

Coalition calls on lawmakers to address road funding crisis

Transportation funding addressed during Annual Conference

The Transportation Coalition of Tennessee (TCT) recently held a news conference, streamed live over the Internet from Nashville, to call on state lawmakers to address Tennessee's transportation infrastructure crisis that threatens the safety of drivers and the economic competitiveness of the state.

"Tennessee's transportation system is now in a crisis," said Susie Alcorn, executive director of the Tennessee Infrastructure Alliance. "At a time when our state is growing – in terms of population and economy – we no longer have the ability to create and maintain a transportation infrastructure to support it."

The Transportation Coalition of Tennessee, which the Tennessee Municipal League is a member of, formed late last year to shed light on the growing transportation issues and to put pressure on Tennessee's lawmakers to address those issues.

Bill Moore, chairman of the Tennessee Infrastructure Alliance and former chief engineer for TDOT, See **ROADS** on Page 6



Sen. Jim Tracy

Sen. Jim Tracy, chair of the Senate Transportation Committee, and Kent Starwalt, member of the Tennessee Transportation Coalition, will update TML members on the growing transportation issues facing our state, as part of the information provided during the **Second General Session on Monday, June 8, from 9 to 10:15 a.m. at the Nashville Convention Center.**

TN Municipal Bond Fund reaches \$4 billion mark

Savings to cities exceeds \$575 M

The Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF) achieved a pair of milestones recently. TMBF has loaned \$4 billion and has now closed more than 1,250 loans.

"These milestones show TMBF's ongoing commitment to providing your community with the loans you need at the lowest cost so that you can create opportunities for your communities to grow," said Charles G. "Bones" Seivers, president and CEO of the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund.

The TMBF was created by the TML Board of Directors in 1986 to provide municipalities in Tennessee with low cost funds. It began full operations by offering a pooled variable rate loan program as well as an alternative loan program.

To date, the TMBF variable rate program has saved cities and counties more than \$575 million in interest costs alone. TMBF was created for the sole purpose of saving cities and towns money. "I feel we are accomplishing our mandate," added Seivers.

In recent years, the TMBF has made a few changes in an effort to better serve Tennessee communities. TMBF began offering a fixed rate loan option in addition to its variable rate option. Since adding the fixed rate option, TMBF has grown and the fixed rate loan option has become very popular.

"We could not have done this without all the hard work of our dedicated board members and our extraordinary staff," Seivers commented. "They work hard every



Charles G. "Bones" Seivers

day to ensure they provide the best service and the loan options you want at the best price."

TMBF feels that the valuable part of its job is maintaining a great relationship with all municipal officials. This is a practice we have strived to create over the past 29 years. Seivers said, "When we look at the number of repeat borrowers, we get a renewed sense of dedication that makes us work harder every day to prove that the faith these communities have placed in us is not misplaced. I sincerely appreciate our partnership with the Tennessee Municipal League, and our relationship with all cities and towns in the state."

Seivers stated that he is excited about the future of TMBF. "We offer many features and advantages that can save you money. All we ask is that you give us a chance to provide you with options. We were created by you, for you. Our board of directors is composed of municipal officials and we are always here for you."

Update on FCC's wireless siting

On May 5, 2015, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) gave its approval to three outstanding information collection requirements associated with the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Acceleration of Broadband Deployment by Improving Wireless Facilities Siting Policies which were adopted by the Commission in October 2014.

When the policies were first adopted, the 30 day /10 day and deemed granted letters of the FCC's 6409(a) order were not effective until OMB reviewed and approved these under the Paper Work Reduction Act.

The newly approved requirements provide:

- In order to toll the order's 60-day review timeframe on grounds that an application is incomplete, the reviewing local government must provide written notice to the applicant within 30 days of receipt of the application, clearly and specifically delineating all missing documents or information.

- Following a supplemental submission from the applicant, the local government will have 10 days to notify the applicant in writing if the supplemental submission did not provide the information identified in the local government's original notice delineating missing information. Second or subsequent notices of incompleteness may not specify missing documents or information that were not delineated in the original notice of incompleteness.
- If a request is "deemed granted" because of a failure to timely approve or deny the request, the "deemed granted" remedy does not become effective until the applicant notifies the applicable reviewing authority in writing after the review period has expired that the application has been "deemed granted."

OMB's approval was published in the Federal Register and became effective May 18, 2015.

These newly established requirements are in addition to other wireless siting rules that became effective April 8, 2015.

Police weighing the benefits of body cameras

BY KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

Police departments nationwide are weighing the benefits of outfitting their officers with body cameras and whether they would help alleviate public concerns over police conduct in the wake of some recent high-profile incidents.

In Tennessee, legislation was introduced this year that would require all law enforcement officers to wear wide-angle body cameras at all times when the officer is on duty. (SB 868 by Sen. Sara Kyle and HB 712 by Rep. Brenda Gilmore). Videos recorded by these cameras would have to be maintained by agencies for seven days, but cannot be destroyed if the footage contains evidence that may be used in the investigation of a crime or complaint against the officer.

The bill further provides that "no video recording made under this bill may be duplicated and made available to the public by a law enforcement agency until final disposition of any criminal charges that arise from the event or events that were recorded" and no law enforcement agency may reproduce these videos for commercial footage.

To finance cameras, the bill stipulates that grants, private donations and federal funding can be used to obtain these cameras and if federal funding is not available to an agency, that agency is exempt from the bill.

A poll conducted by Vanderbilt University's Center for Democratic Institutions indicated a majority of bipartisan support for police body cameras among Tennessee residents with 86 percent of respondents saying officers should be required to wear small cameras while on duty.

Joshua Clinton, co-director of the poll, said equal numbers of respondents who were identified as Democrats and Republicans favored cameras for officers, which received more widespread report than any other issue raised by the statewide poll.

Maryville Police Chief Tony



Police departments nationwide are considering the adoption of body cameras for officers to ease concerns of residents. The Maryville Police Department has been using such cameras for several years, and Chief Tony Crisp says they have proven to be a valuable resource.

Crisp said his department has six cameras they have been using for about a year and a half as part of a pilot program but is already working on more cameras.

"We assigned two per shift, for daytime and night to see how they would perform in different lighting and weather conditions," Crisp said. "We have since ordered 22 more. And after July, we plan to order an additional 10. It's strictly for our uniform personnel who are assigned to patrol or traffic, which would be our initial response officers. If you were to call 911, it would be those officers who would respond that would use those cameras."

This is not the first time the department has experimented with equipping officers with body cameras. Crisp said the department tested some cameras four to six years ago, but held off on adopting them because the quality of the technology was still in its early stages.

Now that the technology has caught up, Crisp said the cameras have proven beneficial for the department.

"It's something we saw as new technology we could use," he said.

"We have had cameras in our patrol cars for a number of years, and it's been very beneficial to have those cameras in our cars. I've always felt, even going back to in-car cameras that the cameras are more of a benefit to the officer than anybody because it shows what did in fact happen. It is certainly a very valuable tool in the prosecution of offenders, even in something as simple as a DUI. Instead of the officer just testifying and just trying to portray the condition that person was in, you now not only have the officer telling them what condition the person was in but you have video tape."

The body cameras currently in use by the Maryville Police Department are "about the size of a pack of cigarettes," according to Crisp, and are worn on the chest of an officer. Crisp said there are other models allowing officers to clip cameras onto their collars and glasses. He said the battery power of the cameras lasts for about one shift and the cameras can be recharged on the same docking stands that download the video.

Video has also been useful for training purposes, Crisp said. See **CAMERAS** on Page 8

Cities given more tools to fight blight

BY KATE COIL

As many municipalities continue to deal with blight created by the collapse of the housing market during the Great Recession, a new state law aims to help cities streamline the process of putting tax-delinquent real estate back on the tax rolls.

Signed by Gov. Bill Haslam on May 20, Senate Bill 331 will shorten the amount of time delinquent property owners can repay their taxes and redeem their property, thereby allowing municipalities to sell the properties more quickly.

Owners of properties deemed vacant or abandoned under the law have 30 days from the entry of the order confirming the sale to redeem the property.

Those owning properties or unoccupied parcels with delinquent taxes going back five years or less have one year to redeem their property. For unoccupied properties with five to eight years of delinquent taxes, owners have a 180 day redemption period. Owners of unoccupied properties that have been delinquent for eight or more years have 90 days to redeem their property.

Additionally, Senate Bill 1123 will allow counties with metropolitan governments to convey delinquent properties to nonprofit organizations for the purpose of constructing affordable or workforce housing.

In April 2015, a staff report was presented to members of the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations titled "Dealing with Blight: Impediments Caused by Foreclosure." The report details strategies to both keep homes occupied as well as address blight created by foreclosed homes.

According to the report, foreclosures statewide peaked in 2008, with 44,153 foreclosure filings that year alone. The majority of these were in Shelby County, where 15,516



While the economy and the housing market continue to improve, many cities are still dealing with properties that were foreclosed upon or left vacant during the Great Recession. A new state law aims to lessen the amount of time it takes to sell the properties of tax-delinquent owners so real estate can be put back on local tax roles and communities can tackle blight.

foreclosures were filed that same year, roughly 3.9 percent of the total foreclosures in the state.

Since then, the report found most of the housing markets statewide have begun to recover, but the Memphis housing markets have not rebounded as quickly. The city of Memphis ranks 36 out of 100 cities across the nation with negative equity as 33 percent of homes in the city limits are classified as "underwater" or having more debt owed than the home is worth. The average home price is also 25 percent below average the peak of the housing market.

Memphis Treasurer John "Pat" Black said many of the properties not being maintained within the city are in the hands of mortgage companies, not individual owners.

"It's a tough time right now for a lot of people," he said. "A lot of it stems from foreclosures. Mortgage

companies take properties, but don't change it to their name. They own it, but it is still in the old owner's name and the property is not being kept up. That is one of the challenges we have faced here, but they have put a new law in place to correct that by making mortgage companies that have properties register with the city."

Shelby County handles tax sales for properties within the city of Memphis, but that doesn't mean the city isn't affected by the issues created when owners are delinquent on property taxes. While these properties wait to go on the market at tax sales, Black said the city is losing on potential revenue streams.

"As a result of them not being paid, that is when they put it on a tax sale to have someone buy it and maintain the property," Black said. "We are losing tax revenues. The city See **BLIGHT** on Page 6

NEWS
ACROSS
TENNESSEE

HENDERSONVILLE
Officials with the city of Hendersonville got their first look at plans for a new city park when Mayor Scott Foster presented his 2015-16 fiscal year budget on April 22. The budget proposal includes a \$3.6 million bond for four capital projects, one of which is a \$1.5 million park off Drakes Creek Road. Leaders voted earlier this year to take \$7,500 from the city’s general fund for a master plan for the park, which would be located on 55 acres owned by the city. Plans for the park include seven soccer fields, a lacrosse field, a horse barn for the city’s police department, parking, restrooms and concessions. Parks Director Dave LeMarbre said the \$1.5 million Foster wants to borrow in the upcoming budget for the park will allow the city to construct the first phase of the project. LeMarbre said he’d like for city leaders to consider increasing the amount to \$2 million. City leaders hope the new park will help with traffic congestion and provide more sporting venues for the growing city.

KINGSPORT
The city of Kingsport has been recognized by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, in conjunction with Clean Air Month for outstanding efforts to reduce transportation-related energy and emissions at the inaugural Sustainable Transportation Awards. Kingsport was recognized for its Downtown Employee Bicycle User Group (DEBUG), which provides city employees with bikes and helmets for free so they can travel to meetings, luncheons and business events. New bicycle lanes were also built in the city and other businesses and organizations in Kingsport opted to promote bicycle use themselves. The city has also partnered with several local organizations, hospitals and businesses to grow the DEBUG program.

KNOXVILLE
The city of Knoxville launched the Purple Cities Initiative in May with the goal of becoming one of the first dementia-friendly cities in the country. The Purple City Alliance hopes to serve as a model for communities across the country to support dementia sufferers and their families. Mayor Madeline Rogero and Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett helped kick off the effort, which featured keynote speaker Dr. Monica Crane of Cole Neuroscience Center. Tennessee Lady Vols Basketball Assistant Coach Kyra Elzy also shared her personal story of her family’s experience with dementia. The Purple Cities Alliance, led by a team of local volunteers, practitioners and community leaders, provides dementia education and training resources to community members and organizations. To date, more than 40 organizations and businesses have joined the alliance.

MEMPHIS
Total Quality Logistics will be expanding its operations with a new location in Memphis. The transportation services company will invest \$1 million to open a sales office downtown to meet the needs of its client base. The move will create at least 100 new jobs during the next

five years. This marks TQL’s third expansion in the state in over a year. The company has two others offices in Nashville and Knoxville. TQL’s Memphis office is expected to open in August in an existing building in the heart of downtown located at 100 Peabody Place. TQL moves approximately 3,500 different types of commodities including fresh fruits and vegetables, packaged foods and beverages, meat and poultry, machinery and equipment.

MEMPHIS
The city of Memphis is one of 16 cities worldwide and four in the U.S. to receive an IBM Smarter Cities grant, which will help the city handle non-emergency calls that are driving up response times and costs for the city’s emergency responders. Memphis was one of 100 cities that applied for the IBM grant, which will help the city collect, analyze and store information about non-emergency calls and improve services to citizens. Of 120,000 EMS calls the Memphis Fire Department responded to in 2014, 25,000 calls were non-emergencies. Officials have said non-emergency call volume has increased 10.5 percent in the past three years, which has driven up response time. The new grant will use data to combat these problems and improve response time.

MURFREESBORO
The city of Murfreesboro and Mayor Shane McFarland have recognized city employees at the Sinking Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant with a STARS award for outstanding performance. The award stemmed from the team’s performance in biological nutrient removal, specifically phosphorous and nitrate. While most people don’t understand the science behind wastewater treatment, City Water and Sewer Department Director Darren Gore emphasized that what the plant achieved was a “significant accomplishment,” especially as the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) was unsure if the older plant could perform under the new standards. Meeting the new standards were required in order for the plant to receive a new permit for treating effluent water. Phosphorous treatment efficiency was increased 100 percent. In addition, changes in operation saved the city more than \$130,000 in electricity costs in one year.

MURFREESBORO
The Murfreesboro Municipal Air-

port will be undergoing a \$5 million runway expansion project beginning in May. The improvements include the removal of runway/taxiway connectors “B” and “C”, constructing new taxiway connectors “A2” and A3”, construction of a new LED airfield lighting system and improved signage and drainage to meet FAA standards for Stormwater runoff. The LED lighting system will have an immediate impact in reducing electrical expenses. Atkins Engineering is working with the Tennessee Division of Aeronautics and contractor LoJac Enterprises, Inc. To accommodate the construction, the airport began nightly closures from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. to minimize air traffic disruption on May 18. The closures are expected to take 75 days while the project itself is expected to be completed in 135 days.

NASHVILLE
Franklin-based Community Health Systems has announced it will invest \$66 million to expand its operations by constructing a new Shared Services Center in Nashville, which will create 1,500 new jobs over the next five years. CHS will construct the new office building near Cane Ridge Road in the Antioch area of Davidson County. The six-story, 240,000 square foot CHS Shared Services Center will perform some business and administrative functions that support the organization’s affiliated hospitals, enhancing operations efficiencies and standardizing processes. Across Tennessee, CHS has 19 affiliated hospitals and corporate headquarters in Franklin, totaling nearly 16,000 employees across the state. Community Health Systems, Inc. is one of the nation’s leading operators of general acute care hospitals and one of Tennessee’s largest employers. The organization’s affiliates own, operate or lease 199 hospitals in 29 states with approximately 30,000 licensed beds.

PLEASANT VIEW
A Clarksville-based packaging distribution company is moving its operations to the former Flexible Whips facility on Highway 41-A in Pleasant View. QC Industrial Solutions plans to open in the new location by June. The company’s current headquarters are on Madison Street in Clarksville. It also has warehouses in Paris, Tenn., and Hopkinsville, Ky. The company paid \$1.5 million for the 13.9-acre property at 6341 Highway 41-4 in Pleasant View. The company has many clients in the Middle Tennessee area, including Lebanon, Dickson, Springfield and Nashville. The company supplies cardboard boxes among paper, plastic and wood products mostly to auto parts plants in Middle Tennessee and Southern Kentucky.



A circular common area, marked with a large military star and three flagpoles, honors fallen military veterans with the symbol of each U.S. military branch.

Spring Hill celebrates opening of new park

Spring Hill recently held a grand opening for the city’s news 30-acre Port Royal Park. It is the city’s largest park and was designed with its citizens in mind. “Spring Hill has a uniquely high percentage of young families with children, and so many of those families had asked us for years to create more lively park space,” Mayor Rick Graham said. “We also had children who wanted to play football, but were being turned away because there were not enough fields in Spring Hill. What we have built on Port Royal Road is truly a first-class park and public gathering space that our residents can be proud of. It adds the needed football fields, and it’s the only park in Williamson County with a splash pad.” Some of the features include: splash pad, Veterans Memo-

rial Wall, playground, football fields, walking track, concessions building, picnic shelters, basketball and tennis courts, and amphitheater. Also on the park property is the new Fire Station No. 2, which includes three truck bays, a large training room, offices, sleeping quarters, showers, and a kitchen. It replaces the old makeshift house on Port Royal Road that had been renovated into a fire station. “I am very excited to see this park open,” City Administrator Victor Lay said. “The city has had the property available for several years to be developed but only recently has been financially able to do so. The Skate Park last year, and this year’s Port Royal Park, highlight a new commitment the city has toward community livability.”

TN high schools make nation’s best list

Nashville’s Hume-Fogg Academic High School topped the list of the top high schools in Tennessee in a report compiled of the best high schools across the nation by *U.S. News and World Report*. Hume-Fogg also cracked the top 50 schools in the nation, ranking as No. 48 on the publication’s list of best schools and ranked tenth on the list of best magnet schools. Hume-Fogg was also the highest ranked magnet school in the state. The school earned the ranking for offering a curriculum heavy in honors and Advanced Placement courses as well as the school’s internship program, community services opportunities, high proficiency in algebra and English as well as a student-teacher ratio of 21:1. Nashville’s Martin Luther King Jr. Magnet at Pearl High School earned the second-highest ranking in the state followed by Merrol Hyde Magnet School in Hendersonville,

Central Magnet School in Mufreesboro, and Farragut High School in Knoxville. Farragut High was the only non-magnet school to be ranked among the state’s top five schools. Farragut High School was also the top-ranked public school for the state. Johnson City’s University School came in sixth statewide. Dobyns-Bennett High in Kingsport ranked seventh followed by Bearden High in Knoxville, and Soulsville Charter School in Memphis. Morristown West High School rounded out the top 10. Soulsville Charter School was the highest ranked charter school in the state and the only charter school ranked in the state’s top 10. The rankings were compiled on statistics based on student-teacher ratios, college readiness, and proficiency in algebra and English. Public, charter and magnet schools were all ranked by the study.

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

Branch Offices:
Maryville, TN 37801
(865) 984-9638
Jackson, TN 38305
(731) 668-1953

www.jrwauford.com

MEMBER
FOCUSED

THE
TML
POOL

Tennessee’s Leader in Risk Management Services

TML salutes 2015 Achievement Award winners

Brentwood: Police Services

Managing limited resources, proactively approaching crime and delivering quality services to citizens on a smaller-than-average staff are among the efforts that have led Brentwood to be consistently ranked as one of the state’s safest cities. In 2013, the city was ranked as 30th safest city in the country by NeighborhoodScout.com and presently has no unresolved homicide or violent crime investigations pending.

In recognition of Brentwood’s outstanding efforts to employ best practices within its police department – to serve, protect and keep the peace – the Tennessee Municipal League awards the city with an Excellence in Police Services Award.

The Brentwood Police Department is the most tenured accredited agency in the state of Tennessee and has been internationally accredited and recognized by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The agency has also been recognized as a “Meritorious Agency” based on tenure, a “Flagship Agency” based on merit, and most recently received their 2014 award “With Excellence” for completing the Gold Standard Assessment, he said.

The police force also works dil-

igently alongside citizens, community groups and businesses to keep the area safe.

“Building and maintaining strong community relations continues to be a priority of the Brentwood Police Department, which proudly oversees 45 active Neighborhood Watch groups,” said Rex Barton, an MTAS police consultant. “Through partnerships with neighborhoods, schools, businesses, civic organizations, and churches, agency personnel strive to instill confidence and build trust throughout the community while promoting a desirable quality of life to the citizens they serve.

Barton said Brentwood provides excellent services to citizens despite having a staffing level below the state and national averages for number of officers per unit of population. To help maintain a high level of service to the community, he said the agency implements a stringent selection process to recruit and hire the best candidates, maintains current and legally sound policies and procedures, provides mandatory and specialized training for all agency personnel, and provides personnel with state-of-the-art equipment and technology.

Brentwood Police Chief Jeff Hughes said the credit for his de-

partment’s success is rooted in the individuals who make up the police force and their dedication to the community.

“I am very proud of the men and women that comprise the Brentwood Police Department and I consider it an honor to lead such an esteemed group of professionals in this internationally accredited agency,” Hughes said. “Our members are mindful of their role as public servants and take pride in providing the highest quality service possible to our citizenry. To be recognized by TML for Excellence

in Police Services for what we consistently strive to accomplish as an organization, day in and day, out is indeed an honor.”

Since the inception of the Brentwood Police Department in 1971, only three people have held the position of chief of police. The position is currently held by Chief Jeff Hughes, who was selected to head the agency in 2012 and has spent 28 years with the department.



A Brentwood Police officer works with local students as part of D.A.R.E. programs the department offers through local schools. The Brentwood Police Department performs a variety of outreach programs at local schools and daycares.

Chattanooga: Public Works



The city of Chattanooga collects brush from about 60,000 customers a year, which typically totals 28,700 tons of wood. The wood is deposited at the city’s wood recycling center where it is grinded into wood waste to be used as landfill cover on city property and a small portion as boiler fuel to be sold back to citizens.

Public works departments are tasked with providing essential services to citizens, and the city of Chattanooga’s Department of Public Works has gone above and beyond the call of duty in providing snow removal, stormwater management services, and brush, refuse and hazardous material cleanup to residents. For its excellence in providing city services, the Tennessee Municipal League recognizes Chattanooga with an award for Excellence in Public Works.

When snow struck the state in February 2015, Public Works Administrator Lee Norris and city crews worked throughout the night to plow, spread salt and brine, and keep 1,400 miles of roads in the city passable. The city also used an interactive tracking system on its website to keep residents informed of where city crews are at work.

The city also demonstrated excellence in its removal of brush, refuse and hazardous material. The department collects and disposes of brush for about 60,000 customers on a “call for collection” basis, allowing residents to use the city’s 311 service center to schedule collection. Service requests are then entered into software to create the most efficient pickup routes.

Crews collect approximately

28,700 tons of wood a year, which are then deposited at the city’s own wood recycling center. A city-owned grinder processes the wood waste, which is used as landfill cover, on city owned property and sold back to residents as boiler fuel.

Public works crews also collect curbside refuse from residents once a week, a service which is offered for free. The city participated in the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service’s municipal benchmarking program and learned they collect nearly double the state average in residential refuse and recycling materials in 2013. The city also spent \$74 per ton collected, lower than the average \$136 for other cities in the program. In December 2015, the city had a record month in total recyclable tons collected through its curbside recycling program, up 54 percent from the previous year, and saw 2,300 new residents signing up for the program.

The city also provides hazardous waste services for residents of Chattanooga and Hamilton County. Citizens are permitted to dispose of hazardous materials the second Saturday of every month at the public works department’s Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility. The items collected are either reused, recycled or disposed of accordingly.

Chattanooga also promotes environmentally-friendly policies in the operation of its water and stormwater systems, according to Sharon Rollins, MTAS technical consultant.

“Chattanooga is a leader in sustainable water quality management,” Rollins said. “The department is diligently complying with its NPDES MS4 Permit and has recently implemented new policies, ordinances, and codes which promote the use of green infrastructure.”

The city received the 2014 American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) Tennessee Engineering Excellence Honor Award for its Citico Creek Interceptor Rehabilitation project, which involved the repair of approximately 6,300 feet of 42-inch interceptor pipe using trenchless rehabilitation. The city also reduced its sanitary sewer overflows by 60 percent in 2014 with a five-year overall reduction of 50 percent. Chattanooga also used the Moccasin Bend wastewater treatment plant to treat approximately 25 billion gallons of wastewater in 2014 and used 71,595 tons of nutrient-rich biosolids to help local farms reduce the need for petroleum-based fertilizers.

The department also provides other necessary day-to-day services including engineering, operation and maintenance of parks, maintenance of streets and roads, stormwater management, and wastewater collection and treatment.

Columbia: Fire Services



Officials with the Columbia Fire Department celebrate attaining a Class 1 ISO rating, making the department the highest rated in the state. From left to right, Asst. Fire Chief Ty Cobb, retiring Fire Chief Lee Bergeron, Admin. Asst. Donna Osmon, incoming Fire Chief Tommy Hemphill, Asst. Chief Tim Holt, Asst. Chief Tony Scott, Asst. Chief Jimmy Elliott, and City Fire Marshal Anthony Davis.

When the Insurance Services Office (ISO) recently released its newest rankings for fire services, the Columbia Fire Department was awarded the rank of Class 1 department, the highest level possible. Columbia is also the only community out of 933 ranked in Tennessee to earn a Class 1 ranking and one of only 97 departments in the nation to earn the coveted top ranking.

The city of Columbia’s fire services also stand out for their community risk reduction efforts. In recognition of these accomplishments, the Tennessee Municipal League is proud to present Columbia with an Excellence in Fire Services award.

The ISO rating ranks departments from one to 10 based on three components of the community’s fire protection plan: communications, fire department and water supply. Dennis Wolf, a fire management con-

sultant with MTAS, said Columbia is the first Tennessee city in decades to receive such a high ranking.

“I have seen tremendous work and commitment to improving the level fire protection in Columbia, which resulted in the city of Columbia being awarded the Public Protection Classification of Class 1 from the Insurance Services Office,” Wolf said. “The Class 1 rating is exceptional, as there has not been a Class 1 fire department in Tennessee in more than 20 years. The efforts of City Manager Tony Massey, Fire Chief Lee Bergeron, Columbia Power and Water Systems Executive Director Wes Kelley, and Maury County E-911 Director Mark Gandee, and the men and women of these departments, over the past five years to improve emergency communications, fire services, and water supply infrastructure succeeded in lowering

the community’s overall risk for fire-related losses.”

These rankings can affect the rates of insurance premiums paid by local residents and business owners, which in turn may save the larger community money, Wolf said.

“The Class 1 rating is another incentive for recruiting businesses, and will save property owners money on insurance premiums,” he said. “Columbia has improved significantly the level of fire protection in the community, and they truly deserve recognition for their efforts.”

The city of Columbia’s Fire Department was first founded as a volunteer service in 1868 and today employs 90 full-time firefighters who manage department operations 24/7 at five stations across the city. The department protects nearly 35,000 residents in an approximately 30 square-mile area.

Greeneville: Employee Relations/Human Resource Practices

To help control rising healthcare costs, the Greeneville Board of Mayor and Aldermen began looking for ways to lessen the expense of insurance costs while promoting wellness among employees. In 2014, the town implemented its own wellness program, which was developed through a partnership with town leaders and Greeneville’s two hospital systems, Laughlin Healthcare and Takoma Regional Hospital.

In recognition of its proactive approach to rising health care costs and its encouragement of town employees to improve their lifestyles, the Tennessee Municipal League presents the town of Greeneville with an award for Excellence in Employee Relations and HR Practices.

As a first step to find solutions to increasing costs of healthcare, the Greeneville Board of Aldermen decided to implement its new wellness program and took \$30,000 out of the town’s health insurance fund reserves to cover program costs, according to Pat Hardy, municipal management consultant with MTAS.

The goals of the new program included improving the health and quality of life for employees, improving workplace efficiencies, reduce employee sick days and mitigate the large increases in health insurance costs for Greeneville taxpay-

ers. The town also partnered with the two local hospital systems to develop the town’s plan so it could be adapted for use by other organizations.

Greeneville Human Resources Director Patsy Fuller was given the task of developing, implementing and sustaining the newly created wellness program, which allowed participating employees to get their \$100 per month premium waived for successful completion.

Additionally, participating employees undertook an annual health assessment including a blood pressure check, weight and blood work screening to identify risk categories like heart disease, obesity, diabetes, blood pressure and cholesterol.

The town also implemented a point system as part of the program and required employees to earn at least 100 points over the course of a year. Employees are able to earn points by attending wellness classes to learn about ways to improve their lifestyles, participating in special events like a town Biggest Loser competition and maintaining a log of their fitness activities.

Only one year after the program began, Hardy said the town began to see dramatic results in the healthfulness of its employees.

“A number of employees have demonstrated lifestyle improve-



Greeneville HR Director Patsy Fuller presents Chris Pursley, a public works employee, with a certificate for winning the Biggest Loser contest for city employees. Pursley lost 38 pounds as part of the city’s wellness program.

ments in their lives,” Hardy said. “One employee was diagnosed as diabetic and lost 38 pounds with the Biggest Loser competition. Another employee realized they had high blood pressure as a result of the annual health assessment. Five employees quit smoking during the first year of the program.”

Greeneville spokeswoman Amy Rose said a total of 450 pounds were lost by the city’s 144 employees in 2014

The program also saw the number of sick days utilized dropped from 14,058 in 2013 to 9,586 and the

average monthly insurance claims per person on the town’s insurance coverage drop from \$713 in 2012 to \$608 in 2013 to \$545 in 2014.

“These results demonstrate the wellness program is having both a personal and financial benefit that more than pays for itself,” Hardy said. “This is a perfect example of the kind of innovations a town can implement in order to develop lasting, long-term solutions to difficult health and insurance related challenges. Not only are the town and its citizens winners, but so too are employees.”

TML salutes 2015 Achievement Award winners

Troy: Small Town Progress

A mix of new initiatives and reviving old traditions are just some of the projects the town of Troy has undertaken since December 2014. In merely six months, the town has seen rapid change through the renovation of infrastructure and facilities to the promotion of local events. City leaders have been hard at work on a wide variety of projects ranging from parks to infrastructure to online resources and grant writing.

In recognition of the improvements being made by town officials, the Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to give the town of Troy an award for Small Town Progress.

Dana Deem, a municipal management consultant with MTAS, said the town has implemented multiple projects since new Mayor Deanna Chappell was sworn into office on Dec. 1, 2014. Chappell is the city’s first new mayor in 30 years and has worked with other local leaders to bring out the best in Troy.

Upgrading local infrastructure is one of the biggest tasks the town has undertaken in the past few months. Crumbling sidewalks on the south side of the town’s square have been repaired and the town has applied for and received three grants to upgrade their utility system with a new water plant, remote read water meters, and

water line extensions and replacement, he said.

Additionally, improvements are being made to two local parks.

“The city park on the square is in the process of being renovated with dead trees removed and remaining trees trimmed,” he said. “The park is being seeded and sodded as weather permits and the existing pavilion is being repaired to make it the focal point of the town once again. The town has also begun a renovation of Trojan Park where ball fields are being repaired and bleachers repaired or replaced.”

The city has also upgraded its technology with new computers, server, printers and software to make staff more efficient and accountable for city hall. The town is also in the process of designing its first website to showcase the town’s assets and help residents and visitors connect with officials.

On April 18, the mayor and staff held Ladies Day in Troy, an event designed to help promote women in the community. The event featured music, a fashion show, shopping, door prizes, a fitness demonstration, and featured food prepared and served by culinary arts students from Obion County Central High School.

The town is also working to be-



Upgrading local infrastructure, such as the park seen here, has been one of the many projects the town of Troy has been working on in the past six months. The town has made upgrades to both City Park and Trojan Park as well as upgraded technology and working with the local senior center.

come more involved in the local senior citizens center, where the town recently provided lunch and a bingo event. The mayor and staff are also

working to revive Troy Involvement Days this July, an annual two-day event of fun and community service originally started 33 years ago.

Eagleville: Small City Progress

A new sewer system, the expansion of a local school, the redevelopment of downtown and the hiring of new personnel are just some of the things the city of Eagleville has accomplished in the past year. With a population of 604, Eagleville is poised for progress and working toward future development.

In light of these accomplishments, the Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to present Eagleville with an award for Small City Progress.

To eliminate run off from failing septic tanks and to enhance property values and spur economic growth, the city constructed a \$3.5 million sewer system, which was funded from a \$1 million USDA grant and low-interest loans. Mayor Travis Brown said the project began in April 2014, and city leaders hope it will be completed by the end of May.

“In the last year, we have made some tremendous changes with the sewer being the biggest one,” he said. “That really took in the center part of town, which was an older part of town. We had some bad problems with noncompliance on the personal level there. As a result, we were able to offer sewer service to commercial businesses as well.”

Additionally, the Maple Street Grill decided to open its second location on Main Street in Eagleville. Brown said this is one of many businesses that has looked into relocating to the area.

“The sewer project has spurred some renewal in that center part of town that would otherwise be dying off on the vine,” he said. “It is very difficult to open a new business on a septic system. You have to have a sewer system.”

City Manager Andrew Ellard, who began work with the city in September 2014, said the new sewer system may also encourage residential development in the area.

“The system also serves one of our oldest and more densely populated neighborhoods,” he said. “It

runs along north Main Street, which is mostly agricultural. It connects that neighborhood to the downtown area, and we hope and anticipate having this public sewer system will spur some economic development through residential development. We have had some conversations with interested contractors on what is going on with the sewer development. We are seeing more interest in residential development, which is common throughout all of Rutherford County, but especially in this area real estate gets scooped up very quickly.”

The area’s rural local and its proximity to larger cities has made it a draw for developers and those seeking homes, Ellard said.

“We have a population push coming from the Murfreesboro area,” he said. “We have a draw from our school. We are right on the border of Williamson County, which has a big influence from housing cost standpoint. We are in a unique corner of the county, which seems to be gathering a great deal of interest. We have great access to Murfreesboro, Nashville, Franklin and Shelbyville. This area is a bedroom community and has an atmosphere people enjoy.”

As the residential development continues, commercial development may not be far behind. “As the community here grows, we expect business to follow,” he said. “We have heard from the post office that there is a lot of growth in the business they do. We have a lot of home-based businesses as well. As the residential grows, there is definitely possibility for commercial growth, which the new sewer system is essential for. The sewer system opens the doors for tons of potential development.”

The new sewer infrastructure also allowed the expansion of Eagleville School, the only K-12 school in Rutherford County, according to Jeff Broughton, a municipal management consultant with MTAS. The expansion project will add more than

30,000 square feet to the school.

“Expected to be completed for the start of the 2015-16 school year, the school will have nine additional classrooms, two science labs, offices, a book store and rehearsal space for the band and choir,” Broughton said. “A cafeteria that has also served as an auditorium will be replaced with an auditorium with dressing rooms, while the cafeteria will be expanded by 1,500 square feet with an extra serving line.”

Brown said the Rutherford County School system has invested \$5 million into the school to help expand the school, which underwent its last major renovation in the 1990s. He said the small size of the school is one of the reasons many families are attracted to Eagleville.

To help facilitate future growth, Ellard said officials plan to work with the state and officials with the Nashville Metropolitan Planning Organization to develop traffic plans to accommodate future growth and an influx of motorists downtown. The town’s Main Street is also Highway 99/State Highway 41A and provides access to the Eagleville School.

Ellard said the city is looking into some streetscaping and beautification projects in the future as well as reviving a popular Main Street festival. He said officials are looking to bring the festival back in the fall and have been talking with interested entertainers and vendors.

The past year has also brought new personnel to the city. After a nationwide search assisted by MTAS, city leaders hired Ellard as Eagleville’s first ever full-time city manager. Brown said the city has also hired its first full-time daytime firefighter and has added more officers to its police department.

Eagleville was also ranked as the safest city in Tennessee in the overall and small cities categories by Movoto.com. The city was one of the earliest adopters of body-worn camera systems for police officers, which contributed to the ranking.

Mixing traditional services with inventive approaches to meet the needs of citizens, officials with the city of Sevierville have made it their goal to improve both the quality of their governing and quality of life for citizens. The city’s Board of Mayor and Aldermen work hand-in-hand with city employees to develop best practices, find unique solutions to city issues and provide citizens with easy access to necessary services.

The Tennessee Municipal League honors Sevierville with an award for Excellence in Governance for its innovative approach to policy, administrative dimensions and providing both traditional and new services to the community.

Pat Hardy, a municipal management consultant with MTAS, said Sevierville’s BOMA works seamlessly together with the city’s staff to provide an array of traditional services and supporting a variety of innovative approaches to the delivery of these services. These efforts are led on the board side by Mayor Brian Atchley and on the administrative side by City Administrator Russell Treadway.

City leaders began by conducting a variety of needs-assessments studies to find out what was in the best interest of citizens, including a comprehensive cost of delivery review to determine the actual cost of services provided to citizens. These citizen surveys will be completed every two years to provide information about the direction the city needs to take with its services. Additionally, a survey was distributed to employees to gauge their job satisfaction and take suggestions for improvement.

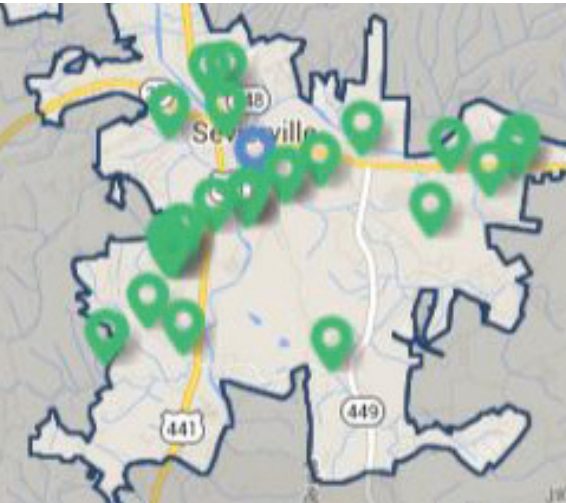
The city hired an economic development director to undertake a retail recruitment study and has become a participant in the MTAS Benchmarking Project.

Officials also worked to make city codes more streamlined. The Sevierville Municipal Code was completely recodified in 2015 and a revision to the city’s zoning and land development regulations is expected to be complete by the end of this year.

As a result of these surveys and closer looks at city codes, the city has developed a strategic approach to improving the community that both demands quality and promotes imaginative ideas.

“Each of these points to the continued innovation and ‘push to do better’ that has become a hallmark of the way Sevierville conducts its business,” Hardy said. “Projects like this are not accomplished without a high-quality governance team of both elected officials and appointed staff, who are able to work together to conceive of, design, and implement exciting and new approaches to otherwise standard service delivery.”

The city has also strived to pro-



The new My Sevierville app allows citizens to track ongoing projects.

mote the flow of public information and public communication through the My Sevierville app, citizen enewsletters, and the establishment of Facebook pages and Twitter accounts, as well as a new city website, he said.

The online website allows residents access to forms and applications. The city has also used technology to provide enhanced hospitality tax software allowing the online filing and payment of hotel, restaurant and amusement taxes. The city’s monitoring of water and sewer resources has also been centralized through a product called SCADA (System Control & Data Acquisition), which is available via the Internet on desktop computers and mobile devices.

The city also partnered with various other local entities and the state to undertake a variety of projects. A partnership with the town of Pigeon Forge resulted in a \$445,750 grant for a traffic flow improvement project on the Highway 66/Parkway corridor. Two partnerships with Sevier County led to the purchase of a former bank facility to be marketed to higher education providers and the rebuilding of eight public tennis courts. The state and the U.S. Tennis Association also helped provide funding for the tennis court renovation, which won the city an award for outstanding public facilities.

Sevierville also used a TDOT Enhancement Grant to grow and connect the city’s already extensive greenway system. In 2014, an underutilized vending area in the city’s community center was converted into an information area for programs and activities in Sevierville and Sevier County that promote green communities. Named the “Green Corner,” the project received a TDEC award.

“These are but a few of the many accomplishments the city has achieved over the past couple of years,” Hardy said. “Sevierville is truly a ‘city on the move.’ The city staff, along with a top-notch Board of Mayor and Aldermen, has worked together as a team to achieve these things. They have done this by strategically planning, hiring and retaining top staff, and by embracing a customer-oriented focus in everything they do.”



An upgraded sewer system has allowed the town of Eagleville to promote growth at its K-12 school and along the Main Street corridor. Residential growth in the area has also been boosted by the new infrastructure.

TML salutes Achievement Award winners Somerville: Energy Efficiency

To help reduce the cost of operating its streetlights, the town of Somerville developed an innovative and energy efficient light replacement program that will not only save money for taxpayers and the town itself, but help decrease the area’s environmental footprint. Town officials were able to find a unique way to problem solve the need to reduce street lighting costs, and will see a return on their investment in a little over two years.

For this reason, the Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to honor the town of Somerville with an award for Excellence in Energy Efficiency.

In fiscal year 2011, the town of Somerville was being charged almost \$110,000 to power 551 street lights, including maintenance fees and electricity cost. As the city only received \$70,000 in gasoline taxes through the state’s Street Aid Fund, the town had to take \$40,000 from its general fund to pay the rest of the fee.

The high cost of operating and maintaining the lights lead the Somerville Board of Mayor and Aldermen to explore more cost effective ways to keep local streets



Replacing streetlights, like this one downtown, helped the town of Somerville save money and energy. The new lights are expected to last more than twice as long as the older ones.

lit, according to David Angerer, a municipal management consultant with MTAS.

“The town discussed its concerns with their local electricity company, the Chickasaw Electric Coopera-

tive,” Angerer said. “In response, the electric company made an inventory of Somerville’s street lights and discovered there were only 452 in service – some 18 percent less than for which the town was being billed. As a result of this discovery, Chickasaw Electric gave Somerville a refund of the overbilled amounts.”

Robert Turner, the former mayor and current city administrator of Somerville, said the LED lights were more costly than average bulbs, but

are expected to last more than twice as long.

“We could purchase these lights that are supposed to last 20 years or 100,000 hours and save money on our electricity,” he said. “If the lights are going to last 20 years, we decided to take on maintenance ourselves and budget for the maintenance. We talked to Chickasaw Electric into ending that maintenance agreement, which also saved us. The money is now going into our general fund to repair streets and sidewalks, put up new street signs and everything to maintain our streets.”

Turner said it took about five minutes for crews to replace each individual light and around three months to replace all of the lights in town. Whereas, the old bulbs used 400 watts per bulb, the new lights only use 101 watts, which led to a 55 percent reduction in electric costs.

“The life expectancy of your average bulb is eight years and the life expectancy of the new bulbs is 23.5 years,” he said. “The failure rate is supposed to be a low percentage, which I figured to be 1.7 lightbulbs. There is a 10 year warranty, so we got those bulbs back for free.”

The cost of operating the old street lights was dropped down to \$97,000 per year, but Angerer said the town decided to explore other ways to save even more money. As a result, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen proceeded with the Street Lighting Energy Efficiency Program (SLEEP), which involved the replacement of the 452 lights in service with highly-efficient LED bulbs.

“The town of Somerville pur-

chased the new streetlights through the Street Aid Fund,” Angerer said. “The lights were installed through an intergovernmental agreement with Chickasaw Electric at a total cost of \$135,000. Once installed and completely operational, the town gave the street lights to Chickasaw Electric and signed an agreement with them to maintain the street lights on an as needed basis.”

The town opted to pay for the lights over a 10-year period to save its general fund money and will have annual debt service and interest of \$15,022. The energy efficient bulbs will save the town’s Street Aid Fund by some \$75,000 annually, and the town’s investment will be completely recovered in 27 months. The town also has an extra \$60,000 to spend for the next 10 years.

In addition to brightening up the town, Somerville’s new street lights will save the area energy.

“Somerville’s willingness to innovate has resulted in substantial savings to the community, a reduction in the town’s energy consumption and environmental footprint, and street lights which are brighter and more aesthetically pleasing,” Angerer said.

Turner said the lights are helping the town save money, electricity and energy. “In 15 years, these lights are still going to be putting on the same amount of light as when we first installed them,” he said. “It’s a 20-year deal that could save us \$1.5 million over that time period, which is a huge deal for the town. The best part is, it has changed the way the town looks. The light is so much better.”

Cleveland: Green Leadership



University of Tennessee landscape architecture student Taylor Dotson reviews her proposal to redevelop the old Woolen Mill in Cleveland, part of the school’s partnership with the Cleveland/Bradley Chamber of Commerce and Impact Cleveland for the Smart Communities Initiative.

The city of Cleveland has proved its leadership in green and sustainability initiatives time and time again through building partnerships with organizations like Cleveland State Community College, the Tennessee Valley Authority and Tennessee Renewable Energy and Economic Development Council. One of the city’s newest partnerships with the University of Tennessee-Knoxville has showcased how government personnel, nonprofit organizations, local businesses and students can come together for sustainability.

In honor of the city’s practices and comprehensive networking to build sustainability through its region, the Tennessee Municipal League recognizes the city of Cleveland with an award for Excellence in Green Leadership.

In 2014, Cleveland partnered with UT Knoxville for the Smart Communities Initiative (SCI), becoming the university’s first partner in the student service learning program. Warren Nevad, director of the Tennessee Renewable Energy and Economic Development Council (TREEDC) and an MTAS municipal management consultant, said this partnership has brought Cleveland’s sustainability efforts to the next level.

“The program will give students hands-on experience as they tackle

19 civic projects, including stormwater mapping and analysis, streetscape improvements, greenway extensions and redevelopment of old industrial sites,” Nevad said. “The initiative is a great way to merge “theory and practice” for both students and faculty in meaningful and useful ways.”

University faculty and city staff will lead these projects while students handle the work, produce reports and make suggestions for resolving the various issues they are studying, Nevad said.

“City personnel, nonprofit organizations and the business sector have combined to make Cleveland a perfect partner city,” he said. “Creating the groundwork for SCI involved a holistic approach that embraced environmental viability and sustainability as well as social integrity.”

In addition to its work with UT Knoxville, Cleveland has been a long-time Tree City USA member and member of The Tennessee Renewable Energy and Economic Development Council.

The city has also partnered with Cleveland State Community College to bring more community sustainability awareness through creative events and worked with Cleveland Utilities to advance the Tennessee Valley Authority’s Green Power Switch program which encourages the use of renewable energy.

Goodlettsville receives TCMA 2015 Excellence in Government award

The Tennessee City Management Association is recognizing the city of Goodlettsville with its 2015 Award for Excellence in Municipal Government.

The award was selected based on four criteria including unique and creative programs developed by the municipality, sustainable programs operated by the city, programs that improve service to citizens and generate cost savings, and initiatives that have boosted the local economy, such as expanding the local tax base or increasing opportunities for employment.

City Manager Tim Ellis said the entire city came together to make the award possible.

“This is a culmination of hard work that not only our city staff but our community at large has come together to be recognized for,” he said. “This has been a team effort, putting a lot of pieces together, to be recognized for this award. Naturally, when you have myself, along with Mayor John Coombs and all the city staff -- and even the citizens joining together to be recognized, it makes you feel great.”

To meet these criteria, the city developed a community engagement program called “My Goodlettsville” that allowed citizens, businesses, civic organizations and churches to give back to the community and become more aware of city services and programs including litter pick-up, keeping neighborhoods and parks safe, and starting a community garden.

The city’s police department also implemented a computer-based crime reduction process two years ago, which has seen Uniform Crime Report incidents



Residents of Goodlettsville clean up a local stream as part of a community project organized through the new “My Goodlettsville” program. The initiative’s aim is to promote community involvement among citizens, businesses, organizations and churches.

decrease by 25.45 percent since its implementation.

For sustainability efforts, the city developed and implemented a stormwater and water quality program addressing and improving the quality of local creeks and streams, which are fed by underground and surface water systems. The city adopted a stormwater ordinance, educated the public through social media, provided workshops for teachers to help educate students about improving the environment and water quality and provided an interactive website for citizens to learn about water and participate in programs like Stream Watch and Adopt-A-Stream.

The city partnered with local colleges and universities to test water quality and implemented stormwater good housekeeping policies within city government. The city also declared stormwater a utility, which is expected to generate \$850,000 in revenue for the city annually.

To improve city services, sanita-

tion collection was outsourced for a reduction of \$2 per month per resident with the addition of curbside recycling as well as outsourcing all of the city mowing, which will save the city \$68,000 yearly as well as untold cost reduction for replacing mowing equipment.

The city also made efforts to expand its tax base by conducting market analysis of local businesses, which confirmed the need for more hotels in the area. The study allowed the community to make extra marketing efforts to recruit hotels. Goodlettsville also the General Assembly adopt Public Chapter 748 to allow the city’s industrial development board to offer tax abatements not permitted in the rest of the state. As the result of these efforts, one hotel is currently under construction in Goodlettsville and two others are in the final planning stages.

Changes were also made to the city’s zoning restrictions, which helped recruit a new corporate headquarters for Loden Vision.

Investment Fiduciary Services and a zero-free 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.

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 framework are service marks of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company.

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

NRM-9664MG (1/13)

Nationwide®
Retirement Solutions



STATE BRIEFS



The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation released two studies that show the state of hate crimes in Tennessee, as well as data on law enforcement officers who are targeted for violence while on duty. Both studies are based on statistics submitted by the state’s law enforcement agencies through the Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System. The Hate Crime 2014 report includes the following findings: in 2014, law enforcement departments reported 340 victims of 295 bias-motivated incidents in Tennessee, which represents a 2.6 percent decrease in the number of victims since 2013. Of the 2014 hate crimes, 42 victims and 43 offenders were juveniles. The findings in the Law Enforcement Officers Killed or Assaulted 2014 report include the following: law enforcement departments reported 1,704 victims in 1,378 incidents in 2014, which represents a 7.7 percent decrease in the number of reported victims. The most frequently reported offense was simple assault.

Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development has a new iPhone and Android mobile app that makes finding available Tennessee jobs even easier. The free mobile application brings thousands of employment opportunities to smart phones with advanced location and sharing features. The new app’s functionality will allow users to access the entire Jobs4TN

Online Services database on an iPhone or Android device, search for a job based on current location using the unique “Jobs Nearby” function, and pinpoint jobs on a map for easy reference. Users may also save and share their favorite jobs via email, Facebook, and Twitter, as well as login to their account so that all job search activity is recorded. The app is compatible with the iPhone, the iPod Touch, and the iPad. The app does require iOS 6.0 or later. Employers and jobseekers can download the “Jobs4TN” app at the Apple Store or Google Play at no charge.

The kitchen and cutting garden at the Tennessee governor’s mansion has been recognized as the best demonstration garden in the United States and Canana by the International Master Gardener Association Search for Excellence program. According to the office of first lady Crissy Haslam, the garden was completed in September 2013. Since then it has grown to produce about 2,700 pounds of fruits and vegetables that are served in the home, known as the Tennessee Residence. More than 3,000 students and visitors have toured the garden and learned about gardening, composting and healthy eating. The garden is cared for by a team of volunteer master gardeners who select, plant and harvest.

Newly certified law enforcement officers graduate Police Academy

Nearly 80 newly certified officers will graduate May 22 from the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy (TLETA) in Donelson. The graduation for Basic Police School Class 1750 marks the conclusion of the 10-week Basic Police School course, which is designed to provide technical and tactical expertise as well as the ethical and professional standards of law enforcement necessary for success. This is the second of five Basic Police Schools offered by TLETA every year. This session lasted from Mar. 15-May 22. “Being a law enforcement officer is one of the most challenging and most rewarding careers someone can choose,” TLETA Director Brian Grisham said. “TLETA gives its graduates the training needed to make good choices in the midst of high-pressure situations. I congratulate the students of Basic Police School Class 1750 for their commitment, dedication and accomplishments.” Upon completion of their classwork and graduation, the newly certified officers will join the ranks of thousands of law enforcement officers across Tennessee who studied at TLETA and went on to be commissioned by state and local law-enforcement agencies. In the

past five years, TLETA has graduated more than 1,800 basic police students. Every year, TLETA trains between 2,000 and 5,000 specialized course students. Basic Police School Class 1750’s members will serve a variety of law enforcement agencies including the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, Tennessee State Parks, the Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission and the following police departments (PD) and sheriffs’ offices (SO): Bartlett PD, Bedford County SO, Brentwood PD, Carter County SO, Centerville PD, Collierville PD, Columbia PD, Crockett County SO, Dickson County SO, Fentress County SO, Franklin PD, Gallatin PD, Hamilton County SO, Hendersonville PD, Humboldt PD, Johnson County SO, Lauderdale County SO, La Vergne PD, Lexington PD, Macon County SO, Maury County SO, McMinnville PD, Memphis-Shelby County Airport Authority, Middle Tennessee State University PD, Millington PD, Murfreesboro PD, Newbern PD, Putnam County SO, Savannah PD, Smyrna PD, South Fulton PD, Sullivan County PD, Trousdale County SO, Unicoi County SO, Vanderbilt University PD, Warren County SO, White County SO, and Williamson County SO.

Lawmakers must address transportation funding crisis

ROADS, from Page 1 says the growing number of committed but unfunded transportation projects will only get larger and more expensive if they are not addressed now. “These are all projects TDOT has identified as needs,” said Moore. “A maintenance-only budget not only means no new roads or transportation options, but it also means less safe roads, more traffic congestion and more inconvenience for motorists.” “This is not just a state problem. Counties are impacted too. We operate county roads and bridges that are funded largely through state transportation dollars,” said Rodney Carmical, executive director of the Tennessee County Highway Officials Association and a coalition member. “Keeping our infrastructure adequately funded makes our roads and bridges safer for our residents, it makes our commutes better and more efficient, and it improves our state economy,” Carmical said. State and local transportation projects in Tennessee are funded primarily by state and federal fuel-tax revenues. These projects include maintenance, repair and new construction. Tennessee’s fuel taxes have not changed since 1989, yet the state’s population has increased 14

percent since 2000, bringing more traffic to roads and highways. Transportation experts estimate it would take an additional \$6 to \$8 billion to begin to seriously address some of the committed but unfunded road projects across Tennessee. “Safe roads and bridges are a key factor in overall highway traffic safety,” said Tim Wright with Auto Club Group/AAA Tennessee. “These are the roads that we travel on every day to go to work, to take our children to school, or to run basic errands. We need to maintain these roads and bridges in a safe condition and we’ve got to have additional funding to do that.” The coalition was launched to educate the public and state legislators as it seeks an increase and reform in Tennessee’s transportation fees. The coalition includes businesses, residents, community leaders, public officials and organizations that are interested in continuing Tennessee’s transportation infrastructure for the long haul. The group intends to work closely with Gov. Bill Haslam and the Tennessee state legislators moving forward in hopes that they will find a long-term solution in 2016. “It is our hope that a permanent solution to our state’s transportation funding crisis can be found,” said Alcorn.



The Tennessee Department of Transportation is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, and department commissioner John Schroer is traveling across the state on a Centennial Bus Tour as part of the celebration. During the tour, Schroer and local elected officials are unveiling commemorative signs marking State Route 1, the first state road built by TDOT. State Route 1 goes from Memphis to Bristol.

The number of new business filings increased during the first quarter of 2015, according to numbers recently released by the Secretary of State’s Office. The state recorded 8,685 new filings between January and March, which is a 9.3 percent increase over last year according to the Tennessee Quarterly Business and Economic Indicator’s report. Filings have increased for 14 consecutive quarters now. The Metro-Nashville area reported the most new filings with 1,509 and was followed closely by Memphis-Shelby County with 1,195 filings. The report also found the state’s unemployment rate fell to 6.3 percent in March from 6.6 percent in February. The state is still above the national unemployment rate of 5.5 percent but below the 6.4 percent unemployment rate this time last year. To read the report, visit sos.tn.gov.

Cities given more tools to fight blight

BLIGHT, from Page 1 really wants these properties to go to someone who maintains the property and pays taxes.” Patrick Dandridge, senior assistant city attorney for the city of Memphis, said the loss of tax revenue is not the only issue for the city. Vacant properties can also draw crime. “If you have a vacant property that is not boarded, you can invite in all kinds of criminal activity from murder to drugs,” he said. “If the property is not well kept, it can bring down the property values of the surrounding units. If the property is not maintained, it gets worse over the years. Blight tends to spread. If you see a home that has been vacant for two or three years, you start to see another one and another one in that same area because people leave.” Dandridge said it can take anywhere from 60 days to several years for properties to be brought back up to code, depending on if an owner chooses to redeem a property or if the property goes through the tax sale process. If a property cannot be prepared, Dandridge said it may take the city as much as five months to complete the entire demolition process. However, Dandridge said those who buy properties at tax sales – whether there is a structure on the land or not – are not always looking to immediately get to work on the property. As a result, Dandridge said Memphis has put measures into place to ensure that the buyer of a



PEOPLE

Mark Cate, chief of staff for Gov. Bill Haslam, announced he is stepping down from his position within the administration later this summer. As chief of staff, Cate has served as a top advisor, strategist, and negotiator for the administration. He has assisted the governor in day to day activities and has acted as his liaison to various departments, agencies, and internal and external stakeholders, as well as overseen top-level, strategic projects and initiatives of the administration including the TEAM Act, workers’ compensation reform, and the governor’s Drive to 55 initiative, which includes the Tennessee Promise. Before serving in state government, Cate managed the governor’s campaign, and before that, was vice president at Knoxville real estate development firm Lawler-Wood. He previously served 16 years in executive management in higher education at Maryville College.



Mark Cate

Longtime state lawmaker Kathryn Bowers died on May 14 at the age of 72. She served in the Tennessee House from 1995 to 2005, serving as House Majority Whip during the 103rd General Assembly, and then was elected to represent the 33rd district in the state Senate in 2006, until her resignation later that year. In addition to her time as a state lawmaker, Bowers was president of Women in Action for a New Direction (WAND) from 1999



Kathryn Bowers

until 2003 and worked as a consultant and state director for Women in Government. From 2003 until 2005, she also served as Chairwoman of the Shelby County Democratic Executive Committee.

Chris Dorsey has been appointed city administrator for the city of Sparta, effective May 18, 2015. Dorsey previously served as interim city manager of Millington. He worked as the city manager of Red Bank from 2005 to 2011, and served as a budget manager for the city of Memphis prior to that. Both Dorsey’s master’s and bachelor’s degrees are in public administration from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.



Chris Dorsey

Valesa Wells has joined the town of Collierville’s Finance Department as a budget officer. Wells has extensive experience in financial management, including working as a billing and contract administrator at Cimarron Field Services in Germantown and as a financial consultant and office manager at Public Financial Management. Valesa served in the U.S. Navy and earned her bachelor’s degree in professional and technical writing from the University of Memphis as well as a certificate in accounting from Southwest Tennessee Community College. Her duties in Collierville will include planning and helping to pass the municipal budget.



Valesa Wells



Memphis has passed a law requiring buyers of tax-delinquent properties to present plans for rehabilitating blighted real estate in the hopes of improving property values and discouraging crime.

dilapidated property doesn’t keep the structure in the same condition. “If you have a vibrant and growing neighborhood, it continues to invite investors and they continue to make progress,” he said. “If you have a dying and decaying neighborhood, the people who buy those properties are typically not trying to rehab them or not rehab them fast. They often grab them because they are a bargain. That is why we passed a neighborhood rehabilitation act that requires buyers to come up with a rehab plan to make it habitable.” Previously, Dandridge said it may take several years for a home to be put up for a tax sale and then owners had up to a year to redeem the

property afterwards. Dandridge said he and others in Memphis hope the new law will mean blighted properties are repaired sooner. Shortening the redemption period is something we have worked on for a long time,” Dandridge said. “This way, someone can take possession of those dilapidated pieces of property in a shorter amount of time after that tax sale and actually have an opportunity to start rehabilitating and fixing the property. That long redemption rule has been a problem for a while, especially when someone buys a property and wants to but is not able to fix it for a long period of time because of the redemption property.”

TDEC announces rebates for qualifying electric vehicles

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation’s Office of Energy Programs announced it will offer a two-tiered rebate on qualifying electric vehicles that are purchased or leased and registered in the state of Tennessee. Electric vehicle dealerships will be responsible for providing the rebate to consumers after such funds are received from the state. The state will rebate \$2,500 on zero-emission battery electric vehicles and \$1,500 on plug-in hybrid electric vehicles sold or leased (with a three-year minimum lease term) by a Tennessee dealership to Tennessee residents, after a claim is filed by the dealership. For the purposes of this rebate, battery electric vehicles are defined as fully electric, zero-emission vehicles that have an on-board electrical energy storage device that can be recharged from an external source

of electricity. Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles have zero-emission vehicle range capability and an onboard electrical energy storage device that can be recharged from an external source of electricity. In general, plug-in hybrid electric vehicles can be driven using electricity, gasoline or both. There is currently \$682,500 available for this second iteration of the electric vehicle rebate program. The rebate program will go into effect for vehicle purchases or leases made after June 15, 2015. Rebates will be dispersed on a first-come, first-served basis, and the program will remain active until funds are exhausted. The following vehicles are eligible to qualify for a rebate: Battery electric vehicles (BEV) \$2,500 Rebate

- Fiat 500e
 - Ford Focus Electric
 - Honda Fit EV
 - Mercedes-Benz B-Class Electric Drive
 - Mitsubishi i-MiEV
 - Nissan LEAF
 - smartED and Electric Fortwo
 - Tesla Model S
 - Toyota RAV4 EV
 - Volkswagen e-Golf
- Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEV) \$1,500 Rebate
- BMW i8
 - Cadillac ELR
 - Chevrolet Volt
 - Ford CMAX Energi
 - Ford Fusion Energi
 - Honda Accord Plug-in
 - Porsche 918 Spyder
 - Porsche Cayenne S E-Hybrid
 - Porsche Panamera S E-Hybrid

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
Andy 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
Commissioner, Brentwood
Karl Dean
Mayor, Metro Nashville
Richard Driver
Mayor, Lafayette (District 5)
John Hickman
City Manager, Waynesboro (District 6)
Jill Holland
Mayor, McKenzie
Hoyt 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) Commissioner, 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
Tennessee Building Officials Assn.
Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police
TN Assn. Municipal Clerks & Records
Government Finance Officers
Tennessee Fire Chiefs Assn.
Tennessee Fire Safety Inspectors
Tennessee Association of Floodplain Management
Tenn. Assn. Housing & Redevel. Auth.
Tennessee Municipal Attorneys Assn.
Tennessee Municipal Judges Conference
Tenn. Chapter, American Public Works
Tennessee Recreation and Parks Assn.
Tennessee Chapter, American Planning
Tennessee Personnel Management Assn.
Tennessee Assn. of Public Purchasing
TN Section, Institute of Transport
Tennessee Public Transportation Assoc.
Assn. of Independent and Municipal Schools
Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council
Tennessee Urban Forestry Council
Tennessee Stormwater Association

TML ASSOCIATE SPONSORS
4 STAR SPONSOR
Bank of America
3 STAR SPONSOR
First Tennessee Bank
2 STAR SPONSOR
Alexander, Thompson, Arnold CPAs
Alliance Water Resources
Ameresco, Inc.
Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon, Inc.
Buxton Company
Carr, Riggs & Ingram LLC
Fessenden Consulting Group
Ibteleomatics
Master Meter, Inc.
Nationwide Retirement Solutions
Parsons Brinckerhoff
VC3
Voya Financial Advisors
Waste Management Inc. of Tennessee

1 STAR SPONSOR
A2H
Employee Benefit Specialists, Inc.
J.R. Wauford & Co. Consulting Engineers
Local Govt. Corporation
McGill Associates, P.A.
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.

Missed an Issue?

**Tennessee
Town & City**

Read it On-line
at
www.TML1.org

Nashville is Center Stage for the Congress of Cities

Registration is now open with special, discounted rate for members of the Tennessee Municipal League

Music City is setting the stage for the 2015 National League of Cities Congress of Cities, which will take place at the new Music City Center convention hall in the heart of downtown Nashville, Nov. 4-7.

The NLC Congress is the largest annual gathering of municipal elected and appointed officials who meet for an exchange of ideas designed to enhance leadership, provide educational enrichment and advance innovative concepts and policies to improve our nation’s cities. The Congress will spotlight national and local innovatives and successful municipal initiatives, while delivering the kind of entertainment experience that can only be found in Music City.

“Nashville is thrilled to host the National League of Cities. Along with Vice Mayor Diane Neighbors and the Metropolitan Council, I look forward to the arrival of our colleagues from cities and towns across the country,” said Metro Nashville Mayor Karl Dean. “NLC has a great reputation for the role it plays to set the conversation for how to strengthen our nation through stronger cities and communities. Nashville is ready to contribute to the experience with a strong lineup of mobile workshops and the involvement of local planning experts. As Music City, we know how to entertain guests, and our friends in the music industry are looking forward to being a part of this great event. We are ready to make certain that all of our guests have an outstanding time in November.”

NLC is expecting nearly 5,000 attendees for the 2015 Congress, up from recent averages of around 3,000. Nashville’s central location is easy to reach by car or plane, and the city’s status as one of the country’s hottest entertainment markets will drive attendance. Attendees represent small towns and big cities from 50 states, plus Washington D.C., Puerto Rico and Canada.

The Music City Center is located on Fifth Avenue South, along the Avenue of the Arts, across the street from the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, and the Omni Nashville Hotel, and in the core of the city’s entertainment district.

Within an easy walk, visitors

can stroll Lower Broadway and hear the sounds of live music being played at the world famous honky-tonk row, visit the historic Ryman Auditorium, Frist Center for the Visual Arts, Schermerhorn Symphony Center, visit the Cumberland River greenway and visit many other local attractions. Nashville is receiving accolades for diverse dining options that are available throughout downtown and in neighborhoods that include The Gulch, 12 South, East Nashville and Germantown.

Conference programming is geared toward practical, proven solutions for problems facing 21st century cities. It will cover economic development, innovation and technology, energy and climate change, new and social media, crisis management and leadership, and will demonstrate how Nashville has led on these issues.

As a complement to the traditional conference structure, Metro Nashville will conduct 13 high-impact mobile workshops, including:

- **Spotlighting City Strengths**, featuring government and private sector partnerships that result in continued progress, growth and prosperity of major industries;
- **Coming Together for Crime Reduction**, featuring Metro Nashville Police Department initiatives that have dramatically decreased the number of persons victimized by major criminal offenses in the last 10 years;
- **A Green and Active City**, featuring city and community leaders are working together to make Nashville the greenest city in the Southeast and one of the most active cities in the nation;
- **Enriching Education for a Stronger Community**, featuring key initiatives to expand opportunities and enrich the experience of Nashville’s youngest citizens;
- **An Innovative Court System**, featuring programs have proven to reduce repeat criminal offenses, provide lasting rehabilitation effects and reduce costs to the criminal courts system;
- **Urban Infill Success**, featuring public and private interests working together to create a sustainable, modern and thriving community;
- **Engaging New Americans**, featuring solutions for the increasing trajectory of immigrants moving to Nashville and the lack of support



NLC’s Congress of Cities will take place at the new Music City Center convention hall in the heart of downtown Nashville, Nov. 4-7.



Within an easy walk from the Music City Center, visitors can stroll Lower Broadway and hear the sounds of live music being played at the world famous honky-tonk row.

for the new languages spoken and cultures represented;

- **Clean Water, Healthy Environment**, featuring a program to improve wastewater system infrastructure that will provide lasting benefits for future generations. Spouses and guests will enjoy customized programming throughout the conference, including dynamic tours of the history, sights and sounds Nashville is known for, and opportunities to experience the flourishing culinary, art and artisan goods scenes.

Plans include an extensive arrival and departure program at Nashville International Airport; live music played by songwriters and noted performers throughout the Music City Center lobby, in the expo hall and in the NLC general sessions.

Guides and resources for planning your trip are available online

through the Metro Government website, www.nashville.gov, and through the Nashville Convention and Visitors Corporation website, www.visitmusiccity.com, which features information on the “Top Things to do in Nashville” and “Where to See Live Music.”

Registration for both the conference and mobile workshops is open now online, with a special, discounted rate for members of the Tennessee Municipal League. Visit www.nlccongressofcities.org for more information.

TENNESSEE MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
STAFF

Margaret Mahery, Executive Director
Chad Jenkins, Deputy Director
Mark Barrett, Legislative Research Analyst
Kate Coil, Communications Specialist
Carole Graves, Communications Director & Editor, *Tennessee Town & City*
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

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.

UT-MTAS JULY MAP CLASSES

MUNICIPAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

This course will provide a summary of legislation passed by the Tennessee General Assembly during the 2015 session that will impact municipalities. Public acts touching every aspect of municipal operations will be discussed. The course will be conducted by MTAS legal consultants and will offer participants the opportunity to ask questions about any new legislation.

Target Audience: Elected Officials, Appointed Officials, City Attorneys, City Records, Code Enforcement Officials, and Utility and Public Works Directors and Managers.

Dates/Locations/Times:

July 7	Nashville	8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CST
July 8	Jackson	8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CST
July 9	Knoxville	8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EST
July 10	Collegedale	8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EST
July 14	Kingsport	8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EST

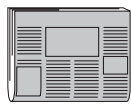


The city of Morristown closed a \$20 million loan for sewer system upgrades.



The city of Bartlett closed a loan through the TMBF loan program in the amount of \$1.3 million for a capital outlay note for an equipment acquisition.

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



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.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER
PLEASANT VIEW. The Town of Pleasant View is seeking a motivated and dedicated individual with a strong work ethic and great people skills to fill the position of building commissioner. The building commissioner is a full time position that reports to the mayor and carries out guidelines of the Planning Commission. The building commissioner is responsible for technical work in the enforcement of building and zoning codes and city ordinances, as well as other duties as assigned. Qualifications for the position include a valid Tennessee driver's license, high school graduation or equivalent, and current certification as building inspector by the state of Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance State Fire Marshal's Office. Individuals not currently certified may apply but must be certified within 12 months of hire date. The town of Pleasant View offers competitive benefits and salary. Salary range is \$42,983.04 to \$57,364.56 DOQ/E/ED. Please send application, resume and cover letter to Mayor Perry Keenan, 1008 Civic Court / P.O. Box 127, Pleasant View, TN 37146. Deadline 6/26/15 at 4:30 p.m. For information contact Pleasant View CiTy HALL AT (615) 746-0600.

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
LAFOLLETTE. The City of LaFollette is seeking qualified applicants to fill the position of City Administrator. The selected candidate will serve as the administrative head of the City government and oversee day to day operations and is responsible for supervising all department heads. Minimum qualifications shall include a college degree or training and experience in municipal management or public administration. The Mayor and Council desire a person with skills in budgeting and financial management. The applicant should also have good public relation skills, as well as good oral and writing communication skills. The applicant should have experience and knowledge in the application for and administration of state and federal grants. The applicant should also have the ability to deal with personnel, public safety and long range planning. Salary and benefits to be discussed during candidate interviews. Qualified candidates should submit applications and/or resumes before June 30, 2015 to: The City of LaFollette, City Administrator Position, Attn: Human Resources, 207 South Tennessee Ave, LaFollette, TN 37766

COMBINATION INSPECTOR II
BRISTOL. Under general administrative direction of the Code Administrator, the purpose of the position is to perform responsible professional, technical, and administrative work in relation to inspection activities and regulatory standards for permitting and licensing approval of residential and commercial building construction throughout the city. Employees in this classification perform at high professional skill level, and are responsible for enforcing adopted city ordinances and codes; the inspection process, assessing, evaluating and enforcing adherence to and compliance with all applicable city, state and federal code and regulatory requirements regarding new and existing construction. The overall objective is to ensure the safety, health and general welfare of the general public and business community. High School Diploma or GED required; supplemented by three to five years related inspection experience; or an equivalent combination of education, training, and experience. Must be certified as a Residential Combination Inspector and Commercial Combination Inspector by the International Code Council. Must possess a valid Driver's License. Salary: \$37,400 Yearly. Please submit an application

to Human Resources Department, 801 Anderson Street, Bristol, TN 37620 or to P. O. Box 1189, Bristol, Tennessee 37621-1189. An application may be submitted on-line and a benefit summary can be obtained at: www.bristoltn.org. EOE. The position will remain open until filled.

COMBINATION BUILDING INSPECTOR
KNOXVILLE. The city of Knoxville is currently accepting applications for a Combination Building Inspector. SALARY range is \$41,249 -\$63,746 annually (DOQ). Under general supervision, responsible for inspecting construction work for compliance with regulatory building, mechanical, plumbing and electrical codes. Responsible for interpreting and enforcing building, mechanical, plumbing and electrical codes; conducting comprehensive building inspections; consulting with building contractors; maintaining building inspection records; and maintaining good public relations with the citizens of Knoxville. Minimum requirements include high school diploma or GED equivalent; a minimum of five years of experience in general building construction with general knowledge of the mechanical, plumbing and/or electrical trades; possession of or ability to obtain a Class D Tennessee State Driver's License; must obtain State of Tennessee Building Inspector Certification within the probationary period; must obtain State of Tennessee Mechanical Inspector Certification within two years of hire; must obtain State of Tennessee Plumbing Inspector Certification within two years of hire; registered with the State of Tennessee as Electrical Inspector within three years; ability to become a Municipal Enforcement Officer (unarmed) within the probationary period. To apply, go to www.cityofknoxville.org. Applications MUST be submitted online by 4:30 p.m. on: Friday, May 22, 2015. EOE / Drugfree workplace. Drug testing may be required.

CONSTRUCTION OPERATIONS SUPERINTENDENT - WQC
COOKEVILLE
The city of Cookeville is accepting applications for a construction operations superintendent who plans, supervises and organizes all construction personnel and support staff in the water quality control department. Directs and controls the installation and maintenance activities of the city's water and wastewater distribution systems, and water and wastewater pumping stations. Education equivalent to graduation from a standard high school required. Must possess a Tennessee Water/Wastewater Distribution Certificate equal to or higher than that of the facility classification or obtain within two years. Must possess a valid Tennessee driver's license. Graduation from an accredited four year college or university with a degree in construction management; civil engineering or comparable degree preferred. Five years progressively responsible experience in water or wastewater construction and or maintenance preferred. Pay Range : \$51,292 - \$76,918. Deadline for applications: 4:30 pm, Friday, June 12, 2015. Submit applications to: Human Resources Department, 45 East Broad Street, Cookeville, TN 38501. The city of Cookeville is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

INSPECTOR IV - SENIOR ELECTRICAL
FRANKLIN. The Franklin Building and Neighborhood Services Department has a vacancy for an Inspector IV- Senior Electrical. Please see the full job announcement and submit an online application at www.franklintn.gov/jobs. Deadline to apply is open until filled, Salary: \$23.95/hr- \$26.07/hr The city of Franklin is an EOE/ Drug-free Workplace

TRAFFIC OPERATIONS COORDINATOR
BRENTWOOD. The city of Brentwood is currently accepting applications for the position of Traffic Operations Coordinator. The purpose of this job is to manage the day to day operation of the City's Traffic Operations Center (TOC) and assist the Public Works Director in planning, coordinating and budgeting for the improvements to the city's traffic signal and Intelligent Transportation systems. Duties and responsibilities include operating and maintaining all equipment in the TOC, maintaining all data and reports generated through the TOC, identifying and solving problems related to signal operations throughout the city and performing inspection and maintenance on all signal equipment and ITS components. The salary for this position \$47,500 – \$52,500 + DOQ plus excellent benefits. The city of Brentwood is an equal opportunity employer. A full job description and application is available at www.brentwood-tn.org to be submitted to hr@brentwood-tn.org.

Police weigh use of body cameras

CAMERAS, from Page 1
“We have found things we have performed well in, that perhaps you want to illustrate,” he said. “It is also a good tool for officer safety. We have utilized it there as well.”
Crisp said departments statewide are exploring the option of outfitting officers with video cameras, though there are some obstacles to adoption of the technology.
“I have heard a lot of talk amongst fellow police chiefs, and I think everyone is beginning to take or already has taken a closer look at this,” Crisp said. “The cost of the storage is the largest hurdle you have to cross. The cameras aren’t inexpensive, but they are affordable. The storage is costly, and you have to do a good job deciding how long you are going to keep video. If you equip every officer you have, you will have storage issues.”
Currently, Crisp said the Maryville Police Department keeps its body camera videos for around 13 months, but keeps video tagged for evidence for a longer period of time.
Rex Barton, a police management consultant with the Municipal Technical Advisory Service, said many departments are choosing to adopt cameras to avoid “he said, she said” debates between officers and citizens.
“Departments are adopting these for the same reasons they put video cameras in cars,” Barton said. “You can see what did occur during an interaction between a cop and a citizen. Even if you aren’t on camera, the audio works. It takes away the he said, she said. It’s not perfect, but you have a better understanding of what actually transpired. If the officer is wrong, you know he was wrong and if the officer isn’t wrong, you know he isn’t wrong.”
Video taken from these cameras also has the potential for use in officer training, he said.
“Same as the cameras in the car, anytime you have real life video of an incident, you can dissect it,” Barton said. “I’ve seen dozens of dash car videos used for exactly that.”
However, Barton said he doesn’t think body cameras will become a requirement for officers in Tennessee. Cost and privacy issues are the two biggest factors Barton said that may prevent body cameras from becoming a requirement.
“In the departments where the cameras are useful and they can afford them they will use them, but I don’t think it will become a requirement,” Barton said. “We don’t even have dash cameras in all the police

cruisers in the state, and we’ve had those for 20 plus years.”
For departments that want to adopt body cameras, cost is often the biggest issue.
“The same thing with in-car cameras, you get what you pay for,” Barton said. “You can get them for \$100 and you can get them for \$1,000.”
There is also the question of when officers should record and how long to store those recordings.
“When you start using body cameras, are you talking about recording just when you make contact with someone or if you are going to record 24 hours – which is the entire shift?” Barton said. “If you are going to record the entire shift, there is a question of how long do you store it. I get people asking me all the time how long should they store something, and I tell them if you don’t need it, don’t store it.”
The U.S. Department of Justice recently announced it will be offering \$20 million in competitive grants to help local police departments purchase body cameras for officers, part of a pilot program proposed by President Barack Obama to invest \$75 million over three years to purchase 50,000 body cameras for law enforcement agencies.
Of the \$20 million in grants being offered by the DOJ, \$17 million would be set aside for cameras, \$2 million for training and technical assistance, and \$1 million for evaluation. With the president’s encouragement, the DOJ has also asked Congress for increased funding for body cameras.



June 18: 7th Annual Power of 10 Regional Summit, Cumberland Region Tomorrow, Nashville, TPAC's Polk Theatre. A 10-county summit focusing on shared future for regional transportation, land use, transit trends, the region's priorities and next steps. For more information and to register visit www.10power.org
August 9-13 Sustainability Coordinators' Workshop, Grand Lake, Colorado. The Sustainable Cities Institute at the National League of Cities is hosting a special four-day conference for sustainability professionals in collaboration with the Shadowcliff Institute. This professional development workshop is open to planners, public works officers, or anyone else with sustainability duties in cities. One all-inclusive rate of \$950 provides lodging, meals, conference materials, and travel vouchers for round-trip airfare on Southwest Airlines. Click the link below for more information, <http://www.nlc.org/build-skills-and-networks/education-and-training/event-calendar/2015-shadowcliff-sustainability-coordinators-workshop>
Oct. 13-14: 2015 Governors Conference on Economic and Community Development, Nashville Convention Center at the Renaissance Hotel. www.govcon.tnecd.com.



Tennessee Certified Economic Developer

... providing high quality training to economic and community development practitioners and community leaders in Tennessee.

THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE

CENTER for INDUSTRIAL SERVICES

For more information, visit <http://cis.tennessee.edu/TCED> or call 1-888-763-7439



Side by side,
community by community,
state by state.
Opportunity at every step.™

The demands facing government entities are more challenging than ever. So our specialized 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

"Bank 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 performed globally by banking affiliates of Bank of America Corporation, including Bank of America, N.A., member FDIC. Securities, strategic advisory, and other investment banking activities are performed globally by investment banking affiliates of Bank of America Corporation ("Investment Banking Affiliates"), including, in the United States, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated and Merrill Lynch Professional Clearing Corp., all of which are registered broker-dealers and members of FINRA and SIPC, and, in other jurisdictions, by locally registered entities. Investment products offered by Investment Banking Affiliates: Are Not FDIC Insured • May Lose Value • Are Not Bank Guaranteed. ©2011 Bank of America Corporation.



Be sure to visit the TML Marketplace at TML’s Annual Conference
— June 7-8 at the Nashville Convention Center —

The Exhibit Hall will be open Sunday, June 7, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.;
and on Monday, June 8, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The TML Annual Conference is fast approaching and the Exhibitor’s Program plays a significant role in the entire conference experience. The services and products presented by the Conference Exhibitors help city officials solve problems and serve their community. Many city and town officials look to convention exhibitors for the latest information about the techniques, products, and services their municipalities need.

Be sure and check out some of this year’s highlighted vendors. By scanning the QR code with your smartphone app, you can learn more about each company listed below and featured in our on-line TML Marketplace showroom.

Bank of America
Merrill Lynch

www.bankofamerica.com Booth 328

Carr, Riggs & Ingram www.cricpa.com

Booth 105

Use QR Code Scanner App
To Open Marketplace Ads

This QR code (when scanned) will take you to the TML marketplace, where company contact information and marketplace listing will be found.

<https://www.firsttennessee.com/> Booth 327

powering your dreams™

Booth 427

www.govdeals.com

GRIDSMART®

Booth 408 www.gridsmart.com

GRIDSMART Technologies

Local Government Corporation

Booth 222 www.localgovernmentcorporation.com

Booth 411

www.phgenergy.com

www.qs1gov.com Booth 112

www.santekenviro.com Booth 308

Santek Waste Services

35 YEARS

Booths 226-229 www.thepool-tn.org

Booth 329 www.tml1.org/bond-fund.php

TENNESSEE MUNICIPAL BOND FUND

City Showcase highlights innovative programs

The City Showcase celebrates successful, creative programs from cities and towns from across the state.

(CH 1) **Unicoi’s** “Community Kitchen,” where residents can use the commercial-grade equipment to can foods for sale at local and regional markets. The goal is to support the regional economy in value-added agriculture, nutrition, and community development.

(CH 2) **Johnson City’s** “Tweetsie Trail,” a rails-to-trails project that travels the former ET&WNC (“Tweetsie”) railroad right-of-way between Johnson City and Elizabethton. The trail provides opportunities for walking, hiking, running, biking, etc. on a relatively flat grade in a beautiful, natural setting. When complete, the 10-mile trail will be the longest rails-to-trails project in Tennessee.

CH 3) **Manchester’s** Parks and Recreation Department and community-wide health initiatives with a long-term, community-wide effort to measurably improve the health of its residents.

(CH 4) **White House’s** all-inclusive handicapped playground donated to the city by Miracle Recreation and built in honor of two brothers with an inspiring story - Conner Long, 10, and his brother Cayden, 8, who was born with spastic cerebral palsy. The playground features about 15 pieces of equipment, rubber turf for easy mobility, and a large shaded area.

(CH 6) **McKenzie’s** preservation and revitalization of their downtown through new development strategies, hosting more community events, and funding historic restoration projects as part of the new vision for the city.

(CH 5) **Savannah’s** award-winning Tennessee Street Park project that spans six-acres, and features two age-appropriate playgrounds with ADA accessible features, two splash pads, two large pavilions suited for events and reunions, and a paved quarter-mile walking trail. The top-notch neighborhood park, has not only introduced a new way of life to the community, it is projected to increase community involvement, build citizen interactions and reduce crime in the future.

www.tennesseedrugcard.com Booth 426

www.tennesseedrugcard.com

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Booth 211/310 www.wm.com

Nashville flourishes under Mayor Karl Dean’s leadership

BY LINDA BRYANT

Nashville Mayor Karl Dean has led Music City during an unprecedented – and undeniably dynamic – time in its history. Job growth and entrepreneurship is flourishing, and the city routinely lands on Top 10 lists for job growth and business friendliness. The residential and commercial real estate markets are hot and population growth has been on the upswing for several years.

Nashville has gained prominence in the national and international media under Mayor Dean’s watch. The city has been praised as the “It” city by the New York Times and become the focus of the popular ABC nighttime drama, “Nashville.” It has also emerged as a hotspot for young people. According to multiple surveys, adult “millennials” between the ages of 25 and 34 are flocking to Nashville faster than nearly any other city in the country.

Dean is a popular mayor, known for his accessible, low-drama leadership style. But that doesn’t mean he’s won all of his political battles. For example, Metro Council rejected his vision of transforming the Tennessee State Fairgrounds into a mixed-use development. The AMP project, a contentious \$174 million bus rapid transit route proposed for the West End corridor of Nashville, was abandoned earlier this year. Dean still believes in the spirit of the project and says, at the very least, it jump-started a much-needed conversation about mass transit in Middle Tennessee.

“I appreciate the citizens of Nashville for giving me this opportunity to serve and lead,” Dean said in his State of Metro address on April 30. “The state of our city is very good, and we’ve accomplished a lot together over these past eight years.

“But we can’t afford to take our eye off the ball and stop hitting those three pitches. This is Nashville’s time, and we have to lean into it and give it everything we have so we can live the future we see: a city on a hill, a city of opportunity.”

With his mayoral duties set to end later this year, Dean is taking inventory of his time in office while continuing to push new initiatives. He’s not sure what he’ll do after the new mayor is elected and sworn in, but it doesn’t sound like he’ll disappear from view.

“I haven’t made up my mind about what I’m going to do yet, but I’m interested in public affairs,” he said. “I don’t think that’s going to change.”

TT&C: You took office in 2007. Nashville’s recognition has really grown since then, and now its been named the ‘It’ city. Why do you think this has happened? Can the Mayor’s Office take any credit for it?

Karl Dean: We are the ‘It’ city for a variety of reasons. Numerous people, past and present, deserve the credit. I came to Nashville in 1978, and for most of that time period Nashville has been a city on the rise. Decisions made both in the public and private sectors have resulted in Nashville becoming more and more prominent and an attractive place to live in and to visit.

The creativity element really contributes to Nashville being the “It” city. We’re an immense attraction as a convention and tourist destination. The Music City Center certainly spurred that along, and it resulted in a lot of other projects. There’s a sense that Nashville is a unique city with its own special character. Its always been a highly-regarded city, but its been rediscovered in the past five years. This rediscovery happened when – contrary to much of the country – we were coming out of the recession at an early and strong pace. It helped create a sense of excitement about the city.

When we were building the Music City Center, the New York Times came to Nashville. I spent half of the day with them. I took the reporter to the center and to a variety of other places around the city. She had a strong interest in restaurants, and Nashville was just beginning to emerge as a real gourmet city. She really ‘got it,’ and her article further amplified the attention coming our way. It was a great story for the city.

TT&C: What are some of your proudest accomplishments of the past eight years?

KD: The big project was the Music City Center. It was not an easy lift, and we did it during the depths of

the recession. To build that building now would cost \$50 million more. Music City Center reflects the optimism of the city and the willingness of the people of Nashville – through their representatives – to invest in the city and create something better. The old convention center essentially had us not competing with other similar-sized cities – or even cities smaller than us. And none of those cities, even those bigger than us, have the attractions Nashville has in terms of Lower Broadway and Nashville’s music scene, history and natural beauty.

The Music City Center investment has worked. You just have to go over to that area – or anywhere downtown – to feel the excitement and energy its created. It has done what we thought it would do as far as attracting visitors to the city. We have \$45 million in reserves now. That’s how far ahead in projections we are. We have that much money put aside to pay bonds and operations if the economy slows down or if we hit some lean years. Music City Center has exceeded my expectations. The success of the project is a good example of how things happen in Nashville. The private



Mayor Dean riding a Nashville MTA bus to the Nashville International Airport.

sector and other business leaders were essential in rallying community support and building the case for the new center. We went through multiple votes to get it done in Metro Council. In the end, I think there were nine votes against it.

Another good result of Music City Center is the collaboration between Omni Hotel and the Country Music Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame is a great non-profit institution. Omni is a great for-profit company and very well run. I believe we created the most unique convention center and hotel in the country with that partnership.

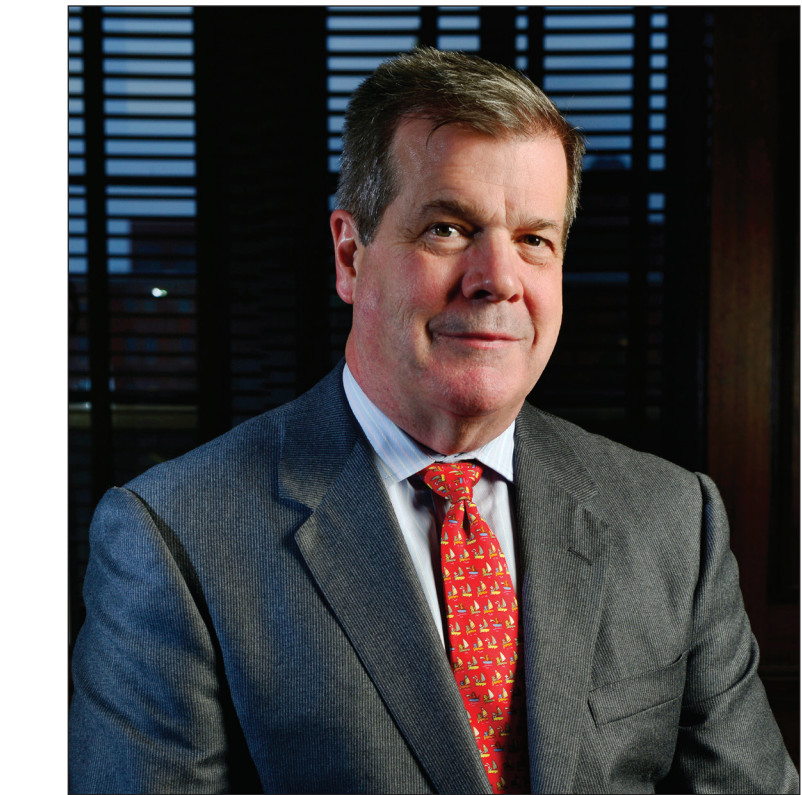
TT&C: What else stands out?

KD: I take a lot of pride in our team’s focus on regionalism. We started the Mayor’s Caucus, and we invited all of the mayors from Middle Tennessee to come here and discuss regional issues. We borrowed the idea from Denver, and its worked out well. The regional discussion is a real important one. Increased collaboration and cooperation regionally is critical.

Another program that always brings the biggest smile to my face is Limitless Libraries, a partnership with the public library system and the school library system. This program has broken down the doors between the two institutions. Our public school libraries were not where we wanted them to be, and yet our public library system is a great system. Limitless Libraries made access to the public library easy, and we were able to increase the number of kids with library cards dramatically. We made almost two million more books available to our school kids. Donna Nicely, the former director of the Nashville Public Library, gave me the idea. She did a great job of getting it started, and our new director, Kent Oliver, is equally committed to it. Jesse Register did a great job at Metro schools.

TT&C: Can you name one of your biggest challenges or disappointments as mayor?

KD: I wish the AMP had been successful, but I believe it will come back. Nashville is going to continue to address issues of transit. You can look at most major American cities, not the Northeastern cities that went into transit heavily in the latter part of the 19th century and the 20th century, but cities like Charlotte, Austin, Denver and Salt Lake City. They are cities that had resistance (to investment in public transit) the



Nashville Mayor Karl Dean



Mayor Dean mountain biking at Bells Bend Mountain Bike Trails. Since taking office, Dean has led more than 4,000 participants in the Walk 100 Miles with the Mayor Campaign, involved thousands of walkers and runners in the Mayor’s Challenge 5K and brought children and families out to the Mayor’s Field Day with the Tennessee Titans.

We have companies moving here, people moving here. Millennials are moving here just because it’s where they want to live.

It’s going to be important to continue to emphasize our strengths. The next mayor will have all sorts of great projects to work on to make Nashville a better place. He or she will have their interests, but there is no shortage of work to be done.

TT&C: What are you looking forward to when you leave office?

KD: I love the job, so I’m not really looking forward to leaving office. I’ve been able to work in a great city filled with great people. But they are not going to have to pull me out of here. I have been around Metro government a long time. I was the law director and public defender, before I became mayor. I knew this was going to be a good job because I’d already seen that Nashville is a place where you can get a lot done and see the results. I will miss the job, but I am looking forward to having more free time and spending time with my family. I’ll probably travel some at first. I will remain a Nashvillian, but I’m not exactly sure what I’m going to do for employment. I’ve got to work, so we’ll see what happens.

TT&C: Do you feel different now than from when you came in the office? Have you changed?

KD: I don’t feel different, and I think that’s mainly because I have my family. My daughters were young when I ran for mayor, and my son was a new college student. They kept it real. If anyone calls me mayor at home, it’s usually because I’ve done something wrong.

TT&C: TML often addresses issues that have to do with local government autonomy. Has it been hard for Metro Nashville to deal with issues such as guns in parks, employee anti-discrimination laws, minimum wage etc.? Can we find a balance between state authority and local autonomy?

KD: This issue has intensified over the past several years, not just in Nashville but also in other large cities across the state. Understanding the role of state leadership in the economic and social growth of metropolitan areas is an important part of the issue. Politics change over time, and I do think the state is evolving. We will hopefully come to a better place and find effective ways to balance local autonomy

and state authority. Tennessee is a great state. Its got a great rural backbone, and it has metropolitan areas that are thriving and doing well. We have to try to strike a balance between the needs of both areas. Politics is all about balance and fairness.

TT&C: In April, Gov. Bill Haslam signed a bill that took away the right of local governments to ban guns in parks, although it was amended to restrict guns in the immediate vicinity of a school-sanctioned event at a park while that event is under way. Talk more about this in terms of a local autonomy vs. state authority?

KD: Local control is a complicated issue. With the guns in parks legislation the legislature (initially) said, “We are going to allow guns in parks, and we are going to allow local governments to opt-out.” That seemed like the right decision to me. Whether or not to have guns in parks is not an easy question, and I don’t think it’s best addressed high up from the state, imposed upon the local government. It’s a classic issue where the state should allow the local government to make the final decision about their own local parks –

parks that we own.

There are other issues where you could argue that a certain amount of state uniformity is important. But for the life of me, with the guns and parks issue I don’t see it. We weren’t having a big uproar about guns in parks in Nashville. It was a created issue, and now we are left with a problem. It’s not an issue that’s going to go away.

Tennessee is a very strong Second Amendment state, and I can accept, appreciate and support that. But when you are in an urban area you have real complications with public safety issues. For example, we are building a new park on the riverfront in Nashville, and it includes an amphitheater. We are going to have seven or eight thousand people going to concerts. We’ll have many big celebrations such as the Fourth of July and New Year’s Eve on the riverfront. We also have parks located right next to schools, and we have parks where schools conduct activities. Naturally, we are concerned about keeping these areas safe for all.

TT&C: Are there any other issues you’d like to mention?

KD: The Great Recession and the 2010 flood were two of the biggest challenges we went through during my first term. They actually brought out our strengths. The recession was more significant than many people remember. People forget about how dramatic it was and how fast it came on. It was the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, and it resulted in us managing the government very conservatively. We also went through the flood during all of that. We were able to make investments like the Music City Center even during the recession. The fact that we came out of tough times in good shape says a lot about Nashville. We’ve been able to create remarkable public-private partnerships. There’s a sense of teamwork and collaboration here that’s rare.

There’s one more thing I want to say. You are only as good as the people around you. I literally don’t do anything by myself in this job. Somebody is always helping me – whether it’s an entire department or the people who work in this office. I have a really great team. I’ve been very fortunate that the deputy mayor, Greg Hinote, and the finance director, Rich Riebeling, have been with me from the very beginning. Nashville’s success is a team effort. It’s a city effort.