

6,250 subscribers

www.TML1.org

Volume 66, Number 3

Feb. 23, 2015



Haslam rolls out budget in annual state address

Gov. Bill Haslam rolled out his proposed Fiscal Year 2015-2016 budget during his annual State of the State address held earlier this month before a joint session of the 109th General Assembly.

The \$33.3 billion budget reflects \$300 million in revenue growth, \$500 million in cost increases and \$200 million in reductions.

The governor's budget proposal includes nearly \$170 million for K-12 education, including:

- \$100 million for increasing teacher salaries, which amounts to a four percent pool that local education associations (LEAs) will have available as they make local decisions to increase teacher pay;
- Nearly \$44 million to fully fund the Basic Education Program; and
- \$5 million to create the Educators' Liability Trust Fund to offer liability insurance to Tennessee teachers at no cost to them.

Notable higher education investments include:

\$260 million for capital projects,

including new science facilities at Jackson State Community College and the University of Tennessee, nearly \$25 million for improvements to colleges of applied technology across the state and funding for a fine arts classroom building at East Tennessee State University;

- \$25 million to fully fund the Complete College Act formula; and
- \$10 million for need-based scholarships for students.

The budget also includes specific workforce development investments geared to the governor's Drive to 55 effort including:

- \$2.5 million for statewide outreach efforts geared toward adult students, technical assistance to local communities that are finding ways to support adult learners, and a one-stop portal for adults;
- \$2.5 million to support the success of the SAILS (Seamless Alignment and Integrated Learning Support) program which address remediation in

See **BUDGET** on Page 3

Host of legislators to speak at Conference

A host of prominent state officials are set to speak at the Legislative Conference, slated for March 2-3 in Nashville at the DoubleTree Hotel Downtown.

Both speakers, Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey and House Speaker Beth Harwell, will address TML members during the two-day event.

Also on the agenda are: Sen. Ken Yager, chairman of the Senate State and Local Government Committee, Rep. Tim Wirgau of the House Local Government Committee; and Rep. Charles Sargent, chairman of the House Finance Committee.

City officials will also hear from state Comptroller Justin Wilson, TDOT Commissioner John Schroer, and ECD Commissioner Randy Boyd.

Conference registration opens at 11 a.m. on Monday, March 2, followed by a buffet lunch at 12 noon.

The conference will kick off at 1 p.m. and run through 4 p.m. on Monday afternoon. On Tuesday, March 3 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 10 a.m.

City officials are encouraged to use their time in Nashville to attend Monday evening floor sessions and Tuesday morning committee meetings, as well as schedule time to visit with their legislators.

The two-day conference provides an excellent forum for city officials to interact with their legislators and to be updated on the many legislative issues being addressed by the 109th Tennessee General Assembly.

The voice of Tennessee's municipal governments must be heard in the legislative process, and the TML Legislative Conference is a key opportunity to communicate that message

To register on line, go to www. TML1. org. Contact the TML offices at 615-255-6416 for more information. We look forward to seeing you in Nashville next week!





Ramsey







Wirgau

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Monday, March 2

11 am	Registration
12 pm	Buffet Lunch
1 pm	Rep. Tim Wirgau
1:15 pm	Lt. Gov. Ron
	Ramsey
1:30 pm	Sen. Ken Yager
2 pm	John Schroer
	TDOT Commissioner
2:30 pm	TML Staff Reports
4 pm	Adjourn
5 pm	Floor Sessions



Tuesday, March 3 7:30 am Breakfast Rep. Charles Sargent 8 am 8:45 am Speaker Beth Harwell Randy Boyd 9 am ECD Commissioner 9:30 am Comptroller Justin Wilson

Municipal Electrics present case for providing broadband service

BY CAROLE GRAVES TML Communications Director

No one can argue that affordable, reliable access to high speed broadband is essential to a community's social and economic well-being. But what is being debated - both on the state and federal levels – is whether or not government entities should be the ones to provide it.

learning, and real estate development. All these industries need high speed broadband to be connected to the 21 century and should be afforded to the people who live in rural Tennessee," she said.

Bowling represents the city of Tullahoma, which provides broadband services through its municipal electric service. The Tullahoma Utilities Board (TUB) began offering gigabit service in 2013 through its municipal network, LightTUBe. In a recent press release, the TUB announced it has lowered the price of residential gig service to \$99.95 per month as well as increased all other Internet speeds at no additional cost. This is the sixth time since its 2008 deployment that LightTUBe customers have enjoyed a free speed increase. "We're not looking to unseat the cable providers that are there - we're not looking to be the next cable giant," Bowling said. "But there is a real need that exists where we haven't been able to get the commercial providers to come in." Bowling is sponsoring legislation, SB 1134, that allows each municipality operating an electric plant to provide services outside its electric system service area. Rep. Kevin Brooks is sponsoring the bill in the House, HB 1303. Brooks represents portions of Bradley County where Internet service with modern connection speeds is not available in much of the county. Some parts have no Internet service at all. Chattanooga's Electric Power Board (EPB) has been asked to extend its service to the area, as well as to other surrounding counties and municipalities in the area. In 2010, See BROADBAND on Page 4

New FCC rules on governing cell tower siting effective April 2015

Recently, the Federal Communications Commission established new rules governing cell tower siting. The changes go into effect April 8, 2015. In formulating its order, the FCC either disagreed with, or elected not to consider, several concerns raised by the National League of Cities and other local government organizations.

These new rules provide new limits on how cities review applications, including collocation of telecommunications equipment and for determining when a cell tower modification is deemed a "substantial change" and, therefore, subject to local permitting approval.

The telecommunications industry argued that today's new technology allows networks and other small-cell systems that are a fraction of the size to be installed on utility poles, buildings, and other existing structures. They asked Congress and the FCC to provide greater flexibility and to streamline local oversight of the placement of additional wireless equipment on a wireless tower or other structure already supporting wireless equipment.

Among the most concerning change is the Order shortens the prior 90-day collocation timeline under the Shot Clock to 60 days. Industry applicants will be able to submit a wireless collocation application to a municipality for the placement of additional wireless equipment on a wireless tower or other structure already supporting wireless equipment. Upon submission, the municipality has 60 days to issue a decision. If the application is incomplete, the municipality must notify the applicant in writing within 30 days of submission. This pauses the 60-day review period until the applicant responds. Should the municipality fail to act on an application within the 60-day period, the application would be deemed granted, and the



FCC stated that the changes take into account new technology that no longer requires large towers that were built for supporting big antennas, but instead addresses today's new Distributed Antenna System (DAS) networks and other small-cell systems that can be installed on utility poles, buildings, and other existing structures.

applicant may inform the municipality in writing of its desire to act on the application.

The order also clarifies what is considered a "substantial change," spelling out specific height and width increases and the number of new equipment cabinets allowed to be installed, within and outside of the public right-of-way. It also exempts temporary antenna structures - less than 60 days - from local and national environmental notification requirements.

One bright spot in the new rules is that it preserves local government's zoning authority and all installations must still adhere to a community's building, electrical, and structural codes.

More than 130 cities nationwide currently offer fiber or cable Internet connections to their communities, according to the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, a group that supports municipal broadband. The municipalities are mostly small to midsized cities that aren't being served by large Internet providers. To help fill the void, towns and cities across the country began developing their own locally-owned networks.

At issue are state laws that restrict or impede community-owed or municipal broadband initiatives. Roughly 20 states, including Tennessee, have passed laws restricting municipal broadband projects and preclude provision of service to neighboring communities and surrounding residents.

Tennessee State Sen. Janice Bowling is one of a handful of lawmakers who are working to eliminate these barriers to municipal broadband deployment.

She recently testified before the Tennessee Senate Commerce and Labor Committee that high-speed Internet is essential for bringing her rural constituents into the 21st century.

"It's not the same in rural Tennessee and small town Tennessee as it is in urban areas. Real problems exist for rural and small town banks, telemedicine, education, distant

Local government employment flat as jobs slow to return

BY CHRISTIANA MCFARLAND National League of Cities

The Local Jobs Report is a monthly analysis of the employment situation released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) with a specific lens on local government employment.

According to the BLS January jobs report, despite surprising growth in private sector employment, government employment registered a decline of 10,000 jobs.

Federal government was responsible for the bulk of the job loss, with slight declines in state employ-

ment and local education.

Local government (non-education) employment slowed but did not decline.

Local government employment has fared better than other government sectors, but the prolonged and uncertain recovery for local finances has forced sharp reductions in personnel in recent years, and continues to contribute to sluggish growth. As a result, local government has not regained jobs lost during the recession, currently at 521,000 jobs below peak levels (July 2008).

To better understand drivers of change in local government employment, NLC explored industry detail for the local government sector from BLS Current Employment Statistics.

Local government employment has been buoyed by employment in specialized departments of city government including parks, local health care centers, libraries, housing authorities, public works and highway departments.

This "other local government" category, which does not include public safety, added more jobs between November and December (most recent data available) than other types of local government employment, likely due to weather-related service needs.

Local government jobs comprise 10 percent of all U.S. non-farm employment, and 64 percent of total government employment.

In addition to the sheer size of the workforce and direct implications for services that affect our daily lives, local government jobs impact the quality of economic recovery because majority of local government jobs are higher and mid-wage.

The National League of Cities will be watching whether the recent gains in the private sector can propel the economy, and government employment, forward.

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE

ADAMSVILLE

The city's International Organization for Standardization (ISO) fire rating has dramatically improved from a 7 to a 4. Mayor Leckner announced that most residents will see a reduction in their property insurance premium, as a result. The new rating places the city's Volunteer Fire Department in the top 14 percent of fire department rankings in the state and nationally among 17.1 percent of all fire departments that are ranked an ISO 4. The city's new rating takes effect on March 1.

COLLIERVILLE

Children can learn or review fire safety tips on the Collierville Fire Department's website: colliervillefd.org. Pluggie's Firehouse features Sparky and the Homeland Security Ready Kids. The website provides valuable fire safety information in a fun and engaging manner.

GREENEVILLE

Anyone who wants to develop property can now get all the information they need at the town's website. Recent updates to the website by Town Planner Asongayi Venard include a wealth of information on planning and development, such as links to zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations, comprehensive plan, urban design guidelines, building and construction codes, maps, planning commission schedule, applications, and checklists. The information can be found at www.greenevilletn.gov by clicking on "Town Departments," then "Planning."

GOODLETTSVILLE

The Police Department recently completed its 52 weeks of comparison for 2014 with 759 Uniform Crime Report incidents. That figure is down from 828 the previous year, showing an 8.33 percent decrease in crime. A comparison over the last two years shows an even greater decrease in crime, with 25.45 percent less crime today than there was in 2012. The Uniform Crime Report includes the crimes of homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft.

JOHNSON CITY

 $Construction\,crews have \,begun\,work$



tions will be pointed out in order for businesses to reduce their potential liability to customers and employees in a fire emergency. In addition, the pre-fire planning inspections will play a role in lowering the Insurance Service Office (ISO) rating for the city, which now operates its own municipal fire department.

LAWRENCEBURG

Jones Apparel Group will cease operations this year and leave more than 200 people without a job. The closing process is expected to start in late spring or early summer. Jones New York, a women's sportswear retailer, announced it will "pursue strategic alternatives" for the brand, a move which includes discontinuing its wholesale business and closing 127 retail locations during 2015. The Lawrenceburg facility is part of those closures.

LEBANON

The Lebanon Municipal Airport is building 17 new T-hangars officials believe will generate revenue and meet increasing demand. The new T-hangars will bring the airport's total to 52 units. A groundbreaking was held earlier this month with completion targeted sometime this summer. About 50 planes are on a waiting list to be housed in the airport's 35 existing units. The new T-hangars will help advance Lebanon Municipal as a "transportation gateway for local business," and generate more revenue to advance "the airport's goal of becoming self-sufficient and minimizing the need for local tax dollars," Lebanon Mayor Philip Craighead said. Lebanon is responsible for 5 percent of the approximate \$1.3 million project with 95 percent of the funding through state and federal monies.

LOUISVILLE

TeamHealth officials announced the company is expanding its current operations in East Tennessee. Team-Health, whose home office is located in Knoxville, will invest \$16.8 million to construct additional space next to its second location at Base Pointe Business Park in Louisville. This expansion will create 450 new jobs in Blount County.

MURFREESBORO

Jagemann Precision Plastics will expand its Murfreesboro facility and bring another 90 high-paying advanced manufacturing jobs to Rutherford County, the company announced. The new jobs at Jagemann Precision Plastics will pay between \$40,000 and \$70,000 per year, plus benefits that include insurance and educational assistance. The company currently employs about 20 workers at its Murfreesboro facility, but that number could go to 100 in the next year and possibly up to 300 in the future. The company specializes in over-molded and insert-molded components for a variety of markets. The company combines components, including metal and plastics, into a single composite piece.

PARIS

Paris is the second best city in Tennessee in which to retire, data collected recently by a financial technology company indicates. The ranking was done by SmartAsset, a New York City company that tries to help its users make the best decisions about their finances. Crossville, located in Cumberland County, is the only city that outranks Paris as far as retirement benefits, according to the SmartAsset ranking. Several factors were taken into consideration when determining Paris' rank, according to a SmartAsset. These factors include the effective rate of state and local taxes, as well as sales and income taxes for the typical retiree who earns \$35,000 annually. Also taken into consideration is the number of doctors' offices, recreation centers, and retirement centers for each 1,000 residents in the area. Finally, the number of seniors as a percentage of the total population is calculated. Paris' statistics include 15.8 percent taxes, three doctors' offices for every 1,000 people, two recreation centers for 1,000 people and 0.7 retirement centers for each 1,000 people, while seniors account for 16.1 percent of the population. Other cities that qualified for the top 10 list in Tennessee included Winchester, third; Savannah, fourth; McMinnville, fifth; Brentwood, sixth; Sevierville, seventh; Lawrenceburg, eighth; Union City, ninth; and Maryville, 10th.

SPRING CITY

The town is making plans to improve the city's sewer system. The town recently received a Community Development Block Grant for the project in the amount of \$353,400. In addition to the sewer system improvements, the grant would provide, Spring City is also working to digitally map their water and sewer lines. And the State Industrial Access Road linking Highway 27 and Highway 68 West is scheduled for completion in July.

Bristol Bomb Squad featured on Amazing America TV show



Photo courtesy of Bristol, Va., Police Dept.

Anupcomingepisodeof "Amazing America with Sarah Palin" is certain to be explosive. Producers from the show were in Bristol late last year to film the Bristol Bomb Squad at work, particularly shooting their involvement at the Bristol Motor Speedway.

The bomb squad is a joint unit involving two officers from the Bristol, Tn., Police Department, Grant Hale and Brian Hess, and two officers from the Bristol, Va., Police Department, Brandon Barr and David Slagle. The unit, which goes on about 35 to 40 calls a year, regularly visits events with a lot of visitors, such as the speedway and the Rhythm & Roots Reunion. They also respond to calls about suspicious packages.

In 2013, the unit responded to the post office in Bristol, TN., where employees found a suspicious box at the front door. The squad stays busiest during race weeks and drag race events.

The bomb squad will be featured in the March 5 episode of Amazing America with Sarah Palin, which is on the Sportsman Channel on Thursday nights at 9.

Wayfinding system guides motorists, pedestrians around downtown Knoxville



Knoxville has installed nearly 250 signs downtown as part of the city's new \$1.2 million Wayfinding project.

Finding your way around downtown Knoxville is getting easier by the day, thanks to a comprehensive system of signs being installed this winter. • Navigation. Wayfinding aims to assist both locals and visitors as they explore downtown – motorists as well as pedestrians. That includes directions to and improved signage

on the Farmers Market/Downtown Pavilion building on the plot of land between Founders Park and Wilson Avenue in downtown.According to City Public Works Director Phil Pindzola, a target completion date is July 31 for the approximately 20,000-square-foot structure, which has a projected budget of almost \$2 million.

LA VERGNE

The city's Fire Department is conducting pre-fire planning and courtesy fire inspections at local businesses. Every business will be inspected annually. While all commercial buildings are formally inspected by the city fire inspector, this pre-fire planning fire suppression process will identify possible hazards that could be encountered should a fire occur, such as a dead end corridor or an unpermitted addition. ViolaThis is a joint venture between the town of Spring City and the Rhea County Industrial Board in an effort to attract manufacturing industries to the town of Spring City.

Oak ridge uses student interns to inventory stormwater system

As a requirement of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) program, mandated by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), the Oak Ridge Public Works Department will begin conducting an inventory of the City stormwater system.

The survey requires documenting all facets of the stormwater system, including, but not limited to streams, ditches, pipe inlets and outlets, catch basins and detention basins. This survey may take several years to complete.

To conduct the survey, the City has partnered with the University of Tennessee and Roane State Community College to utilize interns who are enrolled in the environmental sciences and GIS programs. These students will drive marked city vehicles, carry ID badges and will never need to enter a home or business. Currently, the interns are working for the City Monday through Thursday each week. The first of nearly 250 new signs in the downtown Wayfinding project were installed, and work will continue into April.

The signs provide an attractive, coherent system to guide both motorists and pedestrians around downtown, highlighting public parking, historical sites, cultural attractions, districts such as the Old City, recreation opportunities, government buildings, hospitals and transportation options.

The new signs will replace about 400 existing signs, which will be removed. The net effect will be fewer signs downtown, with more information. The \$1.2 million project is 80 percent federally funded, with a 20 percent local match.

There are three main goals of the project, said Project Manager Anne Wallace with the city's Office of Redevelopment: at garages, and even electronic messaging at city garages that helps people find alternative parking if that particular garage is full.

• Economic development. Tourists are likely to extend their stay if they find out about secondary points of interest once they're downtown, and easy-to-read signage is an effective way to tell people about what downtown offers, Wallace said.

• Branding. Giving downtown a "unique look" is intentional, according to Wallace. Aesthetically, the new signs carry color schemes and motifs inspired by downtown's architecture and history.

"Downtown can be confusing," Wallace said. "We still sometimes have people walking down Gay Street asking how to get to Market Square. This will make it easier for everybody to navigate and enjoy everything downtown has to offer."

Investment Fiduciary Services and a zero-fee option? Sweet.

Nationwide's new 457(b) options offer smaller plans the same features normally only available to larger entities, including Investment Fiduciary Services provided by Morningstar Associates and a zero administration fee option.

Let's talk about how Nationwide can help sweeten your plan.

Contact Wayne Sellars:

- 🖲 865-803-6647
- sellarh@nationwide.com
- NRSforU.com/457solutions

Information provided by Retirement Specialists is for educational purposes only and not intended as investment advice. Retirement Specialists are registered representatives of Nationwide Investment Services Corporation, member FINRA.

Nationwide Retirement Solutions, Inc. and its affiliates (Nationwide) offer a variety of investment options to public sector retirement plans through variable annuity contracts, trust or custodial accounts. Nationwide may receive payments from mutual funds or their affiliates in connection with those investment options. For more detail about the payments Nationwide receives, please visit www.NRSforU.com.

Nationwide Retirement Solutions, Inc. and Nationwide Life Insurance Company (collectively "Nationwide") have endorsement relationships with the National Association of Counties and the International Association of Fire Fighters – Financial Corporation. More information about the endorsement relationships may be found online at www.nrsforu.com.

Investment advisory services are provided by Morningstar Associates, LLC, a registered investment advisor and wholly owned subsidiary of Morningstar, Inc. Neither Morningstar Associates, LLC nor Morningstar, Inc. is affiliated with Nationwide or its affiliates. The Morningstar name and logo are registered marks of Morningstar, Inc.

Nationwide and the Nationwide framemark are service marks of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company.

© 2013 Nationwide Retirement Solutions, Inc. All rights reserved.

NRM-9664M6 (11/13)



www.TML1.org

Haslam rolls out budget

BUDGET from Page 1 high school;

• \$1.5 million to provide last dollar scholarships to adults with some post-secondary credit to attend community college;

• \$1 million to establish competitive grants to 2-year and 4-year institutions to develop initiatives specifically designed for veterans; and

• \$400,000 to establish the Tennessee Promise Bridge Program, which will bring first-generation college students to campus prior to fall enrollment, which is one more step in making sure they have the best chance possible to succeed.

Other highlights of the budget include:

• \$48 million for state employee pay raises and compensation tied to performance and ongoing market adjustments; and

• \$36.5 million dollars for the Rainy Day Fund to bring it to \$528 million.

During the speech, he promised to move "full speed ahead" in serving Tennessee taxpayers and highlighted many of the state's successes.

Haslam noted several of the state's accomplishments, including: • Nearly 225,000 new private sector jobs have been created in Tennessee since 2011, and Tennessee holds the designation of "State of the Year" in economic development for an unprecedented second year in a row. • Tennessee leads the country in academic achievement gains and through the Tennessee Promise is the first state ever to promise high school graduates two years at a community or technical college free of tuition and fees.

• This year, out of 65,000 high school seniors, 58,000 applied for the Tennessee Promise and 9,200 adult Tennesseans signed up to be volunteer mentors for these students.

• Tennessee has the lowest debt per capita of any state and among the lowest tax rates.

TENNESSEE MUNICIPAL LEAGUE STAFF Margaret Mahery, Executive Director Chad Jenkins, Deputy Director Mark Barrett, Legislative Research Analyst Carole Graves, Communications Director & Editor, True area, True, & Citra

A little change produces a lot of savings: local utilities find success through an energy management initiative

BY MARK PENLAND and VAUGHN CASSIDY TDEC Office of Sustainable Practices

Local governments frequently face shrinking budgets and increasing needs. Improving energy efficiency is an easy way to manage expenses without adversely impacting services with an added bonus of reducing environmental impact. Frequently communities begin energy efficiency projects with lighting or mechanical system upgrades in public buildings or by looking at the fuel efficiency of their vehicles.

However, one of the largest energy consuming operations in most cities is often a missed opportunity. Drinking water and wastewater treatment systems typically account for 30 to 40 percent of a city's total energy demand. A unique partnership led by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and the United States Environmental Protection Agency is proving that low cost changes to water and wastewater treatment plants can have big energy and cost savings.

The innovative program is known as the Tennessee Water and Wastewater Energy Efficiency Partnership and to date sixteen communities have participated. The partnership, which was formed in 2011, was a collaborative effort between local utility districts, the United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 4, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the University of Memphis, and the University of Tennessee's Municipal Technical Advisory Service. This partnership was the first statewide effort of its kind in the Southeast. The foundation of the program is a series of workshops and facility energy assessments. Each utility identifies low or no cost operational changes and earmarks larger energy efficiency investments that are incorporated when planned capital improvements occur.

Seven participating utilities in the first round completed their improvement projects in 2011. Another eight utility districts and one correctional facility participated in the recently completed second round. The focus of the program is to determine how to best reduce energy usage at plants without the financial burden of expensive capital projects, with many participants seeing almost immediate benefits.

"What the partnership did for us

blower that ran 12 hours a day was shut down resulting in an immediate annual energy savings of 1,900,000 kilowatts per year or a costs savings of \$160,000. This was an energy reduction of 24 percent.

The City of Fayetteville made a similar but even more significant discovery. The energy management team for the Fayetteville Wastewater Treatment Plant determined that the best opportunity for savings was the aerobic digesters for the plant's holding tank. The greatest opportunity for energy savings was to reduce the run times on three 125 horsepower aerator motors. This provided a savings of 800,000 kilowatts per year and reduced the operational costs annually by a remarkable 30 percent. The total savings in annual energy costs was over \$50,000.

As a direct result of participation in the partnership, Franklin formed its own energy management team to look at potential savings in the Franklin Water Reclamation Facility. The wastewater system discharges to the Harpeth River and much of the effluent is used by the city for irrigation and coarse bubble aeration systems. The team identified that the operating time of the aeration system could be reduced without compromising performance. This savings from this project funded a lighting upgrade and a solar array installation to supplement power. These and other measures such as meter change-outs and off-peak operating hour adjustments amounted to an annual savings of over \$127,000.

In total the first round participants have realized savings annual in excess of nearly 7 million kilowatts per year at a cost savings of over 650,000. Below are some of the successes of the utilities involved in the first round of energy assessments. They include:

- Caryville-Jacksboro Utilities Commission(188,000killowatts, \$15,750)
- First Utility District of Knox County (710,000 kilowatts, \$68,000)
- Lenoir City Utilities Board (523,000 kilowatts, \$42,000)
- Nashville Metro Water Services (2,400,000 kilowatts, \$210,000)

An interesting spin-off occurred in the second round. United South and Eastern Tribes began attending the workshops and saw the importance of the assessments to the facilities. They learned during the workshops the various ways to reduce operational costs and have since begun assessments at many south and eastern tribes' facilities in Alabama with the support of the Environmental Protection Agency region 4 and the University of Memphis' Dr. Larry Moore. "Discussions with the Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 concerning energy and sustainability really sparked the formation of the Tennessee Water and Wastewater Utilities Partnership," said Jennifer Dodd with Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Division of Water Resources. "We are extremely proud to have participated in a program that has delivered significant savings to our communities and reduced energy consumption." Environmental Protection Agency Regional Administrator Gwen Keyes Fleming has a similar



City of Columbia Turblex Aeration Blowers



City of Columbia aerobic digesters.



John Holloway, Government Relations Debbie Kluth, Director of Marketing / Member Services

Kevin Krushenski, Legislative Research Analyst Mona Lawrence, Administrative Assistant Denise Paige, Government Relations Sylvia Trice, Director of Conference Planning

Sylvia Trice, Director of Conference Planning TENNESSEE TOWN & CITY (ISSN. No. 0040-3415) Publication No. 539420 — Official publication of the Tennessee Municipal League. Publisher: Margaret Mahery (mmahery@ TML1.org) Editor: Carole Graves (cgraves@TML1.org Phone: 615-255-6416. Advertising: Publisher reserves the right to reject any advertising deemed unacceptable. Fax classified ads to TT&C: Attention Mona Lawrence at 615-255 4752, or e-mail mlawrence@TML1.org. Fax advertising copy to *TT&C*: Attention Debbie Kluth at 615-255-4752, or e-mail to dkluth@ TML1.org. Opinions expressed by non League officials or staff do not necessarily reflect policies of TML. Tennessee Town & City is published, semi-monthly, 23 times per year at 226 Capitol Blvd., Suite 710, Nashville TN 37219-1894. Periodicals postage paid at Nashville, TN. Subscription rates: \$6 per year to members, \$15 to nonmembers, \$1 a copy. Postmaster: Send changes of address to Tennessee Town & City, 226 Capitol Blvd., Suite 710, Nashville, TN 37219-1894.

was make us really take a measured look at our operation and where we could be more efficient without sacrificing service or quality," said Mark Williams, Columbia Wastewater director.

The Columbia Wastewater Treatment Plant was last expanded and upgraded in 2000. The largest energy demand of the plant is the four 625,000 gallon activated sludge basins and four 380,000 gallon aerobic digesters. Air supply is provided by three 450 horsepower blowers of which one ran 24 hours a day and one ran 12 hours a day. An energy management team made up of partnership members was able to work with plant staff to determine that a single 450 horsepower blower would be sufficient to operate the plant under normal loading conditions. As a result, the second 450 horsepower

Aeration is an important but expensive step in the treatment of wastewater.

response to the partnership, "The Environmental Protection Agency applauds these utilities in Tennessee for their leadership in reducing energy use, which is expected to save costs and yield substantial health and environmental benefits across the state and Southeastern region."

The Tennessee Water and Wastewater Utilities Partnership is now planning the third round of energy assessments. The partnership looks to be a role model for others around the country.



Tennessee Municipal League 2014-2015 Officers and Directors

PRESIDENT Tom Rowland Mayor, Cleveland VICE PRESIDENTS **Curtis Hayes** Mayor, Livingston John Holden Mayor, Dyersburg **Ann Davis** Mayor, Athens DIRECTORS Andv Berke Mayor, Chattanooga **Randy Brundige** Mayor, Martin **Roger Campbell** Asst. City Manager, Maryville (District 2) Wallace Cartwright Mayor, Shelbyville Vance Coleman. Mayor, Medina (District 7) **Betsy Crossley** Mayor, Brentwood Karl Dean Mayor, Metro Nashville **Richard Driver** Mayor, Lafayette (District 5) John Hickman City Manager, Waynesboro (District 6) Jill Holland Mayor, McKenzie **Hoyte Jones** Alderman, Sparta (District 4) Chris McCartt Asst. City Manager Kingsport (District 1) **Bo Perkinson** Vice Mayor, Athens (District 3) **Madeline Rogero** Mayor, Knoxville Paula Sedgwick Alderman, Bartlett (District 8) **Charles "Bones" Seivers** President-CEO, TN Municipal Bond Fund **Mary Ann Tremblay** Vice Mayor, Three Way **Ron Washington** Councilmember, Murfreesboro A.C. Wharton Mayor, Memphis PAST PRESIDENTS Dale Kelley (2014) Mayor, Huntingdon Ken Wilber (2013) Mayor, Portland Kay Senter (2012), Morristown Council Sam Tharpe, (2011) Mayor, Paris Tommy Green (2007) Mayor, Alamo Bob Kirk (2004) Alderman, Dyersburg

AFFILIATE DIRECTORS Dot LaMarche, Vice Mayor, Farragut (NLC) Janice Casteel, Cleveland (TCMA) TML AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS (Ex-Officio Directors) Tennessee Assn. of Air Carrier Airports Larry Cox, Memphis Tennessee

Tennessee Building Officials Assn. Steve Mills, Hendersonville Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police Glenn Chrisman, Murfreesboro TN Assn. Municipal Clerks & Recorders Lynn Carmack, Collierville Government Finance Officers Russell Truell, Franklin Tennessee Fire Chiefs Assn. Chief Roger Robinson, Alcoa Tennessee Fire Safety Inspectors Tommy White, Sevierville

Tennessee Association of Floodplain Management (TN AFPM)

Tenn. Assn. Housing & Redevel. Auth. Joyce Floyd, Knoxville Tennessee Municipal Attorneys Assn. Larry Craig, Kingston Springs Tennessee Municipal Judges Conference Tenn. Chapter, American Public Works Ronnie Hammonds, Kingsport Tennessee Recreation and Parks Assn. Candi Rawlings, Franklin Tennessee Chapter, American Planning Karen Hundt, Chattanooga Tennessee Personnel Management Assn. Rebecca Hunter, TNDOHR Tennessee Assn. of Public Purchasing Susan Huskey, Loudon Co. TN Section, Institute of Transport Engineers, Kevin Cole, Knoxville Tennessee Public Transportation Assoc. Jason Spain, Nashville Assn. of Independent and Municipal Schools Reecha Black, Alamo Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council Tennessee Urban Forestry Council (TUFC) Tennessee Water Quality Management

Municipal Electrics present case for providing broadband service

Broadband from Page 1

EPB became the first entity in the United States to offer one-gigabitper-second Internet speed for its entire service area. For about \$70 a month, businesses and residents in Chattanooga can enjoy some of the fastest Internet available anywhere in the country.

"We are in a position to provide these underserved areas and I don't see how that is a bad thing," said EPB Chairman Chuck Eaves.

The same problems exist in West Tennessee, where the Jackson Electric Authority offers broadband to its customers but is not allowed go outside of its footprint to provide services to nearby communities.

"None of the traditional television and telecommunications companies are willing to offer fiber services to smaller communities in rural areas like ours," said Huntingdon Mayor Dale Kelley. "However, Tennessee law currently prohibits our communities from accessing the services of those providers who are willing to offer us broadband service. Therefore, I am appealing to this committee to remove the barriers that currently prevent communities like Huntingdon from accessing broadband services."

"We're not asking for the legislature to fund these fiber optic deployments or be responsible for them," Kelley continued. "We're simply asking you to give our communities the freedom and responsibility to invest in fiber optics services that our

residents and businesses need to be competitive in the 21st Century."

AT&T Tennessee President Joelle Phillips testified that the gaps in service are not so much in the business community or with rural schools but in the homes where people are slow to sign up for such services.

"Where you are seeing the gaps are with residential rural subscribers who have fewer choices available to them and they are slower to adopt the latest technology," Phillips said.

She believes private investment is a more effective tool for rolling out high-speed broadband and that the legislators need to focus on tax policies that drive economic behavior and investments.

"Access to capital is a fundamental driver for businesses," Phillips said. "Government should provide incentives for private investment in broadband infrastructure, not compete with it."

On the Federal level, the Federal Communications Commission is in the process of determining whether to preempt state laws that restrict municipalities from constructing and operating their own broadband networks. This action results - at least in part – from a petition filed by the cities of Chattanooga and Wilson, NC, requesting the FCC to invalidate their respective state laws.

FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler has been critical of these state laws and has signaled that he is in favor of removing restrictions on community



Under Section 706 of the Communications Act, the FCC is authorized to promote the deployment of broadband in the United States. By ruling that the anti-municipal state laws constitute barriers to that mission, the FCC's draft order invokes Section 706 in preempting the laws.

The FCC has said that if it were to issue an order regarding preemption, it would occur this year. The commission is scheduled to meet Feb. 26

While an FCC order would be welcome news to the municipal systems, it certainly will not be the end of the debate.

Any FCC order preempting state laws will most likely be met with opposition from some members of Congress, including Tennessee's Marsha Blackburn. Congressman Blackburn presented an amendment last summer to a key appropriations bill that would prevent the FCC from preempting such state laws. The amendment passed by 23 votes.

If Congress is unsuccessful in derailing a preemption order, it is safe to assume AT&T, Comcast, Charter and other providers will challenge the FCC's authority to preempt state law.

Should preemption efforts fail at the federal level or stall in the courts for a protracted period of time, the only other recourse available to these municipal systems is to win repeal of their individual state laws.



U.S. employers added a vigorous 257,000 jobs in January, and wages jumped by the most in six years - evidence that the job market is accelerating closer to full health. The report showed that hiring was far stronger in November and December than it had previously estimated. Employers added 414,000 jobs in

November — the most in 17 years. Job growth in December grew to 329,000 from 252,000. Average hourly wages soared 12 cents in January to \$24.75, the sharpest gain since 2008. Over the past year, hourly pay, which has long been stagnant, has risen 2.2 percent. That is ahead of inflation, which rose just 0.7

percent in 2014. The unemployment rate last month rose to 5.7 percent from 5.6 percent. More Americans began looking for jobs, though not all of them found work, increasing the number of people counted as unemployed. An influx of job hunters suggests that Americans have grown more confident about their prospects.

UT MTAS March MAP Class

Planning and Zoning and Board of Zoning Appeals Meetings

THE UNIVERSITY of

Schedule of Sessions: Mar. 10 — Johnson City-EST Credit: CMFO 4CEU/4CPE/ CMFO (Other)

COMING UP

Mar. 3-5: Recreation Educational Services hosts a three-day Accessibility training course at Montgomery Bell State Park conducted by the National Center on Accessibility. This course is ideal for planners, designers, facility managers and accessibility coordinators. Session topics will include: relevant legislation, rules and regulations as they relate to parks and recreation; characteristics and needs of people with disabilities; program access requirements; and the ADA/ABA accessibility standards, boating and fishing facilities, picnic areas, trails, campgrounds, and beaches. For more information and on-line registration go to: http://events. constantcontact.com.

Mar. 6-10: American Society for **Public Administration Annual** Conference held at Chicago, Il. Hyatt Regency Hotel. For more information, or to register online, visit www.aspanet.org/public/Conference2015

Mar. 12-13: 2015 ICMA Southeast Regional Summit. Omni Grove Park Inn, 290 Macon Ave, Asheville, NC. The Emerging Professionals Leadership Institute precedes each regional summit. Managers are encouraged to invite early career professionals and emerging leaders to attend this leadership institute. For registration, visit http://icma. org/en/icma/events. For questions about the Summit, contact Felicia Littky at flittky@icma.org or call 202-962-3656.

Mar. 20: The Tennessee Government Finance Officers Association's Annual Spring Institute, Chattanooga Marriott, 2 Carter Plaza, Chattanooga,7 am- 5 pm. Participants will receive 8 CPE/ CMFO credits. Certificates will be e-mailed soon after the conclusion of the Institute. Check the TGFOA website for conference updates at www.tngfoa.org.

April 15-17: TPMA 23rd Annual Membership Meeting, held at the Park Vista Hotel, Gatlinburg. The "Three Pillars of Human Resources" certificate training will be offered during the conference. For more information, visit http://tnipma.org/ meetings.htm.

April 22-24: Tennessee City Management Association 2015 Spring Conference, held at the Hilton Garden Inn -Vanderbilt, 1715 Broadway, Nashville. Attendees will experience two and one-half days of educational programs targeted to the needs of professional local government administrators. Some workshops qualify for CMFO credits. A tentative agenda, registration and lodging information can be found at www.tncma.org. The cutoff date to receive the special rate for hotel rooms is March 19, or until the block of rooms are reserved, whichever occurs first. For any additional information, contact Mike Walker at Walker@TNCMA.org.

www.TML1.org



TML ASSOCIATE SPONSORS

5 Star Sponsor Bank of America **4 STAR SPONSOR** Servpro Disaster Recovery **3 STAR SPONSOR** Bank of New York Trust Co., N.A. First Tennessee Bank **2 STAR SPONSOR** Alexander, Thompson, Arnold CPAs Alliance Water Resources Ameresco, Inc. Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon, Inc. Carr, Riggs & Ingram LLC Energy Systems Group Fessenden Consulting Group ING Financial Partners Master Meter, Inc. Nationwide Retirement Solutions Parsons Brinckerhoff Waste Management Inc. of Tennessee **1 STAR SPONSOR** A2H Buxton Company Employee Benefit Specialists, Inc. J.R. Wauford & Co. Consulting Engineers Local Govt. Corporation McGill Associates, P.A. Municipal Equipment, Inc. Pavement Restorations, Inc. Republic Services Smith Seckman Reid TLM Associates, Inc. Utility Service Co., Inc. Vaughn & Melton Waste Connections of Tennessee Inc. Waste Industries USA, Inc.

TENNESSEE UT MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL Advisory Service

This class will address how a planning and zoning board meeting is conducted, how a board of zoning appeals meeting is conducted and what each body is responsible for, as far as their scope of authority and purview. Also addressed in this session will be commonly addressed issues in each body

Instructor: Sharon Armstrong

Time: 8:30-12:30 CST/EST

Mar. 11— Knoxville-EST Mar. 12 — Red Bank-EST Mar. 24 — Franklin-CST Mar. 25— Jackson-CST Mar. 26— Bartlett-CST

Locations:

Bartlett; Bartlett Station Municipal Center, 5868 Stage Road Franklin; Williamson Co. Ag. Expo Park, 4215 Long Lane Jackson; Jackson Energy Authority Training Center, 320 Hwy. 45 **By-Pass** Johnson City; Memorial Park Community Center, 510 Bert St. Knoxville; UT Conference Center, 600 Henley St.

Red Bank; Red Bank Community Center; 3653 Tom Weathers Dr.

Cost: Tennessee Municipal Employees—\$50/person/class. \$65 for non-municipal attendees.

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.

MTAS will need to receive payment in order to confirm attendance.

For registration assistance, call 865-974-0413. Or for more information, contact Kurt Frederick, training consultant, at 615-253-6385.

No loan is too large or too small



The city of Morristown closed a \$20 million loan for sewer system upgrades.





The city of Ripley closed a \$1 million loan for a new fire hall and equipment.

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



Twenty-two deaths across the state have been attributed to the major winter storm since it struck Feb. 16, plunging much of the state into single-digit temperatures and widespread power outages, according to the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency. Six of the fatalities were a result of car accidents; 13 were weather related such as hypothermia; two were a result of a house fire; and one was a dialysis patient, unable to get to treatment.

Out of 95 counties in Tennessee, six Middle Tennessee counties have the lowest unemployment rates in the state. Davidson, Williamson, Wilson, Sumner, Robertson and Rutherford counties have some of the lowest unemployment rates in the state. Within the top 10 lowest rate rankings in order from greatest to least, Robertson is ranked 10th lowest at 5.2 percent. Davidson has the eighth lowest at 5.1 percent. Sumner is the fifth lowest at 5 percent. Wilson and Rutherford tie for third and fourth place at 4.7 percent. Williamson has the lowest among all six at 4.4 percent and ranked second lowest on the list, and ties with Lincoln County, which is ranked the lowest in the state. Tennessee's average unemployment rate is 6.6 percent, which is still a point higher than the nation's 5.6 percent unemployment rate. Scott, Pickett, Lauderdale and Wayne counties have rates higher than 10 percent, and six others are approaching that point, falling above 9 percent.

Tennessee farmers and producers have seen demand for their farmfresh, locally produced items steadily increase in recent years, according to the most recent USDA Agricultural Census. Consumers have become more aware of the benefits of eating local food, including fruits, vegetables and meats. The Census reports the number of farms selling direct to consumers grew from 2,694 to 3,679, an increase of 36.6 percent. Even more important to the Tennessee economy is the parallel growth in the increased value of agricultural products sold directly to consumers. From 1997 to 2012, the value of agricultural products sold increased from more than \$8.3 million to more than \$19.1 million, an increase of 128.9 percent. In both cases, Tennessee's statistics outpaced the national average.

Driven by a national Powerball

Tennessee tax collections exceed budgeted expectations in January

Tennessee's total tax collections exceeded budgeted expectations in January, driven by strong holiday consumer spending and unexpected one-time collections in corporate taxes. Finance and Administration Commissioner Larry Martin announced that overall January revenues were \$1.3 billion, which is \$219.5 million more than the state budgeted.

"January sales tax collections, reflecting consumer spending that occurred during December, posted the largest monthly growth rate we've experienced for the past 33 months, and we recorded our strongest second quarter growth since 2006," Martin said. "We believe this month's growth was heavily influenced by several factors, including aggressive holiday retail marketing, continued reduction in the unemployment rate, lower gasoline prices, and an overall improving economy.

"It's important to note that all corporate payments, including one-time payments, are received throughout the year based on estimates, and reconciled at a later point with their final corporate filings. Although good news, one-time payments, when identified, are separated from our recurring tax base and used only to support one-time expenditures and uses. As always, the state will keep the budget in balance by working closely with the legislature."

On an accrual basis, January is the sixth month in the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

The general fund was over collected by \$214.1 million and the four other funds were over collected by \$5.4 million.

Sales tax collections were \$34.2 million more than the estimate for January. The January growth rate was positive 7.80 percent. For six months revenues are over collected by \$132.4 million. The year-to-date growth rate for six months was positive 6.76 percent.

Franchise and excise taxes combined were \$171.4 million more than the budgeted estimate of \$151.9 million. For six months revenues are over collected by \$158.0 million.

Gasoline and motor fuel collections for January increased by 10.68 and were \$2.4 million above the budgeted estimate of \$71.3 million. For six months revenues are over collected by \$10.7 million.

Motor Vehicle Registration Tax collections were \$3.0 million more than the budgeted estimate for January and the growth rate was positive 5.56 percent.

Tobacco tax collections were \$2.7 million more than the budgeted estimate of \$18.1 million, and for six months they are \$2.6 million under the budgeted estimate.

Inheritance and estate taxes were over collected by \$4.5 million for the month. Year-to-date collections for six months are \$13.9 million more than the budgeted estimate.

Privilege tax collections were \$1.9 million less than the January estimate, and on a year-to-date basis, August through January, collections are \$5.1 million above the estimate. Business tax collections were \$0.7 million more than the January estimate. For six months revenues are \$13.8 million more than the budgeted estimate.

All other taxes were over collected by a net of \$2.5 million.

Year-to-date collections for six months were \$343.9 million more than the budgeted estimate. The general fund was over collected by \$323.4 million and the four other funds were over collected by \$20.5 million.

The Funding Board met Dec. 11, 2014, to hear updated revenue projections from the state's various economists. The board met again on Dec. 16, 2014, and adopted revised revenue ranges for 2014-2015. The revised ranges assume an over collection from the July 2014 budgeted estimate in the amount of \$32.3 million to \$73.4 million in total taxes. The revised ranges for the general fund recognize a negative growth in the amount of \$6.6 million up to a positive growth of \$27.5 million for the current fiscal year.

Revenue projections are available on the state's website at <u>www.</u> <u>tn.gov/finance/bud/Revenues.shtml.</u>

TNStars[™] No. 1 college savings plan in USA

plan has just been recognized as the top direct-sold plan in the nation. TNStars[™] is a program of the Tennessee Department of Treasury. The number one ranking comes from SavingForCollege.org, who analyzes the investment performance figures for thousands of 529 portfolios and ranks the 529 savings plans from best to worst. The latest report released compares one-year investment performance as of Dec. 31, 2014. TNStars[™] investment options rank number one in the nation. TNStars[™] is designed to give Tennessee families high quality investment options at a low cost to help them put aside money for higher education expenses, while enjoying certain tax advantages and special incentives. Tennesseans can invest directly with the program, without having to go through a financial advisor. Money can be withdrawn from a TNStarsTM account tax-free as long as it is used for qualified post-secondary education expenses. In a time when there has been much news regarding who benefits from 529 plans, TNStars[™] serves families of all income levels. TN-StarsTM surveyed those who opened new accounts from September through December 2014 and learned more than half of all new accounts were opened by families making less than \$100,000 combined annual

TNStars College Savings 529 household income. Fifteen percent of all new accounts in Tennessee in that time frame were actually opened by families making less than 50,000 annually.



TN Highway Patrol receives protective vests for canines

The Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP) today received bullet and stab protective vests for eight canines during a special presentation at the agency's Training Center in Nashville. The protective vests were donated by PetArmor® and Vested Interest in K9s.

"Our canines are as valued as our state troopers," Col. Tracy Trott said. "We would not have been able to provide our canines with this level of protection without the generous donation from PetArmor and Vested Interest in K9s. We are grateful for their contribution."

The canine protective vests cost approximately \$950 each.

PetArmor, a flea and tick brand of Perrigo Animal Health, is dedicated to protecting canine officers across the nation. In 2013, PetArmor along with Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. — a nonprofit organization that provides bullet and stab protective vests to police organizations nationwide — vested 25 dogs in Florida, Texas and Maryland. This year, PetArmor donated another 25 police dog vests that will benefit canine officers at police departments in Florida, Nevada, Michigan and Tennessee.

For more information about the partnership between PetArmor and Vested Interest in K9s, Inc., visit petarmor.com/vested-interest.

TDOT message signs resonate with drivers

Thanks to enormous public participation, TDOT has selected five winning messages for the first ever Dynamic Message Sign Contest. Nearly 3,400 message entries were submitted last month. More than 9,000 votes were cast for the 15 messages selected as finalists. The messages covered issues such as distracted driving, seatbelt usage, impaired driving, speeding and aggressive driving. The top five messages are:

- "Texting and driving? Oh cell no!"
- "Exit to text it."
- "It's Tennessee. Slow down and enjoy the view."
- "Hey you! Yeah you! Hang up and drive!"
- "Tailgating is for the game,

statewide throughout the year.

"This contest has been an overwhelming success," said TDOT Commissioner John Schroer. "The purpose of the contest was to give the public a chance to partner with TDOT to raise safety awareness. So many great messages were received, and even if a submission didn't win, there's still a good chance that message may be seen from time to time on our DMS boards."

A total of 163 Dynamic Message Signs are located in the state's four urban areas (Chattanooga, Knoxville, Memphis, Nashville), and in some rural areas across the state. The main purpose of the signs is to alert motorists of incidents, lane blockages, hazardous road conditions, or Amber Alerts.

In 2012, TDOT became the first DOT in the nation to display roadway fatality numbers on the overhead signs. In addition to the fatality statistics, safety messages are displayed during off-peak travel times.

prize of \$564 million and new instant-ticket games, gross Tennessee Lottery sales of \$42.7 million set a new weekly record for the state lottery, officials said. Gross sales of \$42,697,488 for the week ending Feb. 15 broke the previous record of \$41,000,831 for the week ending March 31, 2012.

Tennessee Attorney General Herbert Slatery has joined 10 other attorney generals in their fight to keep the two largest broadline food-service distributors in the nation from merging into one mega-industry giant. The states and the Federal Trade Commission believe the merger would violate antitrust laws by significantly reducing competition nationwide and in 32 local markets for broadline food-service distribution services. They contend that food-service customers, including restaurants, hospitals, hotels and schools, would likely face higher prices and diminished services.

Earlier this month, Education Commissioner Candice McQueen kicked off a statewide tour of classroom visits where she plans to connect with 10,000 Tennessee teachers. The commissioner, whose tour began in her hometown of Clarksville, spent time with teachers, students, and administrators, listening to stories of their successes and challenges. The commissioner plans to complete her visits by the end of the calendar year.

TML requests E-mail addresses

The quickest way to keep city officials apprised of legislative happenings is through e-mail. Please send your updates to Mona Lawrence, by fax at 615-255-4752, by e-mail to <u>mlawrence@TML1. org</u>, or call 615-255-6416. "Tennesseans have a viable investment option to set aside money for their children's post-secondary education," said State Treasurer David H. Lillard, Jr. "Dollars invested in TNStars accounts are yielding strong returns. Even small amounts invested early will better prepare your child for education after high school."

Currently, all families who open savings account with TNStars[™] can receive up to \$375 in incentives. Some families will qualify for a four-to-one match of up to \$1500 per child. Money saved in a TNStars 529 account, including any extra incentives, can be used not only for post-secondary education tuition and fees, but also additional related expenses such as course books, room and board, and equipment and supplies required for attendance and enrollment at a qualified institution.

Research shows that children with a college savings account are six to seven times more likely to attend a four-year college, compared to children with no dedicated account. To learn more about opening a TN-Stars[™] account or participate in this nationally top-ranked college savings program, visit www.TNStars. com. not the road."

The winning messages will be placed in rotation to run on the overhead Dynamic Message Signs



J.R. Wauford & Company

Consulting Engineers, Inc.

Water and Wastewater Systems

Home Office: 2835 Lebanon Road P.O. Box 140350 Nashville, TN 37214 (615) 883-3243 www.jrwauford.com Branch Offices: Maryville, TN 37801 (865) 984-9638 Jackson, TN 38305 (731) 668-1953



CLASSIFIED ADS

Advertising: \$9.25 per column inch. No charge to TML members. Send advertising to: TT&C Classified Ads, Mona Lawrence, 226 Capitol Blvd. Suite 710, Nashville TN 37219; e-mail: mlawrence@TML1.org; or fax: 615-255 4752.

AIRPORT DIRECTOR

SHELBYVILLE. The city is accepting applications for Director of Shelbyville Municipal Airport. This is a highly responsible, department director level, administrative position. This is a newly created city employee position. Shelbyville is a historic, economically and racially diverse community located in southern Middle Tennessee and is the county seat of Bedford County. The Airport Director is responsible for the administration of the City's General Aviation Airport, including all personnel matters, budget, Airport operations, Airport marketing, and Airport property maintenance. Desired qualifications include a bachelor's degree in Aviation, Political Science, Business or a related field from an accredited university; five to seven years relevant experience is required; or any equivalent combination of education, training and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills and abilities for this job.Salary range of \$49,000 to \$59,990, plus excellent benefits.Letters of interest and resumes should be submitted on or before Friday, Feb. 27, 2015, to the city of Shelbyville, Attention: City Manager, 201 N. Spring St. Shelbyville, TN 37160.Successful applicants will be required to pass a background check, physical, psychological and drug/alcohol test prior to final consideration for the position. The city of Shelbyville is a Drug Free / EOE Workplace. For more information, please visit our website: www.shelbyvilletn.org

AIRPORT MANAGER / FIXED BASE OPERATOR

LEWISBURG

The city of Lewisburg is soliciting Proposals, from qualified individuals to provide general management and administration of the city owned airport as well as fixed base operator services. Proposal may combine the two positions or propose separately. Proposals will be received until 2 P.M. (CDT) on March 20, at the Lewisburg City Hall, 131 E. Church St., Lewisburg, TN 3709. The airport manager job description may be picked up at City Hall, 131 E. Church Street, Lewisburg, TN. Request for electronic copies should be directed to Pam Davis, recorder, 931-359-1544, ext. 11.

Proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked RFP-Airport Management and /or FBO Services on or before March 20 deadline to: Pam Davis, City Recorder, Lewisburg City Hall, 131 E. Church St., Lewisburg, TN 37091. Late proposal will not be considered. The city of Lewisburg complies with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which prohibits discrimination, and reserves the right to reject any and all bids and/or waive any formalities in the solicitation process.

to local governments. This employee will be directly responsible to the city manager. The essential functions of the assistant city manager are: manages all defined functions in areas as assigned by the city manager; and confers, coordinates, plans, and negotiates on behalf of the city manager and department heads on various operational and administrative matters. Represents the city at various regional, state, and executive committee meetings of governmental entities. (Full job description on line). Requirements are a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university is required; undergraduate degree with a major emphasis in Public Administration or Business Administration is preferred. Master's degree in relevant field is preferred and minimum of five years of work experience in government; municipal government preferred. The salary rage is \$87,478 - \$98.084 DOQ. Those interested need to go to www.murfreesborotn.gov for full job description and to apply on-line. The City of Murfreesboro is a Drug Free/ EOE workplace.

BUILDING INSPECTOR

UNION CITY. This is inspection work in building control and construction. The building inspector is responsible for the enforcement of the building code adopted by the city. Responsibilities include monitoring storm water control methods on construction sites and in new sub-division developments, flood plain management and development in the city flood prone areas. Applicant must be graduate of a standard high school or GED equivalent, hold active State of Tennessee certifications in building, plumbing and mechanical. For a complete job description notify: Lisa Chambers - lisag@ci.unioncity.tn.us or mail to resume to: City of Union City, PO Box 9, Union City, TN 38281

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

SPARTA. Qualified applicants are being sought by the city of Sparta, with a seven-member council and a population of 5,071, for the position of city administrator. The city has an annual budget of \$20,000,000 with approximately 80 full-time employees. The position oversees the day-to-day operations of the city and supervises all department heads, including police, parks, water, and sewer. The successful candidate must have a bachelor's degree in public/business management or related field and three years of government management experience or seven years of government experience. A master's degree and city management experience desired. Skills in budgeting, utility management, personnel issues, public safety, and long-range planning are essential. The successful candidate must have strong leadership, financial management, and interpersonal skills with experience in planning, land use, residential development, and infrastructure expansion. Salary: high \$70s to mid \$90s, DOQ. Resumes, along with a cover letter and three professional references must be received by March 2 at: The University of Tennessee, Municipal Technical Advisory Service, 120 Conference Center Building, Knoxville, TN 37996-4105, Attn: Warren Nevad. Electronic submissions shall be received at armintha.loveday@ tennessee.edu by March 2. The city has a competitive salary and benefits package; including retirement, health and life insurance, depending on qualifications. This position will remain open until filled. EOE

TN 37996-4105, phone: 865-974-0411, email: armintha.loveday@ tennessee.edu

CITY MANAGER

Oak Hill. The city of Oak Hill is seeking a city manager. The city, comprising an area of 7.8 square miles and a population of 4689, is located approximately five miles south of downtown Nashville. The city manager is appointed by and reports to a Board of Commissioners comprised of three commissioners popularly elected at-large to staggered, four year terms of office. The city has a \$1.4 M budget with a workforce of two to three employees serving the community. Candidates should possess a Bachelor's Degree in public administration, or a field closely related to municipal management, with a Master's Degree beneficial. Candidates must be a leader and possess a minimum of seven years of progressively increasing professional experience. Previous experience as a City Manager is a desired quality. Salary BOE This is an exceptional opportunity to guide the future of a mature, highly desirable residential community in the middle of a world class metropolitan area. Position profile is available at www.oakhilltn.us. If you are interested and have these qualifications, send a cover letter and resume in pdf format by electronic mail to: citymanagerapplicant@oakhilltn.us. Applications will be accepted until April 2, 2015.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

BRISTOL. Under the direction of the Director of Community Development, this position is to administer the Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnership Grant the city receives from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Employees in this job classification are responsible for process and compliance issues related to funding agency regulations and standards, and oversees adherence to administrative, fiscal and accounting policies and procedures related to grant funds. This position maintains detailed files for projects in connection with program funds, provides staff assistance to the Community Development Advisory Committee, conducts pre-bidding and bidding of rehabilitation/reconstruction projects, communicates with project applicants, coordinates with First Tennessee Development District regarding the administration of HOME funds, oversees and maintains financial records of the program, and researches to secure additional grant funds. This candidate must have a Bachelor's Degree in Urban Planning, Development or related field; supplemented by two years responsible funds accounting experience in grants or funding within a similar government institution; or an equivalent combination of education, training and experience. Salary Range: \$37,400 annually. To download an application and review summary of benefits go to: www.bristoltn.org. Apply to Human Resources Department, P. O. Box 1189, 801 Anderson Street, Room 204, Bristol, Tennessee 37621-1189. EOE/AA. Women/minorities encouraged to apply. The position will remain open until filled.

\$3600 personal benefit stipend. 10 days annual/personal leave plus federal holidays. A laptop and paid cellphone. Equal Opportunity Employer. Please submit your resume and cover letter to tnstormwater@yahoo.com by 5pm Eastern Time Feb. 27.

RECRUITER

COLLIERVILLE. The Town of Collierville has an immediate opening for a recruiter. This position performs responsible administrative work in identifying and developing internal and external candidate pools for current and future position vacancies utilizing carious resource tools, sourcing strategies and techniques. Requires a Bachelor's degree in Human Resources, Communications, Marketing, or a related field; supplemented by 1 year of previous experience and/or training involving recruiting or human resources; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills and abilities for this job. Valid driver's license required. Salary is \$35,619 annually with excellent benefits package. Applications and complete job descriptions are available at the Human Resources Office, 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN, 38017, M-F. The official application of the Town of Collierville must be filled out and may be accompanied by a resume. Applications and resumes are subject to disclosure. Position will remain open until filled. EOE

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT CHIEF OPERATOR

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



March 6-7: Etowah

The 21st annual Cousin Jake Bluegrass Festival and the 7th Annual John Studdard Gospel Concert This two-day bluegrass festival will feature some of the finest bluegrass artists in the region at the historic Gem Theater in Etowah, Tenn. Visit: www.etowaharts.org for more information or call 423-263-7609 for tickets.

March 7: Columbia

Japanese Cultural Festival. The Columbia Arts Council, in partnership with the Nashville Japanese Film Festival, Maury County Chamber and Economic Alliance, and Columbia State Community College, presents the Columbia Japanese Cultural Festival from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Ledbetter Auditorium, Clement Building at Columbia State Community College's. Attendees will experience a sampling of Japanese culture with a special performance by the Para-2Mahou dance group and a martial arts demonstration by Bushin Dojo Aikido. For a complete schedule of events and a list of vendors, please visit the festival's webpage at columbiajapaneseculturalfestival.org This community event is a free, family-friendly event.

March 14: Chattanooga

Great Southern Old Time Fiddlers' Convention

Beginning at 12 noon at historic Lindsay Street Hall for an old-time music and dance contest, all acoustic, no mics/amps/PAs. Come one and all to celebrate this great Southern tradition. Contests, cash and prizes in old time categories - fiddle, banjo, dance, song and stringband. Food and drinks will be available. For more information, visit www. oldchattanooga.com.

March 21: 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 28: Cleveland

Multicultural Fair Enjoy a day of diverse food and international entertainment at the Multicultural Fair hosted by the Cleveland State Community College International Studies Committee. The day begins with a parade of nations at 9:45 a.m. along the college campus. Festivities will continue inside the L. Quentin Lane Gymnasium with informational booths about different nationalities, children's games, and live performances. The event is free to the public. For more information, visit:www.clevelandstatecc.edu/events/program-series/ multicultural-fair.

ASSISTANT BUDGET OFFICER

COLLIERVILLE. The purpose of this classification is to perform professional financial work in the development and ongoing administration of the town of Collierville's financial process and in the development and maintenance of Town finances and supporting systems. Requires a Bachelor's degree with major course work in Finance, Economics, Accounting, Public or Business Administration, or a closely related field; supplemented by three years of job related experience in local government budget development and analysis, at least one of which must have been in a supervisory capacity; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Valid Motor Vehicle Operator's License required. Salary is \$48,311 to \$82,817 (DOQ) annually plus full benefits package. Applications may be obtained at the Human Resources Department, 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN, 38017, M-F, 8-5. Applicants must fill out the official Town of Collierville application to be considered for this position. Pursuant to Tennessee open records law, applications and resumes are subject to disclosure. This position will remain open until filled. EOE

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER.

MURFREESBORO. The assistant city manager shall provide skilled administrative assistance to the city manager in all phases of city operations. The employee will respond to citizens' complaints and concerns on behalf of the city manager; assist in the preparation and review of the city budget; be familiar with city policies; and, possess a working knowledge of employment and other laws applicable

CITY MANAGER

COOKEVILLE

The city of Cookeville is exception applications for city manager. Current manager retiring after 20 years. Salary range is \$102K - \$153,899K DOQ, plus excellent benefits. 425 employees and \$128 million budget. Position answers to five- member city council consisting of mayor, vice-mayor and three councilmen elected at large. Cookeville is conveniently located on I-40 between Nashville and Knoxville. Successful candidate chosen on the basis of their executive and administrative qualifications with special reference to actual experience. The ideal candidate will have previous city manager experience and should possess a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with a major in public administration, business administration, finance, political science or a related field (a Master's degree in public or business administration is preferred), or possess a combination of related experience and education. Application/resume is a public record. To view the position profile visit http:// www.mtas.tennessee.edu/web2012. nsf/EmploymentOpps Send cover letter and resume by March 6, 2015 to Armintha Loveday, UT-MTAS, 600 Henley Street, Suite 120, Knoxville,

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TENNESSEE STORMWATER AS-SOC. The Tennessee Stormwater Association is seeking an experienced and energetic leader to serve as executive director. Under minimal supervision, this person will be the primary public figure of TNSA and is responsible for association and program development, fundraising, budgeting and fiscal management, strategic planning, maintaining current relationships and developing new partnerships as well as promoting the organization's achievements through public and media relations. Must be highly motived, self-starter with the ability to take initiative, multitask and work well independently. Bachelor degree or equivalent experience in environmental science, biology, public or business administration, marketing, non-profit management, or engineering or a related field and three or more years of experience in coordination or oversight of a complex environmental program or non-profit organization. Must demonstrate experience with and knowledge of water quality and stormwater issues. Understanding of NPDES policy standards in the state of Tennessee, and grant writing experience preferred. Salary: \$30,000 per year plus up to \$20,000 in performance incentives; based on a 32 hour minimum work week. Incentives and/or raises driven by candidate's ability to generate funding; evaluated annually. TNSA has limited funds and supporting a staff person will require quick implementation of a strong fundraising program. Ability to work from home.

TML Board to meet March 5

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Municipal League will meet in regular public session on Monday, March 2, 2015, at 10.30 a.m. in the Tennessee Ballroom 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, Feb. 27 at the offices of the Tennessee Municipal League, 226 Capitol Blvd., Suite 710, Nashville. Additional information may be obtained from Mona Lawrence at 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 2, 2015, 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, Feb. 27, at the offices of TMBF, 226 Capitol Boulevard, Suite 502, in Nashville. Additional information concerning the above may be obtained at 615-255-1561.



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

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



Gilmore

Rep. Gilmore is serving her fifth term in the Tennessee House representing District 54 in Davidson County. Prior to that, she spent 8 years on the Nashville Metro Council.

John E. Stamps has been appointed alderman by the Collierville Board of Mayor and Aldermen to fill the remaining two-years Al-



Stamps

derman Jimmy Lott, following his death in January. The official appointment was made Feb. 9, during the regular meeting of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. Stamps and 21 other residents applied for the position. Stamps, a 20-year resident of Collierville, has served on the Collierville Planning Commission, Historic District Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals and the 2040 Collierville Land Use Steering Committee. He is a graduate of Leadership Collierville and volunteers with Main Street Collierville.

Joel Wallace is Clarksville's new Mayor pro tem. Wallace was elected to the position by his fellow city councilmembers at the

Wallace body's January meeting. He is a private practice attorney in Clarksville and has been a member of the council since 2009.

The town of Kingston Springs has a new mayor and vice mayor. The Kingston Springs City Commission selected Tony Gross as mayor and Bob Stohler as vice mayor. The commission elects a mayor and vice mayor every two years after the town election. Gross replaces Tony Campbell, who did not seek re-election, as mayor, while Stohler replaces Gary Corlew as vice mayor.



Roberts Officer Roberts served the Collierville Police Department for 16 years as a Patrolman, School Resource Officer and SWAT Team member.

The Metro-Nashville Human Relations Commission has appointed Melody (Mel) Fowler-Green as its new executive director.



Fowler-Green

Fowler-Green has 15 years of experience as an attorney advocating for social justice. She was the first staff attorney hired by the ACLU of Tennessee, where she worked on issues of racial justice, religious tolerance and LGBT rights. In private practice, she has worked exclusively as a plaintiff-side attorney representing low-wage workers and individuals who have suffered discrimination based on race, sex, national origin and disability. Additionally, she has advised university students on Title VI discrimination.

After serving more than three decades, Gallatin Police Department Investigator Danny Deyhle has retired. Deyhle began his career on Nov. 27, 1981. During that time, Devhle, who began as a patrol officer assigned to the traffic division, served as one of the department's first field training officers, was a DUI instructor, radar instructor and Taser instructor before finishing his career in evidence.

Norris, Rowland re-elected to TACIR posts



Sen. Mark Norris, TACIR chairman; Lynnisse Roehrich-Patrick, TACIR executive director; and Cleveland Mayor Tom Rowland, TACIR vice chairman

The Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Realations (TACIR) elected officers at its January meeting, returning Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris, and Cleveland Mayor Tom Rowland, to their posts as chairman and vice chairman.

New to the Commission are Rep. Harold M. Love, Jr., and Rep. Tim Wirgau, appointed by House Speaker Beth Harwell. She also reappointed Rep. Antonio Parkinson to another term.

The Commission consists of public officials from state and local government and private citizens. Of the 25 members, 22 are appointed to four year terms. Three statutory members hold membership by virtue of their position and include the chairs of the House and Senate Finance, Ways and Means Committees; and the Comptroller of the Treasury. In total, 10 members have local government as their primary affiliation; 11 represent the legislature; two are drawn from the executive branch; and two are private citizens.

Members representing muncipal governments interest include Betsy Crossley, mayor of Brentwood; Kay Senter, Morristown councilmember, and Mayor Rowland, Mayor of Cleveland, Vice-Chairman. A complete list of the Commission's current members can be fount at www. state.tn.us/tacir/commissioners.html

Knoxville Police officer awarded Medal of Valor

New additions to ECD Rural Development, ThreeStar program

Tennessee Economic and Community Development Commissioner Randy Boyd announced the appointment of Amy New as the department's first Assistant Commissioner for Rural Development. New, a department veteran working with business and community development programs, most recently served as director of the department's primary community development program ThreeStar.

Boyd said New would lead a new division within TNECD that reorganizes all community programs under her leadership. The move will allow the department to put a greater emphasis on assisting rural communities.

"While TNECD has done many good things for our rural communities, from the ThreeStar program to the Select Tennessee site development efforts, I believe we need to double down on our efforts," Boyd said. "Many of our rural areas are still struggling, and we need to reornew programs, improving existing ones, and reallocating resources, both personnel and financial.

Since 2012, as ThreeStar Director, New worked to restructure ThreeStar, focusing on five key areas critical to ensuring the success of Tennessee communities: Jobs & Economic Development, Fiscal Strength & Efficient Government, Public Safety, Education & Workforce Development, and Health & Welfare.

A native of Monterey, Tenn., New worked at both the county government and chamber level, and was a Business Profiles host with WCTE-TV prior to her work with TNECD.

Boyd also announced the hiring of Jody Sliger as TNECD's new ThreeStar director.

Sliger was most recently the interim president and tourism and marketing director of the Sparta-White County Chamber of Commerce. Prior to that Sliger was a journalist in the Upper Cumberland region, including as lifestyles editor of The Expositer newspaper in Sparta.



New





Vice President Joe Biden, accompanied by Attorney General Eric Holder, award the Medal of Valor to Officer Andrew Keith, from the Knoxville Police Department, during a White House ceremony in Washington, D.C.. Medals were awarded to public safety officers who have exhibited exceptional courage, regardless of personal safety, in the attempt to save or protect others from harm.

Knoxville Police Officer An- the flames while trying to reach the

ganize and align to serve them even better. That includes considering



Side by side, community by communit state by state. at every step. ortunity

The demands facing government entities are more challenging than So client teams work side by side with you to turn challenges into opportunities. To help you do more with less with greater efficiency, transparency and control. After more than a century of experience serving the public sector, we're here with advice and a range of solutions including credit, treasury and liquidity. Bringing the capabilities of a global financial services organization to the state and community level.

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

Bank of America 💜 Merrill Lynch

k of America Merrill Lynch" is the marketing name for the global banking and global markets businesses of Bank of America Corporation. Lending, derivatives, and other commercial banking activities are performe ally by banking affiliates of Bank of America Corporation, including, Bank of America, N.A., member FDIC. Securities, strategies advisory, and other investment banking activities are performed globally by investment banking affiliates of Bank of America constant, "investment Banking affiliates", lincuting, in the United States, Permil Lynch, Perece, Fenere & Smith Incorporated and Mermil Lynch, Prevensional Cleaning Corp., all of which are registered by investment Banking Affiliates: Are Not FDIC Insured • May Loss Value • Are Not Bank Guanated. ©2011 Bank of America Corporation.

drew Michael Keith was presented a Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor by Vice President Joe Biden and Attorney General Eric Holder during a White House ceremony on Feb. 11.

Officer Keith received the award for his swift and heroic actions on March 13, 2012 in response to a burning Tennessee Highway Patrol car. After a collision with a truck, the car's driver, Sergeant Lowell Russell, was unconscious and trapped inside the vehicle. When Officer Keith reached the scene, he radioed dispatch for the fire department and used his shirt to beat back injured trooper. When he reached Sergeant Russell, he kept the flames away from the injured man's body, while two citizens aided in cutting him from his seatbelt.

Once they had freed him, Officer Keith took control of the scene and kept people away from the vehicle, which exploded from a discharge of ammunition.

Due to the quick and courageous actions of Officer Keith and the concerned citizens, Sergeant Russell survived the accident and began rehabilitation a few weeks later. He attended the ceremony to help honor Officer Keith.

U.S. Transportation Chief urges city leaders to prioritize pedestrian safety

With pedestrian and cyclist deaths on the rise, U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx is challenging mayors and local elected officials to make the roads safer for both

Foxx has launched the "Mayors' Challenge for Safer People and Safer Streets," which invites Mayors and local elected officials to take significant action over the next year to improve pedestrian and bicycle transportation safety. The Mayors' Challenge will showcase effective local actions to improve safety, empower local leaders to take action, and promote partnerships to advance pedestrian and bicycle safety.

While overall highway fatalities have been declining, pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities have been on the rise in recent years and now represent nearly 17 percent of total fatalities. The Mayors' Challenge aims to reduce pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities around a framework of seven Challenge activities that are based on the latest innovations in improving pedestrian and bicyclist safety.

The initiative will begin in March when Mayors and staff will convene at the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) headquarters for a Mayoral Summit to discuss how to build upon or implement the challenge's seven activity areas.

The seven Challenge activities are drawn from the recommended actions stated in the 2010 USDOT Policy Statement on Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodation Regulations and Recommendations. For example, recommended actions in the policy statement include gathering and tracking data on biking and walking in their community and ensuring street designs are appropriate for pedestrian and bicycle safety. Attendees at the Summit will work with USDOT staff to identify new Departmental resources they can use during the Challenge and will network with their peers.

The Mayors' Challenge is a vital piece of Secretary Foxx's overall pedestrian and bicycle safety initiative. In September, Secretary Foxx announced the launch of the Safer People, Safer Streets initiative and asked USDOT field offices to conduct road safety assessments in every state. In March 2016, cities participating in the Challenge will reconvene for a capstone meeting to share lessons learned, and celebrate their success.

For more information about the challenge, go to www.dot.gov/mayors-challenge

Rep. Tim Wirgau takes on new role as Local Government chair

BY LINDA BRYANT

Tim Wirgau moved to West Tennessee from Michigan in the early 1990s because he had an opportunity to improve life for his young family. Wirgau relocated his printing business to Paris, Tennessee, and rolled up his sleeves to earn the trust of the community.

It wasn't easy. The locals didn't accept him immediately, and Wirgau had to work for several years to prove that he wasn't a fair-weather resident who'd pack up and leave when the going got tough.

"I remember calling on customers in town, and their favorite question was, "You're not from around here are you?" Wirgau says. "One of my favorite answers was, 'I'm not from around here, but I'm not going anyplace, either.' I remember calling on John Etheridge, who is now General Manager of the Board of Public Utilities, about 20 times. He said to me, "We like to do business with folks here that we see in church pews and at the ballpark."

Wirgau took the advice to heart. Even though he was more comfortable working long hours at his business, he extended himself beyond his everyday duties and joined local civic and business groups. Although it didn't happen overnight, he became a highly trusted and respected pillar of the community.

Wirgau has held several key leadership positions, including president of the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce, general manager of the World's Biggest Fish Fry, president of the Rotary Club and Henry County Commissioner. He's pleased with the relationships he's forged in Benton, Stewart, and Henry counties, and says he's committed to work on behalf of all his constituents, whether they voted for him or now.

"I am proud of the relationship I have with my county mayor and city manager," Wirgau said. "It was a rocky start from the standpoint of the mentality of the labels of Democrat and Republican, but that has been totally eliminated. "

Wirgau describes himself as a fiscal conservative who's not afraid to speak his mind and a fair person who understands there are always *two* — *or more* — *sides to a story.*

He has been married to his wife, Bonnie, for 33 years and has two children Tonya, 30, Brett, 28 and two grandchildren, Sadie Mae and Annalise Elizabeth. He was first elected to the House in 2010, and was re-elected in 2012, and again in 2014. House Speaker Beth Harwell named him chair of the Local Government Committee in January 2015.

TT&C: You moved to West Tennessee from the Midwest in the early 1990s. Why?

TW: We had a printing business, and we really wanted to grow it. We had an opportunity in Paris — a very unique opportunity I should say. I was young, and my kids were young. I had never been to Paris, Tennessee, in my life! I knew we could chase the dream and take the risk. My wife was very supportive, and it's really worked out. I've



Tennessee Town & City photo

Rep. Tim Wirgau on the House floor on opening day of the 109th Tennessee General Assembly.



Rep. Wirgau addressing his constituents. Currently serving his third term in the Tennessee House of Representatives, he represents Benton, Stewart, and Henry counties.

TRRA act was bringing a guaranteed income constituents. I may have started out naïve to into our community, and we needed the funds the Democrat/Republican stranglehold, but it

also served on the health committee. I am sure everything will ramp up very quickly, and I'm trying to learn some highly contested areas and what types of bills come through the committee. I understand how important local issues are, especially since I served as a county commissioner —we don't want unfunded mandates imposed on local governments or the state telling us how to run our communities.

TT&C: If there were a dissension, how would vou work with it as committee chair?

TW: I have already reached out to almost every single member of my committee to begin setting the guidelines of the kind of chairman I want to be. I hope we can limit some of the dissention. You can never eliminate it entirely, but you can at least reduce it. When the time for dissension comes, I will do my very best to get it under control and run our meeting with respect. I am not naïve enough to think it's not going to happen; but as chairman, I believe I can keep things in perspective.

TT&C: How would you describe your leadership style?

TW: Fairness just fairness. Sometimes it's time to play the boss, and God has given me that ability. And I won't have a problem with it when it's time to play the role of chairman and be decisive and keep the rule of order. However, first and foremost I am about teamwork and fairness.

TT&C: How has being a business owner and a member of business-oriented groups such as the Chamber of Commerce affected you as a legislator?

TW: It's how I came to understand government waste. For example, I tell my employees, just because it's a new year, it doesn't mean you automatically get a raise. I think of government in the same manner. That's dependent on the strength of your sales. In my printing business we've had to adapt to the times, and sometimes it's meant making sacrifices.

I'd take myself off the payroll before I'd take someone else off, and I've learned there are times when you simply have to struggle. It doesn't mean that I've never had to lay anybody off. I have, and it's no fun. But I have also seen the joy of being able to add jobs. People get excited about having a job. They appreciate the opportunity.

But, I am very cautious when I hire people. I want to make sure we get the right team player. I am also cautious to when we add somebody because I don't want to have to turn around and cut their job six months later.

TT&C: Are you worried about the burden of taxes on business owners?

TW: That's part of the reason why I ran for office. The legislature had passed an extra burden onto the business owners for unemployment when the unemployment fund was dropping. I was very angry.

I realize now, because I've been in the legislature for a while now, what a difficult decision that was. But I see it as the right decision. It has made it more difficult for business owners. We have to be very cautious when we're considering adding those extra burdens on businesses, because quite frankly, they can shut small businesses down. You don't want to make these kinds of decisions lightly. Now that the employment numbers are coming back up, we need to make sure that we remove that tax burden from the small business owner so they can rebuild their nest eggs a little bit.

been blessed.

TT&C: Was it hard to integrate into that close-knit community?

TW: It was difficult from a work standpoint. We had a very small print shop, basically just a two-man operation. Folks here are really tightknit. I'd always heard about the "good ole boy "system," and I really found out about it. The good ole boy system is not a bad system; it's a great system. However, it's hard to be accepted and to work within it.

I had a small shop where I was wearing many hats, typesetting, sales and running the printing press. I was basically working until midnight almost every day. I threw myself into the community. I joined the Jaycees, the Elks Lodge and several other organizations. I became a Chamber of Commerce member. I started to work within community and, quite frankly, it started as a way to help me grow my business. But it became contagious. When you are out working in the community and helping an organization be successful at the local fish fry or at Rotary Club breakfast, you get that satisfaction of knowing you're accomplishing something for the community. I really dedicated myself to it.

Before I knew it, I was general manager of the World's Biggest Fish Fry in Paris and president of the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce. Then I became the Rotary Club president. While all this was going on I was growing my business, and even purchased a few other print shops. I truly became a part of the community.

TT&C: You served on the Henry County Commission. What made you decide to run for that office?

TW: That was when the Tennessee River Resort District Act came through, when the bill was passed in the House. (The Tennessee River Resort Act of 2005 was enacted to allow counties along the Tennessee to gain some extra revenue to promote tourism along the river.) It included liquor-by-the-drink. Coming from Michigan, I had never even heard of a "dry" county before. But being a God-fearing man, I voted against it.

I came to understand the need for it, but I did have concerns. We were told that if we had liquor-by-the-drink new restaurants and hotels would come to our area. That didn't happen. The other side said that if we got liquor-by-the-drink, it would attract more drug, crime and DUIs. That didn't happen, either. The bottom line: the for infrastructure.

TT&C: Can you share a lesson you learned as a Henry County Commissioner?

TW: I learned to have a good, balanced perspective on waste in government. Having a business and seeing the financial side, it's always easy to say that there is waste in government. And no question about it, there's waste in government. It's inevitable. However, I don't think it's as easy to clean it up as folks think. We do need help. We do need some regulations.

TT&C: What are your relationships like with vour local officials?

TW: I would say we had a little bit of a rocky start. I didn't see eye-to-eye on some of the things that we wanted to spend money on. It wasn't me being a brash John Wayne type. I was trying to be a voice of reason. I think people began to trust me and realize they could work with me, even if we had a difference of opinion. I think it was that workability that compelled some people to eventually ask me to run for State Representative. A group of business leaders came and asked me to run. I remember one of them sticking his head back in the door. He said, "Remember you're going to have to run as a Democrat." That was in the late fall of 2007.

That was the very first time that we ever talked in terms of Democrat or Republican. There was never even any political talk in my family growing up, even though my father was a pastor. I did identify as a Republican, though. My grandfather used to say, "We are Republican and never forget it."

I got a phone call over Christmas break from the chairman of the local Republican Party. I was home sick that day, which I never do. It was probably one of the first sick days I have taken in 15 years. I didn't know if the answer was yes or not, but I sent a message back to him and said, "If Tim Wirgau is ever going to run for State Representative it will be on the Republican ticket." That's how all that got started.

TT&C: You have said that you don't size people up or judge them based on their political affiliation. Do you think this has helped you work with people?

TW: No doubt. I truly believe in the saying, "Do unto others as you would want them to do unto you." I believe in it wholeheartedly, and I pray to the good Lord that it will never leave me. I think that's what makes it easy to work with my actually works to my benefit.

TT&C: How did vou get elected in an area where local elections traditionally skew **Democratic?**

TW: To this day, Henry County has never had a Republican officeholder of any sort except for State Representative. Even in a time when there's still some political animosity, we continue to receive strong numbers.

I ran for State Representative for the first time in 2008. I lost but that's OK. Everybody thought I was just going to get slaughtered, including me. We came back in 2010 and won by a large number. I think I did it by working hard and being fair.

TT&C: You've talked about not being afraid to state your opinion even if it may not be what the majority wants. Can you think of one example when you were a commissioner and stood for you convictions?

TW: I was against the local Grove School project, even though they wound up spending the money on it. It ended up being a nice addition, but I stood firm at the time and didn't think it was a financially sound decision. It cost us at bit to raise taxes on the city and county.

TT&C: Did you have any goals in mind when you came here as State Representative?

TW: My goal has always been to be effective. I want my wife to be proud of the man that stands by her side, and I want my kids and grandkids to be proud of me, too. It's very difficult to make everyone proud because you have a certain group that's going to vote against you every single time no matter what. Just because I have an R beside my name, doesn't mean a hard-core Democrat can't pick up the phone and call. I listen, and I like working with all people. But I also understand the nature of the political business. I have just always wanted to be fair, and that's why I think I was appointed to this chairmanship. It's a reflection of my attitude.

TT&C: You are chair of the House Local Government Committee, and it's your first committee chairmanship. Can you talk about how you see your role as committee chair? TW: I was just named to the committee a couple of weeks ago, so I am inundated. I've never

served on a local committee in the legislature. I served in business and utilities, which I dearly loved, and I'm still involved with them. I have community.

TT&C: Do you have a piece of legislation that you are the most proud of?

TW: I worked on legislation for the small community of Camden. They have a tremendous problem with aluminum dross and a large landfill that was just creating havoc for them. We got some legislation passed to help communities with dumps and solid waste landfills that requires public notice and public hearings before a landfill can expand. It didn't do as much as I wanted, but it will help.

The other most prized was a fast-tracked bill that I carried to help industry and communities and economic groups all across the state. My ultimate goal is to open it up this year for rural communities. I would like to see a part of ECD's budget spent in rural communities. I'd say my biggest focus here on the Hill is for rural communities. It's not that I'm against the urban cities, but I definitely want to look out for the rural communities.

TT&C: What is it like working with Gov. Haslam?

TW: I think he's doing a good job. He's always been open when I've asked to talk with him. I believe he has a strong passion for people. Some people were very critical of the recent health plan that he put out, but I praise his administration for putting out a plan. There weren't too many other people that stepped up and said, "Here's a plan." I think a lot of the dissension comes from it being labeled "Obamacare," and it turned into a political ping-pong. And I said this publicly. "Let's stop this political ping-pong game, and let's do the work." That is why Washington is broken. They have forgotten about their constituents, and that is who we need to focus on. I tell people I don't have a lot of political ambition. I really don't. That doesn't mean that I may not go up in the ranks someday, but it's not my passion. If I went home tomorrow, I would just focus on being a great father and staying involved in my