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By Angie Mayes

Jack Moore is not a man of few words. And those words are usually full of energy when talking about the city he loves, La Vergne.

"There have been awesome changes in La Vergne," he said. "The faces have changed, the boundary lines have changed. Some of the neighborhood have gone out of the small town. But it's also become a more independent community than before."

Moore should know. After moving to La Vergne in 1966 (it was centrally located for his job as a vocational rehabilitation counselor for the State Department of Education), the former basketball coach began to take an interest in community affairs. He also foresaw the growth of the community.

"I knew it would sell as well as it did," Moore said, reflecting on Interchange City. "I used to cut the 2,000 acres. I saw lot one sell, when there was nothing on the other side of the county line."

Moore was first elected as a commissioner in 1974 when the council was increased from three to five members. He continued to serve until he was defeated in 1984. Not one to quit, Moore tried again in 1988 and won as commissioner. Because the charter was also changed in the election, another was scheduled for later that year. This time, Moore ran for Mayor. He won.

During his term he accomplished a lot of thing that are still seen in the city.

"Sewer had just been installed and we made improvements and put it on line," he said. "We widened the road to the high school -- it was just a small one lane road before. We repaved other streets, widened Waldron from I-24 to Bridgestone and installed lights at Heil Quaker, Bridgestone and 41/70."

in addition, the signalization lines were laid on the streets during Moore's administration and the plans for the water plant were drawn and the bond issues passed. In 1990, Moore was defeated by Shirley Winfree.

"I think I was beat by the property tax," he said. To be able to better finance the city's improvements, a property tax was added in 1989. "Prior to that the city had nothing, We used the road tax and lived off the sales tax and other monies that came in. The property tax turned the city loose to be a progressive city."

He won again in 1994, but this may be his last term. Moore said that the future of La Vergne will be based on the young people.

“They need to serve on the committees like the planning commission, Board of Zoning Appeals and Beer Board,” he said. “They need to see the basic operation of the government. Most American governments are run by committees. It’s hard to step into government without previous experience and be effective.”

Moore believes that a city’s job is to deliver services.

“They need to be down there where the action is, with the people,” he said. “Not with the bureaucrats. Once they get to that level, they need to change.”

What’s in La Vergne’s future?

“By 2010, I see at least 22,000 people in La Vergne,” he said. “I see Sam Ridley extending to Lake Road. I see Waldron Road as four lanes and an interchange at Lake Road. The land from the lake to Sand Hill Road will be full of homes. La Vergne could also be the trade center from Hamilton Church to Smyrna because of the low taxes. The growth is coming.”