Sargent, who received the award before his death in 2018. The **Fuller Story founders, Eric Jacobsen, Kevin Riggs, Hewitt Sawyers and Chris Williamson** were awarded the **Community Impact Award** and I was also honored for the **stewardship of the Fuller Story project**. **Amanda Rose from the Planning Department** nominated long time **Historic Zoning Commission member** and local volunteer to numerous nonprofits for more than 40 years, Franklin resident **Jim Roberts** for the **Lifetime Impact Award**. **Alderman Patrick Baggett**, who serves as President of Franklin Tomorrow, helped host the event along with Franklin Tomorrow Executive Director Mindy Tate and WAKM's Tom Lawrence. **Congratulations to all the winners and the numerous wonderful volunteers from across the community!**

The **Parks Department** did a **Disc Golf Course** clean-up day at Liberty Park on Wednesday November 17th. The Parks team cleared underbrush throughout the course, put up a new course sign/rules and did annually maintenance. They believe the course is in really good condition now that we have finished our annual clean up.

Principal Planner Joey Bryan recently passed his **American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) exam!** AICP certification attests that a planner has the academic qualifications, relevant work experience, and mastery of essential skills required to serve a community effectively. Certified planners pledge to uphold high standards of practice, ethics, and professional conduct, and to keep their skills sharp and up to date by continuously pursuing advanced professional education. Congratulations, Joey!





Welcome to the following new City Team member!
Jason Alexander, Equipment Operator for Sanitation and Environmental Services

Jason is from Franklin. He has been married to his wife for more than 12 years and they have one daughter, Aubrey. In his free time, Jason enjoys racing and watching football, especially the Titans and the Vols. Jason previously worked for 3-D Disposal.

We've kicked off our annual United Way Campaign which will run through December 10th. We are keeping the **"Give a Day. Serve a Day. Get a Day."** campaign. If you give a contribution of at least \$100 or more to United Way (I'd challenge you to consider giving the equivalent of one day's pay), and commit to volunteer at least 8 hours over the next year with your chosen cause (i.e. – non-profit, church, school, etc.), you can receive an EXTRA personal day in 2022. The additional personal day will be awarded on January 1, 2022 and must be used during the 2022 calendar year.

Here's the details:

- Your 2022 pledge to United Way can take the form of a payroll deduction (spread over 26 paychecks in 2022) or as a one-time contribution, which ever works best for you. The minimum pledge to qualify is \$100. You should make your financial pledge using the attached United Way Pledge Form or request a form from Administration or Human Resources.
- We ask that you sign a 2022 volunteer pledge that includes your name, department, and the cause/organization(s) that you are committing to dedicate at least 8 hours of volunteer time (non-work hours) this coming year (attached) . The choice of where and how you volunteer is up to you. You may also want to work with other City team members to volunteer as a group. If you are looking for some ideas, United Way has an online volunteer resource:
www.unitedwaygreaternashville.org/volunteer-opportunities/
- Once you have made both your United Way pledge and your volunteer pledge you will be credited with an additional personal day on January 1, 2022. The personal day must be used during the 2022 calendar year.

The "Give a Day. Serve a Day. Get a Day." campaign runs through December 10th. Both the pledge form and the Give a Day form will need to be returned to Human Resources. If you are submitting via e-mail, please send both forms to scarleth.chavez@franklintn.gov. Once you have made your pledge, we would love to see a selfie of you and/or a team photo with your pledge form. This would be a great way for us to show pride in this gift to the community. Just send the photo to me or Monique McCullough. Our Special Event Fun Day for United Way will be in early 2022. Stay tuned for more information. Thank you for considering this opportunity to give back to the community.



From the **Human Resources Department**:



Our annual **Holiday Breakfast** will be held on **December 16th in City Hall from 6:30AM – 9:00AM!** The holidays are upon us and our **Leadership Team** has come up with our Christmas competitions. The main competition will be a **Department Wreath Decorating Contest!** Please submit whether your department will participate and have your wreaths decorated by **December 10th to Scarleth Chavez in HR. Judges will go around beginning at 9:30AM on December 14th.** This

competition will take home the trophy and bragging rights 😊! **Emily Wright** will be wearing our elf costume this year since the **Planning Department** won our last dept contest! Another competition is the **“Luau Contest”** - Come dressed in your best **Luau attire** to get into the theme of this year’s festivities. Let’s pretend we are on the beach in warm weather. Our last competition **“Name that Carol”** - Grab your group of 4 people and send your names to Scarleth Chavez at scarleth.chavez@franklintn.gov by 12/6 to register your team. The competition will be live at the Holiday Breakfast. Stay tuned for more information in the next coming weeks!

FSA Open Enrollment is OPEN NOW through November 30! A flexible spending account (FSA), is a benefit offered to all full time employees. This benefit allows you to use pre-tax dollars to pay for eligible health care expenses for you, your spouse, and your dependents.

During open enrollment, you decide on an estimated amount of money that you plan to use in **2022** on eligible medical expenses. Your contribution for your FSA account will be deducted in equal amounts from each paycheck, pre-tax, throughout the plan year. (24 pay periods) You will receive a Visa card, loaded with the full amount you elected during open enrollment. You can then use your pre-tax dollars to pay for eligible healthcare expenses throughout the year.

The maximum amount you can elect is \$2,850 per year with up to \$550 in carryover funds. Any money carried into the next plan year may be used on 2022 claims and expenses through March 31, 2023. Remaining 2022 rollover over funds (after March 31, 2023) will then be considered carryover funds and may be used on 2023 claims and expenses throughout the year. Carryover funds are usable year over year. **FSA and dependent care are not automatic enrollments. Your 2021 account will terminate if you do not re-enroll.**

Please see the attached enrollment directions.

Please remember medical FSA is only for those enrolled in Option I, not the High Deductible Health Plan.

Our annual **Coat Drive** is under way! Please drop off new or used coats and outerwear outside the HR office through **November 30!** All donations go to **Grace Works Ministries of Franklin.**

Here is the COVID-19 case update for Thursday (11/18/21)

Key Changes:

Up 1,749 More positive cases day over day in the State of Tennessee (1,302,201 total positive cases)

Up 619 More active cases day over day in the State of Tennessee (13,225 total active cases)

Up 64 More positive cases day over day in Williamson County (40,436 total positive cases)

Up 23 More active cases day over day in Williamson County (488 total active cases)

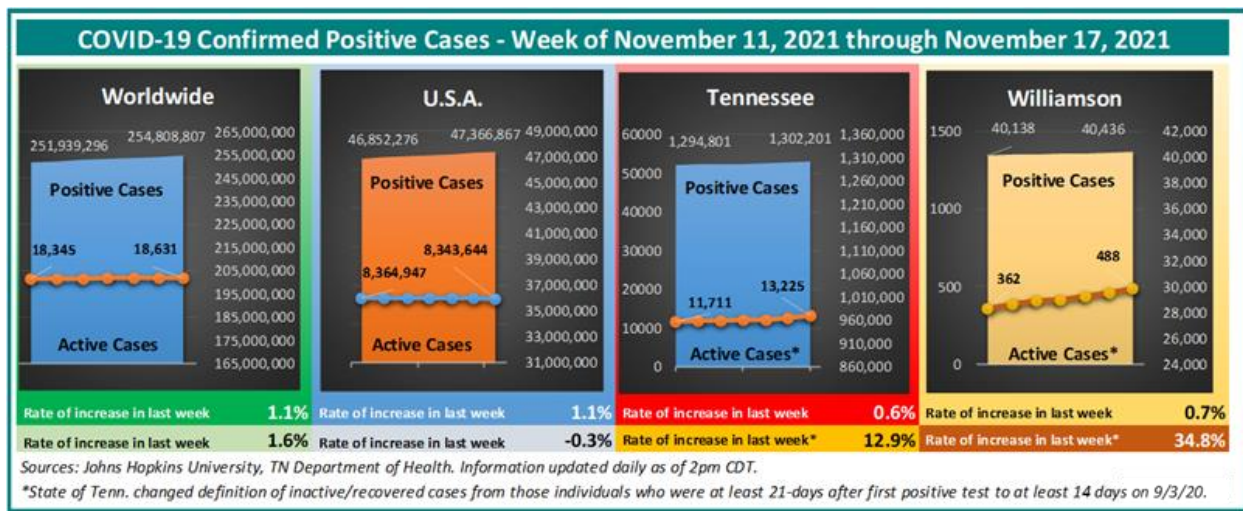
Level Williamson County share of total positive cases within Tennessee at **3.1**

Down Percent Positive / Total Tested at **11.85%**

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

Level **No New** deaths in Williamson County (275 total deaths)

-Williamson County Community Transmission Status (CDC): High



That's the update for now. With the Thanksgiving holiday next week, we won't have an E-Brief next Friday. I hope you all have an enjoyable Thanksgiving holiday with your family and friends. I am personally so very grateful for work our team does to serve the community and build a great place for people to call "home": Franklin, Tennessee. I am so thankful for all of you! Have a great Thanksgiving!

Eric



Website: www.franklintn.gov

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