

By Angie Mayes

Since La Vergne's population has doubled in the past seven years, there must be a reason that families are flocking to the once quiet town to make their home.

A number of reasons exist, but one the biggest reasons are the big-city offerings inn a small-town feel.

The grocery stores, open 24 hours, the fast food restaurants and other businesses are attractive to those who want to "run out" to purchase an item without having to leave town.

The parks, whether it's the neighborhood parks or the new Veteran's Memorial Park, offer a variety of activities for members of the entire family. From basketball to baseball, from playground equipment to walking trails, the 55-acre park offers day long activities for just about everyone.

The city's Parks and Recreation Department also offers a fun for the family and promises a full slot of action for the summer. Whether it's line dancing, children's gymnastics or sandlot slugger, the department gives the youth and adults "something to do" that's close to home.

The organized sports, baseball, softball, football, soccer and more teach team activities while emphasizing fun.

There is fun for the older citizen as well. The La Vergne Senior Citizens meet for in house and out of house activities, proving that La Vergne is a fun place to live for any age.

The library, which now boasts 20,000 items and a circulation of over 80,000 books and audio/visual materials, sees over 6,000 people a month (that's 200 plus people a day!). Offering a multitude of children's programs, free Internet, EBSCO (periodicals on CD Rom), tax forms and other CD Rom programs, genealogy services and more, the library is one of the best in the state.

A number of churches in the area exist for just about every religion. The La Vergne Church of Christ, Jefferson Pike Church of God, First Baptist Church, Miracle Baptist Church, United Methodist Church, St. James Episcopal Church, La Vergne Presbyterian and others open their doors for hundreds or worshipers each Sunday morning. A variety of programs also exist within each church.

Once a year over 10,000 people gather in La Vergne to celebrate the annual Old Timers' Day Celebration. This year's event, the 24th, takes place in mid-September. The day long celebration kicks off with a country ham breakfast at the La Vergne Rescue Unit building and then moves to the parade and activity area. Food, crafts, fun and more are waiting for event-goers at the end of the parade route. This year the event will take place at the Veterans Memorial park in La Vergne.

La Vergne is also home to many clubs and organizations, from the Boy and Girl Scouts to the Lions' Club to the Rotary Club. Each of these and other organizations welcome new members.

Since one-quarter of La Vergne borders Percy Priest Lake, water recreation activities are a given. Just drop the boat at Hurricane Creek Boat Ramp and enjoy an entire day of fishing. From boating to jet skiing, there are always people on the lake in the summer, enjoying and relaxing in their city, La Vergne.

For more information, call the following:

Parks and Recreation Department, Perrienne Stein, 793-3224.

Cub Scouts, Lynne Boner, 793-2753, Bob Simon, 793-2205.

Boy Scouts, Bill Martin, 793-287-9350.

La Vergne Rotary Club, meets Tuesday at noon at the Smyrna Town Centre.

La Vergne Lions Club, meets the first and third Monday of the month at 7:00 at the La Vergne Senior Citizens building. Call Jack Moore at 793-2388.

Friends of the La Vergne Library, Faye Hamlett, 793-7303

La Vergne Senior Citizens, meet at their building next to the La Vergne Library on Murfreesboro Road. Call Kay Jones, 793-9255.