

Local sales tax collections up almost 18% for year

CLARKSVILLE, TENN. — Along with population growth, Clarksville-Montgomery County posted a historic high for year-over-year sales tax collection increases at the end of fiscal 2011-12, based on new numbers from the County Trustee's office.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, the total amount of local option sales tax revenue collected in Montgomery County was close to \$59 million.

"Clarksville-Montgomery County collected an increase in the amount of \$8,942,277, compared to fiscal year 2010-11 sales tax collections," County Trustee Brenda Radford said in her monthly report.

"This increase is a remarkable 17.91 percent, and the highest year-over-year increase in our history," she said. Local option sales tax collections represent 2.5 percent of the combined, state-and-local 9.5 percent sales tax rate.

Local retailers contacted Tuesday were generally in agreement that it's a good time to be in business in Montgomery County.

Rural King in New Providence — while recently seeing a bit of a sales decrease due to the impact of the drought and heat wave on farm activity in the region — saw

significant sales activity earlier this year, and is awaiting another rebound heading into autumn.

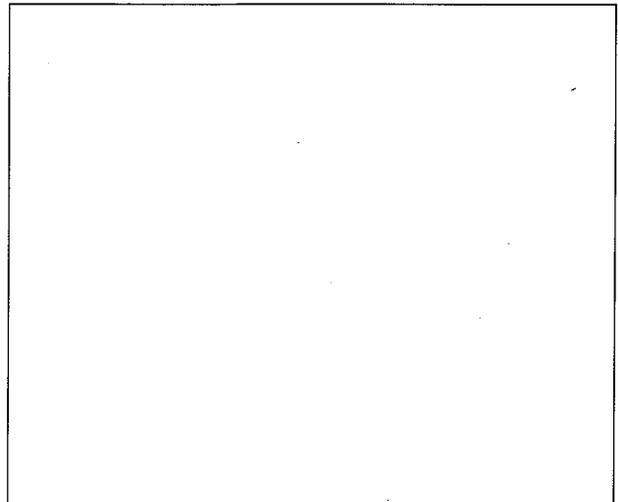
"Right now we're kind of in a slump in sales," said store manager Larry McClure, "but earlier this year, we were running real good. Our sales trends here are somewhat based on the weather."

Weather is having the opposite effect, however, for Action Air, 868 Kraft St., where 105-degree heat waves equal soaring sales activity.

That's been the case this summer at Action Air. "Our business is so weather-related, and I think our sales increase right now is because of the heat. But it's been good year-round," said Joy Kraeske, owner. "Everyone always needs to get their air-conditioners fixed at some point."

New car sales represent a significant chunk of the sales tax collection activity, and Don Jenkins at Jenkins & Wynne — also a visible community leader with the Clarksville-

Advertisement



Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

The Leaf Chronicle .com

Your connection to Clarksville, Tenn.

Montgomery County Economic Development Council – attributed rising sales tax collections to the “dynamic growth” occurring here.

“Everything is working in Clarksville the way it should be. Clarksville has become a regional shopping area, and that’s why we’re seeing our sales tax collections increase, I think.

“Here in our own business, we have a huge selection of vehicles, and we’re getting people in here as customers from all over middle Tennessee and southern Kentucky. This year we’ve even sold two vehicles in Canada and a specialty truck in Utah.

“I think the key for us in Clarksville is that we have a good local economy, and a good real estate market also. And with our local heroes coming back to Fort Campbell, and more of our military retirees staying in Clarksville, plus the fact that the Industrial Development Board is encouraging growth in industry here, we just have a lot of different kinds of jobs available now in the Clarksville economy,” Jenkins said.

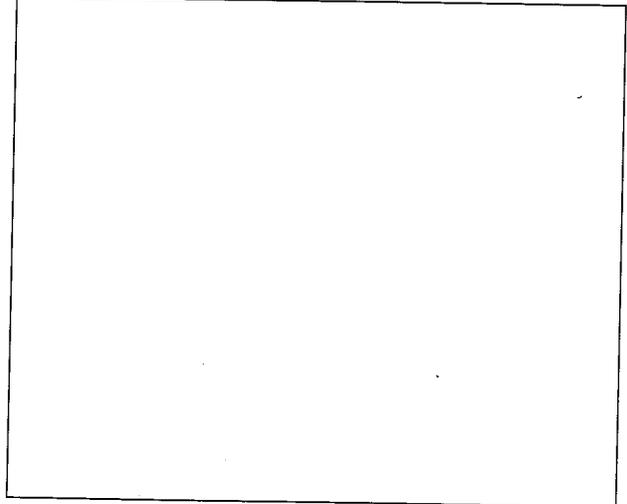
“Austin Peay (State University) is another driver of the growth in our community. It’s now up over 10,000 students,” he added.

Radford’s statistics reflect that, in May alone – the latest reporting month – close to \$5 million was collected in local option sales taxes. That’s up significantly from the nearly \$4.4 million collected in May 2011.

The past fiscal year was highlighted by

collections for December, marking the first time ever that local option sales taxes in Montgomery County breached the \$6 million mark. The collections for that month, obviously headlined by Christmas holiday shopping, were around \$6.3 million to be exact.

Advertisement



Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™