



Haslam to kick off TML Legislative Conference

City officials will hear from Gov. Bill Haslam at TML's Annual Legislative Conference, slated for March 14 - 15 in Nashville. Haslam is scheduled to kick off the event at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, March 14, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Downtown.

Currently serving his second term, Gov. Haslam's commitment to education is making a difference through his Drive to 55 and Tennessee Promise initiatives. His focus on making Tennessee the No. 1 location in the Southeast for high-quality jobs has been recognized with a "State of the Year" award for economic development. And through his fiscal responsible leadership, he has balanced the budget every year, ensured Tennessee has the lowest debt in the country, and nearly doubled the state's rainy day fund.

Come join him as he outlines his 2016 priorities and discusses his plans for addressing the many challenges that still lie ahead.

Also scheduled to speak are Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey, House Speaker Beth Harwell, as well as State Comptroller Justin P. Wilson, Assistant Treasurer Joy Harris, TCEcD Assistant Commissioner Amy New, and Assistant Commissioner of Safety and Homeland Security David Purkey.

From the Legislature, city officials will hear from Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris; Sen. Jim Tracy, chairman of Senate Transportation Committee; Sen. Ken Yager, chairman of the Senate State and Local Government Committee; Rep. Tim Wirtgaw, chairman of the House Local Government Committee; and Rep. Charles Sargent, chairman of the House Finance Committee.

Conference registration opens at 11 a.m. on Monday, March 14, followed by a buffet lunch at 12 noon. The conference will kick off at 1 p.m. and run through 5 p.m. on Monday afternoon. On Tuesday, March 15, things will get underway at 7:30 a.m. with a breakfast served until 8 a.m. The conference program will begin at 8 a.m. and continue until



Gov. Bill Haslam

10 a.m. The two-day conference provides an excellent forum to network with other municipal officials and interact with your legislators.

For information regarding registration and hotel reservations, visit www.TML1.org

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Monday, March 14

11:00 am	Registration
12:00 pm	Buffet Lunch
1:00 pm	Gov. Bill Haslam
1:30 pm	Rep. Tim Wirtgaw
1:45 pm	Amy New, TCEcD Asst. Commissioner
2:00 pm	TML Staff Reports
2:30 pm	Dan Haskell
2:45 pm	Hospitality Association
3:00 pm	Justin P. Wilson
3:30 pm	State Comptroller
5:00 pm	Joy Harris
	Asst. Treasurer
	Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey
	House Floor Session

Tuesday, March 15

7:30 am	Breakfast
8:00 am	Speaker Beth Harwell
8:15 am	Rep. Charles Sargent
8:30 am	Sen. Jim Tracy
8:45 am	Sen. Mark Norris
9:00 am	Sen. Ken Yager
9:30 am	David Purkey
	Asst. Commissioner
	Safety & Homeland Security
10:30 am	Senate State & Local Government Committee
	Legislative Plaza

Job growth, consumer spending to boost state, national economies

Job growth and consumer spending continue to grow and position Tennessee and the nation's economies for a strong 2016, according to a report released from UT's Center for Business and Economic Research.

"Financial market instability has captured the headlines, but the fact is that the nation's economy is in good shape and continues to expand," said Matt Murray, associate director of CBER and the report's lead author.

According to the 2016 Economic Report to the Governor of the State of Tennessee, 2015 saw a significant increase in new jobs for the nation, along with the lowest national unemployment rate since 2008.

These positive factors, coupled with falling gas and food prices, led to consumption reaching its high-

est growth rate since 2006. Strong consumer spending has picked up the slack from reduced exports, concerns about financial markets and the oil and gas industry, and the economic slowdown in China.

Residential and nonresidential investment also grew in 2015—a good sign for the housing sector, which showed only modest growth in 2014.

While interest rates increased in 2015 and will continue to rise in 2016, both residential and nonresidential investments are expected to expand, according to the report.

The study predicts the course of the state and national economies by examining fiscal factors and trends.

Highlights include:

Tennessee Economy

See **ECONOMY** on Page 3

What steps are already in place to keep Tennessee's drinking water safe?

BY KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

While many Tennesseans are familiar with the lakes, rivers and streams that help supply water to their communities, not many think about how that water travels from those sources to their tap.

With reports of contaminated water and related health concerns coming out of Flint, Mich., many people are asking more questions about where their water comes from and how it is treated. Steve Wyatt, utility operations consultant with the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS), said he has received some inquiries about how Tennessee regulates its drinking water. He usually advises anyone with concerns to first talk to their local water plant operators, whether they be municipal water departments or working through a local utility district.

"Talk to your operators and get a good understanding of what they are already doing. Learn about your results and what has been reported through your yearly Consumer Confidence Report, which has to be published in the local newspaper," he said. "Mainly, I would advise people not to jump to conclusions before they talk to their own people and their local TDEC representative."

While the state has regulations controlling watersheds, not every municipality in the state draws water from local lakes, rivers or streams. Some, like Memphis, draw their water directly from the ground because it is more cost effective – and some-



The water issues in Flint, Mich., have prompted both residents and officials to question the safety of their own water supply. Water must meet standards set out in the Tennessee Safe Drinking Water Act and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's Water Division requires each water system be tested on a two-to-three year cycle. Finding out about your community's water supply can be as simple as checking your water department's Consumer Confidence Report.

times cleaner – than other sources.

The basic pH level of groundwater is between 5.2 and 5.4. Wyatt said water plants work to make that pH level at neutral or around a 7 to be potable, or water safe for human consumption. Water from the ground or other sources goes through several steps before it reaches the tap.

"Water plants have pumps that pull water out of the river or the watershed," he said. "The water first goes through a screen to keep out fish, insects and other things. They may add chemicals before the water is pumped into a basin. Then coagu-

lants and flocculants are put with the water into a mixer called a settling basin."

The impurities clump together then settle to the bottom of the basin in a process known as sedimentation as the impurities weigh more than the water. At this point, the water is halfway through the cleaning process.

"The water then goes through filters made out of sand, gravel and charcoal to catch more impurities, like dust, parasites and bacteria," Wyatt said. "The federal government requires that the water be so clean, See **WATER** on Page 3

Lower ISO rating means improved fire protection, lower insurance premiums

BY DENNIS WOLF

MTAS Fire Management Consultant

Every property owner in every city in Tennessee is affected by the Insurance Services Office Public Protection Classification (PPCTM), more commonly called the ISO Rating. However, many people are not aware of how the classification affects their community.

There is a direct correlation between lower ISO Ratings and reduced property loss due to fire. A community's investment in fire prevention and suppression as represented by the ISO Rating is a proven and reliable predictor of future fire loss. Insurance companies use the ISO Rating as one component in establishing property insurance rates. A lower ISO Rating means that, all other factors being equal, those property owners typically pay lower insurance rates than similar property owners in a community with a higher ISO Rating.

Cities that the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) has worked with on their ISO Rating have reported savings of between 2 to 9 percent for a lower (i.e. improved) ISO Rating in the Class 1 through Class 4 rating range, and from 5 to 10 percent in the Class 5 through Class 8 rating range.

The city of Adamsville (population 2,207), for example, expects the owners of 1 and 2-family homes to collectively save approximately \$42,700 per year on property insurance premiums as a result of Adamsville lowering the community's ISO Rating from Class 6 to Class 4. Since ISO may not return for a reevaluation for five years, this represents a potential five-year savings of approximately \$213,500. And this is a conservative number since it does not reflect the savings that commercial property owners will enjoy – which is not possible to estimate the savings for commercial property since those policies are written individually. Residential properties are typically written using a formula.

These collective savings enjoyed by a community's citizenry can help justify the expenditure of funds used to improve fire protection such as improving communications



An improved ISO Rating means lower insurance premiums for residential and commercial property owners, improved fire protection capability, and a safer community.

capability, increasing the number of firefighters available, replacing or adding apparatus, purchasing needed equipment, or improving the water supply. So frequently, people think of it as the "fire department's ISO Rating," when in fact it is more than that – it is a community ISO Rating.

The benefits to communities are not just monetary. A lower ISO Rating means that the residents enjoy a higher level of fire protection, better response times, better trained firefighters, and an adequate water supply to protect high-value properties. A lower ISO Rating can be a factor in recruiting new businesses to a community since property insurance premiums are a cost of doing business, and a competitive insurance

premium lowers overhead costs. Plus, the ISO Fire Suppression Rating Schedule can assist fire chiefs, city leaders, and elected officials in planning for improved fire protection in a community when conducting a cost-benefit analysis related to improving fire protection.

So just how are communities classified or assigned an ISO rating?

ISO is a company that collects a variety of information on many different elements of risk that insurance companies can purchase and use in whatever proprietary way they may want to use it to assist them in setting property insurance premiums. Examples of the information ISO collects includes community fire See **ISO** on Page 3

Transportation Coalition



Driving on deficient roads costs Tennessee motorists a total of \$5.6 billion annually in the form of additional vehicle operating costs (VOC), congestion-related delays, and traffic crashes.

Source: A new study released by The Road Information Program, or TRIP, a national transportation research firm.

NEWS
ACROSS
TENNESSEE

HOHENWALD
Sole Supports will open a new manufacturing facility in Hohenwald, expanding its current operations in the area. The foot orthotics manufacturer will invest \$500,000 and create 54 new jobs. Sole Supports is an innovator for foot correction, casting and manufacturing technology. The company has created a new paradigm for foot correction. Sole Supports’ customers include podiatrists, chiropractors, physical therapists and the military. Sole Supports will keep its current Lyle location but will expand to an existing 16,000 square foot facility in Hohenwald that the company will renovate. With this new facility, the company plans to expand its business and keep up with the growing market demand.

LYNCHBURG
The Brown-Forman Corporation has announced plans to expand the Jack Daniel Distillery in Lynchburg through a \$140 million investment expected to create 30 new jobs. Two new barrelhouses and some modifications will be added to the existing bottling facility to provide additional bottling and shipping capacity. In addition to the new barrelhouses and bottling facility modifications, the current expansion will also involve renovations to the Visitor Center to support increased tourism and enhance the visitor experience. The Jack Daniel Distillery underwent a separate expansion less than three years ago, which included the addition of stills, barrel warehouses and related infrastructure. Last year, the distillery received more than 275,000 guests from around the world.

KNOXVILLE
The city of Knoxville has seen a 41 percent increase in the number of building permits issued in 2015. The 2015 permits were valued at \$360 million in 2015, up from the \$105 million in 2014. The value of permits issued in 2015 are the highest the city has seen in eight years and the highest since the beginning of the recession in 2008. In 2015, the city’s plans review and inspections staff also issued 23 percent more permits, performed 10 percent more construction expansions, and increased the number of zoning inspections performed by 200 percent over 2014.

MURFREESBORO
The city of Murfreesboro has purchased a church building on 1.87-acres of property on the corner

of East College and Church Street formerly owned by Franklin Synergy Bank. The \$1.55 million cash agreement allows the bank to lease space in its former headquarters building as part of efforts to promote and preserve Murfreesboro’s downtown. Before Franklin Synergy Bank purchased the building it was the site of First United Methodist Church and has an iconic bell tower. The church operated until 2003, and city officials are hoping to preserve the bell and parts of the church building, which date back to 1888.

NASHVILLE
Nashville has been declared one of the top destinations for recent tech graduates, according to a recent study. The Music City has been dubbed an emerging tech hub thanks to efforts like the Nashville Entrepreneurship Center and Google for Entrepreneurs Tech Hub. The city also received high rankings for its high level of tech mentors available and low cost of living. The study said many of the businesses located in Nashville have brand recognition. For those looking for something smaller, the city was also ranked No. 24 in the company for startup density, making the city attractive for tech grads wanting to start their own companies. The rankings by DataFox, an online intelligence platform that allows smaller businesses to collect real-time analytics, data and market information, were based on factors like financial stability, mentorship opportunities, name recognition, and growth opportunity.

SWEETWATER
The city of Sweetwater held a groundbreaking ceremony for the Train Depot replica, a project several years in the making. The Train Depot will serve as a visitors’ center and downtown focal point, containing museum and art exhibits for the city. The facility will also serve as a trailhead in the future. The facility will be constructed by Knoxville-based P&W Construction on a city-owned property known as Hunt Commons. Located between the railroad tracks and the Sweetwater Utilities Board Garage, the proper was named after the late Joey Hunt, a Sweetwater High School graduate who was killed in Iraq in 2005. The 1,200-square-foot facility is being funded through a \$380,000 grant, and the Sweetwater Merchant and Property Owners Association contributed more than \$35,000 to the project.

Four municipalities certified by National Park Service

The cities of **Cleveland, Jefferson City, Paris** and **Savannah** have been designated certified local governments by the National Park Service.

The CLG designation makes communities official partners in the federal historic preservation program to promote historic preservation on the local level.

Communities with this designation can use expert technical historic preservation advice from the National Park Service as well as their state historic preservation office. It also gives communities access to grants for historic preservation through the Historic Preservation Fund for Certified Local Government.

The CLG program helps link the three levels of government into a preservation partnership for the identification, evaluation, and protection

of historic properties.

In order to become certified, a local government must meet several requirements, chief of which is committing to enforcing local and state historic preservation laws and establishing a qualified historic preservation commission.

These four Tennessee cities were among 34 communities selected for the program in 2015, and among 38 CLG cities in Tennessee. They are: Bartlett, Bolivar, Brownsville, Chattanooga, Clarksville, Collierville, Columbia, Cookeville, Covington, Dandridge, Franklin, Gainesboro, Gallatin, Greenville, Harriman, Hohenwald, Jackson, Johnson City, Jonesborough, Kingsport, Knoxville, LaGrange, Martin, McKenzie, McMinnville, Memphis, Murfreesboro, Nashville, Rogersville, Shelbyville, and Sparta.

Tennessee cities to celebrate big anniversaries

Four Tennessee cities will be celebrating major anniversaries this year.

Knoxville will turn 225-years-old this year with a culmination of anniversary celebrations on Oct. 3.

Founded in 1791 as capital of the Southwestern Territory, Knoxville will hold its annual Founders Day Weekend from Sept. 30 through Oct. 3. A luncheon held on Oct. 3 will help raise funds to benefit Knoxville’s historic homes.

Knoxville was founded by Revolutionary War officer James White, his friend James Connor, and William Blount. Blount, who was a surveyor appointed to the area by George Washington, later became Speaker of the Tennessee Senate and represented Tennessee as a U.S. Senator in Congress. Blount named the city for Revolutionary War general and Secretary of War Henry Knox.

Also celebrating are three Tennessee cities who are marking their sesquicentennials. The cities of **Humboldt, Milan** and **Spring Hill** were all officially incorporated into the state of Tennessee on Feb. 15,

1866, through a special proclamation issued by the Tennessee General Assembly.

While established in 1809, the city of Spring Hill in Maury County was not formally recognized by the state legislature until 1866. The city typically marks 1808 – the year the first settlers arrived – as the anniversary of its founding.

The three communities grew rapidly in the middle of a post-Civil War boom. Humboldt was established as a railroad town prior to the Civil War, but it wasn’t until after the war it was officially incorporated. The city was named for German naturalist Alexander von Humboldt, who was known for his exploration of Latin America, the United States and Russia.

Milan grew up around a store established by B.A. Williamson and John Sanford in 1858. Some believe the city was named after Milan, Italy, while others believe the name was recorded as such because a surveyor misheard B.A. Williamson’s pronunciation of “my land.”

Municipalities offer basic driver’s license services

Lawrenceburg first city hall, others to follow

BY KATE COIL
TML Communications Specialist

Municipalities and the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security are working together to make it more convenient for citizens to access basic driver’s license services, thanks to a recent change in state statute.

Legislation passed in 2015 amends T.C.A. § 55-50-331 to expand the definition to include both city and county governments may contract with the Department of Safety for the provision of service related to the issuance, examination and renewal of driver’s licenses. Lawrenceburg was the first city hall to start offering driver’s license services.

According to Michael Hogan, director of Tennessee Department of Safety’s Driver Services Division, it’s a win-win situation. Citizens save time and money with community-located centers; the state saves money through these agreements with local governments; and cities and counties that offer these services bring in additional revenue through a \$4 transaction fee that by statute are authorized to charge and retain for administrative costs.

Hogan explained that when DMV centers across the state were being merged, the department began reaching out to county clerks to see if they could offer some basic services to residents out of their offices.

“Back in 2012, the department underwent some restructuring and had to consolidate some of our centers,” he said. “Part of that was cost savings.”

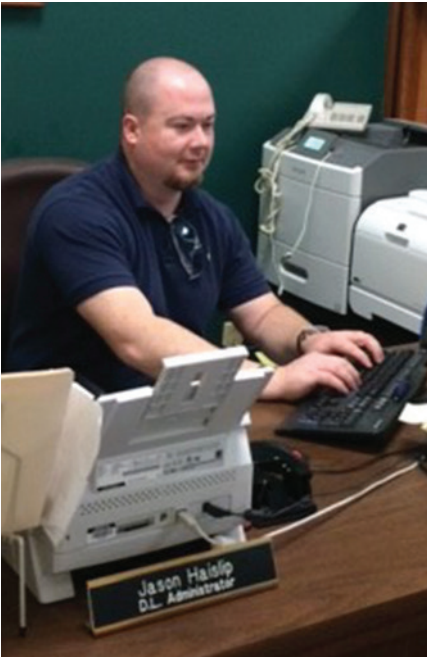
Currently, the department has 39 partnerships with local county clerks. However, not all of the county clerks had the infrastructure or personnel to offer the services. So when the Lawrence County Clerk did not have the resources to continue offering services in their area, it was officials from the city of Lawrenceburg who stepped in. Lawrenceburg City Administrator Chris Shaffer explained that the city had just moved into a new building on the square and had some space to spare when the city began partnering with the state DMV.

“We are located in an old bank building, and one of our goals was to increase foot traffic on the square to revitalize downtown Lawrenceburg,” he said. “The Lawrenceburg Utility moved in on one floor, the chamber of commerce on another, and we wanted to bring the driver’s services here as well. It has been a shot in the arm for our economy as well as a service to the taxpayers.

“We look at it as a one-stop shop,” Shaffer continued. “You can pay your utility bills, your property tax, stop in to see if something is going on at the chamber of commerce and get your driver’s license renewed. We are really doing better than what we thought we would. We are running 10 percent higher than we anticipated.”

Jason Hayslip conducts the driver’s services at Lawrenceburg City Hall, and said he averages about 15 customers a day.

With the success seen in Lawrenceburg, the state began reaching



The city of Lawrenceburg is the first Tennessee city to offer basic driver’s license renewal services. The time-saving measure is a win-win for all involved. Jason Hayslip, pictured above, conducts the driver’s license services at Lawrenceburg City Hall and said he averages about 15 customers a day.



In addition to stations for in-person renewals, the state is adding more self-service kiosks in under-served areas of the state. These kiosks allow drivers to change addresses, change their names and renew licenses.

out to other communities, likes Clarksville. Hogan said Clarksville Mayor Kim McMillan was instrumental in helping bring services to the city, and those services will begin being offered at Clarksville City Hall by late February or early March.

“We are so excited to offer this service because we know it can be a real time-saver,” Mayor McMillan said. “Our staff will be well-trained to answer questions and handle requests for renewing or replacing driver’s licenses or state identification cards. The station will be located on the first floor of city hall. I appreciate the Department of Safety and Homeland Security for working with us to provide this much needed service.”

Hogan said these partnerships can help residents in smaller communities like Lawrenceburg so they don’t have to travel as far for necessary services. For larger entities like Clarksville, the partnerships help provide more options for services in a growing community.

As cities across the state contin-

ue to grow and need services, Hogan said the state is hoping to build more partnerships. The state has also been in talks with McMinnville about using vacant space in their city hall to offer driving testing services.

“There are a couple of other partnerships we are going to pursue later this year,” Hogan said. “There are two communities in West Tennessee we are already talking to, and I am hoping to have five partnerships by the end of the year. “

Hogan said this option also helps the department keep a presence in communities.

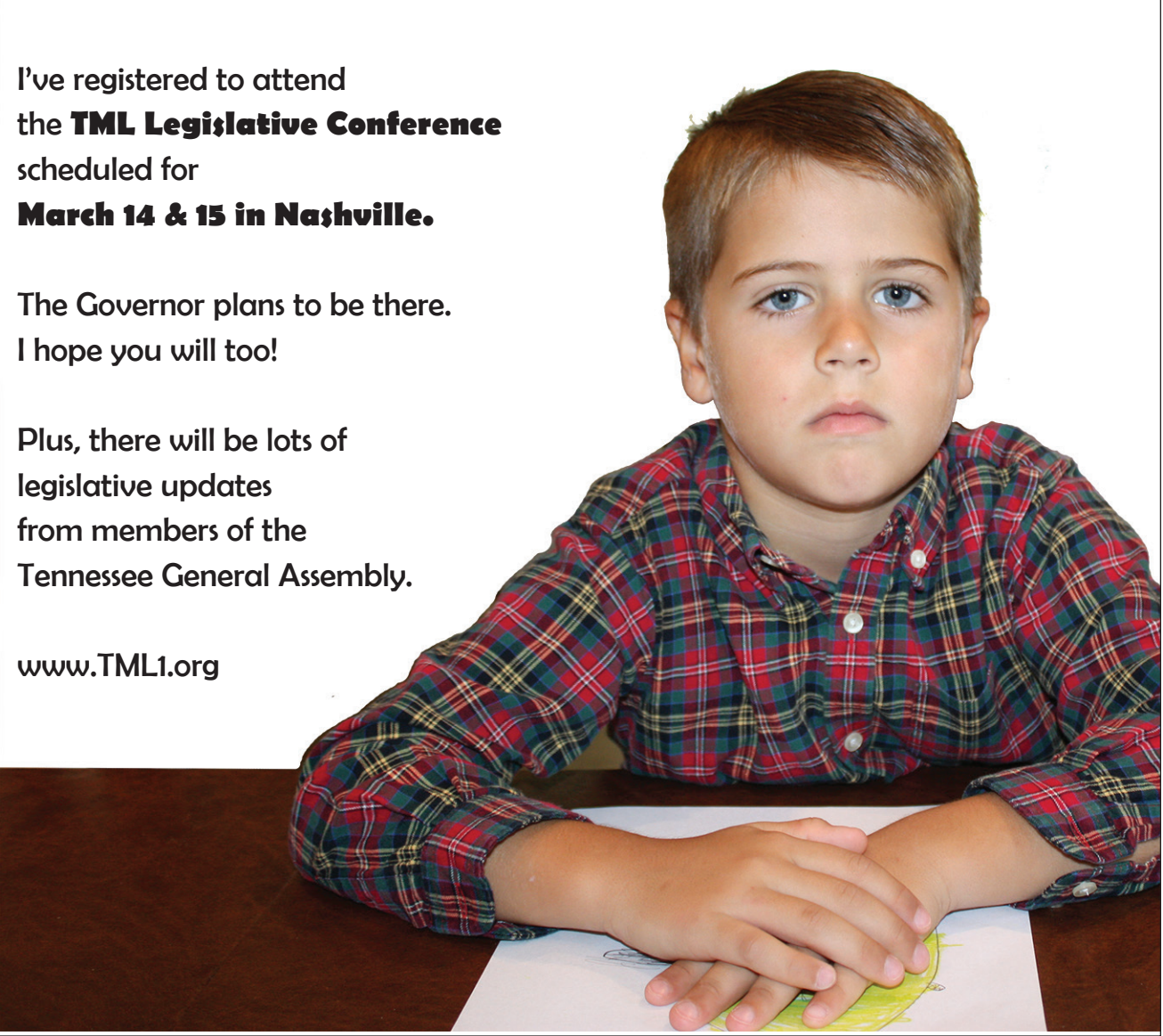
“We have counties where we do not have a presence. And if there are communities that are open to a partnership with us, we would be open to that as well,” he said. “We are going to continue to reach out to communities across the state. Having these satellite offices throughout the state might be the way we are going in the future. If there is a location in my community or a self-service kiosk I can go to, that is just a win for everyone.”

I’ve registered to attend
the **TML Legislative Conference**
scheduled for
March 14 & 15 in Nashville.

The Governor plans to be there.
I hope you will too!

Plus, there will be lots of
legislative updates
from members of the
Tennessee General Assembly.

www.TML1.org



Improved ISO rating means improved fire protection, lower insurance premiums

ISO from Page 1

protection capability, flood risks, building construction information, the presence of built-in fire protection features such as fire sprinklers, standpipes, and fire pumps, adopted fire and building codes, and the enforcement of those codes.

Specifically for the Public Protection Classification, ISO collects information on a community’s capability in emergency communications (i.e. 9-1-1, and the receiving and retransmitting of fire alarms to the fire department). ISO collects information on the fire department, which includes staffing, training, pre-fire planning, apparatus, operational considerations, and the deployment of fire resources throughout the community. ISO collects information on the public water supply, treatment and storage capability, and on the number and capacity of fire hydrants throughout the community. Finally, ISO collects information on the community’s risk reduction (CRR) efforts, which includes fire prevention, fire investigation, code enforcement, and fire reporting efforts. ISO provides this information to insurance companies through the Public Protection Classification (PPC™) program. Insurance companies use this information to assist them in setting competitive insurance premiums in the community. Every insurance company uses this information, since ISO is the only company in the country that collects the information, but how they use it varies from one insurance company to the next.

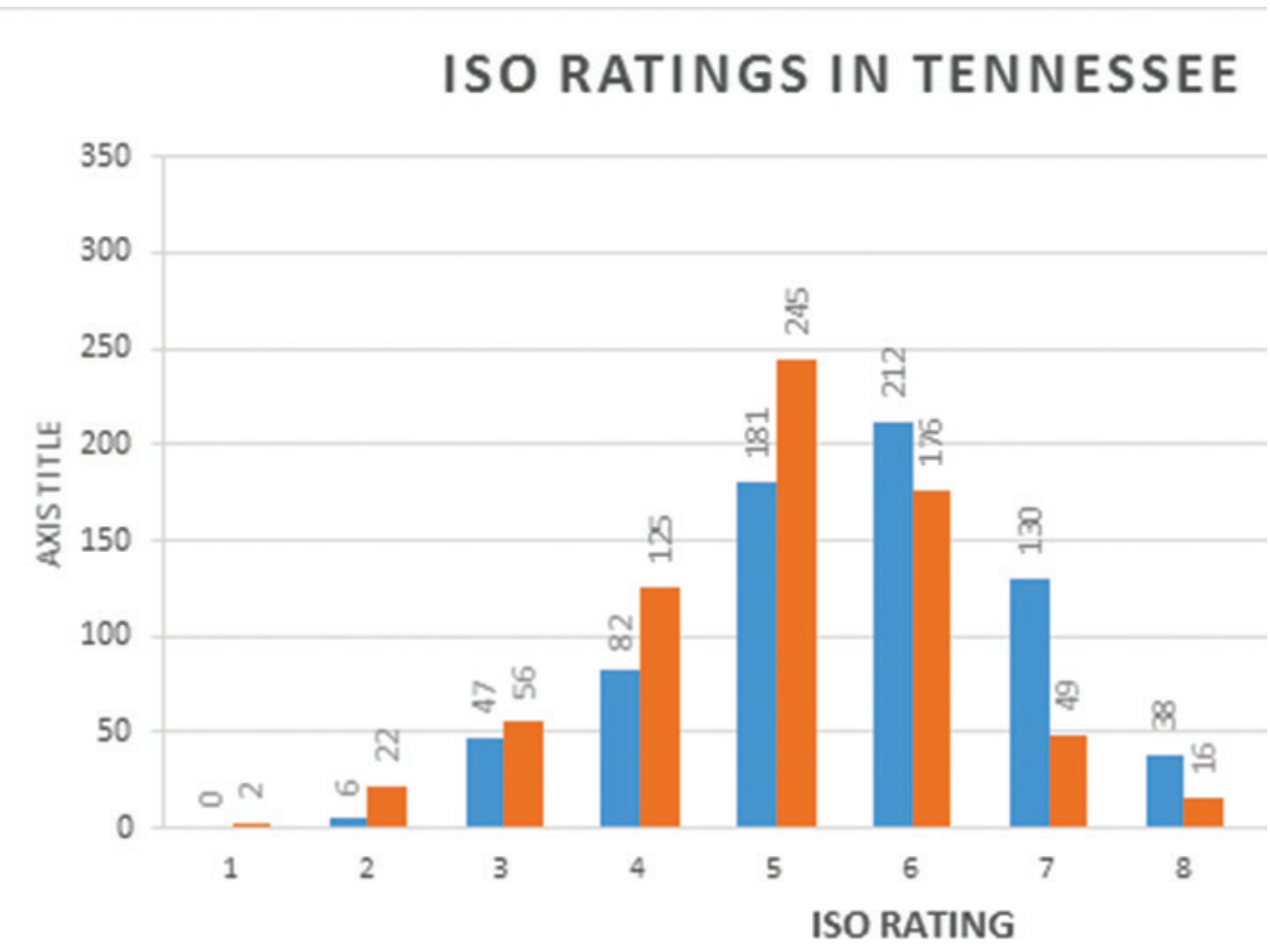
ISO scores community fire protection capability on a 100 point scale, but it is possible to earn as many as 105.5 points under the ISO Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS). In the Fire Suppression Rating

ing Schedule, emergency communications is worth 10 percent of the score, the fire department’s capabilities are worth 50 percent of the score, and the water supply is worth 40 percent of the score. Community risk reduction is worth an additional 5.5 points, which gets added to the total of the other scores. Thus, the highest possible score is 105.5 points, but the rating is scored on 100 points, which highlights the importance of having strong community risk reduction efforts in your community.

The ISO Rating quantifies the efforts of communities to provide fire protection services for residents and property owners. ISO awards the ISO Rating based on the total number of points scored, and 10 points separate each classification. The highest classification is Class 1, which means the community earned at least 90 points total. The lowest Classification is Class 10, which means the community scored less than 10 points and has no recognized fire protection.

Many communities in Tennessee have benefited from the changes in the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule that took effect in Tennessee July 1, 2013, especially in the area of community risk reduction efforts. The following chart compares the ISO Rating for all communities in Tennessee in 2014 and again in 2016. Notice that before the new schedule took effect, Tennessee had no Class 1 communities. Now, Tennessee has two Class 1 communities and has seen an increase in the number of communities with ISO ratings of Class 5 or better, which indicates that the new grading schedule is good for communities.

An improved ISO Rating is good for a community. Improving the ISO Rating means lower insurance



Many communities in Tennessee have benefited from the changes in the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule that took effect in Tennessee July 1, 2013, especially in the area of community risk reduction efforts. The above chart compares the ISO Rating for all communities in Tennessee in 2014 (blue), and again in 2016 (orange). Before the new schedule took effect, Tennessee had no Class 1 communities. Now, Tennessee has two Class 1 communities and has seen an increase in the number of communities with ISO ratings of Class 5 or better.

premiums for residential and commercial property owners, improved fire protection capability, and a safer community. Community leaders should not chase an ISO Rating, but should become familiar with the ISO

Fire Suppression Rating Schedule and use it as one component of a comprehensive analysis of community fire protection based on local needs. For more information on the ISO Public Protection Classification program visit <https://www.isomitation.com/ppc-program.html>. For assistance with your community’s ISO Rating contact Dennis Wolf, MTAS Fire Management Consultant at dennis.wolf@tennessee.edu.

What steps are in place to keep Tennessee’s drinking water safe?

WATER from Page 1

and that turbidity is recorded.”

Once the water has been filtered, many water treatment plants choose to add chlorine, fluoride and a rust inhibitor to the water. While chlorine is the only chemical water plants must add by state law, fluoride is often added to help citizens with teeth and bone health, while a rust inhibitor is added as an anti-corrosive agent to prevent chemicals from rust within the pipes from getting into the water.

Part of the issue in Flint was the failure to put an anti-corrosive agent into the water. This agent was responsible for preventing lead particles in older, mainly residential pipes from contaminating water. While there may still be lead lines in Tennessee, Wyatt said the majority of lead pipes are located in homes, not on pipes owned by municipal water systems or public utilities as these systems have been phasing out lead pipes for nearly 40 years.

“Some people may still have lead pipes, particularly in the plumbing of older, private households,” he said. “Pipes can be made up of a lot of things – concrete, cast iron and plastic. There were even asbestos pipes, but those have been removed. The water pipes in Michigan are older as they began phasing out lead pipes in the 1970s. The lifetime of water pipes are between 40 and 50 years.

What you put in 40 or 50 years ago may have worked then, but things have changed. Regulations have changed.”

Another issue was that Flint changed its water source from pre-treated water piped in from nearby Detroit to water straight from the Flint River, which then had to be treated. Wyatt said it is very rare in Tennessee for a municipality or utility to decide to switch water sources. He said Tennessee also has a large number of watersheds and water resources as well as the recently passed Inter-Basin Water Transfer Act, which controls where water in the state goes and who can use it.

Wyatt said cities are required to keep an active permit in order to provide water to residents, and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation’s Water Division requires each water system be tested on a two-to-three year cycle.

Water must meet standards set out in the Tennessee Safe Drinking Water Act, and are rated based on pH level, taste or odor, temperature, turbidity, and the concentration of E. coli. Water regulations also test for chemicals in the water including antimony, arsenic, lead, mercury, nickel, styrene, nitrate and other pollutants. Standards are set out for how much of a chemical or chemical compound can appear in water.

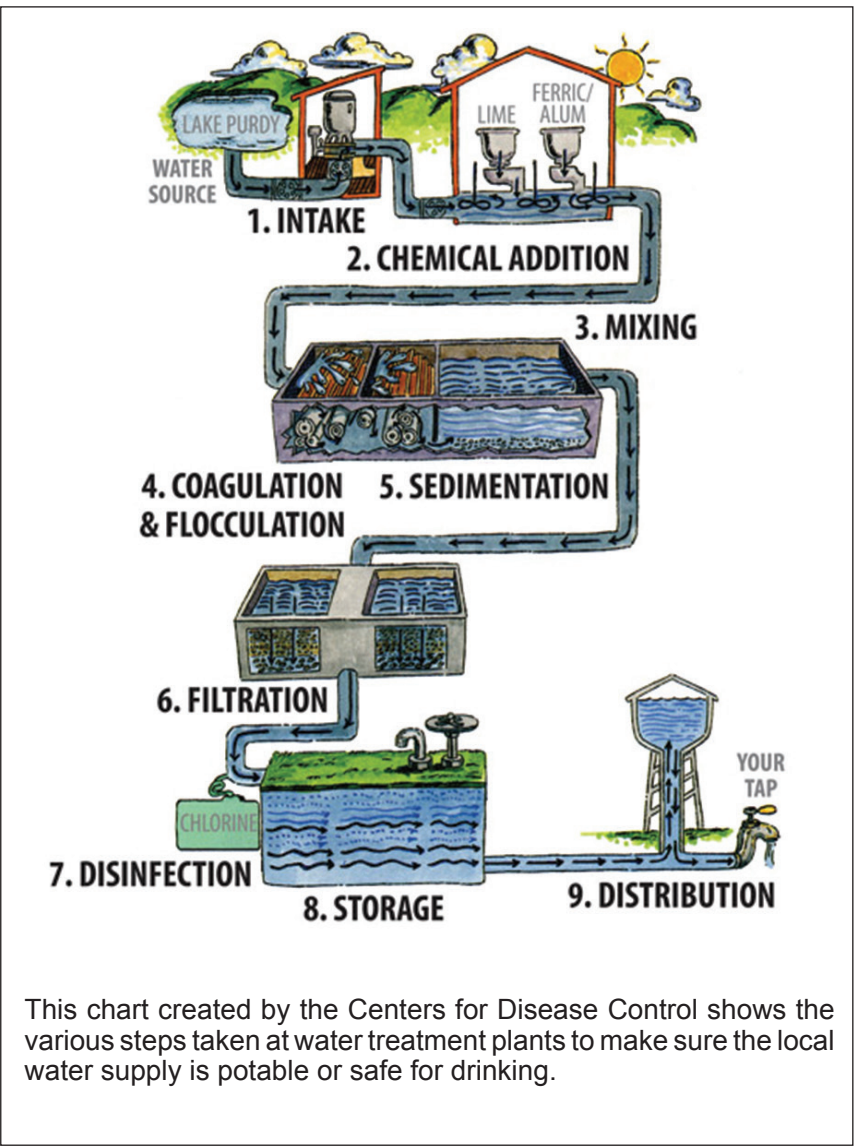
The state is also available to help municipalities that want to create emergency action plans in the event vandals or terrorists contaminate local water supplies.

TDEC rates water systems with a score of 95-100 being approved, 94-90 being provisional approval, and 89 or below being unapproved. Wyatt said the state commissioner can shut down a water system in Tennessee as a last resort, but said he has never heard of that actually happening. Wyatt, himself a licensed and water wastewater operator, said those with licenses can face steep penalties if they are not accurate with their reporting of water conditions.


“TDEC has the ability to advise and if there is a problem, they have to be notified within 24 hours,” he said. “A licensed water and wastewater operator is both civilly and criminally responsible for everything we do. We can go to jail for not doing our job.”

Wyatt said it is important for citizens and officials to educate themselves about their local water supply and what steps are already in place to keep Tennessee drinking water safe.

“There is no need to cause a panic without knowing what is already going on,” he said. “Look at your data and get informed before doing anything.”



MEMBER FOCUSED



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PEOPLE

Keith Alley has been appointed as Farragut’s town judge by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. Alley was sworn in Feb. 11 during a meeting at town hall. Before being appointed as town judge, he previously served on the town’s Board of Zoning Appeals since 2011, and is currently the board’s vice chairman. He has also been a board member of Legal Aid of East Tennessee since 2012, and currently serves as secretary on the board. Alley holds a juris doctorate degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law and has been a practicing attorney for more than 20 years. He currently serves as the lead litigation attorney at Holbrook Peterson Smith PLLC, providing oversight for the firm’s litigation matters and representing clients with issues in matters such as construction, real estate, conservatorships, will contests, contract disputes and personal injuries.

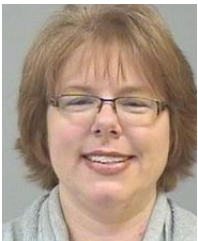


Keith Alley

which runs until 2018. Francavilla is an associate attorney with the Brannon Law Firm and was one of eight candidates who applied to fill the vacancy. Francavilla earned his bachelor’s degree in psychology from Colgate University in 1994, and received his juris doctorate from the University of Memphis’ Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law in 1997.

Beth Hickman

has been appointed as the new Oak Ridge city clerk, taking over from former City Clerk Diana Stanley after her resignation in November. Hickman’s duties include maintaining and preserving the city’s official records, coordinating city council agenda materials, attending all city council meetings, preparing minutes, and providing staff support to city council. Presently employed at Vanderbilt University Law School as a faculty assistant, Hickman has more than 15 years of management and administrative experience in both the private and public sector. She served as field representative for former U.S. Congressman Lincoln Davis, and as executive assistant at the Roane Alliance. Hickman holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from Vanderbilt and a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville.



Beth Hickman

Hulen Bivens

has been selected as the new director of the Spring Hill Public Library by the Spring Hill Library Board of Trustees. A former director of the South Carolina and North Dakota State Library systems, Bivens has more than 40 years of experience. He started work on Feb. 16. Bivens holds a bachelor’s degree in history from Lipscomb University, a master’s in library sciences from the University of Tennessee, and a juris doctorate from the Faulkner University Jones School of Law. Bivens has worked as a librarian in West Virginia, Alabama, North Dakota, South Carolina and Tennessee. He will replace former director Alan Couch, who left the position in May 2015, to become associate director of Public Services for the Pikes Peak Library District in Colorado Springs, Colo.



Hulen Bivens

Mark Lafever

has been appointed to the Erwin Board of Mayor of Aldermen to fill the position left vacant by former Alderman Michael Baker. Lafever has previously served the town as an alderman and also served as the public works director of the town. Lafever was one of several names put forward for the position. Baker resigned his post to prevent any conflict of interest after taking a job with an insurance company that frequently does business with the city.



Mark Lafever

Kate Collier

has been selected as the new city manager for the city of Mt. Pleasant, and formally beginning her position on Feb. 5. Before coming to work in Mt. Pleasant, Collier was the director of human resources for the city of Columbia for 15 years. She also served as the human resources director for the city of St. Charles, Mo., from 2010 to 2012. Before that, she worked with the St. Louis County Health Department and was director of St. Louis’ beautification agency, Operation Brightside. A native of St. Louis, she graduated from St. Louis University.



Kate Collier

Shira McWaters

has been hired as director of the Oak Ridge Department of Public Works, replacing longtime director Gary Cinder who retired in September. McWaters will administer all public works activities for the city and will be responsible for approximately 100 full-time employees. A professional engineer, she has more than 22 years of experience with the water and wastewater industry in the private sector before coming to Oak Ridge. She is presently employed with the firm Tata & Howard in Flagstaff, Ariz. McWaters also holds a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts and professional engineering licenses in Massachusetts and Arizona.



Shira McWaters

Timothy J. “Tim” Francavilla

has been appointed the interim Bartlett City Court judge. Francavilla will step into the position held by the late Freeman Marr and will serve in the position until an election can be held in November. The candidate selected in November will finish Marr’s District 1 term,



Tim Francavilla

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TACIR completes studies on hotel motel taxes, homestead exemptions, and TVA payments in lieu of taxes

The Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR) has recently concluded its reports on three studies, each required by state law, that provide a glimpse into the breadth and complexity of the policy issues routinely confronted by the state and its local governments.

While the three reports cover disparate topics—lodging taxes, homestead exemptions, and payments in lieu of taxes—they each demonstrate the complex, overlapping nature of our federal, state, and local governments and how the actions of one can affect others.

TACIR’s reports are posted on its website at www.tn.gov/tacir.

Hotel - Motel Taxes

The first report, *Structuring Lodging Taxes to Preserve the Economy and Encourage Tourism*, responds to Public Chapter 395, Acts of 2015, which directed TACIR to study the effect of hotel occupancy taxes on the economy, tourism, and the hospitality industry; compare Tennessee’s hotel occupancy tax structure with other states; and consider methods to require public input before adopting lodging taxes.

Like Tennessee, most states levy a state tax on lodging—either a lodging tax or a general sales tax or in 10 cases both—and most allow their local governments to tax lodging as well. In fact, 28 states including Tennessee allow some or all local governments both to levy lodging taxes and to apply their sales taxes to lodging. This layering of taxes is not unusual, although allowing city and county taxes to overlap is less common. But most states do not make these authorizations county by county and city by city. Twenty-one grant broad authorization in general law for all local governments to levy lodging taxes, and seven others broadly authorize either cities or counties to levy lodging taxes. Most cap the rates, but a few allow rates to be set locally including a handful that require referendums. Only five require public hearings on lodging tax proposals.

In the report, TACIR says that although there is little evidence that Tennessee’s economy or the tourism and hospitality industries are adversely affected by its lodging tax structure, there may be other reasons to reduce its complexity. Advantages and disadvantages are discussed, as are options such as granting general authority up to some maximum rate, with or without an earmark, in order to reduce the number of individual requests that come to the legislature each year.

Homestead Exemptions

The second report, *Tennessee’s Homestead Exemptions: Adjusting*

Them to Reflect the Cost of Living, responds to Public Chapter 326, Acts of 2015, which required TACIR to study the homestead exemption amounts in Tennessee and determine whether they should be increased to accurately reflect the cost of living. The act also required TACIR to compare the various categories of homestead exemptions in detail to those of other states.

Tennessee, like other states, has laws protecting certain property from the claims of creditors. Called exemption laws, their goal is to ensure that debtors are not left destitute when they fall on hard times. These laws protect both real and personal property. A set of federal exemptions is available to debtors in all states unless the state has passed a law saying otherwise. Only 19 states allow their residents to choose between the federal and state sets of exemptions; Tennessee is one of the 31 that do not.

Real property protections are called homestead exemptions and typically protect a certain amount of equity held in an individual’s primary residence but in some states protect the entire residence regardless of its value. Whatever the amount protected, it is exempt from judgments that would otherwise allow creditors to force the sale of the debtor’s property.

Although the exemptions can be used to protect property from any judgment sought by a creditor, they are most often used in bankruptcy proceedings and were studied by TACIR primarily in that context. In fact, debtors sometimes file bankruptcy to protect their property from other types of judgments.

In the report, TACIR takes note of the fact that Tennessee has the lowest homestead exemption of the states that do not allow the use of the federal homestead exemption and has the third lowest combined dollar value of all property exemptions—only Missouri’s and Alabama’s are lower—and estimates that Tennessee’s homestead exemption amounts for individuals and joint owners, which have remained at \$5,000 and \$7,500 since last changed in 1978 and 1980 respectively, would be worth \$18,513 and \$21,907 today if they had kept pace with inflation.

Although many attempts have been made to change those amounts, none have succeeded, but much higher amounts have been set for certain groups of debtors, including those over 62 in 2004 and those with custody of a minor child in 2007.

The report notes that a simple way to bring the amounts for other bankruptcy filers up to date and keep them up to date would be to adopt the federal homestead exemption amount, which is currently \$22,975 for individuals and double that amount for joint bankruptcy filers

and is adjusted for inflation every three years.

Payments in Lieu of Taxes

The final report, *Tennessee Valley Authority’s Payments in Lieu of Taxes*, is the latest in a series of annual reports prepared in response to Public Chapter 1035, Acts of 2010, which requires TACIR to monitor changes in the wholesale distribution of electric power by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and its distributors for possible effects on the Authority’s payments in lieu of taxes to the states in the valley region.

According to a press release issued by TVA in November 2015, TVA’s actual payments for federal fiscal year 2014-15 amounted to \$542 million. The TVA payments, often referred to as payments in lieu of taxes, or PILOTs, are divided among the states based both on revenues from power sold and on the value of power-generating property owned by TVA in each state. Tennessee governments received \$353.9 million in federal fiscal year 2014-15, including \$3.4 million in direct payments to counties. This was an increase of \$9 million over payments to all states in the previous fiscal year.

TACIR says in its latest report that TVA’s estimated payments for the current fiscal year, federal fiscal year 2015-16, are \$7 million below estimates for the previous year because of reduced power sales. For the current year, Tennessee governments will receive an estimated \$344.8 million, of which \$3.4 million will again be paid directly to counties. Tennessee’s percentage of the Authority’s overall payments increased slightly, mostly because TVA retired four coal-fired units at its Widows Creek facility in Alabama in July 2014, reducing that state’s percentage of the PILOT relative to other states.

In the report, TACIR also discusses circumstances that could alter the amount of PILOT revenue paid directly to states in the future, including innovative financing techniques used by TVA to manage within its \$30 billion debt limit, proposed changes in the Authority’s supply system brought about in part in response to economic factors and environmental mandates, and its efforts to manage power demand by its customers.

It also discusses how other planned changes could reduce TVA’s PILOT to Tennessee as well though none have as yet. For example, retirement of ten coal-fired units at TVA’s Johnsonville plant in Humphreys County will reduce the value of power producing property in Tennessee, one of two factors determining its share of the PILOT, unless the reduction is offset by an increase in the value of TVA property elsewhere in Tennessee or by net reductions in other states.

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STATE BRIEFS

January sales taxes posted largest monthly growth rate in FY 2015-16

Strongest second quarter growth since 2006

Strong consumer spending in December pushed Tennessee tax revenues above budgeted estimates for January. Finance and Administration Commissioner Larry Martin today announced that overall January revenues were \$1.3 billion, which is \$45.6 million more than the state budgeted.

“January sales taxes, which included the holiday buying season, posted the largest monthly growth rate so far this fiscal year, and in fact, it’s been our strongest second quarter growth since 2006,” Martin said. “Strong consumer spending, a continued decline in gasoline prices and an overall improving economy contributed to the sales tax growth in January.

“Corporate tax revenues recorded negative growth for the month, but we had a significant and unexpected one-time payment in January of last year that accounts for the difference.”

On an accrual basis, January is the sixth month in the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

General fund revenues were more than the budgeted estimates in the amount of \$51.9 million while the four other funds that share in state tax revenues were \$6.3 million less than the estimates.

Sales taxes were \$58.3 million more than the estimate for January and were 8.6 percent more than January 2015. For six months revenues are \$217.6 million higher than estimated. The year-to-date growth rate for six months was 7.44 percent.

Franchise and excise taxes combined were \$17.0 million less than the budgeted estimate in January and the growth rate over January 2015 was negative 40.8 percent. However, adjusting for last January’s one-time payment, the underlying growth rate in F&E taxes was 10.4 percent.

For six months revenues

are \$140.9 million more than the estimate.

Gasoline and motor fuel revenues for January decreased by 4.2 percent compared to January 2015 and were \$3.5 million less than the budgeted estimate of \$74.0 million. For six months revenues have exceeded estimates by \$14.7 million.

Tobacco taxes were \$4.9 million more than the budgeted estimate of \$16.8 million, and for six months they are \$9.1 million more than the budgeted estimate.

Inheritance and estate taxes fell short of estimates by \$0.4 million for the month.

Year-to-date revenues for six months are \$8.1 million more than the budgeted estimate.

Privilege taxes were \$2.4 million more than the January estimate, and on a year-to-date basis, August through January, revenues are \$12.6 million more than the estimate.

Business taxes were \$1.0 million more than the January estimate. For six months revenues are \$0.6 million more than the budgeted estimate.

All other taxes were below estimates by a net of \$0.1 million.

Year-to-date revenues for six months were \$419.0 million more than the budgeted estimate. The general fund recorded \$395.3 million above budgeted estimates and the four other funds \$23.7 million.

The budgeted revenue estimates for 2015-2016 are based on the State Funding Board’s consensus recommendation of December 16th, 2014 and adopted by the first session of the 109th General Assembly in April 2015. Also incorporated in the estimates are any changes in revenue enacted during the 2015 session of the General Assembly.

These estimates are available on the state’s website at <http://www.tn.gov/finance/article/fa-budget-rev>.

Job growth, consumer spending to boost state, national economies

ECONOMY from Page 1

- Tennessee’s economic growth continued to resemble the nation’s in 2015, and this pattern should continue in 2016.
- Tennessee’s unemployment rate continues to be higher than the 2015 national average of 5.3 percent. The state unemployment rate dropped from 6.6 percent in 2014 to 5.9 percent in 2015. Tennessee’s unemployment rate is expected to average 5.5 percent this year and then fall to 5.4 percent in 2017.

Other report findings:

- Nonfarm employment increased by 1.9 percent in 2015, representing a gain of more than 54,600 jobs. It is expected to grow by 1.7 percent this year and 1.3 percent in 2017.
- Leisure and hospitality fields, professional and business services, and natural resources, mining, and construction should enjoy the largest employment gains in 2016 and 2017.
- Nominal personal income is projected to rise by 4.8 percent this year and 4.7 percent in 2017.
- Taxable sales continue to show rapid growth. Hotels and motels along with light vehicle sales had the strongest taxable sales growth. Nominal taxable sales are expected to expand by 4.7

percent this year and 3.5 percent in 2017.

- Tennessee’s tax revenue growth outpaced both the national and regional average in fiscal year 2015. Tennessee had a 6.5 percent growth rate in total tax revenues. Among the 12 southeastern states, only Virginia, Mississippi, and North Carolina enjoyed faster tax revenue growth than Tennessee.
- In December 2015, tax collections grew by 8.0 percent. Sales tax revenues are up 7.1 percent, and franchise and excise tax collections increased by 23.8 percent compared to December 2014 collections.

In the long term, state education initiatives such as Tennessee Promise and Drive to 55 aim to increase the education status of the state.

“These efforts could support stronger income growth and a narrowing of the gap between the incomes of Tennesseans and other Americans,” said Murray.

The report also includes a topical chapter on higher education in Tennessee, reviewing the landscape on college-going in the past, looking at early indicators of success for Tennessee Promise and highlighting challenges and opportunities for the years ahead.

The Center for Business and Economic Research is housed within the Haslam College of Business.



TN State Parks recently launched a year-long “Adventure Challenge” for families, individuals

Tennessee State Parks recently launched a year-long “Adventure Challenge” where families and individuals are encouraged to get outside across the state.

In this free program, participants earn points based on different adventures. The challenges include hiking a new trail, attending an interpretive program, getting a stamp in your Tennessee State Park Passport, and much more.

Teams can be composed of families, groups or an individual –

pets are welcome to join, too. The goal is to offer unique opportunities to engage with the outdoors, and be active and healthy.

“The goal of this program is to get families who are already enjoying our parks to add new parks and challenges to their list,” said Deputy Commissioner for Parks and Conservation Brock Hill. “After this cold winter and spring on the horizon, we are trying to spread the word now so families can start planning weekend getaways.”

Participants must upload a photo of them or their team engaging in one of the Adventure activities on the Tennessee State Parks Adventure Challenge Facebook page in order to earn points. Teams have until Dec. 15, 2016, to earn as many points as possible to exchange them for prizes.

To join the Challenge, email family.challenge@tn.gov and let your adventure begin! More information can be found at www.tnstateparks.com/activities/adventure-challenge.

Communities urged to apply for TN Arts Commission Placemaking Grants

Submission deadline May 2

For the second year, the Tennessee Arts Commission is offering a Creative Placemaking Grants Competition to help build stronger communities through the arts. Applicants should specifically focus on using arts or cultural assets to enhance the distinctive character of local Tennessee places for positive economic and community outcomes. The submissions deadline is midnight (CST), May 2, 2016.

“Last year we received tremendous interest for this grant, especially in rural counties,” said Anne B. Pope, executive director of the Tennessee Arts Commission. “Through creative placemaking, communities have used their arts and cultural assets to affect their communities in a positive way.”

Creative placemaking provides the opportunity to animate public and private spaces, rejuvenate structures and streetscapes, improve local business visibility and increase pub-

lic safety. It brings diverse people together to build shared understanding of culture and community. This grant competition offers applicants the opportunity to enhance their community’s unique assets, strengthening economic vitality, livability and growth.

“Arts and culture can be used by communities to encourage economic growth, quality of life or tourism, or address barriers to community development,” said Stephanie B. Conner, chair of the Tennessee Arts Commission. “Partnerships among public, private, nonprofit and community sectors can strategically shape the physical and social character of Tennessee’s neighborhoods, towns, cities or regions through the arts.”

The Commission expects to provide five to 10 awards ranging from \$5,000 to \$8,000 for projects that occur in one place. Applications that involve partnerships of two or more towns, cities and/or counties can request up to \$10,000. At least two awards will be made to eligible

rural applicants. A total of \$50,000 in grants will be awarded for FY2017. Projects must take place between July 1, 2016, and June 30, 2017.

Eligible projects could include:

- Arts used as a catalyst to revitalize downtowns or neighborhoods
- Development of an arts or cultural business incubator or apprenticeship program
- Development of an activity or project that encourages greater engagement with the arts in state parks, farmer’s markets, or other natural, unique ecological or recreational assets
- Transformation of a perceived community liability into a community asset through the arts

A list of FY2016 awards is available on the Commission’s website.

Grant applications are now available online. Contact Hal Partlow, Associate Director of Grants at hal.partlow@tn.gov or visit the website for more information.

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community by community,
state by state.
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Tom Boyd
Senior Client Manager
Bank of America Merrill Lynch
Government Banking
1.615.749.3618
thomas.boyd@baml.com
bankofamerica.com/government

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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. 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, regarding the electronic application process, 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

CITY RECORDER

UNICOI. The town of Unicoi (population 3632, 16 sq. miles) is seeking candidates for a city recorder. The town has 9 employees and a \$2 million general fund budget. Duties include accounting, project management, attends and/or facilitates meetings, supervises office, maintenance and parks and recreation employees and volunteers. Job starts as assistant city recorder for approximately four months until current city recorder retires after more than eight years of service. Target starting date for the position is March 14. Starting pay is \$40k. Upon successful completion of training, the applicant will be promoted to city recorder with pay of \$45k to \$48k. College degree required, MPA preferred. Send resume with cover letter to Larry Rea, P.O. Box 39, Unicoi, TN 37692-0039 or email: unicoitownhall@comcast.net.

CODES ENFORCEMENT ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

HARRIMAN. The city of Harriman is accepting applications for the position of Codes Enforcement/Animal Control Officer. The position is responsible for enforcing local ordinances related to the health, safety, and welfare of the public, excluding building codes. The successful candidate should have a minimum of a high school diploma or equivalent. Should possess, or have the ability to obtain, certifications needed to properly perform the functions of the position. Should be capable of completing and maintaining detailed records sufficient to be entered into a court of law. Prior experience as a Codes Enforcement or Animal Control Officer is preferred. The starting salary range is \$12 to \$16 per hour, depending upon qualifications. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. However, interested applicants are encouraged to apply on or before Feb. 29,

ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR/BUILDING OFFICIAL

MT. JULIET. The city of Mt. Juliet is seeking candidates for a Electrical Inspector/Building Official. Selected candidates will be required to complete pre-employment testing as deemed necessary for the position. You will need to hold a valid TN driver's license. 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. 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, regarding the electronic application process, 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.

EVENT CENTER DIRECTOR

LENOIR CITY
The city of Lenoir City seeks to employ an event center director to manage the new Lenoir City Event Center opening in Fall 2016. The center will be located on Creekwood Park Boulevard in a new development located between US Highway 321 and US Highway 70. The center will be approximately 19,000 square feet and will be able to accommodate up to 600 guests for numerous events such as conferences, conventions, weddings, receptions, reunions, etc. The Lenoir City Event Center Director will report to an advisory board appointed by the mayor and city council. Competitive, negotiable salary dependent upon qualifications and excellent benefit package. Minimum of five years' experience as an event center director, assistant director, or related profession. Bachelor's degree or higher

in Hospitality or related discipline. Interested individuals should contact Amber Scott, assistant city administrator with the city of Lenoir City at 865-986-2715 for additional information on the job description or by e-mail at ascott@lenoircitygov.com. Please submit your resumé to Amber Scott, Assistant City Administrator, City of Lenoir City, P.O. Box 445, Lenoir City, Tennessee, 37771. If you would like to submit your resumé in person, City Hall is located at 600 East Broadway, Lenoir City, Tennessee 37771. The deadline for resúmes to be submitted is 4:00 P.M. on March 11.

FINANCE DIRECTOR

BRENTWOOD. The city is currently seeking an experienced professional to serve as finance director. This position, which reports directly to the city manager, oversees a small and talented staff in the finance department and directs all accounting and financial operations of the city. The finance director oversees purchasing, accounts payable, utility billing, accounting, auditing, and revenue collection services and activities. In addition, the finance director performs a variety of professional level financial management responsibilities including analysis, preparation, and maintenance of the annual budget, financial records, statements, and reports with significant responsibility and interaction regarding the annual financial audit. The ideal candidate will have a broad based knowledge of governmental accounting and methods of financial control and reporting as well as outstanding organizational skills and a focus on timely delivery of reports and projects. The position requires a bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, or closely related area (CPA or advanced degree preferred with consideration given for TN CMFO designation), with eight years of progressively responsible experience in governmental accounting, auditing, or related areas and experience in a supervisory capacity of accounting functions and personnel; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Previous experience as a local government finance director or assistant finance director or equivalent is preferred. Salary Range: \$76,000-\$114,500 (starting salary is DOQ) Interested parties can apply by visiting the city website at www.Brentwood-TN.org/employment. Questions should be directed to Mike Worsham, human resources director, at 615-371-0060.

FIRE CHIEF

COLLIERVILLE. The purpose of this position is to perform highly responsible managerial work in the administration and direction of all activities and employees of the Town of Collierville's Fire Department. Requires four years of college with course concentration in fire administration, public administration or a closely related field; supplemented by 15 years' consecutive full-time experience in fire service, with at least five years' managerial experience at a division chief's level or above; or any equivalent combination of education, training and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills and abilities for this job. Education and/or training cannot be substituted for the required years of experience. Must be 21 years of age at the time of hire. Must meet the minimum requirements for a battalion chief's position. A valid paramedic license as outlined by the Tennessee Department of Health and Environment is preferred but not required. Applicants must satisfactorily complete a one year probationary period. Must establish and maintain residence within 30 miles from a firehouse within the town's corporate limits. Must possess and maintain a valid driver's license. Submit applications to the Human Resources Office, 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN 38017. Closing date to apply: March 4. Salary range is DOQ with excellent benefits package. EOE/Drugfree workplace.

PARKS MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

WHITE HOUSE. The city of White House is currently accepting applications for the position of parks maintenance supervisor. This position is responsible for the organization and management of employees that maintain the park facilities, grounds, greenways, and other city property maintained by the department. Visit www.cityofwhitehouse.com for full job description and information on how to apply. Applications and resumes should be returned to the HR office located at 105 College Street or emailed to abrewton@cityofwhitehouse.com. Starting compensation: \$14.50 - \$17.66 per hour or \$30,160.00 - \$36,732.80 per year DOE. Application Deadline: Open until filled. EOE.

PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR

PIGEON FORGE. The city of Pigeon Forge is seeking to hire a director of Parks and Recreation. This department head position reports directly to the city manager. The city offers a highly competitive compensation package, commensurate with the qualifications of the successful candidate. Job responsibilities include: plan, organize, implement and oversee the activities of the city's comprehensive parks and recreation department, including managing the recreation programs, daily operations, maintenance of the city's two existing parks, greenway, community center, seven city buildings and their grounds and road medians throughout the city. The director will prepare and administer the annual budget, administer the 5-year CIP, make recommendations as to the need of additional facilities in accordance to the park and recreation master plan and administer policies established by the city commission. Qualifications include: graduation from an accredited college or university with a bachelor's or master's degree in parks and recreation administration, leisure studies, or a closely related field. A minimum of five years' experience in a full-time, comprehensive parks and recreation department with increasingly responsible experience. The candidate should be certified or certifiable As a Certified Park and Recreation Professional. Must possess a thorough knowledge and demonstrable skill in the areas of leadership, planning and executive decision making with the ability to handle multiple tasks. Must be highly motivated and able to work effectively under minimal supervision. The candidate must possess a general knowledge of the principles and practices associated with the diverse areas of athletics, aquatics, cultural arts, park maintenance, community center operations, community-oriented special events, health and wellness programs, adaptive recreation for special populations, community education and special interest workshops/classes. Must have experience in writing grants and working with various types of consultants. Experience in overseeing construction projects is extremely important. Interested candidates should submit a resume, cover letter and list of references to: Human Resources Department, City of Pigeon Forge, P.O. Box 1350, Pigeon Forge, TN 37868 Resumes will be accepted for consideration until the position is filled. The city of Pigeon Forge is an EOE and complies with the ADA and Title VI. Candidate will be subject to a background check, driving history check, and drug testing in accordance with city policy.

PLANNER II

GALLATIN. The city of Gallatin, TN, a growing, well-established city of 30,000, located 25 miles northeast of Nashville, is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Planner II in the Planning Division. Responsibilities include performing intermediate professional work in the handling of a variety of assignments in the planning office. Essential duties also include assisting with the development of current, long-range and/or other planning activities. This is a 40 hours per week, day shift position. Starting hourly rate is \$24.08 + excellent benefits. For a detailed description and to apply visit www.gallatinonthemove.com. Click the "Employment" tab at the top of the webpage and follow the instructions. Deadline is March 4. EOE.

POLICE CHIEF

LEBANON. The city of Lebanon is currently accepting applications for chief of police. This position is responsible for the overall strategic planning, direction, leadership and activities of the department. Minimum qualifications include graduation from an accredited institution with a bachelor's degree in criminology, criminal science, law enforcement, political science, criminal justice, public administration or related field; plus, 15 years law enforcement experience with 10 years recent managerial experience which shall include five years of experience at a rank level of captain or above. Must be currently Tennessee P.O.S.T. Certified or, if certified in another state, complete Tennessee P.O.S.T. transition academy within 6 months of hire date. Valid Tennessee Driver's License required with clean driving record. Successful report from physical examination including drug screening. Candidates interested in this position should present a completed employment application along with a detailed resume with cover letter and salary history to the Human Resources Director at Sylvia.Reichle@lebanontn.org Applications may also be downloaded here <http://www.lebanontn.org/images/global/departments/personnel/application.pdf> and returned to Human Resources at City Hall, 200 North Castle Heights Avenue, Lebanon, TN, 37087 or by FAX 615-443-2844. The city of Lebanon does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, age, handicap, or veteran status in provision of employment opportunities and benefits.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

ARLINGTON. The town of Arlington is currently accepting applications for the Public Works Director position. The Public Works Director is responsible for the administration and supervision of departmental employees and for the day-to-day operations of the Public Works Department. He/she serves as a key member of the Town's management team with specific responsibilities for supervising, managing, directing, and coordinating the public works function, including but not limited to: street maintenance; repair and construction; sanitation/solid waste services; stormwater management; fleet maintenance; implementation of capital improvement programs; and maintenance of Town-owned buildings and facilities. Applicant must have a bachelor's degree with major coursework in civil engineering or a related science field and 10 years in municipal engineering and management or an equivalent combination of education, training, and experience. A detailed job description and application are available at Town Hall, 5854. Airline Road, Arlington, TN 38002 or by visiting www.townofarlington.org. EOE/Drug-free Workplace

TML Board to meet March 14

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Municipal League will meet in regular public session on Monday, March 14, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. in the Nashville Meeting Room of the Doubletree Hotel, 315 4th Avenue North, Nashville, TN., for the purpose of considering and transacting all business that may properly come before said board. If reasonably possible, an agenda will be available on Friday, March 11, at the offices of the Tennessee Municipal League, 226 Capitol Blvd., Suite 710, Nashville. Additional information may be obtained from Jackie Guppton 615-255-6416.

Bond Fund Board of Directors to meet

Notice is hereby given that the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund Board of Directors will meet in regular public session on Monday, March 14, 2016, at 9:00 a.m., local time, in the Vanderbilt Room on the lobby level of the Doubletree Hotel at 315 Fourth Avenue North, Nashville, Tenn., for the purpose of considering and transacting all business that may properly come before said board. Some members of the board may participate in such meeting by telephonic means, which will be audible to any member of the public attending such meeting. If reasonably possible, an agenda will be available on Friday, March 11, at the offices of TMBF, 226 Capitol Boulevard, Suite 502, in Nashville. Additional information concerning the above may be obtained at 615-255-1561.

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TENNESSEE DRUG CARD

For more information about the Tennessee Drug Card, visit TML's website at www.TML1.org



March 5-9
NLC Congressional City Conference
Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, D.C. This conference brings together more than 1,000 elected and appointed city leaders to focus on the federal policy issues that are important to local governments. Ana Navarro, a well-known Republican strategist and a political analyst for CNN, and Eugene Robinson, Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for The Washington Post, are scheduled to be the keynote speakers. To learn more or to register, go to www.NLC.org/CCC

March 14 - 15
TML Legislative Conference
DoubleTree by Hilton Nashville Downtown, 315 Fourth Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37219. To register for the conference, download the form from www.TML1.org, and fax to Sylvia Harris at (615) 255-6488.

April 13-15
TCMA Spring Conference
Embassy Suites in Murfreesboro. Variety of sessions geared to the educational needs of TCMA members. Online registration is available at www.TNCMA.org. A block of hotel rooms are set aside for attendees at the Embassy Suites at the discounted group rate of \$143 per night plus taxes For more information, please contact Mike Walker at Walker@TNCMA.org.

April 20-22
TDEC Environmental Show of the South. The 45th annual event will be held at the Gatlinburg Convention Center. The largest and most comprehensive environmental conference and tradeshow in the region. Its goal is to provide high-quality, low-cost environmental training as well as updates on government/industry developments and trends, with a particular focus on solid and hazardous waste issues. For more information, go to <http://www.tennessee.gov/environment/article/sw-environmental-show-of-the-south>

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TN Government Finance Officers Assn.

Tennessee Fire Chiefs Assn.

Tennessee Fire Safety Inspectors

Tennessee Association of Floodplain Management

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Strategies to address heroin epidemic

BY JAMES BROOKS
National League of Cities

Deaths involving opioid-based prescription pain-killers and heroin are increasing sharply, according to new data for all of 2014 recently released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Every day in the United States, 44 people die as a result of prescription opioid overdose. More Americans are dying every year from drug overdoses than from motor vehicle crashes. Communities across America have seen steady rise in the cost and impact of treating opioid related overdose. In the community of Middleton, Ohio, for example, the cost of treating opioid overdoses has exceeded 10 percent of the Middleton Fire Division overall operating budget. In Indiana, the Indianapolis Emergency Medical Services saw a 58 percent jump in Narcan® applications in just one year, from 2013 to 2014.

Responses are coming from the federal, state and local levels. Here are three notable ways cities can curb the sharp increase in overdose deaths:

1. Funding from President Barack Obama’s Fiscal Year 2017 budget proposal

The proposal includes \$1 billion in new funding for states to expand access to medication-assisted treatments for opioid use disorders. Also included is funding for more addiction treatment

New strategies can empower city leaders to not only coordinate actions across multiple levels of government but stem the tide of addiction and substance abuse that is growing in urban, suburban, and rural areas.

providers under the National Health Service Corps.

2. Tools and resources from state and local organizations

Organizations representing state and local elected and appointed leaders (such as the National League of Cities, the National Association of Counties, the National Governor’s Association, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors) are educating their members and providing tools to turn back the tide of heroin addiction through strategies such as medication-assisted treatments.

Most notably, the U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance (together with Adapt Pharma and Premier, Inc., and acting in partnership with local and state associations) is now making available the life-saving Narcan® Nasal Spray (naloxone hydrochloride), which helps stop or reverse the effects of an opioid overdose, at a steep discount.

3. The creation of local policy solutions

For their part, individual cities are also taking important action steps along the same lines. Naloxone access was cited by New York Mayor Bill De Blasio as a major component of his city’s comprehensive effort to

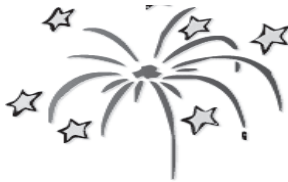
reduce opioid misuse and overdoses.

“By issuing a standing order for Naloxone and building capacity in our health network’s ability to treat people most in need, we will save more lives,” said New York City Health Commissioner Dr. Mary T. Basset in her comments with the mayor.

A creative response from law enforcement is also an important step.

The city of Gloucester, Mass., is helping change the nature of municipal policing in the face of heroin and opiate addiction. In Gloucester, any person seeking help for addiction from public safety personnel will be connected to an addiction recovery program through a network of local and regional providers. “Gloucester is changing the conversation. Police officers exist to help people,” said Police Chief Leonard Campanello. “Drug addiction is a disease, and drug addicts need help.”

The National League of Cities will engage elected and appointed municipal officials on the many questions and challenges of substance abuse and addiction at the upcoming Congressional City Conference in Washington, D.C., which takes place March 5-9, 2016.



TENNESSEE FESTIVALS

March 4 – 5: Etowah
22nd Annual Cousin Bluegrass Festival and the 8th Annual John Studdard Gospel Concert
This two-day bluegrass event will feature some of the finest bluegrass artists around. The event is held inside at the historic Gem Theater and is sponsored by the Etowah Arts Commission and the Tennessee Arts Commission. Tickets for the Friday night John Studdard Gospel Concert are \$12 and \$18 for Saturday’s Cousin Jake Bluegrass Festival, or \$25 for both days. Concert starts at 7 p.m. on Friday and 12 noon on Saturday. For more information contact the Etowah Arts Commission at director@etowaharts.org, or phone: (423) 263-7608.

March 19: Bell Buckle
Annual Daffodil Day
The entire square looks like spring has arrived. Family Fun. 4 Railroad Square, Bell Buckle. For information email: info@bellbucklechamber.com or Phone: (931) 389-9663.

March 22 – 26: Gatlinburg
Great Smoky Easter Arts & Crafts Show
Handcrafted gifts and products produced by members of Great Smoky Arts & Crafts Community are on display and offered for sale at their show at the Gatlinburg Convention Center. For information, [visit www.gatlinburgcrafts.com](http://www.gatlinburgcrafts.com) or call (800) 568-4748.

March 28 – April 3: Columbia
Annual Mule Day
A Columbia tradition for nearly 170 years. Features arts & crafts, wagon train, jackpot mule races, and more. The festival highlight includes a “Mule Day Parade” held on Saturday during the celebration. For more information go to www.muleday.com

April 9: Granville
Upper Cumberland Wine Festival
Eight wineries in the Upper Cumberland area will have booths at the festival, which will be located at the Sutton Homestead in Granville. Tickets for the festival include a wine tasting at each of the booths of the wineries and a wine glass. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the gate. Wine will be for sale at each booth. The festival will include music and lunch served in the Sutton General Store Dining Room. For more information contact Historic Granville 931-653-4151; granvilletn.com; or www.uppercumberlandwinetrail.com.

UT-MTAS MARCH MAP CLASSES

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The employment arena is constantly changing! This course explores recent employment law issues that affect employee onboarding, compensation, discipline, drug testing, discriminatory hiring practices, and negligent hiring and firing. The course will also explore the impact of benefit legislation on the employment process. The intent of the course is to discover techniques and methods that can avoid the most troublesome of employment-related issues: the beginning and the end of employment. In addition to these

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Dates/Locations
□ February 29 Nashville
□ March 2 Memphis
□ March 3 Jackson
□ March 7 Kingsport
□ March 8 Knoxville
□ March 9 Collegedale

Times
All classes will be held 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. local time

Credit
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To register for a course, go to 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 town of Livingston closed a loan through the TMBF loan program in the amount of \$1.1 million for a capital outlay note to finance parks and recreational facilities.



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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.

Over the life of the program, 373 Rosenwald school buildings were built in Tennessee

Preserving the educational legacy of Booker T. Washington, Julius Rosenwald – pioneers of Rosenwald school program

BY LEILA DONN
TDEC Office of Sustainable Practices

In the early 1930s, one out of every three black children in the South attended a special type of school that most people have never heard of. The Rosenwald Schools, which at their height numbered 5,000, provided black schoolchildren with the opportunity for greatly improved education, helping to decrease the gap between the quality of education available to black students as compared to white students. In the past 60 years since the dissolution of the Rosenwald School program, the legacy of the schools has been forgotten by most.

Tennessee’s Division of Archaeology and Tennessee State Parks are working to breathe life back into this important cultural legacy, which at one time totaled 373 Rosenwald buildings in the state. The first school was built in Tennessee just four years after the start of the program in Alabama.

Roots of the Rosenwald program

The Rosenwald School building program was envisioned and implemented by Booker T. Washington and Julius Rosenwald. Construction of the schools began in Alabama in 1912 and continued through 1932 across the South.

The partnership was unique for its time. Washington was born a slave in Virginia in 1856. He lived through the Civil War, and in 1881, he became the first principal of the Tuskegee Normal School in Alabama. Today, Tuskegee University, as it is now called, is one of the most successful historically black universities. By the early 1900s, Washington was the most prominent and influential black man in the country. Washington’s importance meant that he had many powerful contacts across the nation. Rosenwald was a second-generation American whose parents emigrated from Germany in 1854 to escape anti-Jewish discrimination. He made a tremendous fortune by building Sears, Roebuck and Company, serving as president and chairman. He contributed over today’s equivalent of \$4 million to funding the Rosenwald Schools.

Washington and Rosenwald met in 1911, and shortly thereafter Rosenwald joined the board of directors at Tuskegee. In 1912, Washington approached Rosenwald about the desperate need for rural schools across the South, and the two men began with the pilot construction of six public schools for black students near Tuskegee.

The original Rosenwald Schools were administered by Tuskegee, but after Washington died in 1915, the program was moved into the Rosenwald Fund and managed out of the fund’s Nashville office.

Lasting Impact

Many of the schools continued to operate into the 1960s, though use began to wane after the Supreme Court ordered integration of public schools in 1954. Since the schools were abandoned, many have fallen into disrepair, though some schools do remain in use as community and cultural centers, senior citizens centers, museums, and even schools.

In 2002, the National Trust for Historic Preservation listed the schools as officially recognized Endangered Historic Places, and in 2011, the organization awarded the schools a National Treasure status.

A study completed in 2011 by two economists from the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Daniel Aaronson and Bhashkar Mazumder, compares communities that had a Rosenwald School to communities that didn’t. In addition to the obvious benefit of increased opportunity to education, children that attended Rosenwald Schools had higher IQ scores, made more money later in life, had slightly longer life expectancies, and crime rates decreased in areas where there were these schools.

Notable graduates of these schools include author and poet Maya Angelou, U.S. Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.), playwright George Wolfe, and Pulitzer Prize winner Eugene Robinson.

Because the Nashville branch of the Rosenwald Fund housed the school building program from 1920, Fisk University in Nashville houses many of the program’s records. Some of the information is available in a publically available online database located at Rosenwald.Fisk.edu. Tennessee is fortunate to have such extensive records of an important part of the South’s cultural history.

Learning about Tennessee’s Historic Schools

The Tennessee Division of Archaeology is working to give these schools recognition through a current archaeological survey of the Rosenwald School sites in Tennessee. Benjamin Nance, with the Division of Archaeology, notes the significance of the school building program in Tennessee, stating that “The Division of Archaeology’s efforts to locate and assess the condition of each school is the first stage in preserving and interpreting these valuable cultural resources.”

Since 2011, the Tennessee Historical Commission, administratively attached to the Department of Environment and Conservation, has given more than \$90,000 in Federal Historic Preservation fund matching grants to the Tennessee Division of Archaeology for the survey of Tennessee’s Rosenwald Schools.

Over the life of the program, 373 Rosenwald buildings were built in Tennessee and located in 69 of Tennessee’s 95 counties. The majority of the buildings (354) were schools, and the other 19 were teachers’ homes and shop buildings. To date, 61 of the 69 counties with schools have been surveyed. The Division has recorded 39 standing Rosenwald School buildings, as well as numerous partially standing ruins, surface remnants, and supporting features such as privies, cisterns, and water fountains. Though many of the buildings are in poor condition, some have been renovated or restored, and two have even been moved to new locations.

The historic West Bemis Elementary School in Jackson, built in 1916, is the oldest Rosenwald School still standing in Tennessee. The local community, with assistance from Middle Tennessee State University’s Center for Historic Preservation, is currently working to restore the building for use as a community center.

As part of the archaeological survey, the Division is also talking to some of the residents that attended the schools into the 1960s. Most of the interviewees remember having a picture of Rosenwald on the wall of their school, though they didn’t necessarily know who it was at the time. Most also remember having positive experiences at the schools. The Division of Archaeology appreciates the opportunity to record these firsthand experiences, and Nance adds that “... Their stories add to the rich history of black education in the state. These students became the generation that helped drive the Civil Rights movement.”

Communicating the Legacy

Just outside of Chattanooga at Booker T. Washington State Park, a new generation of children is learning about the Rosenwald Schools and the increased opportunities that education can provide.

Booker T. Washington State Park was first designed as a segregated park for the black population of Chattanooga. Dedicated in 1950, recreational and educational opportunities at the park have continued to grow and improve over the last 66 years.

Two years ago the park’s Oaks Group Camp received a makeover. Brock Hill, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation deputy commissioner of Parks and Conservation, saw an opportunity to create a physical link between the park and Booker T. Washington’s inspiring role in increasing access to education for black students in the South. The new group lodge and smaller cabins were therefore constructed based on the architectural features of the Rosewald Schools.

“The Rosenwald Schools tell a powerful story of empowerment through the opportunities created by improved education,” said Commissioner Hill. “Our group camp buildings at Booker T. Washington provide a teaching tool so that the legacy of the schools can live on and be transmitted down through the generations.”

The current park manager, Levan Gardner, grew up as a child spending time at the park swimming and playing basketball. As manager, Gardner has developed canoeing, hiking, and birds of prey programs, among other offerings. Gardner feels that these programs are very important, adding, “We use these programs to provide environmental education to local schools and churches. The work we do is very important to the community and gives inner city kids a perspective by providing them with a safe environment in which they can learn and have fun. We like to think Booker T.



The Rosenwald School building program was envisioned and implemented by Booker T. Washington and Julius Rosenwald. By the early 1900s, Washington had become one of the most prominent and influential black men in the country. He was the founding principal of Tuskegee Institute, now Tuskegee University. He was an educator, author, orator, and advisor to Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and William Taft.



In 1915, Sears and Roebuck President, Julius Rosenwald, established a matching grant fund in his name to construct better quality black schools throughout the South. Between 1917 and 1932, his fund assisted in the construction of more than 5,000 school buildings with some 370 in Tennessee.



Pictured taken in front of the historic West Bemis Elementary School in Jackson, Tenn. circa 1940s.



West Bemis Elementary School was built in 1916 and is the oldest Rosenwald School still standing in Tennessee. The local community, with assistance from Middle Tennessee State University’s Center for Historic Preservation, is currently working to restore the building for use as a community center.



Pictured above are Rosenwald and Washington at Tuskegee Institute in 1915.



Cairo Rosenwald School located in Gallatin was built in 1922. Pictured above is the school before renovations. Below is the school after renovations were completed in 2009 and were made possible through the Tennessee Preservation Trust, Lowe’s Charitable and Educational Foundation, the Sumner County Historical Society and MTSU.



Photo credit: The Ciesla Foundation, February 2014

Alumni gathered in front of the Cairo Rosenwald School prior to the filming of the documentary “Rosenwald” produced by the Ciesla Foundation and recently shown during Nashville’s Film Festival in November.

Washington would have approved of the work we do here.”

The story of Julius Rosenwald, Booker T. Washington, and the schools they created together is slowly being rekindled across the South. This past November a documentary fittingly called “Rosenwald,” directed by Aviva Kempner, was screened during the Nashville Film Festival. Kempner’s documentaries focus on the untold stories of Jewish heroes, and “Rosenwald” tells the little-known story of Rosenwald’s significant contribution to black education and culture. Little by little, with Tennessee’s help, this little-known story is becoming increasingly well-known.

To Learn More:

- Rosenwald.Fisk.edu.
- www.tennesseepreservationtrust.org/rosenwald-schools/
- West Bemis Elementary School Facebook page
- www.rosenwaldfilm.org



Durham’s Chapel Rosenwald School, also located in Sumner County, was nominated by MTSU’s Center for Historic Preservation to the National Register in 2006. In 2010, the Tennessee Preservation Trust was awarded a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Lowe’s, and partnered with the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation to rehabilitate the building. In March 2012, the school re-opened and now serves as a community gathering place for club meetings, dinners, weddings, and other social events.