

**WHITE HOUSE RANKS 6th AMONG BEST CITIES FOR YOUNG FAMILIES IN TENNESSEE BY NERDWALLET**

For many young couples, buying their first house when they are also starting their family is a daunting prospect.

Even though quality of life matters to all future homeowners, young families may have tighter finances that limit their options. NerdWallet crunched the data for the second year to help consumers find the “Best Cities for Young Families.” NerdWallet crunched the data for 99 places in Tennessee - cities, towns, and census-designated places. Only places with over 5,000 residents were analyzed.

The analysis revealed trends such as convenient commutes, medium-sized cities are big, and Nashville area is number 1. City of White House was ranked 6th among the best cities for young families.

**Best Cities for Young Families in Tennessee**

Rank	Name	Great Schools ranking	Median home value	Family income growth 1999-2013	Median family income 2013	Percentage of families with at least one child under 18	Young Families Score
1	Arlington	8	\$220,800	77.36%	\$98,616	54.3%	77.59
2	Atoka	9	\$171,800	37.89%	\$85,000	35.5%	72.14
3	Mount Carmel	9	\$128,400	31.04%	\$57,137	32.3%	72.08
4	Spring Hill	9	\$195,400	31.50%	\$82,378	41.2%	71.54
5	Nolensville	9	\$285,900	44.45%	\$104,617	45.9%	70.47
6	White House	8	\$173,800	36.06%	\$75,826	36.8%	70.31
7	Lakeland	10	\$226,200	57.97%	\$101,800	27.5%	69.83
8	Fairview	8	\$167,500	49.92%	\$74,688	27.5%	67.09
9	Seymour CDP	7	\$150,800	36.92%	\$61,946	25.1%	65.70
10	Lexington	8	\$118,100	33.54%	\$55,324	18.3%	65.45

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<u>Information</u>	<u>Pages</u>
General Information	2
Property Tax Information	2
Public Services	3
White House Inn Library	3
Senior Center	4
Parks and Recreation	5
Fire Department	6
Police Department	7
Oath of Office Ceremony	8

**CITY OFFICES HOLIDAY**

February 16th - Presidents Day



City of White House  
 Billy S. Hobbs Municipal Center  
 105 College Street  
 White House, TN 37188  
 www.cityofwhitehouse.com

Phone: 672-4350  
 Fax: 672-2939

U.S. Postage Paid  
 Bulk Rate  
 Permit No. 10  
 White House, TN 37188

Postal Patron  
 White House Postal Routes

## CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE



Gerald O. Herman  
City Administrator

*Greetings,*

According to Nerd Wallet, White House ranked 6<sup>th</sup> on their list of “Best Cities for Young Families in Tennessee.” They analyzed four key areas of livability: Home Affordability; Prosperity and Projected Long Term Growth; Quality of Education; and Family Friendliness. The family friendliness category included the question: Is the environment healthy for children?

This is good news for us that live, work, and or play in White House. Over the past couple of years we have been honored to be on the top of many such lists by outsiders. What a blessing it is to live in a city with the quality of life we enjoy. All of you in some way contribute to this quality of life. Some of you work in our public and private educational systems and contribute to the quality of education our children are receiving. Some of you work in construction and development, and plan for and build out affordable quality housing and commercial buildings. Some of you provide quality services for residents and businesses. Some of you work in religious organizations and contribute to helping others with their spiritual growth and tending to the care of those in need. Some of you work in government and work to bring order out of chaos. But most importantly, most all of you are kind to one another lending to the friendliness and low crime rate we enjoy.

On another stream of thought, construction seems to be taking place in most areas of our City. Here is a list of some of the projects that are in progress or could be starting soon: On the Sumner County side you can expect to see continued progress on our new library; phase 1 sidewalk improvements along the east side of SR 31W should be wrapping up; turn lanes on Tyree Springs at S. Palmers Chapel is out for bid; site work for the new splash pad at the City Hall complex will be under way in a few months. On the Robertson County side you can expect to see left turn traffic lane improvements on Raymond Hirsch at SR 76; Bojangles’ will be opening at the Kroger complex; Shoe Depart will be opening at the Walmart complex; and construction of large apartment complex behind Crossroads Medical. We have had so many ribbon cuttings these past few months that it would be difficult to name all of them in this article. This is good for the economic health of our City.

Our next *Word on White House* we will share with you the results of our bi-annual citizen survey.

## PROPERTY TAX NOTICE

Tax notices were mailed out during December. The State Tax Relief Office will no longer accept power of attorney (POA). The applicant must sign the form. If only a mark can be made, you must have their mark witnessed by two (2) people and complete the address block or produce conservatorship or guardian documents. The State will be checking this with the SSA Office.

Even though the notices were later than usual this year the property taxes are due by Saturday, February 28, 2015. **Please keep in mind that City offices are closed on Fridays, so in person payments need to be made by the 5:15 pm on Thursday, February 26th.** Payments may also be submitted in the mail, in the drop box, or online. Effective March 1, 2015, a 1.5% monthly penalty will be enforced.

Please note that not receiving a tax notice will not relieve you of your responsibility of paying your property taxes on time. If you are unsure about your taxes visit our website ([www.cityofwhitehouse.com](http://www.cityofwhitehouse.com)) or call the City of White House at 615-672-4350, ext. 2100.



## CITY HALL ENTRANCE

The new library is now under construction. The Hwy 31W entrance into City Hall is temporarily closed. There will be a new entrance constructed and opened once the library construction is complete. There are two parking lots off of Carmack Drive that can be used for parking if you need to come into the building. If you want to leave something in the drop-box enter the lower parking lot (indicated by star) and follow the parking lot up around the building.



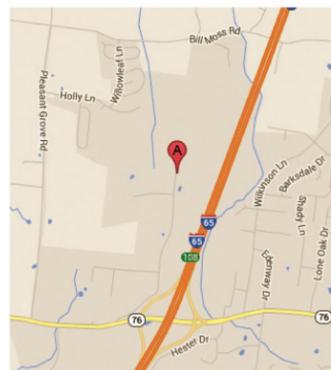
## EMISSIONS TESTING

**Monday, February 9th  
& Monday, March 9th  
9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.**

**427 INDUSTRIAL DR.  
BEHIND PUBLIC WORKS BLD.**

### 2015 TESTING DATES:

<b>APR 13<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>MAY 11<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>JUN 8<sup>TH</sup></b>
<b>JUL 13<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>AUG 10<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>SEP 14<sup>TH</sup></b>
<b>OCT 5<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>NOV 9<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>DEC 7<sup>TH</sup></b>



## PUBLIC SERVICES

### Vandalism of the City's Street Signs

The City has been experiencing an unusually high incidence of street sign theft and defacing. Sign theft or defacing is a costly problem for the taxpayers. The City spends close to **\$10,000.00** per year on sign repair and replacement costs. In addition, the labor cost incurred for the 2013/2014 budget year was approximately **\$3,700.00**.

From July to November we've already incurred labor costs of approximately **\$2,500.00**. At this rate our 2014/2015 budget year expense for labor will be approximately **\$5,000.00**.

**That represents a 26% increase from the prior year in labor costs alone.**

As you may already know, the street signs are made from aluminum. People who steal street signs usually do it for one of two reasons:



⇒ Scrap metal value

⇒ Personal decorative use inside the home



It is an offense to knowingly sell or attempt to sell to a scrap metal dealer or for a scrap metal dealer to knowingly purchase or attempt to purchase these street signs.

The 2010 Tennessee Code **62-9-106** states, in part, that it's an **offense to sell or for a dealer to purchase certain types of scrap metal**.

Selling street signs is a violation of section **62-9-106** and is a Class A misdemeanor.

Removing a sign for personal use, or the defacing of a sign, is considered as a theft and, if caught, a person will be convicted as such.

So, if you see any vandalism occurring, please call the City of White House police department at 672-4903 and report it immediately!

This is a public service message from your Public Services Department in an effort to help reduce costs due to vandalism.

## WHITE HOUSE INN LIBRARY

- ◆ Story times will be on their normal schedule with toddlers (ages 0-3) meeting on Tuesdays at 10:30 and preschoolers (ages 4-5) meeting on Wednesdays at 10:30. There will be a special Groundhog's Day, Valentine's and St. Patrick's Day story time during the week of each holiday.
- ◆ Homeschool Group will meet on the first and third Thursdays of the month at 2 pm. During the month of February, there will be a Valentine's Day and Presidents' Day activity and country project. In March, homeschoolers will get to decorate a tote bag in an Argentinean style and make a family tree.
- ◆ The Friends of the Library will have their book sale from February 23<sup>rd</sup> through the 28<sup>th</sup> during regular library hours. Please stop by and check out this great sale.
- ◆ The library's book club will be partnering with Vol. State's One Book One Community program for the month of February and read *The Other Wes Moore* by Wes Moore. The club will meet on February 26th at 10 am to discuss the book. Additionally, Vol. State will be hosting a number of events during the months of February and March that relate to topics in the book. Patrons are welcomed and encouraged to attend these free events at Vol. State. Please contact the college for more information on these programs at (615)452-8600.

## UNDERSTANDING STORMWATER

In mid-2013, the City received notification from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) that we would be regulated for storm water under current federal laws. Due to the 2010 census, White House met the population and area (density) criteria that qualified our city as a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) and the consequent state permit requirements.

### Overview and Definition of an MS4

Clean water is important to us because it provides us with drinking water, a place for recreation, and supports habitat for wildlife. The City of White House has initiated a multifaceted program on storm water management because of its effect on our local water quality. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, polluted storm water runoff is a leading cause of impairment to the nearly 40 percent of U.S. water bodies which do not meet water quality standards.

**Storm water is water from precipitation that flows across the ground and pavement surfaces when it rains or when snow and ice melt.** Storm water travels over land. Sometimes the ground absorbs storm water, and it never reaches streams, rivers, and lakes. Other times storm water traveling over land eventually drains into a system of conveyances. This system is referred to as an MS4. By definition an MS4 is a system of conveyances that include catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, pipes, tunnels, or storm drains that discharges into waters of the State. An MS4 moves water away from an area to a local water body. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and TDEC are now requiring certain urbanized municipalities, such as White House, to address storm water quality. TDEC has outlined a program for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4's). In Tennessee, Phase I of the program focused on large and medium sized cities above 100,000 population (Nashville, Memphis, Chattanooga, Knoxville). White House is one of many small municipalities in Phase II of the program. As part of the permit requirements, we are required to establish a program that addresses six specific areas:

- Public education and outreach on storm water impacts
- Public involvement and participation
- Illicit discharge detection and elimination
- Construction site storm water runoff control
- Post construction storm water management in new development and redevelopment
- Pollution prevention/good housekeeping for municipal operations.

### Continued Storm Water Efforts

Since receiving the notification from TDEC, the City has submitted the required permit documents to TDEC and received our official MS4 Permit in February 2014. We have continued to progress our community's obligations to the permit and its intent of improving and maintaining clean waters for all appropriate uses. Initially, City effort has been to establish appropriate policy and procedures for the stormwater program and also a separate section of the Public Services Department -- Stormwater. In the month of November and December, the City will finalize this program establishment through formal ordinance adoption. Beginning January 2015, our citizens should realize a small increase in their utility bill that will facilitate the program and allow our City to remain compliant with the state and federal permit requirements.

As we continue to progress this program, local citizens and business leaders will receive more educational materials as well as requests to participate in management of local boards and volunteer efforts for storm water events. The Public Services Department is available to answer any questions you have at this point and citizens are encouraged to continually check the City website for Storm Water information and updates.

Join the White House Senior Center for their:  
*Happy Hearts Dance*

**Thursday, February 12, 2015**  
*Games start at 5:00 pm*  
*Casey and the Cowboys play from 6-8:30 pm*

**\$5 in advance**  
*There will be no admission payments accepted at the door!*  
*Pay and sign-up NO LATER THAN Thursday, February 6th.*

Bring a snack to share.  
 Beverages provided.



There is no fee to join and we always have a great time! We are open Monday thru Thursday. If you are interested in joining us, call Kelly at 672-4350, ext. 2116.

Our monthly activity calendar is posted on the City of White House's website under Senior Center (Your Government ➔ Senior Center ➔ Calendar of Events & Newsletter in the middle of the pictures).

We play cards, Bunco, and fun new games. We have painting classes, birthday parties, pot luck, dominos, pool, corn hole, cards, bowling, parties, bingo, day trips, tours, themed dances, hot lunch Wednesday, and LOTS OF LAUGHS!



**Pictures From 2014  
 Activities and  
 Adventures**

## Wednesday Lunches

The White House Senior Center has lunch every Wednesday in the cafeteria at 105 College Street.

Come join us!



## COMPETITIVE MEN'S SOFTBALL LEAGUE

**Ages:** 16+

**Registration:** January 5th - February 16th

**Fees:** \$450 per team

(non-resident fees may apply)

Tuesday and Thursday double-header games on field 7.

**9 team limit.**

\*If there are not enough teams signed up then competitive and recreational leagues will combine.\*

## RECREATIONAL MEN'S SOFTBALL LEAGUE

**Ages:** 16+

**Registration:** January 26th - March 9th

**Fees:** \$450 per team

(non-resident fees may apply)

Tuesday and Thursday double-header games on field 6.

**9 team limit.**

\*If there are not enough teams signed up then competitive and recreational leagues will combine.\*

## GIRL'S VOLLEYBALL

**Ages:** 3rd-8th grade

**Registration:** January 5th - February 16th

**Fees:** \$50 for City residents/\$62 for non-residents

Practices begin in March.

Games begin in April.



## ADULT CO-ED CHURCH VOLLEYBALL

**Registration:** January 5th - February 16th

**Fees:** \$250 per team (non-resident fees may apply)

Tuesday/Thursday night league

Season will begin in March

Post-season tournament

\*Churches may enter more than one team\*

## ADULT CO-ED KICKBALL

**\*\*BRAND NEW LEAGUE\*\***

**Ages:** 16+

**Registration:** January 26th - March 9th

**Fees:** \$350 per team (non-resident fees may apply)  
10 vs. 10 (5 males/5 females)

Monday and/or Friday games

Number of games depends on participation

## CHRISTMAS PARADE

The Christmas Parade was December 6th at 1:00 pm. The theme was "Cruisin Christmas" and the Grand Marshal was Stacey David, the host "Gearz TV". Congratulations to Northridge Church on being voted the "Best Decorated Float". Second place went to White House Warriors. Third place went to the White House American Legion - Post 206.



## ZUMBA FITNESS

**Monday:** 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

(Instructor - Carla Boze)

**Tuesday:** 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

(Instructor - Tammy Taylor)

**Wednesday:** 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

(Instructor - Carla Boze)

**Fees:** \$3 per class

\*1st class is FREE\*



## LITTLE LEAGUE CHALLENGER BASEBALL

\*This little league baseball program is for any boy or girl between the ages of 4 and 18 that faces a mental or physical challenge.\*

**Registration:** January 5th - March 2nd

**Fees:** \$35 for City residents/\$47 for non-residents  
(fee includes full uniform)

- Practices will begin in March and Saturday games start in April
- Everyone bats each inning and plays defensively
- 1 or 2 innings will be played per game (about 1 hour)
- "Buddies" can be used to assist as needed
- 6 game season

**WHITE HOUSE CERT**

The White House CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) is designed to prepare the citizens of White House for a natural or man-made disaster. The class teaches participants the methods and actions to be taken to ensure the safety of their own family and home, their neighbors, and the community. The goal of the White House CERT team is to have members of every neighborhood in the city trained in CERT principles. To be most effective, every neighborhood will need to have members trained to oversee the safety of the neighborhood until help arrives. Neighborhoods such as Northwoods, Magnolia Village, Orchard Park, Hampton Village, Heritage Farms, Sumner Crossings, Bridlecreek, Briarwood, and Holly Tree are the communities that CERT is designed to assist. All city residents, regardless of neighborhood or location are urged to attend this training. In a natural disaster, emergency services are often overrun with calls for help and the CERT team is trained to provide the assistance needed until the emergency services are available.

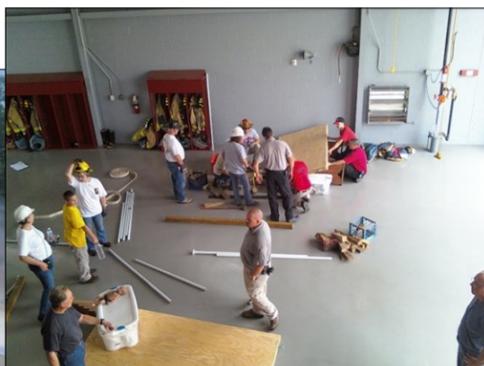
Topics to be covered in the class are: CERT History, Fire Safety, Disaster Medical Operations, Disaster Psychology, CERT and Terrorism, CERT Overview and Documentation, and numerous hands-on activities.

We need your help to ensure the success of this program. The White House Fire Department will host another training opportunity in April 2015 and the classes will be April 2, 9, 16, and 23, 2015 from 6:30 PM until 9:30 PM and on April 25, 2015 from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM. The cost of the class is \$40.00 and includes all the materials and a backpack that will contain: hardhat, goggles, gloves (medical and leather), first-aid kit, reflective vest, whistle, and flashlight with batteries. The class is limited to 20 participants and will be first come first served. Registration will end March 19, 2015 so please call Fire Station # 2 at 615-672-5338 as soon as possible to sign-up.

The first class of members of the White House CERT Team graduated on June 26, 2010. The class contained nine individuals that learned and demonstrated various aspects of disaster preparedness. The class was a great success and the participants all gained knowledge of the methods and actions to take following a disaster.



Participants demonstrate fire extinguisher use



Participants applying light search and rescue techniques

**OPEN BURNING**

As winter leaves and spring approaches, we all want to get outside and enjoy the warmer weather. A common activity is to get out and do yard work. This often means that sticks and limbs are commonly collected and burned to dispose of the debris. It is better to collect wood debris at the road in the front of your home so that it may be collected by the public works department for disposal. When this is impractical, the White House Municipal Code does provide provisions for open burning. A permit is required to conduct open burning. While this is allowed, the Fire Department urges everyone to remember that you are responsible for any burning that you conduct. If the fire gets out of control or causes damage to your or another persons property, you may be held liable for damages.

The homeowner or person acquiring the permit is responsible for becoming familiar with and abiding by all regulations and rules for open burning before securing a permit. Failure to follow the rules and regulations can result in the revocation of the permit, extinguishment of the fire, and / or a citation being issued. Please use caution when conducting any outdoor burning.

**MEET YOUR FIREFIGHTER:  
BRAD WILLIAMS**

Firefighter Williams started with the City of White House Fire Department as a career firefighter in 2008. Some of the certifications that Firefighter Williams holds are: Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Certified Driver / Operator, and Emergency Medical Technician. Firefighter Williams is assigned to "C" shift. He lives in White House, is married, and is the father of two.

## WHITE HOUSE SHOP WITH A COP/FIREFIGHTER 2014

The first annual Shop with a Cop/Firefighter 2014 at Walmart. This year we had the pleasure of shopping with 12 children. Thank you to White House Rotary, Walmart, and Subway for financially supporting this event.



### WHPD ALERT MESSAGING

Stay instantly informed with local messages from the White House Police Department using the free e-mail message service.

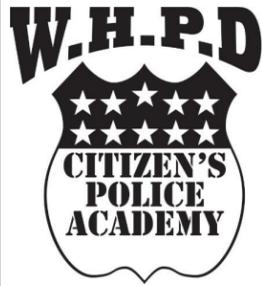
Messages are from a certified source. Contact [records@cityofwhitehouse.com](mailto:records@cityofwhitehouse.com) with the address that you want the messages sent to. When you subscribe to this account, you will only receive verified messages from the WHPD.

The White House Police Department will send out the following using the message alert system:

- ⇒ Criminal Activity Warnings
- ⇒ Weekly Arrest Reports
- ⇒ Crime Prevention Tips
- ⇒ Road Closure Notifications
- ⇒ Upcoming Community Event Notices
- ⇒ Missing Person Information
- ⇒ B.O.L.O. (Be On The LookOut)

The Message Alert system will be used sparingly (we believe that too many messages will spoil the impact). Message Alert will not be used to distribute routine news releases or advertisements. There are other practical methods of doing that via the conventional media outlets.

You may unsubscribe at anytime.



### CITIZEN'S ACADEMY 2015 ANNOUNCEMENT

In February 2015, the White House Police Department will host its Fifteenth Annual Citizen's Police Academy. The purpose of the academy is to give citizens the opportunity to learn about police work in general and also gain insight into the White House Police Department's daily operations and programs. The Academy will be held on Tuesday nights from 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. for ten weeks and is open to citizens 18 years of age and older and will meet at the White House Police Department at 303 North Palmers Chapel Rd. White House, Tennessee 37188. Class size is limited to 25 participants. Applications are being accepted now.

The Academy is not designed to make participants certified police officers, nor does it give the graduates authority to act as police officers. The focus of the curriculum is to provide an informative overview of the fundamentals of police operations and crime prevention. This two-way communication will certainly be an effective and successful way to build a partnership between the community and the police department.

If you are interested in attending a future Citizen's Police Academy and would like an application, they are available for pick-up at the White House Police Department, or for an online application, go to [www.cityofwhitehouse.com](http://www.cityofwhitehouse.com) and click on Citizen Police Academy Application. If you would like more information on this program, please contact Captain Jeff Mingledorff at 616-1064 at the White House Police Department.





Newly sworn in officials, left to right: Vice-Mayor Farris Bibb; Mayor Michael Arnold; City Judge Joe Zanger; Alderman John Decker.

## Oath of Office Ceremony at City of White House

Uncontested races in November, resulted in experienced leaders returning to their seats to serve the City of White House at the official Oath of Office Ceremony on January 5, 2015.

A few dozen constituents and officials attended the first meeting of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen in 2015 to witness the ceremonies and participate in the celebration. Mayor Michael Arnold was sworn in by City Judge, Joe Zanger to begin his second term as Mayor of White House. Also returning is local attorney Joe Zanger who will take the bench for another term as City Judge.

Alderman John Decker and Farris Bibb are also returning to their position with years of experience on their resumes. Decker was first elected to serve as Alderman in 1989 and has served the City as an Alderman or Mayor ever since. Farris Bibb is not new to the position either, as he was elected to serve in 1991.

After all of the officials took their oaths the next order of business was to elect the Vice-Mayor. The Vice-Mayor is elected from the current board by the current board. Farris Bibb was elected to fill another term as Vice-Mayor. Bibb has served in this position for nearly a decade. He assumed the position from Alderman John Decker when he filled the seat of Mayor in 2005.

There was a reception following the ceremony.



Current Board of Mayor and Aldermen, left to right: Alderman Cliff Hutson; Vice-Mayor Farris Bibb; Mayor Michael Arnold; Alderman John Decker and Alderman Dave Paltzik.



City Judge Joe Zanger administers the Oath of Office to Mayor Arnold. Arnold is in his second term serving as the Mayor of White House.



Mayor Arnold administers the Oath of Office to Alderman Farris Bibb.



Mayor Arnold administers the Oath of Office to Alderman John Decker.



City Judge Joe Zanger was sworn in by an official from the Robertson County Clerk's Office.