



Drones are not a passing fad. Roughly 700,000 recreational drones were sold in 2015, a 63 percent increase from the previous year. Companies and governments are also realizing that drone technology can provide new capabilities and services, often at a fraction of the cost.

## TML Annual Conference to offer workshop on drones

*What every city official needs to know*

Industries and governments throughout the world are exploring the new possibilities found with the use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS, or "drones"). Drone technology can provide new capabilities and services, often at a fraction of the cost of alternative methods. But along with this new technology comes a myriad of regulations, FAA compliance, policy development, and risk management.

The Tennessee Municipal League will offer a workshop on drones at the Annual Conference, slated for June 11-14 in Gatlinburg.

The workshop, scheduled for Monday, June 13, will cover laws governing unmanned aircraft; the process of becoming FAA approved; and once you are approved, innovative ideas for drone usage in your cities.

Nashville Attorney James Mackler, a battle-tested technology attorney who counsels business and government clients on the use of drones, will provide valuable information on how to leverage the advantages of UAS while minimizing the risks.

Justin Robinson, network specialist with the Murfreesboro Police and Fire Departments, will provide first-hand knowledge of the FAA approval process, how the city of Murfreesboro developed its drone program, and how they plan to use this technology in four different city departments.

Drone use is more than a fad. Drones are a growing service mechanism with widespread application, including public sector uses. According to the National League of Cities, some examples of public sector uses already in place and experiencing growing levels of interest by public entities, including local governments and schools, are:

- Crime, accident, and fire scene investigation and documentation
- Search and rescue operations
- Law enforcement surveillance
- Fire suppression activities
- Tactical advantage and live imaging in hostile situations
- Monitoring and inspecting in-

- Infrastructure
- Aerial photography, filming of events
- Property inspections and appraisals

You won't want to miss this informative workshop and learn how drone use can reduce costs and increase efficiencies.

Other conference highlights include historian and demographer Neil Howe, who will examine how the different generations impact workforce issues; dynamic workshop sessions encompassing a wide range of topics; training for Certified Municipal Finance Officers, numerous networking opportunities, and an annual award ceremony to recognize the extraordinary work taking place in our cities throughout Tennessee.

For more information and to register, go to [www.TML1.org](http://www.TML1.org).



### Schedule At-A-Glance

SATURDAY, JUNE 11	
8 am - 12 pm	MTAS EOA
2 - 3 pm	CMFO Workshop
8 - 10 pm	Welcome Reception Park Vista Hotel
SUNDAY, JUNE 12	
11 am - 5 pm	Registration
11 am - 5 pm	Exhibit Hall Opens
11:30 - 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 - 2:15 pm	District Meetings
2:30 - 3:45 pm	Opening Session
4 - 5 pm	Exhibit Hall Extravaganza
6 - 8:30 pm	Host City Reception
MONDAY, JUNE 13	
8 - 8:30 AM	Breakfast
8:45 - 9:45 am	General Session
10 - 11 am	Workshops
11:15 - 12 pm	Business Meeting
12:15 - 1:30 pm	Lunch
2:15 - 3:15 pm	Workshops
3:30 - 4:30 pm	Workshops
6 - 11pm	Pool Party
TUESDAY, JUNE 14	
8 - 10 AM	AWARDS BREAKFAST

## 109th TN General Assembly Sine Die

Cuts to Halls Income Tax among the final issues considered

BY CAROLE GRAVES  
TML Communications Director

Deliberations over the Hall Income Tax were among the final actions taken prior to adjournment of the 109th Tennessee General Assembly.

The Senate and House versions of the bill (SB 47 / HB 813) relating to the reduction of the Hall Income Tax were not in agreement, and therefore, had to be reconciled through an appointed House and Senate Conference Committee.

The budget, which passed both chambers April 14, included a 17 percent reduction in the Hall tax, reducing the current tax rate of 6 percent to 5 percent.

However, members in the House pushed to have written into law a 1 percent annual automatic reduction as long as state revenues grow by 3 percent per year. The Senate did not concur with the changes, sending the bill to a be worked out in conference

with the House.

The compromise bill, presented by the Conference Committee and approved by both Houses, reduces the Hall Tax from 6 percent to 5 percent, effective Jan. 1 2016, and declares the General Assembly's intent to continue reducing the tax until it is extinct in 2022. The compromise bill removes the growth rate trigger of 3 percent and allows each General Assembly the flexibility to determine the percentage cut each year.

Senate sponsor Mark Green explained on the Senate floor that although it is the intent to reduce the Hall Income Tax each year by 1 percent until it is totally eliminated, they did not want to "tie the hands of the Legislature" in future years when revenues may not be as strong as they are now.

"In good years, we may want to reduce it by 2 percent and bad years we may only vote to decrease it by one-half a percent," he said. "But this is a historic day in Tennessee. The

Hall will be repealed by 2022."

The Fiscal Review Committee estimate for Hall Income Tax collections in FY16-17 is \$270 million, of which \$175.4 million is the state portion and \$94.5 million is the local government portion. The new rate is estimated to cause a loss of \$28 million in state revenues, plus another \$14 million to local governments where the tax is collected.

About 200,000 Tennessee households pay the Hall tax, which is imposed on income from taxable stock dividends. Taxpayers 65 and up are exempt from the Hall tax if their total income from all sources is \$68,000 or less for joint filers and \$37,000 or less for single filers. In addition, the first \$1,250 in taxable dividend and interest earnings for all single filers and the first \$2,500 for all joint filers is tax-exempt.

For the last several years, lawmakers have filed multiple bills to either reduce or eliminate the Hall Income Tax.

## Tenn. sees results with statewide animal abuse registry, first in U.S.

BY KATE COIL  
TML Communications Specialist

Months after it was enacted, the new Tennessee Animal Abuse Registry is already seeing results and drawing interest from other states.

Since the registry was enacted at the beginning of the year, three names have been added to the list. The first offender was listed because of an aggravated cruelty to animal charges while the remaining two were placed upon the registry by court order. Offenders can be placed on the list for being convicted of aggravated cruelty to animals, felony animal fighting charges, or charges related to 39-14-214 of the Tennessee State Code.

First time offenders spend two years on the registry while second time offenders will remain on the registry for five years, so long as they do not commit another animal-related offense while on the registry.

Josh DeVine, a spokesperson with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, said the abuse registry is still in its infancy, but it is already showing results. The registry is provided at zero cost and DeVine said it has been absorbed into regular duties for staff at TBI.

"This is a system that relies on information sent to us from court clerks across the state of Tennessee, much the same way our drug offender registry works," DeVine said. "When there is a qualifying conviction, the judgment is forwarded to TBI with the appropriate information. We put it on the registry once we verify the person is required to be on the registry."

TBI has also had inquiries from other states about how the abuse registration works.

"We have received some in-



Tennessee's new animal abuse registry is the first of its kind in the nation and is already helping local animal shelters, breeders and organizations protect pets.

quiries, particularly from the state of Florida and several counties in Florida. They have reached out to us how the registry came about, the logistics for it and how to set it up internally to see if this is something they can do as well."

While animal abuse is not reported to TBI, DeVine said the purpose of the registry is more to serve as a resource to people that work with animals.

"This is a resource for animal shelters, community groups, and organizations out there with animal interests so they know that these are the people who have been convicted of the worst of the worst animal offenses," DeVine said. "We know anecdotally that there are certain animal rescues and adoption agencies that now do a good faith check on the animal abuse registry to make sure people aren't listed there. We are pleased the resource we are providing to the public will potentially protect more animals."

The first statewide animal abuse registry in the country, the Tennessee Animal Abuser Registration Act was approved by Gov. Bill Haslam in May 2015 and became effective on Jan. 1. Senate Bill 1204 was sponsored by Sen. Jeff Yarbro, D-Nashville, in the Senate and Rep. Darren Jernigan, D-Nashville, sponsored its companion, House Bill 147.

Jernigan told various media outlets he began campaigning for the animal abuse registry three years ago after learning about a Tennessee resident who beat a puppy to death with a tire iron. David Michael Matson, a Wilson County resident, was convicted of animal cruelty after he admitted to killing five or six dogs he had found on Craigslist, but was only sentenced to two years of probation.

Supporters also studies connecting animal abuse to violence against humans. A study in the *Journal for Community Health* found domestic violence is likely to occur in homes where animals are abused with between 71 and 83 percent of women entering domestic violence shelters claiming their partners abused or killed family pets. A study by the Chicago Police Department found that 65 percent of offenders arrested for battery admitted to animal abuse and 46 percent of offenders convicted of multiple murders admitted to torturing animals.

Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia also considered animal abuse registry bills during their 2015 legislative sessions, but none of these bills were passed.

## NLC report features Chattanooga's Innovation District

*Report outlines how innovation districts can reenergize economic growth in cities*

The National League of Cities (NLC) has announced the release of a new report showcasing "innovation districts," areas designated by cities to incubate creativity and serve as labs for forward-looking concepts and policies. *Innovation Districts: The Chattanooga Story* highlights how the city planned and cultivated their innovation district and outlines how cities can create their own innovation districts.

In cities, innovation districts catalyze economic growth through spatial clustering, bringing together people from within and across fields to germinate ideas and create the next big thing. The report highlights how innovation districts are growing across the country, especially in large and mid-sized cities.

"Cities are the natural environments where innovation districts thrive," said Brooks Rainwater, senior executive and director of NLC's Center for City Solutions and Applied Research. "They offer public transportation systems, tech resources, cultural amenities and competitive job markets. This environment allows a host of players - including entrepreneurs, startups, established firms, anchor institutions, highly skilled workers, thought leaders and policy makers - to connect in an area where unexpected relationships can form and transformative solutions can happen."

Chattanooga was the first mid-sized American city to announce plans to establish an innovation district. See **INNOVATION** on Page 3



**Cities that are serious about innovation districts need to get the urban real estate and quality of life issues right early on.**

// Mayor Andy Berke

# NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



## BRISTOL

Public works employees with the city of Bristol have installed four new state-of-the-art emergency call boxes downtown. The 9-foot-tall blue metal boxes are similar to those found on many college campuses, and are designed to instantly connect citizens to 911 with a push of a button in the case of an emergency. The box also features two cameras with one that will operate as soon as someone pushes the red emergency button. Grant funds were used to finance all four call boxes, which were requested by the Bristol Police Department because of the thousands of people who come to downtown for events like Family Race Night and Rhythm and Roots Reunion.

## CHATTANOOGA

Developers, county officials and Chattanooga Mayor Andy Berke were on hand for a ribbon cutting celebrating the official opening of the The Clemons apartment building at the corner of Chestnut and Eight streets downtown. The 100-year-old brick building provides 54 new rental properties in downtown to help meet the increasing demand for living space in that area of the city. The Clemons project was started in the fall of 2014 and was completed without public money, coming in under its \$7.5 million budget. City leaders hope an increased availability in residential options downtown will encourage retailers to move in as well. ViaNova, the developer of The Clemons, is leasing the ground floor of the building to commercial and retail tenants, meeting new demands from city planners for mixed-use development. Epic Optical, an existing downtown optometry office, is moving into the building, and a corner convenience store is also going to eventually open on the ground floor when construction is complete. A remaining, 2,800-square-foot space on the corner of Chestnut and Eighth streets is still available for lease.

## ELIZABETHTON

The Elizabethton Municipal Airport has been recognized as the Most Improved Airport for 2016 by the Tennessee Aeronautics Commission. The city acquired the airport property from Moody Aviation, which had been the primary tenant since 1967. The city's vision for the airport saw more investment and participating in the airport. The city's leadership increased the number of planes based at the airport from 34 in 2005 to 57. The city also increased the number of private T-hangars from 12 in 2005 to 26. When the city acquired the airport, it was worth around \$2 million and today is worth more than \$11 million in asset value. To help with investment, the city invested more than \$7 million in state and federal grants in the airport. The city has previously received the Airport of the Year Award.

## FRANKLIN

The city of Franklin has officially connected its second solar array to the grid. Nashville-based Energy Source Partners coordinated the design, permitting, funding, and installation of the 1 megawatt (MW) solar project. The official dedication of the solar array was held on April 25 at the Water Reclamation Facility behind Franklin High School. All of the power generated is transmitted to the electric grid and purchased by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). The revenue generated from the solar power will be split with 90 percent going towards Energy Source Partners and 10 percent going toward the city until the system has been paid off, which staff estimates

will occur in 12 years. Once that total has been reached, the revenue will be split with 80 percent going to the city and 20 percent going to Energy Source Partners for the duration of the 20 year lease. The city will earn approximately \$1 million over the course of the lease.

## JEFFERSON CITY

A Knoxville-based developer is working with other property owners to help redevelop buildings in downtown Jefferson City. Jerry Brewer of Translucent Design is partnering with Carson-Newman University and Frank and Elizabeth Brown to develop apartments, retail, restaurant and events space on properties on the eastern corner of Main Street at Branner Street and the Parks Belk building on the west corner of Main Street and Russell Avenue. The project is one of the largest private investments in the downtown area in decades and coincides with a public/private partnership to develop a festival park with a veterans' memorial on Main Street.

## KNOXVILLE

The city of Knoxville's Finance Department has been recognized for its transparency in reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for 30 consecutive years. The department was awarded the GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial due to its transparency and full disclosure in its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). Finance Director Jim York credits the expertise and dedication of his staff for the unbroken series of GFOA awards.

## LEBANON

The city of Lebanon's Town Square Revitalization project was awarded the 2016 Rebuild Tennessee Award from the Tennessee Development District Association at TDDA's conference in Murfreesboro. The project began with a safety grant from the Tennessee Department of Transportation and the city's Historic Lebanon Plan, which called for a redesign of the square's traffic pattern. The city worked with TDOT and Manous Consulting Design on the project, which included a roundabout in the square's center and relocation of parking. The project was lauded for taking the problem of pedestrian safety and bringing in the state government, local government and private industry to help renew economic interest in the downtown area.

## MARYVILLE

Construction is nearing completion on a new dog park in the city of Maryville, which is expected to open this summer. The Maryville dog park will be the first in the city and the first in Blount County. The nearest dog park is currently 20 miles away. The park was funded by a \$100,000 grant from PetSafe in January 2015 with the city approving an additional \$6,000 for construction with \$10,000 allocated for maintenance and upkeep by Blount County Parks and Recreation. The dog park is going to be located along the greenway near the McCammon Avenue entrance. Officials are planning for the park to be open in mid-May. The two-acre park will feature drinking fountains for dogs as well as separate areas for small and large dogs to play.

## MEMPHIS

A project to install more than 5,500 seats at the Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium in Memphis is now underway. A building permit valued at \$3 million has been filed for a concrete overlay to increase the depth of seating in the stadium. The current 19-inch wide chairback seats and 15-inch wide bench seats will be replaced by 5,596 seats with chairbacks. The new 22-inch wide seats will be installed in the lower portion of both the east and west sidelines in Sections 101-109 and 131-132 on the west side below the ADA walkway and Sections 117-123 on the east side below the ADA walkway. In December, the Memphis City Council approved \$4.8 million for the project, which is expected to be completed in time for the beginning of the University of Memphis Tigers' football season in September.

## MT. JULIET

FedEx has announced its new 310,000-square-foot ground distribution hub in Mt. Juliet will open

May 13. FedEx is currently hiring full and part-time positions for the new facility, which will be located near Beckwith Road and Interstate 40. The facility will move around 200,000 packages per day and employ around 330 workers. FedEx announced its plans for the Mt. Juliet distribution center in 2014, and plans were finalized for the project in December 2015. The project represented a \$51 million investment and is estimated to bring 57 full-time jobs and 290 part-time jobs to the area.

## NASHVILLE

Home prices for Nashville have reached an all-time record median high since the Greater Nashville Association of Realtors, Inc., began keeping track in 1990. The median price of a single-family home in the region rose 10 percent in March to \$245,000, the highest point since 1990. All but one of the nine counties GNAR tracks in the Nashville area posted quarterly gains in home sales with the median price increasing. GNAR said low inventory caused the year-over-year jump in the median home price, which recently has fluctuated month-over-month, including \$242,668 for January and \$235,000 in February. The previous record high in GNAR's tracking was \$242,945 in December. Additionally, the median condo price rose 18 percent to \$181,894, the highest monthly price since December. GNAR said more than 3,140 residential properties changed hands last month, increasing closings for the first three months of 2016 by 10.7 percent to 7,601.

## NASHVILLE

Hankook Tire plans to set up its North American headquarters in Nashville, investing \$5 million and creating 200 jobs in the area. Hankook plans to relocate its headquarters to Tennessee to service North American markets. The company is in the process of looking for space for its headquarters in downtown Nashville. The South Korea-based company will also soon be starting production at an \$800 million tire manufacturing plant in Clarksville by the end of the year. At full operation, the 469-acre Clarksville plant is expected to employ 1,800 people. Currently, the Seoul-based company's Hankook Tire America Corp. subsidiary has headquarters in Wayne, N.J., with distribution centers in New Jersey, Tennessee, Texas, Illinois, California and Oregon. Hankook Tire was established in 1941 in South Korea and entered the U.S. market in 1981. Hankook is one of the leading and fastest growing tire companies in the world, with more than 20,000 global employees.

## SPRINGFIELD

A Springfield home was featured on the premiere of a new DIY Network series focusing on renovating historic homes in and around the Greater Nashville area. In the debut of the 30-minute show "Nashville Flipped," host Troy Dean Shafer and his crew restored a Victorian-style home, built in 1904, on North Oak Street in Springfield. The episode is the first in a nine-episode series about restoring homes to their original beauty. Shafer bought the home for \$65,000 based on nothing more than a cell phone photo sent to him by a realtor. The renovated home features new landscaping, fresh siding in a new color and special touches such as vintage chandeliers. The home was then purchased in November for \$142,000.

## TULLAHOMA

The city of Tullahoma has held a ribbon cutting for its first community garden located at the C.D. Stamps Community Center on South Jackson Street. The Tullahoma Parks and Recreation Department is overseeing the garden, which was funded through a Project Diabetes Grant awarded over a period of three years. The city applied for the grant in 2014 and the construction on the garden began shortly afterwards. Plots in the garden are assigned to different community members and organizations who will maintain those plots during the year. Each year, ownership of the plots will be renewed and the city already has a waiting list for those wanting the project. Scouts from Girl Scout Troop 1022 have reserved some of them to complete their Journey Project, an action project required for certain scout honors.

## Pleasant View holds public build for new park playground



The town of Pleasant View recently held a community build to erect new playground equipment at the Pleasant View Community Park. Prep work for the community build began in March with city employees and members of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen helping get the project ready. Volunteers removed trees, performed earth work, placed pipes and did concrete work necessary for the build to move forward. Citizen volunteers and members of the Pleasant View Volunteer Fire Department came on to participate in the build project, which saved the city thousands of dollars in construction costs. In addition to installing the new equipment, volunteers also worked to clean up the park.

## Morristown implements new traffic signalization system



Traveling through the center of Morristown is easier after the installation of an Intelligent Transportation System (ITS). The new computerized system synchronized the traffic signals on the main thoroughfares, including W. Andrew Johnson Highway and Morris Blvd. The city hired Kimley-Horn to design and oversee the million-dollar project. Some upgrades the ITS project implemented were new handicap accessible sidewalks, countdown pedestrian signals, and a new server and software communications system. The ITS project will reduce traffic congestion and improve overall travel conditions for our citizens.

## HonorAir Knoxville flies veterans to Washington, D.C.



Dozens of East Tennessee veterans received a chance to go to Washington, D.C. to see monuments built in their honor. On April 13, Honor Knoxville took its 20th flight of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam veterans from McGhee Tyson Airport to Reagan National Airport. Once in D.C., the veterans visited various military memorials in the city. To date, HonorAir Knoxville has flown more than 2,700 veterans to Washington, D.C. The goal of HonorAir is to fly as many of these brave and courageous men and women to D.C. as possible. The trip costs approximately \$500 per veteran - at no cost to the veteran. Honor Air Knoxville was established in 2007 by Prestige Cleaners in Knoxville.



U.S. Sen. Bob Corker greets Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero, who traveled with the group during the recent trip to Washington, D.C.

**TENNESSEE TOWN & CITY**  
Tennessee Town & City (ISSN 00403415, USPS 539420) is published semi-monthly except in the months of June and December 19 times per year by Tennessee Municipal League, 226 Capitol Blvd, Suite 710, Nashville TN 37219-1894. Subscription rates: \$6 per year to members, \$15 to nonmembers, \$1 a copy. Periodicals Postage Paid at Nashville TN. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Tennessee Town & City, 226 Capitol Blvd, Suite 710, Nashville TN 37219-1894.

Official publication of the Tennessee Municipal League. Publisher: Margaret Mahery (mmahery@TML1.org); Editor: Carole Graves (cgraves@TML1.org); Phone: 615-255-6416. Advertising: Publisher reserves the right to reject any advertising deemed unacceptable. Fax classified ads to TT&C: Attention Carole Graves at 615-255-4752, or e-mail cgraves@TML1.org. Fax advertising copy to TT&C: Attention Debbie Kluth at 615-255-4752, or e-mail to dkluth@TML1.org. Opinions expressed by non League officials or staff do not necessarily reflect policies of TML.

## New requirements for recipients and sub-recipients of Federal grants

BY BRAD HARRIS  
MTAS Finance Consultant

In 2013, the Federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued final guidance on administrative requirements, cost principles and audit requirements for federal awards. It is officially 2 C.F.R. 200 and titled Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance) and can be found here.

State and local governments (recipients and/or sub-recipients) of federal financial assistance have until June 30, 2016, to be compliant with these new regulations. Many local governments receive grants directly from the federal government, but are also considered sub-recipients when they indirectly receive federal grant funding through the state or other non-federal organization (a pass-through entity).

While the new requirements are many, and a thorough review of the guidance is highly recommended, this article will point to a few significant changes in procurement and contracting.

- Type of financial relationship – an ‘assistance’ or ‘procurement’ relationship can exist depending on who carries out the principal purposes of the grant or contract.
- Risk assessment – risks posed

by using a particular entity must be assessed and things such as audit findings, financial stability and performance history must be considered.

- Conflicts of interest – standards must be in place and enforced to help identify potential issues
- Internal controls – controls must be established and maintained to adequately evaluate and monitor compliance and take prompt action on audit findings.

### Other Important Issues

**Section 200.94 - Supplies** - clarifies the threshold for defining personal property as a supply, and also that computing devices are subject to the less burdensome administrative requirements of supplies (as opposed to equipment) if the acquisition cost is less than the lesser of the capitalization level established by the non-Federal entity for financial statement purposes or \$5,000

**Section 200.318 - General Procurement Standards** paragraphs (d), (e), and (f) require non-federal entity's procurement procedures to avoid duplicative purchases and encourage non-federal entities to enter into inter-entity agreements for shared goods and services. Cities need to be aware of the new regulations, read the entire document, and assess their own current policies and procedures to determine what changes need to be made by the June 30 deadline.

## Report says Innovation Districts can reenergize cities' economic growth



Chattanooga's Innovation District provides a space for start-ups, business incubators and accelerators, and workspaces for innovators along with food, services, and multimodal transportation.

### INNOVATION from Page 1

tract. Mayor Andy Berke announced Chattanooga's innovation district in 2015, along with plans to build the city's first Innovation Center at a key intersection in the heart of the district.

"There is an existing ecosystem in places like southern California where they assume that businesses and entrepreneurs are going to interact on a regular basis. What an innovation district can do in a mid-sized city like Chattanooga is help develop that kind of interaction on a local level," said Chattanooga Mayor Andy Berke. "There could be tremendous market effects if we build a relationship between our existing companies and those who are inventing new products."

Based off of the city's success, the report provides key best practices for cities looking to implement and create their own innovation districts.

"This report shows cities how to create the next generation of economic clusters, as suburban research parks continue to recede," said Clarence E. Anthony, NLC executive director. "Cities are where things are happening, where relationships are built, and where ideas are germinated. We are looking forward to seeing innovation districts pop up in cities across the nation, both large and small."

The full report, along with the recommendations for planning and building an innovation district, can be found online at [www.NLC.org](http://www.NLC.org).

## Casteel to retire from Cleveland after 42 years

BY KATE COIL  
TML Communications Specialist

After 42 years of service to the city, Cleveland City Manager Janice Casteel will retire from her position on May 31.

Casteel has served as Cleveland's city manager for nine years after she was selected for the position beginning July 1, 2007. A graduate of Cleveland State Community College, Casteel holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

She began working with the city in 1973 as a front-counter clerk receiving property tax payments. However, Casteel said her original intention was to work for the local school system, not the city.

"I wanted work with Cleveland City Schools, and their offices were located inside the municipal building," she said. "I came by at lunchtime, but they were gone to lunch. I went into the city clerk's office on the left, and it just so happened that one of their ladies was leaving. When I told them I was looking to apply for a job, they asked me if I could type and take shorthand. I said 'yes' and they told me 'you need to apply with us.'"

After being interviewed with City Clerk Brad Evans and Finance Commissioner Max Carroll, Casteel was hired by the city. She said the thought never occurred to her she would rise through the ranks to become city manager.

She became a city accountant and then was promoted to city clerk and finance director in 1981. She served in that position until 2006, when she was selected as Cleveland's assistant city manager.

Over the years, Casteel said she has enjoyed working on numerous projects with the city.

"Our jetport is one of the projects all three of our city managers, our former commission and our council have all worked on," she said. "We have a great airport authority. It's something I'm really proud to be part of. I have also enjoyed working on our sales tax campaign. It was approved by voters in March 2009 to raise the sales tax one-half a cent with all of the funds being used for the city's capital funds and equipment. I am also proud of our greenway. We have been able to extend it every few years, and I love watching it grow. That has been a great asset for all ages of our citizenry. Our



Cleveland City Manager Janice Casteel and Cleveland Mayor Tom Rowland at the 2014 Tennessee Municipal League Conference in Chattanooga.

budget will always have a special place in my heart. It's like solving a big puzzle every year."

Casteel said one of her favorite aspects of her job is the people she works with.

"I love working with people," she said. "I love the team we have. I enjoy working as a team, and we have great department heads. I'm very close to our employees, our city council and our citizens. I appreciate the opportunity I've had to serve them. I think our city is built on service, and that is the environment we work in. We work to be helpful to citizens, developers and visitors. Lee University is here in Cleveland, and we work with those students and their families who come here. We want to have a welcoming atmosphere for them as well."

Casteel said her experience has taught her always be open to learning new skills.

"I tell people all the time that when I started with the city, as soon as I finished what I had to do I asked my boss if there was anything else I could help with," Casteel said. "That is how you start learning other jobs and they start funneling things to you. When you start volunteering for other duties, your supervisor sees that you are willing to learn to work hard. Do whatever you do well and do it with a smile."

Casteel said her duties have

helped her learn more about the city, the people who work for the city, and the people she serves.

"I have grown up in this city, grown up in this job at the city," she said. "That has made it easier for me to be involved in the community. I think my title instead of city manager should be chief public servant. That is how you should think about this position because it gives you the greatest opportunity for public service."

As she prepares for retirement, Casteel said she owes a lot to the city employees, city council members and others who have supported her along the way.

"I've enjoyed my 42 years with the city," she said. "I have enjoyed working with the council, being a facilitator for them and making sure the projects they want are moving forward. In Tennessee, we are so fortunate to have MTAS to provide assistance and training to our employees in our cities. We are also blessed to have TML available to us."

Casteel's husband Danny will be retiring from Bradley High School at the end of May as well. The pair plan to go to the beach on a family vacation with their three grandchildren. As for the rest of her retirement plans, Casteel said she and her husband plan to stay in Cleveland, but will also be taking their RV out to camp and tour some of the national parks.



Casteel speaks with two veterans following a recent ceremony where the state accepted land donated for the future site of the Bradley County State Veterans Home.

# MEMBER FOCUSED



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# PEOPLE



**Michael Armstrong** has announced he is retiring as the building and codes official for the town of Ashland City effective May 13. Armstrong plans to go into business with his family following his retirement. He has served as the city's building and codes official since 2004. The city's public building inspector, Jim Mackdanz, previously announced he will be leaving the city to work with the Metro Nashville Department of Codes and Building Safety's Property Standards Division. Ashland City Mayor Rick Johnson said neither position has been filled as of yet.



Michael Armstrong

**Vicki Arnold**, a detective lieutenant with the Morristown Police Department, recently graduated from the 263rd Session of the FBI National Academy Program, held at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Va. Arnold is the sixth National Academy graduate from the current command staff of the Morristown Police Department. She has served with the Morristown Police Department since August 1988, and has worked in the school system as a School Resource Officer, teaching D.A.R.E. and G.R.E.A.T. She currently serves as second in command for the Criminal Investigations unit, and is responsible for assisting in the administrative tasks of the division, including case assignments, case tracking, supervision of detectives, and planning and scheduling. In addition to her regular duties, Arnold is the department's juvenile officer, conducts training for MPD employees on Amber Alert and Child Abuse and is a member of the Internet Crimes Against Children Unit, Homicide Team and Child Abuse Sexual Exploitation Unit. She holds a master's and bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Bethel University.



Vicki Arnold

**Webb F. Banks**, former mayor of Brownsville, died April 11 at the age of 84. Born in Carnesville, Ga., Banks retired at the rank of lieutenant colonel from the U.S. Air Force after 24 years, including service in the Vietnam War. After leaving the Air Force, he became the owner of Railroad Salvage in Brownsville from 1977 until 1994, turning the company into one of the highest volume furniture and appliance stores in West Tennessee. After leaving the company in 1994, he was elected for the first of his four terms as Brownsville's mayor, serving the city from 1994 until 2010. He was the recipient of the Tommie Goodwin Mayor of the Year Award in 2006 from the Tennessee Municipal League. From 1996 until 2015, he was on the board of directors for First South Bank.



Webb F. Banks

**Aaron Browning** has been selected as the new deputy director for the Knoxville Parks and Recreation Department. Browning has served as the city's athletics coordinator since 2012 and oversaw the renovation of two unused West Hills Park tennis courts into Knoxville's first outdoor pickleball courts, which led to a Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association state award for "Best Renovated Facility." Prior to coming to work with the city in 2012, Browning was employed with the Kentucky chapter of the U.S. Tennis Association (USTA). Originally from Harlan, Ky., Browning played NAIA tennis for Georgetown College, where he earned a bachelor's degree in kinesiology and health studies. He earned a master's degree in physical education and sports administration from Eastern Kentucky University.



Aaron Browning

**Anthony Heavner** has been selected as the new police chief of Portland by the Portland City Council and will begin his duties on May 1. Heavner replaces former chief Richard Smith, who retired from the city in January after more than 30 years of service. Heavner is presently employed as a captain with the Madison County Sheriff's Office in Jackson. He has more than 26 years of experience in law enforcement with a focus in criminal investigation. He began his tenure with the Madison County Sheriff's Office in 1989, as a deputy and also worked as a contract police officer with Jackson State Community College. He earned a bachelor's degree from Bethel University in business and also holds a master's degree in business administration from Bethel University.



Anthony Heavner

**Michelle Hernandez-Lane** has been selected to serve as the Chief Diversity Officer for Metro-Nashville under Mayor Megan Barry. Hernandez-Lane will lead the implementation of the mayor's agenda to ensure that all parts of Metro Government are diverse and inclusive. She is currently employed as Metro's director of the Office of Minority and Women Business Assistance and began her career with the city in 2001. In 2013, Hernandez-Lane was appointed by Gov. Bill Haslam to the Advisory Council on State Procurement. She holds a bachelor's degree from Fisk University and a master's degree in public service management from Cumberland University. The creation of the CDO position was one of the recommendations of the mayor's transition team and was a priority for the city's InCluCivics report in 2015. The CDO will be the Mayor's primary staff liaison with the Mayor's Diversity Advisory Committee, whose goal is to develop a strategic plan that results in a Metro workforce reflective of Nashville's diverse population.



Michelle Hernandez-Lane

**Bobby Joslin**, owner of Joslin and Son Signs, has been named chairman of the Metro Nashville Airport Authority's Board of Commissioners. A flight instructor, Joslin will replace Juli Mosley, who announced her decision to leave the board earlier in April. Joslin has served as owner and president of Joslin and Son Signs for nearly 40 years and has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Middle Tennessee State University. The Metro Nashville Airport Authority Board oversees both the Nashville International Airport and the John C. Tune Airport.



Bobby Joslin

**Dr. Wendy Long** has been selected as the new director of Tennessee TennCare and deputy commissioner of Health Care Finance and Administration (HCFA). Long will replace Darin Gordon, who is leaving at the end of June after 10 years as the director of TennCare. Long has served as deputy director and chief of staff of the Health Care Finance and Administration division of the Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration since 2013. She also served as chief medical officer for TennCare from 2004 to 2012. Long held a variety of positions of increasing responsibility at the Tennessee Department of Health including assistant commissioner and medical director for the Bureau of Health Services. Long also has previous TennCare experience having served as medical director from 1997 to 1999 and as interim director from March 1998 to January 1999. Long received her undergraduate



Dr. Wendy Long

and medical degrees from Ohio State University and completed a preventive medicine residency and master of public health program at the University of South Carolina.

**Kathy Parrott** has been appointed the new municipal judge by the LaFollette City Council. Parrott is an attorney with Pryor Parrott PC, Attorneys in Jacksboro and also serves as the attorney for the town of Caryville. Before joining Pryor Parrott in 2001, she worked as a sole practitioner in Knox County; as an insurance defense attorney for Knoxville-based Baker, McReynolds, Byrne, O'Kane, Shea & Townsend; as an M.B.A. instructor for Lincoln Memorial University; and for the state of Tennessee as an assistant public defender and worker's compensation specialist and mediator for the Department of Labor. She earned her juris doctorate from the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law at the University of Memphis in 1988 and earned a master's in business administration from the University of Tulsa in Oklahoma. She has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Cumberland College and also worked as a certified C.P.A.



Kathy Parrott

**Andrew Pieri** has been selected the new director of planning and codes for city of Portland following a vote from the city council. Pieri is currently serving as the planner and building plans examiner for the city of Rockford, Ill., in their construction and development services department, where he has been employed since 2014. Before that, he worked as a commercial construction and plans inspector for Will County, Ill., and a Plans Examiner and Inspector for DuPage County, Ill., as well as owned his own company and serving as a firefighter in the towns of Northbrook, Gurnee, and Algonquin in Illinois. He is a certified fire marshal for the state of Illinois and earned a bachelor's degree in fire services administration from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Pieri will start his work with Portland in May.



Andrew Pieri

## MTAS announces new staff

**DAWN MCMILLEN** joined MTAS in February as the senior library associate II in the Watson Research and Information Center. McMillian came to MTAS most recently from the corporate library of the Stryker Orthopedics Company in New Jersey where she managed the library periodical collections and provided information services to teams throughout the corporation. McMillen has a bachelor's degree in communications from Xavier University as well as paralegal and medical writing certifications.



Dawn McMillian

**NICHOLAS "NICK" MEANZA** was also hired this year to work on special projects for the MTAS municipal court clerk program. Meanza will be conducting a statewide training needs assessment for municipal court clerks this year on behalf of MTAS. Prior to working with MTAS, he served as a deputy staff judge advocate for the United States Air Force. He received his juris doctor degree from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law and a bachelor of arts degree in political science from John Carroll University.



Nick Meanza

**ABNER "ABB" OGLESBY** was recently hired as the new municipal court specialist for MTAS. Prior to taking this position at MTAS, Oglesby served as a special assistant attorney general in the Office of the Mississippi Attorney General. He graduated from Auburn University with a bachelor's degree in finance and earned his juris doctor degree from the University of Mississippi School of Law. At MTAS, he will join the training team and consult with and provide training to municipal court officials across Tennessee.



Abb Oglesby



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## STATE BRIEFS

**Fantasy sports contests amount to "illegal gambling" under Tennessee state law**, according to an opinion recently released by state Attorney General Herbert Slattery. The opinion was requested by House Minority Leader Craig Fitzhugh, D-Ripley. While many fantasy sports platforms do offer free options for participants, these platforms and leagues still involve some sort of cash buy-in or prize. Slattery said Tennessee state law states any action wherein someone risks an item of value based on a degree of chance constitutes gambling. As there is no legislation in place exempting fantasy sports contests from the definition of gambling, Slattery said the contests are illegal under Tennessee law. The legislature has been looking into a bill authorizing a licensing structure for certain fantasy sports. While Attorney General opinions do not carry the force of law, they are often cited in the course of changing laws.

**More than 80 percent of Tennessee Promise students returned for a second semester**, according to information recently released by Gov. Bill Haslam. Eight-one percent of students from the class of 2015-16 returned for the spring semester after beginning post-secondary education in the fall and the high-retention rate is an indicator of future success. The fall of 2015 also saw a 24.7 percent increase in community college enrollment and a 20 percent enrollment increase at colleges of applied technology. Data provided by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission indicates that Tennessee Promise students enrolled at a TCAT had a retention rate of almost 95 percent while community college students were retained at a rate of 78.5 percent. Austin Peay State University had the highest retention rate at 88.7 percent.

**Launch Tennessee has hit its \$1 billion goal a year ahead of schedule**. The public-private partnership designed to spur the growth of new businesses in Tennessee reported more than \$1 billion has now been invested in early-stage Tennessee companies since it was formed in 2012. The \$1 billion total captures all early-stage investment activity of deals totaling \$25 million or less. The vast majority of the aggregate \$1 billion benchmark was achieved by individual investments of under \$5 million, made primarily in early-stage startups by venture capital funds. LaunchTN attributes much of the local startup success to partnerships that has been cultivated with

## Keep Tennessee Beautiful receives cigarette litter prevention grant

Keep America Beautiful recently announced that Keep Tennessee Beautiful will receive a 2016 Cigarette Litter Prevention Program Grant of \$20,000 to combat cigarette litter, the most littered item in America.

Keep Tennessee Beautiful is one of 42 organizations receiving grant funding for 2016 through the Cigarette Litter Prevention Program, which is the nation's largest program aimed at reducing cigarette litter. Communities that implemented the CLPP in 2015 realized an average 52 percent reduction in cigarette litter, up year-over-year by four percent.

"We're very thankful to Keep America Beautiful for granting us the funds to continue to combat cigarette litter in our beautiful state," said KTNB Executive Director Missy Marshall. "This year we look to make a greater impact, thanks to the help of our affiliates, and also the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development, that has allowed us to implement the program at each

established organizations to offer mentorship at its accelerators.

**Tennessee's preliminary unemployment rate for March was 4.5 percent**, four-tenths of a percentage point decrease from the February revised rate of 4.9 percent, according to recently released statistics from Tennessee Labor and Workforce Development. The U.S. preliminary rate for March was 5 percent, increasing one-tenth of a percentage point from the previous month. In the past year, Tennessee's unemployment rate decreased from 6 percent to 4.5 percent while the national rate declined from 5.5 percent to 5 percent. Total nonfarm employment decreased 700 jobs from February to March, and nonfarm employment increased 91,800 jobs.

**Lower unemployment rates in Tennessee creates difficulties in finding workers**. Fewer people out of work, coupled with continued job growth in the state, have created a problem for many Tennessee employers. "As the state's unemployment rate continues to decline, employers are telling us they're having a difficult time finding workers," Commissioner Phillips said. "We encourage employers to post their job openings on the Jobs4tn.gov website and to search there for workers to fill those jobs as they will find more than 133,000 job seekers currently registered." The counties surrounding Nashville have the largest concentration of job seekers. There are also large numbers of job seekers in the Knoxville area, Shelby County, as well as in the northeast corner of the state. The counties with the fewest numbers of job seekers are located along the Kentucky and Mississippi/Alabama borders of Tennessee. Over 96 percent of the registered applicants on Jobs4TN.gov have a high school equivalent education, or higher. In fact, almost 60 percent of these job seekers possess completed or partially completed post-secondary education. See more at: <http://www.tennessee.gov/workforce/news>

**The Tennessee Lottery announced the highest quarterly transfer for education since it began operations in 2004**. The new record, \$119.1 million, is 27.2 percent higher than the previous, \$93.6 million in the third quarter of 2015. The \$1.5 billion Powerball jackpot in January, a third of which was won by a Tipton County couple, was a factor. The lottery also recorded its highest quarter of instant ticket sales, \$355.4 million.

center, where travelers frequent every day."

Keep Tennessee Beautiful is participating in the program for the second consecutive year, after receiving a \$10,000 grant in 2015. Last year Keep Cocke County Beautiful, Keep Maury County Beautiful, and Keep Putnam County Beautiful Clean Commission were participants in the program, and each saw a reduction in cigarette litter by 72 percent, 97 percent and 47 percent respectively.

The state organization will provide ash receptacles, portable ash trays, auto bucket ash trays, signage, and litter brochures to each participant in the 2016 program. Tennessee Keep America Beautiful Affiliates Keep Jackson Beautiful, Keep Williamson County Beautiful, and Keep Greene Beautiful will participate in the 2016 program.

In addition, Keep Tennessee Beautiful is partnering with the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development to implement the CLPP at all 14 Tennessee Welcome Centers.

## March revenues exceed estimates by \$133 M

Tennessee tax revenues exceeded budgeted estimates in March. Department of Finance and Administration Commissioner Larry Martin announced that overall March revenues were \$1.1 billion, which is \$133.0 million more than the state budgeted.

March revenues reflect business activity that occurred in February.

"The sales tax growth rate for March was the highest we've seen this year, due in part to negative growth in March of last year, and also having one additional day of business activity in the leap year," Martin said.

"Franchise and Excise taxes recorded strong growth for the month and were also significantly higher than the budgeted estimate. All other taxes, taken as a group, exceeded the March estimate as well. We continue to be pleased with the overall growth in total taxes this fiscal year, but we also have concerns about slowing global growth and volatile financial markets," Martin said.

On an accrual basis, March is the eighth month in FY 2015-2016.

General fund revenues were more than the budgeted estimates in the amount of \$125.5 million, while the four other funds that share in state tax revenues were \$7.5 million more than the estimates.

Sales taxes were \$47.6 million more than the estimate for March and were 15.5 percent more than March 2015. For eight months, revenues are \$273.9 million higher than estimated. The year-to-date growth rate for eight months was 7.9 percent.

Franchise and excise taxes combined were \$70 million more than the budgeted estimate in March, and the growth rate over March 2015 was positive 27.5 percent. For eight months, revenues are \$211.1 million more than the estimate and the year-to-date growth rate is 5.7 percent. However, adjusting for last year's one-time payment the underlying growth rate is positive 21 percent.

Gasoline and motor fuel revenues for March increased by 4 percent compared to March 2015 and \$3.3 million more than the budgeted estimate of \$60.1 million. For eight months, revenues have exceeded

estimates by \$23.2 million.

Tobacco taxes were \$3.6 million above the March budgeted estimate of \$18.7 million. For eight months, they are \$12 million more than the budgeted estimate.

Inheritance and estate taxes were \$900,000 less than the March estimate. On a year-to-date basis, revenues for eight months are \$8.4 million more than the budgeted estimate.

Privilege taxes were \$1.9 million more than the March estimate, and on a year-to-date basis, August through March, revenues are \$16.8 million more than the estimate.

Business taxes were \$3.7 million more than the March estimate. For eight months, revenues are \$6.6 million more than the budgeted estimate.

All other taxes were above estimates by a net of \$3.8 million.

Year-to-date revenues for eight months were \$572.1 million more than the budgeted estimate. The general fund recorded \$532.5 million above budgeted estimates and the four other funds \$39.6 million.

## Celebrate Infrastructure Week May 16 - 23

Now in its fourth year, Infrastructure Week, planned for May 16-23, is a national week of events; media coverage; and education and advocacy efforts to elevate infrastructure as a critical issue impacting all Americans. The purpose of the week is to highlight the important role of infrastructure in our communities and the need to invest in our transportation, water, and broadband networks.

The National League of Cities (NLC) is one of more than 100 affiliate organizations participating in the week. NLC will be hosting several events, including a broadband webinar, briefings on transportation and water issues, and a press call on the state league infrastructure financing report, as well as participating in an Advocacy Day on the Hill.

City leaders are encouraged to host their own events and can download a toolkit for ideas at <http://infrastructureweek.org/about/>



The 2016 theme – "Infrastructure Matters" – tells the story of what infrastructure means to Americans. It matters, in big ways and in small, to our country, our economy, our quality of life, our safety, and our communities. Roads, bridges, rails, ports, airports, pipes, the power grid, broadband... infrastructure matters to the goods we ship and the companies that make and sell them; it matters to our daily commutes and our summer vacations, to drinking water from our faucets, to the lights in our homes, and ultimately to every

aspect of our daily lives.

Infrastructure Week is the largest, most diverse, non-partisan coalition of organizations dedicated to strengthening America by rebuilding our infrastructure. Critically, Infrastructure Week unites both traditional stakeholders with those whose lives, livelihoods and businesses run on infrastructure: manufacturers, retailers, passengers, travel and tourism companies, and the towns, counties, and cities home to them.

Learn how you can participate at <http://infrastructureweek.org/about/>

## ECD selects 8 counties to participate evaluation program for industrial sites

The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development announced the counties chosen to participate in the Select Tennessee Property Evaluation Program (PEP) Spring Round.

The counties selected are Fayette, Humphreys, Lawrence, Maury, Scott, Unicoi, Van Buren and White. Launched in 2015, the purpose of PEP is to improve the inventory of industrial sites and buildings in Tennessee by evaluating potential properties, advising counties on where investment may be most beneficial and what is needed to address issues.

"We are excited to announce the eight counties that have been selected to participate in the PEP Spring Round," TNECD Commissioner Randy Boyd said. "By assisting counties across the state in evaluat-

ing and improving their sites, we can make sure these communities will be better equipped to attract potential new business and create future economic growth."

Based on the principles of the department's Select Tennessee Site Certification Program and with the assistance of the site selection firm Austin Consulting, PEP will benefit counties by emphasizing the importance of and assisting with planning for future industrial development.

"This program will provide eight counties with the tools they need to make themselves more marketable to potential new business," TNECD Site Development Director Leanne Cox said. "I look forward to working with all of the counties who have been selected to participate in the program, and I am excited to see

them enhance our state's efforts in recruiting and expanding businesses in Tennessee."

For counties selected to participate, the program includes an educational webinar on the site selection process, an on-site visit by Austin Consulting and a comprehensive assessment addressing each property's strengths, weaknesses and recommended next steps to improve marketability.

Selection was based on demonstrated local need for industrial properties and also on the county's ability to assemble viable properties with market potential. The application process begins with the submission of a Letter of Intent, which is accepted at any time. Upon receipt of the letter, counties will be provided with the application.

## Supreme Court records now available for online ordering

The Tennessee State Library & Archives recently launched a new online ordering system for Supreme Court cases. The new system will allow researchers to request cases dating back to the early 1800s in hard copy or digital scans. It also allows searching the cases for names of ancestors as well as topics ranging from mining to murder.

The online system was designed to create an easier and more direct way for researchers from around the world to order these fascinating historical records, formerly available

only by visiting Nashville.

Once stored in the attic of the Tennessee State Capitol building, the Supreme Court records came to the Library & Archives in dire need of restoration. Curled and brittle, covered in coal dust from the furnace pipes that fed into the Capitol's storage space, the records were all but unusable. The Library & Archives' archival technical staff has worked tirelessly toward the preservation of these records for more than a decade. Staff members have meticulously cleaned off the dust and grime,

carefully flattened, and recorded the contents for more than 50,000 cases. The archivists will continue this project indefinitely, as there are well over 10,000 boxes of material in storage.

"It is one of our goals in the Department of State to improve public access to important government records," Secretary of State Tre Hargett said. "Making it possible for people to order records online is one way we are able to accomplish that goal. I want to thank members of the Library & Archives staff who have worked tirelessly to restore those Supreme Court records and make them available online."

Supreme Court records provide a wealth of information of benefit to professional and amateur historians. The stories that unfold in the pages of each case are windows to personal and community life and family relationships from the past. One can find cases concerning land issues, debt, slavery, estate disputes, criminal cases and much more.

Cases currently housed at the Library & Archives range from the beginning of the 19th Century to around 1950. They vary in size, from brief records to complete transcripts of all proceedings, which can be hundreds of pages long. Some of these cases include exhibits, such as textiles, photographs and maps.

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**ANIMAL SERVICES MANAGER**  
JOHNSON CITY / WASHINGTON COUNTY. The two jurisdictions of Washington County and Johnson City Tennessee, who jointly operate animal control for the entire City and County, and who also operate a new animal services facility, are seeking an experienced, energetic, team builder to be their next Animal Services Manager. Salary range \$40K - \$62K, DOQ plus benefits. Position reports to a five member Board comprised of two representatives from each local government (city and county), and the President of the local Humane Society. The Manager will have 4 full-time and 12 part-time employees under their direction with an annual operating budget of approximately \$612K. The successful candidate must be a proven manager with demonstrated success in animal shelter and control operations, finance, community interface, and leadership. Bachelor's Degree with 5 to 8 years of experience preferred. Eight to 10 years of experience and training in lieu of degree will be considered. To apply, send resumes to: [employment@johnsoncitytn.org](mailto:employment@johnsoncitytn.org). For more information, click on the following link: <http://www.johnsoncitytn.org/uploads/files/hr/JC%20Animal%20Services%20Director%20Profile%202016.pdf>

### BUILDING, MECHANICAL & PLUMBING INSPECTOR

**MT. JULIET.** The city of Mt. Juliet is seeking candidates for a state certified building, mechanical & plumbing inspector. Electrical certification is a plus. Detailed job descriptions and requirements are available on the city's website. Applications must be filed electronically and are available online at, [www.cityofmtjuliet.org](http://www.cityofmtjuliet.org). The city will accept electronic applications until such time when a qualified candidate is chosen. The city of Mt. Juliet reserves the right to stop accepting applications at any time. For questions, please call (615) 754-2552. The city of Mt. Juliet does not discriminate based on race, color or national origin in federal or state sponsored programs, pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d). EOE/Drug-free Workplace

### DIRECTOR SPARTA ELECTRIC SYSTEM

The city of Sparta, Tennessee is seeking qualified applicants for the position of director of the Sparta Electric System. Sparta is located 90 miles east of Nashville, TN, 95 miles west of Knoxville, TN and 80 miles north of Chattanooga, TN. The successful candidate will perform complex professional and difficult administrative work overseeing electric utilities of the City. The service territory includes a 6.3 square mile service area with approximately 3,000 meters. The Electric Utility Director is appointed by and works under the general supervision of the City Manager. Responsibilities: plans, organizes, coordinates, supervises and evaluates programs, plans, services, staffing, and equipment related to the construction, maintenance and operation of the electric distribution system. Qualifications: Education equivalent to a Bachelor's degree in business or public administration, or a related field required. Ten years related experience in electric or utilities/business management, or equivalent combination of education and experience. Valid driver's license required. Open until filled. A completed application may be accompanied with a resume. **A job description and additional application information is available by contacting the City of Sparta, P.O. Box 30, Sparta, TN 38583; by phone- 931.836.3248; or by email- [spartacity03@frontier.com](mailto:spartacity03@frontier.com). EOE.**

### EVENTS COORDINATOR COLLIERVILLE

The purpose of this position is to perform professional, administrative work in planning, implementing, organizing, supervising and administering a variety of programs and events, as well as promoting the town of Collierville as a destination for cultural activities, shopping and outdoor activities. Requires a bachelor's degree with major course work in Recreation Administration, Marketing, or a closely related field; supplemented by three years of administrative experience in recreational programming, event and program planning, supervising, and desktop publishing, at least one of which must have been in a public relations capacity; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills and abilities for this job. First aid and C.P.R. certification required within

six (6) months of date of employment. Incumbent may work late hours, weekends and holidays, as necessary. Requires a valid driver's license. Salary is \$37,043.00 - \$63,502.00 annually (DOQ) with full benefits package. Applications and complete job descriptions are available at the Human Resources Office, 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, Tennessee, 38017, M-F, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. The official application of the Town of Collierville must be filled out and may be accompanied by a resume. Applications and resumes are subject to disclosure. Position open until filled. EOE

### PLANNER

**MARYVILLE.** The city of Maryville is seeking an experienced professional to fill the position of Senior Planner. Responsible for managing the planning program of the city; this position will assist with the effort to update the city's land use plan and zoning ordinance. Reports to Director of Development Services. Master's degree in planning, public administration or a related field or equivalent; AICP certification and supervisory experience required. Hiring range: \$61,376 - \$80,527 DOE plus an excellent benefits package. Deadline to apply: Friday, April 15. Applications are available at the City of Maryville Municipal Center, Human Resources, 400 W. Broadway or on our website [www.maryvillegov.com](http://www.maryvillegov.com). Nepotism policy prohibits hiring relatives of City employees. EOE. Maryville is a progressive city of approximately 30,000 residents, and is located 15 miles south of Knoxville. Maryville has received widespread recognition for its local school system, its parks and recreational facilities, and its overall quality of life. The city has a diverse economic base, including manufacturing, healthcare, retail and office, and education and government. It is also the home of Maryville College. Maryville is the county seat of Blount County, and approximately one-fourth of the land area in the county lies within the Great Smoky Mountains National Park

### POLICE CHIEF GREENFIELD

The city of Greenfield is accepting resumes for the position of Police Chief. A job description and benefits package are available upon request. Compensation DOQ, the city of Greenfield participates in the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System. Resumes may be submitted to: Dana Deem, MTAS Management Consultant, 605 Airways Blvd, Suite 109, Jackson, TN. 38301, [Dana.deem@tennessee.edu](mailto:Dana.deem@tennessee.edu) Deadline for submission is May 13, 2016.

### POLICE OFFICER

**LEWISBURG.** The city of Lewisburg is accepting applications for police officers through April 15, 2016. Certified applicants preferred. Applications may be obtained at Lewisburg City Hall, 131 East Church Street, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For a copy of job description or application questions please contact Pam Davis, city recorder at 931-359-1544 or [pam.davis@lewisburgtn.gov](mailto:pam.davis@lewisburgtn.gov). The city of Lewisburg is a EOE and does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, age, disability or veteran status.

### PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

**OAK RIDGE.** The city of Oak Ridge is currently seeking applicants for a public affairs specialist. Primary responsibilities include: Coordinates media requests, press releases, website content, social media and assists city departments with communications requests. Assists with development and implementation of communications and social media policies. Attends some scheduled city meetings; provides information regarding city activities; gathers information and assists when City action is needed or desired. Researches policy issues and prepares newsletters and reports. Provides administrative support to Information Services staff, including preparation of payroll. Participates in special committees as directed. Participates in emergency response training exercises and related activities. On occasion, must be able to work after normal business hours and on weekends. Performs other related duties as assigned. Bachelor's degree in Communications, Journalism, Public Relations, or related field; two years administrative, communication and/or public affairs experience; or any equivalent combination of education and experience. Knowledge of journalistic principles and practices as they relate to writing and editing public information materials and professional correspondence. Strong written and oral communication skills, as well as a solid knowledge of grammar, spelling and punctuation.

Ability to manage multiple projects at the same time and meet deadlines. Proficiency in standard office and graphic design software. Knowledge of city policies and procedures. Skill in evaluating problems and proposing solutions. Skill in establishing and maintaining effective working relationships with associate personnel, other City employees and the general public. Must possess Tennessee Driver's license. Must pass background/security check. Individuals interested in this position must have a completed application form on file in the Personnel Department by 12 noon on Friday, April 29, 2016. Salary range (\$40,830 - \$51,033 per year. The city of Oak Ridge is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

### PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

**SOMERVILLE.** The town of Somerville is now accepting applications and resumes for a public works director. The public works director is responsible for managing and directing the GIS, Gas, Water, Wastewater, Lagoon, Solid Waste and Streets Departments as well as the Cemetery and Utility Billing. Duties include establishing gas rates, managing current projects, designing new projects by working with engineers and architects, designing and creating specifications for smaller projects, budgeting, administering and managing utility projects, purchasing, employee scheduling and relations, coordinating all departments and presenting ideas and projects to the board for approval. Familiarity with GIS, AMI Meter Reading, and Microsoft Office is a must. Applicants must have at least five years public utility management experience. A bachelor's degree in a related field is preferred. Salary is commensurate with experience. Interested applicants may send a resume to [rturner@somervilletn.gov](mailto:rturner@somervilletn.gov) or mail it to Town of Somerville, 13085 N. Main St., Somerville, TN 38068. A more detailed job description is available on our website at [www.somervilletn.gov](http://www.somervilletn.gov). We will be accepting applications and/or resumes for this position through April 29, 2016.

### WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR, SENIOR

**COLLIERVILLE.** The town of Collierville has an immediate opening for senior wastewater treatment plant operator. This position requires performance of highly responsible, skilled trades work in the operation and maintenance of the Town's Wastewater Treatment Plant. Requires an Associate Degree with major course concentration in Wastewater Treatment, Biological Science, Chemistry, Engineering, or a related field; 4 years' exp. in operation/maintenance of wastewater treatment equip. or equiv. Must possess/maintain a Class IV Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator's License from the State of TN Department of Environment and Conservation within 12 months of hire. Valid driver's license reqd. Salary is \$37,043 - \$46,042/annual (DOQ). Applications are available at the Human Resources office, 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, Tennessee, 38017, M-F. The official application of the Town of Collierville must be completed and may be accompanied by a resume. Pursuant to Tennessee Open Records Law, applications and resumes are subject to disclosure. Open until filled. EOE

## NATIONAL BRIEFS

**The number of job openings did not change much from 5.4 million on the last business day of February**, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Hires increased to 5.4 million while separations were little changed at 5.1 million. Within separations, the quit rate was 2.1 percent, and the layoffs and discharges rate was 1.2 percent. This release includes estimates of the number and rate of job openings, hires, and separations for the nonfarm sector by industry and by four geographic regions. The number of hires increased to 5.4 million in February, the highest level since November 2006. The hires rate in February was 3.8 percent. The number of hires increased for total private and was little changed for government. Hires increased in retail trade, accommodation and food services, educational services, and state and local government, excluding education. Hires declined in mining and logging. In the regions, hires increased in the South.

**The U.S. has a total of 2,655 bike share stations in 65 cities**, according to a new issued in April by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics. The BTS report shows that of 2,655 bike-share stations, 86.3 percent are located within one block of a scheduled public transportation mode. These connections extend the transportation network by offering a means for reaching places with scheduled public transportation, such as heavy rail stations and local bus stops, and

a means for reaching destinations not served by public transportation. Transit bus is the most typical connection, with 84.2 percent of bike-share stations located a block or less from a transit bus stop.

**A new, first-of-its-kind federal study has shed new light on the issues faced by homeless youth.** The study released by the Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Family & Youth Services Bureau was conducted by researchers at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, focused on 873 youth ages 14 to 21 in 11 cities. More than half of homeless youth become homeless for the first time because they are asked to leave home by a parent or caregiver, and more than half say they have tried to stay at a shelter but it was full. The study found the average youth spent nearly two years living on the streets and the average youth becomes homeless at the age of 15. More than 60 percent were raped, beaten up, robbed, or otherwise assaulted, and nearly 30 percent identified as gay, lesbian or bisexual, and nearly 7 percent identified as transgender. About half had been in foster care and youth with a foster care history had been homeless for much longer than those who had never been in foster care. More than half of respondents also needed a safe place to stay, help with education, access to laundry facilities, a place to study, rest, or spend time during the day, and a phone.

### Grants Management Training in Nashville - May 12-13

The state of Tennessee, Department of Economic and Community Development, Research and Planning Division and Grant Writing USA will present a two-day grant management workshop in Nashville, May 12-13.

This training is for grant recipient organizations across all disciplines. Attend this class and you'll learn how to administer government grants and stay in compliance with applicable rules and regulations, including the updated OMB Circular.

Multi-enrollment discounts and discounts for Grant Writing USA returning alumni are available. Tuition payment is not required at the time of enrollment. We are excited to offer Tennessee Municipal League members and their staff a special tuition rate of \$565. Please use code "TNASSN" to receive this \$30 discount off full price at registration. Tuition includes Grant Management USA's 400-page grant management workbook and reference guide. Seating is limited, online reservations are necessary.

Complete event details including learning objectives, class location, graduate testimonials and online registration are available here. <http://grantwritingusa.com/grants-training/grant-management-workshops/nashville-tennessee-may-2016>.

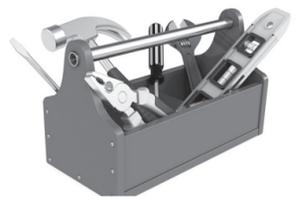
Contacts: Janet Darling at Grant Writing USA, 888.290.6237, toll free [janet@grantwritingusa.com](mailto:janet@grantwritingusa.com); Sally Haar, Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development Research and Planning Division, 615.253.3563, [sally.haar@tn.gov](mailto:sally.haar@tn.gov)

### What's In Your Information Toolbox?

MTAS Watson Research and Information Center  
May 9, 2016 | 10 am | Webinar

Join us for this FREE webinar to find out what information tools MTAS has for you!

Go the MTAS website "Ask A Librarian" page to register: <http://mtas.tennessee.edu/web2012.nsf/Web/Ask+a+Librarian>



## Tennessee Drug Card saves citizens \$30M

With allergy season upon us, TML would like to remind you about one of the League's endorsed programs, the Tennessee Drug Card, that offers a free statewide prescription assistance program for your patients.

To date this program has saved Tennessee residents more than \$30,000,000 on prescription costs.

This program can be used for savings of up to 75 percent on prescription drugs at more than 56,000 regional and national pharmacies.

Here's how you can participate:

- Display cards at your office location for employees and residents to take. Contact Natalie Meyer, program director, at [Natalie@TennesseeDrugCard.com](mailto:Natalie@TennesseeDrugCard.com) or 1-888-987-0688 and a supply will be mailed to your office at NO COST.
- Encourage members of your community to print a FREE Tennessee Drug Card at [TennesseeDrugCard.com](http://TennesseeDrugCard.com).
- Inform members of your community that they can ask for the Tennessee Drug Card discount at any CVS pharmacy in the state - even if they don't have



a card in hand.

Through the Tennessee Drug Card program, you can help uninsured and underinsured Tennessee residents access much-needed prescription medications at a discounted rate.

The program is used by people who have health insurance coverage with no prescription benefits, which is common in many health savings accounts (HSA) and high deductible health plans. Additionally, people with prescription coverage can use

the program to get a discount on prescription drugs that are not covered by insurance. The program has no membership restrictions, no income requirements, no age limitations, and no applications to complete. TML hopes you take advantage of this easy and innovative way to help members of your community get the prescription drugs they need.

For more information about the Tennessee Drug Card, visit TML's website at [www.TML1.org](http://www.TML1.org)

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# Supreme Court victory for cities sued out-of-state

BY LISA SORONEN  
*State & Local Legal Center*

It was a big day at the Supreme Court. The court issued opinions in two cases on April 19, where the State and Local Legal Center (SLLC) filed an amicus brief. If your city gets sued out-of-state it might not be as bad as you think thanks to the Supreme Court's decision in *Franchise Tax Board of California v. Hyatt*.

In this case the Supreme Court held 6-2 that the Constitution's Full Faith and Credit Clause requires state courts to apply a damages cap, which applies to the state, to foreign states and local governments sued in its court.

The State and Local Legal Center filed an amicus brief in this case asking the court to reach this result. State and local governments are frequently sued out-of-state and will benefit if other states' immunities apply to them.

Gilbert Hyatt says that he moved to Nevada in September 1991. But the California's Franchise Tax Board (CTFB) claimed that Hyatt moved to Nevada in April 1992, and therefore owed California more than \$10 million in taxes, penalties, and interest. Hyatt sued CFTB in Nevada state court alleging invasion of privacy, fraud, and intentional infliction of emotional distress, among other claims, related to

what he described as abusive audit and investigation practices.

In 2003 in *Franchise Tax Board of California v. Hyatt* the Supreme Court held that the Full Faith and Credit Clause does not require Nevada to offer CFTB the full immunity that California law provides.

A Nevada jury ultimately awarded Hyatt nearly \$500 million in damages and fees. The Nevada Supreme Court refused to apply Nevada's \$50,000 statutory cap, which applies to Nevada state and local governments, to damages related to Hyatt's fraud claim. CFTB claimed this refusal violates the Full Faith and Credit Clause.

Per the Constitution, "Full Faith and Credit" must be "given in each State to the public Acts . . . of every other State." The court concluded that the Full Faith and Credit Clause requires Nevada state courts to apply the damages cap that it would apply to Nevada to CFTB. The Full Faith and Credit Clause prohibits a state from adopting a "policy of hostility to the public Acts" of another state. According to Justice Breyer, writing for the majority, Nevada's rule allowing damages awards of over \$50,000 against foreign states and local governments is "not only 'opposed' to California law [which provides total immunity], it is also inconsistent with the general principles of Nevada immunity law" [which grants the state immunity over \$50,000].

The Nevada Supreme Court ex-

plained it didn't apply the damages cap to CFTB because California's agencies "operat[e] outside" the systems of "legislative control, administrative oversight, and public accountability" that Nevada applies to its own agencies. The court was not persuaded by this argument. "Such an explanation, which amounts to little more than a conclusory statement disparaging California's own legislative, judicial, and administrative controls, cannot justify the application of a special and discriminatory rule. Rather, viewed through a full faith and credit lens, a State that disregards its own ordinary legal principles on this ground is hostile to another State."

Interestingly, the Court was divided 4-4 over the question of whether to overrule *Nevada v. Hall* (1979), holding that a state may be sued in another state's courts without consent. So that case remains the law of the land. Had the Court overruled *Nevada v. Hall* the issue it decided in this case would have been moot. The SLLC amicus brief took no position on *Nevada v. Hall*.

Quin Sorenson and Spencer Driscoll, Sidley Austin, Washington D.C. wrote the SLLC amicus brief which was joined by the Council of State Governments, the National Association of Counties, the National League of Cities, the United States Conference of Mayors, the International City/County Management Association, and the International Municipal Lawyers Association.



**May 3: Greeneville**  
*27th annual Taste of Greeneville*, Begins at 6 p.m. on the General Morgan Inn Terrace (in the Ballroom if inclement weather) located at 111 North Main Street. All proceeds from the event will benefit the programs of the Greeneville Woman's Club and Main Street Greeneville, co-hosts of the event. Local restaurants will provide attendees with samples of food, drinks or desserts. Some will offer coupons and specials that only those attending will receive. For further information contact the Main Street Greeneville office at 423-639-7102.

**May 28-29: Brownsville**  
*6th Annual Exit 56 Blues Fest*. Two days of music presented from the porch of the last home of blues legend Sleepy John Estes in Brownsville. For more information about the event, visit [www.Exit56Blues.com](http://www.Exit56Blues.com), call 731-779-9000, or email [info@westtnheritage.com](mailto:info@westtnheritage.com) [www.tennesseemountainlaurelfestival.com/](http://www.tennesseemountainlaurelfestival.com/)



**May 12-13**  
**Tennessee Sustainable Transportation Forum**  
**UT Chattanooga**  
This year's forum will feature speakers from UPS, Lyft, Proterra, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and more. This event is sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and the Tennessee Department of Transportation. To view the agenda and to register, go to <https://tn.gov/environment/article/energy-sustainable-transportation-awards-forum>

**May 18 - 21**  
**2016 Women In Municipal Government Summer Conference**  
**Knoxville Convention Center**  
Sessions will include creative solutions for local leaders about women in business, handling the political media, coping with gridlock in Washington, DC, and women's health issues. All NLC members and colleagues with an interest in women and family issues are welcome to attend. For more information or to register, go to [www.NLC.org](http://www.NLC.org)

## UT-MTAS MAY MAP CLASSES

PLANNING AND ZONING:  
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Planning is a process that seeks to guide the future. Decisions regarding zoning, building development and growth issues, affect landowners, neighbors and the entire community, often with significant impact on property values, community character, quality of life, and even the municipal budget. This course will include:

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**Target Audience:** City managers, planning directors, codes officials, planning and zoning board members and other municipal officials responsible for the planning and zoning process.



**Credits:** 4 CPE/CMFO  
(Other) (PA)

**Dates/Locations/Times:**  
**May 3 Nashville** 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT  
**May 4 Collegedale** 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EDT  
**May 10 Memphis** 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT  
**May 11 Jackson** 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT  
**May 24 Knoxville** 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EDT  
**May 25 Johnson City** 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EDT

To register for a course, go to [www.mtas.tennessee.edu](http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu), or fax to 865-974-0423. Credit card payments must register online with the Solution Point System: <http://www.solutionpoint.tennessee.edu/MTAS> or by invoice. For registration assistance, call 865-974-0413. Or for more information, contact Kurt Frederick, training consultant, at 615-253-6385.

## No loan is too large or too small



The city of Kingston closed a loan through the TMBF loan program in the amount of \$250,000 for a capital outlay note issued for parks and recreational facilities.



See us for your special projects needs.  
(615) 255-1561



The city of Jackson closed a variable rate loan through the TMBF loan program in the amount of \$17.4 million to finance its three-year capital improvement plan.

# TN communities reconnecting through greenway projects

BY KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

As the demand for new walking trails and paved paths grows across the state, smaller towns and cities are finding unique ways to develop greenways that rival those of larger communities.

Urban centers and larger cities have the resources and staff to maintain miles and miles of their interconnected greenways; many smaller municipalities have found that by teaming up with other cities, county governments and other entities they can create and maintain greenways that stretch just as long and offer the same benefits.

Robert "Bob" Richards, is the greenways and trails program coordinator for the Tennessee Department of Environmental Quality and works with the Commissioner's Council on Greenways and Trails. Richards said there is a statewide and nationwide demand for more walkable and bikeable communities,

"One of the reasons Nashville is so hot right now is because they have invested multiple millions in building and connecting greenways during the terms of the past three mayors," he said. "That started with Bill Purcell, continued under Phil Bredesen and then under Karl Dean. Mayor Megan Barry is continuing that. When people move into a city, they want to have trails and sidewalks nearby."

Some smaller communities feel finances are an obstacle to creating these routes.

"It almost always goes back to how do we fund this," Richards said. "My position is that this is an investment in livability, in sustainability and is going to be an attraction for communities. Having greenways, parks and recreation facilities is now part of the site selection companies look for when they come to cities in Tennessee."

Working with other municipalities and county governments help decrease the construction and maintenance costs for individual entities and can also make greenways more attractive to tourists.

"I would advise cities to talk to their counties and other cities," Richards said. "For our local parks and recreation fund, cities and counties can do joint applications. If you embarked on a \$100,000 project, you could receive \$50,000 and then the city and county could split the matching. Linking multiple cities offers a regional connection. If someone is visiting the town or city and is staying there, this is something they can do for another day or part of a day. The department of tourism's research has found if you can keep a person in your town one more day that is about \$130 to \$150 in spending, which equates into tax revenue."

Johnson City and Elizabethton are connected via the Tweetsie Trail, a 9.5 mile rails-to-trails project named after the ET&WNC or "Tweetsie" Railroad that once ran between the two towns. The path begins in Johnson City and extends into Sycamore Shoals State Park before heading into downtown Elizabethton. Opened in September 2015, the success of the trail has prompted discussions of expanding it even further into Roan Mountain State Park near the North Carolina border. The Tweetsie Railroad once followed this same path into Boone, N.C.

"Johnson City is the quintessential example of how a community can benefit from greenways," Richards said. "They are looking at 25 mile trail around the city with connections to the Tweetsie Trail. Johnson City is again the classic example because they took a master plan and took a 10-year process from concept to finished trail. They created the Tweetsie Trail Task Force, which raised \$600,000 to help with expenses. Murfreesboro, Clarksville and all your medium tier cities are doing this. For smaller and rural cities, the big issue is money, but having park areas, greenways and trails is a benefit to any community."

Interconnectivity among trails is another trend being seen nationwide. Richards said the Great Smoky Mountain Regional Greenway Council has been bringing officials from the cities and towns of Alcoa, Farragut, Knoxville, Louisville, Maryville, Maynardville, Oak Ridge, Pigeon Forge, Sevierville, Townsend and surrounding counties to create a regional



The Maryville-Alcoa Greenway stretches 9 miles between the two cities, connecting parks in both cities. The greenway project began in 1990s with a federal grant and the success of the trail prompted the construction of additional spur trails.

greenway. On the state level, the Cumberland Trail State Park is expected to travel through East Tennessee from the border of Virginia and Kentucky and ending in Chattanooga.

The city of Cleveland teamed up with Bradley County to open the Cleveland-Bradley County Greenway, a project that began in the 1990s and now extends four miles. Plans are underway to incorporate the Cleveland-Bradley County Greenway into a national bike trail extending south toward Chattanooga and then north to Athens. Eventually, Cleveland's greenway would be part of a national bike route extending from Atlanta to Ohio.

Nearby, Athens itself has a greenway of its own. The Eureka Trail stretches 4.6 miles between Athens and Englewood, one of many greenways across the state that follows a former rail line. Further plans for this greenway include expanding it into downtown Englewood.

"The whole point in building a greenway is to be creative," Richards said. "Get your local hospital involved. Get your community stakeholders involved."

The Maryville-Alcoa Greenway is 9 miles of path between the two cities and began in the mid-1990s to connect Maryville's Bicentennial Greenbelt Park and Alcoa's Springbrook Park. Officials from both cities and Blount County government worked to create and maintain the greenway, which was funded partially through an \$850,000 Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) grant awarded in 1996.

Jeremy Pearson, assistant city planner with the city of Alcoa, said the greenway today is an extension of several trails that both Maryville and Alcoa had in their local parks. Pearson said Alcoa has a history of providing greenspaces, parks and other outdoor recreation facilities for residents.

"The city of Alcoa was a planned community or company town, and they planned it to be different from your typical company town. It was designed with lots of open space," Pearson said. "The town plan stated that for every 100 persons who lived in the city one acre of parkland would be dedicated. Before Alcoa was even incorporated, it was very community minded in terms of providing amenities to residents like open spaces, planting trees, creating parks and designing streets. That set the stage for greenway planning."

Today, the city of Alcoa, the city of Maryville and the Maryville-Alcoa-Blount County Parks and Recreation Commission work together to maintain the trail. Pearson said Alcoa maintains the portion of its trail within its city limits while Maryville maintains the portion within its city limits. The parks and recreation commission oversees the rest.

"The two cities have come together and work together to provide this amenities to the



The Mountain Goat Trail presently connects Monteagle and Sewanee and is 4.7 miles long. Future plans for this rails-to-trails project call for a total 35 miles of trail connecting the municipalities of Cowan, Tracy City, Coalmont, Gruetli-Laager and Palmer.

residents of both cities, Blount County, and regional users," Pearson said. "It really has been important to have partnerships, and our cities have worked together so well along with our county."

Both cities are now part of the Great Smoky Mountain Regional Greenway Council along with nearby Louisville and Townsend. Pearson said officials with both cities have been able to share their experience connecting a greenway with fellow council members.

"It has been seen as a model for connecting these two cities," Pearson said. "The real vision of the council is to create a trail from Knoxville to the Smokies. We get asked how we were able to work together to connect our trail systems. We get to look beyond Blount County and how we relate to other areas planning trails and how we can create a regional entity that serves as an East Tennessee greenway system. We can share information like what has worked and hasn't worked."

Pearson said Alcoa, Maryville and Blount County are also looking to expand the current greenway because of the increased demand for recreation amenities from both residents and businesses.

"Greenways tend to be something people are looking for. It's not just recreational. As you start to build a network, it starts to function as an alternate mode of transportation. People can use it to commute to work as we tie it into residential areas and commercial districts. From an economic development standpoint, this helps attract high level employers. When a corporate entity is looking to locate in a community, they are looking for what that community has to offer and the quality of life aspect."

The town of Monteagle is currently connected to neighboring Sewanee: The University of the South and its surrounding community by the 4.7-mile Mountain Goat Trail. Another rails to trails project, this greenway is named for the abandoned Mountain Goat Railroad, which earned its nickname for being the steepest railroad line in the 1850s.

Patrick Dean, executive director of the Mountain Goat Trail Alliance, said future plans for the greenway will extend the Mountain Goat Trail far between its current 4.7 miles to between 35 and 40 miles of pathway connecting the current segment west toward city of Cowan in Franklin County and east through the town of Tracy City, city of Coalmont, city of Gruetli-Laager and town of Palmer in Grundy County.

Dean said the trail began as an Eagle Scout project by a student from the St. Andrew's-Sewanee School. The initial effort paved around 2 miles of trail near Sewanee around 2001. The MGTA was formed in 2006 to finish the trail.

The MGTA is now working with local municipalities, the state government, area health-

care providers, community stakeholders and other volunteers to make the full trail a reality.

"We have had an incredible amount of support from pretty much everyone along the trail," Dean said. "This area has incredible parks that make national lists like Fiery Gizzard and Savage Gulch. The trail will go past those, and truly adventurous types will be ever to link up with the trail. It plays right in to the tourism industry and natural beauty of this area."

Dean said two grants for the trail have recently been approved and three or four applications have been sent for more funding.

"There is a little over a mile's worth of trail in downtown Tracy City that is in process of doing environmental clearance for a TDOT Transportation Alternatives grant, and we hoping to break ground earlier this year," he said. "Tracy City has borrowed money for the grant they have for downtown, and they are appreciative that we can work with them to apply for grants and provide matching funds. The MGTA has received a RGP grant from TDEC to build another 2 miles in Tracy City to connect to that.

We also received a grant from Project Diabetes, which will finish connecting Monteagle and Tracy City. The town of Monteagle has applied for a multimodal TDOT grant worth \$1 million to connect from where the trail ends there now and extend it across the busiest park of Interstate 24."

A report from the Babson Center for Global Commerce at the University of South found the trail could bring more than \$1.2 million in economic benefits to the area. Beyond the economic benefit, Dean said the trail has the potential to help with health issues currently faced by the communities around the trail including childhood obesity and diabetes.

"There is an incredible energy into finding ways to solve health problems, and one of our needs is infrastructure," he said. "The public schools and elementary schools are building walking tracks they want to connect to the Mountain Goat. We have people from Palmer, near the very end of the trail, who are driving all the way to Monteagle to walk on it. That really shows the need for this trail in our community."

Dean said the trail is also reconnecting communities that were once tied together by the railroad.

"When the railroad was extended, it created many of these towns on the route," he said. "It was central to these towns and their economies, but when it pulled out it was a horrendous economic situation. One of the cool things about this trail is that it reconnects these communities in a way they haven't been since the railroad left. Creating this trail has gotten people from all over this area, from all walks of life and economic statuses working together. We may disagree politically, but we all agree on the Mountain Goat Trail."



Johnson City and Elizabethton are connected by the 9.5-mile Tweetsie Trail on a path formerly used by the ET&WNC or "Tweetsie" Railroad. The first phase connected Johnson City to Sycamore Shoals State Park and the second phase connected the state park to downtown Elizabethton. Community leaders have discussed extending the trail even further to Roan Mountain State Park near the North Carolina border.