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TENNESSEE COMPTROLLER APPROVES GERMANTOWN'S FISCAL 2027 BUDGET

Staff Report

The Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury has approved the City of Germantown's fiscal year 2027 budget, recognizing the city for its timely and organized financial planning.

In its approval letter, the Comptroller's Office commended Germantown for adopting its budget before the start of the fiscal year and recognized the city's governing body and local officials for submitting a well-presented, timely and organized budget.

The approval reflects the city's ongoing efforts to maintain responsible financial planning, transparency and fiscal stewardship, according to the city.

Germantown also has received the Government Finance Offi-



Photo: courtesy City of Germantown

cers Association's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for 42 consecutive years. The national award recognizes excellence in governmental budgeting.

City officials credited the Finance Department and others involved in developing the fiscal 2027 budget, saying their work helps support community needs while maintaining the city's financial foundation.

Source: City of Germantown



Photo: courtesy City of Germantown

SUMMER OF STORIES: Germantown readers make a splash with summer program

Staff Reports

For 7-year-old Audrey Villane, summer was a time to dive into stories, discover new worlds and earn a few prizes along the way.

Audrey was among 844 participants who took part in this year's Germantown Community Library Summer Reading Program, a free, self-paced program designed to encourage readers of all ages to make reading a priority during the summer months.

"I like reading because it gives me good practice on the words," Audrey said.

During the two-month program in June and July, Audrey read about 10 books, including titles from the Magic Tree House series and, with help from her parents, Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire.

This year's program, themed "Unearth a Story," featured a dinosaur theme and encouraged participants to set their own reading goals. After registering, readers received a log to track their progress and earned prizes as they reached weekly milestones.

Audrey earned several rewards for her reading, including a slap

bracelet, T-shirt, Firehouse Subs kids' meal coupon and dinosaur keychain.

"It was fun," she said. "I like that we get an award for reading and trying out new things."

More than 600 of this year's participants were ages 17 and younger, bringing families, children and teens together throughout the summer to celebrate books and reading.

"This year's Summer Reading Program was more than just a success — it was a wonderful reminder of what our library means to the community," said Brooke Hernandez, youth services librarian. "We welcomed our largest kick-off party attendance in years, and it was incredible to see so many families, children, teens and adults excited to celebrate reading together."

Hernandez said library staff saw new readers discover the joy of stories while longtime patrons revisited old favorites and found new books to enjoy.

The program also received support from local businesses, including Firehouse Subs on Farmington Boulevard, Clear Water Pool Services and Chick-fil-A,

which donated prizes. The Friends Bookstore, operated by Friends of the Germantown Library, provided additional financial support.

As summer reading winds down, the library is carrying that momentum into the fall with new programs and events.

"While the Summer Reading Program has come to a close, the excitement doesn't end with summer," Hernandez said. "Our library offers programs, events and opportunities to learn, create and connect all year long."

The library's fall Big Read program, "Germantown Reads: The Great Gatsby," begins Sept. 12. From September through November, the Germantown Community Library and the Germantown Regional History & Genealogy Center will host events inspired by F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic novel, including book discussions, art programs and children's story times.

The Germantown Community Library is located at 1925 Exeter Road. Information about upcoming programs and events is available at Germantown-Library.org.

Source: Germantown Community Library

PUBLIC INTERVIEWS FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION VACANCY SET

City of Germantown

Following up on the recent announcement regarding the vacant Board of Education Position 2 seat, the Germantown Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BMA) has selected three candidates to move forward in the interview process.

The top candidates selected for interviews are Stephen Chalmers, Heather Fisher, and Morgan Havener.

The BMA will conduct public interviews with the candidates on Monday, August 10, in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Interviews will begin at 3 and conclude at 4:45 p.m. Residents are invited to attend or follow along as the Board evaluates the applicants for the remainder of the term.

Following the August 10 interviews, the BMA is scheduled to make the final appointment by majority vote during its regular meeting on Monday, August 24.



Photo: courtesy City of Germantown

The appointed board member will serve the remaining four months of the term previously held by Scotty Hendricks.

For additional information regarding the appointment process, contact Deputy City Administrator Lisa Piefer at (901) 757-7201 or LPiefer@Germantown-TN.gov.

GERMANTOWN UTILITY BILLS REFLECT NEW SOLID WASTE PRICING

Staff Reports

Germantown residents will see changes to the way solid waste charges are displayed on their August utility statements, which cover July service.

The city said the new billing format reflects updated solid waste pricing and changes needed to accommodate the city's billing software. While individual line items may look different, the net monthly cost remains consistent with the rates previously announced.

Residential accounts will show a standard baseline fee of \$74.70 listed as "RES BKDR SANITATION." The bill will then include a credit or cart fee based on the household's service tier and the number of carts active at the address.

The timing of additional cart charges also depends on when the cart was added.

Residents who had an extra cart

of any type at their address before July 1 will see the applicable fee on their August statement. Residents who requested or received an extra cart after July 1 will not see that charge until their next monthly statement.

Residents with questions about their utility bills can contact Germantown Customer Service at (901) 757-7200 or CustomerService@Germantown-TN.gov.

Source: City of Germantown

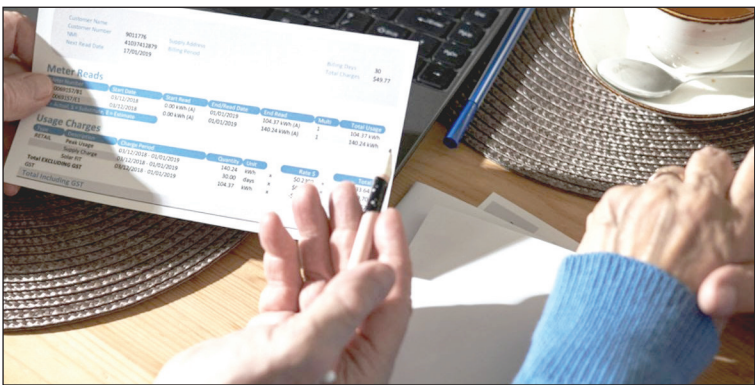


Photo: courtesy City of Germantown

INDUSTRY MEETS THE CLASSROOM AT HOUSTON HIGH

By *Kate Crowder*
GMSD

Houston High School’s Career Advisory Council meeting brought educators and industry leaders together to build partnerships and create new career-connected opportunities for students.

What happens when a Health Science teacher sits down with leaders from a hospital, orthopedic practice and local clinic to talk about the skills they need from tomorrow’s health care professionals? Or when an Engineering teacher compares classroom instruction with the real-world needs of professionals from manufacturing, medical technology and engineering firms?

Those were exactly the kinds of conversations Houston High School hoped to spark when it welcomed more than 30 business, industry and community partners for its Career Advisory Council at the start of the school year.

Representatives from health care, engineering, manufacturing, law enforcement, media, hospitality, banking, technology, higher education and other industries were seated alongside Houston High teachers in related career fields. Rather than one large group listening to a presentation, much of the morning was built around conversation.

And the conversations quickly took off.

Missy Abel speaks to two guests

At the Audio Visual Production table, HHS teacher Drew Hamilton talked with producers from WMC Action News 5 about how television news is evolving as artificial intelligence, automation and newer production technology change the work happening behind the scenes.

The discussion naturally led to opportunities for students. A visit to the Action News 5 newsroom could give students a firsthand look at modern broadcast production. Running Pony, a Memphis-based production company, also emerged as a potential future guest speaker.

Then the classroom tours created another unexpected connection.

Industry guests learned about Stang Studios, Houston High’s new school-based enterprise that will give students experience producing printed materials for customers. Suddenly, the conversation was not only about what local businesses could offer Houston students. It became a conversation about what Houston students might eventually be able to offer them.

That two-way exchange is at the heart of the Career Advisory Council.

Houston High currently offers 12 Career and Technical Education programs of study, with more than 2,100 student enrollments in CTE courses this school year. Students earned 995



HHS teacher Drew Hamilton talked with producers from WMC Action News 5 about how television news is evolving.

Germantown Municipal School District



Many students take CTE courses alongside Advanced Placement and dual enrollment classes, at Houston High School.

Germantown Municipal School District



Houston High Mechatronics teacher Steve Summy’s experience gives students access not only to technical instruction, but also to someone who understands how those skills are used in the workplace.

Germantown Municipal School District

industry credentials last year alone.

For GMSD CTE Supervisor Dr. Lara Charbonnet, one of the most important messages is that Career and Technical Education no longer fits neatly into an old idea of “college” versus “vocational” education.

Dr. Lara Charbonnet speaks at the front of the library

At Houston High, many students take CTE courses alongside Advanced Placement and dual enrollment classes. Principal Hallie Ross noted during the meeting that many Houston graduates leave high school with enough college credit to enter college academically classified as sophomores. And, CTE adds another layer to that preparation.

Students can explore careers before choosing a college major, learn directly from professionals and, in many programs, earn certifications recognized by industry. Houston’s offerings range from computer science and health science to engineering, culinary arts, business, digital arts, criminal justice and audiovisual production.

Mr. Summy speaks as he stands next to the tv presentation.

Houston High Mechatronics teacher Steve Summy knows the connection between classroom and industry from both sides. Now beginning his second year as a teacher, Summy came to education after

working in the medical device industry. His experience gives students access not only to technical instruction, but also to someone who understands how those skills are used in the workplace.

Superintendent Jason Manuel also shared GMSD’s experience with student interns through Houston High’s Work-Based Learning program. The district office hosts several students, including interns in the communications department, and Manuel spoke about how quickly those students become part of the workplace culture and how much skill and talent they bring with them.

Work-Based Learning is one of several ways businesses can participate. Partners can offer career talks, serve as guest speakers, review course content, host site visits, provide job-shadowing or internship experiences, support classroom demonstrations or help equip and sponsor programs.

The goal is not simply to ask businesses for help. It is to create an ongoing exchange between the people preparing students for their futures and the people who understand what those futures may require.

As the presentation put it perfectly, “A stronger workforce starts with earlier connections.”

GERMANTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT PROVIDES INFORMATION ON AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READERS

GERMANTOWN, Tenn. — The Germantown Police Department is providing information about its use of automated license plate readers following recent online discussions and inquiries about the technology.

GPD began a trial of five automated license plate reader, or ALPR, cameras in October 2019 and secured a lease for the technology the following month. The department currently has 39 cameras supported through departmental funding. The cameras are strategically located at entrances to the city and other choke points along major thoroughfares.

Through community partnerships, GPD also has shared access to privately owned cameras located within Germantown city limits.

Partner entities: GPD has access to ALPR cameras through partnerships with the Germantown Municipal School District, local homeowner associations, the hospital, parks and recreation and area businesses.

How the technology works

ALPR technology captures still images of passing vehicles and license plates. The system records basic vehicle descriptions along with the date and time an image was captured.

The equipment does not record video, identify vehicle occupants or continuously monitor vehicle movements, according to GPD.

The system generates an alert when a captured license plate corresponds with a stolen vehicle, a wanted individual, a miss-

ing or endangered person, or a reported offense. Officers must visually verify the accuracy of an alert before taking appropriate action.

Department personnel investigating offenses also may query the ALPR database as part of an investigation. Information obtained through the system is considered an investigative lead and does not constitute probable cause for criminal charges or an apprehension, according to GPD.

The department said vehicles are frequently used in criminal activity, making ALPR technology useful for recovering stolen property, apprehending violent offenders and wanted individuals, locating missing or endangered people and developing leads in active investigations.

ALPR use in investigations

GPD cited several cases in which ALPR technology played a role in investigations.

In 2025, an armed individual robbed a clerk at the Exxon station at 1300 South Germantown Road and fled with stolen currency. ALPR technology was pivotal in the investigation and arrest of the suspect, according to the department.

Also in 2025, officers investigated a report of a vehicle stolen overnight from a resident’s driveway. ALPR technology was pivotal in the investigation, recovery of the stolen vehicle and arrest of the suspect.

In 2022, Germantown officers responded to an attempted kidnapping at Saddle Creek. An unknown suspect attempted to force a



victim into a vehicle before being interrupted and fleeing the area. ALPR technology was pivotal in the investigation and arrest of the suspects, according to GPD.

The department said those incidents represent only a few of the numerous cases in which ALPR data has assisted investigations since the technology was acquired in 2019.

In addition to its investigative use, GPD said ALPR technology serves as an early warning system by notifying officers when stolen vehicles enter the city. Each notification generates a patrol response, which the department said can help deter additional incidents within Germantown.

Oversight and privacy safeguards

GPD said strict internal policies govern the use of ALPR technology to ensure ethical implementation and operational oversight.

All database searches must serve a valid law enforcement purpose and include any corresponding incident report number and a documented rationale.

An ALPR alert by itself does not provide legal justification for enforcement action. Officers must visually confirm the alert before taking action.

The department recently amended its guidelines to reinforce those requirements.

ALPR records are automatically purged after 30 days unless the information is actively required for an ongoing investigation or prosecution.

GPD said information from its ALPR system is actively shared with other law enforcement agencies. The software also includes auditing features designed to monitor compliance with departmental policies and directives.

The department said it remains committed to the transparent and ethical use of technology, including strict adherence to operational guidelines, continuous oversight and maintaining public confidence.

Source: Germantown Police Department



Germantown Police Department

GPD DRONE UNIT COMPLETES TRAINING TO ENHANCE PUBLIC SAFETY OPERATIONS

Staff Reports

The Germantown Police Department’s Drone Unit recently completed training designed to strengthen the skills officers use to safely and effectively operate drones in support of public safety.

Becoming a certified drone pilot requires more than learning how to fly, according to the department. When an officer joins the unit, the officer completes a weeklong training course to prepare for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Part 107 Remote Pilot Certificate and must pass the FAA certification test.

Training continues after certification. GPD drone pilots complete two hours of independent training each week and participate in monthly full-unit training.

Pilots also are required to renew their FAA Part 107 certification every two years.

The department said the ongoing training helps ensure its drone pilots are prepared to operate the technology effectively when needed in the field.

Source: Germantown Police Department

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FINANCIAL FOCUS:

Building your child’s education fund, one brick at a time

Every solid house starts with a good blueprint and a strong foundation. Saving for a child’s education is very similar.

College costs can seem daunting. In addition to tuition, you’ll need to account for housing and food, books and supplies, transportation and other expenses. The average annual budget at an in-state public university runs around \$30,990 today, and a private school is \$65,470 according to the College Board. While most families won’t pay a college’s list price, you’ll still want to start saving as early as possible to be ready when your child is.

Lay the foundation early. You don’t have to wait until you have the perfect set of plans to start building. There are specific accounts designed to save for education and some do not require a minimum opening deposit. Setting up automatic recurring contributions, even modest ones, lets you build steadily over time without requiring constant attention.

As your child ages, look for ways to redirect expenses you no longer have towards the build. For example, daycare costs, which can exceed \$1,000 a month, can be shifted into a college savings account once your child enters school. Tax refunds and annual bonuses make excellent additional contributions. And others can pitch in – instead of birthday or holiday toys, ask grandparents or relatives to contribute directly to a college savings account.

Know the size of the house you’re building. Families saving for community college followed by two years at a public university might target around \$65,000. Those aiming for four years at a public school are looking at roughly \$100,000. Whatever the goal, plan for education inflation of about 4% annually, which can roughly double

costs over 18 years.

You don’t have to source all the building materials yourself. Scholarships, grants, student loans and income from part-time work are all legitimate ways to help finish the structure.

Don’t let one project consume the whole budget. One risk for parents is pouring so much into the college fund that the retirement fund goes neglected. Remember, loans and grants exist for college, but not for retirement. Striking the right balance may mean targeting a more affordable school, planning to cover only a portion of costs or adjusting retirement timelines slightly.

Choose the right building materials. For many families, a 529 plan is the right foundation. Earnings grow tax-free, distributions are federally tax-free when used for qualified education expenses, and many states offer additional income tax deductions for contributions. Even better, anyone – such as grandparents or friends – can contribute.

Additionally, qualified expenses for a 529 plan go beyond tuition and cover books, computers, internet access, room and board, and more. Vocational and trade schools often qualify, too, opening the door to careers in skilled trades, healthcare and technology.

No contractor builds alone. A knowledgeable financial advisor can help you draw up a realistic blueprint and make sure the college project doesn’t crowd out the rest of your financial future. The earlier you break ground on that conversation, the stronger the structure will be.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor - Tom Shelley. Visit his office at 7730 Wolf River Blvd. #107, Germantown or call (901)751-1212. Edward Jones, Member SIPC



POLICE REPORTS

Friday, July 31st

Crimes:

A victim reported a physical altercation at a business. The report originated from the 9400 block of Crestwyn Hills Drive at 2:44 p.m.

Officers arrested four subjects for possession of a stolen vehicle and illegal narcotics. The arrest originated from the 7700 block of Poplar Avenue at 8:02 p.m. Two subjects were observed taking merchandise from a business. The report originated from the 9200 block of Poplar Avenue at 8:42 p.m.

Saturday, August 1st

Crimes:

Officers arrested a subject for taking merchandise from a business. The arrest originated from the 9200 block of Poplar Avenue at 10:29 a.m.

A victim reported a fraudulent credit card transaction. The report originated from the 2000 block of West Street at 12:17 p.m.

A victim reported that their wallet was taken from a business. The report originated from the 9000 block of Poplar Avenue at 3:17 p.m.

Sunday, August 2nd

Crimes:

Officers arrested a subject for unlawfully entering a business. The arrest originated from the 9200 block of Poplar Avenue at 6:24 p.m.

Monday, August 3rd

Crimes:

A victim reported that their unlocked vehicle was unlawfully entered and an item was taken. The report originated from the 7700 block of Farmington Boulevard at 2:02 p.m.

Two subjects were observed taking merchandise from a business. The report originated from the 7700 block of Poplar Avenue at 5:05 p.m.

Tuesday, August 4th

Crimes:

A victim reported a telephone scam. The report originated from the 7700 block of Farmington Boulevard at 8:25 a.m.

A subject was observed taking merchandise from a business. The report originated from the 7600 block of Poplar Avenue at 2:58 p.m.

A victim reported that their garage was unlawfully entered and an item was taken. The report originated from the 1900 block of Thorncroft Drive at 11:43 p.m.

Wednesday, August 5th

Crimes:

A victim reported a social media scam. The arrest originated from the 7600 block of Blackberry Farm Road at 10:44 a.m.

Officers arrested a subject for taking merchandise from a business. The arrest originated from the 7600 block of Poplar Avenue at 1:10 p.m.

A victim reported that their unlocked vehicle was unlawfully entered and an item was taken. The report originated from the 7700 block of Farmington Boulevard at 2:55 p.m. Officers arrested a subject for unlawful possession of narcotics. The arrest originated from the area of South Germantown Road/ Tagg Drive at 3:21 p.m. A victim reported that their identifying information was compromised. The report originated from the 9000 block of Telluride Cove at 4:16 p.m.

Thursday, August 6th

Crimes:

A victim reported that a diffuser was removed from their vehicle. The report originated from the 7800 block of Neshoba Road at 8:57 a.m.

Officers arrested a subject for threatening behavior. The arrest originated from the 6600 block of Poplar Avenue at 10:20 a.m.

A victim reported that their identifying information was compromised. The report originated from the 8600 block of Beaverwood Drive at 2:11 p.m.

A victim reported threatening phone calls. The report originated from the 7700 block of Wolf Trail Cove at 3:49 p.m.

A complainant reported a physical altercation at a residence. The report originated from the 8600 block of Wilderness Drive at 4:24 p.m.

A victim reported that their debit card was taken. The report originated from the 7600 block of Poplar Avenue at 5:43 p.m.

Officers arrested a subject for being the primary aggressor during an altercation. The report originated from the 7100 block of Toro Cove at 8:22 p.m.

CRASHES There were a total of **27 crashes** reported for this time period

Living with Purpose

By David Peel



Slow Vanishing of Small Towns

There’s a certain kind of small-town trade that never shows up on a balance sheet.

Think of the guy who ran the local plumbing company for thirty years. He fixed the neighbor’s leak even when the bill was never going to get paid. He sponsored the little league team, helped send kids on the church mission trip, showed up at career day, and more than once left his own dinner table to handle a single mom’s emergency after hours—then somehow never got around to sending the invoice.

That kind of service is how a lot of these businesses were built. It’s also why it’s hard to blame the owners when they finally cash out. If there’s no child interested in taking it over and no partner ready to step in, the offer starts to look like the only golden ticket left. A buyer shows up promising to keep the name on the door and let the old owner stick around as a consultant for a while. It feels almost painless.

Then the rules tighten. Free work becomes harder to justify. After-hours visits get logged and billed. Recurring revenue and service agreements take priority. You see it in plumbing, HVAC, auto repair shops, funeral homes, dentists, and veterinarians.

The numbers are already larger than most people realize. Private equity and corporate groups now control 30 to 50 percent of general veterinary clinics—and as much as 75 percent of specialty and emergency practices—up from roughly 10 percent a decade ago. In dentistry the share tied to private equity or dental support organizations has roughly doubled in recent years. Even in the trades and funeral services, the pace of acquisitions is accelerating, with hundreds of local companies changing hands while the old names stay on the trucks and the signs.

Most people never notice the sale happened. But the difference is still there. You’ll never get the same thing talking to a corporate manager that you used to get talking to the owner from start to finish. That real small-town service is getting harder to find. The next generation may never experience it at all.

Mr. Peel seeks justice for those injured in tractor-trailer and car accidents, medical malpractice, and disability. He often addresses churches, clubs, and groups without charge. Mr. Peel may be reached through PeelLawFirm.com wherein other articles may be accessed.



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2005 PONT G6 VIN# 1G2ZG528654168751
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2004 HOND ACC VIN# 1HGCM563X4A131065
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2003 MITS GAL VIN# 4A3AA46G63F075397
2011 AUDI A4 VIN# WAUFFAFL8BN006308
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2022 HYUN KON VIN# KM8K22AB0NU856005
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2016 ACURA TLX
3VWDX7AJDDM377778
2013 VOLKSWAGEN JETTA
3N1CN7AP8HL861530
2017 NISSAN VERSA
1C4PILCB4GW216614
2016 JEEP CHEROKEE
1G1AL58F187193501
2008 CHEVROLET COBALT
KL4CJASB0JB689276
2018 BUICK ENCORE
5NPET46C8H539875
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2C3CDXCT3KH526528
2019 DODGE CHARGER
2T3WFRE9GW305410
2016 TOYOTA RAV4
5YFEPMA6GNP34517
2022 TOYOTA COROLLA
3KFP4DE8TE332309
2026 KIA K4
4T1BF1FK4HU669619
2017 TOYOTA CAMRY
1FDBF6Z84MK423595
2021 FORD TRANSIT
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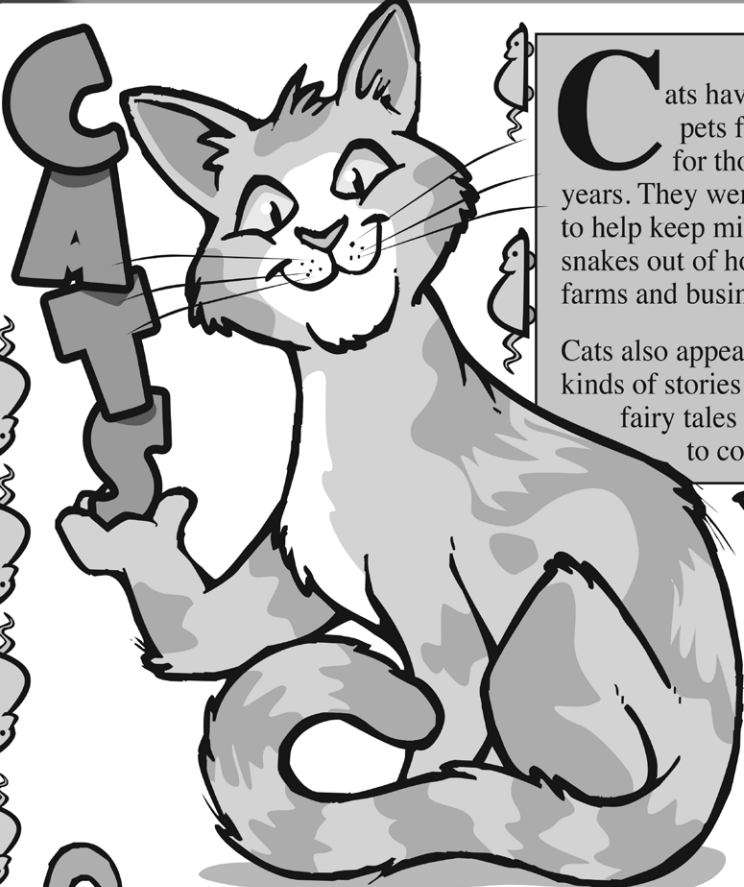
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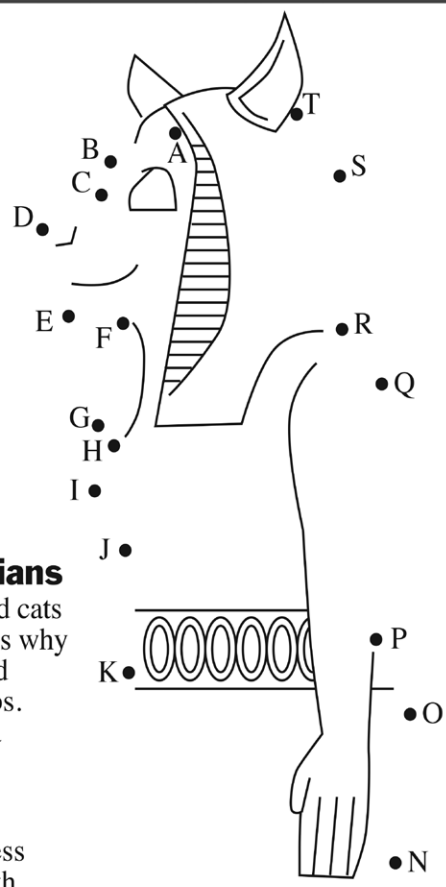
Get puzzle answers, recipes and more at www.kidscoop.com

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Cats have been pets for people for thousands of years. They were taken in to help keep mice and snakes out of homes, farms and businesses.

Cats also appear in all kinds of stories, from fairy tales to legends to comic strips.

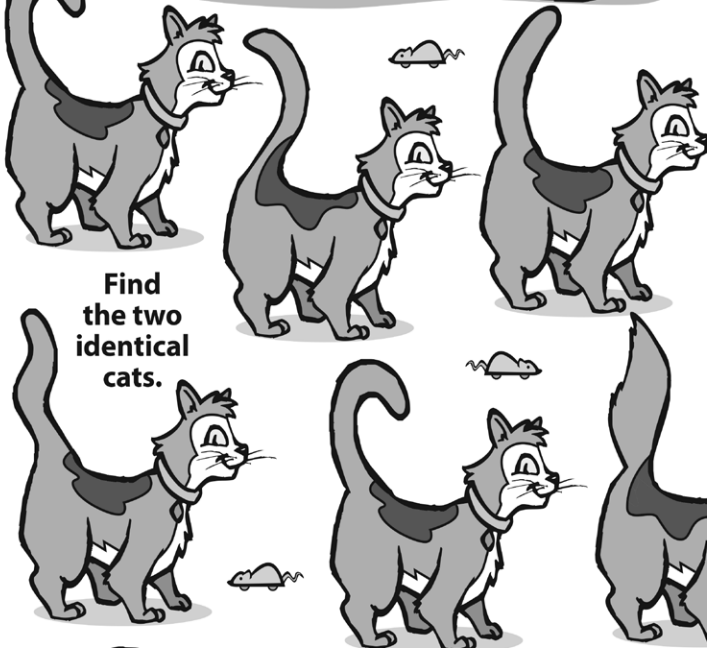


Ancient Egyptians

Egyptians considered cats to be sacred, which is why they mummified and buried them in tombs. They would honor a god by portraying it with a cat's head.

The Egyptian goddess **Bast** was shown with the head of a cat. Bast is the Egyptian goddess of sunrise and the protector of cats, women and children.

Find the two identical cats.



Connect the dots in alphabetical order to draw Bast.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.



Cat Prints

Just like fingerprints, this part of a cat's body has a pattern of ridges that is unique to that cat.

SENO

Unscramble the word to find the answer.

Cat Numbers

Use the code to discover some fun facts about cats.

0 =	4 =	7 =
2 =	5 =	8 =
3 =	6 =	9 =

The number of years ago that we believe cats were first domesticated.

The approximate number of dollars spent each year in the U.S. for kitty litter.*

The number of muscles in each ear of a cat.

The approximate number of kittens born in the U.S. each day.

How many toy mice can you find on this page?

Animals in the News

Look through the newspaper to find articles about animals. How many different kinds of animals are in the news? Make a graph to show your results.

Standards Link: Data Analysis: Organize and display data in simple bar graphs, pie charts and line graphs.

Standards Link: Life Science: Students understand the diversity of life and behavior of species.

Kid Scoop® Puzzler

Weighing Wiggly Cats The cats at Dr. Stalling's office won't sit still to be weighed. The owners have to hold them and weigh themselves and their pets at the same time. Subtract each owner's weight from the total weight to find out how much each wiggly cat weighs.

Cat ()	+ Kate (132)	TOTAL: 149
Cat ()	+ Mike (180)	TOTAL: 195
Cat ()	+ Tim (173)	TOTAL: 197

Standards Link: Algebra: Solve simple open sentences involving operations on whole numbers.

Double Word Search

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

ANCIENT	C A C Y T A C D N D
WHISKERS	E M T O A H E A O U
CATS	U T O S M R G C T E
SACRED	Q N M Y C I T I I S
YARN	I E B A S T C S E M
EGYPTIAN	N I S R E K S I H W
STRAY	U C A N R I D G E S
ABANDONED	D N A I T P Y G E C
TOMBS	T A B A N D O N E D
RIDGES	
UNIQUE	
WEIGH	
MICE	
BAST	
COMIC	

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop® LESSON LIBRARY

Home for a Pet

Look at the Want Ads in the newspaper. Pretend you are a pet looking for a home. Write a want ad for the home you would like.

Standards Link: Writing Applications: Write brief expository descriptions.



What does a cat say when it gets hurt?

ANSWER: "Me Ow!"

Write On!

Dream Interview

If you could interview anyone in the world, who would it be? What would you ask?

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RAMEN SHOP CLOSSES FOR LUNCH AFTER INSPECTOR FINDS BROTH COOLED OVERNIGHT AT ROOM TEMPERATURE

Soul Fish Cafe scores 80 on handwashing and holding violations; Poplar Avenue tavern told to halt specialized process

GERMANTOWN — A Poplar Avenue restaurant voluntarily closed for lunch service August 4 after a health inspector found large pots of pork broth that had been left at room temperature overnight, one of several notable findings among 12 Germantown inspections during the week of August 4 through 11.

At KyruRamen & Tbaar, 7726 Poplar Ave., which scored 89, the inspector reported four 100-quart pots and one 200-quart pot of pork broth sitting on the stove top at ambient temperature reading between 128 and 130 degrees, with a cook lighting the burners underneath to bring the pots to a boil. According to the report, the manager explained the broth is made from pork femur and water, cooked until 11 p.m. and reheated between 9:30 and 10 a.m. The inspector cited improper cooling for broth left out from 11 p.m. to 10 a.m. and asked the manager to discard it; the report states he refused. The report notes that after speaking with the manager, the location voluntarily closed for lunch to prepare new broth for dinner.

Soul Fish Cafe, 3160 Village Shop, posted the week’s lowest score at 80 in a routine inspection August 5. The inspector observed multiple employees improperly washing their hands between glove changes and tasks, or only rinsing without soap — specifically when handling raw fish and moving from dirty dishes to clean dishes. A hand sink next to the grill was filled with ice and inoperable. The report also cited chicken and fried fish stored at room temperature over reach-in freezers in preparation for a rush, which the inspector directed be discarded, along with tongs and batter stored over a garbage can and a slicer with food residue from the previous day.

At Josephine Estelle & Rosie’s Tavern, 6695 Poplar Ave., the downstairs kitchen scored 89 on August 5. The inspector cited sous vide and frozen reduced-oxygen-packaged items with some left out to thaw, and directed that the location cease all procedures requiring a food safety plan until state approval is obtained, noting no documentation was provided. The report also cited a consumer advisory missing required reminders, food items sitting at room temperature or in standing water to thaw, and large quantities of wiping cloths on prep stations and aprons. The tavern’s downstairs bar, inspected the same day, scored 100.

Congregation Coffee, 3060 Forest Hill Irene Rd., scored 92 on August 5, with seven items marked out of compliance and no written detail, including personal cleanliness, wiping cloth storage, warewashing facilities and hot and cold water availability.

Salad Station, 9155 Poplar Ave., scored 96 and Panera Bread, 7850 Poplar Ave. Suite 2, scored 97, both on August 5. Each was cited for hair restraints not being worn during food preparation, along with cleaning and maintenance items.

Two Germantown school kitchens were inspected August 10 and each scored 98. At Farmington Elementary, 2085 Cordes, the inspector noted a leak at the high-temperature dish machine. At Dogwood Elementary, 8945 Dogwood, the report asked for sink and surface test strips and noted an overflowing dumpster with lids left open.

Three child care facilities received approval ratings: Dogwood Elementary and Little Georgies Day Care, 8235 Dogwood Rd., both on August 10, and Madonna Learning Center, 7007 Poplar Ave., on August 4. At Little Georgies, the inspector asked that thermometers be placed inside all coolers and freezers.

Inspection reports are public record. Complete reports are available at inspections.myhealthdepartment.com/tennessee.

This Week’s Inspections at a Glance

Germantown health inspections, August 4-11, 2026.
Source: Tennessee Department of Health / Shelby County Health Department.

Dogwood Elementary — 8945 Dogwood
Child care facilities, routine, August 10 — Score: Approval
No violations noted.

Little Georgies Day Care (facility) — 8235 Dogwood Rd.
Child care facilities, routine, August 10 — Score: Approval
Include thermometers inside all coolers and freezers.

Farmington Elementary — 2085 Cordes
Food service, routine, August 10 — Score: 98
Leak from bell at high-temperature dish machine.

Dogwood Elementary — 8945 Dogwood
Food service, routine, August 10 — Score: 98
Provide sink and surface test strips.
Dumpster space overflowing; close lids.

Congregation Coffee — 3060 Forest Hill Irene Rd.
Food service, routine, August 5 — Score: 92
Items marked out of compliance, no detail given: personal cleanliness; wiping cloths properly used and stored; in-use utensil properly stored; food and non-food-contact surfaces cleanable; warewashing facilities installed, maintained, used, test strips; nonfood-contact surfaces clean; hot and cold water available with adequate pressure.

Josephine Estelle & Rosie’s Tavern (downstairs bar) — 6695 Poplar Ave.
Food service, routine, August 5 — Score: 100
No-smoking signage item noted, no detail given.

Soul Fish Cafe — 3160 Village Shop
Food service, routine, August 5 — Score: 80
Hand sink next to grill filled with ice and inoperable; soap and paper towels to be placed in the space. Multiple employees improperly washing hands between glove changes and tasks, or only rinsing without soap, specifically when handling raw fish and moving from dirty to clean dishes. Inspector educated staff and displayed proper handwashing procedure. Tongs and batter used to bread fish stored over a garbage can with visible trash inside; slicer used the previous day had excess food residue. Chicken and fried fish stored over reach-in freezers at room temperature to prepare for rush; directed to discard. Uncovered bread and food with a fly present. Multiple wiping cloths improperly stored. Bowls and plates stored upward rather than inverted; fryers stored on the floor. Racks in walk-in cooler to be pulled and spills cleaned.

Josephine Estelle & Rosie’s Tavern (downstairs kitchen) — 6695 Poplar Ave.
Food service, routine, August 5 — Score: 89
Consumer advisory present but missing required reminders. Sous vide and frozen reduced-oxygen-packaged items observed, some left out to thaw. No documentation provided. Directed to cease all procedures requiring a food safety plan until state approval is implemented. Multiple food items sitting at room temperature or in standing water to thaw. Large quantities of wiping cloths on prep stations and aprons.

Panera Bread 7850 Poplar Ave. Suite 2
Food service, routine, August 5 — Score: 97
No hair restraints observed while preparing sandwiches. Interior of microwave needs frequent cleaning, as do

lids and food contact surfaces including bread and bagel stations.
Clean and maintain door handles and interior ovens.

Salad Station — 9155 Poplar Ave.
Food service, routine, August 5 — Score: 96
Maintain hair restraints while preparing food items. Walk-in cooler has food buildup. Maintain the exterior of all doors and equipment. Walls and floors have food splatter and water accumulation. No-smoking signage item noted, no detail given.

Madonna Learning Center — 7007 Poplar Ave.
Child care facilities, routine, August 4 — Score: Approval
No violations noted.

KyruRamen & Tbaar — 7726 Poplar Ave.
Food service, routine, August 4 — Score: 89
Four 100-quart pots and one 200-quart pot of pork broth on stove top at ambient temperature reading 128-130 degrees; cook lit burners to bring pots to a boil. Manager stated broth is pork femur and water, cooked until 11 p.m. and reheated between 9:30 and 10 a.m. Improper cooling of pork broth left at room temperature from 11 p.m. to 10 a.m. Inspector asked manager to discard; he refused. Meat mixture unlabeled inside reach-in coolers. Multiple uncovered food items and boxes of food stored on the floor in walk-in freezer. Maintain external dumpster space. Clean and maintain ceilings; dust found over prep station. Current permit posting item noted, no detail given. Comment: after speaking with the manager, the location voluntarily closed for lunch to prepare new broth for dinner.

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR GERMANTOWN’S RUNNING OF THE WEENIES EVENT

Staff Reports

Registration is now open for the Germantown Animal Shelter’s annual Running of the Weenies, a dachshund-themed event featuring races and a costume contest scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 12.

The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Germantown Charity Horse Show Arena, 7745 Poplar Pike.

Dachshunds can compete in the Running of the Weenies race or show off their style in the Best Dressed Hot Dog Contest. Organizers say the event welcomes dogs of all personalities, whether they’re eager to race or simply entertain the crowd.

Pre-registration is required and must be completed by 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 3. Registration is available in person at the Germantown Animal Shelter, 7700 South-ern Ave.

Race entry is \$35 per dog, while entry in the costume contest is \$10 per dog.

For more information, call the Germantown Animal Shelter at (901) 757-7358.



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★ CLASS SCHEDULE ★

- Youth Halter – 17 and under
- Adult Halter – 18 and older
- Lead In – 8 years and under
- Country Pleasure Barefoot or Keg shod only (walk and favorite gait)
- Men’s Saddle Horse 18 years and older (flatshod, walk and favorite gait)
- Spotted Saddle Horse (FlatShod, Show Walk, Favorite Gait)
- Flat Shod Saddle Horse Open (flatshod, walk and favorite gait)
- Youth FlatShod Saddle Horse 17 and under (flatshod, walk and favorite gait)
- Open Gaited (padded or flatshod, walk and favorite gait)
- Singlefooting mares and geldings (kegshod - slow single foot- fast single foot)
- Style Racking (Open Shod, Show Walk and Style Rack)
- Ladies Saddle horse 18 and Over (FlatShod, Walk and Favorite Gait)

- Youth Speed Racking 17 and under (walk, slow Rack and fast rack)
- Speed Racking Open
- Best Gaited Singlefooting (kegshod - slow single foot- fast single foot)
- Padded Saddle Horse
- Country Speed Racking (½” by 1” max shoe, Brisk walk, slow Rack and extended Rack)
- Championship singlefooting Open (kegshod - slow single foot- fast single foot)
- Championship Flat shod (flatshod, walk and favorite gait)
- Championship Gaited horse (OpenShod, walk and favorite gait)
- Championship Open Speed Racking

★ 20 MINUTE INTERMISSION ★
(Between Class 6 and Class 7)

★ 20 MINUTE INTERMISSION ★
(After Class 17)

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