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SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR 2026 NEIGHBORHOOD SUMMIT

City of Germantown

Attention, local businesses: The City cordially invites you to be part of something special - Germantown's Annual Neighborhood Summit, which takes place Tuesday, September 29, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at The Great Hall & Conference Center.

Presented by the Neighborhood Preservation Commission, this exciting occasion traditionally wel-



comes more than 250 Germantown residents and neighborhood leaders each year. It's an evening filled

with connection, community pride and inspiration, and sponsorships for this event are now available.

This year's theme, Thriving Together, will feature:

- » A sponsors' expo showcasing local businesses like yours, along with networking, wine tastings and refreshments
- » Opening remarks by Mayor Mike Palazzolo

See **Summit**, page 3



Photo: courtesy City of Germantown

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN GERMANTOWN CLASSROOMS THROUGH YOUR WATER BILL

Staff Report

Germantown residents can support local classrooms through the city's Friends of the Foundation program, which allows residents to make recurring donations to the Germantown Education Founda-

tion through their monthly water bills.

The Germantown Board of Mayor and Aldermen approved a \$3,150.50 donation to the Germantown Education Foundation during its Aug. 10 meeting. The donation represents contributions collected

through the Friends of the Foundation program during the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2026.

The program was established by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen in 2014 to provide Germantown

See **Donations**, page 3

FIRST BATCH OF 96-GALLON RECYCLING CARTS ARRIVES AS DELIVERIES BEGIN

Staff Reports

Good news for residents who have been waiting for expanded recycling cart capacity: the first of three shipments of new, city-branded 96-gallon recycling carts has arrived, and deliveries began Wednesday afternoon.

Waste Pro crews are now working to deliver the larger carts and complete requested upgrades for residents who previously asked to replace their 64-gallon recycling carts.

The initial shipment will fulfill a portion of the outstanding requests. Because this is the first of three planned deliveries, residents who do not receive a new cart during this round should not be concerned. Additional shipments are on the way, and Waste Pro will continue working through the remaining requests as quickly as possible.

What Residents Need to Know
The first shipment is only part of the rollout. The current batch will cover some of the outstanding 96-gallon cart requests. Two

additional shipments are planned, so residents who are still waiting will receive their upgraded carts in a subsequent delivery.

Help crews make the swap. Residents who requested an upgrade from a 64-gallon to a 96-gallon recycling cart can help Waste Pro crews by making their existing cart easy to locate. On days when the recycling cart is not at the curb for collection, residents should keep their 64-gallon cart in a location

See **Trash Carts**, page 3



Photo: courtesy City of Germantown

EQUIPPED FOR ACTION: Germantown BMA Approves Firefighter Protective Gear

Staff Reports

The Germantown Board of Mayor and Aldermen approved two major equipment investments for Germantown Fire Department personnel during Monday's meeting, strengthening firefighter health protections and operational readiness.

The board approved the purchase of 18 sets of turnout gear for \$73,190.98. Turnout gear is a firefighter's primary protective equipment when working in environments immediately dangerous to life and health.

The purchase was approved as part of the FY27 budget process and supports the department's five-year replacement cycle. The initiative will ensure each Germantown firefighter has two complete sets of turnout gear while helping the department comply with National Fire Protection Association 10-year replacement standards.

A second set of gear also supports firefighter health. Gear worn during structural fires can become contaminated with hazardous substances associated with increased cancer risks. With two sets available, firefighters can have contaminated gear thoroughly laundered after a call while using a clean set for subsequent operations.

"Our turnout gear is the a critical piece of protective equipment our firefighters wear into high-

risk environments," GFD Chief Eric Grizzard said. "Having a reliable dual-set system means our crews can properly decontaminate their gear after a call without compromising our operational readiness. This investment directly supports the health of the men and women serving our community every day."

Department staff are testing multiple turnout gear options in the field to determine which equipment best meets Germantown's long-term operational needs rather than immediately committing to a single manufacturer.

The board also approved a \$485,678 contract with NAFECO to replace self-contained breathing apparatus backplates and associated safety equipment. GFD relies on SCBA cylinders and backplates to provide firefighters with clean air in life-threatening atmospheres and during hazardous materials incidents.

While the current 2011 backplates were originally slated for replacement in 2030, unexpected modifications in the NFPA 1850 standard released in fall 2025 accelerated the timeline to 2027.

Following last year's cylinder replacements this purchase marks the final phase of a complete SCBA system overhaul ensuring Germantown firefighters remain fully equipped, compliant and protected for years to come..

Source: City of Germantown



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GPAC ANNOUNCES FALL CONCERTS IN THE GROVE LINEUP

*Germantown Performing
Arts Center*

Germantown Performing Arts Center (GPAC) is excited to announce the lineup for their fan-favorite Fall Concerts in The Grove Series proudly presented by SouthWorth Capital Management. Join in on the fun on Thursday evenings from September 10 until October 29 at 6:30 PM for performances from some of the best local artists the Mid-South has to offer! Gates open at 5:30 PM. Ticket holders can enjoy the beautiful, park-like setting of the TruGreen Lawn with food trucks or grab a drink at the bar on the First Horizon Foundation Plaza. Outside food and beverages are permitted. General admission tickets for lawn seating are \$13 including fees, and reserved table seating is available starting at \$23 including fees.

Tickets for kids ages 5 to 18 are \$8 including fees, and tickets for kids ages 4 and under are free. Tickets and subscriptions are on sale now at the GPAC website or by calling the box office at (901) 751-7500.

Sept. 10 - Dedicated to sharing the vibrant rhythms and rich musical traditions of Latin America, Tropical Fusion Latin Band delivers an authentic and energetic concert experience with a diverse repertoire spanning from salsa and cumbia to boleros and jazz.

Sept. 17 - The Memphis Rhythm Revue is a rhythm and blues collective composed of local singer-songwriters Wylly Bigger, Benton Parker and Jad Tariq, who combine their like-styled original music into one memorable show that incorporates soaring three-part harmonies and a unique blend of Memphis sounds.

Sept. 24 - With her haunting, pure voice and her honest, whimsical songwriting, Americana singer Bailey Bigger is bringing her sense of wonder and enchanting original songs to The Grove!

Oct. 1 - Rooted in the rich musical traditions of the region, Southbound brings the unmistakable spirit of Mem-

phis to every stage with a high-energy blend of Southern rock, country, blues and crowd-favorite classics

Oct. 8 - Alice Hasen & the Blaze, a fiddle-powered groove band that primarily plays Alice's original compositions, is ready to get audiences moving with their energetic, genre-bending sound!

Oct. 15 - Part concert, part musical time capsule and part imagining what could have been, One After 901 presents The Beatles in Memphis, an immersive celebration that goes far beyond the traditional tribute show. At this concert, local musicians Graham Winchester, Ben Church, Jacob Church and Landon Moore will recreate the setlist from the Beatles' 1966 performance at the Mid-South Coliseum.

Oct. 22 - The Memphis Wind Symphony's dynamic 65-member wind ensemble is returning for their annual performance in The Grove with a wide repertoire of musical styles.

Oct. 29 - Award-winning singer-songwriter, guitarist and recording artist Lina Beach has quickly become a rising force in Memphis' legendary recording community with her unique blend of soul, blues, folk, gospel, Americana and rock.

Find out more about these concerts, as well as the rest of Season 32, on the GPAC website.

About GPAC

Located in the heart of Shelby County, Germantown Performing Arts Center serves the greater Memphis metro area of over a million people and is accessible to all members of the community. GPAC is comprised of the Highland Capital Performance Hall, an acoustically perfect, 854-seat venue featuring a sprung pine stage, an elegant green room, five large dressing rooms, and a spacious lobby for entertaining and assembling; The Grove, a dynamic outdoor venue which can accommodate approximately 900 guests in a lush outdoor setting; and the Watkins Studio Theater, an intimate black box theater. Ray Charles set the bar high when he opened GPAC in 1994, immediately defining this performing arts center as a place where excellence is the norm and where the world comes to perform. GPAC presents world-renowned performing artists in a variety of genres, year-round educational activities for all ages including the GPAC Youth Symphony Program, rotating visual art exhibits, and many community events. The center benefits from a professional infrastructure that possesses a clear direction, strong financial health, professional staff, and a dedicated board of directors.



GERMANTOWN APPROVES REVISED PLAN FOR GOODWIN FARMS DEVELOPMENT

Staff Reports

The Germantown Board of Mayor and Aldermen has approved a resolution finalizing a revised outline plan for the Goodwin Farms Planned Unit Development, marking a step forward in development plans for the city's southeast corridor.

The development covers approximately 99 acres on the north side of Winchester Road, east of Crestwyn Drive. The revised plan updates the development's phases and layout to meet current building standards and streamline future con-

struction.

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen's approval follows a positive recommendation from the Germantown Planning Commission in July 2026.

Under the approved plan, the development will include a maximum of 228 single-family residential lots, down from the previous plan. The number of development phases also has been reduced from nine to seven.

The revised plan includes modifications to internal streets designed to improve traffic flow and access

throughout the neighborhood.

With the revised outline plan approved, individual phases will move through final planning, engineering and development contract processes before construction. Phase one is already underway, and future phases will follow the newly approved seven-phase plan.

More information about Goodwin Farms is available at New Regency Homes' Goodwin Farms page: newregencyhomes.com/goodwin-farms.

Source: City of Germantown

EXPLORE GERMANTOWN'S INTERACTIVE DEVELOPMENT MAP

City of Germantown

Wondering what's being built, improved or planned around Germantown? The City's interactive development map makes it easy to explore construction and development projects happening throughout the community.

The map provides information about project across Germantown, giving residents a convenient way to see what's happening in their neighborhood and learn more about projects throughout the City.

Whether you're curious about a project near your home or want to stay in-

formed about growth and development across Germantown, the interactive map is a helpful resource.

Explore the map at: <https://gtown.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/520ed59ffedc4f35a6cf46bb5a672d7a>

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5. Men's Saddle Horse 18 years and older (flatshod, walk and favorite gait)
6. Spotted Saddle Horse (FlatShod, Show Walk, Favorite Gait)

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

7. Flat Shod Saddle Horse Open (flatshod, walk and favorite gait)
8. Youth FlatShod Saddle Horse 17 and under (flatshod, walk and favorite gait)
9. Open Gaited (padded or flatshod, walk and favorite gait)
10. Singlefooting mares and geldings (kegshod - slow single foot - fast single foot)
11. Style Racking (Open Shod, Show Walk and Style Rack)
12. Ladies Saddle Horse 18 and Over (FlatShod, Walk and Favorite Gait)

★ 20 MINUTE INTERMISSION ★
♪ Nitty Gritty to perform! ♪

13. Youth Speed Racking 17 and under (walk, slow Rack and fast rack)
14. Speed Racking Open
15. Best Gaited Singlefooting (kegshod - slow single foot - fast single foot)
16. Padded Saddle Horse
17. Country Speed Racking (1/2" by 1" max shoe, Brisk walk, slow Rack and extended Rack)

★ 20 MINUTE INTERMISSION ★
(After Class 17)

18. Championship singlefooting Open (kegshod - slow single foot - fast single foot)
19. Championship Flat shod (flatshod, walk and favorite gait)
20. Championship Gaited horse (OpenShod, walk and favorite gait)
21. Championship Open Speed Racking

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SUMMIT,

Continued from 1

» Presentations by the Germantown Police Department and the Economic and Community Development Division

» Annual awards for Neighborhood of the Year, Neighbor of the Year and Neighborhood Leader of the Year

Why Sponsor?

As a sponsor, your business will enjoy direct visibility with hundreds of residents and neighborhood leaders, along with:

- » A booth at the Summit expo to connect face-to-face with potential and existing customers
- » Your logo or name featured on event marketing materials, social media, news coverage and event signage
- » An opportunity to demonstrate your commitment to community engagement while raising your brand profile

There are two sponsorship tiers:

» The \$300 Gold Tier includes expo vendor space and your company logo displayed on all event marketing materials, signage and social media campaigns.

» The \$200 Silver Tier includes expo vendor space and company name displayed on all event marketing materials, signage and social media campaigns.

We are also gratefully accepting door prize donations to showcase local businesses during our popular evening drawings.

We would be honored to have your support in making this year's summit the most impactful yet. To confirm your sponsorship or ask questions, please contact Community Engagement Coordinator Erinn Figg at EFigg@Germantown-TN.gov or (901) 757-7203. You can also fill out this sponsorship form here.

For more information about the Summit, visit Germantown-TN.gov/Summit.

Thank you for supporting Germantown's neighborhoods. We look forward to seeing you at the Summit!

DONATIONS,

Continued from 1

residents with an easy way to support the Germantown Education Foundation through their monthly utility bills. Originally called "Fill the Fountain of Knowledge," the program was later renamed Friends of the Foundation.

Residents can authorize the city to add a recurring donation of their choice to their monthly utility bill. Because the funds are voluntarily contributed by residents, the program has no budgetary impact on the city. The city maintains records of residents who have authorized donations and periodically transfers the collected funds to the Germantown Education Foundation.

To become a Friend of the Foundation, residents can complete the authorization form and select the amount they would like to contribute each month. The donation is then included on their monthly utility bill.

Residents can learn more and sign up through the Germantown Education Foundation's Friends of the Foundation page.

Contributions help the Germantown Education Foundation provide additional resources and opportunities for students and teachers in the Germantown Municipal School District. Through annual grants, mini-grants and other initiatives, the foundation supports innovative classroom projects, educational resources and experiences designed to enhance learning throughout the district.

A small monthly contribution can help make a meaningful difference in Germantown classrooms.

Source: City of Germantown

TRASH CARTS,

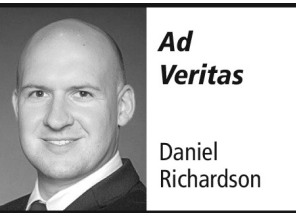
Continued from 1

that is clearly visible from the street and accessible to collection crews.

The city appreciates residents' continued patience and cooperation as Waste Pro works to complete the cart upgrades and deliver the new 96-gallon recycling carts to homes throughout the community.

Source: City of Germantown

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS



There's just something about high school football season in Tennessee.

The weather is still hot, the days are still long, and technically summer isn't over yet. But once the lights come on over the football field on Friday night, it feels like fall is just around the corner.

For a lot of people around here, myself included, high school football is one of the best parts of the year.

Part of that is simply because it's fun.

There's something exciting about walking into a stadium on a Friday night, hearing the band warming up, seeing the cheerleaders along the sideline, watching the players come through the gate, and looking across the stands at a crowd filled with people you know.

High school football has a different feel than almost any other sport.

It is local. These are our kids. Our schools. Our towns.

The player carrying the football may be the same kid who bagged your groceries last week. The lineman making a big block may sit two pews behind you at church. The cheerleader on the sideline may be your neighbor's daughter. The band member playing the fight song may be your grandchild.

That connection makes the game mean a little more.

But football is about far more than what happens on Friday night.

For the young men playing the game, there are lessons being taught every day at practice that they may not fully appreciate until years later.

Football teaches that hard work matters.

You don't become stronger by talking about lifting weights. You

don't learn a playbook by carrying it around. You don't become a better player without repetition, discipline and doing the same difficult things over and over until they become second nature.

It teaches teamwork.

Eleven players have to do their jobs at the same time. A quarterback can make the perfect throw, but somebody has to protect him long enough to make it. A running back can be talented, but he still needs blockers. A defense falls apart quickly when one person decides he would rather chase the football than carry out his assignment.

There are plenty of lessons about life hidden in all of that.

Football also teaches accountability.

If you miss practice, someone notices. If you don't know your assignment, your teammates may pay the price. If you make a mistake on Friday night, there is usually no hiding it.

Then you line up and play the next snap.

That may be one of the most valuable lessons of all.

Life is full of mistakes, disappointments and losses. Learning at a young age that you can get knocked down, get back up and keep playing is worth far more than whatever the scoreboard says at the end of the night.

And then there are the coaches.

Good coaches do much more than teach football.

They teach discipline. They set expectations. They demand effort. They correct bad attitudes and encourage young people when they need it.

For some players, a coach may become one of the most important positive male influences in their lives.

That responsibility should never be taken lightly, but when it is done well, the impact can last far beyond graduation.

Years from now, most of these players probably won't remember the score of every game they played.

But they will remember the

locker room.

They will remember summer workouts when it was nearly too hot to breathe. They will remember long bus rides home after a win—and probably the really quiet ones after a loss.

They will remember their teammates.

They will remember their coaches.

They will remember running onto the field wearing the colors of their hometown.

And many of them will eventually come back to those same stadiums as adults. They'll sit in the stands with their own children and cheer for another generation of players wearing the same uniform.

That is one of the things I love most about high school football.

It ties generations together.

It gives young people a stronger connection to their school and community, and it creates memories that stay with them for the rest of their lives.

So as another football season gets underway across Tennessee, I hope everyone has a great year.

To the players: work hard, listen to your coaches, take care of your teammates and enjoy it. These seasons go by faster than you think.

To the coaches: thank you for the time you invest in these young people and for recognizing that what you are teaching goes far beyond football.

And to the parents, grandparents and fans: fill up the stands. Encourage these kids. Cheer hard, but remember that they are still kids playing a game.

Most importantly, I hope everyone stays safe.

Football is a physical sport, and injuries are always a possibility. Play hard, play clean, watch out for one another and never lose sight of what really matters.

The lights are coming on.

The bands are warming up.

And another Tennessee high school football season is here.

Good luck to all of our local teams.

Have a great—and safe—season.

CONSTRUCTION SET TO BEGIN ON FIRST PHASE OF GLASGOW DEVELOPMENT

Staff Reports

GERMANTOWN, Tenn. — Construction is set to begin on the first phase of the Glasgow development following the recording of the final plat for Phase 1A.

Located north of Farmington Boulevard between Kimbrough Road and Allenby Road, Phase 1A covers 34.2 acres of the 177-acre development and includes 61

residential lots.

Construction will begin with the community clubhouse, which is planned to serve as an anchor for the neighborhood.

The Glasgow Planned Unit Development, or PUD, was approved by the Germantown Board of Mayor and Aldermen in January 2022. The three-phase development is planned to include 366 homes when complete.

With infrastructure work moving into active construction, city officials said they will continue to provide updates on the project's progress.

Additional information about the development's standards and site plan is available at glasgow-germantown.com.

Source: City of Germantown



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What Happened to Me

By David Peel

Late on Thursday, July 23, I took a bad line on our property riding a 700lb Honda 500 swamper four-wheeler and it flipped forward. I came down on my right shoulder crushing it; the atv continued rotation and my knee was well behind me when it hit and shoved my femoral head through the front of my dislocated hip. My son was right behind me and got to work fast, stabilizing my leg and getting the paramedics to me. My grandson, thankfully, had already turned back toward the house minutes before — he wasn't there to see any of it. From there it was one

blessing after another: the first responders who got me out fast, a great surgical team, traction to hold things steady, then surgery to clear the loose fragments of the fractured acetabulum. Hurt Thursday night, home with my family Tuesday evening. My shoulder's too torn up for a walker or crutches, so I'm in a wheelchair for now — good friends made sure I had a power chair, and it's been a lifeline. Lying still in traction reminded me of a traffic jam I sat in over thirty years ago, next to a young man in a Porsche who was furious, beating the wheel like he meant to break it — same delay I had, same powerlessness, but I'd made my peace with it and had a sermon

of Dr Rogers playing. Your character isn't built by what happens to you. It's revealed by what you do with it. As the old saying goes, every man is either in a storm, coming out of one, or headed into the next. Even from this chair, I've already been out handing out settlement checks to my clients, and I'm praising God that with time I'll be out of this wheelchair and back on my feet for good. What's been hardest is being served so lovingly by my wife, my kids, my grandson, my staff, when I can do so little for them. But I praise God for surrounding me with such a wonderful support system, and for His grace. Mr. Peel seeks justice for those injured in trac-

Living with Purpose



tor-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.

POLICE REPORTS

Friday, August 7th Crimes:
A victim reported an online scam. The report originated from the 7800 block of Sophie Lane at 9:52 a.m.

A victim reported that their identifying information was compromised. The report originated from the 2400 block of Birnam Wood Drive at 10:17 a.m. A business reported that a floor mat was taken. The report originated from the 1700 block of South Germantown Road at 10:58 a.m.

Officers arrested a subject for being the primary aggressor during an altercation. The arrest originated from the 8200 block of Pine Valley Lane at 1:42 p.m. A victim reported that their license plate was stolen from the mail. The report originated from the 7800 block of Sophie Lane at 2:18 p.m.

A victim reported that items were taken from their hotel room. The report originated from the 6800 block of Travure Drive South at 4:04 p.m.

A victim reported threatening text messages. The report originated from the 8400 block of Beaverwood Drive at 7:28 p.m.

Saturday, August 8th Crimes:
A victim reported that their wallet was taken from a business. The report originated from the 7700 block of Farmington Boulevard at 8:18 a.m.

Sunday, August 9th Crimes:
A victim reported that an item was taken

from their residence. The report originated from the 7400 block of Harding Cove at 7:22 a.m.

Monday, August 10th Crimes:
Officers arrested a subject for unlawful possession of narcotics. The arrest originated from the area of South Germantown Road/ Neshoba Road at 12:23 a.m. Officers arrested two subjects for taking merchandise from a business. The arrest originated from the 9200 block of Poplar Avenue at 1:19 p.m.

Two subjects were observed taking merchandise from a business. The report originated from the 7700 block of Poplar Avenue at 3:23 p.m.

Tuesday, August 11th Crimes:
A complainant reported a physical altercation at a business. The report originated from the 3100 block of Professional Plaza at 3:18 p.m.

A victim reported threatening behavior. The report originated from the 8200 block of San Augustine Lane at 8:16 p.m.

A business reported receiving counterfeit currency. The report originated from the 1200 block of South Germantown Road at 11:11 p.m.

Wednesday, August 12th Crimes:
A business reported that items were taken. The report originated from the 9400 block of Poplar Avenue at 10:44 a.m.

Two subjects were involved in a physical altercation at a residence. The report originated from the 9200 block of Positano Lane at 1:50 p.m.

A victim reported an online scam. The report originated from the 9000 block of Dogwood Road at 7:29 p.m.

Thursday, August 13th Crimes:
Officers arrested a subject for unlawful possession of narcotics. The arrest originated from the area of Kirby Parkway/Poplar Avenue at 12:17 a.m.

Officers arrested a subject for taking merchandise from a business. The arrest originated from the 7600 block of Poplar Avenue at 10:18 a.m.

A victim reported that tools were taken from a construction site. The report originated from the 7500 block of Poplar Avenue at 12:19 p.m.

Officers arrested a subject for taking merchandise from a business. The arrest originated from the 2000 block of Exeter Road at 5:37 p.m.

Officers arrested a subject for taking merchandise from a business. The arrest originated from the 7700 block of Poplar Avenue at 6:01 p.m.

A victim reported threatening text messages. The report originated from the 8000 block of Dogwood Villa Drive at 8:16 p.m.

CRASHES There were a total of **23 crashes** reported for this time period

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 re-

funds 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

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WEST STREET DINER SCORES 82 AS EGGS, PRECOOKED MEATS FOUND HELD AT UNSAFE TEMPERATURES

Soul Fish Cafe and KyruRamen both clear follow-ups; Cafe Med inspected twice in two days

GERMANTOWN — West Street Diner, 2076 West St., scored 82 in a routine health inspection August 12, the lowest of 10 Germantown inspections during the week of August 12 through 17.

The inspector observed sausage patties, steak and potatoes precooked and held on top of milk crates next to the grill top, and directed the diner either to maintain a minimum temperature of 135 degrees in a hot holding unit or cook items to order given limited space. Eggs were found sitting out on a prep station next to the freezer reading 66 degrees; the report lists discard as the corrective action, with time as a public health control or a cold holding unit as alternatives. The inspector also found condensation dripping inside a reach-in cooler over covered food, a dish machine needing a splash guard to keep sprayer water from contaminating other surfaces, no hair restraints worn at the grill and prep areas, improperly stored wiping cloths and utensils, plates stored face up, and dust and grease accumulation around and underneath

equipment.

Two restaurants cited in the previous week cleared follow-up inspections on August 14. **Soul Fish Cafe**, 3160 Village Shop, rose to 96 from 80; the handwashing violations and the chicken and fried fish held at room temperature that drove the earlier score no longer appear on the report. **Kyru-Ramen & Tbaar**, 7726 Poplar Ave., rose to 96 from 89, with the improper cooling citation for pork broth no longer listed.

Cafe Med, 1817 Kirby Parkway, was inspected on consecutive days. In a routine inspection August 13 it scored 92, with extremely stained cutting boards and a low-temperature dish machine reading 0 parts per million; the inspector directed staff to use the three-compartment sink until the machine works properly. The report notes no payments have been made for the 2026-2027 permit and that a change of ownership is in discussion. A second inspection August 14 scored 97.

Chipotle, 2110 West St., scored 93 on August 12, cited

for excessive cuts on multiple cutting boards, open boxes of to-go bags stored on the floor and a black substance observed on grills along with countertop spills.

Eggs Up Grill, 9155 Poplar Ave., and John’s Java Cafe, 3133 Forest Hill Irene Ste. 107, each scored 98 on August 14. At Eggs Up Grill the inspector found a faucet leak at the three-compartment sink and an open dumpster lid. At John’s Java Cafe, scoops were stored inside ingredients and ceilings were brown or dark in color.

Germanshire Elementary, 3965 Germantown Rd., was inspected twice August 13: its afterschool program scored 100 in a school buildings inspection, and its pre-kindergarten special education program received an approval rating in a child care facilities inspection. No violations were noted in either.

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

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WEST 10 MEDIA POWER 10 2026

The West 10 Media Power 10 Rankings returns for the 2026 season. The teams from the coverage area for The Bartlett Express, The Collierville Herald-Independent, The Leader, The Millington Star, and The Germantown News & Shelby Sun Times, including Arlington, Bartlett, Cordova, Collierville, Germantown, Millington and Tipton County were eligible. With several residents from those cities attending Christian Brothers High School and Memphis University School, those two teams were also eligible for the rankings. Check out each paper throughout the season to stay updated on the rankings. Here are the rankings going into the 2026 season.

PRESEASON RANKINGS

1. Collierville
2. Munford
3. Briarcrest
4. St. George's
5. Covington
6. Houston
7. Germantown
8. Arlington
9. MUS
10. Bolton









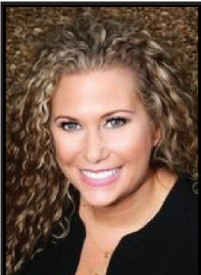
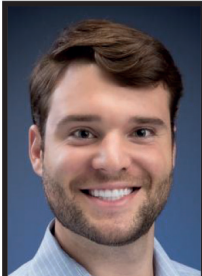


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Two Germantown Firefighters Head Back to School to Take the Next Step

Staff Reports

GERMANTOWN, Tenn. — For most people, the start of a new school year means students returning to classrooms. For two Germantown firefighters, it means sharpening the skills they use to serve their community.

Firefighters Ethan Browder and Zac Meza of the Germantown Fire Department are heading back to school this fall, each pursuing the next level of emergency medical training.

Browder is attending Advanced EMT school, building on the experience he has gained since joining the department in October 2025. He earned his EMT-Basic license earlier that year and continued his training at the Tennessee Fire and Codes Academy, where he completed the 10-week fire academy in May and graduated with Class 26-01.

For Meza, the next step is paramedic school.



Meza joined the Germantown Fire Department alongside Browder in October 2025 after earning an associate degree in fire science from Mount San Antonio

College in California. His path into the fire service began with fire science courses, where he earned his EMT-Basic certification and completed the 78th Basic Fire

Academy. While their educational paths are different, both firefighters share the same goal: continuing to learn so they can provide a higher

level of service to the Germantown community.

Advanced EMT and paramedic training will add to the medical knowledge and emergency response skills the firefighters already bring to their work — education that can make a difference when they are called upon to help residents on some of their most difficult days.

The Germantown Fire Department shared the firefighters’ milestones as part of a back-to-school message, encouraging the community to wish Browder and Meza well as they take on their next educational challenges.

For these two firefighters, the school year is not simply about going back to class. It is another step in a career built around learning, service and being prepared when their community needs them most.

Source: Germantown Fire Department.



Dogwood Elementary fifth grader Charlotte Green tapped her way to first place in the Iris Princess talent competition at this summer’s Miss Tennessee Volunteer Pageant. Competing against 45 young performers from across Tennessee, Charlotte impressed the judges with her tap routine to “Jazz Baby.”

Courtesy of Germantown Municipal School District

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