



June 7 - 9 Nashville Convention Center

Annual Conference lineup to feature a workshop on ridesharing / homesharing

The impact of the sharing economy (and companies like Uber, Lyft, and Airbnb) on innovation, economic development, as well as public safety and implementation considerations is forcing cities to weigh the pros and cons of these non-traditional services.

How can cities meet their governing obligations while positioning themselves as innovative places to live, work and visit?

The current sentiment toward homesharing and ridesharing is shifting in certain municipalities, while others remain more resistant to change.

In the case of homesharing services like Airbnb, Flipkey, and VRBO, much of the debate is on revenue capture and hotel or occupancy taxes, which are mandated for hotels and bed and breakfasts but not on short-term room rental services. It's also forcing cities to reevaluate their local zoning ordinances, which either do or do not allow homeowners to offer their homes for boarding or motel use. If they don't and a homeowner rents out a room via the Internet, should the zoning department fine the violator? If they

do, will the owner need a business license and need to pay taxes, such as a transient occupancy tax?

With ridesharing services like Uber and Lyft, cities are grappling with how to regulate the service in regard to public safety, insurance, and fares. Cities have long regulated the taxi industry, so shouldn't the same policies apply to these new ridesharing services?

These questions and many more will be addressed during a panel presentation at TML's Annual Conference, slated for June 7-9 in Nashville.

The workshop, offered by the Tennessee Municipal Attorneys Association, will feature members of the Metro Nashville Law Department, who have recently drafted ordinances to address the myriad of issues cities are facing with these new start-up industries. The workshop is scheduled for Monday, June 8, from 3:30 to 4:30 pm at the Nashville Convention Center and is open to all conference attendees.

For more information on the sharing economy, see Page 7. For conference information go to TML's website, www.TML1.org, or see **SCHEDULE on Page 3**

New legislation filed to support online sales tax

U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander co-sponsor of Marketplace Fairness Act of 2015

BY LIZ FARMER
GOVERNING MAGAZINE

As a proposal allowing states to collect taxes on Internet sales hit the U.S. Senate for a third session in a row, supporters are already turning their efforts to the other chamber -- where the idea has historically flamed out.

In a pointed letter to the House Speaker John Boehner, the National Governors Association (NGA) urged the Ohio Republican to push the so-called e-fairness legislation forward while noting the pitfalls of a competing bill floated by House Judiciary Chairman Bob Goodlatte earlier this year. The House Judiciary Committee is where last session's bill, termed the Marketplace Fairness Act (MFA), died after passing the Senate early in 2013. Dan Crippen, the NGA's executive director, noted that Boehner could sidestep the unwilling committee, if he so chose. "As you know, Mr. Speaker, the rules of the House and Senate provide a way to move forward when committees fail to act," Crippen wrote. "For example, in the Senate it was necessary to move MFA directly to the floor without committee action. The bill was debated over several days and ultimately passed by a vote of 69-27; the committee's failure to act clearly thwarted the will of the

Senate."

The proposal to allow states to collect taxes on Internet sales has been a top priority for governmental organizations like the NGA and is widely supported by brick-and-mortar retailers who say they are unfairly losing business to online competitors that aren't subject to a sales tax. Versions of the Marketplace Fairness Act have been proposed in 2011 and 2013. The farthest the bill has progressed was passing the Senate in 2013.

This year's legislation, the Marketplace Fairness Act of 2015, was introduced March 10 by Senators Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.), Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) and Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.). Betsy Laird, senior vice president of Global Public Policy at the International Council of Shopping Centers, appealed to the more conservative-leaning House by calling the tax-free status of many online retailers a "de facto government subsidy." Meanwhile, she added, stores are forced to deal with higher property taxes.

"The Senate has shown that it is ready and willing to level the playing field for all retailers," Laird said. "It is now up to the House to act."

Assuming it passes the Senate again, this year's e-fairness bill could meet competition in the House. Rep. Goodlatte's proposal would tax Internet purchases using the sales tax rate in the home state of the seller. (The Senate bill taxes

NLC provides resources to help cities comply with the FCC's Wireless Siting Order

BY JULIA PULIDINDI
National League of Cities

Last October, the Federal Communications Commission unanimously adopted the Acceleration of Broadband Deployment by Improving Wireless Facilities Siting Policies Report and Order to promote the deployment of infrastructure that is necessary to provide the public with advanced wireless broadband services, consistent with governing law and the public interest.

Earlier this year, these rules were published in the Federal Reg-

ister with an effective date of April 8, 2015.

Following the announcement of the Order, NLC partnered with other local government associations, as well as wireless industry associations, to develop a model chapter (ordinance) and checklist designed to assist local governments in complying with these rules. Go to <http://www.nlc.org/documents> for a copy of the checklist.

As a resource to other cities, if yours has an ordinance or checklist implementing the new rules, please forward a copy to Julia Pulidindi at pulidindi@nlc.org

New launch of Healthier Tennessee communities pushes local initiative

Program to recognize communities that show commitment to healthy living

BY GOV. BILL HASLAM

When we launched our Healthier Tennessee program a little more than a year ago, we were clear that it had to be a local initiative, a grass-roots movement in communities across Tennessee.

This month at the Capitol, I was joined by the Governor's Foundation for Health and Wellness CEO Rick Johnson and representatives from nine cities and counties across the state to launch Healthier Tennessee Communities. This will be a coordinated effort at the local level supporting physical activity, healthy eating and tobacco abstinence.

The foundation has been focused on developing and introducing effective tools for individuals, workplaces and faith congregations. Healthier Tennessee Communities takes a community-wide approach to improving Tennesseans' health by engaging leaders of cities, towns, counties and neighborhoods.

In Tennessee, one in four adults smokes, and one in five high school students uses tobacco. The rate of obesity is almost 34 percent, up from only 10 percent in 1988. We have type-2 diabetes and high blood pressure at epidemic levels.

Encouraging and recognizing community-led change is a critical part of improving the health and lives of Tennesseans.

The foundation will provide guidance and regional support, and



Tullahoma Mayor Lane Curlee and Franklin Mayor Ken Moore greet Gov. Bill Haslam at the recent launch of Healthier Tennessee Communities. Tullahoma and Franklin are both pilot communities, as are Germantown and Kingsport.

cities, towns, counties or neighborhoods interested in becoming a Healthier Tennessee Community will be required to:

- Identify local wellness champions to lead the effort,
- Create a local wellness council that engages people in workplaces, schools and faith organizations,
- Initiate and sustain communi-

ty-wide events and activities that support physical activity, healthy eating and tobacco abstinence, and

- Track and measure outputs and accomplishments of the program.

We have nine pilot communities working to be designated as Healthier Tennessee Communities. They are Decatur, Dyer, Loudon, McMinn and Rhea counties, along with the cities of Franklin, Germantown, Kingsport and Tullahoma.

The initiative is open to any community in Tennessee that wants to participate. Each community and its leaders must make healthy living a priority and work toward establishing a sustainable wellness program in their area. Each community that applies will have one year to establish its program.

One of the most important things we can do in our state is to improve quality of life. Being healthy improves quality of life. We believe we can make the places we live in better by making them healthier.

Cities and counties interested in becoming a Healthier Tennessee Community should contact the Governor's Foundation for Health and Wellness at Tennessee@healthiertn.org or 615-610-1880. For more information on the program and other Healthier Tennessee initiatives, please visit www.healthiertn.com.



As another Marketplace Fairness Act hits the U.S. Senate, supporters are urging the House speaker to do whatever necessary to pass it through Congress.

purchases based on the rate where the consumer lives.) In his letter to Boehner, Crippen noted that if one

of Goodlatte's constituents in Virginia buys something online from a

See **INTERNET on Page 5**

TDOT releases list of \$6 billion in backlogged projects

Transportation Coalition advocates for additional funding

The Tennessee Department of Transportation has released a list of its backlogged, unfunded projects that exceeds \$6 billion and impacts most Tennessee counties.

"This is another key piece of information about how important it is to invest in our transportation infrastructure and how current funding is not meeting the need," says Susie Alcorn, executive director, Tennessee Infrastructure Alliance.

"Without additional revenue, these unfunded projects will be substantially delayed for years or may never be undertaken or completed. These projects are desperately needed to maintain our existing transportation infrastructure and show how serious the problem is when TDOT is in a maintenance-only situation."

The following is list of notable projects put on hold pending funding allocations.

A complete list can be found at www.TDOT.org

Chattanooga market:

- Widening of SR-317: \$89.4 M
- I-24 (interchange with Broad St., modification of SR-2, Broad St., and SR-58, Market St.): \$46.2 M
- I-124/US-27 (north of I-24 to Olgiati Bridge): \$25 M
- SR-60 (Bradley County, four-lane north of I-75, Westlake Dr., to SR-306): \$13.8 M

Jackson market:

- US-79/SR-76 (Milan to McKen-

zie): \$39.6 M

- Widening of I-40 in Madison County (US-412 [Hollywood Ave] to US-45 [Highland Ave]): \$60.8 M
- Construction of bypasses in Lexington (SR-459), Somerville (SR-460) and Bolivar (SR-458): \$127.4 M
- SR-186 (US-45/Keith Short Bypass, Casey Jones Village, Old Hickory Blvd to I-40, Madison County): \$3 M

Knoxville market:

- SR-115 (US-129, from Alcoa Highway, Blount County, to the Tennessee River in Knox County): \$271.7 M
- SR-162 (Pellissippi Parkway extension from SR-33 to US-321, Blount County): \$14 M
- SR-62 (Western Ave between Texas Ave and Major Ave in Knoxville): \$19.2 M
- SR-35/US-411 (Sims Rd, Sevier County, to Grapevine Hollow Rd, Jefferson County): \$50.8 M
- SR-33 (Knox County line to south of Maynardville city limits): \$32.2 M
- SR-61 (Maynardville to Luttrell north city limits): \$5 million
- SR-73 (US-321, Buckhorn Rd to Pittman Center): \$29.9 M
- SR-71 (SR-35 and SR-388 [US-411] to Macon Lane): \$7.7 M
- I-40 (Bridge over French Broad River in Jefferson County): \$59.7 M

Memphis market:

- I-69 (from Kentucky line to Memphis): More than \$1 billion
- SR-14 (Austin Peay Highway, from Old Covington Pike to Tipton County line): \$75.4 M
- SR-4/US-78 (Lamar Ave, Mississippi state line to I-240): \$229.1 M
- I-240 (I-55 to Midtown, Memphis): \$50 M
- I-240 (Airways interchange): \$43 M
- I-40 (SR-177, Germantown Road, to SR-205, Collierville-Arlington Road): \$65.1 M

Nashville market:

- SR-96 (Franklin to Murfreesboro): \$82.5 M
- I-40 at Donelson Pike interchange (near Nashville International Airport): \$57.5 M
- SR-397 (Mack Hatcher Parkway, from SR-96 to US-431, northwest bypass): \$30.1 M
- SR-11 (31A/41A, from north of Nolensville, Williamson County, to intersection of Old Hickory Blvd, Davidson County - Nippers Corner): \$71.4 M
- SR-112 (US-41A, Clarksville Highway, from SR-12 Ashland City Highway to SR-155 Briley Parkway): \$20 M.

Tri-Cities market:

- SR - 126 (East Center St. to East Valley Rd. in Kingsport): \$42.6 M
- Route I-81 (East bound truck lane): \$27.3 M
- SR - 34 in Bulls Gap, Old Highway 66: \$25.6 M

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



BRENTWOOD

The city of Brentwood has officially broken the 40,000 mark in population. A 2015 special census conducted by the city totaled 40,402 residents within the 44-square mile city limits. Last September, the city sent census cards to more than 13,000 homes asking residents to provide the names of all persons living at that respective address. Those residents who did not return the cards were visited by Brentwood Fire & Rescue's emergency personnel. A 2010 Federal Census showed Brentwood's population at 37,060, but city officials expected that number to exceed 40,000 this time around. The city's census will be verified by the state this spring.

CLINTON

The 3M Company, which earlier bought the former Food Lion distribution center, has obtained a building permit for some \$18 million in upgrades and renovations to the facility, along with a 45,000-square-foot addition. The new building will house processing equipment for the first of three products that 3M employees will initially make in the facility. A news release in early December stated a variety of products for the oil and gas and automotive industries would be manufactured in Clinton and that 3M plans to create 100 new jobs. Hiring is expected to begin midyear.

DICKSON

A comprehensive, year-long \$6.5 million rehabilitation of the Dickson sewer system is currently underway. The Water Authority of Dickson County is rehabbing pipes, manholes and service lines in order to reduce leaks and infiltration. The improvements will restore capacity to the sewer system that was built in 1926.

DICKSON

Dickson Police Department purchased 30 body cameras for its officers. It was approved on first vote by the Dickson City Council earlier this month. The Wolfcom brand cameras are \$200 each and about the size of a small cell phone. Total cost of the purchase is \$6,000 and will be paid through a grant.

GALLATIN

Motorists could soon see Gallatin's first specialty license plate on the highways, which officials say will help drive the city's future regional marketing efforts. The Gallatin Area Chamber of Commerce has begun taking pre-orders for the new "Scenic & Historic Gallatin" plate. The specialty plate costs \$35 in addition to the annual tag renewal fee and can be pre-ordered at the Chamber's 118 W. Main St. office. Anyone in Tennessee can purchase the plate, but before it can go into production 1,000 must be presold before July 1. A time extension is available if necessary. For each plate sold or renewed, the Chamber will receive \$15.62, which will be used strictly for marketing Gallatin throughout the region.

GALLATIN

A Gallatin movie theater will begin a new type of screening next month, which company officials hope allows children and adults with autism and special needs to go to the movies

— in some cases for the first time. NCG Gallatin Cinema, which recently became special needs certified, will host monthly sensory-friendly showings starting April 4. Unlike regular screenings, the movie will be shown without previews, sound will be reduced by 50 percent and lights will not be all the way dimmed. Talking and running around the theater during the showing are also allowed. The screenings will be the first time a local theater has held a sensory-friendly showing on its own initiative without being associated with an autism organization.

GOODLETTSVILLE

Goodlettsville's largest park is getting its first new playground equipment in more than 15 years. Installation begin earlier this month on the first phase of a playground overhaul at Moss-Wright Park. Crews have already taken out some of the existing equipment to make way for the new fun zones at the 147-acre park. The \$150,000 project will include two play structures, one for 2- to 5-year-olds and the other for ages 5-12. Other features include a tunnel, see-saws and a climber/spinner.

KINGSFORT

A Vancouver-based specialty snack foods company plans to establish its U.S. headquarters in Kingsport later this year through a \$22 million investment in a new manufacturing facility and the creation of 273 new jobs. Pure Foods, Inc., - a maker of gluten-free snack foods - plans to establish its U.S. headquarters in an existing 83,000 square foot building in the Gateway Commerce Park off Interstate 26. The manufacturing facility will serve markets primarily in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

LEBANON

Lebanon revealed plans for a property purchased in December that includes a new police precinct and possibly expanded park space. The city purchased the Floyd and Baxter property on Carver Lane in December for \$1.8 million. The property includes a building with more than 25,000 square feet, an 8,000-square-foot structure and an older home. The property will be used to house the future police precinct and a new headquarters for Lebanon's water and sewer distribution crews. The 38-acre property once used by Cumberland Valley Shows could lead to expansion of park facilities as well, according to Mayor Phillip Craighead. Details on how police would use its portion of the property were still being finalized, but Craighead hoped it could be ready this summer. Lebanon has 77 sworn police officers.

NASHVILLE

Music City is getting more accolades from a national publication. As part of *Men's Journal* April issue, which has a cover story on the 50 best places to live, Nashville has landed on the magazine's list of "10 best places to live now." The magazine's lengthy write-up on Nashville cites the city's historic industries — music, health care and local universities — and its growing tech scene. Other cities on the list range in size, going from San Francisco and New Orleans to Bend, Ore., and Bozeman, Mont.

OAK RIDGE

CVMR recently announced it will establish its global headquarters in Oak Ridge, moving all of its current operations from Toronto, Canada. CVMR is investing \$313 million to establish the production facilities for a wide spectrum of advanced metal products, resulting in 620 new jobs. CVMR USA will refine and manufacture high-value metals and metal products directly from raw ore, scrap metals, concentrates and mattes. CVMR plans to begin operating by the end of May 2015, and will transfer to Oak Ridge the production of advanced metal materials for a variety of industries, including aerospace, energy, automotive and medical devices. CVMR plans to quadruple its production capacity at the site over the next three years and will begin construction of an additional facility in June 2015. In addition, the Oak Ridge facility will create the CVMR Centre of Excellence for Innovation in Powder Metallurgy and will collaborate with academic, industrial, government and business entities interested in the development of advanced materials and innovative technologies. The Centre will focus on production of new metallurgical products that can benefit the metal industry.

RED BANK

The Red Bank Police Department has received accreditation status from the Tennessee Law Enforcement Accreditation Program. To earn the accreditation, an agency voluntarily submits to a three-year process to enhance professionalism and effectiveness through 160 law enforcement standards and takes part in an on-site assessment. Policies evaluated include organizational, operational and budget management practices. Red Bank Police Chief Tim Christol said the dedication to service and commitment to excellence in the department "is matched only by the service and dedication they provide daily to the Red Bank community. We will continue to meet and exceed these standards and those of our community as we move forward," he said. The voluntary accreditation program began in 2010 and there are now 55 agencies involved.

SMYRNA

Nissan North America will invest \$160 million to build a new supplier park at their Smyrna vehicle assembly plant. The project will support more than 1,000 newly created supplier jobs. Nissan's Smyrna plant has been noted as being the most productive automotive manufacturing plant in North America as it produces almost 650,000 vehicles each year including the Maxima, Rogue and Altima. Current plans for the project call for construction of an integrated logistics center that will be located on Nissan's Smyrna campus and is more than 1.5 million square feet in size. The integrated logistics center will serve as an immediate space for suppliers and be used for multiple purposes supporting operations including inbound production parts and outbound returnable containers. The project will be delivered in phases beginning in late-2016, with project completion expected in late 2017. Nissan currently employs 12,000 full-time workers in Middle Tennessee. The 1,000 new jobs will not be Nissan employees, but suppliers who use the park as part of doing business with Nissan.



Columbia Fire Department to receive a Class 1 ISO rating

The city of Columbia recently became the only community in Tennessee, and only one of 97 communities in the nation, to receive a Class 1 ISO (Insurance Services Office) rating.

The city's "Public Protection Classification" (PPC) rating is being upgraded from Class 3 to Class 1.

"Today, we are announcing to the community, what we already know, — Columbia has one of the finest fire departments not only in Tennessee, but in the nation as a whole" stated City Manager Tony Massey. "The efforts by the Columbia Fire Department, Columbia Power and Water System (CPWS), and E-911 cannot be overstated."

"Not only is this a first in Columbia's history, but we are the only Class 1 fire department in Tennessee," said Columbia Fire Chief Lee Bergeron.

Columbia's prestigious rating represents less than one percent of

all departments in the U.S. — but most importantly, it indicates an exemplary ability to respond to fires.

Columbia's rating is based on three factors: 1) the Columbia Fire Department's emergency communications systems, which provide the means for the department to receive and respond to fire alarms, 2) the fire department's response and initial attack capabilities (including an evaluation of equipment, operations, and geographic distribution of fire companies, 3) and the community's water supply system.

The Columbia Fire Department (CFD) was first founded in 1868 with volunteers. Today, the Columbia Fire Department's has grown to protect nearly 35,000 residents within an approximately 30 square mile area with a full-time, dedicated staff of 90 paid firefighters. CFD's Fire Suppression division operates 24 hours-a-day, 7 days-a-week, out of five strategically placed fire stations within the city.

Libraries nationwide look to Spring Hill library to adopt concept of Wi-Fi hotspot lending program

Spring Hill Public Library in December became one of the country's first pilot programs for public Wi-Fi lending.

The library added mobile hotspots to its diverse collection of free lending materials through an agreement that uses T-Mobile's 4G LTE network, allowing library patrons to have mobile Internet service virtually anywhere in the nation and 120 countries throughout the world.

Spring Hill Library Director Alan Couch, who landed the groundbreaking pilot in Spring Hill, said he since has received phone calls from a wide range of cities and counties in Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Texas, Connecticut and more, inquiring about how to offer Wi-Fi hotspot lending through their respective libraries.

"Effectively, what this means is, we will be erasing the digital divide for residents of Spring Hill in Maury and Williamson counties," Couch said. "If someone has lost a job or is unable to have Internet service at home, we remove that barrier for them so that virtually anywhere in the nation our library patrons will be able to access Wi-Fi."

In Summer 2014, the public library systems in Chicago, New York City and Sandusky, Ohio,

used grant funds to become the first pilot programs to offer Wi-Fi hotspot lending. In New York, the service is limited to low-income residents enrolled in the library's adult learning or after-school programs. And for these services, the Wi-Fi works only in major cities.

However, Spring Hill's cellular partnership was the first of its kind in the U.S. as it allows any Spring Hill Library patron to check out a mobile Wi-Fi device for free for up to three consecutive weeks, if renewed each week, connecting them to nationwide high-speed Internet service on a network capable of servicing 96 percent of Americans, Couch said.

Spring Hill's Wi-Fi hotspot lending began Dec. 9, offering 15 mobile Wi-Fi hotspots, five Wi-Fi USB sticks, and five tablets. The devices have had a lengthy waiting list since the week the service began.




"As librarians across Tennessee know all too well, many people do not have access to a good Internet connection at home," State Librarian and Archivist Chuck Sherrill said. "This initiative by the Spring Hill Library to provide a portable hotspot connection free to library users is innovative and exciting. I'm sure it will become a model that other libraries will emulate."

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Contact Wayne Sellars:

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 Nationwide Retirement Solutions





76th TML Annual Conference June 6 - 9

Nashville Convention Center
Renaissance Hotel

Schedule At-A-Glance

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

3 - 5 PM

TML BOARD MEETING

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

11:30 am - 12:15 pm

TML Affiliate Workshop

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 to download a registration form. Or contact Sylvia Trice at (615) 425-3903 or by e-mail at strice@TML1.org.

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Morristown/Hamblen County awarded TVA Valley Sustainable Community designation

BY LEILA DONN
TDEC Office of Sustainable Practices

The Tennessee Valley Association (TVA) has designated Morristown and Hamblen County, a sustainable community as part of the Valley Sustainable Communities Program supporting economic development. Morristown and Hamblen County were recognized for their commitment to sustainability and drive to continue to improve their community for present and future generations.

The program, sponsored by TVA and developed and administered by Boyette Strategic Advisors, helps communities work toward creating a healthy environment and a thriving community with economic prosperity through evaluating and inventorying current sustainable community features. Significant sustainable community features include environmentally conscious industry, environmental outreach and education programs, and the presence of abundant natural resources.

Nestled in the valley between the Great Smoky Mountains and the rugged Clinch Mountains with verdant forests, two beautiful lakes, and innumerable streams, it is no surprise that sustainability and resource conservation are important to the Hamblen County area. The desire to be sustainable comes organically.

Sustainability, defined here as the impact of resource use on economic growth, is an age-old concept that has recently gained center-stage as the need for sustainable development becomes clear. Corporate responsibility can be demonstrated through a commitment to sustainability that spurs the economic growth of a community. Sustainable industries reduce operating costs and increase profitability, improving the quality of life in the community and attracting additional industry.

In 2010, the Morristown Chamber of Commerce created a document detailing the current quality of life in the county, designed to act as a strategic planning tool to help plan for the future.

Morristown's significant industrial presence also contributes to community welfare and well-being through sustainable operations.

The JTEKT automotive components plant in Morristown has a zero-landfill policy that was developed through a partnership between employees and company executives.

Additionally, adds Debi Stevenson-Brown, executive director of Keep Morristown Hamblen Beautiful, "JTEKT partnered with Keep Morristown Hamblen Beautiful to host a county collection event for batteries, oil, paint, antifreeze, and electronics which ensured that the materials were properly recycled and saved tax-payer dollars."

Also, Colgate-Palmolive's Morristown plant is Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certified.

Although Hamblen County is the third smallest county in Tennessee, it has a remarkable amount of green space with 15 parks within the city of Morristown alone, including the remarkable 178-acre Cherokee Park complete with camping, hiking, and boating. Morristown is also a Tree City USA, a forestry management program administered by the Arbor Day Foundation, and manages several non-traditional recreation opportunities, including disc-golf courses and a bicycle motocross (BMX) track.

Additionally, Morristown works to sustain the community culture by working with the Crossroads Downtown Partnership as part of a façade renovation grant program to revitalize the downtown area.

The presence of a downtown farmers' market offering abundant fresh foods for purchase also helps to contribute to the revitalization effort. Moreover, the market provides residents with the opportunity to shop locally and put money back into the town and county. Morristown has also offered curbside recycling to most of the county for more than 25 years, a benefit that many communities across Tennessee still are not offered.

With an eye on the future, Hamblen County and Morristown educate and maintain a qualified workforce at the local Walters State Community College and technical school. The county offers a yearly career fair and the opportunity for high school students to job shadow at one of the local industries. Additionally, in 2013 Keep Morristown/Hamblen County Beautiful helped secure



Morristown works to sustain the community culture by working with the Crossroads Downtown Partnership as part of a façade renovation grant program to revitalize the downtown area.

grant funding for an environmental education mobile classroom. The mobile classroom enables Hamblen County as well as four other counties to educate their children, and also the general public, about the importance of sustainability.

The ultimate goal of Morristown and Hamblen County is to enhance economic development by creating jobs for current and future residents and by improving the quality of life in the community. "This takes Morristown and Hamblen County's economic development marketing efforts to prospective and existing sustainably-focused companies to a whole new level," Marshall Ramsey, president of the Morristown Chamber of Commerce, says. "Our community has been very successful in attracting new and expanding business and industry over the years and we anticipate that this designation will increase our community's overall competitiveness."

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation also assists with the county's efforts through hazardous waste disposal events and programs and activities offered at Panther Creek State Park in Hamblen County. In 2011, Panther Creek was awarded a Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award for their environmental education awareness program, which includes natural resource conservation, the

importance of recycling, and how water quality affects an entire ecosystem.

"Morristown and Hamblen County are well-deserving of this designation," said Lori Munkeboe, director of the TDEC Office of Sustainable Practices. "Sustainable growth takes planning and foresight, and not every community has what it takes to plan for the future like this. Morristown's commitment to sustainability has been accompanied by prosperity and a sense of community, serving as a strong example of how sustainability can and must fit into successful economic development."

TVA's Valley Sustainable Communities Program provides Hamblen County with guidance, serving as a framework to help the community document, advance and implement sustainability initiatives. As more corporations are expressing interest in establishing themselves in areas where there is an ongoing commitment to sustainable development, Hamblen County is one of the few to lead the charge.

In the past two years, the Valley Sustainable Communities Program has enabled TVA to guide and support 13 local municipalities in 2013 and 12 communities in 2014 toward sustainable economic growth. To learn more about the TVA Valley Sustainable Communities Program, go to www.tvaed.com/sustainability.

Dye the Easter eggs, but don't handle the chicks

Those Easter baskets are often filled with candy and colorful eggs. However, there is one type of gift you should avoid during the holiday—baby chicks and ducklings.

Live poultry commonly carry Salmonella germs. When humans handle the birds, the bacteria can spread. Exposure to Salmonella commonly causes extreme abdominal upset. In severe cases, the illness can be fatal. According to the Centers for Disease Control, approximately 400 people die each year with acute salmonellosis.

Children, the elderly, and people with other health conditions are most susceptible to a severe reaction.

"Live poultry may have Salmonella germs in their droppings and on their bodies even when they appear healthy and clean," Tennessee Department of Health Epidemiologist Tim Jones, MD said. "Those germs can also get on cages, coops, feed

and water dishes and other items where the birds live and roam and can be found on the hands, shoes and clothing of people who handle the birds or work or play around them. We recommend families leave handling of live poultry to people trained in their appropriate care."

This is the time of year when chicks and ducklings arrive at local feed and farm stores. The Tennessee Department of Agriculture and the Tennessee Department of Health aim to educate customers on the risks of handling poultry, as well as the long-term commitment required for proper animal care.

"We're working with feed suppliers and businesses to ensure the safety of the animals and people who may come in contact with them," State Veterinarian Dr. Charles Hatcher said.

"Our goal is to support backyard flocks and youth poultry projects



like the 4-H Chick Chain while also informing the consumer."

Do not let children younger than five, elderly persons, or people with weak immune systems handle

chicks, ducklings or other live poultry. If you do come into contact with a bird, wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water immediately after.

MEMBER FOCUSED



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PEOPLE

Farragut Vice Mayor **Dot LaMarche** has been named to the National League of Cities 2016 Presidential Election Task Force.



Dot LaMarche

With the goal of raising the visibility of city issues during the presidential election cycle, the task force will develop an action plan that includes tools and resources for NLC members to engage candidates on city issues. The bipartisan group includes 17 city officials and state municipal league directors.

Robert "Bobby" Simpson, a retired Chattanooga police officer, has been named South Pittsburg's new police chief. Simpson said the department will focus on quality-of-life issues as well as crime.

The city of Harrogate mourns the loss of long-time **Mayor Bill Fultz** who lost his battle to cancer on Feb. 4, 2015. Mayor Fultz served as alderman from the incorporation of the city in 1993 until being elected mayor in 2001. He also served as Claiborne County Road Superintendent. The BMA appointed **Linda Fultz** to the position of mayor. She was sworn into office March 2. Mayor Linda Fultz has served the city as alderman since November 2004 and had served as vice mayor since November 2010.

Chris Devaney, who as chairman of the Tennessee Republican Party led it to historic supermajorities in the Tennessee statehouse, said he would resign next month. Devaney plans to become the leader of the Children's Nutrition Program of Haiti, a Chattanooga-based foundation. A mission trip to Haiti earlier this year sparked his interest in leading the group, he said. Devaney's resignation will be effective April 11, when the state party's executive committee next meets. Devaney, of Chattanooga, has been the party's chairman since 2009.

Dennis Wolf, MTAS fire management consultant, has completed the process that awards him the professional designation of Chief Fire Officer (CFO). The Commission on Professional Credentialing conferred the re-designation upon Wolf, who is one of only 1,017 CFO's worldwide. Wolf has been an active member of the Tennessee Fire Service since 1974, and has served as the fire management consultant for MTAS since August 2011. He is a state certified firefighter and fire officer, and a peer reviewer for the designations of Chief Fire Officer and Chief Emergency Medical Services Officer.



Dennis Wolf

Triplett named as new tourism commissioner; Weiss named co-chair of Tourism Committee

Gov. Bill Haslam announced that Kevin Triplett will join his cabinet as commissioner of the Department of Tourist Development.

Triplett, 49, is vice president of public affairs for Bristol Motor Speedway. Prior to joining BMS in 2005, he worked in various roles for NASCAR, ultimately serving as managing director of business operations, guiding the operation and administration of NASCAR's Sprint Cup Series, Nationwide Series, and Camping World Truck Series.

He has twice been named one of NASCAR's "25 Most Influential" by *The Charlotte Observer*.

From 1992 until 1994, Triplett represented General Motors Parts (GM Goodwrench and AC Delco) in NASCAR, specifically Richard Childress Racing and Ken Schrader Racing and their drivers, including Dale Earnhardt. Prior to his NASCAR tenure, he covered sports for the *Bristol Herald Courier* and *The Gaston Gazette* in North Carolina.

He is a graduate of East Tennessee State University and has served on the boards of a number of community organizations including Birthplace of Country Music, Bristol Chamber of Commerce, Bristol Convention and Visitors Bureau, Rotary



Kevin Triplett

Club of Bristol, ETSU at Bristol Advisory Council, Northeast Tennessee Tourism Association, and the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Also a farmer, Triplett is a member of the Tennessee Cattleman's Association.

He replaces Susan Whitaker who announced her departure in December. His first day on the job will be April 23.

Haslam also named Sande Weiss, president of Music Road Resort in Pigeon Forge, co-chair of the Tennessee Tourism Committee. Weiss fills the role previously held by Dolly Parton Productions President



Sande Weiss

Ted Miller.

The tourism committee, established by Haslam in 2011, is chaired by Colin Reed, CEO of Ryman Hospitality Properties (formerly Gaylord Entertainment Company), and co-chaired by Elvis Presley Enterprises, Inc. CEO Jack Soden.

Tourism is one of Tennessee's largest industries with a \$16.7 billion direct economic impact in 2013, a 3.4 percent increase over 2012. State and local tax collections reached a new high of \$1.28 billion for tourism related businesses in 2013, which is the eighth consecutive year above \$1 billion.

More than 80 TLETA graduates complete Police School training

More than 80 newly trained law enforcement officers graduated from the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy (TLETA) on March 13.

The newly certified officers comprising Basic Police School Class 1743 join the ranks of thousands of law enforcement officers across Tennessee who studied at TLETA and went on to be commissioned by state and local law-enforcement agencies.

At the conclusion of the 10-week course (held from Jan. 4 - March 13), graduates have the technical and tactical training as well as the ethical and professional standards of law enforcement that are necessary for success. This is the first of five

Basic Police School classes that will be held in 2015.

Class 1743's members will serve a variety of law enforcement agencies, including the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, the Tennessee State Parks, Vanderbilt University, Nashville International Airport and the following police departments (PD):

Alcoa PD, Centerville PD, Clarksville PD, Collierville PD, Columbia PD, Crossville PD, Dickson PD, Dyersburg PD, Fayetteville PD, Gallatin PD, Goodlettsville PD, Henderson PD, Lenoir City PD, Livingston PD, Martin PD, Milan PD, Mount Pleasant PD, Munford PD, Murfreesboro PD, Shelbyville PD, Union City PD, Waverly PD, and Woodbury PD.

MTAS welcomes John Grubb as new HR Consultant

The University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service recently welcomed John Grubbs to the MTAS staff as a Human Resource Consultant.

He will join Richard Stokes in servicing municipalities throughout the state with various HR projects, and city enquiries. Grubbs will be stationed in the Nashville office this year, later transitioning to Knoxville in order to better serve cities in the East Tennessee area.

Before joining MTAS, Grubbs served as human resource director for the cities of White House and Portland, TN.

He left Tennessee for a brief period to complete his graduate studies at the University of Connecticut, returning to work in the Tennessee public sector in 2012.

While completing his graduate studies, Grubbs served as HR consulting director for a private firm in East Hartford, CT. There, he specialized in developing 'people' strategies across a broad client base in both for-profit and non-profit settings. Prior to his service in the public sector, he worked in private

industry with responsibilities in HR and operations management in the transportation and automotive manufacturing industries for two decades.

Grubbs received his bachelor's degree in management from Trevecca Nazarene University, and a master's in human resource management from the University of Connecticut School of Business.

He is certified as a Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) by the Human Resource Certification Institute, a Certified Professional (IPMA-CP)

by the International Public Management Association for Human Resources (IPMA-HR), and as a

SHRM Senior Certified Professional (SHRM-SCP) by the Society for Human Resource Management.



John Grubbs

NATIONAL BRIEFS



U.S. Sens. Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker will try again to designate nearly 20,000 acres of the Cherokee National Forest as wilderness areas. The two Tennesseans refiled legislation that would create one new wilderness area in the forest and expand the boundaries of five existing wilderness areas. Designation of wilderness areas is the highest level of conservation protection to preserve land.

The number of airline passengers traveling this spring is expected to be the highest in seven years — just below the record set in 2007, before the economic collapse, according to the trade group Airlines for America. Bolstered by rising employment and personal income, 10 publicly traded airlines expect to carry 134.8 million travelers, or about 2.2 million per day, during March and April. That's up 2 percent, or about 43,000 passengers per day, from the same period last year. The increase in spring travel is attributed to an improving economy, the highest consumer sentiment in a decade and the continued affordability of air travel.

An outbreak of a virulent form of bird flu in Arkansas and Missouri may be threatening exports of U.S. poultry, possibly prompting new import restrictions by as many as 40 nations. The U.S. government confirmed the avian flu in turkeys in Arkansas, home to the world's biggest chicken company, Tyson Foods Inc. Officials also confirmed the presence of the strain in two commercial turkey flocks in Missouri. The H5N2 strain poses no risks to humans, but it can quickly decimate a flock. The outbreak prompted Kansas to prohibit moving poultry in or out of two counties that border Missouri.

The U.S. hosted a record number of international visitors last year, though a stronger dollar is making travel to the country more expensive and could cloud the outlook for the tourism industry this year. The

number of international visitors to the U.S. rose 7 percent to nearly 75 million in 2014, according to data from the Commerce Department. Travel spending from overseas visitors also rose for the entire year, though a month-by-month breakdown of trade data shows that increases slowed toward the end of the year, and spending fell slightly during January. That coincides with a rough ride for the Canadian dollar, the euro and other currencies. In the past year, the euro alone has lost nearly a quarter of its value against the dollar.

In a sign of an improving economy, people are getting out to restaurants more frequently these days. A new report shows U.S. restaurant sales jumped 3.5 percent in February, compared to the same month in 2014. Applied Predictive Technologies' report — compiled using data from 65,000 restaurants — showed quick-service restaurants saw a 5.5 percent sales uptick, while full-service restaurants had a 2.2 percent increase.

U.S. economic growth slowed in the fourth quarter and likely cooled even further in the first quarter as severe winter weather takes its toll. But the outlook for the rest of the year looks brighter, thanks to a recovering job market that should boost consumer spending. The Commerce Department said Friday that the overall economy, as measured by the gross domestic product, grew at an annual rate of 2.2 percent in the October-December period — a figure that was unchanged from a month ago. The economy had surged at a 5 percent rate in the third quarter. In the final look at fourth quarter GDP, consumer spending was more robust than previously estimated but business restocking was weaker. Consumer spending, which accounts for 70 percent of economic activity, grew at a 4.4 percent rate in the fourth quarter — the strongest performance in eight years and even better than the 4.2 percent estimated a month ago.

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community by community,
state by state.
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STATE BRIEFS



UT grad programs make US News Top 10

Three graduate programs at the University of Tennessee are in the Top 10 for their programs at public universities, according to the latest *U.S. News and World Report* graduate rankings. Among public universities, UT's nuclear engineering program ranked fourth, the supply chain management program ranked fifth and clinical law training ranked eighth. Nuclear engineering and supply chain management were also in the top 10 for all universities — in fifth and eighth place, respectively. Clinical law training came in at 16th for all universities. The 2016 rankings compare more than 1,900 graduate programs at private and public institutions. *U.S. News* ranks six disciplines annually: law, business, medicine, education, engineering and — added this year — nursing. The methodology includes expert opinions, test scores of new students, employment outcome, acceptance rates and more. Improving graduate education is one of five priority areas in UT's initiative to be a top 25 public research university. That initiative, "Journey to the Top 25," started in 2010.

Business court to open in Davidson County in May

The Tennessee Supreme Court is opening a new business court in Davidson County to resolve business litigation cases more efficiently. The Davidson County Business Court Pilot Project, which will begin taking cases May 1, will allow lawyers to better predict rulings and will ease docket congestion in other courts, according to an order. The court's evaluations could shape additional business courts in Tennessee. Davidson County Chancery Court III will serve as the business court, and

Chancellor Ellen Hobbs Lyle will be the presiding judge. "Our court system must do a better job serving the needs of businesses that provide jobs to Tennesseans," Chief Justice Sharon Lee said in a statement. "With the creation of a business court, we will have more predictable, consistent results, and more timely resolutions of business disputes." Twenty-six states, including Alabama, Florida and Georgia, have created business courts, and the courts are "an effective tool for business retention, economic development, and enhanced effectiveness of the judicial system," Lee wrote in the order.

The Tennessee unemployment rate for February was 6.6 percent, one-tenth of one percentage point lower than the January revised rate of 6.7 percent. The U.S. preliminary rate for February was 5.5 percent, down two-tenths of one percentage point from the prior month. Over the past year, Tennessee's unemployment rate increased from 6.5 percent to 6.6 percent while the national rate decreased from 6.7 percent to 5.5 percent.

The Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security announced a new statewide driver's license system that will "increase efficiency at state driver's license centers." It's the first major upgrade to the state's driver service system in 30 years. The new system consists of a single Web-based screen meant to increase the speed license examiners can evaluate applications. The new system will also increase online services. With a visit to www.tn.gov/safety, citizens can now pay reinstatement fees and obtain reissued driver's licenses, schedule road skills tests, add emergency contact information, set up electronic communication

with service centers, and start license applications before heading to a service center.

Tennessee ranks fourth-worst state for voter turnout

When it came to voting in the 2014 elections, Tennessee voters weren't flocking to the polls, according to a Nonprofit VOTE report. Tennessee ranked as the fourth-worst state for voter turnout during the past election season in Nonprofit VOTE's "America Goes to the Polls 2014" report. In fact, barely more than a quarter — 29.1 percent — of the Volunteer State actually voted. The state showed a small improvement from the 2010 elections when it was the third-worst state. The only states (including the District of Columbia) that ranked worse than Tennessee were New York at No. 49, Texas at No. 50 and Indiana at No. 51. The best three states for voter turnout were Colorado, Wisconsin and Maine, which all had more than 50 percent of residents casting votes.

Tennessee public television stations are airing a new show about the happenings in the state Legislature.

The first of four 30-minute episodes of the "Tennessee Capitol Report" began airing Sunday morning, March 1, on public TV stations in Memphis, Nashville, Knoxville, Chattanooga, Lexington-Jackson and Cookeville. The next episodes are scheduled to air on March 29, April 26 and May 31. The program is hosted by Chip Hoback and produced by Tim Weeks. The first episode features interviews with Senate Speaker Ron Ramsey and House Speaker Beth Harwell. Weeks says the aim of the program is to offer in-depth looks at the personalities shaping the issues at the Capitol.

State revenue collections exceed budget projections by \$25.8 million for February

Tennessee tax collections exceeded the budgeted estimates in February. Department of Finance and Administration Commissioner Larry Martin announced that overall February revenues were \$787.2 million, which is \$25.8 million more than the state budgeted for the month.

"Sales tax collections in February marked the seventh consecutive month this fiscal year in which collections exceeded budgeted expectations," Martin said. "As a result of a one-time event, Franchise and Excise tax collections were also above expectations."

"The renewed strength in our sales and corporate tax collections is an indication of an improving economy in Tennessee. However, more than half of our annual corporate collections materialize April through June, so we'll continue conservative spending and monitoring revenue activity."

On an accrual basis, February is the seventh month in the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

The general fund was over collected by \$13.1 million and the four other funds were over collected by \$12.7 million.

Sales tax collections were \$17.9 million more than the estimate for February. The February growth rate was positive 7.62 percent. The year-to-date growth rate for seven months is positive 6.86 percent.

Franchise and excise taxes combined were \$7.3 million above the budgeted estimate of \$42.8 million. For seven months revenues are over collected by \$165.2 million. The year-to-date growth rate for seven months is positive 29.41 percent.

Gasoline and motor fuel collections for February increased by 8.71 percent, and were \$3.8 million above the budgeted estimate of \$66.3 million. For seven months revenues are over collected by \$14.5 million.

Tobacco tax collections were \$3.3 million under the budgeted estimate of \$21.5 million. For seven months revenues are under collected in the amount of \$5.9 million.

Inheritance and estate taxes were under collected by \$1.9 million for the month. Year-to-date collections for seven months are \$12.0 million more than the budgeted estimate.

Privilege tax collections were \$2.6 million less than the February estimate, and on a year-to-date basis, August through February, col-

lections are \$2.4 million above the estimate.

Business tax collections were \$4.5 million above the February budgeted estimate, and for seven months collections are \$18.3 million more than the budgeted estimate of \$20.6 million.

All other taxes were over collected by a net of \$0.1 million.

Year-to-date collections for seven months were \$369.7 million more than the budgeted estimate. The general fund was over collected by \$336.5 million and the four other funds were over collected by \$33.2 million.

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

TACIR releases report on valuing low-income housing tax credit properties in Tennessee

Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) are the most significant federal incentive to support affordable housing for low-income Americans and have broad support at all levels, but there is wide disagreement about the most appropriate approach to valuing the properties they help fund. The LIHTC program promotes investment in low-income housing with federal tax credits granted in return for restrictions on rent and tenant income. Without the credits, which are the primary source of income for investors in these projects, they likely would not be built.

Because the credits are an indication of what the property is worth to a buyer, Tennessee property assessors consider the credits when determining the value of these structures for property tax purposes. But the amount they add declines over time as the credits phase out, which

can cause a cash flow problem for the taxpayer in the early years when tax bills are larger. The tax bill starts high the first year and drops each year until the tax credits run out after ten years.

Legislation proposed in Tennessee last year by state Senator Steve Southerland and state Representative Jeremy Faison would have prohibited considering tax credits when valuing low-income housing for property tax purposes.

The Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, a public policy group called on to study the legislation, found that while it would have eliminated the cash flow concern, it would have failed to account for the full value of LIHTC properties and would have reduced local government revenue. In its recently released report, the Commission described two other alternatives to the current method,

both of which would make it easier for property owners to budget for taxes while still recognizing the properties' market values.

The first alternative, currently used in Idaho, spreads the total amount of credits allocated to the project evenly over the life of the 30-year restricted-rent agreement. This alternative levels out the tax payments and brings in slightly more in total taxes over 30 years than excluding the credits completely but much less than the way it's done now.

The second alternative discounts the remaining credits to their current value, sums them, and spreads the total evenly over the restricted-rent period. This alternative would not change the total amount paid over time.

The full report is available on TACIR's web site at www.tn.gov/tacir/pubs_by_date.html.

Tennessee Main Street communities generated \$95 Million in 2014



Jonesborough is one of 28 designated Main Street program communities across Tennessee.

The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development announced the 2014 Economic Impact and Reinvestment Statistics from 28 Tennessee Main Street communities for activities occurring between Jan. 1, 2014, and Dec. 31, 2014.

These Main Street communities created more than 1,500 new jobs and generated more than \$95 million of public/private investment in 2014, while continuing to be a vital part of the state's economic and cultural identity.

"Tennessee's main streets are such an important part of our state's identity and cultural heritage," Economic and Community Development Commissioner Randy Boyd said. "Flourishing downtowns provide a sense of pride for our communities, spur tourism and promote entrepreneurship, which ultimately creates jobs."

Tennessee Main Street provides technical assistance and training for communities in developing real-world solutions to make downtowns safe, appealing, vibrant places where folks want to shop, work, live, invest and make memories.

Other reinvestment statistics from the designated Main Street communities reporting include:

- Net new jobs: 1,565
- Net new businesses: 171
- Building rehabilitation projects: 298
- Public improvement projects: 248
- Net new housing units: 54
- Volunteer hours contributed: 114,807
- Total public/private investment: \$95.5 million

"Annual reports from Tennessee's 28 accredited Main Street

programs demonstrate strong reinvestment in 2014 for the historic commercial cores of Tennessee communities that are making an effort to revitalize their downtowns," Tennessee Main Street Program Director Nancy Williams said. "It shows that taking good care of downtown reaps economic benefits, including jobs, for the whole community."

There are currently 28 designated Main Street program communities across Tennessee. Bristol, Brownsville, Cleveland, Collierville, Columbia, Cookeville, Dandridge, Dayton, Dyersburg, Fayetteville, Franklin, Gallatin, Greeneville, Jackson, Jonesborough, Kingsport, Lawrenceburg, Lebanon, McMinnville, Murfreesboro, Morristown, Rogersville, Tiptonville, Savannah, Sweetwater, Union City, Ripley and Winchester.

Tennessee Main Street is currently working with six communities through the affiliated Tennessee Downtowns program: Arlington, Carthage, Ducktown, Etowah, Jamestown and Shelbyville. In addition, the 28 Main Street communities have participated in the Tennessee Downtowns program.

Tennessee Main Street is a coordinating partner with the National Main Street Center. Designated communities are required to meet national accreditation standards annually, which include illustrating broad-based community support for the program, development of a comprehensive work plan, a sufficient operating budget and professional staff with volunteer support.

For more information about the Tennessee Main Street Program, please visit <http://www.tennessee-mainstreet.org>. For more on the National Main Street Center, visit <http://www.mainstreet.org>.

TDEC program to accept applications for energy conservation projects

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's Office of Energy Programs announced today a re-release of the State's Qualified Energy Conservation Bond (QECB) Program's Request for Proposals (RFP), which details how local governments can apply for low-interest bonds to finance qualified energy savings projects.

QECBs were created by Congress in 2008 and expanded in 2009 by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Of the state's total \$64.67M allocation, approximately \$40 million has been, or is currently scheduled to be issued for qualifying projects by jurisdictions automatically eligible under the federal legislation or through previous competitive sub-allocation processes.

Following two rounds of sub-allocations in 2014, the QECB program will make the remaining funds available for qualifying projects until bond capacity is exhausted. Tennessee's total remaining allocation for the program is expected to fluctuate due to pending issuances under the previously approved sub-allocations and any additional re-allocations from large local jurisdictions. (To learn more about the re-allocation process, please visit http://www.tennessee.gov/environment/energy_qualified-energy-conservation-bonds.shtml.)

Entities eligible to participate in the program include all local jurisdictions in Tennessee, including city and county governments. Local jurisdictions can issue the bonds on behalf of a private project, with conditions. The RFP is available at http://www.tennessee.gov/environment/energy_qualified-energy-conservation-bonds.shtml.

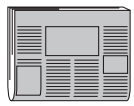
For more information on the QECB program, please contact Luke Gebhard in TDEC's Office of Energy Programs at (615) 532-8798 or luke.gebhard@tn.gov.

Congress to consider Internet sales tax

See **INTERNET** on Page 5
California company, he would pay the higher California sales tax. "Not only would the buyer pay taxes in a state in which he did not receive services and cannot vote (truly taxation without representation), he would see his tax bill go up," Crippen said. "And because the higher tax rate would dissuade consumers from purchasing from California companies, those companies would have a strong

incentive to move to lower or no sales tax states, an incentive created by federal law."

Boehner has so far been unsympathetic to Marketplace Fairness Act supporters. He was largely behind the 2013 bill's death-by-committee and the concept has been opposed by some like-minded conservative and anti-tax groups, including Americans for Tax Reform and its president, Grover Norquist.



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

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. 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) 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 ex-

perience. 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

PLANNING & ZONING DIRECTOR MCMINNVILLE. The city is seeking a Director of the Planning and Zoning Department. Minimum qualifications include a Bachelor degree in Architecture, Geography, Planning or a related degree supplemented by course work and experience in the building or planning trades or seven years of credible work experience. Must have working knowledge of Trimble GPS units, ArcPad, ArcMap, and ArcCatalog, Microsoft Word, & Excel. Must have the following certifications or the ability to obtain them within one year: Residential Building Inspector, Commercial Building Inspector, Residential Plumbing Inspector, Commercial Plumbing Inspector, State of Tennessee Licensed Electrician and State of Tennessee Licensed Plumber and must have HVAC certification within 6 months of employment. Ability to work indoors and outside. Possession of a valid Tennessee Driver's License Post offer drug screen, background check and physical are required. Full time position with benefits. Qualified applicants may apply at: City Hall, Human Resources (3rd Floor) 101 East Main Street, McMinnville, TN 37110 Application deadline: April 6. For more information or to view the full job description or to apply online please visit our website at www.mcminnville.tn.gov. The city of McMinnville does not discriminate based on race, color or national origin in federal or state sponsored programs, pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d).

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. 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. Position will remain open until filled. The Town of Arlington is an equal opportunity employer.



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

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 16 - 18: Clarksville Rivers & Spires Festival
A three day outdoor festive event in Historic Downtown Clarksville. It features a night of patriotic tribute to military heroes, 6 stages of entertainment, International Streetfest, Kidz Zone, Jazz'N Wine area, car shows, parades, and much much more. For more information about the festival contact Theresa Harrington, 931-245-4343 or email: Theresa@visitclarksvilletn.com

April 17 - 19: Townsend Sixth Annual Smoky Mountain Fiber Arts Festival at the Great Smoky Mountain Heritage Center.
An interactive fiber arts event that shows the full fiber art process characterized as "sheep to shawl" (raw materials to finished work), including carding, spinning, dyeing, weaving, felting, tating, and knitting. Workshops and demonstrations are targeted to both young people and adults. Register online or mail completed class registration forms to: SMFAF, PO Box 403, Townsend, TN 37882, or email to townsendartisguild@gmail.com.

April 25-26: South Pittsburg National Cornbread Festival
Activities for the festival are held in the beautiful downtown area of South Pittsburg, with cornbread cook-offs, arts and crafts vendors, food vendors, all day entertainment, children's corner, a historic tour of homes via a double-decker bus and a full midway style carnival. For updated information, schedules and other information, please connect to the Festival website at: www.nationalcornbread.com

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

Tennessee Drug Card saves 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 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.
- 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



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Cities weigh power of Sharing Economy

BY BROOKS RAINWATER
National League of Cities

So much of the news we read these days is peppered with the words Uber, Lyft, or Airbnb. With the swiftness of their rise in cities nationwide and globally, city leaders and policymakers are scrambling to find out how to best approach this new economic model—the sharing economy. At some point in the last five years the word ‘Uber’ transitioned from a catchy company name to a household verb, and the sharing economy became a game changer.

People think of a lot of things when they hear the term “sharing economy.” The rapid diffusion and evolution of this new economic model has left people with a variety of feelings, most of which fall somewhere in the realm of ambiguity and utter confusion. And that’s reasonable, given the warp speed at which the sharing economy thrust itself into our everyday lives, becoming commonplace in cities large and small around the world.

Furthermore, the vast difference in types of sharing economy platforms can be mind-boggling and often times policymakers are solely aware of what is happening with ridesharing or ride-hailing and homesharing, not realizing the vast array of goods and services that can be shared from food to tools and even municipalities sharing heavy equipment.

Cities are making the sharing economy work. With the unantic-

pated surge in sharing or collaborative consumption companies, there has been what is commonly referred to as ‘disruption’ of existing systems. Traditional industries are being upended with the growth of innovative sharing economy models that do not neatly fit into existing local regulatory environments.

Residents both expect on-demand services and crave collaborative opportunities. City leaders must walk a fine line, embracing change and innovation while simultaneously prioritizing safety and market fairness. As they grapple with this, they find that there is no best practice or one-size-fits-all solution, but rather an opportunity to experiment, to find a unique, context-sensitive answer that works for their community.

When it comes to cities and the sharing economy the legislative and regulatory system has been most affected by ridesharing and home-sharing, and emerging models for how to incorporate these services are developing, but the newness of this issue still precludes long-term tested best practices. Additionally, there is no one-size-fits-all regulatory solution, because one of the true innovations in cities is always the ability to experiment and come up with solutions that work best for the local context.

Every city is different, have different needs, a different culture, and different existing economic conditions, and they all subsequently address the sharing economy in different ways.

City ordinances that govern more traditional fields of commerce took decades to develop, and while the sharing economy is wildly popular and nimble, we cannot expect things to change overnight. Cities are meeting these changes with open arms, though, and committing to addressing them responsibly, with the best interests of residents in mind.

NLC is helping them navigate and prepare for this new environment with resources and the development of a Sharing Economy Advisory Network.

Because this is a rapidly changing environment our findings represent a snapshot in time. In addition to reflecting what we could see at the time of our data collection and analysis, however, our findings indicate the presence of some trends in the sharing economy. Overall, city policymakers are trying to strike a balance between promoting innovation, ensuring consumer safety, and respecting existing industries.

This is only the beginning of the sharing economy, and we will undoubtedly continue to see more new companies, more disruption, and more social and political interplay between existing and new actors. Cities will continue to serve as the laboratories for these ever-changing technologies and business models. The best thing that city policymakers can do is keep an open mind about how the new economy might be fruitful with the right regulatory framework in place. Sharing is here to stay.



April 15-17: TDEC Greenways and Trails forum, Montgomery Bell State Park. Advanced registration received prior to April 6 is \$99. Registration received after April 6 is \$125. Registration fees include access to the event, educational sessions, networking events, workshops, field trips and lunch and dinner on Thursday. For hotel accommodations, conference attendees will receive a rate of \$77 at Montgomery Bell State Park Inn by calling 615-797-3101 by April 3 and mentioning Tennessee Greenways and Trails or code 7443. More information, visit <http://www.tn.gov/environment/recreation/>.

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, 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 in 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. For additional information, contact Mike Walker at Walker@TNCMA.org.

April 29-May 1: Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association 2015 Spring Conference, Gatlinburg, TN

June 7 - 9: TML 76th Annual Conference, Nashville Convention Center at the Renaissance Hotel. A tentative agenda, registration and lodging information can be found at www.TML1.org

UT MTAS APRIL MAP CLASS

DRUG FUND WORKSHOP

This course covers all aspects of drug fund administration and the proper disposal of sensitive property and evidence items, such as drugs, firearms and vehicles. Discussion will include the accounting process required for confidential expenditures; allowable expenditures; and how the special revenue account (drug fund) differs from the confidential expense account. The course will review recent legislative mandates for the disposal of firearms and comptroller’s regulations concerning drugs and forfeited vehicles.

Target Audience: City Recorders, Sheriffs, County Finance Directors, City Clerks, Finance Directors, Police Chiefs, Command Officers and Investigation Supervisors responsible for confidential drug fund expenditures

- April 7:** Collegedale City Hall
- April 8:** Cookeville Leslie Town Center
- April 9:** Murfreesboro Doubletree Hotel
- April 23:** Paris Convention Center
- April 28:** Johnson City Carnegie Hotel
- April 29:** Clinton Junior Achievement Center

Time: All workshops will be held from 8:30-12:30 CST/EST with exception to April 23 workshop at the Paris Convention Center. It will begin at 1 p.m.



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, 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.

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Finding balance: Sen. Steven Dickerson works to build consensus

BY LINDA BRYANT

It was considered a historic victory when Steven Dickerson won the seat for Senate District 20 in 2012. The area — previously a stronghold for Democrats — had been represented by Democrat Sen. Joe Haynes for 28 years before it was redistricted in 2011.

Dickerson is a practicing physician and founding partner of Anesthesia Services Associates. He earned his undergraduate degree from University of the South in Sewanee and received his medical degree at the Bowman Gray School of Medicine of Wake Forest University. After completing his residency, Dickerson moved to Nashville to start a practice and raise a family with Katrina, his wife of more than 20 years.

In recent years, Dickerson's practice has been based at the Hendersonville Medical Center, where he also served as chief of staff. Since he's still working, his daily schedule is nothing short of a whirlwind. He's in the operating room for a large portion of the day and hustles to Legislative Plaza, typically in the afternoon, to attend sessions, committee meetings and meet with constituents.

Dickerson has rock solid conservative credentials on key issues such as abortion and guns rights, but he doesn't always vote lock and step with the current Republican supermajority. For example, he voted against one bill that allowed women to face jail time for drug use during pregnancy and another that brought Tennessee's electric chair out of storage.

"It can't always be accomplished, but I believe in trying to find common ground," Dickerson says. "I'm a consensus kind of guy."

With three young sons, a full-time career as an anesthesiologist and a second career as a State Senator, you'd think that Dickerson wouldn't have much time leftover for hobbies. That's not the case. He also sings and plays lead guitar in No Good Deed, a hard rock and heavy metal band.

"I'm inspired to be Eddie Van Halen," he says with a huge smile on his face.

TT&C: What committees are you serving on this year?

SD: This year I'm on the Finance, Ways and Means; Education; and State and Local Government committees. The budget comes through Finance Ways and Means committee. It's really the only constitutionally mandated function that we have to pass the Governor's budget. I've continued to be on Education. I think we're going to see all the bills that really tie together the various segments of education — primary and secondary education. And I'm the vice chair of State and Local, where a lot of legislation happens — alcohol bills, malt beverage bills, election bills, lottery bills, and corrections bills.

TT&C: What particular issues are you working on now?

SD: My signature bill deals with domestic violence (Senate Bill 610). If you look at the numbers, Tennessee is the 10th worst in terms of per capita domestic violence in the United States. In Davidson County, where I represent about a third of the population, we have about one incident every 20 minutes of domestic violence — that comes out to 70 a day or 500 incidents a week. It's a significant problem. It's a mental health problem, a health problem, a financial problem — you name it. Violence is bad enough, but domestic violence truly crosses economic, social, and racial lines. It's in every neighborhood potentially in Davidson County.

My bill will adjust what is called a 12-hour hold. The thought is that a "cooling down" period is needed when somebody gets arrested. If you keep them in jail for 12 hours, it allows the battered individual to seek shelter, get some resources, and get out of harms' way. Right now, there's a lot of latitude for the judges to let people out earlier than 12 hours.

Last summer, there was an event that occurred in Nashville where a man got out of jail sooner than expected. His girlfriend thought he was going to be in jail for 12 hours. She went to their apartment to get her things. He came back and beat her up, when he should have been in jail for another 9 or 10 hours. What this bill is going to do — is ratchet up the process by which judges are allowed to release someone accused of domestic violence. I don't think it's going to be absolute because the civil libertarians are opposed to that approach. It's probably going to be as simple as requiring a checklist of important questions to be considered before releasing someone. Was it a particularly aggravated assault? Was it a repeat offense? Were there threats made? If the answer to any of those questions is a "yes," then they have to be held for 12 hours. If the answer is "no" then the judge has the latitude to make the call.

TT&C: Is there a reason why this particular issue rose to the top for you?

SD: The local case that happened last summer made an impression on me. There's also been a lot in the press concerning NFL players and professional athletes. House Speaker Beth Harwell has concerns about it and she was looking for a senator to sponsor the bill. In the House, I'm working with Rep. William Lamberth (R-Cottontown) who is from Sumner County. He's an assistant district attorney, so he's familiar with the issue. I started researching domestic violence and ended up thinking, "If I can't make progress on an issue as



"It can't always be accomplished, but I believe in trying to find common ground. I'm a consensus kind of guy."

— Sen. Steven Dickerson

meaningful as this, then I'm in the wrong line of work." Hopefully, I can make a difference.

TT&C: You've stated that education and jobs are top issues for you, as well. Why are you passionate about these issues?

SD: My goal in one sentence is to give more Tennesseans access to the American dream. I believe the conduit to that dream is education. If you look at the No. 1 determinant of economic success is educational attainment. The further you go in school, the higher standard of living you are going to have as a result. You could give every man and woman in Tennessee a PhD right now but it wouldn't change a thing. The power of education comes from acquiring new skills and learning how to get through the ups and downs of it — all the unpleasantness and all the rewards.

I have gone through a lot of school. I went to college and medical school. I didn't look forward to a lot of tests, but at some point I just buckled down and said, "OK, we are going to make it through this." I wasn't lifting cinder blocks. It could have been a lot worse. But the point is, I learned to tough things out and I benefited from it.

Educational attainment is the number No. 1 priority. Gov. Haslam's Tennessee Promise initiative, which passed last year, has real potential to be a game-changer. Now we have tuition equality bill that's for tuition equality. It would allow children who are undocumented to have access to in-state tuition. The goal is to get 55 percent of the population to have an associate, bachelor's, or master's degree by 2025. I believe in the adage, "a rising tide floats all boats." I believe education is the springboard to keeping our economy going.

We need to continue to focus on bringing more jobs to Tennessee. We are doing great with manufacturing and car manufacturing. If we can continue to build on that, we can pull people in from the private sector. It decreases the strain on the employment system, Tennessee, and any sort of entitlement program. We need to do whatever we can do to enhance business, and the way to enhance business long term is through education.

TT&C: Do you think education is an area where there can be bipartisan agreement?

SD: You would think — and I think there's agreement in broad strokes. Everybody wants higher standards and better retention. We want kids to stay in school, but how you get to the goal is a real point of contention. People agree in the abstract about an issue like accountability. But how do you institute and implement accountability and testing? How do you evaluate a teacher, and how much of their annual pay should be dependent upon variables as opposed to things like tenure? If a teacher has a master's degree should they get paid more than somebody with a bachelor's? You get disagreement when you start to really pull the onion back.

TT&C: Do you think we can hammer out some areas of common agreement?

SD: Absolutely, but it's not easy. It's not quite as lenient as I had expected with the supermajority in the House and Senate. One might have thought that we would all come together and get to some issues where we can really agree on, but even within the big tent of the party there is a lot of disagreement. We have been trying to pass vouchers for the last three years. Some of the disagreement is personality driven, some of it is policy driven, some of it is financially driven, and some of it is really urban versus rural driven. Davidson County has a very different perspective than Shelby County. So even within the major school districts, there's not always a lot of agreement.

TT&C: What's an example of an education policy that might move forward?

SD: Well, something that crosses party lines — and this is important — is teacher's pay. It gets close to universal support. I was standing behind the governor at his press conference last year when he said, "From this point forward we are going to have the fastest increasing teacher pay of any state in the union." Then we had problems with our budget, and it was struck down. We are trying to play catch up this year. I think everybody agrees that it's an important issue to address, especially if you



are going to hold teachers accountable for performance of their students and standardized test scores. Teaching is a tough enough job as is. They need to be paid enough to make it worth their while.

TT&C: Describe your relationship with local officials in your district?

SD: My district is wholly contained in Davidson County, and it is unique because it also contains the five satellite cities within Davidson County. I represent parts of all five — Oak Hill, Forest Hills, Belle Meade, Berry Hill, and Goodlettsville. That means I interface with the five satellite city mayors, plus Nashville Mayor Karl Dean. I engage with Mayor Dean directly and with his lobbyists, assistants and chief of staff. They have my cell phone number. I have a working relationship with most — if not all — Metro council members. They all have my cell phone number and call me about local and state issues. One of their big concerns is unfunded mandates. The issue is fascinating from my standpoint because I'm caught right between local and federal. We'll gripe about Washington and say we don't want to fund a federal mandate. Yet, we'll pass them at the state level. It creates an interesting three-way tug of war with federal, state, and local governments. I try to be consistent in terms of the level of autonomy. What I expect from Washington is the same level of autonomy that I would like to try and pass down to the local government. It doesn't mean that every issue is going to be a 70-30 or 60-40 split. But in the aggregate, I think there are places where the state needs to have authority, and we need to leave authority with local governments in certain places.

I wasn't expecting so many layers of interaction and influence when I first got here. I'm going to use education has an example. You have Dr. Register, director of Metro schools, and the Metro School Board; and they both have lobbyists. Mayor Dean has lobbyists. He doesn't have any direct input over specific dollar for dollar education expenditures, but he has a significant interest and input into the global concept about schools and where schools fit in the Nashville area. You have the chamber of commerce, which obviously represents the business interests. In Davidson County, you have higher ed institutions. We've got Belmont, Lipscomb, Fisk, Tennessee State and Vanderbilt universities. The teachers have their own lobbyists. I'm just scratching the surface. In the end, an issue will come forth that sounds pretty benign, and I'll get six different calls per party. They are not in agreement most times.

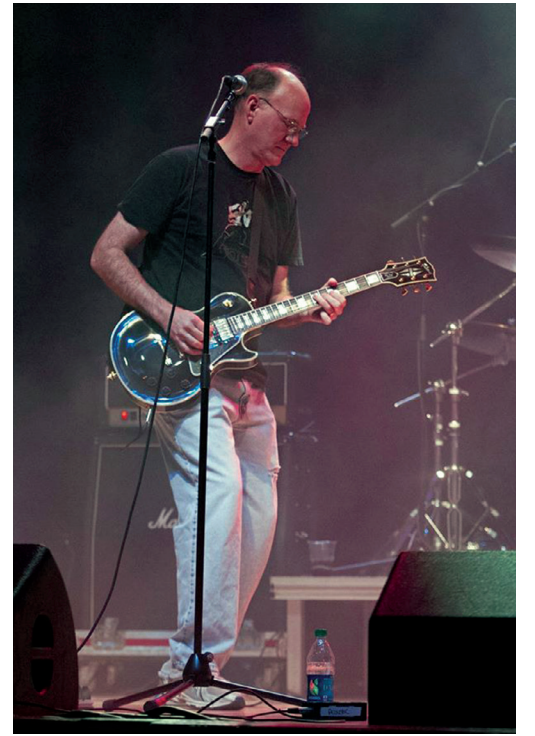
TT&C: What is your leadership style?

SD: Some people are combative and some people are confrontational. I tend to be a consensus kind of guy. I like to use the analogy of a Venn diagram. You try to find that one area where everyone overlaps. A lot of the time you can't find that common interest or agreement. If that's the case, you figure out who you are going to irritate today -- and I'm sorry about that. My overall governing personal philosophy is to find a balance. I do have primary considerations. Constitutionality is a big issue, and I've got the will of my voters, which is obviously a huge issue. Then I strike a balance between what I think is right, what my voters think is right, and what the constitution will allow.

TT&C: Does being a practicing physician inform your work?

SD: Yes, significantly and in a couple of ways. We have a lot of healthcare bills. If there's a bill about medication or opiate abuse, I will likely have some first-hand professional knowledge. I can actually wade through legislation that other folks might not be able to. Of course, they have areas of expertise that I don't have, so my colleagues have analogous expertise to mine.

As a physician, I cannot tell you the number of times I'd heard that a patient has a cancer in a certain part of the body and been told that we need to cut it out to save the whole person. There are so many times in public policy where you look at the greater good, and you figure out what's good for the whole body. Not everybody can be a winner all the time in every public policy debate. Sometimes you realize you are going to have to have some short-term



suffering and it turns out a group's interests can't be fully realized in order to move the greater whole forward.

It's very interesting because we live in a republic with a small arm form of government where the people have ceded some of their authority to their elected officials. They are happy to see that authority right up until the point you disagree with them. No matter which way I vote on most bills, 30 percent of the people are really going to disagree with me, 30 percent are really going to agree with me, and the rest are in the middle somewhere. We have many contentious issues. Gov. Haslam's health care bill, Insure Tennessee, was a recent big one. I never cast a vote on it because it was stopped in the first committee. But no matter how balanced and well thought out it is, you're going to irritate a lot of people with any vote.

TT&C: Do you think there are ways to improve the health care system going forward since the Insure Tennessee failed?

SD: At some point I think there will be. I'm very thankful for Gov. Haslam. I appreciate he made a diligent effort to put together a package that he thought could pass the General Assembly. It didn't happen, but part of that was from the overall demeanor of the General Assembly. The philosophical orientation made it a heavy lift in the best of circumstances.

I had a constituent in here today who works between 25 and 30 hours a week, just underneath the level where she can get health insurance. She said, "I don't want to be on welfare. I'm just trying to get a leg up here." She was trying to advocate for Insure Tennessee, but I never heard from people like her before the vote. If 50 other people like her had gone to their representatives beforehand, it would have been intriguing to see if the vote would have been any different.

TT&C: Can you name someone who's mentored you in the Legislature?

SD: There are several, but Sen. Douglas Henry is a very important one. I learned the most from him when I ran against him in 2010 and lost. Then the district was redrawn, and we were in adjoining districts. I was able to run for District 20, and I won the seat in 2012. I sat next to Doug for two years in the senate. We were tablemates and desk buddies. It was like having the Oracle of Delphi sitting next to me day and night! He would talk to me about reading something in French and Greek the night before. Then the next time, he would talk about physics and astrophysics. He's a Renaissance man, and he is a gentleman.

Doug spent his entire career as a senator, and his political skills are incredible. I found that out when I ran against him. Everywhere I went, there he was! He was omnipresent. One year, my wife and I were going to the Whitland neighborhood 4th of July party. It was after the redistricting and Whitland wasn't even in his district anymore. There he was walking up the street next to me. It was 100 degrees, and here's an 87-year-old man wearing a seersucker suit on the 4th of July. He is a man of integrity and ethics. I love Doug. He's No. 1.

TT&C: Tell me about your family and things that interest you outside of work.

SD: Well hobby-wise, I play hard rock and heavy metal guitar. I'm inspired to be Eddie Van Halen. I am still in a band called No Good Deed and we play 80's and 90's hard rock, Van Halen, Velvet Revolver and similar acts.

TT&C: You went on a mission trip to the Philippines after the 2013 tsunami. What was that like?

SD: I was sitting at my kitchen table and I got an email from my partner saying, "Hey, one of my buddies is doing a medical mission trip to the Philippines and I can't go because of my work schedule. Anybody who wants to go let me know." Twenty-four hours later I was on a plane to Manila. I provided rudimentary primary care. I hope I helped some people, but I wasn't doing any huge life-saving acts. I was treating diabetes and blood pressure because by the time we got there the victims had been locked away with the roads completely impassable for about a week by the time we got there. The devastation was unbelievable. It really had a profound impact on me, and it put everything in perspective.