

NEIGHBORING COUNTIES

1 GALLATIN

City may double cost of garbage pickup

Gallatin may double the cost of garbage pickup, setting the monthly rate at \$8 per can.

The City Council has reconsidered the \$14 monthly fee it initially approved and has offered a \$4 hike instead. The increase won't be official until the city's budget for 2006-07 has been approved.

The city empties about 10,800 garbage cans, and customers pay \$4 a month per can for waste removal. Gallatin subsidizes its garbage pickup to the tune of at least \$1 million a year.

The city collects trash, picks up brush and hauls away bulk items like refrigerators on Fridays at no extra cost to customers.

— KATRINA CORNWELL
THE NEWS EXAMINER

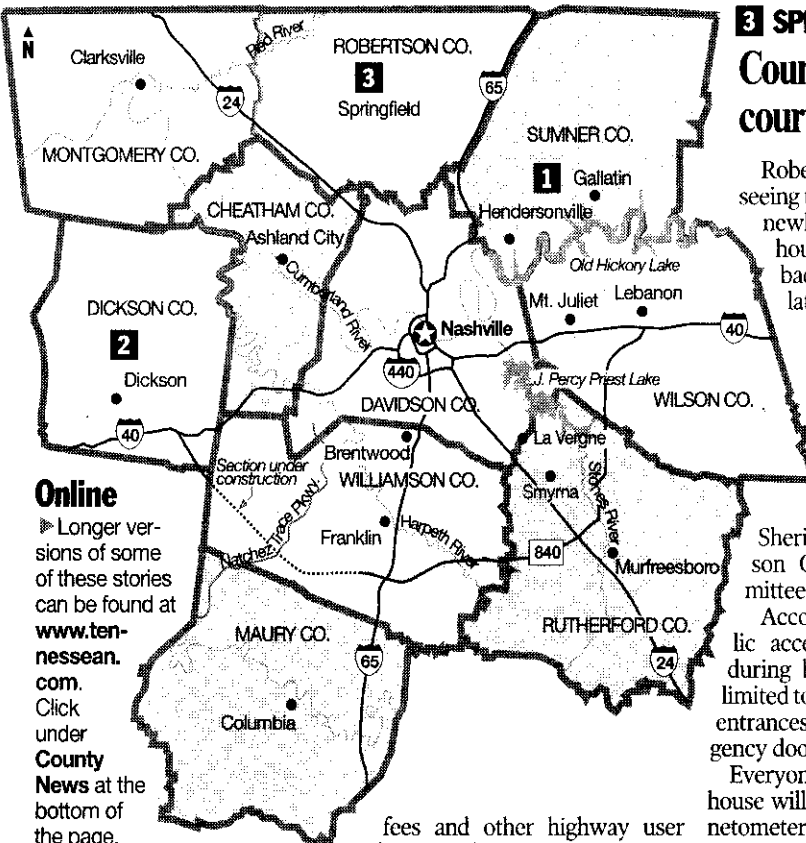
2 DICKSON COUNTY

At least 5 years until 840 done, TDOT says

The 10-mile route that would complete State Route 840 in southwestern Williamson County won't be finished for at least five more years, a Tennessee Department of Transportation official told local officials and businessmen.

Terry L. York, a project manager with TDOT, told the Dickson County Chamber of Commerce last week that the final link in the road that will connect Interstate 40 in Dickson County to I-40 in Wilson County is scheduled to be finished in 2011.

That news disappointed local leaders, who hope the road will



Online

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bring an economic boost to Dickson County.

"The completion of 840 is important to many of our citizens and industries and will have a strong impact on the economy of Dickson County," County Mayor Linda Frazier said.

Improving economic opportunities for counties outside Davidson was one of the reasons for development of State Route 840, which began when the General Assembly approved the project in 1986, York said.

The project is being built with state funds generated by gas and diesel taxes, license plate renewal

fees and other highway user fees. The final leg is expected to cost as much as \$140 million, York said.

While the majority of the 840 project has been built and is open to traffic, the section in Williamson County from west of Bending Chestnut Road to east of Thompson Station is still in the design stage.

Construction of a segment between Highway 100 near Fairview and Pinewood Road near Leiper's Fork was halted in 2002 because of environmental concerns. In February, the state chose the 10-mile route that would complete the road.

— PATRICIA LYNCH KIMBRO,
THE DICKSON HERALD

3 SPRINGFIELD

County tightens courthouse security

Robertson County will be seeing tightened security at the newly renovated courthouse when officials move back into the structure later this year.

A court order for the security arrangements was handed down last month at the recommendation of the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Robertson County Sheriff and the Robertson County Security Committee.

According to the order, public access to the courthouse during business hours will be limited to one entrance. All other entrances will be exit-only emergency doors.

Everyone entering the courthouse will be screened by a magnetometer and have their belongings X-rayed.

"This is a good order for the people's protection," Sheriff Gene Bollinger said. "Everything has changed since 9/11."

"There have been killings in courthouses documented in the news. I think that once people get used to the new security measures, they'll appreciate them. We just live in a different world now."

Surveillance equipment also will be placed throughout the new courthouse to monitor all courtroom activity as well as public activity, the order reads.

— NICOLE YOUNG,
THE ROBERTSON COUNTY TIMES

REGION ROUNDUP

Trenton Road to close for widening

Trenton Road will be closed just south of the intersection with 101st Airborne Division Parkway starting today as part of the 101st Parkway widening project.

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Detours signs will be set up, however motorists are advised to avoid the construction area, if possible.

People who live just off Trenton Road between Wilma Rudolph Boulevard and 101st Airborne Division will be able to access the area from Wilma Rudolph Boulevard up to the closure point.

The Trenton Road/101st Parkway intersection is expected to be closed for about four weeks.

Council fears possible water contamination

BY MIKKI CHANDLER
Tribune Staff Writer

DANDRIDGE—The city of Dandridge does not need to panic, but some concern has been expressed by the City Council of seepage in the town's dike.

"TVA has been notified," said Dandridge Mayor George Gante. "TVA is monitoring the dike on a daily basis."

Gante assured all who attended Tuesday night's meeting the dike was not in any real danger, but the situation was not being taken lightly.

In reference to the lake, Bill Black, expressed his concern for the future

water quality of the lake with the arrival of a new water treatment facility.

Black wanted to know if the new facility might dump contaminated water into the Douglas Lake.

"We will continue to be good stewards of the environment," responded Gante.

Black admitted he was impressed with the current water treatment facility, of which he had taken a tour. "I was amazed to see how transparent the water was that was going back into the lake."

When it came time to present ordinances, there was little discussion on most, but the proposed budget for

fiscal year 2006-2007 brought some mixed emotions.

According to projections the town will exceed the budget by nearly \$20,000, to which Alderman Dan Noe said, "I just can't see why we can't work it so we have a balanced budget. We have come a long way since I was first elected, but this just isn't working."

When the ordinance was voted on, it passed with a 4-to-3 vote.

Other ordinances that were discussed include:

- The town of Dandridge to adopt by reference state traffic offenses and rules of the road, which passed by

unanimous vote.

- Revising the water and sewer rates of the town of Dandridge with an increase of 13 percent, which passed by unanimous vote.

- The 2006-2007 Drug Fund Budget, which passed by unanimous vote.

- A tax levy ordinance for fiscal year 2006-2007 to set certified tax rate at \$1/\$100, which is the same as last year, and passed by unanimous vote.

- The next Dandridge City Council meeting will be held on July 10, at 7 p.m. at the Public Works/Dandridge Police Department.

GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

LA VERGNE

Long-awaited Parthenon road extension near

By MEALAND RAGLAND-HUDGINS
mragland@dnj.com

LA VERGNE — Phase Three of an extension to Parthenon Boulevard that will spell relief for residents along busy Stones River Road has cleared a major hurdle toward completion.

The road, which will provide another link to Murfreesboro Road, has been on hold for more than five years after endangered Tennessee coneflowers were found on wetlands near the road's path.

The plant grows only in a small area where Davidson, Rutherford and Wilson counties meet. It was also one of the first in the nation to be placed on the Endangered Species list.

But on May 20, Steven

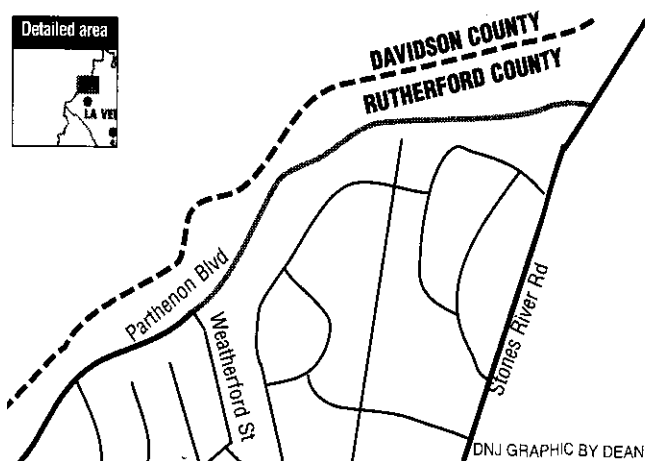
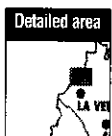
Roemhildt of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined that extending the road to Stones River Road will not have a negative impact on the wetlands or the flower.

George Voorhies has lived in the Driftwood mobile home park off Stones River Road for 30 years and said the road extension is badly needed. If constructed, the road would run close to the mobile home park.

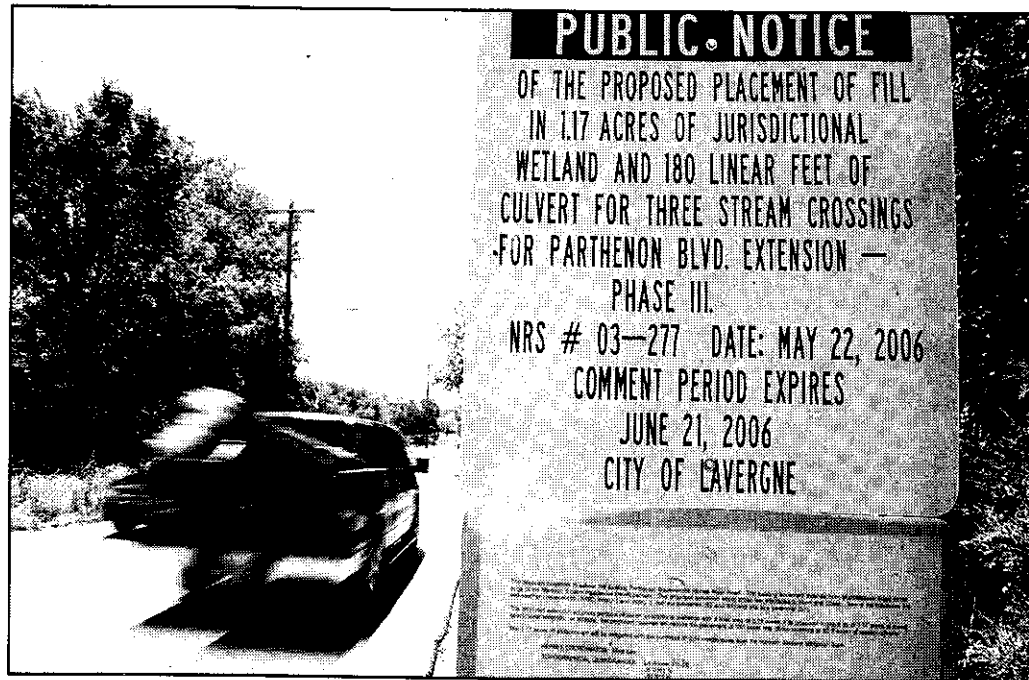
Voorhies said in the early morning and late afternoon, the area sees a lot of traffic, particularly when school is in session. Stones River Road serves three schools — Roy Waldron, La Vergne Primary and La Vergne Middle — and the sprawling, 3,100-home Lake Forest Estates subdivision.

Parthenon extension

Phase Three of Parthenon Parkway would extend the road from Weatherford Street to Stones River Road.



DNJ GRAPHIC BY DEAN FOX



DNJ photo by John A. Gillis

Motorists make their way along Stones River Road in La Vergne, near the future intersection of an extension to Parthenon Boulevard that will give area residents another way to reach Murfreesboro Road. A sign alerts residents to a public comment period about the road extension.

"You have to take a number to get out on Stones River Road and then when you get to the red light (at Stones River and Murfreesboro roads), you have to take another number," he said. "The most of us living back here would like it.

"I've never heard anybody say anything bad about it, except it's taking too long for them to do it," the Willowview Drive resident continued.

According to Roemhildt's statement of findings related to the project, 2,700 linear feet is all that is left to build the roadway out to Stones River Road. It currently starts at Murfreesboro Road next to the KFC restaurant, but then abruptly dead-ends at the edge of the wetlands.

The next step the city must take before getting the go-ahead to finish construction is to file a permit with the Department of the Army, which city officials recently agreed to do, said Mayor Sherry Green.

Because it is disturbing a wetland area, the city must purchase 2.34 credits from the Harpeth Wetland Mitigation Bank. Five tributaries of Hurricane Creek are in that area, and 1.17 acres of wetlands must be filled in in order to complete the project.

Green said that this project has been a top priority since she became mayor more than two years ago.

"It's been meeting after meeting with the Corps, with the state. At least we've made another step," toward resuming construction, she said. "That will save Stones River Road a lot of traffic."

The only other means of egress to Murfreesboro Road available to area residents is Fergus Road, on the south side of the subdivision. The city has set aside \$1.41 million in the fiscal 2007 budget for the Parthenon extension, though construction could take more than a year.

Angela Stubblefield lives in

FYI

The state's Division of Water Pollution Control's public comment period regarding the extension of Parthenon Parkway Phase 3 ends June 21. The number to call for comments is 532-0712.

Correspondence may be sent to: Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
Division of Water Pollution Control,
Natural Resources Division
7th Floor, L&C Annex
401 Church St.
Nashville, TN 37243-1534

Lake Forest and said the road is a good idea, though she wouldn't use it much.

"I don't go down Stones River too often; it's too busy. Normally, I stay on Bill Stewart and go down Fergus Road. There is traffic on Fergus, but not a lot," she said. "Traffic-wise, I think it would help."

— Mealand Ragland-Hudgins, 459-3868

PARTHENON'S PATH

Following is a look at developments toward building an extension to Parthenon Boulevard in La Vergne:

March 2001: Construction of the 1,200-foot extension of Parthenon Boulevard on hold after city leaders and local developers disagree about how the cost of the project should be shared.

May 2003: Nine inches of rain fell within a 60-hour period. As a result, six homes in Madison Square subdivision are flooded. Homeowners cite construction of Parthenon Boulevard as the reason. Engineers said if the road had been finished, no flooding would have occurred.

The endangered Tennessee Coneflower and wetlands are discovered on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers property, in the path where Parthenon Boulevard is to connect with Stones River Road.

August 2003: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers receives three letters from property owners regarding transportation and flooding issues. Corps receives phone calls from residents expressing opposition to the roadway.

May 2006: Steven Roemhildt, of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, issues a finding that granting the city an easement on 5.16 acres in order for La Vergne will not be against public interest.

June 2006: City officials agree to pursue a permit with the Department of the Army to finish building Parthenon Boulevard. There is no timeline as to how long it will take to finish building the 1,000 feet of remaining roadway.

Next: Once permit is approved, La Vergne has 60 days to purchase 2.34 credits from the Harpeth Wetland Mitigation Bank.

Source: Army Corps of Engineers & DNJ staff reports