



New Board of Aldermen member Janice Kerber (left) takes the oath of office from Cornersville Mayor John Luna at last Thursday's board meeting. Kerber was appointed to the position at last month's meeting to fill the unexpired term of Beth Vick, who stepped down after taking a position with the town administration.



Cornersville Mayor John Luna presents the inaugural award for Cornersville Citizen of the Year to Judy Stewart at last Thursday's monthly meeting of the Board of Aldermen. Selected for her years of service to the town, particularly on the planning commission, Stewart will be the first name recorded on a plaque in the town hall recognizing those receiving the honor.

Cornersville revisits brush

By **Scott Pearson**
Associate Editor

Cornersville honored a resident, welcomed a new alderman, and continued discussion of brush pickup at last Thursday's monthly meeting. Plans for returning brush pickup services to the town have become more complicated but the town is still determined to revive the service.

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After Town Administrator Taylor Brandon told the board in December of discussions with Lewisburg Public Works to provide brush pickup, several other vendors have approached the town with interest in providing the service. Instead of using

Lewisburg as a sole vendor, the town will now open the process to bid. Brandon told the board that he still had a spring target for starting.

The town was forced to cease brush pickup a few years ago after the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation told the town it could no longer

burn the collected debris.

Without a cost effective way to dispose of collected brush, the town had no option other than stopping the service.

"We have really taken a beating over that," said Alderman Mary Johnson. Aldermen have been seeking a solution to the unpopular

decision since.

A public hearing was held for a presentation by the South Central Tennessee Development District on possible projects if the town is awarded a Community Development Block Grant.

Municipalities generally

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2023 Marshall County Teachers of the Year



Kelly Jerik is pictured with Angie Phifer, FHS principal, and Nicole Pickle, assistant principal, and Oakey Gaskill, assistant principal



Meredith Smith is pictured with Dr. Tracy Kilpatrick, OGES principal



Sara Fowler is pictured with Morgan Sanders, LMS principal

The Marshall County School System is proud to announce the 2023 Teachers of the Year: Meredith Smith (grades K-4), Sara Fowler (grades 5-8), and Kelly Jerik (grades 9-12). Meredith Smith teaches kindergarten at Oak Grove Elementary School. Sara Fowler teaches social studies at Lewisburg Middle School, and Kelly Jerik teaches Integrated Math II at Forrest High School. All of these teachers provide a safe environment

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Roads, parks, tax breaks: A look at Tenn. Gov. Lee's budget

By **Jonathan Mattise**
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee on Monday unveiled a \$55.6 billion state budget proposal stocked with cash for roads, state parks, tax cuts for businesses, state employee pay boosts and more.

The plan put forth by Lee also fuels a number of areas to benefit health coverage for low-income women and children, in addition to anti-abortion crisis pregnancy centers, as he and fellow Republicans sort through scrutiny over one of the country's strictest abortion bans.

The plan is buoyed by better-than-expected revenues and comes in at \$618.6 million less than the current budget, which was boosted by extra federal funding during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Here is a look at some specifics of the spending blueprint, which goes to the Republican-supermajority Legislature for its consideration:

BUSINESS, LABOR, INFRASTRUCTURE

— **ROADS:** \$3 billion from the general fund into a transportation fund for road projects statewide; \$300 million for the local highway program.

— **TAX CUTS:** \$54 million annually and \$360 million in one-time money worth of tax cuts and other tax changes;

includes three-month grocery sales tax holiday on food; creates exemptions or reductions to several business taxes, largely aimed at small businesses; creates a paid family leave credit against franchise and excise taxes.

— **MEMPHIS SPORTS FACILITIES:** \$350 million for improvements at FedEx Forum and Simmons Bank Liberty Stadium in Memphis.

— **PERFORMING ARTS:** \$200 million to help relocate

the Tennessee Performing Arts Center in Nashville.

— **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANTS:** \$103 million, including \$18 million annually, for the Jobs4TN program to recruit new businesses and support workforce training, marketing and education.

— **NUCLEAR POWER:** \$50 million to invest further in nuclear energy.

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