



## TML Conference panelists address TN opioid crisis

June 10-13 in Murfreesboro; registration now open

We've all read about it and seen it on the news – the epic opioid crisis sweeping the nation with Tennessee one of the hardest hit states.

Nearly 5 percent of Tennesseans are addicted to opiates, and the state is second in the country in prescriptions per capita. Urban, highly populated counties such as Davidson, Shelby, and Knox were at the top of the list in total opioid-related overdoses. But the problem can be found in small, rural towns as well – pain and addiction know no boundaries.

A top-notch panel of experts in the field will help shed some light on the magnitude of the crisis in Tennessee and what can be done to address the problem.

Slated for Monday, June 12, at the TML Annual Conference in Murfreesboro, the special panel presentation will be facilitated by Knoxville Police Chief David Rausch. Chief Rausch, who has his own personal connection to the problem through his family members and his police force, helped establish a special task force in Knox County to target the drug dealers responsible for the overdoses.

On the panel is Dr. Stephen Loyd, medical director with the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse. Loyd, who is himself an addict in recovery, works to change people's perception about addiction by removing the stigma and shame so that people will seek treatment for

their problem.

Dr. Mitchell Mutter, medical director of special projects for the Tennessee Department of Health, is spearheading the state's pain management task force. He will discuss some key initiatives in Tennessee that have dramatically reduced the availability of prescription drugs and other harmful substances.

Karen Pershing, executive director with the Metro Drug Coalition in Knoxville, will discuss the role her organization plays by educating; advocating for treatment and prevention; and uniting policy makers and leaders to address community substance abuse issues.

This not to be missed panel presentation is only one of many special offerings at the TML Annual Conference.

Other highlights include a leadership forum made up of city officials from across the state and facilitated by Mark Funkhouser, publisher of *Governing Magazine*.

A veteran of three space shuttle flights, retired NASA Astronaut Rhea Seddon will serve as the keynote speaker on Monday, June 12.

Two special outings are being planned for Saturday, June 10, from 1 to 4 p.m. The Miracle Field at McKnight Park, a new facility specially designed for children with mental and physical disabilities, was developed through a private/public-partnership. Come See CONFERENCE on Page 6

## FCC proposes sweeping new restrictions on local land use authority

Cities urged to comment on proposed rules

BY ANGELINA PANETTIERI  
*National League of Cities*

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recently released drafts of proposed rules that, if finalized, could dramatically preempt local governments. The two proposed rules regarding wireline and wireless service, which are intended by the FCC to streamline and promote broadband deployment, suggest that local government requirements and practices are inhibiting the deployment of broadband internet, and should be preempted.

The proposals suggest a series of changes that could limit local government control over the rights-of-way, further limit local review of wireless facilities, hamper local government protection of consumers of copper landline phone services, and restrict local efforts to stop redlining by telecommunications providers.

The FCC will vote on whether to advance these proposed rules through the formal public commenting process at its April 20

open meeting. It is likely to do so, and the commenting period would begin after publication in the Federal Register. Commenting dockets have been opened for both proposed rules and interested cities are encouraged to submit feedback.

Cities can comment on the first proposed rule, "Accelerating Wireline Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment," using WC Docket 17-84. [http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily\\_Releases/Daily\\_Business/2017/db0330/DOC-344161A1.pdf](http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2017/db0330/DOC-344161A1.pdf)

Cities can comment on the second proposed rule, "Wireless Infrastructure NPRM," using WT Dockets 17-79 and 15-180. [http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily\\_Releases/Daily\\_Business/2017/db0330/DOC-344160A1.pdf](http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2017/db0330/DOC-344160A1.pdf)

NLC will continue to monitor this rulemaking and will comment on the proposals.

NLC, along with all of the nation's state municipal leagues, urged FCC not to preempt local authority to regulate or charge See FCC on Page 2

## IMPROVE Act passes both Chambers

Some differences in legislation need to be resolved

BY CAROLE GRAVES  
*TML Communications Director*

After a grueling four hour session on the floor April 19, the House passed Gov. Bill Haslam's IMPROVE Act through a bi-partisan vote of 60-37. That same day, the Senate took up the measure and approved it 25-6, also in a bi-partisan effort.

The legislation paves the way for a tax increase of 6 cents on gasoline and a 10 cents per gallon increase on diesel fuel to be phased in over the next three years. The measure marks the first state gas tax rate increase in 28 years.

The legislation also includes several fee increases, including a \$5 car registration increase and a \$100 fee on electric car users.

The increases are estimated to bring in an additional \$384 million per year for the state's road fund to help address the \$10 billion in backlogged projects.

Haslam's proposed transportation plan includes 962 projects in all 95 counties in the state.

The state's share of the total increases is estimated to be \$245 million annually. Counties would receive \$70 million annually and cities would get \$35 million.

Also included in the Act is a provision for the state's largest counties and its four largest cities to impose, through a referendum, a capped surcharge on taxes they already collect to be dedicated to transit projects.

However, the legislation also features several tax cuts including a decrease on sales tax on grocery food sales, taking it down from 5 to 4 percent. The reduction is estimated to decrease state revenues by \$125 million and city revenues by \$5.7 million annually.

Other tax cuts include reducing the franchise and excise tax on manufacturers (\$113 million reduction) and the continued phase

out of the Hall Income Tax – a tax imposed on stock dividends and interest on bonds.

Currently at a rate of 5 percent, the IMPROVE Act cuts the Hall 1 percent this year with a commitment to cut it another 1 percent over the next two years – for a total of 3 percent. Last year, the General Assembly reduced the Hall Income Tax rate from 6 percent to 5 percent and established the legislative intent to totally eliminate the tax by 2022.

At press time, differences between the House and the Senate approved legislation still remain. The Senate's version contains a provision that provides tax relief for eligible veterans and the elderly. The House's version contains no such provisions and will need to be amended in order for the legislation to pass.

To see a complete list of proposed statewide transportation projects, go to <https://www.tdot.tn.gov/projectneeds/spot/#/>

## Police body camera bill takes steps to ease privacy protection concerns

BY KATE COIL  
*TML Communications Specialist*

A new bill before Gov. Bill Haslam would exempt some of the footage captured on police body cameras from being entered into the public record to protect the privacy of certain individuals.

Sen. Jack Johnson, R-Franklin, sponsored Senate Bill 442, which exempts police body camera video taken of interaction of minors or within hospitals, mental health facilities, or a home where no crime has occurred from being a matter of public record. The bill's companion piece, House Bill 732, was carried by Rep. Sam Whitson, R-Franklin.

The bill further states that the public cannot be denied access to a video because a certain section of it has confidential information, stating that such information must first be redacted before the video is made available. Whitson and Johnson worked with the Tennessee Press Association, Tennessee Coalition for Open Government,



A bill awaiting signature from Gov. Bill Haslam aims to protect the privacy of innocent citizens captured on police body cameras while allowing for matters of public record captured to be made available.

and law enforcement agencies across the state to craft the bill.

Brentwood Police Chief and Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police President Jeff Hughes said TACP signed off on the legislation because it gives departments direc-

tion on the issue.

"This is something that might otherwise be a gray area and something that might otherwise inundate us with public records requests," he said. "However, if See CAMERAS on Page 5

## Complete Streets Coalition partners with TN cities to promote street designs for all

BY KATE COIL

Three Tennessee metro areas have jointly won a competitive national award aimed at making transportation and local streets more livable and equitable.

Smart Growth America and its National Complete Streets Coalition announced a partnership of Knoxville, Chattanooga, and Nashville – along with their respective Metropolitan Planning Organizations – as the winners of the organization's first-ever Complete Streets Consortium technical workshop series. The three entities applied for and won the award collaboratively, and will together receive a set of three free technical assistance workshops.

John Robert Smith, senior policy advisor at Smart Growth America, said the goal of the workshops are to help the region build a connected network of streets that are safe for everyone, no matter how they travel.

"This award is a testament to the hard work that's already happening in these communities," Smith said. "Our program was very competitive and each of our winners should be very proud to be included. We're excited to help them continue on to the next stage of this work."

Each of the winning entities will host one of the three workshops, which will take place over the course of the next few months. They will be tailored to the region's specific opportunities and



Chattanooga, Knoxville and Nashville along with their individual MPOs won the first-ever Complete Streets Consortium technical workshop series offered by Smart Growth America.

challenges to Complete Streets implementation. They will be designed to enhance relationships between Knoxville, Chattanooga, and Nashville, as well as those with state agencies.

Emiko Atherton, director of Smart Growth America's National Complete Streets Coalition, said fulfilling a region's transportation needs are essential to building successful communities.

"A region can't thrive if some people are struggling just to get to the grocery store," Atherton said. "A lot of times, overcoming that challenge takes regional cooperation. This workshop series is the

first time we've brought together multiple entities to collaborate on Complete Streets. We're really excited to see what they can accomplish together."

The series of workshops will provide participants with tools and strategies to implement Complete Streets that advance economic, health, and community vibrancy goals. Discussions will focus on how to create a safe and inviting transportation network for everyone in the community, including bicyclists, drivers, transit operators and users, and pedestrians of all ages and abilities. Each of the three See STREETS on Page 3



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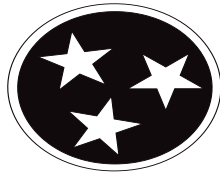
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# NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



## BARTLETT

A new mile-long section of Bartlett's greenway system is now open. The Fletcher Creek Greenway connects U.S. 64 and Santa Valley to Yale and Brother Boulevard. The city held a ribbon cutting for the new segment on April 21. The city will soon go to bid on a second section of the Fletcher Creek Greenway connecting Yale and Brother Boulevard to Byrd Park. Part of a larger network of greenways along the Wolf River, Bartlett officials are also seeking grant funds to help connect their greenway system to Canada Road in nearby Lakeland as well as the terminus to be built at Byrd Park to the Burloe subdivision on U.S. 70 and Don Valley.

## CARTHAGE

The city of Carthage has outfitted all eight of its full-time officers with body armor after receiving a grant from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG). The Carthage Police Department received the \$7,000 grant, which was then used to purchase body armor from Nashville-based CMS Uniforms. Since 1999, the grant program has awarded more than 13,000 jurisdictions, a total of \$412 million in federal funds for the purchase of more than one million protective vests.

## CLEVELAND

The city of Cleveland has been recognized as a thriving community in a report recently issued by Kiplinger Letter, a publication forecasting industry, business, company and technology growth and profit for investors, professionals, executives, managers and entrepreneurs. The publication listed Cleveland among its top 11 mid-range cities poised for success in 2017. The industrial growth of locally-based industries such as Wacker, Whirlpool, Amazon and the soon-to-open Spring Branch Industrial Park helped contribute to the city's ranking. The city also received top marks for having a growing job market balanced with an affordable cost of living. Cleveland was the only Tennessee city on the list and was the smallest of the cities on the list.

## CLINTON

The Clinton Fire Department has received the Child Passenger Safety Agency of the Year award from East Tennessee Children's Hospital. The department was lauded for its monthly child passenger safety seat inspection points, made possible through support of the city administration, fire chiefs and the hospital with funding by the Pilot Corporation Safe Travels Program. The department also hosted a three-day class to help certify additional safety inspection technicians and has certified the majority of its department members. In 2015 alone, the fire department and its partners inspected more than 200 seats and replaced about 48 percent of those. Of the seats checked, more than 80 percent were found to have some kind of safety issue that had to be corrected.

## GALLATIN

The city of Gallatin has been awarded two Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (TNECD) grants to aid with business growth in the community. The city of Gallatin was awarded a \$95,975 site development grant for work on the second phase of the Gallatin Industrial Center. The center is

the site of Beretta and American Colors with firearms components manufacturer Axem Distribution moving in soon. Greater Gallatin also received a \$50,000 Tennessee Main Street Entrepreneur grant to offer entrepreneur classes at the 106 Public Square co-working space and host a business pitch competition.

## HENDERSONVILLE

Fundraising is underway to help provide an accessible playground for all children at Hendersonville's Veteran's park. Mary's Magical Place is named for Mary McAuley, a 14-year-old Hendersonville resident who died from complications of cerebral palsy in 2015. With an extra \$150,000, the playground could have wheelchair-accessible outdoor instruments. The all-inclusive playground has a goal of \$500,000 with \$278,000 in donations and \$60,000 in grants that will expire at the end of the year. The funding deadline for the project is Oct. 31. Volunteers hope to hand the money to the city in November or December, then the city will bid the project out and have it professionally installed at Veterans Park. A tentative completion date for the park is May 2018. For more information on the playground, visit [marysmagicalplace.org](http://marysmagicalplace.org).

## KNOXVILLE

Harrogate-based Lincoln Memorial University has purchased an 11-acre property on the western side of Knoxville to help with growth. LMU purchased the property on Cogdill Road for \$7.5 million, though officials with the university have not yet announced plans for the property. The school presently enrolls about 4,000 undergraduate, graduate and doctoral candidates. In addition to its flagship campus in Harrogate, LMU operates extended learning sites on campuses in Alcoa, Chattanooga, Kingsport, Knoxville, Morristown, and Sevierville, as well as Corbin and Middlesboro, Ky.

## LEBANON

Plans for a new park in Lebanon call for an amphitheater, greenway, and splash pad. The park will be located on 15 acres of land donated within the Hamilton Springs mixed-use development near Highway 70 and the project already has a budget of \$5 million. Cost estimates for the initial design of the park range from \$3.2 million to \$3.9 million. Other uses for the park include a playground worked into the property's topography, dog parks for large and small animals, fitness stations, a food truck area and restroom pavilion. A new station for the Music City Star commuter rail has also been proposed at the park.

## MARYVILLE

SCCY Industries, LCC, will invest \$22.5 million and create 350 new jobs by locating a new facility in Maryville. The firearms manufacturer is establishing a production facility and headquarters in the city. SCCY specializes in manufacturing pistols and sidearms, will construct a 150,000-square-foot facility in Blount County's Big Springs Industrial Park. Founded in 2003 as Skyy Industries in Daytona Beach, Fla., SCCY's Maryville location is expected to be operational in the first half of 2018.

## FCC proposes new regs on local land use authority

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appropriate fees for the use of public rights-of-way by wireless companies for small cell wireless facilities.

In comments filed jointly with the state municipal leagues, NLC highlighted the many cities and state leagues proactively working to smooth the process of small cell wireless infrastructure deployment and cautioned the FCC from bowing to pressure from companies that have created conflict with cities over inappropriately filed or conceived wireless site applications. In joint comments filed with a number of national organizations, NLC cautioned the FCC from pursuing additional preemption powers, arguing that Congress's existing authorization for the agency does not intend for the FCC to

## MILLINGTON

The city of Millington has partnered with the National Urban Professional Baseball League to bring a professional baseball team to USA Stadium. The stadium has previously hosted more than 300 players who made the major leagues between 1986 and 1996 in addition to players from college, high school, Olympic and international teams. The new team will be named the Millington Cool Papa Bell All-Stars, named for Negro League All-Star, and Hall of Famer James Thomas "Cool Papa" Bell. The centerfielder played in the league between 1922 and 1946. Tryouts for the team will begin in late May for players age 17 to 21.

## SOUTH FULTON

ColorCoat, Inc., will be locating new operations in South Fulton, investing \$600,000 and creating 80 new jobs. The windows and doors coating application company is the third largest exterior coatings applicator in the U.S. and has been in business for 14 years. The West Sacramento, Calif.-based business has locations in several states across the country and is a subsidiary of Tata Steel, Europe's second-largest steel producer.

## TULLAHOMA

Tullahoma residents are being encouraged to "Walk to the Beach" as part of a new health initiative spearheaded by Mayor Lane Curlee. As part of the Get Fit! Tullahoma initiative, the city is encouraging teams of residents to walk a total of 2,589 miles – roughly the distance between Tullahoma and several beach destinations. The first mayor or destination is Gulf Shores, 439 miles from the city, followed by milestones including Destin, Fla.; Clearwater, Fla.; Miami; Cocoa, Fla.; Daytona, Fla.; Tybee Island, Ga.; and Myrtle Beach, S.C. The final beach will be Tullahoma's Splash Island where there will be a finale celebration party on May 25. The eight-week-long contest also allows participants to convert other activity, such as aerobics, swimming or sports, into walking activity. Local community leaders will also be hosting community walks at city parks each week.

## TULLAHOMA

The Tullahoma Municipal Airport Business Park has received a \$280,000 site development grant funds from the Tennessee Economic and Community Development Commission. The funds will be used to clear a 26-acre lot on the property of trees and bushes, making the site more immediately ready for development, and to implement drainage improvements and install some additional culverts to improve water run-off for the adjacent taxiways serving the Airport. Since 2013, the Tullahoma Airport, guided by the Master Plan for the Tullahoma Business Airpark, has built two aprons on the northwest side of the property to service a maintenance hangar, and two privately funded maintenance hangars. A new access road has also been built. Additional development includes concrete ramp repairs, remarking the primary runway, and refurbishment of some very old taxiways, giving access to the new Tullahoma Business Airpark.

## Waynesboro breaks ground on new Tractor Supply facility



Officials with the city of Waynesboro and the Tractor Supply Company have broken ground for a new store on a 3.18-acre tract of land purchased from the city's Industrial Development Board at 110 Industrial Drive. The facility will hire between 12 and 15 employees and is expected to generate \$2-4 million in sales each year. The facility is set to open in late summer. W.R. Newman & Associates, Inc. will construct the 19,097-square-foot retail space, designed by Oxford. The store plans include a sales floor and external support service area.

## Chattanooga opens four new public art installations



The city of Chattanooga recently unveiled four new public art installations near the Bessie Smith Cultural Center, African American Museum and Performance Hall along Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The works were partially inspired by the art and culture of the museum.

## Kite flyers congregate in Collierville's Hinton Park



Collierville residents of all ages came out to the town's Hinton Park on April 8 to fly kites as part of the city's tenth annual Kite Day. Around 200 people came to the event hosted by the Collierville Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department. Awards were given for the most unique kite, largest kite, highest flying kite, youngest participant and oldest participant.

## City, state officials help cut ribbon on Wonder Porcelain facility in Lebanon



City, state, and company officials were on hand as American Wonder Porcelain held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open its \$150 million facility in Lebanon. American Wonder Porcelain, the U.S. division of Wonderful Group, plans to create more than 200 jobs at the tile manufacturing plant. Wonderful Group's investment in Lebanon is the largest by a Chinese-based company in Tennessee.

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## Smart Streets Coalition joins with TN cities

**STREETS** from Page 1

participants will create a Complete Streets implementation plan as part of the workshop outcomes.

Melissa Taylor, strategic long-range planning director for the Chattanooga-Hamilton County North Georgia Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), said the workshops are especially important in a time when transportation funding is often hard to come by.

“My staff are working hard to improve transportation options for our cities at a time when funding and resources are limited. We must make the most of opportunities both big and small,” Taylor said. “Many cities and counties within the TPO area may not have time or funding to devote to travel and training or purchasing technical applications. These workshops will provide those much needed services and we are delighted to have been selected.”

Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero said the program is a great opportunity for both her city and the state at large.

“Making our streets safe and accessible for all users is a key goal of ours, so we’re excited to be a part of this consortium to receive technical assistance,” Rogero said. “We look forward to learning from national experts and from our partners in Tennessee.”

Jeff Welch, executive director for the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization, said the program will help make the state’s streets safer.

“We’re excited to be involved in this project focused on Complete Streets implementation,” Welch said. “The Complete Streets approach enhances safety for everyone who uses our transportation system, and safety is a huge part of our mission.”

Michelle Laceywell, interim director of the Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, said the workshops will provide opportunities to further develop alternative transportation options.

“Since the adoption of the Regional Transportation Plan in 2010, mayors across the region have continued their commitment to improving mobility and safety by investing walking or bicycling infrastructure,” Laceywell said. “The assistance provided through the Complete Streets Consortium will help local jurisdictions in our region overcome hurdles in the implementation of Complete Streets projects. With involvement of both planners and public works staff, this series of workshops will help us resolve barriers to delivering quality walking and bicycling projects and create an action plan for city and county staff to follow.”

Memphis has already taken part in Smart Growth America’s Complete Streets program, passing the nation’s 500th such municipal policy in 2013. Memphis and Smart Growth American officials then met in 2014 as part of a free, grant-funded technical assistance workshop to provide the city with tools to address design elements and communicate with the public.

# Erwin finds new niche by embracing its past

BY KATE COIL  
TML Communications Specialist

When CSX Transportation announced in 2015 the company was closing its 100-year-old rail yard in Erwin, residents felt more than the loss of 300 jobs. The loss of the railroad industry was a loss of identity for the town.

Jamie Rice, communications coordinator for the city of Erwin, said town officials and residents decided it was time to find Erwin a new identity after spending 100 years as a railroad town. A group of young professionals and residents created RISE Erwin to help in the process, and Rice was elected president.

“We wanted to say that we love Erwin, we have our businesses here, we are raising our families here, and we are not moving,” Rice said. “We are not letting this town go away. When CSX left, it lit a fire under all of us. We decided we couldn’t wait on someone else to save us. We were going to have to do it ourselves. I think that is part of our Appalachian spirit for survival.”

However, town leaders soon found that in bringing Erwin a new identity they might have to expose the skeleton in the town’s closet.

“Dianna Cantler, a downtown development director for the Washington County Economic Development Council, came to Erwin and took us under her wing. She really encouraged us to embrace our quirkiness a little bit. We were talking to her about how to rebrand ourselves and what we should do. She asked us what made us unique, what are stories that people tell that only come from Erwin. And that was when we raised our hands and say, ‘oh, no, Mary the Elephant.’”

### A PAST TRAGEDY

For years, Erwin’s claim to fame – or perhaps infamy – was the death of a circus elephant.

Mary, an Asian elephant with Sparks World Famous Show circus, was known for her ability to play musical instruments and pitch baseballs. During a show near Kingsport in 1916, Mary killed her handler. The circus owners feared that the show would not be allowed in other towns after accounts of the trainer’s death were published in newspapers.

As a result, the circus owners decided to have the elephant euthanized in the railyard in Erwin. Now, 100 years after Mary’s death, town officials felt it was time to take a dark part of their history and turn it into both a positive for the community as well as a way to help other abused elephants in Mary’s memory.

“For a hundred years, our town has had a black eye over this elephant,” Rice said. “It was literally the elephant in the room that no one wanted to talk about. We realized we had to turn it into something positive.”

The first step was the 2016 Elephant Revival held to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Mary’s death. The town held a weeklong elephant awareness



Top: Residents and hikers come out for Erwin’s first Great Outdoors festival in 2016.

Center: Children color pictures of elephants during Erwin’s first Elephant Revival in 2016, honoring Mary the Elephant.

Bottom: Painted fiberglass elephants like these will be debuted at Erwin’s Great Outdoors Festival this year and remain on display in the town throughout the summer. They will be auctioned after the the Elephant Revival in September to raise money for Hohenwald’s Elephant Sanctuary.

Investments from Unicoi County officials made the renovations possible.

To help showcase the new downtown, the town began holding a farmers market on Tuesday evenings. The idea came from Corbin, Ky., another former CSX rail town that saw its downtown storefront vacancy rate go from 80 percent to a mere 15 percent in two to three years after beginning a weekly farmers market.

Other festivals have also helped bring visitors and residents back to downtown Erwin while helping the community find its new niche. On May 6, the town will host its second Great Outdoor Festival.

“We have had an Apple Festival for 40 years, but we didn’t really have anything else in our town,” Rice said. “We decided we needed a spring festival and something to really promote ourselves as an outdoor adventure town. The Appalachian Trail runs right through us, and a lot of people don’t know that. We wanted to market ourselves to hikers and the outdoor community.”

The festival features a first aid station for hikers, a place for pets, massage therapists, food trucks, craft beers, live music, and other amenities to offer hikers some respite from the trail. This year, fly fishermen will also be coming to the festival with outfitters, a practice casting pond, exhibits from the local fish hatchery, and a climbing wall for kids. The festival is planned two weeks before the Trail Days in Damascus, Va., which draws thousands of hikers to the Appalachian Trail, because it takes about 10 days to hike between Erwin and Damascus.

Mary is also making an appearance at the Great Outdoors Festival.

“The Erwin Trunk project is a continuation of the Elephant Revival,” Rice said. “Since the Elephant Revival, we have painted these little fiberglass elephant sculptures and we are going to debut them at the festival. We have gotten sponsors for each sculpture, and the town purchased the elephants. Artists from all over the region design and paint them and they will be on display from the festival throughout the summer. In October, we auction them off with all of the proceeds going to the Elephant Sanctuary.”

The elephants will also be on display on Sept. 23, the date of the town’s second annual Erwin Elephant Revival honoring Mary.

“We are truly honored to have these baby elephant statues in our town,” Rice said. “Most Elephant Parade Exhibitions are in very large European cities, who pay huge royalties to have these exhibits. We had these shipped from Denmark. The company Elephant Parade had such compassion for our town’s story that they wanted to help us.”

Through embracing its past, Erwin has helped make its future brighter than ever.

“It’s a unique story,” Rice said. “It’s one only Erwin has and only Erwin can tell.”

campaign and fundraisers to raise money for the Elephant Sanctuary in Hohenwald, which houses many former circus and zoo elephants – most of whom are Asian elephants like Mary.

“We thought there was no better way to honor Mary’s memory than to take care of elephants now,” she said. “We have even had a representative from the sanctuary come to Erwin on the last day of the Elephant Revival last year and serve as grand marshal of our parade.”

The festival turned Mary’s story from a tragedy into a story of redemption for Erwin.

### A NEW BEGINNING

Making over Erwin’s image was more than trying to change the narrative surrounding Mary. The city was also in the midst of a three-year downtown renovation process that was recently completed. New sidewalks, landscaping, and underground utilities including high-speed fiber internet were installed throughout the town.

# MEMBER FOCUSED



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# PEOPLE



**Captain Daryl Blair** has been selected as the new chief of the Cookeville Fire Department. Blair will begin his duties as chief on July 1 after the retirement of current Chief Roger Fuqua. Blair has been with the Cookeville Fire Department since 1987 and has 32 years of experience in fire service. In addition to his work in Cookeville, Blair served the Putnam County Fire Department for 21 years retiring as chief of the county department. He is also a former board member, business manager and president of the Tennessee Fire Chiefs' Association. Blair is also a district coordinator for the Tennessee Fire Chiefs Mutual Aid System.



Daryl Blair

**Kevin Condee** has been hired as the new police chief for the Townsend Police Department. A McMinn County native, Condee has taken over from longtime Townsend Police Chief Ron Suttles, who retired from his position in 2016. Condee earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and law enforcement administration from Bethel University. He served as a deputy sheriff for the Blount County Sheriff's Office from 1993 until 2004. After serving two tours of duty in the Iraq War, he returned home and began work in 2010 as a detective with the Lenoir City Police Department before being promoted to captain in 2015.



Kevin Condee

**Charles "Chuck" Downham Jr.** has been selected as the new assistant city administrator for the city of Spring Hill. Downham has more than 30 years of public and private sector experience as a senior planning professional and municipal manager. He came to the city from Nashville-based Littlejohn Engineering Associates where he has worked in several capacities since 2012. He has previously worked for Lend Lease, an international property and infrastructure group overseeing the largest Military Housing Privatization Initiative (MHPI) portfolio in the U.S., and for Looney Ricks Kiss Architects. Prior to that, he was the growth management director for Lakeland, director of planning and interim development director in Collierville, and served Tullahoma as a director of municipal development, planning director, and city administrator. Downham holds a master's in planning and a bachelor's degree both from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.



Chuck Downham

**Michele Emerson** has joined the city of Murfreesboro's Engineering Division as a project engineer. She has 26 years of engineering experience, including 13 years with Manchester-based St. John Engineering, LLC; six years with Federal Express in Memphis; and seven years with Memphis-based Allen & Hoshall, Inc. Her duties with the city of Murfreesboro will include managing Capital Improvement Projects for roadways and drainage, engineering support



Michele Emerson

for city departments, and review of subdivision and site plans. Emerson has a bachelor's in civil engineering from the University of Memphis.

**Charles Foote** has been selected as the new director of planning for the city of Spring Hill. Foote previously worked as community development director for the city of Dunwoody, Ga., and has 30 years of planning and municipal government experience, including 20 years as a department head and manager. During his career, Foote has worked for municipal governments including Mt. Juliet and the city of Gilbert, Ariz. Foote will officially begin his time with Spring Hill in early May.



Charles Foote

**Chris Hamby** has retired as director of the Alcoa Planning and Codes Department after 22 years of work with the city and 35 years in the profession. Hamby joined the city in 1995 as a city planner and has served as director of planning and codes since 2002. Hamby earned her bachelor's degree from Western Kentucky University and, after developing an interest in historical preservation, earned a master's in urban and regional planning from the University of Tennessee. Hamby worked for the Knoxville-Knox Municipal Planning Commission for six years, compiling the city's first Historic Resource Inventory, and for the town of Farragut before working in Alcoa.



Chris Hamby

Ashland City **Mayor Rick Johnson** has been inducted into the Tennessee Environmental Health Association's Tennessee Environmental Hall of Fame. Hired by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture in 1978, Johnson was transferred to the Department of Health the following year. He worked for 30 years as an environmentalist for the state as well as served two stints in private business as a general contractor. He eventually became director of the division of general environmental health. Johnson received the Lynn B. Hearn Award in 2003 as Tennessee



Rick Johnson

Environmentalist of the Year and was president of the Tennessee Environmental Health Association in 1995 and 2005. Johnson retired from the state in 2008 as environmental health field office manager and is now in his second term as mayor of Ashland City.

**DeDe McClure** has been hired as the city of Dresden's new community development director. A Dresden native, McClure took over the position from Lauren Bean Fletcher, who left in December to work as assistant director of the Tipton County Chamber of Commerce. McClure's chief duties will be working with existing local businesses and helping recruit new businesses to the community.



DeDe McClure

**Jaime Nunan** has been hired as the first urban forester for the city of Cookeville. A Florida native, Nunan earned a bachelor's degree in agriculture business from Middle Tennessee State University and worked with the urban forestry program at Fort Campbell, Ky., before coming to the city. Nunan's duties with the city include work with citizens and city officials, including the Cookeville Tree Board. She is already working on an inventory of the city's trees and updating the city's urban forestry management plan. The city's urban forester is a part-time, grant-funded position by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which requires 50-percent matching funds from the city.



Jaime Nunan

**Philip Stuckert** has been hired as the new infrastructure director for the city of Spring Hill. Stuckert comes to the city with 30 years of municipal and state government experience as well as work as a professional engineer and manager. Currently residing in Murfreesboro, Stuckert most recently worked as the deputy state engineer for the Wyoming State Engineer's Office. He has also worked as a city engineer for Lakeland and public services director and city engineer for Casper, Wyo. He holds a master's and a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Wyoming.



Philip Stuckert

## President Trump nominates Tennessee State Sen. Mark Green for Army Secretary

Sen. Mark Green has been selected by President Donald Trump to serve as secretary of the Army.

Green is an Ashland City native graduated from West Point in 1986 and later from the U.S. Army Ranger School. He later earned his medical degree from the Boonshoft School of Medicine at Wright State University in Ohio in 1999. He served his medical residency in 2002, going on to serve as a special operations flight surgeon.

He was deployed three times overseas during his military service. He served as an Army medic for a special operations team that captured Saddam Hussein and wrote a book about the experience.

After leaving the military, Green founded AlignMD, an emergency room management firm. The firm was later acquired by American Physician Partners as part of a \$24 million deal.

He was elected to the Tennessee State Senate in 2012, representing the state's 22nd District. Prior to his selection as the secretary of the Army, he had filed paperwork to run for governor of Tennessee.



Sen. Mark Green

Green will undergo confirmation hearings and a vote before the U.S. Senate before he can officially begin the position. The Secretary of the Army is a non-cabinet position with statutory responsibility for all matters relating to the U.S. Army: manpower, personnel, reserve affairs, installations, environmental issues, weapons systems and equipment acquisition, communications, and financial management.

Presently, Robert M. Speer is serving as acting secretary, a role he began on Jan. 20, 2017.

## Crouch remembered for lifetime of municipal service

Ray Crouch Sr., former MTAS consultant, firefighter, fire chief and mayor from Kingston Springs, passed away April 11.

He served as a Kingston Springs City Commissioner from 2004 to 2008, and mayor from 2004 to 2006. He worked at the TN Dept of Transportation as a system analyst from 1973 to 1978. He was director of Fire Incident Reporting at the TN State Fire Marshal's Office from 1978 to 1986, leading the state in the implementation of statewide fire reporting. He was also instrumental in assisting several other states on implementing fire reporting and other programs.

In 1986, he became the assistant commissioner for Administration for the Tennessee Dept of Commerce and Insurance.

In 1992, Crouch went to work for the University of Tennessee as the first fire management consultant for the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) working with more than 300 cities across the state. He played a major role in the development of many fire programs, assisted in the hiring of fire personnel, and conducted fire management studies.

He was a life-long volunteer firefighter, chief of the Kingston Springs Fire Department from 1974 to 1984, served two terms on the National Fire Information Council, and was selected in 1988 as the National Volunteer Firefighter of the Year.

He served as the executive director of the Tennessee Fire Chief's Association starting in



Ray Crouch Sr.

1978, and was founder and first president of the Cheatham County Firefighter Association.

Crouch served on the advisory board of the Tennessee Fire School and was instrumental on the building of the current Tennessee Fire and Codes Academy. He assisted in starting Regional Fire Chief Associations, worked closely in the Tennessee Fire Chaplain's Association, Tennessee Fireman's Association, and several other organizations. His involvement in the fire service spread far and wide including his work on legislative issues, fire chief development, and minimum standards for firefighters.

Crouch was also committed to his community, his church, and scouting. He served as scoutmaster for his local troop and obtained many awards as a scout leader. He was passionate about everything he did and always had a good attitude. Whenever asked how he was doing, his reply was always, "Finer than a frog hair." Ray Crouch Sr. will be missed and his work will be remembered.

# WAUFORD

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## Water and Wastewater Systems

## STATE BRIEFS



**Unemployment rates decreased in all 95 Tennessee counties in February 2017**, according to new data released by the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The estimated county rate is now 8.5 percent, nearly a three-point decrease. Preliminary unemployment rates for Tennessee and the U.S. have lowered by one-tenth of a percentage point in February. The decline places rates at 5.3 and 4.7 percent, respectively.

**Tennessee is one of the top 10 states for doctors**, according to a new survey. Financial planning website Wallet Hub ranked the state tenth on its recent list of best states to practice medicine. Furthermore, Tennessee provided the top salaries nationwide for medical school graduates when adjusted for the local cost of living. The survey was based on 14 criteria, including physicians' average salaries, the number of hospitals and doctors per capita, percentage of the population that is elderly, percentage with health insurance, plus some criteria aimed directly at doctors, such as the number of hours of required continuing education and the cost of medical malpractice insurance. Besides having the top monthly starting salary, Tennessee ranked ninth in terms of competition, 15th in annual salary, and 16th on the potential competition in 2024 and in malpractice insurance rates.

**Four new Tennessee communities can now claim Select Tennessee Certified Sites.** The Department of Economic and Community Development recently certified Development Corporation of Knox County's Eastbridge Business Park Lots 4, 5 & 6 in Knoxville; the Fayetteville-Lincoln County Industrial Development Board's Runway Centre Industrial Park in Fayetteville; and the McMinnville-Warren County Mountain View Industrial Park North and South sites in Morrison. The Select Tennessee program has certified 48 sites. These sites have landed 10 projects, which accounts for more than 3,900 committed new jobs and more than \$1 billion of capital investment. More information about the program can be found at <http://www.tnecd.com/>

## Police body camera bill takes steps to ease privacy protection concerns

**CAMERAS** from Page 1  
there is a law that says something is exempt from public records, it saves us time from dealing with these potential requests. There are certainly privacy concerns. I think the public in general is concerned about their privacy as it relates to being recorded, particularly in their home. I don't think anyone would want their neighbors or the general public to request and receive a recording of a police encounter for whatever reason. It is good for law enforcement because it gives us some black and white guidelines, which is certainly an issue."

Elisha Hodges, legal consultant with the Municipal Technical Advisory Service, said the law also works to protect the rights of the media and the public to provide transparency in law enforcement without violating privacy.

"Mostly everyone – whether a member of the media, the public, or law enforcement – believe that there are certain places, where an individual should have an expectation of privacy," Hodges said. "The very limited nature of what law enforcement agencies will be permitted to maintain as confidential from body-worn camera footage, speaks to the push for transparency by the press and citizen groups and commitment to transparency by the law enforcement agencies."

While privacy for citizens is important, Hodges said having access to footage of certain incidents is equally important as it can provide an accurate documentation of law enforcement interaction with members of the community.

"The use of body-worn cameras benefits law enforcement, members of the community, and the press because in those agencies where the cameras have been deployed, there is now a record of every interaction that law enforcement officers have with members of the community," Hodges said. "This has been shown to reduce the number of complaints against offi-

[sites/certified-sites/apply-now/](#).

**Tennessee may resume executions via single-dose lethal injection** following a decision by the state's Supreme Court. Executions in the state have been on hold since October after suit was initially filed by 33 death-row inmates in Davidson County Chancery Court. Tennessee has not executed a prisoner since 2009. Two of the petitioners have since died in prison. The unanimous opinion found the inmates failed to prove the high-dose of pentobarbital used by the state for injection violates either state or federal prohibitions against cruel and unusual punishment. The state has only executed six people since 2000 and did not execute any offenders between 1961 and 2000.

**A bill inspired by Justin Timberlake's voting booth selfie is heading to the governor's desk.** The Senate voted 30-0 in favor of a bill permitting voters to take photos in the voting booth as long as they don't take a picture of their ballot, use a flash or make noise with their phones or take photos of others. The measure was inspired by an incident during the November election when musician Justin Timberlake took a photo of himself casting his ballot at his home precinct in Germantown. By taking the photo, Timberlake broke an obscure Tennessee law preventing photography inside voting booths. Sen. Brian Kelsey, R-Germantown, and Rep. Karen Camper, D-Memphis, brought the measure to the legislature, citing a similar New Hampshire measure the Supreme Court struck down.

**Tennessee saw a slight increase in serious crimes in 2016 including a 12 percent increase in murders statewide.** The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation's annual Crime in Tennessee report found violent crimes were up 1.1 percent statewide while arrests in those categories were down 1.9 percent. Weapons violations increased 14 percent, drug violations 9.5 percent, and meth violations leaped up 238 percent since 2015. Rapes and kidnappings decreased by 2.8 percent and 6.3 percent respectively.

cers and the number of incidents involving the use of force."

Chief Hughes said the new guidelines also bring new responsibilities and new issues for police forces.

"The issues remain and some issues will still remain, particularly as it relates to the cost associated with the storage of footage, the redacting of private information, and processing public records requests," Hughes said. "When you have someone request that footage, you are going to have to have someone watch that video in real time before you can release so you know what you are releasing and don't release something that shouldn't be released. That can be a tremendous strain on resources and relates to cost to police departments and taxpayers."

While information requests can already be made of dash-cam videos, Hughes said body camera footage is different in many respects.

"I think departments in general are going to have to hire additional staff just to go through footage, review it, and answer open records requests," he said. "It is already commonplace for police departments across our state to have in-car video cameras. We constantly receive open records requests on those recordings. The difference is that almost without exception those recordings are in public places or on public streets."

Hughes said more roles might need to be developed within police departments to handle footage from body cameras and associated issues.

"There is not as much of an issue, but you still have to take time and resources to answer those requests," he said. "If every officer in the department has a body camera, it may double the time to process those requests because footage might be taken in private places such as residences. Some recordings may be considered evidence

## River restoration project to bring new recreation area to Jackson vicinity

An 858-acre floodplain area in West Tennessee will be restored to include a recreation area.

A section of the Middle Fork of the Forked Deer River streams and floodplains area near Jackson was selected for a restoration project by the West Tennessee River Basin Authority (WTRBA), an agency within the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC).

The end result of the project will be an improved and naturally functioning stream and wetland ecosystems that span an area greater than the size of New York City's Central Park.

The Middle Fork of the Forked Deer River is part of a 962-square-mile watershed that includes Carroll, Crockett, Dyer, Gibson, Henderson and Madison counties. The Tigrett Wildlife Management area encompasses 7,000 acres within the COA. As the result of channelization, only 20 percent of the region's original hardwood forest remains. The area is a vital habitat for alligator gar, alligator snapping turtles, and bald eagles.

The entire Middle Fork of the Forked Deer River Conservation Opportunity Area (COA) includes the town of Friendship and portions of the city of Dyersburg. The area is also located in the vicinity of municipalities of Humboldt, Jackson and Trenton. Portions of the COA project extend into Dyer, Gibson, Lauderdale, Crockett, and



The Middle Fork of the Forked Deer River as seen from the Old Medina Road bridge near Jackson. To preserve the important watershed and ecosystem, some 858 acres of floodplain around the river near Jackson will be restored and preserved with plans to develop a recreation area.

Madison counties.

WTRBA Executive Director David Salyers restoration work and installation of the recreation amenities will take place within the next several years.

"The goal of the restoration project is to reduce the flood risk for this area while also bringing entire ecosystems back to their natural function," Salyers said. "Recreation amenities will also be constructed for visitors, including hiking and biking trails, areas for

viewing wildlife, waterway access and more. With interpretive signage, there will also be educational opportunities for school groups and the local community."

The project was conceived and is managed by the WTRBA, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and The Nature Conservancy, with assistance from TDEC, Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation, Madison County, the city of Jackson and the Jackson Chamber of Commerce.

## TN lawmakers approve Governor's broadband accessibility legislation

The Tennessee General Assembly has approved the Tennessee Broadband Accessibility Act, Gov. Bill Haslam's legislation to increase broadband access to Tennessee's unserved citizens.

House Bill 529 passed the House, 93-4, on April 10 and it now heads to the governor's desk for signature. Senate Bill 1215 passed the Senate 31-0 on April 3.

Tennessee currently ranks 29th in the U.S. for broadband access, with 34 percent of rural Tennessee residents lacking access at recognized minimum standards. "More than 800,000 Ten-

nesseans don't have access to broadband, and one in three businesses identified it as essential to selecting their location," Haslam said. "Spurring deployment in our rural, unserved areas will open them up to economic investment and growth."

The Tennessee Broadband Accessibility Act provides \$45 million over three years in grants and tax credits for service providers to assist in making broadband available to unserved homes and businesses.

In addition, the plan will permit Tennessee's private, nonprofit electric cooperatives to provide retail broadband service and make grant funding available to the

state's local libraries to help residents improve their digital literacy skills and maximize the benefits of broadband.

The legislation was amended by the legislature to add provisions for video service, reduce minimum speeds, and reduce the funding allocation. The amended version also allows municipal electric companies to participate in the program, which was not part of Haslam's original proposal.

The Tennessee Broadband Accessibility Act is part of Haslam's Next Tennessee legislative plan aimed at building and sustaining economic growth and the state's competitiveness for the next generation of Tennesseans.

## Main Street Communities generated \$124M, more than 1,000 new jobs in 2016

Tennessee Main Street communities created more than 1,000 new jobs and generated over \$124 million of public/private investment in 2016, according to figures recently released by the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development.

The department's 2016 economic impact and reinvestment statistics collected information from 30 certified Tennessee Main Street communities across the state and found these municipalities continue to be a vital part of the state's economic growth.

"Downtown revitalization reflects positively on the entire state when seeking new economic opportunities," TNECD Commissioner Bob Rolfé said. "It is encouraging to see this grassroots support for Tennessee Main Street communities and the new jobs and businesses that come from both public and private investment."

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

Reinvestment statistics from the designated Tennessee Main Street communities reporting include:

- Net new businesses: 231
- Building rehabilitation projects: 332
- Public improvement projects: 99
- Total private investment: \$58.8 million
- Total public investment: \$65.4 million
- Net new housing units: 281
- Volunteer hours contributed: 100,588
- Total public/private investment: \$124.2 million
- Additionally, Tennessee Main

Streets collectively reported more than 1.3 million people attending their downtown events.

"The annual reinvestment statistics show encouraging levels of investment in Tennessee historic commercial downtown areas," Nancy Williams, Tennessee Main Street director, said. "Downtown housing and lodging are showing renewed interest, and while it's impressive that more than a million people attended events in 30 Main Streets last year, the lasting impact comes from building improvements, new businesses and new jobs."

There are currently 34 certified Main Street program communities across Tennessee: Athens, Bolivar, Bristol, Brownsville, Cleveland, Collierville, Columbia, Cookeville, Dayton, Dyersburg, Fayetteville, Franklin, Gallatin, Greeneville, Jackson, Jonesborough, Kingsport, Lawrenceburg, Lebanon, Maryville, McKenzie, McMinnville, Murfreesboro, Morristown, Paris, Pulaski, Ripley, Rogersville, Tiptonville, Savannah, Sevierville, Sweetwater, Union City and Winchester. Four of the programs were newly certified in 2016 and not included in the full year's statistics.

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, a comprehensive work plan, a sufficient operating budget and adequate staff and volunteer support. For more information about the Tennessee Main Street Program, visit [tennesseemainstreet.org](http://tennesseemainstreet.org).



## CLASSIFIED ADS

Advertising: \$9.25 per column inch. No charge to TML members. Send advertising to: Carole Graves e-mail: cgraves@TML1.org.

### AIRPORT MANAGER

**SAVANNAH / HARDIN COUNTY**  
The city of Savannah and Hardin County, as joint owners of the Savannah/Hardin County Airport are seeking an airport manager to oversee the operations of the Savannah I Hardin County Airport. The position is open due to the pending retirement of the current airport manager, who has served in the position for over 30 years. The chosen candidate would hopefully bring forth the same passion and dedication as shown by the retiring manager. The airport manager position is an at-will employee and reports directly to the Savannah I Hardin County Airport Commission, a seven member board made up of appointees from both Hardin County and the city of Savannah governments. The manager position requires exercising independent judgment, and is responsible for providing general direction to plan and organize all activities concerned with day to-day operations of the airport. The ideal candidate will have graduated from an accredited four year college or university with major course work in airport management, two years management experience, or any combination of education, training and experience which provides the required knowledge and abilities. The manager must possess the ability to both comprehend and present technical information as well as assist with hands on building and ground maintenance and fueling aircraft. Starting salary dependent on experience and qualifications. Position will have a paid health insurance plan. EOE/ Drug-free workplace. Resumes will be accepted until April 28 at 5:00P.M., C.D.T. All interested applicants must submit a resume and cover letter along with three personal and three professional references to: City of Savannah 140 Main Street, Savannah, Tennessee 38372 Attn: Garry Welch Chairman - Savannah I Hardin County Airport Commission.

### ASST. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

**FARRAGUT.** The town of Farragut is seeking applicants for the full-time assistant community development director position. Job duties involve supervision, assisting with site planning and evaluation, visual analysis, plans review, and site inspection and staffing committee meetings. Minimum qualifications include a bachelor's degree in planning, landscape architecture, geography, or related field and a minimum of five years' experience and supervisory experience or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Preference will be given to applicants possessing a master's degree in planning, landscape architecture, or geography. AICP or ASLA is highly desired. Hiring salary range is \$49,620-\$63,266 DOQ. Applications must be completed electronically on the town website, [www.townoffarragut.org](http://www.townoffarragut.org). The deadline is 5:00 pm, Friday, April 28.

### CITY MANAGER

**LOUDON.** The city of Loudon is seeking applications for a skilled manager to lead its dynamic city operations. The desired candidate will be a proven manager with excellent communication and problem solving skills. A bachelor's degree in engineering, public administration, business administration or a related field is preferred. Ideally the candidate will possess a minimum of five years of experience in upper level city administration. The position reports to the city mayor and a five person Utility Board of Directors. The city of Loudon employs a staff of more than 150 in utilities, including electric, gas, water, and wastewater as well as police, fire, parks and recreation, and public works. The city of Loudon offers a competitive salary and complete benefits package including participation in the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System. If you are a highly motivated team player, and enjoy working in a challenging environment, please email your resume and salary requirements to: John Canada at [john.canada@loudonutilities.org](mailto:john.canada@loudonutilities.org). EOE

### CITY MANAGER

**SOUTH FULTON.** The city of South Fulton is seeking a city manager to oversee and manage the police, fire, and public works departments which includes the water, wastewater, and gas departments. The position of the city manager reports directly to a five-member city commission, one of them being the elected mayor. They will also be in charge of an approximately \$3.5 million budget, 22 full-time employees, and 3 part-time employees. The successful applicant should have at least a bachelor's degree in public administration, or any field relevant to the position, and at least three years of experience (negotiable with appropriate references) in order to manage a budget of this size. The applicant must also have excellent communication and motivational skills. Salary will be dependent on qualifications. Application deadline: May 19, 2017. Please send a resume plus three reference to Mayor David Lamb at: City of South Fulton; 700 Milton Counce Drive; South Fulton, TN 38257. EOE

### CITY MANAGER

**SPRINGFIELD.** The city is seeking an individual that will be a role model, encourager, communicator, diversity champion, quick thinker, with a very strong community involvement/investment bias, and a public sector professional to be their next city manager. The city manager is appointed by and reports to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, which is comprised

of a popularly elected mayor and six aldermen elected by wards. Springfield is a full service city with an annual budget of approximately \$84.3 M, and employs approximately 240 employees. The candidate will have experience in leading and managing a city the size of Springfield (pop. 16,700) with a diverse population of customers, and a full spectrum of services provided (including utilities). In addition to the typical General Fund activities, Springfield maintains Water/Wastewater, Natural Gas, Electricity, Stormwater, and Golf Course enterprise activities. Experience in budgeting and budget management, management of complex departments, economic development and redevelopment of commercial and retail areas of the city, planning, water and wastewater management are high priorities. The city is seeking a manager to take the organization to new levels of success through a management style that recognizes collaboration, team-building, and community partnerships. Candidates should have demonstrated success in organizational and staff development, fiscal management, and growth management. Candidates will have a proven record in effective service delivery, creative problem solving, transparency and accountability, and community involvement. The city manager will have a proven record of developing open and trusting relationships with the council, staff, and the community. The ideal candidate will have a bachelor's degree in public administration, business management or a related field, a master's degree would be preferred. Candidates will have substantial experience as a city manager or assistant city manager in a similarly sized, or complex, community. Preference given to applicants with 10 years of experience with a broad and progressively complex range of management experience in high-level management positions. Salary range: \$97,760 - \$134,550, DOQ. Send Resumes, along with a cover letter, 4 professional references, and salary history by electronic mail to Gary Jaeckel, University of Tennessee, Municipal Technical Advisory Service at: [gary.jaekel@tennessee.edu](mailto:gary.jaekel@tennessee.edu). The city of Springfield is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All applications will be received until 4:30 pm, May 19, 2017.

### EQUIPMENT OPERATOR I

**GALLATIN.** The City of Gallatin Public Works Department is currently accepting applications for an Equipment Operator I in the Streets Division. The purpose of this position is to perform semiskilled work in a variety of construction, repair and maintenance assignments involving the use of specialized tools. This is a 40 hours per week, day shift position with some weekend work required. The starting rate is \$12.16 + excellent benefits. Duties include performing general street, utility, building and grounds work; operating dump truck and light to medium construction equipment. Applicants must have knowledge of the traffic laws and regulations governing equipment operation, skill in the operation of a variety of small, medium and heavy equipment, and the ability to understand and effectively carry out written and oral instructions. At the minimum, applicants must possess a high school diploma and must have 1 year of recent work experience in installation, concrete, or asphalt services. A Class A-57 CDL is required. To apply, go to [www.gallatinonthemove.com](http://www.gallatinonthemove.com). Open until filled. EOE.

### FINANCE DIRECTOR

**NOLLENSVILLE.** The town of Nolensville is currently seeking an experienced professional to serve as finance director. This position, which reports directly to the Town Administrator, oversees a small and talented staff in the finance department and directs all accounting and financial operations of the town. The finance director oversees purchasing, accounts payable, accounting, auditing, and revenue collection services and activities. In addition, the finance director performs a variety of professional level financial management responsibilities including analysis, preparation, and maintenance of the annual budget, financial records, statements, and reports with significant responsibility and interaction regarding the annual financial audit. The ideal candidate will have a broad based knowledge of governmental accounting and methods of financial control and reporting as well as outstanding organizational skills and a focus on timely delivery of reports and projects. The position requires any combination of education and experience equivalent to graduation from an accredited college or university with major course work in Accounting, Business Administration, or related field (CPA or advanced degree preferred with consideration given for TN CFMO designation), with six years of progressively responsible experience in governmental accounting, auditing, or related areas and experience in a supervisory capacity of accounting functions and personnel. Previous experience as a local government finance director or assistant finance director or equivalent is preferred. Salary Range: \$51,876-\$70,185 (starting salary is DOQ) and a very attractive benefits package. Interested parties can apply by emailing resumes to the Town Administrator, [kmcclawhon@nolensvilletn.gov](mailto:kmcclawhon@nolensvilletn.gov). Questions should be directed to Ken McClawhon at 615-776-6693.

### FIRE CHIEF

**JOHNSON CITY.** The city of Johnson City is looking for an innovative and committed fire professional to serve as the city's next fire chief. Under the general direction and supervision of the city manager, the chief plans, organizes, directs, coordinates and evaluates the firefighting, prevention, EMS, and fire

service activities of the Johnson City Fire Department. The new chief must have the ability to direct, manage, and affect confidence in fire department personnel at all levels. The chief will provide leadership and drive the vision for the Johnson City Fire Department. The position supervises two assistant chiefs who are assigned to the Operations and Administrative divisions of the department. The chief will also support community education efforts and will represent the division in the local community and on a regional basis. The Johnson City Fire Department provides fire suppression, rescue, EMS, prevention and inspections. It is staffed with 120+ full-time employees with 110 members dedicated to fire suppression. The department responds from nine fire stations, operating nine pumpers and three ladder trucks. The fire suppression department works a 24-hour shift schedule. The department currently holds a Class 1 ISO rating. Requirements include a bachelor's degree, in a related field (fire science, engineering, business administration, emergency management, etc.) from an accredited university or college, and a minimum of seven to 10 years of command level officer experience. Completion of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer (EFO) program or a master's degree is preferred. Applications will be received on-line at [www.johnsoncitytn.org](http://www.johnsoncitytn.org) until the position is filled. Salary range begins at \$71,356 and tops at \$115,653. EEO / Drug Free Workplace.

### MECHANIC

**LA VERGNE.** The city of La Vergne is accepting employment applications for a full-time mechanic in the Public Works Department. Rate of pay is \$16.94 hourly. Performs semi-skilled, skilled, and administrative work in maintaining the vehicles and mechanical equipment of the department. Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Certification is a plus. Works under the direction and close supervision of the public works manager. Job qualifications include: graduation from high school diploma or GED equivalent is required; specialized training in mechanics, maintenance management, or a closely related field required; three years of related experience required; current/valid Tennessee driver's license is required; safe driving record required; and current/valid CDL is preferred. Please visit our website, [www.lavergnetn.gov](http://www.lavergnetn.gov), to review the job posting and complete an online employment application for consideration for this position. Open until filled. EOE / Drug-free workplace. All candidates selected for any job opening must pass a physical exam and a drug screen before starting the job.

### FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES CONSULTANT

**MTAS.** The University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) is accepting applications for a Fire & Emergency Services Consultant in its Nashville or Knoxville office. The Fire & Emergency Services Consultant provides technical advice and assistance on a wide range of fire management, emergency medical service (EMS), and other emergency service issues to Tennessee municipal officials. Examples of work to be performed include: consulting; developing service and equipment proposals; conducting staffing, organizational, and fire station location studies; making personnel recruitment and selection recommendations; and developing and instructing technical classes. Requires a bachelor's degree or equivalent in public administration, fire science, and fire administration, emergency management or related fields. A master's degree in a related field of study is preferred. Graduation from the Executive Fire Officer (EFO) program at the National Fire Academy is also preferred, and research conducted as part of the EFO may be reviewed. Requires five years experience with fire or emergency services departments, preferably in a position comparable to chief or assistant chief. Experience with EMS delivery in the fire service, and experience working with a city manager, mayor, and other elected officials is desirable. Must be experienced in emergency management and response planning. Each employee that drives a vehicle for work related business must have and maintain a valid driver license and insurance. This position requires extensive travel with overnight stays to municipalities across the state to deliver on-site consultation and training. Salary is based on a combination of professional experience and qualifications. Applicants must apply electronically and attach a cover letter, resume and three references with contact information. Please apply at <http://humanresources.tennessee.edu/recruitment/>

### METER READER

**GALLATIN.** The city of Gallatin Public Utilities Department is currently accepting applications for a meter reader. The purpose of this position is to perform field and technical work in locating, reading, and recording readings for water and/or gas meters using a hand-held meter reading computer, does related work as required. This is a 40 hours per week, day shift position with no weekend work required. The starting rate is \$13.41 + excellent benefits. Duties include locating and reading water or gas meters on assigned routes and records usage; assisting with fieldwork; initiating and terminating service; preparing and maintaining files and records; keeping records of meters read and reports meters not accessible for reading; repairing or replacing leaking or damaged water meters. The successful applicant will have general knowledge of the geography and street locations of the City, the ability to write legibly, ability to make simple arithmetic calculations rapidly and accurately; as well

as the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with the general public. Qualified applicants must possess a high school diploma/ equivalent with one year recent work experience in locating and reading water and/or gas meters or utilities experience. A valid driver's license is also required. Interested persons must apply on-line at [www.gallatinonthemove.com](http://www.gallatinonthemove.com) under "Employment" at the top of the webpage and follow the instructions. Application deadline is May 5, 2017. EOE.

### MUNICIPAL COURT SPECIALIST

**MTAS.** The University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service is accepting applications for a municipal court specialist in its Knoxville or Nashville office. This position provides training, continuing education, and technical assistance to court clerks and other appointed and elected officials, developing lesson plans and delivering training in a classroom setting. The position concentrates on one-on-one and regional field-based training; it provides onsite instruction and training in the operational processes of municipal courts and also includes researching and drafting informational documents on municipal issues. The position works with the training team by producing and facilitating classes as requested in addition to providing technical assistance to MTAS consultants to support their work with cities. Applicants should have a practical knowledge and understanding of the problems faced by municipal court officials. This position requires a master's degree in public administration, criminal justice, or a closely related field. A law degree is preferred. It also requires at least two years employment in court administration, local law enforcement or a law department preferably as a court administrator, state or city attorney, city prosecutor, or senior administrative police officer. Prefer training experience. It requires someone with the ability to communicate effectively with both experienced municipal court officials and with city officials who may be new to court operations. The person in this position must be able to quickly acclimate to a new work environment and quickly become well-versed in municipal courts and legal requirements of municipal court clerks in Tennessee. Must have and maintain a valid driver's license. This position requires extensive travel to municipalities across the state to deliver on-site consultation and training. Salary: DOQ. Applicants must apply electronically and attach a cover letter, a resume and three references with contact information. Apply at: <http://humanresources.tennessee.edu/recruitment/>

### PLANNER / SR. PLANNER

**MORRISTOWN.** The city of Morristown is now accepting applications to fill one position, either for planner or senior planner, depending on qualifications. Planner is classified at level 11 (\$17.41 hour) and senior planner is classified at level 15 (\$20.95) on the city's salary schedule. Planner essential duties and responsibilities include the following yet other duties may be assigned: assists with the development of current, long-range, transportation, community development and/or other planning activities. Provides assistance and development information to the public. Assists in the staff support to various boards and commissions. Senior planner essential duties and responsibilities include the following: interprets Federal and/or local regulations and ordinances. Analyzes and summarizes existing conditions, derives conclusions, makes recommendations and develops projections such as for population trends, etc. Prepares reports and supports graphic display materials descriptive of research and recommendations. Explains planning problems and procedures to the general public on inquiry. Complete job description and qualifications can be obtained from the city's website. Applications may be obtained from the Human Resources Department on the second floor of City Center, or on the city's website at [www.mymorristown.com](http://www.mymorristown.com). Applications will be taken until position is filled. Send completed applications to: City of Morristown, Attn: Human Resources - Planner, P.O. Box 1499, Morristown, TN 37816-1499. EOE/ Drug-free workplace.

### PLANNING DIRECTOR

**HENDERSONVILLE.** The city of Hendersonville is seeking applications for a planning director. This position directs the operations and activities of the Planning Department. Minimum qualifications include: master's degree in city planning (with a preferred AICP certification) or a bachelor's degree in city planning or a closely related field such as landscape architecture and AICP certification required, plus a minimum of 5 years or relevant experience in city planning. Salary \$6,592 / month or higher DOQ. To apply and for all other information regarding the recruitment, go to <http://www.hvillett.org/planning-director> or come by Hendersonville City Hall at 101 Maple Drive North, Hendersonville, TN 37075. Closing date: May 5, 2017 at 4:00 PM CST. EOE.

### PRINCIPAL PLANNER

**MARYVILLE.** The city of Maryville is seeking an experienced Principal Planner to be responsible for managing the city's planning program. Reports to the director of Development Services. Requirements include a master's degree in urban planning, project management and supervisory experience; or equivalent combination of education and experience. AICP certification required. Hiring range: \$65,418 - \$85,834 DOE plus an excellent benefits package. Applications are available at the Maryville Municipal Center, Human Resources, 400 W. Broadway or on our website [www.maryvillegov.com](http://www.maryvillegov.com). Nepotism pol-

icy prohibits hiring relatives of city employees. Deadline to apply: April 28, 2017. EOE.

### RECREATION PROGRAM MANAGER

**PIGEON FORGE.** The city of Pigeon Forge is seeking to hire a recreation program manager. This position reports directly to the community center manager. The city offers a highly competitive compensation and benefit package. Activities associated with the job include assisting with the supervision of participants utilizing the community center, planning and conducting outdoor and indoor programs, and scheduling recreation staff and volunteers for special events and programs, and activities. Qualifications include bachelor's degree in recreation, health physical education, outdoor recreation, or related field required. Experience with developing and coordinating recreational programs; knowledgeable of aquatics, games, indoor and outdoor programming including related rules and regulations, thorough knowledge of health and safety regulations governing recreational facilities preferred; strong organizational, interpersonal and decision making skills required; Professional certification with the Tennessee Parks and Recreation Department as set forth by the NPRA certification guidelines preferred. Professional certification in CPR, First Aid and AED for the professional rescue required (employee has up to three months from the date of hire to acquire certification). Certification as a Lifeguard and/or Water Safety Instructor (WSI) preferred. Certification in outdoor programming, activities, or camping preferred. Must possess a valid Tennessee Driver's License. Applications can be completed online at <http://cityof-pigeonforge.com> under the Human Resources Link. Applications may be picked up at City of Pigeon Forge Community Center, 170 Community Center Drive, Pigeon Forge, TN 37863. Mail applications to: City of Pigeon Forge-Human Resource Department, P.O. Box 1350, Pigeon Forge, TN 37868. Resumes must be postmarked by Friday, May 12, 2017. EOE. Drug-free workplace. Candidate will be subject to a background check, driving history check, and drug testing in accordance with city policy.

## Registration open for TML Conference June 10-13

CONFERENCE, from Page 1

explore and discover how Murfreesboro planned and paid for this special facility in their city.

A separate trip is also being planned for the Stones River National Battlefield for all those history buffs interested in discovering the Battle of Stones River and exploring what the soldiers did more than 150 years ago. A special program with a park ranger will be planned for TML Conference attendees and their families.

Both events are free but do require those interested to sign up in advance.

TML is moving to an online registration process for the 2017 Annual Conference. There are two forms: a delegate registration form for municipal officials/staff and a spouse/guest form for non-municipal registrants. Each municipality will be able to use a single form to register all city attendees.

Forms are available on the TML website on the 2017 Annual Conference page under the Conferences tab on the left. If you have any questions throughout the registration process, contact Sylvia Harris at (615) 425-3903 or [sharris@tml1.org](mailto:sharris@tml1.org)

### Schedule At-A-Glance

#### SATURDAY, JUNE 10

8 am - 12 pm	MTAS EOA
1 - 4 pm	Pre-Conference Outings
7 - 8:30 pm	Welcome Reception

#### SUNDAY, JUNE 11

7 am - 1 pm	Golf Outing
10 am - 5 pm	Registration
10:30 am - 5 pm	Exhibit Hall
10:30 - 11:30am	Workshops
11:30 am - 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:45 - 2:15 pm	District Meetings
2:30 - 4 pm	Opening Session
4 - 5 pm	Roundtable Discussions Exhibit Hall
6 - 9 pm	Host City Reception

#### MONDAY, JUNE 12

8 - 8:30 am	Continental Breakfast
9 am - 3 pm	Registration
8:45 - 9:45 am	Workshops
10 - 10:45 am	Business Meeting
11 - 11:45 am	General Session
12 - 1:30 pm	Lunch
2:30 - 3:30 pm	Workshops
3:45 - 4:45 pm	Workshops
6 - 11 pm	Pool Party
<b>TUESDAY, JUNE 13</b>	
8 - 10 am	Awards Breakfast

**Tennessee Municipal League  
2016-2017 Officers and Directors**

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- PAST PRESIDENTS**  
**Curtis Hayes** (2016) Mayor, Livingston
- Tom Rowland** (2015) Mayor, Cleveland
- Dale Kelley** (2014) Mayor, Huntingdon
- Ken Wilber** (2013) Mayor, Portland
- Kay Senter** (2012) Morristown Vice Mayor
- Sam Tharpe** (2011) Commissioner, Paris
- Tommy Pedigo** (2010) Council, Morristown
- Tommy Green** (2007) Mayor, Alamo
- Bob Kirk** (2004) Alderman, Dyersburg
- AFFILIATE DIRECTORS**  
**Chris Anderson**, Council, Chattanooga (NLC)
- Karen Johnson**, Councilwoman, Nashville (NLC)
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- TML AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS**  
 (Ex-Officio Directors)
- Tennessee Assn. of Air Carrier Airports
- Tennessee Building Officials Assn.
- Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police
- TN Assn. Municipal Clerks & Records
- TN Government Finance Officers Assn.
- Tennessee Fire Chiefs Assn.
- Tennessee Fire Safety Inspectors
- Tennessee Association of Floodplain Management
- Tenn. Assn. Housing & Redevel. Auth.
- Tennessee Municipal Attorneys Assn.
- Tennessee Municipal Judges Conference
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- Tennessee Recreation and Parks Assn.
- Tennessee Chapter, American Planning
- Tennessee Personnel Management Assn.
- Tennessee Assn. of Public Purchasing
- TN Section, Institute of Transport
- Tennessee Public Transportation Assoc.
- Assn. of Independent and Municipal Schools
- Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council
- Tennessee Urban Forestry Council
- Tennessee Stormwater Association
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# When cities are strong, America prospers

BY MATT ZONE  
 NLC President

America's cities are the foundation of our nation's economy. From the 8.5 million residents of New York to the five inhabitants of Thurmond, W.Va., cities generate 91 percent of the nation's GDP and make up 86 percent of the population. Cities are the centers for innovative startups, family businesses, arts communities, research centers and the very fabric of our public life.

But now, cities are under threat by short-sighted budget cuts that would be devastating to the prosperity and stability of millions of American families.

Last month, the White House released a budget proposal that slashes funding for crucial programs that cities and their residents rely on. The proposal includes cuts to affordable housing, workforce training, clean drinking water, and assistance for homeless veterans, to name just a few. Altogether, it adds up to \$54 billion of lost investment in cities and citizens.

Many of these programs are among the government's most effective — and its most popular. HUD's Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), which help cities invest in public-good projects like firehouses, police stations, sewer systems, and domestic violence shelters, have provided a lifeline to rural communities for decades. Under the budget proposal, that program would be eliminated.

The cuts would be particularly devastating for small towns. America's infrastructure is trapped in a maintenance crisis, with collapsing bridges and lead-tainted water supplies as just some of the most visible consequences. The administration's proposed budget would exacerbate that crisis — and the consequences would explode in severity.

In 2010, federal funding was essential when Cedar Rapids, Iowa, rebuilt after devastating floods. In Nebraska, small towns use federal grants to leverage other investment and bring business back to Main Street. My home city of Cleveland, Ohio, uses CDBG funding for everything from food banks to small business loans. All

this funding would be cut under the administration's proposal — and millions of Americans would suffer.

Investment in American cities is investment in America, period. Funding cuts on the scale of the administration's proposal would threaten community well-being and prosperity in every city and town.

I am proud to join more than 650 local officials who signed NLC's action letter asking Congress to stand with cities and oppose these savage budget cuts. It's a chance to write one more chapter in our nation's productive history of federal-local partnerships. Those partnerships have propelled America forward and created the world's most powerful and respected democracy.

We're ready to fight to build an even stronger federal-local partnership, but only if Congress is willing to fight for stronger cities. When cities are strong, America prospers. Don't let Congress leave America's cities behind.

Go to <http://www.nlc.org/FightTheCuts> for creative ways you can take action and engage with your Congress members.



**April 29-30: South Pittsburgh**  
*The National Cornbread Festival*  
 Celebrating more than 20 years as the festival that gives attendees a taste of some of the best cornbread in the country. Come enjoy a week-long carnival, fireworks, historic tours, music and more. For more information go to <http://national-cornbread.com/>

**May 20: Knoxville**  
*International Biscuit Festival*  
 Named one of the Top U.S.'s 10 food festivals held at Market Square in downtown Knoxville. Stroll along Biscuit Boulevard to sample more than 20 of the region's best restaurants and bakers' take on the biscuit — from sweet to savory — for \$15. Cast your vote for your favorite and help them secure the People's Choice Award. For more information go to <http://www.biscuitfest.com/>

**May 28-29: Brownsville**  
*Exit 56 Blues Festival*  
 The West Tennessee Delta Heritage Center invites blues fans from around the globe to attend the 6th annual Exit 56 Blues Fest May 28-29. For the first time, the festival will expand to two full days of entertainment presented from the porch of the The Exit 56 Blues Fest features live music from an eclectic gathering of blues men and women, arts and crafts, car and motorcycle cruise-in show, and the famous deep-fried barbecue eating competition. For more information about the event visit [www.Exit56Blues.com](http://www.Exit56Blues.com) or call or contact the West Tennessee Delta Heritage Center, 731-779-9000 or [info@westtnheritage.com](mailto:info@westtnheritage.com).

**June 3: Coopertown**  
*Coopertown Barrel Festival 2017*  
 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Join thousands celebrating the heritage of the barrel maker in Coopertown, just 25 miles north of Nashville the first Saturday in June. Hundreds of vendors will showcase their wares along Old Coopertown Road in this free outdoor, rain or shine, event. Enjoy live cooper demonstrations, music, food, shopping, history exhibits, woodworking, wooden barrel games, our "Cooper of the Year" contest, kids zone, a barrel raffle, and more barrels of fun in our annual fundraiser for the town of Coopertown. The 5th annual festivities will kickoff with the Barrel Fest 5-Miler at 7:30 a.m. Register for the race at [www.runsignup.com](http://www.runsignup.com) or a booth at the festival at [www.barrelfestival.com](http://www.barrelfestival.com). For more information visit [www.coopertowntn.org](http://www.coopertowntn.org) or check us out on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/coopertownbarrelfestival](http://www.facebook.com/coopertownbarrelfestival).

## NATIONAL BRIEFS



**The U.S. labor market saw its lowest gains in nearly a year with only 98,000 new jobs added to the private sector in March.** Economists said the low gains were disappointing as they had predicted a strong jobs increase in March, but felt the low job growth rate was more of a passing fluctuation due to winter storms and other factors. Unemployment rates fell from 4.7 percent in February to 4.5 percent in March. The amount of workers who remained unemployed but reported they had stopped looking for work also fell to 8.9 percent. The unemployment rates for women, whites and Hispanics decreased in March, but the rates for men and African Americans remained the

same at 4.3 percent and 8 percent respectively.

**More U.S. hospitals are requiring patients to pay before treatment to prevent bad debt for medical centers.** Since U.S. hospitals do not want to end up footing the bill, they are now experimenting with pre-payment strategies for patients. A growing number of hospitals now require payment before scheduled care and offering no interest loans. The trend is expected to accelerate this year because unpaid bills are creating massive bad debt for even the most prestigious medical centers. U.S. hospitals had nearly \$36 billion in uncompensated care costs in 2015, according to the industry's largest trade group, a figure that is largely made up of unpaid patient bills.

**States are putting less money aside for a financial emergency than they had before the economic recession,** according to a report by the Pew Charitable Trusts. At the end of fiscal year 2016, states had enough surplus money to keep operating for a median of 34.9 days. This is down from 40.7 days in fiscal 2007. States sometimes require these funds to deal with unexpected revenue shortfalls or emergencies. Only 15 states had bigger financial cushions in terms of rainy day funds or budget balances than before the recession. At least 37 states expect their reserves to shrink in fiscal year 2017 over the previous fiscal year, the report said. Balance projections routinely change significantly by the end of the fiscal year.

## UT-MTAS MAY MAP CLASSES

### NAVIGATING THE MAZE OF YEAR-END ACCRUALS

This course explores the complexities of properly recording receivables and payables as well as property tax and utility billing reconciliations. Participants will also review accounting periods and the Matching Principle.



**Dates/Locations/Times:**

- May 11 Jackson**  
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT
- May 12 Memphis**  
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT
- May 16 Knoxville**  
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EDT
- May 18 Collegedale**  
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EDT
- May 31 Nashville**  
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT

To register for a course, go to [www.mtas.tennessee.edu](http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu), or fax to 865-974-0423. Credit card payments must register online with the Solution Point System: <http://www.solutionpoint.tennessee.edu/MTAS> or by invoice. For registration assistance, call 865-974-0413. Or for more information, contact Kurt Frederick, training consultant, at 615-253-6385.

# No loan is too large or too small



The town of Livingston recently closed a \$3 million fixed rate loan with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund to finance water and sewer system improvements. Pictured are Livingston Town Clerk Phyllis Looper, TMBF representative Linda Mooningham, Livingston Mayor Curtis Hayes, and Vice Mayor Bill Winningham.



The city of Humboldt recently closed a \$3,825,000 fixed rate loan with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund to finance renovations and improvements to city schools. Pictured are Humboldt Mayor Marvin Sikes, TMBF representative Tommy Green, and Humboldt Treasurer Kim Hadley.



See us for your special projects needs.  
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## Rising leader, newly appointed transportation chair

# Sen. Paul Bailey serves as strong voice for rural Tennessee

BY LINDA BRYANT

Paul Bailey is very popular in his pocket of the state, where you are just as likely to hear him described as farmer, lover and steward of horses, and small business owner; as you are to hear about his accomplishments as a legislator.

You might even catch a glimpse of him acting as a “celebrity judge” as a cow milking contest, mowing alfalfa on the family farm or competing in a quarter horse contest.

Bailey serves as a Republican member of the Tennessee Senate, where he represents District 15, encompassing parts of Cumberland, Jackson, Overton, Bledsoe, Putnam and White Counties. He came to the Senate in 2014, after defeating Democrat Betty Vaudt by an overwhelming 73 percent. He had previously served in the House as an interim representative for House District 43.

In January, Bailey’s profile was raised somewhat significantly when Lt. Governor Randy McNally named him to chair the Senate Transportation and Safety Committee.

The powerful committee, which is responsible for highways, roads and bridges, railroads and air, bus and vehicular transportation, is a linchpin in guiding Gov. Bill Haslam’s IMPROVE Act through the State Senate.

The legislation, if approved, raises the state’s fuel tax on gasoline 6 cents and 10 cents on diesel while reducing the state’s grocery tax and franchise and excise tax.

Bailey also serves as a member of the Senate State and Local Government Committee, which hears all matters pertaining to state and local governments in general, including utility districts, employees, ordinances, boundary lines, veterans’ affairs, penal and correctional institutions, alcoholic beverages and election laws.

Mark Farley, executive director of the Upper Cumberland Development District (UCDD) in Cookeville, calls Bailey “one of the most respected leaders in our entire region.”

UCDD focuses on the unique challenges of rural communities and small towns, and Farley explains that Bailey is particularly suited to understanding the issues and needs of this particular demographic.

“Paul is calm and level headed and very intelligent,” Farley said. “He understands the rural community and can assist us and relate to us in a unique way. He has done an excellent job with our 14-county region, and this is despite the fact that his senatorial district only serves six of these counties. Even the mayors we work with who aren’t represented by his district, go to Paul for help, advice and support.”

Bailey has been active in his family’s Cookeville-based trucking business since the 1980s and has served on numerous boards and commissions in the region. He and his wife Amy have a 14 year old, Caleb living at home, while Paul’s older children, Jordan and Korry remain close while working in the business.

**TT&C: Your roots run deep in White County. Tell us about your background growing up on a farm, your family and being a small business owner.**

**PB:** I have lived on a farm all my life. I was raised on a farm and still live on a farm today. We have horses and cattle. My wife and 14-year old ride horses. I’m a third-generation trucker and have worked at CB Trucking for 31 years. My dad and I own the company.

**TT&C: How did you get interested in running for public office?**

**PB:** From the time I was in elementary school — and then into high school — I always had an interest in politics. I was known as the little politician. People used to say to me, “You’re going to be a senator or congressman one day.” I got very busy starting a business and raising a family, and I left the idea of public service behind. I saw it as something in the future.

My first stint in public service was when I was asked to serve on the White County Fair Board. From there I moved to the White County Commission, and at one point I became the chair. I’ve always had the desire to serve and to help people. I like being a problem solver. I love local government because I believe it’s closer to the people. I really enjoy trying to better my community.

**TT&C: Are there issues or accomplishments from your beginning days working at the grassroots level that you are particularly proud of?**

**PB:** During my time at the White County Commission there was supposed to be a tax increase, but we worked through the budget and made a lot of cuts. In several of the departments, we found money that could be reduced so that we didn’t have to place an additional tax burden on the citizens. We are listed as one of the lowest property tax counties in Tennessee’s 95 counties. I’m very proud of the county’s low tax rates.

**TT&C: Since you grew up immersed in the farming and trucking life, are there certain skills or ways of looking at the world you’ve learned that apply to your life now? How do those skills translate**



Sen. Paul Bailey  
Chairman, Senate Transportation and Safety Committee



*“I believe more decisions should be made on the local level because local elected officials know the needs of their community. I think that we should step out of their way when possible to allow local governments meet the needs of their citizens.”*

*- Sen. Paul Bailey*

**into your work at the legislature?**

**PB:** I think hard work, customer service — all the things that relate to being customer oriented — are skills I learned that translate to my duties at the legislature. I believe political figures and politicians have to be customer oriented because we work for the citizens that we represent. A lot of it goes back to my background in the trucking business. It’s a very competitive business. We offer a service for sale, so we have to make sure that our customers are satisfied with the service we are providing. And, quite frankly, coming from a farm background gives you a lot of common sense. You learn a very strong work ethic. At the legislature these two things — thinking about the customer and working hard — go hand-in-hand with just about all I do.

**TT&C: You represent a district with a distinctly rural and small town culture. How do you bring forward issues that relate rural or small town concerns? Is there conflict with the urban agendas?**

**PB:** Obviously, a lot of urban legislators do not understand the rural legislators’ issues and vice versa. We have to be able to bridge the gap, work toward a common goal, and make sure the laws we pass don’t restrict rural areas and their way of life. At the same time, we want to be able to meet the needs of our growing urban areas. It’s a challenge.

Many legislators are several generations removed from the farm. But in the area I come from, many people still live on the family farm. Some legislators don’t understand how passing certain laws could affect a farmer’s property rights, ability to build fences and ponds or lagoons from the manure that comes out of the dairy barns. By the same token, I don’t always see the importance of the issues that urban legislators face. For example, HOA’s or homeowners associations. I’m not always familiar with the details of those issues. We just have to learn to work together. I have made many friends from urban areas in the legislature, especially in the Senate, and working with them helps me understand their issues. It’s also been beneficial for them to understand mine.

**TT&C: Lt. Gov. Randy McNally named you chair of the Senate Transportation and Safety Committee in January 2017. This is a key position, especially since the legislature is grappling with passage of the IMPROVE Act, which would fund transportation infrastructure with an additional tax on gas, and at the same time, would cut food taxes for Tennesseans.**

**PB:** The IMPROVE Act, as of this interview, is scheduled to be on the House floor and Senate floor. It has passed all committees it was required to pass. The House version is currently different than the Senate version. I believe all legislators recognize that the IMPROVE Act represents a need, but we also recognize that we don’t want to increase the financial burden on Tennessee families.

It should never be easy for any legislator to increase taxes or user fees. The good news is that the IMPROVE Act is also a tax cut. It is providing tax cuts for families in regard to the grocery tax. Hopefully, property tax relief for veterans and the elderly will be placed back into the IMPROVE Act in order to ensure that those who need it the most are getting relief. We also want to make sure we are providing tax cuts for manufacturers in the state.

**TT&C: How has this new high-profile position worked out for you? Are you approaching it with a certain style of leadership?**

**PB:** I view my position as a moderator when it comes to chairing the Transportation and Safety Committee. I want to allow any member who comes before the committee the courtesy of hearing their piece of legislation. I view my position as allowing constituents voice [through their elected representative] to be heard in the committee.

**TT&C: The IMPROVE Act has certainly spurred a lot of debate. What have you learned from having the responsibility of orchestrating all of these varying opinions? Do you feel good about where the bill appears to be heading?**

**PB:** I’ve consistently said that this is not the best plan, but I think it’s becoming the only plan. I would like to see more tax cuts. I would like to actually see the Franchise & Excise tax cut and expanded to more industries. I would also like to see the veterans’ portion restored to what its original amounts were prior to the cuts that occurred couple of years ago. I’d like to see more of the state surplus moved over into the transportation budget.

But the IMPROVE Act has been through many committees. We are where we are. There have been amendments offered from those various committees. Many of those amendments have been stripped, or they have been placed in the bill. There are 132 legislators, and that’s a lot of voices. A lot of it goes back to the differing viewpoints that come from rural and urban perspectives. We all have differences of opinion as far as how legislation is made and how it comes together. Again, I don’t think it’s the best plan, but it’s certainly a plan that tries to help address our rural and local infrastructure needs.

**TT&C: You recently received the Legislator of the Year Award from the Upper Cumberland Development District, a key economic development group that works to bring jobs and industry to a 14-county region that includes your district. Why is UCDD so important for your area? What kinds of things do you help them with?**

**PB:** I was very honored to receive that award. I have worked with many of the county and city mayors in the Upper Cumberland region and the development district. I have tried to help facilitate better communication among the various communities so they understand

all the various issues cities and counties are facing. We have helped them with TDEC (Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation) issues and TDOT (Tennessee Department of Transportation) issues.

The UCDD is absolutely a vital organization to our area, a very valuable asset to the Upper Cumberland. They provide assistance and services to the small rural counties and towns that can’t afford to have those stand alone services. For example, many of the larger urban cities have full-time grant writers. Most of the Upper Cumberland counties and cities can’t afford to have a full-time grant writer. So, the development district helps provide these small rural communities the ability to look for grants and expand their services without having to have a full-time person. That’s just one aspect of what they do. They help counties and the cities of the Upper Cumberland to make sure they have an economic development plan and that they are prepared for a new business or manufacturer looking to expand in their area. And, there are issues related to this kind of economic development that need to be looked at — infrastructure, for example.

**TT&C: This year you filed a bill calling for insurance companies to pay for a heart rate monitor for a baby at risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) when it is prescribed by a licensed physician. Why is this an important issue for you?**

**PB:** I mentioned earlier about how members of the legislature are influenced by constituents who bring ideas for legislation to them. The SIDS bill comes from a couple in my district who lost a baby to SIDS. They want to bring awareness to the fact that there are many babies who die from SIDS in Tennessee. Our goal is to make sure that any time a family leaves the hospital, especially if they have a premature baby, they have access to a heart rate monitor for the child. If they are unable to afford it, then the insurance company will pay for the heart monitor. We don’t want families to experience the heartache this family experienced with the loss of their child.

The bill currently is going to be rolled until next year. I can say that the insurance companies have come to me, as well as Rep. John Mark Windell, D-Livingston, who is the House sponsor, with a commitment. And pediatricians came forward to say they will help us develop the right legislation. Many have been touched by the family’s story, and they recognize there’s more we can do to help. Moving forward, I have a commitment from the insurance industry as well as physicians and other medical associations to draft or amend their current legislation to help other families.

**TT&C: Infrastructure is one of the hot topics of the day whether it’s on a national, state or local level. What are the infrastructure needs in your own region?**

**PB:** One of the biggest issues we have in District 15 is bridges. Tennessee has more than 20,000 bridges, and the Upper Cumberland has many because we have a lot of rivers, creeks and streams. These bridges are aging; many of them are 40, 50, 60-plus years old. Many have been posted by county or city governments — or the state — as being low-weight-limit bearing bridges. Addressing infrastructure is a challenge we have to face — replacing those bridges so that we don’t end up in difficult situations such as when school buses and fire trucks have to go many miles out of route just to be able to supply services to citizens.

**TT&C: What do you see as a proper relationship between local and state government?**

**PB:** State government sets up the framework and the guidelines, and local government should have the flexibility to meet the demands of their community. I believe more decisions should be made on the local level because local elected officials know the needs of their community. I think that we should step out of their way when possible to allow local governments meet the needs of their citizens.

**TT&C: Do you have mentors in the Tennessee State Senate?**

**PB:** I honestly view all of my colleagues as my friends, and I have many mentors within the Senate. I think we are a cohesive bunch, and we all work together very well.

**TT&C: How do you think the state is doing overall?**

**PB:** I believe Tennessee is the best run state in the nation. We have cut taxes over the past several years, and by doing so we are now seeing a very prosperous time in the state. We have removed a lot of government regulations, and that has allowed our businesses to continue to grow. We have a lot of retirees moving to Tennessee because of our low taxes.

Tennessee is poised to be a leader for many years to come. I really hope Washington will take a look at Tennessee and how we run our state. The federal government has a huge deficit, but Tennessee has a balanced budget. And that’s because our state constitution requires a balanced budget. The federal government should be operating in the same manner but unfortunately they do not.