



## Make plans to attend! TML District Meetings slated for Nov., early Dec.

<b>District 1</b>	<b>November 17</b>	<b>Johnson City</b>
	8:45 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Millennium Center
<b>District 2</b>	<b>November 18</b>	<b>Maryville</b>
	9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	City Hall
<b>District 3</b>	<b>November 19</b>	<b>Cleveland</b>
	10 a.m. - 12 noon	Museum Center
<b>District 4</b>	<b>November 10</b>	<b>Sparta</b>
	10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Oldham Theater
<b>District 5</b>	<b>November 13</b>	<b>Lafayette</b>
	10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	City Hall
<b>District 6</b>	<b>November 12</b>	<b>Spring Hill</b>
	10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Fire Station No. 2
<b>District 7</b>	<b>December 3</b>	<b>Henderson</b>
	10 a.m. - 12 noon	City Hall
<b>District 8</b>	<b>December 2</b>	<b>Bartlett</b>
	TBA	

Please mark the date on your calendar and be sure to RSVP to attend the district meeting in your area.



## Nashville to host 4,000+ municipal officials for NLC Conference Nov. 4-7

BY CAROLYN COLEMAN  
*National League of Cities*

A robust line-up of speakers and sessions that feature inspiring keynote addresses, skill-building seminars, innovate learning approaches, mobile workshops, and great opportunities to network with colleagues from across the country are in store for the thousands of city leaders who will descend upon Nashville Nov. 4 - 7 to attend NLC's Congress of Cities conference.

In addition to those sessions, important governance activities that

involve NLC members will also take place at the conference.

During the conference's Annual Business Meeting on Nov. 7, the entire NLC membership, including the State Municipal Leagues, will consider changes to NLC's National Municipal Policy (NMP).

The NMP is NLC's comprehensive policy platform on federal issues directly affecting or of concern to cities and towns. It serves as the foundation for NLC's federal advocacy efforts on behalf of the nation's cities and towns and is subject to an annual review by the NLC membership

during the Congress of Cities. As the foundation for NLC's advocacy efforts, a relevant and robust NMP is essential to the League's effectiveness on your behalf on Capitol Hill.

Over the course of this year, your colleagues who serve on NLC's Policy and Advocacy Steering Committees have been hard at work reviewing the NMP and developing recommendations for changes where needed.

To review the proposed changes, you can view them by clicking here, <http://www.nlc.org/influence-federal-policy/proposed-resolutions>.

## New ECD funds available for Rural Development grants

The state is investing \$8 million in a new Rural Economic Development Fund to build capacity for transformative economic development strategies in rural Tennessee.

The fund will provide an initial \$6 million for site development grants in communities across the state as part of efforts to help these sites achieve "shovel-ready" status as part of the state's Select Tennessee Site Certification program.

The initiative will also fund \$1 million for the enhancement of tourism sites in rural communities and \$600,000 for additional ThreeStar community grants, including a Main Street Business Incubator Program for downtown business districts.

TNECD announced a renewed focus on rural development, with ECD Commissioner Randy Boyd appointing Amy Blaylock New as the department's first assistant commissioner for rural development. TNECD also organized a statewide Rural Development Task Force, and last month the department launched a new marketing campaign for the Memphis Regional Megasite, a state-owned 4,100-acre industrial site in rural West Tennessee.

The Rural Economic Development Fund will also provide \$250,000 in funding for a statewide survey of broadband capacity in rural Tennessee – a direct result of feedback from rural community leaders.

The Rural Economic Development Fund includes:

- \$6 million Select TN Site Development Grants
- \$1 million Tourism-Based Economic Enhancement Program
- \$300,000 Main Street Incubator Grants
- \$250,000 ThreeStar Community Enhancement Awards
- \$250,000 Statewide Broadband Supply/Demand Analysis
- \$100,000 ThreeStar Asset Based Planning Assistance

• \$75,000 AgLaunch in cooperation with Launch Tennessee  
Funding for the new grant programs comes from one-time revenues in the department's current budget.

Community leaders in rural Tennessee will receive information from their regional offices and TNECD on the application process for the new programs in the coming months.

## New anti-theft technology helping Alcoa Police Department and others across the nation track and return stolen property

BY KATE COIL  
*TML Communications Specialist*

The Alcoa Police Department has become the first in the state to utilize new Anti-Theft Dots, a special type of label or sticker that marks property so it can be more easily tracked if stolen. Alcoa Police Sgt. Kris Sanders said the department debuted the new technology to the public at their recent National Night Out event.

"We purchased 500 of these labels, which are assigned to our police department," Sanders said. "Each label has a unique number on it, which is where the DNA comes in. You take that label, log on to the company's website or their mobile app, and then register the label. Each label has to be registered individually. When you register that label, it redirects you to a webpage made for our department."

When property owners register their items, they can upload pictures, record serial numbers, and make and model numbers to help make the item more easily identifiable if it is stolen. Sanders said residents have put the dots on everything from vehicles to lawn mowers, computers, jewelry, cell phones, electronics and bicycles.

Shawn Andreas, the owner of Cop Dots DNA who manufactures the Anti-Theft Dots, works with police departments across the country to create programs and technology to help the community. The Anti-Theft Dots are a way to combine an emerging technology with property theft prevention efforts.

"Our philosophy is to get residents to mark their property," Andreas said. "We used to encourage people to engrave their property, write down the serial numbers and store it in a safe place, but nobody did that. It was too inconvenient. We discovered the microdot technology and integrated it into a program that helps people protect their items."

The database where items can be registered is accessible by departments across the country. Departments using the technology can scan stolen items to help return them to their owners, no matter how far away.

As the idea of Anti-Theft Dots catches on, the hope is they will discourage property theft, Sanders said.

"It is meant to act as a deterrent," he said. "If you have an alarm system on your home, a lot of times you have a placard or sign in the yard saying the home is protected. In a way, this is what these Anti-Theft Dots or stick-



New anti-theft microdots and adhesive can be detected on stolen property by using special black lights. Officers can then use the microdot code to return the items to their owners.

ers do for your personal property."

However, if thieves are not deterred, the dots offer police a unique way to track stolen items.

"If a thief steals the object, he may think, 'Well, I'm going to outsmart these people and pull the label off,'" Sanders said. "When he peels the label off, the adhesive is left behind. In the adhesive there are numerous microdots that are about the size of a grain of sand. When hit

with a black light, the adhesive will fluoresce. The microdot contains a unique number that connects back to the unique label."

Law enforcement can then take the unique number, enter it into the database and connect it back to the original owner of the property.

"One of the biggest issues we have in law enforcement is returning recovered property back to its right-  
*See ALCOA on Page 7*

## Tennessee needs at least \$42.3 billion in public infrastructure improvements

Tennessee needs at least \$42.3 billion in public infrastructure improvements during the five-year period of 2013-2018, according to a new report by the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR).

The need for public infrastructure improvements as reported by state and local officials is up \$4.1 billion (10.7 percent) compared with the year before, mainly because bridges with remedial needs exceeding \$50,000 are now treated as immediate needs, consistent with all other project types in the inventory regardless of when funds will be available to repair or upgrade them.

Without those bridge projects, the total cost would have increased by only \$369 million (1.0 percent).

Costs for current infrastructure needs fall into six general categories:

- Transportation and Utilities: \$25.9 billion
- Education: \$8.5 billion
- Health, Safety, and Welfare: \$5.0 billion
- Recreation and Culture: \$1.7 billion
- General Government: \$721 million
- Economic Development: \$508 million

Transportation and Utilities is the single largest category (\$25.9

billion) and increased the most in overall cost (\$4.2 billion), mainly because of the addition of \$3.7 billion for the bridges described above. Without these bridges, the infrastructure needed in this category would have increased only \$481 million. Transportation alone, at \$25.7 billion, accounts for nearly all of this category and all but \$5.7 million of the increase. At 61 percent of the estimated costs for all infrastructure improvements, transportation by itself dwarfs all other types of infrastructure needs.

Aside from these bridges, new transportation projects in the  
*See TACIR on Page 4*

### Transportation Coalition



**FACT:** Over the next five years, more than \$25.9 billion will be needed to make infrastructure improvements to Tennessee's transportation system.

Source: TACIR's *Building Tennessee's Tomorrow Infrastructure Needs Inventory July 2013 through June 2018*

# NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



## ALCOA

Advanced Munitions International (AMI) has announced it will build a new global headquarters and state-of-the-art munitions manufacturing facility at Alcoa's Partnership Park. The company will invest \$553 million in a new campus for its manufacturing, distribution, and research and development operations as well as create 605 new jobs in the area. AMI produced high-end ammunition manufacturing, particularly is HPR Ammunition brand, a specially formulated ammunition that employs proprietary technology. The company supplies ammunition to the military, law enforcement, and civilian markets. Their Alcoa plant will hire primarily chemists and engineers with backgrounds in metallurgy, engineering, physics, and energetics technology. The company expects to break ground on the 235-acre site this spring and to open in the fourth quarter of 2018.

## ASHLAND CITY

The Ashland City Police Department has received accreditation status from the Tennessee Law Enforcement Accreditation (TLEA) Program, which was presented to the department during the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police (TACP) meeting in Nashville on Oct. 1. To achieve accreditation, departments must voluntarily undergo a process of enhancing a variety of aspects within their agency including organizational, operational, safety, and budget management practices. The Ashland City Police Department met requirements for accreditation in professionalism, organizational practices, and overall readiness in law enforcement policy and procedures.

## CLINTON

Dura-Line has announced the company will open a new manufacturing facility and research and development center in Clinton. The communication and energy infrastructure manufacturer will invest over \$25 million and create 70 new jobs, including engineering, research and development and manufacturing positions. The 86,800 square foot Clinton facility will function as an R&D center for new techniques for making high-density polyethylene (HDPE) conduit products used by the telecommunications industry to house fiber optic cable. Dura-Line will conduct research and development that will help the company grow its business worldwide and will also manufacture select high technology products at the Clinton location. Dura-Line's headquarters have been in Knoxville since 1982.

## DAYTON

The city of Dayton has received \$449,496 in federal funding to help improve its sewer system. The Community Development Block grant was allocated to the city under a procedure authorized by the Tennessee General Assembly and state economic and community development officials, who administer the program. The grant will assist in sewer and water projects designed

to improve public health as well as improve local infrastructure for economic development.

## GALLATIN

Craft beers and wine may soon be on the menu of the Starbucks in Gallatin after city leadership approved a beer permit for the business. The Seattle-based coffee chain is in the early stages of implementing its new "Evenings" menu, which provides a small plate of food offerings, wines, and craft beers to customers. The company announced in 2010 it would begin offering these items in a handful of stores only after 4 p.m. when sales start to slow down. Gallatin would be the first Tennessee location to start offering the evening options.

## JOHNSON CITY

Allied Dispatch Solutions will be significantly expanding its Johnson City operations, creating 481 new jobs and investing \$4.8 million to expand its current facility on Borla Drive. The building in downtown Johnson City will become the company's headquarters and will house 75 employees, including executive staff. Allied Dispatch Solutions will become one of the nation's largest roadside services company by the end of 2015, and their expansion is one of the largest in Carter County history.

## KNOXVILLE

Regal Entertainment Group will be locating its new corporate headquarters on Knoxville's South Waterfront and is expecting to create 75 jobs in the area. Regal operates one of the largest and most geographically diverse U.S. theater circuits, and the new headquarters will occupy a nine-story, 178,000-square-foot building at the east end of the former site of Baptist Hospital along Knoxville's rapidly redeveloping South Waterfront. The former Baptist Hospital closed in 2008, and the 23-acre site sat mostly vacant until Southeastern Development Associates (SEDA), formerly known as Blanchard & Calhoun Commercial Inc., purchased the property in 2013. Regal Entertainment Group operates 571 theaters in 42 states along with Guam and American Samoa.

## LOUDON

The Loudon City Council, in conjunction with the Loudon County government, has voted to grant PILOT incentives to two businesses looking to locate in the area. A year-long plan was approved for delivery van maker Morgan Olson, which is set to invest \$45 million to occupy the John Deere building at Matlock Industrial Park. The company anticipates to hire between 400 and 500 workers over the next three years. The company will receive a 10-year tax break with an annual lease payment of \$122,832. The PILOT would begin in January and continue through December 2025. Additionally, a 5-year PILOT was approved for Van Hoose, Co., a maker of concrete fixtures, in exchange for the company investing \$12 million and creating 50 or more jobs in the area.

## MT. JULIET

A new lighting and landscaping project has been designed to enhance safety for motorists traveling into Mt. Juliet via Exit 225 off Interstate 40. The project will add 12 new poles with LED lights. Construction and preliminary engineering for the project cost about \$718,000 and was financed through the state's interchange lighting program. The program allows for a 50-50 split of costs between the state and cities. More than 40 crashes have occurred on this ramp in the past year, many the result of stormwater issues identified by The Tennessee Department of Transportation. Work is being scheduled to eliminate these weather-related issues.

## MURFREESBORO

The city of Murfreesboro has become the first in the state to secure the proper FAA certification to allow drones to be flown in a public park by city officials. The FAA has given permission to city officials to fly drone training missions over Barfield Crescent Park, though there is a long list of restrictions required on drone aircraft to prevent the violation of civil rights and liberties. The city is hoping to use unmanned aerial vehicles, or UAVs, to survey land, inspect water towers, and provide aerial views while investigating traffic accidents.

## NASHVILLE

Intermedix Corporation officials announced the company is locating new operations in Nashville, creating 116 new jobs in the area. A provider of analytics and technology-enabled solutions for global health and safety, Intermedix will invest in an innovation lab and executive offices in Fifth Third Center. The establishment of the innovation lab will focus on furthering the company's analytics capabilities by leveraging big data technologies to provide statistical models and predictive analytics. The company supports approximately 15,000 health care providers with comprehensive business and revenue cycle management services and connects more than 95 percent of the U.S. population and customers in 16 countries.

## SPRINGFIELD

The Springfield Police Department has reported a decrease in crime after implementing a new violent crime initiative. The new enforcement plan targets repeat offenders and known gang members, provides more protection for victims and witnesses, and increases enforcement efforts. As a result, overall crime is down about 22 percent with aggravated assaults down 31 percent and arrests increasing by 10 percent. Additionally, thefts, vandalism and burglaries are down about 45 percent. The increased enforcement is in response to several armed robbery cases reported earlier this year. Continued enforcement efforts will involve more attention to domestic violence, working with community leaders in problem areas and developing community-based programs.

## Morristown wins ICMA award



The city of Morristown received an award from the Voice of the People for its transformation in mobility. The Voice of the People awards are given to areas that best listen and act to improve their communities based on citizens' responses to the National Citizen Survey. The award was presented to Morristown City Administrator Tony Cox at the International City Manager's Association (ICMA) Conference in Seattle, Wash. The city made efforts to improve mobility for citizens by creating a traffic team to respond more quickly to traffic and mobility concerns, improved the skywalk system to make more downtown areas ADA compliant, emphasize sidewalk and greenway development and repairs, and working to improve snow removal, street cleaning, and street lighting.

## Fairview celebrates new library addition



The Fairview Public Library officially cut the ribbon last Thursday afternoon on the branch's new meeting room, marking the first major improvement since the library opened its doors in 1990. The new meeting room adds 800 square feet of space to the facility, bringing the Fairview Library's total square footage to 4,650. In April 2014, the Fairview City Commission approved a request from Williamson County to jointly fund the project for a new meeting room.

## NerdWallet ranks best Tennessee cities for millennials to live, work

NerdWallet analyzed Tennessee cities' attractiveness to those age 18 to 33 (Millennials) based upon job availability and pay, rental rates, and how many other millennials live there.

- 1. Oak Ridge.** With its government labs, military research facilities and four industrial parks, Oak Ridge has more and better paying jobs.
- 2. Nashville.** More than 27 percent of its population is Millennials, and job growth in Nashville is leading the state.
- 3. Franklin.** The city has the lowest jobless rate and the highest income in Tennessee.
- 4. Bristol.** City has the lowest rents at a median of \$600 and major employers like Eastman Chemical.
- 5. Knoxville.** The home of the University of Tennessee, TVA and Regal Entertainment Group, it has one of the highest percentage of Millennials — 29 percent — of any city.
- 6. Goodlettsville.** The city is close to Nashville International Airport,

downtown Nashville and a major retail-shopping district.

- 7. La Vergne.** About 1 in 5 residents are Millennials. Employers include Ingram Content Group and Bridgestone Firestone. The city also provides a suburban lifestyle with access to Nashville's jobs and amenities.
- 8. Memphis.** Nearly a quarter of the population are Millennials with its biggest employers in health care, government and education.
- 9. Murfreesboro.** With a population that consists of 31 percent Millennials, Murfreesboro has the largest percentage of young adult residents of any cities on the list. Some of the biggest employers are in industries such as government, schools, housing, retail and medical services.
- 10. Smyrna.** 1 in 5 residents are millennials and the town has one of the lowest unemployment rates on our list at 7.6 percent. Employers include Nissan North America, Asurion, and Stoncrest Medical Center.

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

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

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

Contact Wayne Sellars:

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

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## STATE BRIEFS



### Completion of a new statewide radio communications system

Department of Safety and Homeland Security announced the completion of a new statewide radio communications system that will enhance the safety of the public and state troopers and increase efficiency between public safety agencies. The statewide radio system, replaces a system that was nearly 40 years old. The new interoperable radio system provides enhanced communications between state troopers and dispatchers as well as the THP and partnering public safety agencies. At the request of Gov. Bill Haslam, the General Assembly appropriated a total of \$120 million for the new radio system. The original partners with the THP for the new system were the Department of Correction and the Tennessee Valley Regional Communications System in the Chattanooga area. Other partners now include Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA), Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), Sullivan County, and the cities of Smyrna and Johnson City. The Department of Transportation (TDOT) has purchased the equipment and will soon join the system. In addition to the current partners, the Department of Safety and Homeland Security encourages other agencies or jurisdictions to become members of the statewide interoperable radio communications system to even further enhance public safety in Tennessee.

### U.S. Chamber ranks Tennessee seventh in transportation and trade

Tennessee has been ranked seventh for transportation and trade out of all 50 states in the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Enterprising States: States Innovate study. The survey ranked states on factors including economic performance, transportation and trade, innovation and entrepreneurship, business climate, talent pipelines, and high-tech performance. Tennessee ranked fourth overall in road quality, eighth in state fiscal condition and 11th in export intensity, contributing to its top transportation and trade score. Additionally, the state ranked 12th for factors including higher-ed efficiency, high-tech job growth; 13th for bridge quality, academic research and development growth, legal environment, and cost of living; 15th in business tax climate, 16th in short-term job growth; 18th in export growth; and 25th in long-term job growth, U.S. business pol-

## Tennessee Brownfield grants for your communities now available

A brownfield property is any abandoned, idled, under-utilized, or other property whose reuse, growth, enhancement or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived adverse environmental conditions including hazardous substances, solid waste, or any other pollutant. Handled appropriately, brownfields have the opportunity to become valuable community assets.

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation plays an important role in leading brownfield programming and providing resources to Tennessee communities. Their efforts support the continued environmental and economic strength of communities across Tennessee by providing high quality technical assistance and liability protection to those engaged in the acquisition or revitalization of a brownfield property.

### Why is brownfield redevelopment important?

Communities across Tennessee have property like abandoned gas stations, dry cleaners, or former industrial facilities that can be transformed into productive commercial and/or residential reuses, vibrant recreational areas, or other needed

## TML requests E-mail addresses

The quickest way to keep city officials apprised of legislative happenings is through e-mail. With so many recent municipal elections, TML has been working to update its elected officials and city staff contact information. Send your updates to Mona Lawrence, by fax at 615-255-4752, by e-mail to [mlawrence@TML1.org](mailto:mlawrence@TML1.org), or call 615-255-6416.

icy index and college affordability. Even though the state ranked lower in college affordability, the survey did point out the new Drive to 55 Alliance, which is attempting to improve workforce skills and increase economic competitiveness by making sure at least 55 percent of students have a college degree or certification by 2025. The survey also credited the state's Launch Tennessee program, network of business accelerators and Office of Small Business Advocate with helping entrepreneurs and businesses across the state. For the last six years, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has been ranking states as the country faces a growing crisis of gaps in workforce skills and challenges in an economy that focuses more on science, technology, engineering and math. North Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington and Colorado were ranked among the best performing states across the country.

### No significant growth in students' test scores

Tennessee students held the line this year on the national test often called the "nation's report card," registering little to no change in math and reading scores. In 2013, Tennessee was one of the "bright spots" in the National Assessment of Educational Progress, posting big gains among fourth- and eighth-graders in both math and reading over 2011 scores. But Tennessee students' scores in 2015 barely registered a point change on the test in math and reading in both grades. Tennessee student scores in the subjects sit just above or below the national averages on the test. Tennessee fourth- and eighth-graders in about 200 schools took the national math and reading test this year, which is administered every two years. All 50 states participate in the National Center for Education Statistics' test. Despite the most recent data showing no significant growth in students' test scores, Gov. Bill Haslam says there is still reason to celebrate. "We're distinguishing ourselves as one of the states to watch when it comes to education results." Haslam said the state is still outpacing other states for education growth over the last four years. State Education Commissioner Candice McQueen also pointed out that in three out of the four areas, Tennessee has increased in the rankings and that Tennessee students "jumped" over 12 other states in fourth-grade reading to claim the spot as 25th in the nation in that category.

amenities. Brownfield redevelopment transforms blighted properties into sustainable, productive reuses that:

- Use government resources to leverage private investments to meet the combined needs of the community and the marketplace
- Reduce urban sprawl by eliminating barriers to brownfield redevelopment
- Rejuvenating neighborhoods and reducing blight
- Ensuring reuse of existing infrastructure
- Increase local tax bases and property values
- Link economic revitalization with environmental protection

For information on TDEC's program, please visit the Voluntary Programs website or contact Evan W. Spann at [evan.w.spann@tn.gov](mailto:evan.w.spann@tn.gov).

For information on national brownfield grant opportunities and resources please visit the Center of Creative Land Recycling's website or the EPA's Brownfield Grant funding website.



Jason Mumpower, chief of staff with Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury, House Speaker Beth Harwell, Gov. Bill Haslam and State Comptroller Justin Wilson were among the group of state officials who traveled to New York City to meet with bond rating agencies. Touting the state's sound fiscal condition, the Administration is hoping Tennessee will maintain its triple-A bond rating.

## State officials meet with bond-rating agencies

State officials met with New York bond rating agencies in October in hopes of keeping Tennessee's triple-A bond rating ahead of new bonds being issued.

Gov. Bill Haslam, State Comptroller Justin Wilson, State Treasurer David Lillard, Secretary of State Tre Hargett, House Speaker Beth Harwell and Finance Commissioner Larry Martin made the presentations Oct. 8 and 9.

The group promoted the long-term growth patterns showing the

state's sustainability, rising employment rates, increasing per capita incomes, entrepreneurship and new educational opportunities. Tennessee has one of the lowest percentages of personal income taxes in the Southeast and is ranked No. 12 in the U.S. for in nonfarm employment growth between June 2009 and August of this year, higher than any of the surrounding states.

Officials also touted Tennessee's \$568 million Rainy Day Fund, TennCare's \$307 million reserve

and \$900 million in other reserves totaling \$1.81 billion and equal 11.7 percent of state appropriations and 5.3 percent of total appropriations.

The Rainy Day reserve fund has doubled since its fiscal 2011 low point and now equals 4.5 percent of general fund revenue. Additionally, the state's pension plan has a combined funded ratio of 98.87 percent. The state's unfunded liability for "other post-employment benefits" has fallen by \$480 million over the last five years.

## September state revenues up by \$113M

Tennessee's revenue collections exceeded budgeted estimates for the second month of the state's fiscal year. Finance and Administration Commissioner Larry Martin reported that overall September's revenues were \$1.2 billion, which is \$82.2 million more than September 2014 collections and \$113.4 million more than the budgeted estimate. The growth rate for September was 7.14 percent.

"Sales tax collections reflecting August consumer activity show growing consumer confidence in our economy," Martin said. "While corporate tax collections posted positive double digit growth for the month we need to be cautious about the sustainability of our franchise and excise tax growth for the remainder of the year. "We're also watching national and global economic indicators with concern about economic uncertainty surrounding the European and Asian markets. As always, we need to continue to monitor revenue collections and manage our spending."

On an accrual basis, September is the second month in the 2015-2016

fiscal year.

For September, the general fund was over collected by \$106.2 million and the four other funds were over collected by \$7.2 million.

Sales tax collections were \$24.4 million more than the estimate for September. The September growth rate was positive 6.45 percent. Year-to-date collections are 7.36 percent above this time last year.

Franchise and excise taxes combined were \$70.9 million more than the September budgeted estimate of \$289.9 million. The September growth rate was positive 13.27 percent, and on a year-to-date basis is 5.52 percent

Gasoline and motor fuel collections for September increased by 4.16 percent and were \$4.5 million more than the budgeted estimate of \$72.3 million.

Tobacco tax collections for the month were over collected by \$2.4 million, and the growth rate was positive 6.38 percent.

Privilege tax collections were \$2.8 million more than the budgeted

estimate of \$20.5 million.

Business Tax collections were \$0.8 million above the budgeted estimate for September.

Inheritance and estate tax collections were \$4.6 million more than the budgeted estimate.

All other taxes were over collected by a net of \$3.0 million.

Year-to date collections for two months were \$132.5 million more than the budgeted estimate. The general fund was over collected by \$116.8 million and the four other funds that share in state tax revenues were over collected by \$15.7 million.

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

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

## TN Arts Commission now accepting applications for FY17 annual grants

The Tennessee Arts Commission is accepting applications for fiscal year 2017 Annual Grants through January 2016 for projects and activities that occur between July 1, 2016, and June 17, 2017. Competitive grant awards are announced in July 2016 after extensive paneled reviews. Nonprofit organizations, governmental organizations, professional individual artists, arts administrators and educators are eligible to apply.

Annual Grants provide funds for: a variety of arts education projects, such as professional development for teachers, arts education in

communities and programming for children in grades PK-12; operating support for well-established arts organizations; and project support in urban and rural counties.

In fiscal year 2016, the Commission awarded more than 300 Annual Grants, investing \$3.9 million in Tennessee communities to help fund arts and cultural activities for schools, local governments, nonprofits and artists.

"Each year, these grants help fund arts and cultural activities for more than 600 schools, local governments and nonprofit organizations in communities across all 95 counties,"

said Anne B. Pope, Executive Director of the Tennessee Arts Commission. "These investments help improve quality of life, drive economic development and tourism, and help provide a more balanced education for our children through the arts."

For more information about grant eligibility, contact associate director of grants Hal Partlow, [hal.partlow@tn.gov](mailto:hal.partlow@tn.gov), or visit [tnartscommission.org](http://tnartscommission.org).

The Tennessee Arts Commission is the state's arts agency whose mission is to cultivate the arts for the benefit of Tennesseans and their communities.

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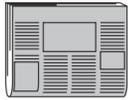
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Advertising: \$9.25 per column inch. No charge to TML members. Send advertising to: TT&C Classified Ads, Mona Lawrence, 226 Capitol Blvd. Suite 710, Nashville TN 37219; e-mail: mlawrence@TML1.org; or fax: 615-255-4752.

### CHIEF BUILDING OFFICIAL

**JOHNSON CITY.** The city is seeking a progressive, innovative and professional chief building official to lead the Code Division, including building inspections/permitting, plans review, and code enforcement, for the city for the future. The successful candidate should meet the following criteria: Possess a bachelor's degree from a college or university of recognized standing with major course work in structural engineering or architecture and extensive experience in the design, construction or inspection of building structure; possess substantive experience in municipal building inspection and related fields; have evidence of continued professional development by staying abreast of trends and advances in the building field; or possess any equivalent combination of experience and training which provides the required knowledge, skills and abilities. Knowledge, skills and abilities required of the position are found in the brochure at [www.mercergroupinc.com](http://www.mercergroupinc.com). Johnson City government operates as a home rule municipality and is governed by the city manager-commission form of government. The Board of Commissioners is the governing body of the city. The board hires a professional city manager to manage and direct the day-to-day operations of city government. The city is in excellent financial condition and is a stable governmental organization. The Code Division reports to the development services director. The current budget for

the Building Department is \$869,845 and there are 13 FTE employees. Starting annual salary market competitive DOQ/E; benefits provided; reasonable relocation expense negotiable. This position is open until filled. First review of candidates will occur on Nov. 20, 2015. Confidential resumes should be sent by close of business on Nov. 19, 2015, to James Mercer, The Mercer Group, 5579B Chamblee Dunwoody Road, #511, Atlanta, GA 30338. VOICE: 770-551-0403; FAX: 770-399-9749. E-Mail: jmercer@mercergroupinc.com; Website: www.mercergroupinc.com EOE

### CITY ATTORNEY

**MASON.** The town of Mason is seeking individuals interested in the position of city attorney. Applicants must have municipal experience. Please send resume to: Town of Mason, Attn: Gwendolyn Kilpatrick, Mayor, 12157 Main Street, Mason, Tennessee 38049

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

**BRISTOL.** The city of Bristol, Tenn., is currently accepting applications for director of community development. Salary range is \$61,825 - \$95,175 DOQ, plus excellent benefits. Position answers to the city manager. Must be a proven manager with excellent communication and team-building skills. Responsible for all community development functions including planning, zoning, CDBG and other grant programs, code enforcement, GIS, and all departmental operations such as budgeting, policy development and goals development. Demonstrated success working with citizens, boards, businesses, etc. At least 6 years' experience in community development, 2 of which must be in a supervisory role. Master's degree in related field required. Go here to view the Po-

sition Profile: [http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu/web2012.nsf/CityAdminWeb/994D-233D57C243D785257E9E00471426/\\$FILE/Bristol+Director+of+Community+Development+profile+2015.pdf](http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu/web2012.nsf/CityAdminWeb/994D-233D57C243D785257E9E00471426/$FILE/Bristol+Director+of+Community+Development+profile+2015.pdf). Send confidential resume and application to City of Bristol Human Resources Department, P.O. Box 1189, Bristol, TN 37620. Phone: (423) 989-5501. Or email resume to: resume@bristoltn.org. Position open until filled. See website to download application and review a summary of benefits: www.bristoltn.org. EOE.

### FIRE CHIEF

**GALLATIN.** The city of Gallatin is seeking qualified applicants for the position of fire chief. Current salary range is \$85,651-\$129,038 with excellent benefits. Reporting to the mayor, and responsible to the city council, the chief plans, programs, directs, and evaluates the operation of the department. 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. 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. For a more detailed description and to apply, please visit our website at [www.gallatinonthemove.com](http://www.gallatinonthemove.com) and click on the employment tab at the top. Please submit a cover letter and resume with your online application. EOE.

### HUMAN RESOURCES TECHNICIAN

**COLLIERVILLE.** This is specialized and complex office work assisting the administrative staff in the Human Resources Department. Requires an associate degree in business administration, public administration, H.R. or related; supplemented by 1 year of experience in employee program administration which may include benefit administration or related areas, or any equivalent combination of education, training and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Must have excellent computer skills and be proficient in word-processing and spreadsheet software. Two years' experience in personnel/benefits highly desired with special emphasis in insurance (i.e. claims, filing, benefit coordination and administration). Salary is \$26,777.00 - \$33,282.00 annually (DOQ) with excellent benefits package. Applications and complete job descriptions are available at the Human Resources Office, 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN., 38017, Monday through Friday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The official application of the town of Collierville must be filled out and may be accompanied by a resume. Pursuant to Tennessee open records law, applications and resumes are subject to disclosure. Position will remain open until filled. EOE.

### STORMWATER MANAGER

**WHITE HOUSE.** The city of White House is currently accepting applications for the position of stormwater manager. This position is responsible for developing and maintaining the City's MS4 stormwater program. Under general supervision the employee is responsible for developing and managing the City's MS4 stormwater program. An employee in this class performs difficult professional work developing, administering, and implementing federal, state, and local stormwater requirements including developing and administering stormwater management plans, and developing and managing a public education and outreach program. Applications should be returned to the HR office located at 105 College Street or emailed to Human Resources at [dthomas@cityof-whitehouse.com](mailto:dthomas@cityof-whitehouse.com). Compensation Range: \$18.78 to \$22.88 per hour (\$39,062.40 to \$47,590.40 annually) DOE Application Deadline: Open Until Filled. EOE.

## NATIONAL BRIEFS

### Watts Bar Nuclear Plant first new plant in two decades

Nearly 43 years after construction began, the Unit 2 reactor at the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant got an operating license last month to become the first new American nuclear power plant added to the electric grid in nearly two decades. The staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said the TVA unit is ready to load nuclear fuel and begin power generation by the end of the year. The startup of a second reactor at Watts Bar, which comes 19 years after America's last new nuclear unit began power generation also at Watts Bar, cost TVA more than \$6 billion over four decades of starts and stops during its construction. Although the cost of the new unit will initially push up the average expense of TVA-generated power, TVA President Bill Johnson said Watts Bar Unit 2 should provide the agency clean and reliable power, potentially for the next 80 years. "This is a carbon-free, clean and reliable source of power, and its costs over time should remain fairly stable, even as other fuels and power sources become more expensive."

### U.S. student performance slumps on national exams

Fourth-graders and eighth-graders across the United States lost ground on the national mathematics tests, the first declines in scores since the federal government began administering the exams in 1990. Reading performance also was sobering: eighth-grade scores dropped, while

fourth-grade performance was stagnant compared with 2013, according to recently released results. And the tests again show large achievement gaps between the nation's white and minority students and as well as between poor and affluent children.

### Hackers are not stealing private data more often than they did a decade ago

Finally, some good news on the cybersecurity front. Despite what you might think, hackers are not stealing private data more often than they did a decade ago. That's the finding of research from the University of New Mexico Department of Computer Science, which suggests that while cybersecurity should remain a priority, cyberattacks are not growing unabated. The study published in the journal Workshop on the Economics of Information Security, "Hype and Heavy Tails: A Closer Look at Data Breaches," provides some reassuring news. This is especially true for entrepreneurs who are trying to protect sensitive information and bolster their customers' confidence that their data is safe in the hands of the businesses they patronize. The study does not, however, negate the importance of taking cybersecurity measures. The authors estimate there is a 98.2 percent chance that a single malicious security breach will compromise 5 million records within the next three years. The takeaway? Protect yourself, your business and your customers.

## Tennessee needs \$42.3 billion infrastructure improvements

*TACIR from Page 1*

inventory totaled \$2.4 billion, and hundreds of projects remaining in the inventory increased in cost by a total of \$1.1 billion. These increases were slightly offset by \$1.2 billion for projects completed since the last inventory, and \$942 million in cost reductions, of which \$171 million was caused by the Tennessee Department of Transportation's new Expedited Project Delivery program (EPD). Under the EPD program, TDOT evaluates projects and, where appropriate, recommends cost-effective modifications, such as intersection and lane modifications as well as safety improvements instead of building new roads or widening existing roads.

**Education** is the second largest (\$8.5 billion) and increased \$969 million (12.9 percent) mainly because the cost of improvements needed at the state's public college and university campuses increased \$654 million (16.7 percent) to \$4.6 billion. This inventory is the only source of statewide information on the condition of public school buildings and the cost to put them all in good or better condition. The estimated cost for improving the state's public school buildings has remained relatively flat since 2007 but increased \$290 million (8.1 percent) this year to \$3.8 billion, mainly because new schools and new renovation needs added to a growing backlog of unfinished school renovations. Asked about the overall condition of their school buildings, public school officials reported that 95 percent are in good or better condition.

**Health, Safety, and Welfare**, the third largest category, decreased \$556 million (10 percent) to \$5.0 billion. This decline resulted primarily from decreases in the need for improved law enforcement and water and wastewater infrastructure. Water and wastewater accounts for the largest portion of the Health, Safety, and Welfare category at \$3.4 billion; it decreased by \$217 million (6 percent) from last year. The Recreation and Culture category increased overall by \$35 million (2.1 percent) to \$1.7 billion because an increase in recreation infrastructure needs offset decreases in library, museum, and historic site improvements and community development needs.

**General Government** infrastructure improvements increased \$169 million (30.6 percent) to \$721 million. The combined estimated cost of both types of infrastructure types in the Economic Development category decreased \$727 million (58.8 percent) since the last inventory and now totals \$508 million.

In general, the more people a county has and the more its population grows, the more infrastructure it will need and, fortunately, the more wealth it will likely have to pay for those needs. The relationships among these factors are strong and well demonstrated by the variation reported for each Tennessee county although they are not perfectly aligned in any county. Some counties are able to meet their infrastructure needs more easily than others, some continue to report the same needs year after year, and even fast growing counties can find it difficult to meet their needs. And, relative to county population, counties with small populations need and complete just as much or more infrastructure than counties with large populations. Four counties—Davidson, Shelby, Williamson, and Rutherford—account for 39 percent (\$5.5 billion) of the needed \$14.1 billion in infrastructure improvements reported by local officials.

Local officials are confident in obtaining funding for only \$11.8 billion of the \$33.9 billion needed to meet local infrastructure improvement needs. These figures do not include needs at existing schools or those in state agencies' capital budget requests. Most of this funding, \$11.0 billion, is for improvements that are fully funded; another \$852 million is for improvements that are partially funded. That leaves another \$22.1 billion of improvements for which funding is not yet available.

The full report is available on TACIR's web site at <http://www.tn.gov/tacir/article/tacir-infra-2013-2018>. For more information, contact Dave Keiser, Project Manager, at [david.keiser@tn.gov](mailto:david.keiser@tn.gov) or 615.253.4237.

### TML Board of Directors meets Nov. 5

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Municipal League will meet in regular public session on Thursday, Nov. 5, 2015, at 10 a.m. in the TML Board Room on first floor of the 226 Capitol Boulevard Building, Nashville, Tenn., for the purpose of considering and transacting all business that may properly come before said board. If reasonably possible, an agenda will be available on Monday, Nov. 2, at the offices of the Tennessee Municipal League, 226 Capitol Blvd., Suite 710, Nashville. Additional information concerning the above may be obtained from Mona Lawrence at 615-255-6416.

### TMBF Board of Directors meets Nov. 5

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund will meet in regular public session on Thursday, Nov. 5, 2015, at 12 noon, local time, in the conference room of Suite 502 of the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund, 226 Capitol Blvd., Nashville, for the purpose of considering and transacting all business that may properly come before said Board. Some members of the TMBF Board of Directors may participate in such meeting by telephonic means, which will be audible to any member of the public attending such meeting. If reasonably possible, an agenda will be available on Monday, Nov. 2, in the offices of the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund, 226 Capitol Boulevard, Suite 502, Nashville, TN. Additional information concerning the above may be obtained from Mona Lawrence, 615-255-1561.



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Keynote Speaker:  
Dr. Debbye Turner Bell



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Tennessee Building Officials Assn.

Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police

TN Assn. Municipal Clerks & Records

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Tennessee Municipal Attorneys Assn.

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Tennessee Urban Forestry Council

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# What will GASB tax abatement disclosures mean for economic development groups?

BY ELLEN HARPEL

*Smart Incentives*

State and local governments will begin disclosing financial information about tax abatements under new guidance from the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). The requirements take effect for financial statements for periods beginning after Dec. 15, 2015.

Tax abatements are defined by GASB as agreements between one or more governments and an entity or individual that reduce the taxes the entity or individual would otherwise owe, and in which the business or individual promises to take a specific action that contributes to economic development or otherwise benefits the governments or their citizens.

**Why?**

Tax abatements can limit revenue-raising ability because a government has agreed not to collect taxes that it otherwise would be entitled to. GASB seeks "to make the financial impact of these transactions readily transparent," stating:

"Financial statement users need information about certain limitations on a government's ability to raise resources. This includes limitations on revenue-raising capacity resulting from government programs that use tax abatements to induce behavior by individuals and entities that is beneficial to the government or its citizens."

GASB is not directly concerned with the effect of tax abatements on economic development or community-level outcomes.

**What needs to be disclosed and what does not?**

Information that must be disclosed:

1. Brief descriptive information, including:
  - The tax being abated; authority under which abatements are provided
  - Eligibility criteria
  - Mechanism by which taxes are abated
  - Provisions for recapture, and
  - Types of commitments made by recipients
2. Dollar amount of taxes abated during the reporting period (accrual basis)
3. Other commitments made by a government (such as providing infrastructure)
4. Tax abatements entered into by other governments that reduce the reporting entity's tax revenues

**Information that does not need to be disclosed includes:**

1. Individual tax abatement agreements
2. Future amounts to be abated
3. Number of agreements entered into and effect during the reporting period (a change from the draft statement)
4. Information the government is legally prohibited from disclosing – but the general nature of the information omitted and the source of the legal prohibition must be provided

**Of interest to economic development organizations**

The guidance for disclosure is limited to tax abatements. It does not include all tax expenditures (only the subset that fit the definition) and it

does not include many other forms of assistance to businesses, such as grants, loans or transfers of capital assets.

The disclosure rules are not limited to tax abatements for business attraction. Tax incentives designed to support economic development objectives such as historic preservation, brownfield cleanup or housing construction are also covered if they meet the other criteria.

Disclosure does not depend on the existence of a written, legally enforceable agreement. Abatements must be disclosed even if the government's agreement to reduce the tax liability and the taxpayer's agreement to perform a "certain beneficial action" is implicit.

The disclosures will be useful for transparency purposes but not for compliance, evaluation and accountability. GASB explained, "(I)t was not an objective of the Statement to provide information needed to evaluate the effectiveness of tax abatement programs." Further, the Board noted that information on compliance may not be readily available for reporting purposes.

Challenges for economic developers will be 1) responding to financial reporting on tax abatements that lacks context on why incentives were provided and 2) telling a complete story about incentive use to demonstrate responsible use of those funds and to explain how they help achieve a community's economic development goals.

The full GASB statement can be here: [http://www.gasb.org/jsp/GASB/Document\\_C/GASBDocumentPage?cid=1176166283745&-acceptedDisclaimer=true](http://www.gasb.org/jsp/GASB/Document_C/GASBDocumentPage?cid=1176166283745&-acceptedDisclaimer=true).



## TENNESSEE FESTIVALS

**Nov. 13 – 14: Manchester**  
*Foothills Christmas Arts & Crafts Festival.*

30th Annual Arts & Crafts Festival sponsored by Foothills Crafts a non-profit art & crafts association. Free admission and free parking. 100 artists & craftsmen. 111 Hospitality Blvd. Exit 114 off I-24. For more information call (931) 728-9236.

**Nov. 13 – 15: Fayetteville**

*Annual Host of Christmas Past*  
Don't miss this three-day event full of music, entertainment, local vendors, activities, arts and crafts, kids zone and so much more. Main Street. For more information call (931) 433-1234.

**Nov. 14: Portland**

*42nd Annual Portland Harvest Craft Show & Sale*  
Held from 9am - 4pm, 303 Portland Blvd. Portland, TN 37148. There will be lots of vendors, door prizes given away and concessions available. For more information call (615) 325-6464.

**Nov. 20: Memphis**

*Annual Christmas lighting of Graceland*

Experience the magic of the holiday season when the holiday lights come alive for another year at Graceland in Memphis. Join special guests as they "flip the switch" and officially light the Graceland property and kick off the holiday festivities. There is a 100 percent chance of snow and Santa, decked out like the King of Rock 'n' Roll, will also be available for pictures with the kids following the lighting ceremony. Elvis Presley's Graceland, 3717 Elvis Presley Blvd. For more information call (901) 332-3322; Toll-free: (800) 238-2000.

**Nov. 27: Livingston**

*Christmas in the Country*  
Come experience carriage rides, singing, hot chocolate, shops all lit up in Christmas decor, and much more. Free admission, held from 5 to 8 p.m. on the Livingston Square, 100 East Court Square, Livingston, TN. For more information Email: [chamber@twlakes.net](mailto:chamber@twlakes.net) or phone: (931) 823-2218.

## UT-MTAS DECEMBER MAP CLASSES

### CMFO FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE UPDATES

This course will discuss the updates to the CMFO manuals which will include GASB updates, best practices, and new or amended state laws that will impact municipal finance and accounting functions.

**Target Audience: All CMFOs**

**Dates/Locations/Times:**

Dec. 3 Knoxville 8:30 a.m. – 12: 30 p.m. EST  
Dec. 3 Jackson 8:30 a.m. – 12: 30 p.m. CST  
Dec. 10 Franklin 8:30 a.m. – 12: 30 p.m. CST

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## No loan is too large or too small



The town of Livingston closed a loan through the TMBF loan program in the amount of \$1.1 million for a capital outlay note to finance parks and recreational facilities.



The city of Jackson closed a variable rate loan through the TMBF loan program in the amount of \$17.4 million to finance its three-year capital improvement plan.

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Known for abundant entertainment, history, dining and cultural attractions

## Nashville gaining acclaim as one of the top places in the world to visit

Nashville has arranged an outstanding lineup of spouse/guest tours for the National League of Cities 2015 NLC Congress, Nov. 4-7. You can choose from an array of tours that will provide a front-row experience for Nashville history, music, dining and cultural distinctions that can only be found in Music City.

Go straight to The Heart of Country with a guided tour of the world famous Ryman Auditorium. For those who love country music, walking into the Ryman is like walking on sacred ground. Explore the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, where permanent exhibits display a rich collection of costumes, memorabilia, instruments, photographs and manuscript. Follow the beat down to Music Row where chart-toppers and hit records have taken flight.

Witness the powerful history of the Civil Rights movement in Nashville, where in 1960, in the midst of a bustling downtown Nashville, the student non-violent organization was born from among the city's four black colleges.

Nashville's historical significance and impact goes beyond the music. Experience Tennessee as it was 150 years ago at The Hermitage, home of President Andrew Jackson. You will hear the tall tales of the man considered the first president of the "common man" and known to many as "Old Hickory."

Wet your whistle with the essential B's – we're talking Beer, Bourbon and Brews. Sip on slow-roasted coffee from Bongo Java, throw back a flight of beer from Nashville's original and most popular craft brewery, Yazoo Brewing, and taste small batch spirits from the inventive, award-winning Corsair Distillery. All are brewed, distilled and packaged right here in Nashville.

To learn more about these mobile workshops and register, visit <http://www.nlccongressofcities.org/spouse-and-guest-tours/today>.



Tourism draws in the Nashville area include antebellum estates, like Andrew Jackson's Hermitage (above), and country music landmarks including the Ryman Auditorium (right). Visitors to the region can enjoy a variety of tourism opportunities ranging from Southern-twists on culinary favorites to historic locations with ties to the Civil War and Civil Rights Movements to country music hotspots and festivals. The National League of Cities is providing several tours highlighting these important aspects of Nashville during the 2015 NLC Congress of Cities from Nov. 4-7 in Nashville.



NATIONAL LEAGUE of CITIES | 2015 CONGRESS of CITIES  
Nashville MUSIC CITY

Music City Center in downtown Nashville, TN | November 4-7, 2015 | [www.nlc.org/nashville](http://www.nlc.org/nashville)

## MEET US IN MUSIC CITY

Host City Nashville heads the list of best travel destinations, places to live, and cities attracting young people. See why this November at the annual Congress of Cities and Exposition, and discover how this city ran with its identity as a historic music center and developed a thriving creative economy.

Join over 2,500 mayors, council members, and city staff to experience Nashville's creativity for yourself at the largest national gathering for local leaders in America.

## Anti-theft technology helping Alcoa Police Department

ALCOA, from Page 1

ful owner," Sanders said. "I'm in the business, and I know I don't write down the serial number or document the make and model number. I daresay most people out there don't take the time to do that. Even if you tell me your item is an Apple MacBook, I may come across five Apple MacBooks. Even if you swear up and down one of those MacBooks is yours, I have no way of actually proving that it is yours. This is just a way for us to say, without a doubt, this is your property and get it back to you."

In addition to the stickers, the company also makes an adhesive that can be rolled onto smaller items. Andreas said it is the adhesive that provides the DNA-like element of the technology.

"Inside the adhesive is two components," he said. "There is a UV trace that fluoresces under a special black light, so law enforcement can see it on the property. The second is the micro dots themselves, which are suspended inside the adhesive. There are thousands of these little tiny micro dots, and each one has its own PIN number."

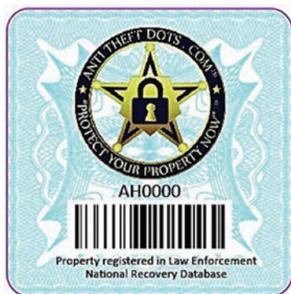
Once attached to an item, Andreas said the adhesive and micro dots are hard to remove.

"It is not easy to detect these dots," he said. "They don't just wipe off. You have to grind it off to get it off, which is time consuming. With thousands of tiny microdots, it's not easy to know if you've gotten them all."

In addition to private property, Andreas' company is also working with utilities and other companies to provide anti-theft adhesive for com-



Each microdot has a special code that can only be read by police with the right technology.



Stickers like this one can be placed on personal property. Even if the sticker is peeled off, the adhesive on the back stays to protect items.

monly targeted items, like copper wire.

Since the program was unveiled in Alcoa, the demand for the dots has only increased.

"I was really shocked at the response," Sanders said. "It has been overwhelming. We are focusing on the citizens within our jurisdiction first and then are working with the folks outside our jurisdiction. I have a pretty good list going now from people who want to learn more about this. We're in the process of setting up a community meeting so folks can learn more about it."

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# Keeping Smoky Mountains green year round with sustainable programs

BY THOMAS MCGILL

TDEC Office of Sustainable Practices

Sevierville and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park are greening the mountains of East Tennessee with a robust composting program, use of alternative fuel vehicles, and implementing sustainable development.

This year approximately 10 million people from around the world will visit the Smoky Mountains, and each year that number increases. As that number grows, Sevier County - including the towns of Sevierville, Pigeon Forge, and Gatlinburg, as well as the park itself - is meeting the growing challenge of reducing, reusing, and recycling through innovative sustainable solutions.

## Sevier County's trash composting program

Sevier Solid Waste, Inc. (SSI) operates a solid waste compost plant outside of Pigeon Forge that composts 60 percent of the county's municipal solid waste. The facility's composting program translates into a 60 percent decrease in the amount of trash that is landfilled locally.

This program is unique because it doesn't require people to separate their trash from recycling and organics, particularly significant in an area that sees as many tourists as Sevier County does. Tourists may not know county-specific recycling guidelines, and SSI's process ensures that they don't need to. All waste is transported to the plant as household garbage still in ordinary plastic garbage bags.

These bags of garbage are combined with some of the processed compost and placed in 185-foot long and 14-foot wide rotating composting drums, called aerobic digesters. Heat and air are blown into the drums to kill pathogens and begin the composting process. After processing through the rotating drums for three days, the material is screened and placed in windrows inside large covered buildings where the material is further composted for 28 days producing a finished compost.

SSI also is currently in the process of building a new recycling facility adjacent to the composting operation, where materials that are not composted will be separated for recycling.

"With our new recycling facility, we expect recycling and diversion rates to increase dramatically in Sevier County... [through] being able to pull out plastic, aluminum and [steel]," said Tom Leonard, SSI general manager.

The plant currently processes approximately 285 tons of garbage each week but has the capability of processing approximately 350 tons weekly, so SSI is prepared for future population growth and increases in tourism.

## Compost into energy

SSI is also planning for the future through a partnership with PHG Energy to construct a biomass gasification plant. The partnership will provide \$2.25 million for the project, in addition to \$250,000 in Clean Tennessee Energy Grant funding awarded by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.

The gasification plant will convert compost into thermal energy that will power the SSI facilities, while also produce a high-carbon bio char

that can be sold as fuel. The project should be completed by mid-2016 and based on U.S. Environmental Protection Agency calculations, will reduce the facilities' carbon footprint by more than 450 tons of carbon dioxide emissions.

## Great Smoky Mountains National Park sustainable improvements

### ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Just 30 minutes away from the SSI facility, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park is also working to reduce carbon dioxide emissions through use of alternatively-fueled and electric vehicles. A ribbon-cutting ceremony in late September recognized the Great Smoky Mountains National Park as the first national park to install electric vehicle supercharge stations. The recharge stations, located at the Sugarlands and Oconaluftee Visitor Centers, will provide a much faster charge of up to 50 miles of range per 10 minutes of charge using the DC Fast Charge setting. Other slower chargers take anywhere from 12 to 30 times as long to provide the same charge.

This project is part of the Clean Cities National Parks Initiative (CCNPI) which is a partnership between the United States Department of Energy's Clean Cities Program and the National Park Service. Nissan and East Tennessee Clean Fuels are also part of the partnership. The initiative implements transportation-related projects that educate park visitors on the benefits of cutting petroleum use and vehicle emissions by demonstrating the environmental benefits.

During the ribbon-cutting ceremony, a Nissan Leaf and a Tesla Model S were charged to demonstrate the simplicity and speed of the process. Great Smoky Mountains National Park Superintendent Cassius Cash foresees a promising future for the new charge stations - just a day before the official ribbon-cutting ceremony a family of tourists driving an electric Tesla recharged their car at one of the stations. Cash also commented on other current and planned sustainable projects:

"Great Smoky Mountains National Park is committed to reducing the carbon footprint of our operations as we incorporate sustainable practices throughout the Park from replacing windows with energy efficient window treatments to the installation of the first National Park Service public Fast Charge units for electric vehicles. We understand and embrace the responsibility of being leaders in this field of sustainability. I am pleased to share that we have more projects planned that will help us meet our goal of reducing transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent by 2020," said Cash.

The park also kicked off a new campaign to include visitors in some of the park's emission-reduction efforts at the ribbon-cutting.

Signs reading "Be Our Idol, Don't Idle" are being displayed around the park to remind and encourage visitors to turn their car engines off while photographing and admiring scenic mountain vistas, which improves visibility and decreases ozone pollution. An estimated pound of carbon dioxide is released to the atmosphere for every 10 minutes of car engine idle time - imagine that multiplied by the 10 million visitors that the park will get this year. That's a lot of carbon



Twin Creeks Science and Education Center LEED Gold certified building



Ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Supercharge station at one of the Park's visitor centers.



"Don't Idle" campaign sign

### ALTERNATIVE FUELS

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is also reducing emissions by implementing the use of biodiesel in all in-park vehicles whenever possible, and by converting lawn mowers to propane.

Superintendent Cash sees value in the use of alternatively-fueled vehicles: "As we move forward into our second century of service, we need to not only strive for meeting our goal of reducing transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions, but as an agency, we have to remain relevant to the needs of the next generation of automobile users. I hope that in my life time that we can take away the word 'alternative' as these types of vehicles become more main stream [and change the] way we think when purchasing a new vehicle."

### NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENTS

The park is also working to sustainably develop other parts of the Smokies. They have incorporated Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) into new construction, achieving LEED Gold certification for both the Oconaluftee Visitors Center and Twin Creeks Science and Education Center. LEED features include solar tubes that provide natural lighting, innovative reuse of native materials like rock from the site for water management, and recycled rubber



Sevier Solid Waste, Inc. composting facility aerial view

shingles for roofing material. These structures not only save materials and energy, but they are also an aesthetic man-made addition to an already beautiful natural environment.

With the heavy use seen by the park, some of its natural features also require sustainable upgrades. Trails Forever, a partnership between Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Friends of the Smokies, is currently reworking sections of the Chimneys and Alum Cave Bluff trails to help preserve the trail surface and natural environment by preventing erosion and ecologic destruction caused by stormwater runoff.

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is the only national park that does not charge an entrance fee because of an historical agreement with some of the landowners

that donated lands to help form the park. These historic landowners were invested in the park - literally and figuratively - and felt direct ownership. Pride and involvement in the park continues to this day and is supported and furthered through the present-day sustainable programs managed by both the county and the park itself. Working together, Sevier County and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park are keeping the mountains green.

**Editor's note:** Thomas McGill is an Environmental Specialist with TDEC's Office of Sustainable Practices. He attended the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga where he received a B.S. in Geology. Also, he is a Professional Geologist in Tennessee and Alabama.

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