

E-Brief 2023



Excellence.....

Innovation.....

Teamwork

Integrity

.....Action-Oriented

Friday, December 15, 2023



On Wednesday evening, a **Menorah Lighting Ceremony** was held at Eastern Flank Battlefield Park in celebration of Hanukkah. We estimate an attendance of 250 for this first-ever event. Here is an excerpt from an email we received from one of the organizers, Ellen Monen: *I mostly want all of you to know that I am at a loss for words with the support you have given to our little Jewish community here in Franklin, TN. In a world where hate is rampant for people who celebrate Hanukkah, even right here in this country, this whole event and everything leading up to it, including the Hanukkah flag pole posts, meant more to this little community of ours than you might ever be able to believe.*

To watch a livestream of the event, you can go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/foxnashville/videos/341352901975698>

We are very proud to announce that **this year's United Way campaign was an absolute success!** We topped all of last year's campaign totals! A huge thank you to all who participated with pledges and volunteer hours. We are truly humbled and excited by the positive impacts this will make for our community in the coming year. Here are our final totals:

2022 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	107
2022 TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS	704
2022 TOTAL PLEDGES \$	18,492.00

2023 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	110
2023 TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS	880
2023 TOTAL PLEDGES \$	19,070.00

Increase in Participants	3
Increase in Pledges \$	578.00

The Annual Employee Holiday Breakfast is THIS COMING WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20TH!
We hope you are ready to join us for food, fun and prizes! **This year's contests include:**

UGLY SWEATER CONTEST:

Open to all! Must be present to enter.

DEPARTMENT DOOR DECORATING CONTEST:

Theme: **"It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year"**. ALL departments that would like to enter please submit photos (maximum of 3) to Taylor Powers in HR by the deadline of Friday, December 15th. No video entries, please. (taylor.powers@franklintn.gov)

Live judging will also be scheduled for a date between the 15th and the 18th.

NEW THIS YEAR: HOLIDAY BINGO!!

We are trying something new - good, old-fashioned BINGO! Fifty (50) spots available, check in at the registration table to play.

Win prizes! Have Fun!

But there's more!!

Guess the number of Holiday Candies in a Jar for a prize!

And additional **Raffle Drawings** to be held during the party!

Welcome to our new City team members -



Laura Burkes. Financial Tech I. Revenue Management.

Laura is from Franklin. She is married and has a "college kid". Laura attended University of Alabama and Lipscomb University. Prior to joining the City, Laura worked for GEODIS (think soccer.)



Stephanie Veillette. Paralegal. LAW.

Stephanie is originally from Texas but has lived in Chapel Hill for 19 years. Stephanie has 1 son, 1 daughter, 3 grandsons and 1 granddaughter on the way!! WOW! Prior to joining the City, Stephanie worked for a private law firm as a Paralegal.

Welcome to the City!!

With the new **City Hall redevelopment**, we have an opportunity to plan a new **~1-acre park at 3rd Avenue South and Church Street**. We'll engage the community over the next few weeks. Before that, we want to get feedback from City team members. We really want to hear from you and how you might like to use the future park next door to the new City Hall! Please take the quick survey here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CFRC6FM>

Historic Zoning Commission Chair Jim Roberts celebrated serving ten years on the Commission and five years as the Chair. He rolls off of the Commission this month. He is pictured here (L to R) with **Planning staff Kelly Dannenfelser, Emily Huffer, and Elizabeth Bulay**. We thank Jim for his dedication and stewardship of our historic districts.



Today (December 15th) is the last day the Franklin Police Department is accepting donations for the 2023 Kristi Clark, Carter Oakley Franklin Police Department Toy Drive. On February 16, 2015, Kristi Clark and her 10-year-old son, Carter Oakley, were hit by a semi and killed after the two got out of their car to help five people in an overturned SUV on an ice-covered I-65, in Franklin. Kristi's dad, Brad Lewis, stays very much in touch with members of the Franklin Police Department. A bond brought about by tragedy has blessed needy families every Christmas since, and all in memory of two good Samaritans who died helping others in need. Brad Lewis, a skilled craftsman, has built 15-wooden toy boxes in his daughter & grandson's honor. Now, Franklin Police Officers want to fill them with gifts for needy Franklin families. **You can leave unwrapped toys for children, ages 1-17, in the Franklin Police Headquarters lobby until 5 p.m.**

tonight (December 15th). Check out this story about the Toy Drive on WSMV:

<https://www.wsmv.com/2023/12/13/man-makes-toy-boxes-help-families-need-carry-legacy-family-killed-tragic-crash/>

Employee of the Quarter nomination deadline is Dec 31, 2023! Don't miss out on this opportunity to give a shout out and recognize a worthwhile co-worker! Send in nominations to cara.rives@franklintn.gov.

Earlier this week, **Kevin Failey** passed away. Kevin retired this past July after serving as a **valued member of our City Facilities team**. Kevin was a great guy who would always do whatever he could to help others. A Celebration of Life is planned for December 30th at 2 p.m. at Williams Funeral Home in Columbia, Tennessee. You can find Kevin's obituary here: <https://www.williamsfh.com/obituaries/kevin-failey>. Please keep Kevin's wife, Melissa, and daughter, Zoe, in your thoughts and prayers during this time of loss.

Last week, retired Franklin Fire Engineer John Thomas Leach, Sr. passed away. Engineer Leach retired from FFD in 2007 with 27 years of service. Visitation is today from noon to 5 p.m. at Waters Funeral Home, 1408 Columbia Ave, Franklin. On Saturday, there will be visitation from 11 a.m. to noon at Cummins Street Church of Christ, 511 Cummins St., Franklin. The celebration of life service is at noon at Cummins Street Church of Christ, 511 Cummins St., Franklin. Immediately following the service, there will be a funeral procession to the cemetery in Columbia. Here is the link the John Thomas' obituary: [John Thomas Leach Obituary in Franklin at Waters Funeral Home, Inc. | Franklin, TN \(articobits.com\)](#)

Thanks for *all* you do.



Website: www.franklintn.gov

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