



## TML District Meetings

District 1:	Jan. 20	Johnson City
District 2:	Jan. 21	Maryville
District 3:	Jan. 22	Cleveland
District 4:	Jan. 27	Sparta
Districts 5 & 6:	Jan. 26	Murfreesboro
Districts 7 & 8:	Jan. 30	Medina

## Our holiday wish: Pass Marketplace Fairness now!

Americans have already spent billions of dollars online during the first days of this year's holiday shopping season. In fact, online shoppers spent more this year on "Black Friday," the traditional start to holiday shopping, than ever before. However, most shoppers will not pay the sales tax owed on those purchases because of the loophole exempting online sellers from collecting sales tax.

Now is the time for Congress to close the online sales tax loophole

and pass marketplace fairness legislation. Marketplace fairness would level the playing field for our local brick and mortar retailers. It would also mean an additional \$23 billion to invest in our communities – in health centers, infrastructure, police and fire protection, and more.

Don't let another holiday shopping season go by without marketplace fairness. Send Congress a message now and call for immediate passage of marketplace fairness legislation.

Rep. Phil Roe	<a href="http://roe.house.gov/contact/">http://roe.house.gov/contact/</a>
Rep. John J. Duncan, Jr.	<a href="https://duncan.house.gov/contact-me/email-me">https://duncan.house.gov/contact-me/email-me</a>
Rep. Chuck Fleischmann	<a href="https://fleischmann.house.gov/contact-me/email-me">https://fleischmann.house.gov/contact-me/email-me</a>
Rep. Scott DesJarlais	<a href="http://desjarlais.house.gov/contact/">http://desjarlais.house.gov/contact/</a>
Rep. Jim Cooper	<a href="https://cooper.house.gov/contact/email-me">https://cooper.house.gov/contact/email-me</a>
Rep. Diane Black	<a href="https://black.house.gov/contact-me/email-me">https://black.house.gov/contact-me/email-me</a>
Rep. Marsha Blackburn	<a href="https://blackburn.house.gov/contactform/default.aspx">https://blackburn.house.gov/contactform/default.aspx</a>
Rep. Stephen Fincher	<a href="https://fincher.house.gov/contact/email-me">https://fincher.house.gov/contact/email-me</a>
Rep. Steve Cohen	<a href="https://cohen.house.gov/contact-me/email-me">https://cohen.house.gov/contact-me/email-me</a>

## Rising health care costs drive local governments to shift strategies

Although health care costs have slowed recently, rising costs over the last decade have prompted many local governments to make changes to their plans and strategies, according to a new nationwide survey released by the Center for State and Local Government Excellence in partnership with The University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service.

The top cost drivers of local government health care increases cited by survey respondents were:

1. increased claim costs (64 percent)
2. prescription drugs (57 percent)
3. an aging workforce (46 percent)
4. insurance company price increases (45 percent) and
5. federal health care policy (45 percent).

"Local Government Strategies to Address Rising Health Care Costs" describes the findings from a national survey conducted by the Center for State and Local Government Excellence (slge.org) and the International Public Management Association for Human Resources (ipma-hr.org). Two hundred fifty-two IPMA-HR members took part in the survey, which was conducted in August 2014 at the request of the UT Institute for Public Service (IPS).

Fifty-seven percent of respondents increased cost sharing of premiums paid by employees and nearly half of respondents reported that their local governments changed the way health insurance is provided. Nineteen percent of those reporting changes shifted employees to a high-deductible plan with a health savings account and 14 percent established a health reimbursement arrangement.

The report includes six case studies describing how local governments have produced savings in their health benefit costs.

- Disease management programs, on-site clinics, dependent eligibility audits, and regular review and rebidding of health care vendor contracts have achieved significant savings. Asheville, N.C., reports it

has saved \$4 for every \$1 invested in chronic disease management.

- Corpus Christi, Texas, reduced health care costs by \$1.84 million by conducting a dependent eligibility audit and establishing an on-site wellness clinic.
- Greater access to comprehensive medical care and related support services for offenders resulted in lower reincarceration rates and total inmate population in Hampden County, Mass.
- Diverting offenders with extreme behavior problems into mental health services opened up capacity at the Buncombe County, N. C. Detention Facility, making it possible to rent the facility to crowded community jails and to generate \$1,038,717 in new revenue.

Local governments report that providing easy access to health services at work sites not only supports employee wellness, but also reduces employee absenteeism and health care costs. With the percentage of employee compensation that goes to health benefits rising over the past 10 years, many local governments have made significant changes to their health benefits.

"Local government programs that contain costs and improve employee health are among the most important strategies," noted Elizabeth Kellar, president/CEO, Center for State and Local Government Excellence. "Wellness and disease management programs are offered by a majority of local governments and are valued by employees."

The UT Institute for Public Service is in the early stages of planning a forum, to be held in East Tennessee, to discuss this study.

Download Local Government Strategies to Address Rising Health Care Costs at <http://www.ips.tennessee.edu/content/health-care-costs-drive-local-governments-shift-strategies>. Access all the Center's workforce research at <http://slge.org/research/workforce>

For more information: Amber Snowden, [asnowden@slge.org](mailto:asnowden@slge.org), 202-682-6102

## Senate, House Caucuses elect leadership positions

BY CAROLE GRAVES  
TML Communications Director

Senate and House caucuses met over the past several weeks to elect leadership positions for the 109th Tennessee General Assembly.

Ron Ramsey of Blountville was elected without opposition as the Senate's Republican caucus' choice to serve as Senate Speaker and Lt. Governor.

With a 28-5 Republican majority in the Senate, Ramsey is comfortably assured a fifth term as Speaker when the full Senate votes on the top post in January.

Other Senate GOP elections include Mark Norris of Collierville to his fifth term as majority leader; and Bill Ketron of Murfreesboro to his third term as caucus chairman.

In GOP House Caucus elections, Beth Harwell of Nashville was nominated House Speaker, fending off a challenge from Rep. Rick Womick, of Rockvale, by a 57-15 margin. The full house will vote on the position when the Tennessee legislature convenes Jan. 13. Assuming that Harwell is re-elected, she will begin her third term as House Speaker.

Gerald McCormick of Chattanooga, was re-elected to his third term as House Majority Leader; Rep. Glen Casada, of Franklin, was re-elected to his second term as House Republican Caucus Chairman.

Earlier this month, Senate Democrats elected freshman Sen. Lee Harris of Memphis to the post of Senate Minority Leader, and Sen. Jeff Yarbrow, also a freshman, as Senate Democratic Caucus Chairman.

In the House, Rep. Craig Fitzhugh was elected to his third term as House Democratic Leader.

House Democrats added the position of Leader Pro-Tempore to



Ron Ramsey



Beth Harwell



Mark Norris



Gerald McCormick



Bill Ketron



Glen Casada



Lee Harris



Jeff Yarbrow



Craig Fitzhugh

their leadership team. The position will serve alongside House Democratic Leader and will stand in for

the Caucus Chairman at meetings with the Administration and House Republican Leadership. Rep. Joe

Armstrong was elected to that post. Rep. Mike Stewart, was elected Caucus Chairman.

## Knoxville establishes \$500,000 fund to help citizens revitalize their historic properties

BY VICTORIA SOUTH  
TML Communications Coordinator

Two years ago, historic homeowners, Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero and her husband Gene Monaco, found themselves removing vinyl siding from their rental house built in the early 1900's, to replace it with wood. The step was phase four of what had become a nightmare "reno" project the pair had started several years earlier—when Monaco discovered he had to jack up and stabilize the entire foundation before initiating any repairs on the home.

"When renovating older homes, you are guaranteed to have some big surprises and to spend more money than anticipated, but it's worth it in the end to have the quality and character that you get from an historic property," said Rogero.

Having lived in older homes most of her adult life—the city's first female mayor currently resides in a house built in the early 1920s, and admittedly, says she has stripped paint off woodwork in old homes more than she cares to remember. It's her way of life, preserving the past toward a more economically vibrant future, as Rogero strives to redirect development toward the city's historic core and older neighborhoods.

"Historic properties are vital to our civic identity," she said "They link us with our cultural past; remind us of who we are and where we came



This house is a prime example of the type of property that may benefit from Knoxville's new Historic Preservation Fund. Facilitated through the city's existing Blighted Property Redevelopment Program, at the end of rehabilitation, this home was sold and the city repaid by the developer.

from; and they lend unique character to our neighborhoods and commercial districts that is irreplaceable."

In a 2013 interview with Smart Growth America, Rogero notes what she feels Smart growth is all about—reinvesting where investment has occurred in the past.

"Rather than going out to greenfields or properties like that, come back in where you already have your

sewers, your roads, you have your sidewalks...go back in to where we've already put a lot of time and energy and resources the past and repurpose that, rebuild that," she said.

Now, with the city council's blessing, Rogero has set aside \$500,000 in Knoxville's 2014-2015 operating budget to help bring his  
**See HISTORIC FUNDS on Page 6**



NEWS  
ACROSS  
TENNESSEE



BRENTWOOD

City Commissioners unanimously voted in favor of approving a traffic study headed by engineering and planning firm Neel-Schaffer to focus on evaluating traffic patterns and congestion at more than 30 intersections along Old Hickory Boulevard in Metro-Nashville, as well as Franklin Road, Maryland Way and Church Street in Brentwood. Overall changes to those intersections, such as new traffic signal timing, could improve traffic flow by 20-30 percent during non-peak hours and as much as 5-10 percent in the early-morning and evening hours. The cost of the study would be \$361,836 with the city paying \$36,183 or 10 percent. The study would take roughly 12 months to complete, and the city could receive results as early as fall 2015.

BRENTWOOD

The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), which recognizes law enforcement agencies that voluntarily meet and maintain certain standards for best practices, awarded the city's police department the Law Enforcement Accreditation Award with Excellence. This is the department's eighth CALEA award. CALEA also recognized the department for completing the gold standard assessment.

COLLEGEDALE

Commissioners approved up to \$1.3 million for the purchase of eight acres of land adjacent to city hall which is currently owned by Southern Adventist University. The purchase is for a planned community center to be called Collegedale Commons. The land purchase cost will come from a private donor. The Collegedale Tomorrow Foundation will raise funds for building the facilities, which will be city owned. The community center will be used for events such as concerts, farmers markets, arts and crafts shows and family get-togethers.

CLINTON

3M Company announced that it has purchased a 772,000 square foot building located on 160 acres in the Eagle Bend Industrial Park, representing an investment of \$135 million and the creation of 100 new jobs. 3M plans to be operational in the fourth quarter of 2015. The facility will produce a variety of products for the oil and gas and automotive industries.

ERWIN

The first two phases of the town's downtown revitalization project are complete and work on the third phase is slated to begin after the new year. Phase III of the project will cover the area of Main Avenue from Union Street to around Church Street, with construction expected to be complete this summer. Work so far includes widening of sidewalks; installation of new lighting, traffic signals and underground utilities; and the repaving of Main Avenue. Work has also been completed to upgrade the area's stormwater system to address flooding in downtown. Town officials are hopeful this phase will be finished by July.

JACKSON

A local manufacturing operation has announced plans to expand, creating 35 new jobs. Orchid Orthopedic Solutions Alabama, LLC. (Orchid Alabama) will invest \$2.1 million for the project. The company is a worldwide leader in the contract design and manufacture of implants, instruments and innovative technologies for the orthopedic, dental and cardiovascular markets. Orchid established operations in April of this year.

JONESBOUROUGH

The historic downtown was recently named one of the top 10 streets in the south to visit in an article in *USA Today Travel*. The top 10 towns were mentioned for their "old-fashioned beauty and genteel charm; and historic homes, and quaint shopping streets." The article also mentions the city's trademark "Storytelling Capital of the World," southern folklore and dedication to history.

KINGSPORT

The city has just become the only Insurance Services Office city rated as Class 2 for fire protection in Northeast Tennessee, moving up from the previous classification of 3/9. ISO is a leading source of property/casualty insurance risk data. Class 1 is the highest level of fire protection a local government can provide, with 10 indicating little or no fire protection at all. The class 2 designation will be in effect until the next ISO review in five years and applies only to directly served residents inside the corporate boundaries of the city. According to Kingsport Fire Department, only 750 departments nation-wide are rated as Class 2. ISO ratings are based on a community's fire-suppression system, communications, fire halls, equipment, and water supply. Other cities in Tennessee which have earned a Class 2 designation include Chattanooga, Franklin, Murfreesboro, and Memphis. Johnson City and Bristol currently have a Class 3 designation.

MEMPHIS

The U.S. Geological Survey is awarding a \$2 million grant to the Center for Earthquake Research and Information at the University of Memphis. The university says the three-year grant will help the center continue to monitor earthquakes in the central and southeastern United States. The research center's seismic network includes 140 seismographs in nine states. It integrates data from an additional 160 stations to process data and information from about 500 earthquakes each year. With the grant, the center is responsible for monitoring earthquakes from the Arkansas-Oklahoma border to the Potomac River, which includes the New Madrid, Wabash, East Tennessee, Charleston and central Virginia seismic zones.

MURFREESBORO

M-TEK announced that the company will build a new headquarters where it will consolidate its operations. The automotive supplier will create approximately 100 new jobs. An additional 100 jobs will be transferred from the Manchester location, and jobs from the company's Farmington

Hills, MI and Dublin, OH locations. The new facility represents an estimated investment of \$13.4 million. Construction of the 63,800-square-foot, two-level building, located on 10 acres on the northwest side of Gateway Boulevard and Garrison Drive is expected to be complete August 2016.

OAK RIDGE

The city was recently recognized as a Green Power Community of the Year by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Oak Ridge is one of 19 Green Power Partners and four suppliers from across the country receiving Green Leadership Awards. Awardees are recognized for achievements in advancing the nation's renewable energy market and reducing greenhouse gas emissions fueling climate change. EPA noted the city used more than 7.6 billion kilowatt-hours of green power annually.

SEVIERVILLE

Auto parts maker OTICS USA, Inc. has announced plans to build a second East Tennessee facility. The company, which already has a plant in Morristown, will invest \$69.9 million to build a new automotive parts manufacturing facility, creating 117 new jobs. The plant will be located on a 29-acre site at the new Sevier County Interstate 40 Industrial Park. Construction is set to begin in April 2015 with operations beginning in early 2017.

SMYRNA

The Tennessee Board of Regents and Nissan have broken ground for a new \$35 million training center. The board is building the 150,000-square-foot-plus center near Nissan's Smyrna Vehicle plant. The facility will operate as an extension of the Tennessee College of Applied Technology campus at Murfreesboro, but the TCAT-Murfreesboro and Nissan will occupy it jointly. The center was included in the fiscal year 2014 budget as part of Gov. Haslam's Drive to 55 initiative to increase the percentage of Tennesseans with a college degree or certificate to 55 percent by the year 2025. The center is scheduled to be completed in 2016. It will offer a variety of training programs, including automotive technology, mechatronics, welding and other programs related to advanced manufacturing.

SPRING HILL

The Spring Hill Public Library became the first library in the nation to offer Wi-Fi lending services to its patrons. Through an agreement with T-Mobile, the library acquired 15 mobile Wi-Fi hotspots, five Wi-Fi USB sticks and five Android tablets for its customers to check out. Each can support up to 10 devices for Internet use. Library Director Alan Couch said the staff is still working out software programs to wipe the devices clean as they are returned. Each device cost between \$100-\$180 and it will cost around \$9,000 a year to run the program. "We're looking to apply a federal grant program called E-Rate, which is for public libraries to offset the costs of data access for patrons," Couch said. "That will cover 50 to 70 percent of the cost, so that means for \$3,000 to \$4,500 we can provide this wonderful, nationwide access to our patrons." The service allows patrons to check out a device for up to three weeks.

Greeneville's new garbage trucks raise cancer awareness



Greeneville Public Works employee and cancer survivor Mike Waggoner is shown with the town's new garbage truck.

While Greeneville's other garbage trucks feature the town's logo, the city's new truck shows two customized logos supporting the fight against cancer.

Both prostate cancer and childhood cancer have touched the Public Works "family," according to the city's Public Works Director Brad Peters, at the recent dedication ceremony. Public Works Employee Mike Waggoner was diagnosed with prostate cancer. And in October 2013, Jacob McGee, son of Public Works employee Chad McGee was diagnosed with neuroblastoma, a type of extracranial solid cancer often found in children. "Both Mike and Jacob

are winning their respective battles against cancer," said Peters, "But even with their successes, we know that as long as cancer exists, the war is not over."

One side of the truck shows a light blue logo for Prostate Cancer Awareness and says "Public Works Supports the Fight." The other side of the truck shows a gold logo that says "Help Public Works Dispose of Childhood Cancer."

The logos were made by Signs Plus, and paid for with private donations, Peters said.

For more information or to support the fight against cancer, please visit [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org).

Murfreesboro Community Landscape Award winners



The Murfreesboro Fire Dept. was among the winners of a Community Landscape Award from the city's Urban Environment Department.

The city of Murfreesboro Urban Environmental Department recently announced the Community Landscape Award winners for fall 2014. The Murfreesboro Fire Department Headquarters, 202 East Vine Street, was among the winners in the commercial/industrial category. Other winners in the category include St. Thomas Rutherford Hospital and Pinnacle Building Services.

"Many Murfreesboro residents and business owners maintain beautiful landscapes. These landscapes

contribute greatly to the quality of life enjoyed by both citizens and visitors," the Urban Environmental Department's press release said.

The department recognizes properties that make positive contributions to the community's landscape. Winning properties of the Community Landscape Awards are selected during the summer months.

For more information about this program, visit [www.murfreesborotn.gov/CommunityLandscapeAward](http://www.murfreesborotn.gov/CommunityLandscapeAward).

TML requests E-mail addresses

The quickest way to keep city officials apprised of legislative happenings is through e-mail or fax. With so many recent municipal elections, please make sure TML has any changes to your city contact information. Send your updates to Mona Lawrence, by fax at 615-255-4752, by e-mail to [mlawrence@TML1.org](mailto:mlawrence@TML1.org), or call 615-255-6416.

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# Rails-To-Trails: How Johnson City and Elizabethton are spurring community and economic development

BY TOM DOHERTY  
TDEC  
Office of Sustainable Practices

When a community looks for economic and community development opportunities, the answer often lies in their own history. Many communities are using recreational opportunities as major placemaking initiatives and a focus on history and natural heritage has been at the forefront of those decisions.

With a vision to use an abandoned resource to create a cultural link to their past, the city of Johnson City and the city of Elizabethton partnered to convert a 10-mile stretch of abandoned railway to a greenway that links their communities in a new way. The two municipalities, with the help of several groups of stakeholders, successfully created new recreational opportunities, spurred economic development, and preserved a key to the area’s rich cultural heritage born around the railroad industry.

The East Tennessee & Western North Carolina (ET & WNC) Railroad originally commissioned the narrow gauge railway in 1868 connecting Johnson’s Depot, now called Johnson City, to the iron ore mine in Cranberry, N.C.. The section of the railroad, later recognized as the Tweetsie Railroad, was completed in 1888, and was part of the final link to connect Memphis to the Eastern Seaboard, according to the *Johnson City Press*. The railroad provided ample access to Elizabethton and Johnson City, as well as to the valleys of the Watauga and Doe Rivers. The railroad was known as the “driving force for the growth of the town,” and Johnson City was commonly referred to as the “the Gateway to the Land of Sky,” because of the influx of tourism and business. However, the Tweetsie Railroad closed to mining traffic, but because it was also constructed with a standard line—meaning both narrow and regular gauge—the rail-line transitioned to passenger rail, providing a means of daily transportation service between the two towns. It continued operation until 2003 and closed as a result of change in ownership and declining business in Elizabethton.

Beginning in 2005, the Johnson City Board of Commissioners led the charge to purchase a section of the former Tweetsie Railroad to establish the first and only rail-trail, or conversion of a former rail-line to a low-impact pedestrian trail, in Tennessee. The first section of the rail-trail, 4.5 miles, is part of a major redevelopment effort that was completed without the assistance of state or federal funding. Rather, a dedicated task force – the Tweetsie Trail Task Force – involved several groups including Johnson City, Elizabethton, and Carter County residents, and raised more than \$475,000 for the construction of the first section of trail. In addition to the money that was raised, numerous stakeholders donated materials including pavers, signage, used rail ties, and assisted with construction.

The 10-mile Tweetsie Trail is expected to be completed in 2015 or 2016, and will run from Stateline Road in Elizabethton to Alabama Street in Johnson City. Johnson City Mayor Ralph Van Brocklin stated that “the Johnson City Commission and management are committed to

utilizing all tools at our disposal to enhance the livability of our city and to enhance the educational, recreational, business, employment and quality of life opportunities for our citizens.”

A ribbon cutting ceremony on Aug. 30, 2014, celebrated the inaugural Tweetsie Trail Trek, allowing cyclists, pedestrians, and each of the mayors to celebrate their efforts on the first section of trail.

“The passionate and committed grassroots effort that brought the Tweetsie Trail to fruition speaks volumes about the benefits that rail-trails bring to communities like Johnson City,” said Liz Thorstensen, vice president of Trail Development for the Rails-To-Trails Conservancy. “Particularly in small and medium-sized cities, providing a safe, convenient and enjoyable place to walk and bike is proven to have a tangible and significant impact on the community. Our study of these impacts frequently reveals an increase in commercial activity near the trail, a boost in quality of life and real estate values, and an increase in regular physical activity.”

In the next couple of years, the two cities will be reconnected by the complete Tweetsie Trail. However, after almost 12 years of abandonment, there has already been a resurgence of economic development from recreational opportunities, events, and interest from businesses along the trail. In November 2014, Trek Bicycles, a bicycle manufacturer and retailer, announced that it will open a concept store in the London’s Lofts in downtown Johnson City, nearby to the Tweetsie Trail. Chad Wolfe, store owner and Trek employee for 19 years, viewed the location to the Tweetsie Trail as a major benefit to the concept store. He is focusing on attracting not only local cyclists and runners, but also outdoor enthusiasts from North Carolina and Virginia.

According to the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, economic development opportunities from other rails-to-trails projects in the nation have had strong impacts on the local

community and surrounding environs. “These are all outcomes that have quantifiable economic and environmental returns. Rail-trail projects like the Tweetsie Trail are proven to be very savvy and far-sighted investments that repay their cost many times over,” said Sorensen as a closing statement.

Like most community visions, it takes a team of dedicated stakeholders to support ideas, profess interest, and get their own



The first section of the rail-trail, 4.5 miles, is part of a major redevelopment effort that was completed without the assistance of state or federal funding.



A ribbon cutting ceremony on Aug. 30, celebrated the inaugural Tweetsie Trail Trek, allowing cyclists, pedestrians, and each of the mayors to celebrate their efforts on the first section of trail.

hands dirty to make a project come to reality. Elizabethton and Johnson City built a scenic pedestrian highway that will complement the rich area’s history for years to come. In addition to land-reuse projects, visitors and residents will be able to find alternative ways to commute to work or school, and find more reasons to go outside to see the mountains of East Tennessee. Whether that means retaining business along the trail, or creating a connector that will promote healthy lifestyles, a rail-trail like the Tweetsie in any community will likely have similar impacts.

For more information about opportunities to fund planning efforts or to get support for community projects, sustainability or economic development, contact the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation’s Office of Sustainable Practices at 615-532-0120 or [www.tennessee.gov/environment](http://www.tennessee.gov/environment) or visit the Rails-To-Trails Conservancy at [www.railstotrails.org](http://www.railstotrails.org)



One of the many bridges constructed with funding raised by the Tweetsie Trail Task Force.



Trail-users getting out for a ride on the recently completed section of the Tweetsie Trail.

## Investment Fiduciary Services and a zero-free option? *Sweet.*

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**Contact Wayne Sellars:**

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# STATE BRIEFS

## Three TBI labs reach national accreditation

Three Tennessee Bureau of Investigation crime labs have reached a level of accreditation that ranks them among the best in the world. The accreditation was granted after an evaluation by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors’ Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB). TBI’s forensic facilities in Nashville, Memphis and Knoxville are internationally accredited in Breath Alcohol Calibration and as a testing facility. The accreditation upgrade has moved TBI from the “Legacy” level to the “International” level, which now includes crime scene processing. The accreditation process is comprehensive and involved every aspect of the TBI labs being evaluated by ASCLD/LAB. All TBI laboratories previously were accredited in drug chemistry, toxicology and biology, according to a TBI release. The Nashville lab is accredited in trace evidence and latent prints, and both the Nashville and Memphis labs are also accredited in firearms.

## Uninsured population decreases

A study released by the University of Tennessee found that Tennessee’s uninsured population has decreased by 25 percent from last year, marking the lowest percentage of uninsured Tennesseans in a decade. The report found that 7.2 percent of Tennessee’s 6.5 million residents are uninsured. The state has also seen a 35 percent decrease in the number of uninsured children. The uninsured rate was helped by the establishment of the health insurance marketplace through the Affordable Care Act, the report said. The national conversation around health reform encouraged many uninsured people to evaluate their eligibility for Medicaid or federal subsidies to obtain insurance through the marketplace. Last year, TennCare experienced the third-highest new enrollment in its 20-year history. The study also found that 93 percent of TennCare recipients were satisfied with the program. That number stands in stark opposition to a stance held by three legal advocacy groups that sued the state in federal court this summer over the agency’s alleged inefficiencies. For uninsured Tennesseans, the report found that the reason residents fail to obtain insurance is still the same — cost and affordability.

## Human Rights Commission report spotlights state concerns

A statewide examination of discrimination and human rights concerns now appears in a new report by the Tennessee Human Rights Commission. The commission, which enforces state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination, hosted Spring 2014 hearings conducted in Nashville, Chattanooga, Knoxville, and Memphis, drawing testimony from dozens of officials, researchers and advocates. The bulk of the 244-page report summarizes what speakers shared, on topics ranging from employment discrimination to intolerance of immigrants. Over the next several months, the commission will hold presentations across the state to educate the public about the issues in the report, identify possible concerns where current law should be expanded and get feedback from the public on the critical

concerns in their communities. The report may be viewed at [www.tn.gov/humanrights](http://www.tn.gov/humanrights).

## Low income Tennesseans face big legal needs

A new study found more than 60 percent of low-income Tennesseans face a significant civil legal need. According to the Tennessee Supreme Court, respondents cited conflicts with creditors and landlords, problems obtaining or paying for health care, and difficulties with government benefits. People with civil legal needs are not entitled to public attorneys, and according to the study, only 25 percent of respondents were aware of resources to help find a lawyer. Many said they did not seek help because they feared involving the courts would make their problems worse. The Supreme Court’s Access to Justice Commission is currently seeking ways to provide civil legal aid to needy Tennesseans.

## Safety officials warn against seasonal identity crimes

State safety officials are urging Tennesseans to protect themselves against identity crimes this holiday season. Last year, identity theft accounted for 14 percent of all complaints recorded by the Federal Trade Commission, leading the list of top consumer complaints. “Internet scammers or hackers can easily access your private data, if you’re not careful,” said Tennessee Highway Patrol Major Stacy Williams, who oversees the state Department of Safety and Homeland Security’s Identity Crimes Unit. “Citizens should make sure websites are secure before entering any personal or financial information.”

## State launches online resource to combat violence against women

An online statewide database, Violence Against Women (VAW) Resource Center, has been launched to connect Tennesseans with helpful information about domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking resources. A project of the Tennessee Economic Council on Women

(TECW), the website is made available by the Tennessee Economic Council on Women (TECW). The Center’s primary goal is to promote economic recovery by collecting and presenting information to women and children in need. However, it also functions as a tracking system for the availability of services in each county; highlight weaknesses where service providers can focus expansion efforts; and present the clearest available information to policymakers about the state of care in Tennessee. In this way, the TECW seeks to help victims directly and to enhance Tennessee’s method of response to these crimes as a policy and budget tool. The VAW Resource Center was created in an effort to provide victims of violence in all 95 counties with a ready means to identify and connect with local resources and to positively impact rates of recovery as well as the rate of reporting.

## Trucks banned from infamous “Dragon” Route

Tennessee is banning trucks longer than 30 feet from using a twisty stretch of U.S. Route 129 that is known as “The Dragon.” The truck ban is welcome news to motorcyclists and sports car enthusiasts who travel long distances to experience the mountain road famous for its 318 curves in 11 miles along the western edge of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. In the past, tractor-trailers pulling through tight turns can block both lanes of traffic and force cars and motorcycles off the road. While trucks have been banned from the North Carolina side of the road for a few years, Tennessee until now only posted signs warning truckers of switchback turns on the route. State records show of the 1.4 million vehicles that traversed the Tennessee side of The Dragon between 2010 and 2012, there were total of 204 crashes – with motorcycles making up 82 percent of them. Six of those wrecks resulted in fatalities, including one involving a tractor-trailer. The riders who died on the serpentine road ranged in ages from 24 to 62. Accidents involving trucks usually cause the road to be blocked for several hours because of its curvy and narrow nature, according to the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

# State’s 15th welcome center now open in Kingsport



After a decade of planning, three years of construction and a small roof fire this fall, the new welcome center on Interstate 26 in Kingsport is complete and open to travelers, according to the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

The welcome center — the 15th in the state — is located on I-26 (mile marker 5.8), between the Wilcox Drive and Rock Springs Road exits and is expected to serve about 400,000 visitors each year, providing access for travelers on eastbound and westbound I-26.

The site will have about 50 spaces for vehicles, a couple for buses and 20 spots for tractor-trailers. TDOT officials note the new center will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and have a staff of 10 employees, three of whom will be tourism specialists, knowledgeable

about many destination sites all across Northeast Tennessee.

The project was on the drawing board and in the works for more than a decade, going through several different studies. Work on the log cabin style building began in earnest in October 2013.

Among several delays, the project suffered a setback in September when fire broke out in the roof section of the building.

The welcome center project was funded by the Appalachian Regional Commission, a federally funded, economic development agency for the 13 Appalachian states.

According to TDOT, the total cost of the project was \$12.3 million - roadway work costing approximately \$9.5 million, the building another \$2.42 million and land acquisition \$358,000.

# Henry Horton State Park hosts annual 50-Day Challenge

Henry Horton State Park in Chapel Hill announced its 50-Day Challenge to the local community, encouraging individuals and families to walk 50 miles in 50 days, beginning Dec. 6 through Jan. 25.

Interested walkers are asked to visit the Henry Horton State Park office to receive a 50-Day Challenge packet, including information on trail lengths, a record sheet for daily miles and park map.

The first 50 participants to register will receive a free T-shirt.

Henry Horton State Park boasts four great hiking trails and a one-mile picnic area loop that are available for use every day: The Hickory Ridge

Loop (1.5 miles) is located near the campground and traverses habitats ranging from oak-hickory forest to unusual cedar glades; the Wilhoite Mill Trail (1 mile) follows the Duck River among second growth woods, covering an early mill community; the Wild Turkey Trail (2 miles) winds through rich woods and old fields and the Adeline Wilhoite-Horton Nature Trail (4 miles) follows the Duck River about 1.5 miles downstream from Highway 31-A and loops into an area of cedar glades.

For more information about Henry Horton State Park’s 50-Day Challenge, please call the park office at 931-364-7724.

# TN Historical Commission accepting applications for merit awards

The Tennessee Historical Commission is now accepting nominations for its Certificate of Merit Awards to honor individuals or groups that work to preserve Tennessee’s cultural heritage. The deadline for submissions is Dec. 31, 2014.

“For 40 years, our awards program has offered an opportunity to give thanks and recognition to those working to revitalize Tennessee’s historic places,” Executive Director of the Tennessee Historical Commission Patrick McIntyre said. “The Merit Awards program also highlights people and organizations for the work they do in the areas of publication, commemoration, and education regarding our state’s unique history and heritage.”

The awards program recognizes individuals or groups throughout the state who have worked to conserve or highlight Tennessee’s cultural heritage during the past year. The awards recognize historic preserva-

tion projects as well as work in the field of history.

Award recipients will be honored at a special ceremony in May.

Certificates of Merit are presented annually to individuals, groups, agencies or organizations that have made significant contributions to the study and preservation of Tennessee’s heritage during the 12 months prior to the application deadline.

To download an application for a Certificate of Merit Award, visit the Tennessee Historical Commission website at [www.tnhistoricalcommission.org](http://www.tnhistoricalcommission.org). Applications may also be requested by calling the Commission’s offices at 615-532-1550, by writing to 2941 Lebanon Road, Nashville, TN 37214, or by contacting Angela Miller at [Angela.Miller@tn.gov](mailto:Angela.Miller@tn.gov).

The Tennessee Historical Commission is the State Historic Preservation Office. Visit the website at [www.tnhistoricalcommission.org](http://www.tnhistoricalcommission.org).



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# PEOPLE

Gov. **Bill Haslam** has been elected as the next chairman of the Republican Governors Association taking the reins from New Jersey's Chris Christie. New Mexico Governor **Haslam** Susana Martinez was elected to serve as RGA Vice Chairman. Both were elected during the RGA's winter meeting in November. One of Haslam's primary responsibilities as the RGA's chairman is to raise money for the organization.



The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) has named **Rich Boyd**, former executive director of the Tennessee Arts Commission, the recipient of its 2014 Gary Young Award. The award recognizes Boyd's exemplary leadership, innovative thinking, and extraordinary contribution to public support for the arts at the state, regional and national levels. Boyd served as executive director of the Tennessee Arts Commission in a career that spanned 28 years of service from 1984-2012, including 15 years as assistant director.



Huntingdon Mayor **Dale Kelley**, athletic director at Bethel University, served as commencement speaker for the school's Fall 2014 graduation ceremony on the school's McKenzie campus. Kelley is an inductee in the Bethel Athletic Hall of Fame, the TSSAA Hall of Fame, the Carroll County Sports Hall of Fame and the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, where he currently serves on the board of directors. He has served six consecutive terms as mayor and is the current secretary/treasurer of the Carroll County Watershed Authority. Kelley served three terms in the House of Representatives and as commissioner of Employment Security and commissioner of Transportation under Gov. Lamar Alexander. He was appointed by Gov. Don Sundquist to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and also served as a senior adviser and special assistant to Gov. Bill Haslam.



**Susan Whitaker**, commissioner of the Department of Tourist Development, will be departing the administration after 12 years, to return to the private sector. Whitaker was named Whitaker the 2013 National Tourism Director of the Year by the U.S. Travel Association's National Council of State Travel Directors. Whitaker has overseen the development and implementation of the state's comprehensive marketing, public relations and promotions campaigns, including the state's award-winning website, [www.tnvacation.com](http://www.tnvacation.com), and the state's 15 Welcome Centers.



**Glennetta Hutchinson** has been selected as Burns new chief of police. A former Centerville Police patrol officer for four years, she also worked with the Hutchinson Hickman County Sheriff's Office.



**Bruce M. Applegate, Jr.**, will join the city of Oak Ridge as the assistant to the city manager. Applegate will assist in planning, organizing, developing, coordinating, maintaining and directing the overall operations and activities of the city. He will also help provide supervision for special projects, task forces and participate in the recruitment and promotion of new and existing businesses and industries. Applegate, who was raised in Knoxville and Lafayette, Indiana, is a recent graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He holds a masters of arts in Public Administration and Public Policy.



Longtime Adams Mayor **Omer Gene Brooksher** has passed away. He was 77. Brooksher served as mayor since 1985 and was recently recognized for his 30 years of service on the city commission. He is one of only three mayors who have served the city in its 50-year history.



## Crossley finalist of WIMG Leadership Award



Dot LaMarche, Farragut vice mayor and Women In Municipal Government first vice president; Betsy Crossley, Brentwood mayor and finalist for 2014 WIMG Award; Mildred Crump, councilmember Newark, NJ, and WIMG president; and Kay Senter, Morristown councilmember and WIMG past president.

Brentwood Mayor Betsy Crossley was among five top finalists for the national 2014 Women in Municipal Government (WIMG) Leadership Award.

Other finalists are Woodridge, Ill. Mayor Gina Cunningham of Woodridge, Ill; Alfred Mae Drakeford, city council member of Camden, S.C; Rae A. Sinor, council member of Deer Park, Texas; and Lavonta Williams city council member of Wichita, Kan.

Councilmember Williams of Wichita was selected as the 2014 recipient.

The winner was announced Nov. 21 at WIMG's 40th anniversary Leadership Award Luncheon during NLC's Congress of Cities and Expo-

sition in Austin, Texas.

Crossley was nominated for the WIMG honor by Kay Senter, Morristown council member and fellow TML board member

Crossley, serving her second term as mayor, was first elected to the Brentwood City Commission in 2007. Prior to that, she served on the city's planning and historic commissions. She also has been on the city's tree board and currently is on the Brentwood Library board.

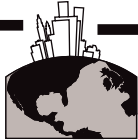
Since 2008, she has been a member of the Tennessee Municipal League (TML) Board of Directors. In 2014, the Governor appointed Crossley to serve as a member of the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TA-

CIR).

Women in Municipal Government is a constituency group of the National League of Cities. The leadership award recognizes a female local official for her unique and outstanding leadership in local government, including individual achievement in initiating creative and successful programs.

"The WIMG Leadership Award finalists are outstanding local elected officials who serve as mentors and models for future female leaders," said Mildred Crump, WIMG president and council president of Newark, N.J. "Each finalist has worked tirelessly to create better cities for the residents they represent."

## NATIONAL BRIEFS



As reported in **Bloomberg.com**, the average price of regular gasoline at U.S. pumps slid to the lowest level since Nov. 5, 2010, dropping 10.05 cents in the two weeks ended Nov. 21 to \$2.8416 a gallon, according to **Lundberg Survey Inc.** Prices are 41.01 cents lower than a year ago, according to the survey, which is based on information obtained from about 2,500 filling stations by the Camarillo, California-based company. Retail gasoline prices have fallen as oil has slumped into a bear market with U.S.

drillers producing the most crude in more than three decades.

In the first study of graduation rates for students who began college during the Great Recession, the **National Student Clearinghouse® Research Center™** found that while a larger number of students enrolled during this period, completion rates declined. The largest decrease in completions was among nontraditional age students. In its third annual completions report, the Research Center studied students who entered college in fall 2008, the peak of the recession. This student population was 12 percent larger than the one that entered college in fall 2007 (approximately 2.7 million and 2.4 million, respectively). There was a 20 percent increase in the number of older students (over age 20) and a larger share of those enrolled less than full time (1.5 percentage points more than in fall 2007). In addition, the share of students enrolled in community colleges and four-year private for-profit institutions increased one percentage point each. The overall national six-year completion rate for the fall 2008 cohort was 55.0 percent, a decrease from the 56.1 percent completion rate for the fall 2007 cohort. Most of the decline occurred in the rate at which students graduated from their starting institution (42.1 percent for fall 2008 vs. 43.0 percent for fall 2007). There was almost no change in the rate at which students transferred and completed at a different institution. Some student populations experienced larger declines in their attainment rates, while others remained the same or actually increased. "Today's results show that getting more students to enroll is only the first step to increasing the number of Americans with a post-secondary credential. We also need to do more to help them stay enrolled to the finish line," said Dr. Doug Shapiro, executive research director, National Student Clearinghouse Research Center

In 1969, half of American school-children walked or rode their bikes to school. These days, relatively few do. Just 13 percent of kids walked or biked to school in 2009. According to Governing Magazine, in a country where one-third of children are overweight or obese -- and where nearly a quarter of all students get no physical activity during the school day -- walkable schools could have definite positive health effects. Some communities have implemented "walking bus" programs to encourage more students to

hit the sidewalk each morning. The concept, in which volunteer parents lead walking groups that pick up specific kids at specific times every day, is still relatively rare. But it's been instituted in a handful of communities. In Knoxville, last year, first lady Michelle Obama praised the city's walking school bus plan. "I've heard more and more of this kind of walking school bus happening all over the country -- so that kids can get exercise on the way to school, kind of like we did when we were growing up," she said.

States that tax diesel fuel differently for railroads and trucks aren't unfairly favoring one industry over the other, according to arguments the Supreme Court heard this month. Alabama, Tennessee and several other states say they will lose millions in tax revenue if the court sides with the railroads and finds the system discriminatory. Much of that money goes to public education. Railroads in Alabama must pay a 4 percent state sales tax when they buy diesel fuel, but the state exempts truckers from the tax. Truckers pay a different 19-cents-a-gallon tax on the diesel fuel they buy. Alabama argues the taxes essentially affect each of the two industries equally. Tennessee leads a group of 15 states siding with Alabama, with state legislators extending their tax exemption to include railroads, but the railroads sued the state again anyway.

The U.S. Senate is likely to pass a massive defense bill that includes numerous, unrelated public lands provisions that would mark the most significant expansion of the National Park Service system in decades. The National Defense Authorization Act -- which sets the direction for how the country will project its military power around the world -- would authorize six new National Parks units, expand nine existing park sites and extend authorization for 14 National Heritage Areas. Among the new parks that celebrate key moments in U.S. history would be the Manhattan Project National Historical Park, which would involve a site in Oak Ridge, where the secret effort to create an atomic weapon took place. The provisions, along with many others, have stalled for years as Congress has failed to pass a major public lands bill since 2009. "This legislation will protect places taken right out of the pages of our history and science books," said Clark Bunting, president of the National Parks Conservation Association.

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**CHIEF BUILDING OFFICIAL**  
MORRISTOWN. The city of Morristown is now accepting applications for the position of Chief Building Official. Deadline to submit an application is Jan. 2, 2015. Performs intermediate technical work in the inspection of all phases of building plans and construction; does related work as required. Work is performed in coordination with the engineering and planning departments and under the general supervision of the Director of Community Development. Job requirements and qualifications can be obtained from the city's website. Starting pay is \$24.74/hr. Applications may be obtained from the Human Resources Department on the second floor of City Center, or on the city's website at [www.mymorristown.com](http://www.mymorristown.com). Send completed applications to: City of Morristown, Attn: Human Resources – Chief Building Official, P.O. Box 1499, Morristown, Tenn., 37816-1499.

**CITY MANAGER**  
KINGSTON SPRINGS. The city is accepting resumes for the position of City Manager. Kingston Springs is located 21 miles west of Nashville, on the southwestern edge of Cheatham County. The position is appointed by, and responsible to a five member Board of Commissioners, for the day-to-day administration of all city services and departments. The City Manager is responsible for oversight of a budget of approximately \$2.1M and 15 full-time employees. The position provides leadership and management to the City, serving as the chief executive officer, and directs all operations of the municipal organization as set forth by the City Charter. The ideal individual will have demonstrated ability to motivate employees and delegate responsibility, and an ability to identify long term goals and issues for the Commission's consideration. Candidates must have demonstrated ability to deal with the public, and able to be articulate and interactive with the community. Experience in budgeting, control of expenditures, management of multiple departments, legislative issues, and economic development are high priorities. The ideal candidate will have: a bachelor's degree in public administration or business management, a master's degree would be preferred, and will have three to five years of experience as a City Manager, Assistant City Manager, or Department Head in a similar sized community; or will have more than ten years of experience in a supervisory role in a local government setting or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this position. Residency preferred within six months to one year, within a ten mile radius of City Hall. Additional information about the community can be found at the city's website: [www.kingstonsprings.net](http://www.kingstonsprings.net). Salary range is \$50,000 - \$70,000; plus a competitive comprehensive benefits package. The City of Kingston Springs is EOE. Resumes will be accepted until 4:30 pm, Dec. 23, 2014. All interested applicants should submit a resume and cover letter along with three professional references, and salary history to: Municipal Technical Advisory Service, 226 Capitol Blvd, Suite 606, Nashville, Tenn., 37219. Attn: Gary Jaeckel, Municipal Management Consultant

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
KNOXVILLE-KNOX COUNTY. The joint City-County committee conducting a search for a new executive director of the Metropolitan Planning Commission has formally posted the position, along with a detailed job description. The position will be advertised through the American Planning Association, local media, and other outlets. The Metropolitan Planning Commission serves a population of greater than 400,000 with a staff of 35. The organization is responsible for city and county-wide plans, reviewing subdivision regulations and site plans, preparing and recommending zoning ordinances and maps to the Knox County Commission and Knoxville City Council, and reviewing proposed zoning amendments. The executive director leads and manages all aspects of the organization. He or she is appointed by the mayors of Knoxville and Knox County and reports to the chairperson of the MPC and its executive committee. The successful candidate will have exceptional communication and relationship skills, strong management experience, and will demonstrate the ability to lead successful public processes in a complex and dynamic system. The ideal candidate will have broad experience in planning; a record of having worked effectively with public officials and stakeholders who represent diverse interests; and demonstrated success in managing and building a positive and productive work place environment. AICP (American Institute of Certified Planners) certification and at least 10 years of planning experience is required. Applications should include a cover letter and resume and be sent electronically to [MPCDirectorSearch@cityofknoxville.org](mailto:MPCDirectorSearch@cityofknoxville.org). Closing Date for Applications: Dec. 31, 2014. Contact: Kim Scarborough, Executive Assistant, Policy and Communications Office, City of Knoxville, [MPCDirectorSearch@cityofknoxville.org](mailto:MPCDirectorSearch@cityofknoxville.org). 400 Main Street, Room 655, Knoxville, Tenn., 37902, Website: <http://www.knoxmpc.org/>

**FIREFIGHTER**  
PORTLAND. The city is accepting applications through close of business January 2, 2015 for the position of Firefighter. HS Diploma / GED Required. Prefer current Firefighter I or Firefighter II certification at the time of application. This position is full time, with full benefit package available including vacation, sick days, paid holidays; health, dental, vision, life/AD&D, TCRS retirement and supplemental voluntary benefits. Starting annual rate of \$34,450. An application and job description may be obtained from the receptionist at Portland City Hall, Mon. through Fri, 8 am to 4:30 pm. They are also available online at [www.cityofportlandtn.gov](http://www.cityofportlandtn.gov). Completed applications

must be returned no later than 4:30 pm on Jan. 2, 2015, to City Hall Receptionist (100 South Russell Street), faxed to 615-325-1481, or mailed to: Human Resources, Attn: John Grubbs, Portland City Hall, 100 South Russell Street, Portland, Tennessee 37148. Upon completion of the recruitment and selection process, a list of qualified applicants will be established and maintained for six (6) months following Council approval for the purpose of establishing a candidate list for potential vacancies that may occur during that time period. Pre-employment drug screen and physical required. The City of Portland is EOE.

**POLICE OFFICER**  
SAVANNAH. The city is accepting applications for the position of police officer. This position is under the general supervision of the Chief of Police. Interested applicants must complete and submit an "Application for Employment" utilizing forms furnished by the city. These forms are available at the Savannah City Hall, 140 Main Street, Savannah, Tenn. between the hours of 8 am and 5 pm, Mon. through Fri., except holidays. Application deadline is 5 pm, Dec. 31 2014. A complete job description, including essential functions required to perform this job available at Savannah City Hall and will be distributed with each application. The City of Savannah is EOE.

**POLICE OFFICER**  
PORTLAND. The city is accepting applications through close of business Jan. 9, 2015 for the position of P.O.S.T. Certified Police Officer. Applicants must have current certification for consideration. The minimum starting pay is \$16.18/hour with full benefits. This position is full time, with full benefit package available including vacation, sick days, paid holidays; health, dental, vision, life/AD&D, TCRS retirement and supplemental voluntary benefits. Must meet Minimum Standard Law (TCA 38-8-106) requirements; have a high school diploma or GED, graduation from and accredited college is preferred; or a combination of training, experience and education substantially equivalent to an associate's degree in police science; must be a citizen of the United States; be at least 18 years of age and meet the physical, psychological and criminal records requirements and other standards for the assignment established by the Portland Police Department; must have an excellent work and attendance record and possess a valid Tennessee Driver's License. Upon completion of the recruitment and selection process, a list of qualified applicants will be established and maintained for six (6) months following council approval for the purpose of establishing a candidate list for potential vacancies that may occur during that time period. An application and job description may be obtained from the receptionist at Portland City Hall, Mon. through Fri, 8 am to 4:30 pm. They are also available online at [www.cityofportlandtn.gov](http://www.cityofportlandtn.gov). Completed applications must be returned no later than 4:30 pm on Jan. 9, 2015, to City Hall Receptionist (100 South Russell Street), faxed to (615) 325-1481, or mailed to: Human Resources, Attn: John Grubbs, Portland City Hall, 100 South Russell Street, Portland, Tenn., 37148. Pre-employment drug screen and physical required. The City of Portland is EOE.

**WASTEWATER COLLECTIONS SYSTEM TECHNICIAN**  
ARLINGTON. The Town of Arlington is accepting applications for a Wastewater Collections System Technician. Beginning Salary is between \$31,269.89 and \$37,523.87 depending on experience and qualifications. This position is full time and comes with a full benefit package including vacation, sick days and paid holidays. Qualified applicants must have a State of Tennessee Grade II Collections System Certification, have graduated from a standard high school or equivalent GED, possess a valid State of Tennessee driver license, and have experience in an industrial or municipal setting. Pre-employment drug screen and physical will be required. This position will remain open until filled. The complete job description and application may be found on the Town's website at [www.townofarlington.org](http://www.townofarlington.org) under employment opportunities or by contacting (901)867-2620. Completed applications must be returned to: Town of Arlington, Attn: Human Resources P.O. Box 507 Arlington, TN 38002. The Town of Arlington is an equal opportunity employer.

**WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT CHIEF OPERATOR**  
PORTLAND. The city is accepting applications for the position of Wastewater Treatment Plant Chief Operator. Starting rate of pay is \$18.71 per hour DOE and qualifications. This position is full time, with full benefit package available including vacation, sick days, paid holidays; health, dental, vision, life/AD&D, TCRS retirement and supplemental voluntary benefits. Graduation from a standard high school or equivalent GED with additional formal training (post-secondary is preferred) in chemistry, biology, sanitary and/or environmental engineering or related fields as applicable to the wastewater treatment industry. At least 3 years' experience in the operation of a water treatment facility. Strongly prefer minimum of one (1) year experience in supervision at the wastewater treatment plant level. Must possess a valid, State of Tennessee driver's license. Must possess a valid, State of Tennessee Class III Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators license. Must achieve State of Tennessee Class IV Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator license within 18 months of placement in position. An application and job description may be obtained from the receptionist at Portland City Hall, Monday through Friday, 8 am to 4:30 pm. A complete job description is posted on the city's website, can [www.cityofportlandtn.gov](http://www.cityofportlandtn.gov) and by clicking the link: Portland Employment Opportunity. This position is open until filled. Completed applications must be returned to: Human Resources, Attn: John Grubbs, Portland City Hall, 100 South Russell Street, Portland, Tenn., 37148. Pre-employment drug screen and physical may be required. The City of Portland is EOE.

# Knoxville helps citizens breathe new life into historic properties with grant funding

**HISTORIC FUNDS** *from Page 1*  
toric properties across the city to life again. Knoxville's new Historic Preservation Fund is specifically designed to assist property owners with the often difficult and costly task of repairing and renovating historic buildings.

The program, created for both commercial and residential properties of historic significance, targets buildings lying within the city's ample historic overlay zones, Historic 1 and Neighborhood Conservation overlays, along with properties appearing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Knoxville has experienced some success restoring some of its larger downtown buildings through TIFF financing, such as The Holston, Sterchi Lofts and the JFG Building, as well as University Commons, the city's first urban, vertical retail complex, built at the site of a former factory. Various other programs have also supported the city's historic preservation goals, such as the Facade Improvement Program, the Blighted Property Redevelopment Program (BPRP) and Owner Occupied Rehab Program. Yet, the Historic Preservation Fund is the city's first program specifically geared toward historic properties.

"We know, as seen in the vibrancy of our downtown, that restoration of these remarkable historic buildings can help spark broader community revivals," Rogero said.

Becky Wade, Knoxville's director of Community Development agrees. "We've seen a huge resurgence of business coming into downtown and around our central corridor," she said. Buildings, once vacant and blighted, are creating jobs and the economic benefit is phenomenal. We still have a lot of historic character in our neighborhoods, particularly right around the inner city. This fund will help revitalize those areas and hold on to those properties."

A public forum about the initiative, held in July, brought an outpouring of support from across the community, where close to 80 individuals from property owners to developers



Throughout the years, various programs such as Knoxville's Facade Improvement Program, have supported the city's historic preservation goals. Knoxville has also seen burgeoning success in restoring its larger downtown buildings through TIFF financing. But the city's new Historic Preservation Fund, targeted toward residential and commercial properties, is Knoxville's first initiative developed exclusively for historic properties that lie within the city's Historic 1 and Neighborhood Conservation overlays, along with properties appearing on the National Register of Historic Places. Pictured: The Holston Building, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, at 12 stories tall, was once Knoxville's tallest building. Private developers, through TIFF financing, have converted the building into 42 luxury condominiums.

to preservation advocates, provided ideas and suggestions about where the money would be most cost effective.

According to Rogero, attendees were asked what they most needed—and their responses shaped the program's Request for Proposals (RFP) that will be posted on the city's website, including details about the application process and criteria for selection.

"First, they suggested flexibility to address a wide variety of projects," said Rogero. "Second, they pointed out a need for one-time funding that could span the relatively small financial gaps that now are holding back redevelopment of many historically valuable but blighted and sometimes uninhabitable properties."

Proposals will be accepted for a two month period, through the end of January 2015, and then the applications will be evaluated by a presently, unnamed committee comprised of city staff members and

other interested parties, according to Eric Vreeland, Knoxville's communications manager.

While the money will be distributed in the form of grants, bonus points will be given to applicants choosing a repayment option to help rebuild the funds. Under the repayment option, funding will be structured as a zero percent interest construction loan—borrowed by the building owner while they are in the renovation process. "Once permanent financing is obtained, at the end of the project, whether the building is sold, or the property owner gets a permanent mortgage, we are repaid," said Wade. "It would be great to replenish the fund as much as possible, so that more properties can benefit from the program."

Rogero adds, "this new Historic Preservation fund should make a difference for many redevelopers as they close their financial gaps and bring commercial and residential structures in our historic districts back into reuse."

# National Endowment for the Arts announces 12 Tennessee's 2014 Fall grant awards

Tennessee has received 12 grants from the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA), totaling \$225,000. The grants were in three different categories that include Art Works, Challenge America, and Creative Writing Fellowships in Poetry. The awarding of these grants to organizations, schools and individuals across the state is a testament to the rich heritage and cultural assets of Tennessee.

Art Works grants supports the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts and the strengthening of communities through the arts.

The Challenge America category offers \$10,000 matching grants to support projects that extend the reach of the arts to underserved populations whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by

geography, ethnicity, economics or disability.

The Creative Writing Fellowships in Poetry enable recipients to set aside time for writing, research, travel and general career advancement. These non-matching grants are for \$25,000.

Communities benefitting from the grants include: Jonesborough, Knoxville, Memphis and Nashville.

The International Storytelling Association in Jonesborough received \$15,000 in the discipline of Folk & Traditional Arts to support Storytelling Live!, a series of residencies for master storytellers. The program will showcase storytellers representing a broad range of oral traditions from all over the world. In addition to storytelling, the master artists will offer workshops and present special programs intended to serve seniors and youth.

Knoxville's Jubilee Communi-

ty Arts, Inc. received \$30,000 for Folk & Traditional Arts to support traditional music programming at the Laurel Theater. In addition to presenting live performances at a weekly concert series and at the Jubilee Festival, Executive Director Dr. Brent Cantrell and other researchers will conduct fieldwork to document previously unrecognized local traditional musicians. Selected recordings from performances and fieldwork will be broadcast via local public radio stations.

Watkins Institute in Nashville received \$10,000 in the category of Challenge America to support the annual Handmade & Bound Nashville Festival, a celebration of printmaking and book arts. The festival will feature independent publications; displays of handmade books, magazines, and comics; and an art exhibition.

Visit <http://arts.gov/> for a listing.

# Tennessee Drug Card saves Tennessee citizens \$30M

As cold and flu season falls 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

Don't blow your *savings* this flu season.

Save up to 75% on your prescription medications with **Tennessee Drug Card.**



**TENNESSEE DRUG CARD**



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)







# The spirit of Christmas sweeps across Tennessee



Photo by Victoria South

The State Capitol Christmas tree, a 75-foot Norway Spruce, was lit Dec. 1 despite the rain that brought the rest of the festivities inside for the evening. For the second consecutive year, a tree from the grounds of the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture's Morgan County research forest was selected for the Christmas display. The tree, planted approximately 35 years ago, was used as part of a research study examining the needle retention characteristics of various Christmas tree species. Martin Schubert, manager of the Cumberland Forest's 8,000 acres in Scott and Morgan counties, said, "It's a real honor to provide a tree for the enjoyment of the state's citizens."



Photo by Phil Stauder/ For the Times

At the Adams Christmas parade, Emori Ballard (left) and Eddie Woodside smile for the camera as moms Jodi Ballard (left) and Traci Woodside look on.



Photo by David Crigger/BHC

Bristol Mayors Lea Powers (Tennessee), left, and Catherine Brillhart (Virginia), right, appauld after flipping the switch to light the community Christmas tree



Franklin Mayor Ken Moore, assisted by a group of Santa's little helpers, and Jolly Ole' Saint Nick himself, flips the switch, lighting up the city's Christmas tree. Attended by more than 1,000 people, it was one of Franklin's largest tree lighting celebrations ever.



Photo by Victoria South

Governor Haslam and First Lady Crissy Haslam push the giant candy cane switch that lights up the State Capitol Christmas tree alongside another famous couple, Santa and Mrs. Claus played by Pat and Dianne Petty of Franklin.

## Christmas arrives for soldier's families

The city of Franklin Board of Mayor and Aldermen, in November 2004, passed a resolution officially adopting the soldiers of Delta Company (1/327th 101st Airborne Division) as part of the America Supporting Americans program to support soldiers and their families.

Over the years, several local schools have gotten involved by writing to the soldiers while they are deployed. Residents have also hosted the soldiers and their families in Franklin and sponsored their children at Christmas.

Last year, former Franklin mayor and Rotarian Tom Miller brought Toyota Scion of Cool Springs on board in providing Christmas gifts to the children of the 1/327th at Ft. Campbell.

About 180 children received gifts last year, with that number spiking to 430 sponsored children this year.

"There was such an increase in the number of children, Tom Miller, Mike Alexander and myself enlisted help from other cities," said Kris Krabill, general manager Toyota Scion. "Local and out of state cities, the Franklin Rotary, customers of Toyota Scion and the dealership all participated. A city in California will be sending more pallets of toys within the week," according to Krabill.

Ft. Campbell soldiers arrived to pick up the first load, around 200 toys at the dealership recently. "A couple of soldiers picking up the toys were overcome with gratitude for the effort," Krabill said. The batalian's six companies will host Christmas parties where children will receive their presents from Santa.



Ft. Campbell soldiers pick up more than 200 new toys for the children of Delta Company (1/327th 101st Airborne Division) supplied by Toyota Scion of Cool Springs, customers, and cities in Tennessee and other states.



John A. Gillis/DNJ

Dancers entertain at the Rutherford County Courthouse annual tree lighting ceremony in Murfreesboro.



Photo by Victoria South

Nashville Mayor Karl Dean and Firemen from the Metro-Nashville Fire Department ring bells for the Salvation Army Christmas drive during the busy lunch hour on the streets of Downtown Nashville.

Below: Santa waves to the crowd at the Portland Christmas Parade "Winter Nights and Christmas Lights."

