



## Presidential historian Jon Meacham to open TML Annual Conference in June

Presidential historian, Pulitzer Prize-winner, and contributing editor at *TIME*, Jon Meacham will deliver the keynote speech at the Opening General Session of the 76th TML Annual Conference, slated for June 6 - 9 in Nashville.

Meacham will explore what 21st-century leaders in different fields of endeavor can learn from the greatest moments of our common past.

This presentation — non-partisan in content and tone — ranges from Jefferson's pragmatism to Jackson's management of public opinion to JFK's capacity to recover from his own mistakes to the management of conflicting egos as shown by Reagan and FDR. Meacham discusses how history can influence the decisions all of us make everyday in positions that demand creative and innovative solutions.

Considered to be one of America's most prominent public intellectuals, he is known as a skilled story teller with a depth of knowledge about politics and current affairs. He understands and analyzes how issues and events impact our lives.

Debating at No. 1 on *The New York Times* best sellers list, *Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power* was named one of the best books of the year and hailed as "a fascinating look at how Jefferson wielded his driving desire for power and control."

His *New York Times* bestselling *American Lion: Andrew Jackson in*



Jon Meacham

*the White House* won the Pulitzer Prize for biography. And as the author of *New York Times* bestseller *Franklin and Winston: An Intimate Portrait of an Epic Friendship*, he recently appeared on Ken Burns' documentary series *The Roosevelts: An Intimate History* as one of the featured historians. He is currently working on a biography of President George H.W. Bush.

Meacham served as *Newsweek's* managing editor from 1998 to 2006 and editor from 2006 to 2010. The *New York Times* called him "one of the most influential editors in the news magazine business." Now a contributing editor at *TIME*, he writes for their Ideas section.

Born in Chattanooga in 1969, Meacham holds a B.A. in English Literature from The University of the South in Seawee, TN.

See **Page 3** for more Annual Conference information.

## City officials briefed on key issues during 2015 Legislative Conference



Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey



House Speaker Beth Harwell



Rep. Tim Wirtgen



Rep. Charles Sargent

Photos by Carole Graves

**BY CAROLE GRAVES**  
*TML Communications Director*

Local control, road funding, economic development, and annexation, were among the many issues addressed during the 2015 TML Legislative Conference recently held in Nashville.

A host of state dignitaries addressed the some 250 city officials in attendance, including **Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey** and **House Speaker Beth Harwell**. Both discussed the issue

of annexation and the study that the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR) recently released. Both speakers agreed that it was a reasonable model that protected cities' economic development efforts.

"Annexation will be a huge issue for all of you and we need to make sure that we don't hurt economic development in this process," said Speaker Harwell. "We know that when our communities are doing well, then our state is doing well."

Lt. Gov. Ramsey addressed another important issue to local governments — road funding.

"On the state level, revenues are

flat and that trickles down to local governments," Ramsey said. "We're not keeping up with technology. Our funding formula hasn't changed since 1989."

Ramsey said that although the state was not yet in a crisis mode — something needed to be done soon.

"I'm not sure if we will address it this session or next session, but we're going to hit a big problem very soon."

He told local officials that he planned to work with the governor and the TN Department of Transportation to come up with a solution. But one thing he was not interested

See **CONFERENCE on Page 10**

## Internships prepare future political leaders

**BY SAVANNAH GILMAN**  
*Daily Beacon Staff Writer*

UT students are getting one step closer to the Oval Office.

Or, at least, those students selected for the Congressional Internship and the Tennessee Legislative Internship programs.

The Congressional Internship Program, established five years ago by UT Chancellor Jimmy Cheek, gives students access to congressional offices in Washington, D.C., during the spring, summer or fall semester.

Sally Parish, the director of the Center for Leadership and Service, noted the variety of experience students can gain by participating in the program.

"They can intern in congressional offices or on congressional committees honing a number of skills as they accompany congressional leaders to meetings and other events and gain direct exposure to life in D.C.," Parish said. "Their experience includes administration tasks, leading tours and also have opportunities to develop niche interests."

This experience as well as the added benefit of connecting to a network of alumni often leads students to being employed full-time by the office, giving them a jump-start in their career.

Since the program requires students to relocate to D.C. and the internship position is unpaid, it comes with a scholarship to assist the students financially in establishing themselves.

"Our priority is to remove barriers so that the most qualified students can go on this internship," Parish said. "Many of the students who go claim that it is one of the most impactful things they do. It can alter career paths."

The program includes students from a variety of studies who are selected based on how well they will represent UT, their passion and their



U.S. Congressman Diane Black and UT student Stuart Wilkerson



### INTERN WITH A TENNESSEE CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE

part of making history." Applicants apply during the fall since Tennessee has a part-time legislature that meets from January to April.

Unlike the Congressional Internship Program, students participating in the Tennessee Legislative Internship move to Nashville and their internships are paid, receiving nearly \$7,000 for a session. Students are also reimbursed for their monthly commutes from UT's campus to Nashville.

"This internship program deals with state issues," Folz said. "It's an opportunity for bright young men and women to be on site and serve on staff."

Folz said Tennessee's program has proven to be highly successful and even serves as a model for other schools' programs.

"From the University's standpoint it is an opportunity for students to learn first hand of the lawmaking process and is of unparalleled value," Folz said.

potential to grow in their career.

"We're preparing political leaders, and that's really exciting," Parish said.

Having just celebrated its 40th year, the Tennessee Legislative Internship Program is another avenue for students pursuing a career in politics.

David Folz, the campus representative for the Tennessee Legislative Internship Program, said this particular internship is an established tradition on UT's campus.

"There is a wide and varied set of responsibilities," Folz said, describing the program. "It's a great opportunity to see how UT students learn first hand by being involved in the legislative process and become a

## FCC approves municipal broadband petitions

**BY JULIA PULIDINDI**  
*National League of Cities*

The FCC voted on two widely-publicized proceedings: petitions by Chattanooga EPB and the city of Wilson to overcome state barriers to expanding municipal broadband networks, and the issue of net neutrality. In two 3-2 votes, the FCC supported the Chattanooga and Wilson petitions to preempt state laws restricting municipal broadband networks and adopted a new Open Internet Order which reclassifies broadband Internet access as a telecommunications service under Title II of the Communications Act.

### Municipal Broadband

A Memorandum Opinion and Order adopted by the FCC found that provisions of the laws in North Carolina and Tennessee are barriers to broadband deployment, investment and competition, and conflict with the FCC's mandate to promote these goals. The FCC voted to allow Chattanooga and Wilson to expand broadband service outside their current footprints in response to numerous requests from neighboring unserved and underserved communities. Chairman Wheeler, Commissioner Clyburn, and Commissioner Rosenworcel voted in favor of the petitions and in their statements underscored the importance of broadband as a necessity for local growth and opportunity and highlighted the value of municipal broadband in meeting these goals, particularly in areas where service was not provided by industry.

"The FCC's vote underscores the critical role of local governments in providing broadband services that are integral to a strong, 21st century

economy that benefits residents and strengthens communities," said Clarence Anthony, NLC CEO and executive director in response to the decision. "Chattanooga, Tenn. and Wilson, N.C. are examples of the successful role local governments can play to ensure that high-speed, affordable broadband is available to our cities' residents. While their petitions to the FCC only apply to their individual municipal broadband initiatives, today's ruling sets a precedent that acknowledges the need for local flexibility to meet individual community needs. Each community is different, and local governments must have the flexibility and authority to make the best choices for their residents."

In Tennessee, Republican state lawmakers are urging state Attorney General Herbert Slatery to file a lawsuit challenging the decision as "a violation of state sovereignty."

Slatery said no decision has been made about the state's next step. He was among several Tennessee lawmakers including Gov. Bill Haslam, Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey, and House Speaker Beth Harwell, who had written to the FCC not to override state laws

### Open Internet/Net Neutrality

In the second proceeding, the FCC voted to regulate Internet service under Title II of the Telecommunications Act, which would treat it as a public utility. The new rules approved by the FCC prohibit blocking content or dividing the Internet into "fast lanes" for companies who pay for prioritization and "slow lanes" for others. This concept is also known as net neutrality. More information about the ruling is available in the FCC's press release.

# NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



## CHATTANOOGA

Volkswagen's proposed Chattanooga engineering and planning center has found a temporary home as officials finalize a permanent site and prepare to start hiring more than 200 engineers. The center, a first for the German carmaker in the United States, is designed to bring VW closer to the tastes of American motorists and is part of the plant's \$900 million expansion project. The center will be located temporarily in the former Eastside Utility District building off Discovery Drive near the VW plant. Work officially kicked off in January on the addition that will expand the Chattanooga factory by 512,886 square feet in order to build a new sport utility vehicle by the end of 2016. The plant currently produces the Passat midsize sedan.

## COLLIERVILLE

The Tennessee Recycling Coalition, sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, named the town of Collierville the "2014 Government Recycler of the Year," based on the success of the town's new program. In the summer of 2014, Collierville's Public Service Department began its new curbside recycle collection program. With the goal of reducing cost, promoting positive customer service and increasing recycling participation, the town converted from a privately contracted recycle collection operation utilizing 17-gallon recycle bins to a more efficient town employee-operated recycle collection, utilizing automated collection trucks and free 96-gallon recycle carts. Prior to beginning the town-operated recycle collection program, an average of 50 percent of homes were participating in recycling. Within the first four months of the delivery of the new 96-gallon recycle carts, residential participation increased to more than 72 percent. By bringing the service in house, residents noticed greatly improved quality of service with increased customer participation and fewer missed collections.

## GALLATIN

Gallatin police hope that a new portable driving simulator will help improve teen driver safety across the county. Last year, the department received \$40,000 in grant funding from the Governor's Highway Safety Office to purchase the simulator, which officials hope will help better educate teenagers about the dangers of distracted driving. Gallatin was one of 386 agencies statewide that received grants totaling \$24.2 million in funding through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in September for initiatives aimed at improving traffic safety. In addition to setting up the simulator at community events, Gallatin police plan to work with Sumner County Schools to use the machine for teen driver training in schools. The simulator will also be available to use throughout the county, not just Gallatin, in an effort to educate as many as possible about the dangers of distracted driving. Developed by Hawthorne, Calif.-based Systems Technology Inc., the machine mimics real-life driving situations to give users experience in situations they may not have encountered before.

## LOUDON

A Loudon plant that produces portable drilling rig equipment has appar-

ently fallen victim to decreased oil prices and will be closed, eliminating 75 jobs. Parent company Astec Industries recently announced GEFCO Inc., will close its Loudon operation effective May 31, Company CEO said in a statement that GEFCO will work to place Loudon employees with our other companies wherever possible. Some options include three other Astec operations in Loudon — Astec Inc., Heatec Inc. and Roadtec Inc. — plus a GEFCO plant in Enid, Okla. The plan is to shift all Loudon production to the Oklahoma plant.

## MEMPHIS

Nearly three years after it acquired Thomas & Betts Corp. (ABB), is planning to expand its operation in Memphis. The company is investing \$30 million to build a new manufacturing facility and expansion of its Memphis-based customer experience center in its Low Voltage Products division. When it is completed, the expansion is expected to create more than 200 jobs. The company is also expecting to create 100 more jobs over the next five years.

## MT. PLEASANT

A ceramics tile company will be opening its first U.S. manufacturing plant in Tennessee, creating 180 new jobs and investing \$80 million to construct a new facility in Maury County. Gruppo Concorde will be opening a new 6,000-square-foot facility in Mt. Pleasant. Gruppo Concorde produces high-end ceramic tile and has production sites in Italy, France and Russia. Its products are exported to more than 130 countries. Construction is expected to begin this month, with plans to have the facility operational in the second half of 2016. The company will begin hiring for the new positions later this year.

## MOUNTAIN CITY

Parkdale Mills announced the company will invest \$120 million to expand its Mountain City operations making it the company's largest ring spinning installation. In order to accommodate the expansion, Parkdale Mills will increase its existing footprint to include an additional 222,158 square feet and create 80 new jobs in Johnson County. Parkdale Mills' Mountain City location primarily produces yarn used for outerwear, innerwear and t-shirts. The expansion will include replacing all existing manufacturing equipment and increasing the facility size. Construction will begin immediately with plans for new technology and equipment to be installed in July 2015. Hiring will begin in late May.

## NASHVILLE

Nashville is undertaking its first Green Alley, a project where volunteers will plant rain gardens along alleyways to help restore and sustain the health of waterways that were damaged with debris and erosion during historic flooding in May 2010. The project also makes alleyways more walkable and safe. The project will take place in The Nations in West Nashville, which was one of the neighborhoods heavily impacted by the May 2010 flood, and will be completely free to participating households. Residents in The Nations can request to participate in the program to receive the rain garden materials for free and the option to have volunteers plant the gardens during the spring or fall seasons.

The rain gardens will be planted in residents' backyards closest to the alleyway. The goal is to reduce the amount of polluted stormwater that travels from homeowners' properties into Richland Creek. The project also creates a model of citizen-led water stewardship and builds neighborhood spirit. The rain garden plantings will take place from March through May and again September through November. Nashville is funding the Green Alley project with the Cities of Service award of \$35,000 it received in December for national achievement in impact volunteering and environmental sustainability efforts.

## PORTLAND

Automotive parts manufacturer Unipres USA is expanding its Portland facilities and adding 435 jobs over five years. The expansion includes investments in warehouse renovations and the addition of three new parts presses at the Sumner County operation. Unipres USA, owned by Japanese Unipres Corp., has been headquartered in Portland since 1987. The company produces metal parts for auto body structures and precision automatic transmission parts. It has a workforce of more than 1,000 employees.

## SPRINGFIELD

The Springfield Board of Mayor and Aldermen has approved a contract with engineers to proceed with the final section of the city's greenway project. Springfield's greenway spans three miles of pathways, connecting parks through the historic district and the business district. The city has been given \$1.75 million in grants from the federal government to finish the project. The city has allocated proceeds of \$350,000 from the General Obligation Public Improvement Bonds, for its required 20-percent match for the project. Once completed, the walkway will also include decorative lighting, benches and trash cans, along with a few cross walks.

## SPRING HILL

Spring Hill has been ranked the seventh most affordable city in Tennessee in which to live, according to a study by SmartAsset, a venture-backed financial technology company that uses data to provide advice on big financial decisions like home-buying and saving up for retirement. In Tennessee, only Atoka, Munford, Oakland, Mt. Carmel, La Vergne and Seymour rank above Spring Hill. Spring Hill's average closing costs are \$4,062, according to the study. The average annual property tax is \$1,399 and the average annual homeowner's insurance is \$998. The average annual mortgage payment is \$9,661 while the median income is \$76,011.

## WHITE BLUFF

Austin Peay State University, in partnership with the Friends of White Bluff, Inc., and the Small Business Development Centers, will be offering a series of business development classes starting at the end of March at the Bibb-White Bluff Civic Center. These classes are designed to complement the town's recent downtown revitalization efforts to offer would be and current small business owners the necessary educational foundation to operate a successful and long-term business. This low-cost, professional development training is available to everyone and tuition reimbursement scholarships are available through the Friends of White Bluff, Inc.

## Governor's Foundation recognizes Gatlinburg Recreation Department as Healthier Tennessee Workplace



The Governor's Foundation for Health and Wellness announced that the Gatlinburg Recreation Department has been named a 2015 Healthier Tennessee Workplace for its commitment to encouraging and enabling employees to live a healthy lifestyle both at work and at home.

"Gatlinburg Recreation Department has created a culture of wellness that encourages and enables employees to be healthier, more productive, and more satisfied with their jobs. It's good for business, and it's good for Tennessee," Rick Johnson, president and chief executive officer of the Governor's Foundation said.

To become a Healthier Tennessee Workplace, Gatlinburg Recreation Department certified that they have a wellness program in place that does the following:

- Encourages and enables physical activity in the workplace
- Offers healthy eating options at work
- Provides a tobacco-free environment

and help with tobacco cessation

- Encourages and enables employees to monitor their own health through regular health risk assessments, screenings or check-ups
- Rewards and recognizes employees for participating in health and wellness activities and achieving health improvements

"The Gatlinburg wellness program has been in place for a number of years and continues to grow every year. The efforts from the Recreation Department staff and the continuous improvement and success of the wellness program have been an essential part in our ability to keep a healthier conscious workforce," Dave Anderson programs director said.

Those interested in becoming a Healthier Tennessee Workplace should apply at [www.healthiertn.com/workplace](http://www.healthiertn.com/workplace).

## Knoxville City Council authorizes acquisition of South High School



A beloved but dilapidated 78-year-old former school is a step closer to redevelopment, following Knoxville City Council's unanimous vote to acquire it.

The former South High School will be purchased from the owner by eminent domain if necessary. The acquisition was recommended by the Abandoned, Blighted and Vacant Properties Committee to eliminate the blighting influence of the building in its current condition, preserve the structure and redevelop it for future use. A recent independent appraisal set the value of the property at \$189,000.

"This is a treasured community asset with immense potential for quality redevelopment," said Becky Wade, Knoxville director of Community Development. "This school is historically significant, it's iconic, and all of Knoxville is hoping the building will be rehabilitated for the right use in the near future."

Wade said the city will host a public meeting to help determine the best use for the building moving forward and then requests for proposals will be solicited from developers for reuse of the school.

The current owner was the top bidder for the former high school at a 2008 auction. But since purchasing the school, it has remained boarded up, with a leaky roof and overgrown lawn.

City crews have had to mow the property, which has been cited for 19 code violations, and the City also had to have the building stabilized, which resulted in a \$30,000 lien against the property. The owner also owes back taxes to the City and Knox County. All passed due taxes and liens will be deducted from any sales proceeds going to the current owner.

At one point, the owner applied for a demolition permit for South High, which drew the ire of historic preservationists. At the urging of Vice Mayor Nick Pavlis, who represents South Knoxville, the city council placed H-1 protective historical zoning on the property, which prohibits demolition without review and approval.

Designed by legendary architect Charles Barber, South High has made the Fragile 15 list of endangered historic properties, compiled by the nonprofit preservation group Knox Heritage.

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

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**Nationwide**  
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**76th TML Annual Conference  
June 6 - 9**

Nashville Convention Center  
Renaissance Hotel

Schedule At-A-Glance

**SATURDAY, JUNE 6**

8 am - 3 pm

MTAS EOA

6:30 - 8 pm

Meet and Greet

Welcome Reception

**SUNDAY, JUNE 7**

10 am - 5 pm

Registration

10 am - 5 pm

Exhibit Hall Opens

10:30 - 11:15

Vendor Presentation

11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Lunch

1:15 - 2:15 pm

TML Affiliate Workshop

CMFO Workshop

1:30 - 2:15 pm

District Meetings

**2:30 - 3:45 pm**

Opening Session

4 - 5 pm

Workshops

6 - 8:30 pm

Host City Reception

**MONDAY, JUNE 8**

8 - 8:45 am

Breakfast

9 - 10 am

Second General Session

10:15 - 11:30 am

Workshops

11:45 - 12:30 am

Business Meeting

12:30 - 2 pm

Lunch

2:15 - 3:15 pm

Workshops

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Workshops

6 - 11 pm

Pool Party

**TUESDAY, JUNE 9**

8 - 10 am

Awards Breakfast

To register for the TML Annual Conference, go to TML's website, [www.TML1.org](http://www.TML1.org) to download a registration form. Or contact Sylvia Trice at (615) 425-3903 or by e-mail at [strice@TML1.org](mailto:strice@TML1.org).

# Lebanon embarks on green power project, second Tennessee city to employ gasification method

The city of Lebanon has signed a contract with PHG Energy (PHGE) to provide an environmentally sustainable method of waste disposal and produce green power in the process.

The waste-to-energy technology, which will go on line early next year, is a downdraft gasification plant that will cleanly convert up to 64 tons per day of blended waste wood, scrap tires and sewer sludge into a fuel gas that will generate up to 300Kw of electricity. The generation of this power will provide for the plant's internal power needs as well as contribute electricity to the wastewater treatment plant where it will be located.

"This is not incineration or burning," Lebanon Mayor Philip Craighead pointed out. "There is no smoke or odor. The feedstock material is broken down at very high temperatures in a sealed vessel, and about 95 percent of what goes into the gasifier comes out as the fuel gas."

Craighead also said the remaining 5 percent to 10 percent of material exiting the gasifier is a high-carbon biochar that can be recycled or sold for agricultural or industrial uses.

PHGE President Tom Stanzone said the Lebanon project will deploy what his company believes is the world's largest downdraft gasifier and added, "This is the same basic technology we utilized in all our previous designs, and we have upgraded capacity and power density to accomplish a lot more gasification in what is not a lot more space."

The Large Frame gasifier, as the company refers to it, has been vetted through a rigorous testing process for more than two years at PHGE's research facility. A standard PHGE gasifier can convert up to 12 tons of feedstock per day to fuel gas, while the Lebanon model will process up to 64 tons per day without substantially increasing the footprint of the plant.

The plant is projected to keep more 8,000 tons of material out of landfills each year—the equivalent of a line of trucks stretching over four miles long. Carbon dioxide emissions will be reduced as well, keeping more than 2,500 tons out of the

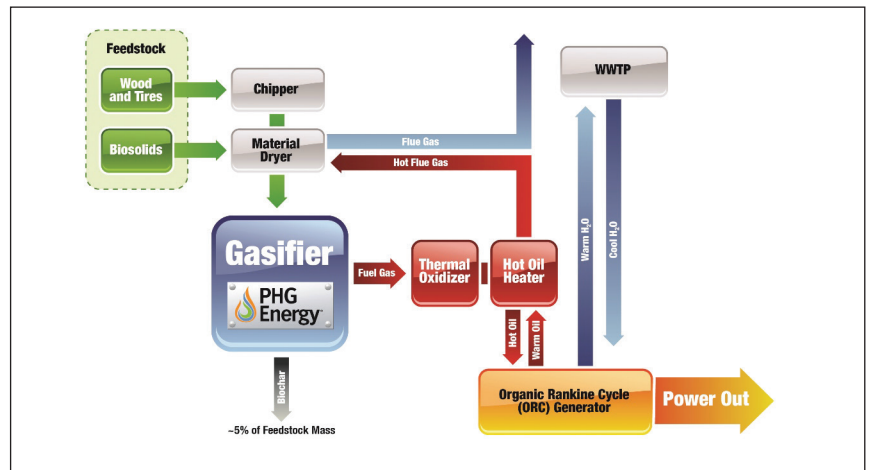


Lebanon's plant will be similar to PHGE's first municipal installation in Covington, TN., pictured above.

atmosphere each year. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, that equates to the CO2 produced annually to provide electricity to 312 homes, or the annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions from more than 450 passenger vehicles.

Funding of the \$3.5 million capital cost has been obtained through a federal program that awards bond subsidies to local projects that conserve energy. Those Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds are allocated through the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), and repay communities about 70 percent of interest expense.

The Lebanon project will mark the 14th gasifier installation for PHGE. The company's first municipal installation was commissioned in Covington, TN., in 2013. Prior deployments of the thermo chemical process were for industrial brick manufacturing clients to replace



natural gas usage by cleanly converting wood waste to what is called producer gas or synthetic gas.

Mayor Craighead said that the city is viewing this installation as a first stage in a larger plan to convert the city's household and commercial garbage to energy in the future. He added, "We see keeping our garbage

out of the landfill and using it to make energy as major goals for Lebanon in coming years. This is a problem that is coming straight at all of us, and we are going to make sure our city is ready with answers. One of our primary criteria is that the solutions we want will have to make good financial sense along the way."

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## Tennessee Drug Card saves Tennessee citizens \$30M

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

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

This program can be used for savings of up to 75 percent on prescription drugs at more than 56,000 regional and national pharmacies. Here's how you can participate:

- Display cards at your office location for employees and residents to take. Contact Natalie Meyer, program director, at [Natalie@TennesseeDrugCard.com](mailto:Natalie@TennesseeDrugCard.com) or 1-888-987-0688 and a supply will be mailed to your office at NO COST.
- Encourage members of your community to print a FREE

Tennessee Drug Card at [TennesseeDrugCard.com](http://TennesseeDrugCard.com).

- Inform members of your community that they can ask for the Tennessee Drug Card discount at any CVS pharmacy in the state — even if they don't have a card in hand.

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

The program is used by people who have health insurance coverage with no prescription benefits, which is common in many health savings accounts (HSA) and high deductible health plans. Additionally, people with prescription coverage can use the program to get a discount on prescription drugs that are not covered by insurance. The program has no membership restrictions, no income requirements, no age limitations,



and no applications to complete. TML hopes you take advantage of this easy and innovative way to help members of your community

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

# MEMBER FOCUSED



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# PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

**Elliott Sievers**, codes officer with the town of Farragut was named the Code Official of the Year by the East Tennessee Building Officials Association (ETBOA). Sievers received this honor at the ETBOA annual training and safety meeting Feb. 20 in Sevierville. A person recognized to receive this award is considered to be knowledgeable, hard-working and dedicated to their community and profession. This award is voted on by over 100 building and fire code professionals in the East Tennessee region. In 2014, Sievers was elected to the ETBOA Board of Directors as secretary/treasurer and was elected in February as president for 2015.



in Tullahoma for more than 50 years and has a long list of distinguished public service and civic activities.

**Ed Haley**, has been appointed city manager of Millington, effective March 2. Haley recently retired from Arlington as the town administrator, where he had served since July 2001.

Gallatin Fire Chief **William "Billy" Crook** has retired from the city after serving 49 years with the fire department. Crook said the decision to retire was based on health reasons and described his time with the department as "a life changing opportunity to serve the citizens of Gallatin." Crook began his career with the Gallatin Fire Department at age 20 when he was hired as a firefighter on March 1, 1966. He served 32 years as the assistant chief before being named chief in June 2007.

**Ralph Yelton**, a retired accountant and a Kingsport Democrat who served in the Tennessee House of Representatives from 1977 until 1991, died last month at age 88. Seriously wounded in the Korean War, Rep. Yelton walked during his legislative service with the aid of crutches and metal leg braces. He was also a veteran of World War II.

**Pam Roe**, wife of U.S. Rep. Phil Roe, died March 5 after an illness. No other details were made public. Roe, a Johnson City Republican and a physician, announced in February that a member of his family had been diagnosed with "a very serious illness" and that he would be limiting his time in Washington.

**Dr. Bridget Jones**, executive director of Cumberland Region Tomorrow, was recently honored by the Nashville Business Journal with a 2015 Women of Influence Award. She was among 39 other women in 10 unique categories. Jones was selected as a winner in the Non Profit Leadership category. This program has been recognizing influential women in Middle Tennessee for eight years. Honorees were chosen based on their commitment to give back, to encourage, to inspire and to lead.



Businesswoman **Helene Singer Cash** has been hired as Lebanon's new economic development director (EDD). Cash, who is the owner of The Crystal Couture Store in Lebanon, has 15 years of retail experience in the private sector. Mayor Phillip Craighead said she will bring considerable knowledge and insight due to her experience in marketing, business development, and entrepreneurship. The EDD position will focus on "new jobs, capital investments and generating new revenues. As economic development director, Cash will lead the city's efforts to recruit and expand local businesses.



## Kingsport's Hammonds named public works leader of the year

TCAPWA recognizes outstanding public works officials at recent conference

This year's Public Works Leader of the Year award recipient is surely a kindred spirit of the award's namesake, A. C. Lock. The devotion to the public works profession and especially to the TCAPWA (Tennessee Chapter American Public Works Association) that so many chapter members witnessed in the late Mr. Lock is alive and well in Kingsport's Streets and Sanitation Manager and 2014 Chapter President Ronnie Hammonds.

He has been with the city of Kingsport for 36 years and has had several roles in the public works and engineering divisions. He has been a member of APWA for 27 years and has served as the Upper East branch



Hammonds

director, vice president and awards chair, and president elect.

**Stephen Worsham** has been appointed as Tullahoma's city attorney. Worsham has extensive experience in municipal law. He is currently a senior partner in the firm of Robertson, Worsham, Gregory and Giffin, and will continue to be active in his law practice while also representing the city. He graduated from Franklin County High School, attended Georgia Tech and earned a BS in Business Administration from UT Knoxville. He earned his law degree at UT Knoxville College of Law before entering the US Army. He has lived



Bo Mills  
Public Services Director  
Germantown  
**W. Larry Eddins Award**



Sharon Owens  
Senior Office Assistant, Kingsport  
**Award of Merit**

For many years, Bo Mills has traveled many miles, attended countless meetings, created innovations and worked tirelessly on behalf of TCAPWA and APWA. His ready smile and 'can do' attitude, combined with his work ethic make him a pleasure to work with. TCAPWA is proud of his work through the years, his professionalism and the way he represents the Tennessee Chapter through APWA.

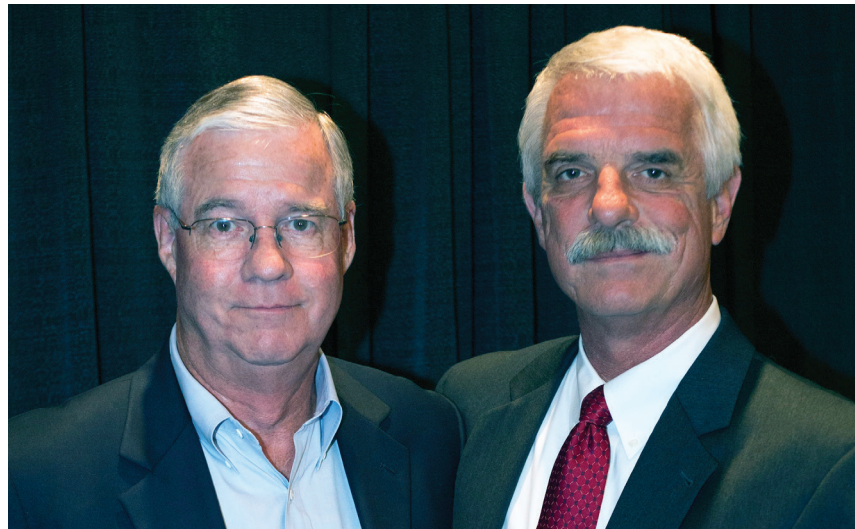
Sharon Owens has been the one constant in a changing environment throughout her 18 years with the Kingsport Public Works Department. She has trained every current employee in the division. When citizens call with problems, she works to find a solution. She works any hours needed to help fulfill the department's mission whether it's on a grabber truck helping to clean up after storms or assisting in the emergency command center during snowstorms.

## TCAPWA Project of the Year: Johnson City, Founders Park

Since its substantial completion in June 2014, Founders Park provides an outstanding downtown gathering area, improved local drainage, an environmentally improved stream, and a major step in the redevelopment of downtown Johnson City.

Founders Park not only provides relief to downtown businesses after years of crippling floodwaters, but it also incorporates a sustainable green space for all residents to enjoy.

To expedite the completion timeline, no state or federal funds were utilized. The project was totally funded through its stormwater utility fee program.



Don Mauldin, LDA, and Phil Pindzola, Johnson City public works director



Jesus Ortega-Valenzuela  
GIS Coordinator, Alcoa  
**Edward C. Archer Young  
Public Works Leader of the Year**



John Anderson, Stringfellow, Inc.  
**Frank Kirk Meritorious  
Service Award**

Jesus Ortega-Valenzuela has worked to update the chapter's website in his role as chair of TCAPWA's Website/Social Media Committee. He holds a most valuable skill in his ability to speak both English and Spanish. He will stop whatever he is working on to translate for a Spanish-speaking customer for any of the city departments. Three years ago, he began the Community Helpers Day for Alcoa Elementary kindergartners.

John Anderson has been very active in the TCAPWA. He helped launch the first TPWI Fleet Management course and served as a volunteer instructor. He is also TCAPWA's Fleet Services Committee chair and the chapter's contact with APWA National for fleet management. In addition, Anderson and his company, Stringfellow, Inc., are longtime supporters of TCAPWA and regularly attend the annual conferences.



Mark Macy  
Engineering Director  
Metro Public Works, Nashville  
**Roger Clark Award**



Loretta Hopper  
Public Works Director  
Signal Mountain  
**Charles Walter Nichols Award**

Mark Macy served as chapter president in 2011, and remains engaged in TCAPWA. He is always willing to host board meetings, and he assists with the Rodeo when the annual conference is in Nashville. The chapter has labeled him the "Rainmaker" for his ability to convince vendor friends to contribute to and sponsor chapter events and the annual conference.

Loretta Hopper is TCAPWA's Membership Committee chair and holds many certificates for her participation in TPWI. She has served as Signal Mountain's public works director for nine years and is responsible for streets, sanitation services, including yard waste, drop-off recycling, stormwater management, and water distribution. She is well respected by employees, elected officials and town administrators.

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community by community,  
state by state.  
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# STATE BRIEFS



## Improved SmartWay map guides Tennessee motorists

Tennessee's new real-time road conditions map rolled out quietly this winter and has provided fast information about icy highways, crashes and interstate closures. In December, the Tennessee Department of Transportation debuted its new SmartWay traffic Web app, now available for desktop computers and mobile devices. It's online at <https://smartway.tn.gov/traffic> for desktop and available for mobile device download from Apple and Google Play. TDOT, which developed the app internally, said the new technology now allows live streaming video from cameras along interstates in Nashville, Memphis, Chattanooga and Knoxville. It shows crashes, construction and even the text from overhead digital signs. Also new, the app can show a driver's location.

## MTSU offers degree in studying drones

From spying on enemy territory to zooming into the National Corvette Museum's sinkhole, drones have continued to grow in popularity, and now Middle Tennessee State University is offering a bachelor's degree to study them. MTSU students who earn a bachelor's degree in the Department of Aerospace's new Unmanned Aircraft Systems Operations concentration will be a part of a rising business sector expected to bring 70,000 new jobs, starting salaries of \$50,000 or higher and contribute \$13.6 billion to the U.S. economy in the next three to five years. "Unmanned aircraft are a major part of the future of aviation," Ron Ferrara, aerospace chair, said "We strive to stay on the cutting edge of technology and safety in our programs. This significant shift in the aviation industry will have profound positive effects, and we are paving the way for students to enter this lucrative career field." Jobs available in this field include agriculture,

public safety, photography, media, disaster response/management, power industry, Defense Department positions and more. The concentration received Tennessee Board of Regents approval late last year.

## 10-digit dialing required in Middle Tennessee

Effective, Feb. 28, all calls dialed from the 615 area code will require 10 digits. The three extra digits will become required dialing for all calls as part of the creation of a new area code in the 615 area that includes Dickson County, according to the Tennessee Regulatory Authority. Callers who dial without an area code won't be able to complete their calls and will receive a message to try again with a complete area code. The change will likely be the most visible one for existing phone customers as the 629 area code is implemented in Middle Tennessee. No existing phone numbers will be changed during the transition.

## 270 grocery stores to sell wine

Tennessee regulators expect 270 stores across the state to be among the first wave of supermarkets to sell wine under a new state law going into effect in July 2016. According to the state Alcoholic Beverage Commission, those first stores include 109 in Middle Tennessee, 105 in Chattanooga and Knoxville regions and 56 in the western part of the state. Industry projections estimate that 10 times as many grocery stores might choose to sell wine over time.

## Amendment 4 clears final hurdle

The final step has been taken by the state Senate to ensure that veterans groups can conduct annual fundraisers for charitable purposes. Senate Bill 325 was passed earlier this month and ensures that Amendment 4 to the state constitution, which won approval by 69.6 percent of voters in November, will be enacted. The amendment gives veterans groups

the same opportunity as 501 (c)(3) organizations to conduct an annual fundraising event like duck races, cake walks, raffles, and other games of chance.

## Tennessee Promise drives 38,000 FAFSA applications

More than 60 percent of Tennessee's high school seniors have applied to get federal aid for college so far this year, a rate higher than any other state in the country, according to data from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. Nationally, only 25 percent of high school seniors had filed for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid by Feb. 20. The deadline to submit a FAFSA is May 1. Tennessee has had a high rate of FAFSA completion for many years, but more students have applied earlier in 2015, many of them because of Tennessee Promise's Feb. 15 deadline. At this time last year, 42 percent of Tennessee's high school seniors had submitted applications. Applying for aid earlier can help students get access to more money.

## TN unemployment numbers up

Tennessee's unemployment rate for January was 6.7 percent, one-tenth of one percentage point higher than the December revised rate of 6.6 percent. The U.S. preliminary rate for January was 5.7 percent, also gaining one-tenth of one percentage point from the prior month. Over the past year, Tennessee's unemployment rate was unchanged at 6.7 percent, while the national rate declined from 6.6 percent to 5.7 percent. Total nonfarm employment increased 8.3 jobs from December 2014 to January 2015. The largest increases occurred in trade/transportation/utilities, professional/scientific/technical services, and manufacturing. Over the year, nonfarm employment increased 71,700 jobs. The largest increases occurred in trade/transportation/utilities, professional/business services and manufacturing.

## State awards \$20.6 M water, wastewater loans

Seven communities and one utility district have been approved to receive more than \$20.6 million in low-interest loans for water and wastewater infrastructure improvements.

The State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program provides low-interest loans that help communities, utility districts, and water and wastewater authorities finance projects that protect Tennessee's ground and surface waters and public health. Loans are used to finance the planning, design and construction of water and wastewater facilities.

Through the SRF Program, communities, utility districts, and water and wastewater authorities can obtain loans with lower interest rates than most can obtain through private financing. Interest rates for loans can vary from zero percent to market rate based on each community's economic index. Loans utilizing EPA grant funds can include a principal forgiveness component.

The Department of Environment and Conservation administers the SRF Loan Program for the state of Tennessee in conjunction with the Tennessee Local Development Authority. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provides grants to fund the program, and the state provides a 20 percent match. Loan repayments are returned to the program and are used to fund future SRF loans.

The funding order of projects is determined by the SRF Loan Program's Priority Ranking Lists that rank potential projects according to the severity of their pollution and/or compliance problems or for the protection of public health.

Wastewater loans were awarded to the following recipients:

- **Carthage:** \$625,000 for a Pump Station Rehabilitation/Replacement (Replace existing main pump station) project. The project will be funded with a 20-year, \$593,750 loan with an interest rate of 0.83 percent and \$31,250 in principal forgiveness that will not have to be repaid.
- **Cleveland:** \$2,500,000 for a Water Meter Replacements project. The project will be funded with a 20-year, \$2,325,000 loan with an interest rate of 1.38 percent and \$175,000 in principal forgiveness that will not have to be repaid.
- **Crossville:** \$1,950,000 for an Infiltration and Inflow Correction project that includes Dayton Ave/Oakmont Drive, Miller Ave/Harper Ln, and Holiday Drive Areas. The project will be funded with a 20-year, \$1,755,000 loan with an interest rate of 1.61 percent and \$195,000 in principal forgiveness that will not have to be repaid.
- **Erwin:** \$4,000,000 for an Infiltration and Inflow Correction and WWTP Improvements project. The project will be funded with a 30-year, \$3,800,000 loan with an interest rate of 1.39 percent and \$200,000 in principal forgiveness that will not have to be repaid.
- **Fayetteville:** \$4,000,000 for a WWTP Improvements project. The project will be funded with a 20-year, \$3,720,000 loan with an interest rate of 1.38 percent and \$280,000 in principal forgiveness that will not have to be repaid.
- **Fayetteville:** \$1,700,000 for the WWTP Improvements project. This loan will be funded for a 20 years term with an interest rate of 1.38 percent and will not include principal forgiveness.
- **Oliver Springs:** \$3,458,000 for a

WWTP Improvements project. The project will be funded with a 20-year, \$3,215,940 loan with an interest rate of 0.68 percent and \$242,060 in principal forgiveness that will not have to be repaid.

A drinking water loan was awarded to the following recipient:

- **Livingston:** \$250,000 to an existing Water Treatment Improvements project. This loan will be funded for a 20 years term with an interest rate of 1.64 percent.

Since its inception in 1987, Tennessee's Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program has awarded more than \$1.6 billion in low-interest loans. Since its inception in 1996, Tennessee's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program has awarded more than \$252 million in low-interest loans. Both programs combined award more than \$80 million annually to Tennessee's local governments for water and wastewater infrastructure projects.

Any local government interested in the SRF Loans, should contact the State Revolving Fund Loan Program, Tennessee Tower, 12th Floor, 312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, Nashville, TN 37243, or call (615) 532-0445. Additional information about the SRF Loan Program may be found online at [www.tn.gov/environment/srf](http://www.tn.gov/environment/srf).

## 2015 Tennessee transportation map now available

The official 2015 Tennessee Transportation Map is now available for travelers. This year's map contains new information to assist motorists, and features a special cover to commemorate the Tennessee Department of Transportation's centennial. The 2015 map contains historical photographs that look

## UT McClung Museum receives large gift of 16th Century maps



The maps of Europe and other parts of the world will be on display at the museum and used for teaching undergraduate and graduate coursework on the history of maps and mapmaking.

The McClung Museum, located on the Knoxville campus of the University of Tennessee, recently received a large gift of almost 200 rare maps, many by some of the earliest and most important mapmakers, which have recently come into its collections.

The maps of Europe and other parts of the world, most of which were created between the 1500s-1800s, will be used for exhibition and teaching at the museum.

They also will be used for undergraduate and graduate coursework on the history of maps and mapmaking from the sixteenth century onward and the importance of such maps to navigation, world politics, business and trade, agriculture, exploration, colonialism, and warfare.

"This collection of maps is a meaningful addition to our resources available for teaching, and several UT faculty have already taken advantage of the availability of the maps as a tool for inspiring meaningful discussions in their classrooms about cultural identity, political boundaries, and change, as well as socioeconomic conditions," said Lindsey Waugh, the McClung Museum's coordinator of academic programs.

Most of the 191 maps are copperplate engravings with painstakingly applied hand color. They were created by mapmaking giants of the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries, including Gerard Mercator, the famous cartographer who was the first to plot the straight-line courses (Mercator projection) typical on today's maps; Abraham Ortelius, the creator of the first modern atlas; Nicholas Visscher, whose family made some of the most famous maps during the golden age of Dutch mapmaking; and Guillaume DeLisle, popular for his maps of newly explored Africa and the Americas.

Henri Grissino-Mayer, professor in the Department of Geography, noted that the maps will serve both the department and museum's missions "to teach students, professors and visitors the importance of space and place in human history, that to know where things are is to know better why they are."

The gift supplements the museum's existing natural history print collection, which includes more than 3,000 sixteenth- to nineteenth-century prints of animals, plants, and exploration around the world and is one of the strongest collections of natural history prints in the region.

## TDEC announces sustainable transportation awards program

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has initiated a new awards program – the TDEC Sustainable Transportation Awards – to recognize outstanding and voluntary achievements by governments, businesses, industries, public and private institutions of higher learning, and utilities that demonstrate leadership in advancing sustainable transportation in the state.

"According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, transportation accounts for nearly 30 percent of Tennessee's end-use energy consumption," TDEC Commissioner Bob Martineau said. "By recognizing thought leaders in this field, we hope to inspire replication of innovative projects, activities, and initiatives across the state in an effort to save natural resources, improve the health and well-being of Tennesseans, and create efficiencies in the delivery of goods and services."

The TDEC Sustainable Transportation Awards cover eight broad categories: on-site transportation; off-site transportation; incorporation of sustainable transportation in

the supply chain; employee incentive or engagement programs; public transportation; technological or operational innovations; and infrastructure development.

Entities eligible to apply for the TDEC Sustainable Transportation Awards include: federal, state and local governments; commercial and industrial organizations; public and private institutions of higher education; and utilities. Self-nominations are encouraged. A panel of judges representing diverse interests will select award recipients based on criteria including on-the-ground achievement, innovation, transferability, and public education and outreach.

In connection with Clean Air Month, TDEC will host a recognition ceremony and sustainable transportation forum on May 7 in Memphis.

Applications are available at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/SustainableTransportationAwards](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SustainableTransportationAwards) and are due to TDEC no later than March 20. Interested applicants are encouraged to contact Luke Gebhard in TDEC's Office of Energy Programs at 615-741-2994 or [luke.gebhard@tn.gov](mailto:luke.gebhard@tn.gov).

back at the development of Tennessee's highway system over the last 100 years. It also highlights State Route 1, the first cross-state highway built by the state of Tennessee.

Other new additions to this year's map include the new Welcome Center on Interstate 26 in Sullivan County and Rocky Top in Anderson

County, which was formerly known as Lake City. The map also indicates the widening of several state highways, such as SR 99 in Lewis County, SR 30 in McMinn County, and a new Exit 1 on SR 22 in Obion County.

The 2015 state map can also be downloaded from the TDOT web site at [www.tn.gov/tdot/maps.htm](http://www.tn.gov/tdot/maps.htm).

Pre-printed maps may be ordered from TDOT online at [www.tn.gov/tdot/MapOrder/maporder.htm](http://www.tn.gov/tdot/MapOrder/maporder.htm) or by mailing a request to:

TN Department of Transportation  
505 Deaderick Street  
James K. Polk Building, Suite 900  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-1402

Individuals may request up to five maps. Organizations and schools may order up to one hundred maps for their use.

The Official 2015 Tennessee Transportation Map is a joint effort between TDOT and the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development.

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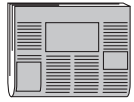
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## CLASSIFIED ADS

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

### AIRPORT MANAGER / FIXED BASE OPERATOR

**LEWISBURG.** The city of Lewisburg is soliciting Proposals, from qualified individuals to provide general management and administration of the city owned airport as well as fixed base operator services. Proposal may combine the two positions or propose separately. Proposals will be received until 2 P.M. (CDT) on March 20, at the Lewisburg City Hall, 131 E. Church St., Lewisburg, TN 3709. The airport manager job description may be picked up at City Hall, 131 E. Church Street, Lewisburg, TN. Request for electronic copies should be directed to Pam Davis, recorder, 931-359-1544, ext. 11. Proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked RFP—Airport Management and/or FBO Services on or before March 20 deadline to: Pam Davis, City Recorder, Lewisburg City Hall, 131 E. Church St., Lewisburg, TN 37091. Late proposal will not be considered. The city of Lewisburg complies with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which prohibits discrimination, and reserves the right to reject any and all bids and/or waive any formalities in the solicitation process.

### ASSISTANT BUDGET OFFICER

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

### ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER.

**MURFREESBORO.** The assistant city manager shall provide skilled administrative assistance to the city manager in all phases of city operations. The employee will respond to citizens' complaints and concerns on behalf of the city manager; assist in the preparation and review of the city budget; be familiar with city policies; and, possess a working knowledge of employment and other laws applicable to local governments. This employee will be directly responsible to the city manager. The essential functions of the assistant city manager are: manages all defined functions in areas as assigned by the city manager; and confers, coordinates, plans, and negotiates on behalf of the city manager and department heads on various operational and administrative matters. Represents the city at various regional, state, and executive committee meetings of governmental entities. (Full job description on line). Requirements are a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university is required; undergraduate degree with a major emphasis in Public Administration or Business Administration is preferred. Master's degree in relevant field is preferred and minimum of five years of work experience in government; municipal government preferred. The salary range is \$87,478 - \$98,084 DOQ. Those interested need to go to [www.murfreesborotn.gov](http://www.murfreesborotn.gov) for full job description and to apply on-line. The City of Murfreesboro is a Drug Free/EOE workplace.

### BUILDING INSPECTOR

**UNION CITY.** This is inspection work in building control and construction. The building inspector is responsible for the enforcement of the building code adopted by the city. Responsibilities include monitoring storm water control methods on construction sites and in new sub-division developments, flood plain management and development in the city flood prone

areas. Applicant must be graduate of a standard high school or GED equivalent, hold active State of Tennessee certifications in building, plumbing and mechanical. For a complete job description notify: Lisa Chambers - lisag@ci.unioncity.tn.us or mail to resume to: City of Union City, PO Box 9, Union City, TN 38281

### CITY MANAGER

**COOKEVILLE.** The city of Cookeville is exception applications for city manager. Current manager retiring after 20 years. Salary range is \$102K - \$153,899K DOQ, plus excellent benefits. 425 employees and \$128 million budget. Position answers to five-member city council consisting of mayor, vice-mayor and three councilmen elected at large. Cookeville is conveniently located on I-40 between Nashville and Knoxville. Successful candidate chosen on the basis of their executive and administrative qualifications with special reference to actual experience. The ideal candidate will have previous city manager experience and should possess a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with a major in public administration, business administration, finance, political science or a related field (a Master's degree in public or business administration is preferred), or possess a combination of related experience and education. Application/resume is a public record. To view the position profile visit <http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu/web2012.nsf/EmploymentOpps> Send cover letter and resume by March 6, 2015 to Armintha Loveday, UT-MTAS, 600 Henley Street, Suite 120, Knoxville, TN 37996-4105, phone: 865-974-0411, email: armintha.loveday@tennessee.edu

### CITY MANAGER

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

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

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

Room 204, Bristol, Tennessee 37621-1189. EOE/AA. Women/minorities encouraged to apply. The position will remain open until filled.

### FIRE CHIEF

**GALLATIN.** The city of Gallatin is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Fire Chief. The city is a full service community, with its own airport, regional hospital, community college, and excellent city services, and a popular destination for tourism and recreation. The fire department has 72 employees and a \$4+ million budget that serves a diverse community with 4 fire stations. Starting salary: \$65,684 - \$85,651 with excellent benefits. Reporting to the mayor, and responsible to the city council, the fire chief plans, programs, directs, and evaluates the operation of the department; will be responsible for development of annual department budgets; controls budgeted expenses; formulates and implements fire policies; manages employee relations; attends community meetings; and makes presentations related to fire activities. Minimum qualifications include any combination of education and experience equivalent to graduation from an accredited college or university with major course work in fire science, public administration or related areas. Extensive administrative experience (10 years or more preferred) in fire service. Upper-level management experience preferred. Desire individuals with experience in Tennessee, with knowledge of all controlling laws applicable to fire agencies in TN. Highly desire individual with fire experience in diverse community of similar/larger size with experience as chief/assistant chief or command-level position in a similar size department. Must possess a driver's license valid in the State of Tennessee; meet all departmental and statutory standards. Must be willing to meet residency requirement to maintain their residence within the corporate limits or within two miles of the corporate limits, but in no event outside the boundaries of Sumner County, Tennessee. Residency requirement does not apply until 90 days after appointment. To apply, please submit an online application, cover letter and resume at [www.gallatinonthemove.com](http://www.gallatinonthemove.com). The city of Gallatin is an equal opportunity employer, drug-free with policies of non-discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability or military service. Telephone 615-451-5890 (HR).

### HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR

**JOHNSON CITY.** The city of Johnson City (65,000) is seeking a progressive and experienced Human Resources Director to lead and direct the services and programs provided by the Human Resources Department. The City is a growing, progressive community with a solid financial base, large medical services industry, and home to a regional university. Minimum qualifications include the equivalent of a Bachelor's degree in business, management, or public administration with seven years of progressively responsible experience in human resources and health insurance administration. Responsible for planning, organizing, directing and coordinating the personnel activities of the City's 900 FTE employee workforce, including organizational training. The City is looking for an enthusiastic, responsive, team-oriented individual with good management and organization skills, self-starter. Excellent interpersonal and communication skills are required. Competitive salary with excellent benefits package. Online applications, including a resume, will be accepted until the position is filled ([www.johnsoncitytn.org](http://www.johnsoncitytn.org)) EEO/AA

### HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

**PORTLAND.** The city of Portland is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Human Resources Manager. The position reports directly to the mayor. This position has responsibility for the daily administration of the City's Human Resources programs, policies and procedures ensuring compliance with all applicable laws and/or regulations. The position coordinates and administers any combination of the following: benefits administration, payroll administration, worker's compensation administration, recruitment and selection processes, safety and wellness, insurance, and training and development. The human resources manager will be knowledgeable of federal laws affecting public sector entities, and certain portions of the Tennessee Code Annotated. Must have the ability to effectively communicate

both orally and in writing; develop and conduct effective training programs; and develop and manage a budget. This position requires a bachelor's degree in personnel/human resources, business administration, or a related field, and at least three years of experience as a human resources generalist, preferably with some municipal government experience. Salary Range from minimum \$49,246 to maximum \$68,944, with reference midpoint of \$59,095; comprehensive benefit package including the city retirement plan. Applications will be accepted until 4:30 pm on April 2, 2015. A background investigation and pre-employment physical will be required. Portland is a EOE/DRUG FREE WORKPLACE. Submit a letter of interest, current resume with salary history and at least three professional references to: UT MTAS, attn.: Portland Human Resources Manager, 226 Capitol Blvd. Suite 606, Nashville, TN 37219. Or submit via email to: gary.jaekel@tennessee.edu

### RECRUITER

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

### TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

**ARLINGTON.** The town of Arlington is seeking a new town administrator. To view the full job description, please go to the town of Arlington's website located at [www.townofarlington.org](http://www.townofarlington.org). Arlington is located in West Tennessee, just 10 miles North of Memphis. The Town of Arlington was named "Best City for Young Families 2015". Arlington has a population of approximately 12,000 and 40 full-time employees. Positions that report directly to the Town Administrator include the Director of Planning, Director of Public Works, Director of Finance, Director of Parks and Fire Chief. This position is responsible to a seven member Board of Mayor and Aldermen. The successful candidate should have a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration, Finance, or related field and/or equivalent experience with senior level experience with local government. A Certified Public Manager and/or ICMA Credentialed Manager are preferred. This position requires strong supervisory, budgeting, and communication skills. Salary is commensurate with experience. Letters of application, resumes, cover letter along with salary requirements, and three professional references with contact information should be submitted to: The Town of Arlington, Attention: Town Attorney, 284 German Oak Drive, Suite 200, Cordova, TN 38018 or to [glawson@cperkinslaw.com](mailto:glawson@cperkinslaw.com). Position will remain open until filled. The Town of Arlington is an equal opportunity employer.



## TENNESSEE FESTIVALS

### March 14: Chattanooga Great Southern Old Time Fiddlers' Convention

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

### March 21: Bell Buckle Annual Daffodil Day

Bell Buckle bursts into full bloom with a colorful explosion of daffodils. Come enjoy a day full of fun, family-friendly activities from 11 a.m to 4 p.m. For information email: [info@bellbucklechamber.com](mailto:info@bellbucklechamber.com) or Phone: (931) 389-9663.

### March 28: Cleveland Multicultural Fair

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

### April 6 - 12: Columbia Annual Mule Day

A popular Columbia tradition for nearly 170 years. Features arts & crafts, wagon train, jackpot mule races, and more. The festival highlight includes a "Mule Day Parade" held on Saturday during the celebration. For more information go to [www.muleday.com](http://www.muleday.com)

### April 10 - 11: Goodlettsville Heritage Days

Takes place at Moss-Wright Park on the grounds of Historic Mansker's Station. Participants will be given the opportunity to see it, touch it, and feel it...and find out what life on the frontier at Mansker's Fort and life on a plantation at the Bowen Plantation House would have been like. Plan to spend the day watching skilled demonstrators and artists, picnic or buy lunch from food vendors, watch a game of vintage baseball, and shop for unique items. Demonstrations include: quill pen writing, 18th century toys, sewing, life on the plantation with animals, clay works, engraving, silver smithing, and more.

### April 30 - May 3: Nashville 29th Annual Southern Women's Show

at the Music City Center It's all about great shopping, creative cooking ideas, healthy lifestyle tips, trendy fashion shows and great celebrity guests. Plus, learn about travel destinations, home décor and improvement ideas, and business opportunities. Admission \$12 at the door; \$6 children ages 6-12; under six is free with paying adult. For more details, go to [www.SouthernWomensShow.com](http://www.SouthernWomensShow.com)



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**Charles "Bones" Seivers**  
 President-CEO, TN Municipal Bond Fund

**Mary Ann Tremblay**  
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**Ron Washington**  
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**A.C. Wharton**  
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**Dale Kelley** (2014) Mayor, Huntingdon

**Ken Wilber** (2013) Mayor, Portland

**Kay Senter** (2012), Morristown Council

**Sam Tharpe**, (2011) Mayor, Paris

**Tommy Green** (2007) Mayor, Alamo

**Bob Kirk** (2004) Alderman, Dyersburg
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**Dot LaMarche**, Vice Mayor, Farragut (NLG)

**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 &amp; Records

Government Finance Officers

Tennessee Fire Chiefs Assn.

Tennessee Fire Safety Inspectors

Tennessee Association of Floodplain

Management (TN AFPM)

Tenn. Assn. Housing &amp; 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 &amp; Economic

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Tennessee Urban Forestry Council (TUFC)

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Waste Connections of Tennessee Inc.

Waste Industries USA, Inc.

## Government workforce stuck in wage stagnation

With private-sector wage growth outpacing the public sector's, it's more of a challenge than ever to attract and keep talented employees.

BY ELIZABETH K. KELLAR  
*Governing Magazine*

There's been a lot of talk lately about wage stagnation among middle-class workers, but there is growing evidence that this may be an even larger issue for state and local government employees — one likely to make it harder for these governments to attract and retain the workforces they need.

Unlike the private sector, state and local government employment remains smaller than it was before the Great Recession. At its peak in 2008, these governments had 19,748,000 employees. In the six years after that, states and localities shed an estimated 565,000 jobs, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

With a smaller workforce, one might expect wages to go up as the national economy improves. But because state and local revenues have not returned to their 2007 levels, wage increases have been modest at best. State and local government wages and salaries increased by 1.6 percent in the

12-month period ending last December, compared with a private-sector increase of 2.2 percent over the same period, according to the BLS.

The wage squeeze for these workers has been exacerbated by the rising cost of pension and health benefits, a cost that is shared by employees and employers.

The percentage of employee compensation that goes to health and pension benefits rose from 16 percent in 2004 to 20 percent in 2013. The tight revenue picture and rising benefit costs are driving more governments to make changes to their health and retirement benefits. According to a survey of state and local government human resources managers last year by the Center for State and Local Government Excellence (SLGE), 53 percent of respondents' jurisdictions shifted more health-care costs to employees while 34 percent increased employee contributions to retirement plans.

These fiscal realities underline the longterm challenge for talent development and recruitment that state and local governments face. The same SLGE survey found that

while more governments were able to hire last year, more positions were difficult to fill.

There are still many who seek a career where they can make a difference. Unfortunately, these aspiring public servants often think of nonprofit or private-contractor opportunities before they consider a government job.

Now that state and local governments are starting to hire again, there is more competition to attract public-service-minded people. Whether creating career paths and professional development opportunities, partnering with academic institutions to create a pool of qualified individuals, rewriting stodgy job descriptions, or retooling compensation packages to be more competitive, state and local governments are testing ways to attract and keep talented employees.

For governments to meet these challenges, flexibility will be required, whether that means finding new strategies to deliver essential services or providing increased flexibility to workers. We will always need bright, creative, dedicated people to make government work well.

COMING  
UP

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

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

**April 15-17: TAMCAR 2015 Spring Conference, in Murfreesboro at the Embassy Suites Conference Center.** Hours will apply toward your state certification and your International Institute of Municipal Clerks certification if you are a member of IIMC, as well apply as elective hours toward Municipal Administrative Program Certificates.

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

## UT MTAS APRIL MAP Class

### EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

Are your employees engaged in their work? What does that look like? How can you tell? Employee engagement is a measure of how closely an organization and an employee are connected. Engaged employees are aware of what the business is about, work with others to improve performance, and are committed and involved on the job. Getting employees engaged requires effort from both the organization and the employee. In this class you will gain a full understanding of employee engagement, the benefits of an engaged workforce and learn what your city, your department, and you need to do to get your employees engaged.

Target Audience: Supervisors, Managers and Department Heads

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

April 7: Knoxville

April 8: Collegedale

April 14: Kingsport

April 21: Jackson

April 22: Franklin

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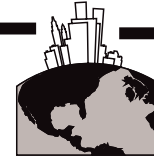
**Credit:** CMFO 4CEU/4CPE/CMFO (Other)

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

To register for a course, go to [www.mtas.tennessee.edu](http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu), or fax to 865-974-0423. Credit card payments must register online with the Solution Point System: <http://www.solutionpoint.tennessee.edu/MTAS> or by invoice.

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

## NATIONAL BRIEFS



### Unemployment rate fell

The nation added 295,000 jobs last month, according to government data recently released, extending a labor market boom that is powering the U.S. economy. The unemployment rate fell to 5.5 percent, a new post-recession low, though part of that stemmed from a shrinking workforce. For 12 months in a row, the United States has added at least 200,000 jobs — a sustained pace of hiring unmatched since 1994 and 1995. The net job growth in February was above market expectations, despite a frigid winter in the Northeast.

**US report indicates \$64.4 trillion in total unfunded liabilities**  
 The U.S. Treasury Department's released its annual Financial Re-

port of the United States, indicating \$64.4 trillion in total unfunded liabilities, an increase of \$2.8 trillion over 2013.

The Financial Report is the only annual government financial statement published in public-company format, which accounts for unfunded liabilities such as Social Security and Medicare. Unfunded liabilities rose at a rate of nearly \$8 billion per day last year.

### Recession's impact lingers for many states

The recession ended more than five years ago, but the financial squeeze left by the downturn lives on for a majority of states. Government revenues have been slow to recover across the country as sales-tax collections fall prey to many of the same forces buffeting the broader economic ex-

pansion, from cautious consumers who have seen scant growth in wages to a downturn in home construction that has sapped sales of building materials and furnishings. At the same time, states are facing down a decades-long shift in the economy to services from goods, leaving them to collect taxes on a shrinking number of purchases. Nationally, sales-tax receipts last year reclaimed levels—on an inflation-adjusted basis—seen in late 2007 as the recession arrived. So while a highly unequal national recovery has lifted federal tax revenues, thanks to an upswing in earnings among corporations and the rich, states—which rely not just on incomes, but also the spending of average citizens—continue to struggle.

**Uber gives sneak peek into growth**  
 Ride-hailing company Uber an-

nounced plans to create 1 million jobs for women as drivers in the next five years — offering a rare peek into its growth plans. In the U.S., where Uber got its start six years ago, the company boasts 160,000 active drivers. Fourteen percent of them are women. Uber's growth projections may help explain why investors have been throwing money at the company, which links drivers to riders through its app. The most recent investment round in December valued the San Francisco startup at more than \$40 billion, or more than cereal maker General Mills, which has a market capitalization of \$32 billion. Uber said it has partnered with UN Women, a United Nations organization aimed at gender equality, to achieve its goal of 1 million women drivers by 2020.

## No loan is too large or too small



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



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

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# Legislative conference provides forum to educate, update, network



Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris and Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero



Jim Thomas, MTAS executive director, and Curtis Hayes, Livingston mayor



Chattanooga Mayor Andy Berke, and Charles "Bones" Seivers, president and CEO, Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund



Josh Suddath, Collierville assistant town administrator; Maureen Fraser, Collierville vice mayor; John Worley, Collierville alderman; and David Smoak, Farragut town administrator



Gatlinburg City Attorney Ron Sharp, Mayor Mike Helton, City Manager Cindy Ogle, and Vice Mayor Mike Werner



Vance Coleman, Medina mayor, and Mary Ann Tremblay, Three Way vice mayor



Tom Allen, Collierville alderman; Billy Patton, Collierville alderman; Keith McDonald, Bartlett mayor; and Mark Brown, Bartlett chief administrative officer



Randy Brundige, Martin mayor, and Jill Holland, McKenzie mayor



# Legislative conference provides forum to educate, update, network



Franklin Mayor Ken Moore, City Administrator Eric Stuckey, Alderwoman Ann Peterson, and Alderwoman Margaret Martin



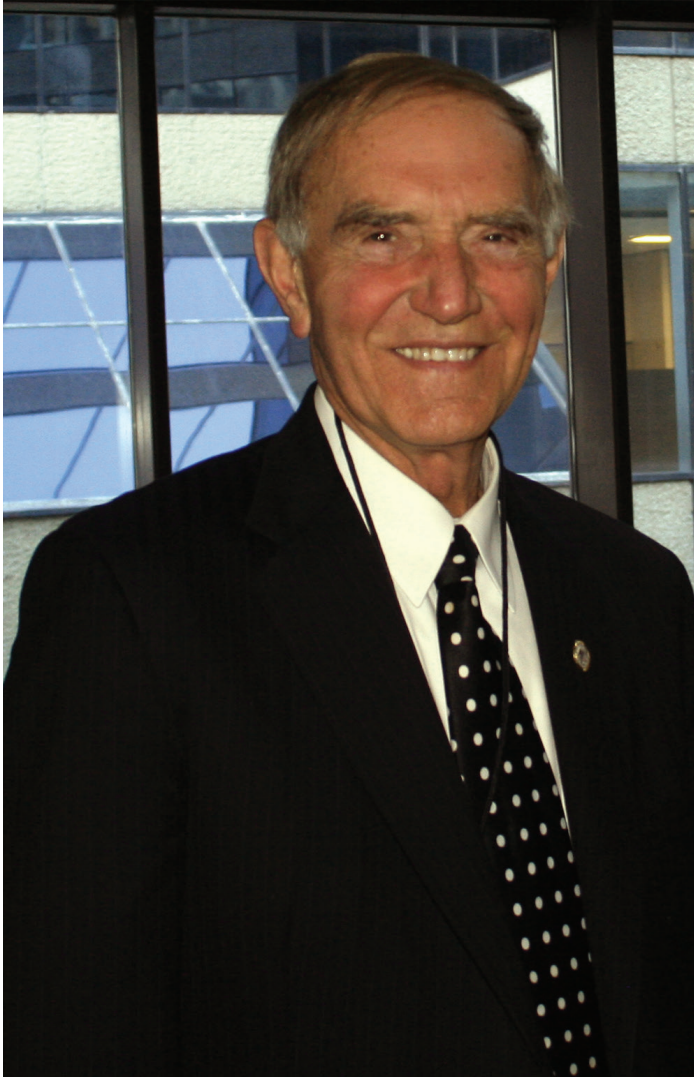
Kay Senter, Morristown councilmember, and Dot LaMarche, Farragut vice mayor



John Edwards, Covington alderman, and George Wade, Trenton alderman



Jay Johnson, Shelbyville city manager, and Wallace Cartwright, Shelbyville mayor



Jerry Gist, Jackson mayor



Savannah Commissioner Kent Collier, City Manager Gary Welch, Mayor Bob Shutt, and Henderson Mayor Bobby King



Calvin Clifton, TCAPWA representative, and Mitch Moore, Athens city manager



Tony Massey, Columbia city manager; and Jody Baltz, Tullahoma city administrator

# Legislative conference provides forum to educate, update, network

## CONFERENCE from Page 1

in doing was incurring any debt to fund road projects.

"We pay as we go. And I want to keep it that way," Ramsey said.

Both **TDOT Commissioner John Schroer** and **Kent Starwalt**, executive director with the Tennessee Road Builders Association, were also on the agenda to discuss road funding.

"As of May 31, there are no allotments available to use until the federal government does something," said Commissioner Schroer. "So far we have been allotted \$500 million in federal funds, but our budget is \$850 million."

Schroer said he has pushed back \$400 million dollars in projects from this fiscal year to next fiscal year due to the budgeting uncertainty.

"Our state dollars have been flat for the last four years, but at least we know what is coming in," he said. "What we don't know, is what to expect on the federal level."

Schroer said that one of the first steps he took when he first came to TDOT four years ago was to build up his cash reserves in the event that federal dollars are not allocated or are rescinded.

"The federal government may not have money to fund us. We saw that almost happened with the Department of Homeland Security," he said. "We have to carry enough cash that if that happened to us we are able to continue with whatever projects are in the works. It's very expensive to stop a project midstream and then start it back up."

Starwalt updated city officials on what was happening on the state level and provided information about the newly created Tennessee Transportation Coalition.

"The aim of the coalition is to highlight the need for action and to build support for increased transportation funding," said Starwalt. "We're exploring all options with the road to least resistance," he said. "Truckers are against tolls. Road builders are opposed to bonding. We've been a pay-as-you-go state for years and we want to keep it that way. We're trying to determine what groups can support what and keep building the coalition."

Starwalt said because the gas tax has not been changed in 25 years, the 21.4 cents per gallon levied on gasoline has the purchasing power today of 11. cents. He said transportation experts estimate it would take an additional \$800 million annually to begin to seriously address some of the backlog of badly needed road projects across the state.

"I hope we can do something this year," he said. "Legislators would rather do this year than next year due to it being an election year."

**Rep. Charles Sargent**, chairman of the House Finance and Ways Committee, updated members on the state's financial standing, stating "We're looking a lot better this year. Revenues are growing."

"Local sales tax collections have increased over 8 percent," Sargent continued. "Right now sales tax collections are running at 6.7 percent higher than last year. But we have to be careful that we don't over estimate on those collections."

Sargent was asked about the Hall Income Tax, and a bill he has sponsored each year to phase out the tax.

"I know it means a lot to you," said Sargent. "So we need to phase it out over an eight to 10 year time frame to give you enough time to look at others things. It may not happen this year. But sooner or later, it's probably going to go away."

New to the conference line up were **Rep. Tim Wirgau**, who was recently appointed chairman of the House Local Government committee, and **Randy Boyd**, newly appointed Commissioner of Economic Community and Development.

"Serving as a former county commissioner, I understand the role of local governments. I will do my very best to protect those who are serving in local governments and have to make those tough decisions" Rep. Wirgau said. "Just like we don't like Washington passing down unfunded mandates to us - I'm sure you don't like us interfering in your local business."

Wirgau told the city officials that he looked forward to forging a great working relationship with them and his door was always open.

**Commissioner Boyd** discussed three areas his team will focus on in order to keep the momentum going in terms of new jobs and industrial expansion in our state.

"Last year, we had commitments for 24,200 new jobs - it was a record year," Boyd said. "I want to make sure we take care of our existing customers and help them to continue to grow. Of those 24,000 new commitments, 75 percent came from companies that are already doing businesses in our state."

Another key focus for his department will be on rural development. He recently created a new division within TNECD that will allow the department to put a greater emphasis on assisting rural communities.

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

His third area of focus will be on business entrepreneurs through the state's program Launch Tennessee.

Boyd also talked about the importance of an educated workforce and the success the state is already seeing through the governor's "Drive to 55" and Tennessee Promise, the program that provides two years of community college or technical school free of tuition and fees to graduating Tennessee high school seniors.

One of the many investment programs **Tennessee State Treasurer David Lillard** spoke about was the TNStars™, a college savings plan that was just recognized as one of the top plans in the nation. Lillard said that TNStars is designed to give Tennessee families high quality investment options at a low cost to help them put aside money for higher education expenses, while enjoying certain tax advantages and special incentives.

"Tennesseans have a viable investment option to set aside money for their children's post-secondary education," said Lillard. "Dollars invested in TNStars accounts are yielding strong returns. Even small amounts invested early will better prepare your child for education after high school."

Lillard said that families who open savings account with TNStars™ can receive up to \$375 in incentives.

"Research shows that children with a college savings account are six to seven times more likely to attend a four-year college, compared to children with no dedicated account," said Lillard.

**Justin Wilson, Tennessee State Comptroller**, and **Jason Mumpower**, chief of staff with the state Comptroller's office, talked about the positive working relationship the Comptroller's office has with city officials and with the TML staff.

"Local governments are the heart of Tennessee. We know that," said Wilson. "We also know that there is a lot of stress going on in communities. But we want to work with you to resolve any problems. We are very receptive to talk about any issue you might be having."

Mumpower updated city officials on several pieces of legislation the Comptroller's office is carrying this year, including legis-

lation that will affect the Certified Municipal Finance Officer's program to "make it easier for communities to come into compliance," Mumpower explained.

Other legislation will place into code a date certain for TIFF reporting, and standards for documenting internal controls and the timely closing of books for city finances and budgets. "Nothing too heavy," Mumpower said.

He also urged city officials to get involved in the process currently underway for the standardization of municipal chart of accounts.

"I assure you it will be a very deliberate procedural process that includes your input and your ideas," Mumpower said.

**Jim Arnette, director of Local Government Audit**, explained that this initiative of the Comptroller's office will make the budgeting process for municipal governments easier and provide more transparency for their constituents.

He explained that a uniform chart of accounts had already been developed for county governments and the Comptroller's office

would like the same capabilities in place for municipalities.

He explained that a uniform chart of accounts is used to account for all financial activities of a local government. Certain account codes are assigned to each activity which makes it easier to identify revenues, expenditures and debt, as well as compare each activity from previous years.

"The majority of cities use a version of that original chart of accounts that was developed back in the 1970s, and we think that is a good place to start," said Arnette. "But this would be a modern chart that is kept up to date with the flexibility to deal with all the nuances in municipal finance."

Arnette explained that his department is just getting started and encouraged city officials to be a part of the process as they move forward.

"We are so early in the process that details and logistics of how we move forward still needs to be worked out," said Arnette. "It will take time to develop and it will be phased in over time. But we have no hidden agenda,

and we're not going down this road because we think cities have done something wrong or are not maintaining their records properly. We think this will be a positive for cities."

**Jerry Durham**, assistant director for the division of Local Government Audit, went over a proposed timeline for implementation, but stated that some of the set goals were a little ambitious to achieve and that there was room for flexibility. He said the ultimate goal would be to have the standardized chart of accounts established by July 2016 and within the next five to six years municipalities would have their data entered and be fully using the chart of accounts.

Durham's department is currently conducting regional meetings across the state to garner input from city officials. He encouraged city officials to make sure someone from their city or town attends the meetings.

They have also established a working committee that includes representatives from two small cities, two mid-size cities, and two larger cities to ensure that all concerns are addressed.



TDOT Commissioner John Schroer



ECD Commissioner Randy Boyd



TN. Treasurer David Lillard



TN. Comptroller Justin Wilson



Jason Mumpower



Kent Starwalt



Jim Arnette



Jerry Durham