

Called legislative session restores highway funding

Members of the 109th General Assembly convened earlier this month for a Special Legislative Session called by Gov. Bill Haslam. Lawmakers were called back to Nashville to modify legislation previously approved during the 2016 session that unintentionally put \$60 million in federal highway funds in jeopardy.

Last month the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) notified the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) that a new law – PC 1030, which passed overwhelmingly during the 2016 session intending to strengthen penalties for underage DUI offenders – put the state out of compliance with a federal “zero tolerance” drunk driving statute. NHTSA indicated Tennessee would permanently lose \$60 million if it remained out of compliance as of Oct. 1. The bill passed during the special session includes minor alterations that more directly track the wording of federal law.

Prior to the special session, both TDOT Commissioner John Schroer and Tennessee Attorney General Herbert Slatery argued that Tennessee continues to meet the requirements of federal “zero tolerance” drunk driving statute. All 11 members of the Tennessee congressional delegation urged U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx to work with Haslam and state officials to find a solution.

“I am grateful to the General Assembly for quickly convening and passing legislation that clarifies our drunk driving law to remove any question of compliance with federal requirements. Although we disagreed with the interpretation that Tennessee was out of compliance, this special session was necessary to avoid any negative impact to the state,” Haslam said.

Cities urging Congress to find solution to E-fairness

BY CAROLYN COLEMAN
National League of Cities

With the national political conventions and August recess behind them, members of Congress have returned to Washington, D.C., for a short pre-election work session.

The Senate is scheduled to be in session for 23 days in September and October; the House is only in for 17 days, leaving at the end of September. While Congress must pass a spending measure by the end of September to avoid a government shutdown, NLC and cities are also urging Congress to pass E-fairness legislation.

Since the 1992 Supreme Court decision in the Quill case, cities and states have been calling on Congress to close the \$23 billion online sales tax loophole and to level the playing field between brick and mortar retailers and remote online sellers. NLC is advocating legislation that:

1. Ensures tax parity between brick and mortar stores and remote online sellers;
2. Does not raise taxes or impose new taxes on buyers; and that
3. Preserves state and local authority for state and local taxation.

Be a smart consumer; check your credit

In 2014, an estimated 17.6 million Americans were victims of identity theft. You can protect the credit report of person under the age of 16 through a Security Freeze. This means the consumer reporting agency (e.g. TranUnion, Equifax, Experian) cannot release that person's credit report, or any other information regarding that person, unless the security freeze is removed. To request a Security Freeze, simply contact the consumer reporting agency to request the freeze be placed. The maximum fee for placing or lifting a freeze for a protected consumer is \$10 for each action. For more information on how to request a security freeze visit www.tn.gov/consumer

Information provided by the TN Department of Commerce & Insurance

Cities advocate for additional national park funds

Several historical, recreation sites across Tennessee hit by national \$11.9B maintenance backlog

BY KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

As the National Park Service celebrates its centennial, the leaders of cities near the Great Smoky Mountains National Park are asking Congress to make a commitment to preserve the infrastructure of one of Tennessee's most famous natural resources.

Since June, the city commissions and boards of Gatlinburg, Maryville, Pigeon Forge and Sevierville have all unanimously passed resolutions asking Congress to dedicate a reliable stream of resources and revenue to help address maintenance needs in the national parks.

At present, the NPS has an \$11.9 billion backlog of infrastructure repairs, according to a statement released by National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis.

“Deferred maintenance is necessary work – performed on infrastructure, such as roads and bridges, visitor centers, trails and campgrounds – that has been delayed for more than one year,” Jarvis said. “Aging facilities, increasing use of park facilities and scarce resources contribute to the growing backlog. While Congress provided increases this year, the annual bill for maintenance in America's national parks is still almost twice as much as is appropriated.”

Great Smoky Mountain National park itself needs \$232 million to make up for deferred maintenance. Roughly \$175 million of that is needed to repair roadways while \$17.4 is needed to repair the park's 848 miles of trails, according to data from the NPS website.

The park is also seeking funds to improve its water treatment system, repair campground facilities, improve housing for park employees



The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is the most visited park in the national parks system. Cities including Gatlinburg, Maryville, Pigeon Forge and Sevierville have sent resolutions to Congress asking for funds to be provided for necessary maintenance and repairs to this and other park properties.

and upgrade restrooms, visitors' centers and other facilities.

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park brings in around \$806 million in revenue each year for local communities. It is consistently the most visited national park in the country with more than 10.7 million visitors in 2015 and often outranks the other 397 national park properties in the amount of money it generates and amount of jobs it creates.

Gatlinburg Mayor Mike Werner said infrastructure needs in the park need to be taken care of to preserve the area for both current tourists and future generations.

“There are 800 miles of trails in the park, and we have close to 11 million visitors each year. The park takes a lot of wear and tear, and the infrastructure has to be kept up,” Werner said. “A lot of times there are so many needs, so if you bring things to their attention they take a closer look at it. It's a gorgeous park and considered the gem of the National Park System. It takes money to keep it that way. We have bathrooms in the park from the CCC camp days. There are a lot of things that need attention. If you don't take care of it now, it's



The Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, which includes Lookout Mountain, is also maintained by the National Park Service. More than \$50 million worth of work has been deferred at these parks due to lack of funds.

just going to cost more in the future and be in worse condition.”

With much of the tourism industry in the region based around the park, Werner said cities like Gatlinburg have a vested interest in ensuring the park remains funded.

“It is a burden to the communities when so many people come here to enjoy the park and find it in disarray,” he said. “If it wasn't for the national park, Gatlinburg would just be another small town in East Tennessee.” See **PARKS** on Page 3

Lenoir City, UT staff and students partner for 2016-17 Smart Communities Initiative

BY KATE COIL

The University of Tennessee-Knoxville has selected Lenoir City as its partner for the 2016-17 Smart Communities Initiative (SCI) as part of efforts to help bring university resources to smaller communities across the state.

Through the initiative, UT pairs faculty and students with Tennessee cities, counties, special districts, and other governmental organizations to engage in real-world problem solving aimed at improving the region's economy, environment, and social fabric.

The Smart Communities Initiative helps UT students get hands-on experience by solving problems in the real world while simultaneously providing free services to cities and government entities to help their development.

The University of Tennessee has partnered with the city of Cleveland and the Southeast Tennessee Development District in the past as part of the initiative. This year, the program is being scaled-down to help pilot partnerships with smaller and rural communities.

Amber Scott-Kelso, assistant city administrator of Lenoir City, is serving as community liaison for the Lenoir City Council during the project. She said the project will focus on Lenoir City's downtown area.

“With the UT SCI Program underway, we hope to gain insight and new ideas for how to improve our historic downtown area,” she



Downtown Lenoir City will be the focus of the University of Tennessee-Knoxville's most recent Small Communities Initiative. Students will work with city officials during the coming months.

said. “Our goal is to give downtown Lenoir City a ‘sense of place.’ The downtown area is significant to our city because it is the location in which our history and roots reside. If we lose our downtown, we lose our history and ability to reflect upon the past and any hope for preserving that history for future generations.”

Scott-Kelso said Lenoir City has already begun working on its own to help with downtown revitalization, and hopes the SCI program will keep that momentum going.

“We hope that, in combination with our ongoing Downtown Street-

scapes Project, the UT SCI Program will further perpetuate the excitement that has begun in the downtown area right now,” she said. “We have more incoming downtown merchants than we have had in many years. After the UT students complete the project, we will simply continue the excitement and the positive growth trend.”

Kelly Ellenburg, director of UT's Office of Service-Learning, which oversees the SCI, said the partnership with Lenoir City will include five to 10 service-learning projects focused on the city's downtown and See **LENOIR CITY** on Page 3

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



ATHENS

The Athens Fire Department was recently honored with the 2015 Life Safety Achievement Award, which is sponsored by the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NAS-FM) Fire Research and Education Foundation and Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company. The Life Safety Achievement Award recognizes fire departments for their fire prevention efforts and encourages them to continually improve upon those efforts. The Athens Fire Department is one of 160 fire departments across the United States to receive the award this year for recording zero fire deaths in 2015. In the United States, residential fires account for just 20 percent of all fires, but result in 80 percent of all fire deaths.

BRISTOL

The Bristol Police Department is crediting social media with helping solve crime in the city during the last year. Numerous tips have been received since 2015, when the city of Bristol and the Bristol Police Department began posting requests on the city's Facebook page seeking the public's assistance in identifying possible suspects involved with local crimes. These tips have resulted in a number of suspect identifications and subsequent arrests. Posts have also prompted suspects to turn themselves in. Since last year, these posts have generated a significant amount of interaction with the online community. In fact, the approximately 50 posts of this nature have reached an estimated total of more than 1.4 million views by Facebook users. A 2014 LexisNexis nationwide study showed that 29 percent of the law enforcement professionals surveyed utilized social media in this particular manner.

CARYVILLE

Telos Global, LCC, will locate a new facility in Caryville, investing \$32 million and creating 63 new jobs. The automotive supplier will relocate to a 190,000-square-foot building and plans to complete extensive renovations on the structure to accommodate the company's equipment. The renovations include installation of a crane system, lighting upgrades and electrical modifications. At the new facility, Telos Global will focus on five in-house turnkey services: technical, low-volume production, tooling services, equipment sales services, turnkey services center and training. Established in March 2016, Telos Global is a joint venture between Teague and Eisenmann Corporation USA and consists of a group of specialists with a broadened production and process expertise in the area of press-hardened steel.

CHATTANOOGA

Chattanooga will become one of the first cities in the nation with an electric vehicle ride share program. Residents and visitors will be able to use a smartphone app to rent 20 Nissan Leafs from various parking facilities in Chattanooga and Collegedale to provide transportation through the area. Backed by a \$3 million grant from the Tennessee Valley Authority, CARTA contracted with a Los Angeles startup known as GreenCommuter and ChargePoint for the project. GreenCommuter will be responsible for the smartphone app. ChargePoint will install additional charging stations and EPB to add solar panels at the airport, in Collegedale and to generate clean power for the battery-powered vehicles. TVA is sponsoring the program to help entice more motorists to try driving electric vehicles, which could help the federal utility gain

new business and could help level TVA's load by recharging car batteries at low demand periods.

FRANKLIN

The Downtown Franklin Association has been designated as an accredited Main Street America program for meeting rigorous performance standards set by the National Main Street Center. Each year, the National Main Street Center and its Coordinating Program partners announce the list of accredited Main Street America programs in recognition of their exemplary commitment to preservation-based economic development and community revitalization through the Main Street Approach. The Downtown Franklin Association has worked for more than 30 years to uphold the rich history and culture of Franklin, while promoting tourism, commerce and economic growth. The organization and its members — made up of local business owners and merchants — have done it by following the four-point program of the National Main Street Center of the National Trust for Historic Preservation: organization, design, promotion and economic restructuring.

FRANKLIN

AeroWall Dynamics will invest \$508,000 and create 36 new jobs as part of an expansion in Franklin. The automotive supplier is renovating a 15,000-square-foot office and lab space in the Cool Springs area. The Franklin-based company plans to expand and sell its product to trucking companies across the U.S. AeroWall Dynamics has already made inroads with FedEx and other logistics and trucking companies. Founded in 2014, AeroWall Dynamics produces an attachment that is placed between the cab and trailer of tractor-trailers. Using GPS-enabled speed tracking and sensors, AeroWall Dynamics' product improves fuel efficiency and reduces emissions for trucks that spend the majority of their time traveling at highway speeds.

JACKSON

Aldelano Solar Cold Chain Solutions will locate a new research and development and manufacturing facility in Jackson, investing \$1.5 million and creating 68 new jobs. The solar powered products manufacturer will update an existing space. The company specializes in developing state-of-the-art solar powered products including portable cold storage as well as water and ice making technology, which produce clean drinking water and ice by pulling the moisture from the air. Aldelano will manufacture, create and test its new product line in Jackson. Updates to the existing facility include installing a temperature controlled paint chamber as well as a testing chamber that will simulate controlled weather conditions.

LEBANON

The city of Lebanon has received 15 acres of land to be used as a new public park on the west side of the city. The Bell family donated the parkland adjacent to the Hamilton Springs train station for the Music City Star. Concept design of the park is currently under development by Lose & Associates. The city is also considering using the park as another trailhead for its greenway system. Lebanon City Councilman Rick Bell is a part of the Bell family who donated the land.

LEBANON

Panattoni Development Company is under contract to purchase the 1,400-acre Nashville Superspeedway site near Lebanon for \$44.7 million. The real estate development company expects to close on the deal in the first quarter of 2017. Land acquisition and construction of the facility originally cost \$125 million in 2001 with infrastructure including water and sewer lines financed with a \$25.9 million in bonds issued by the Wilson County Sports Authority. The speedway property has been on the market since 2011. Panattoni constructed the Under Armour Facility in Mt. Juliet and also owns 55.76 acres there.

LENOIR CITY

Renovations to Lenoir City's new city hall are nearing completion as city officials plan to move in. The former SunTrust Building is being renovated by Wright Contracting, Inc. while Knoxville-based Riverbend Power Cleaning provided pres-

sure washing and a new coat of paint for the building. Other renovations include additional parking spaces, better security and more space for city courts, council chambers and offices. The city moved into its previous location in 1988 and has since outgrown the space. The city purchased the former SunTrust building for \$700,000.

KNOXVILLE

Knoxville has been ranked as one of the top 20 "most fun" cities in America by personal finance website Wallet Hub. Knoxville was the highest ranked city in Tennessee and ranked 17th out of 150 nationwide. The city also ranked 21st in nightlife and parties, 29th in cost, and 33rd in entertainment and recreation. The top 10 cities ranked on the list were Las Vegas, Orlando, Miami, New Orleans, Salt Lake City, Cincinnati, Fort Lauderdale, St. Louis, Atlanta and Scottsdale. Rankings were based on findings including number of eateries and recreation spots per capita, festivals, weather, percentage of parkland, arts and crafts supplies establishments, affordability, cost of living, and access to bars, casinos, music venues, and breweries.

MEMPHIS

The Memphis International Airport is receiving \$1.38 million in federal funding for new equipment that will reduce emissions and improve air quality in and around the airport. U.S. Congressman Steve Cohen announced the airport would receive the funds as part of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Voluntary Airport Low-Emissions program. Memphis-Shelby County Airport Authority said the money will be used to build a new substation room, make upgrades to the power distribution systems and install pre-conditioned air units on three jet bridges, which keep jets cool while onboarding and offboarding passengers.

MURFREESBORO

FedEx has announced plans to invest \$190 million and create more than 230 jobs at a million-square-foot facility in Murfreesboro. The Memphis-based shipping company is expecting to start construction by the end of the year and open the distribution facility in early 2018. Of the jobs created by the new facility, 41 will be full-time positions with an average salary of \$54,000 while approximately 191 will be part-time workers averaging 30 hours a week with a salary around \$24,000. The facility will also offer additional contract work, such as long-haul drivers.

NASHVILLE

Vantage, LLC, will invest \$5 million to establish a manufacturing plant in Nashville, creating an estimated 100 manufacturing and assembly jobs during the next five years. Vantage is a start-up created by the founders of Crye Precision, a leading design and manufacturing firm headquartered in Brooklyn, N.Y. Crye has been designing and producing apparel, armor and other equipment for the military, law enforcement and civilian markets since 2000. Vantage will begin producing a brand new shotgun at its Nashville plant, which will be operational by the end of the year. The company will move into a 22,000-square-foot facility on Murfreesboro Road.

OAK RIDGE

Oak Ridge-based LeMond Composites, a company offering solutions for high-volume and low-cost carbon fiber, has secured a licensing agreement with the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). The company, founded earlier this year by three-time Tour de France champion Greg LeMond, focuses on making carbon fiber composites with global applications. The agreement with ORNL will make LeMond Composites the first company to offer these newly developed products to the transportation, renewable energy and infrastructure markets. LeMond Composites plans to build their first carbon fiber production line at their recently purchased facility on Palladium Way in Oak Ridge. Their first commercially available product is expected to be ready in early 2018.

PARKERS CROSSROADS

The state has received nearly \$6 million in federal funding from the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) for the construction of the future Tennessee State Veterans

Brentwood dedicates memorial garden



On the 15th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the city of Brentwood and the Leadership Brentwood Class of 2016 dedicated a Public Safety Reflecting Garden. The garden consists of three statues representing law enforcement, firefighters, and the U.S. Military. The garden will be dedicated to all those who have served Brentwood residents in these fields. Four sitting benches have also been added outside City Hall.

Gallatin receives GNRC awards



The city of Gallatin received three awards for innovation in government programs by the Greater Nashville Regional Council (GNRC) during their 49th Annual Awards Banquet. Gallatin was given top honors for cost-saving techniques for its special census. Gallatin's Public Utilities Department was honored for completing a \$4.65 million upgrade to its water treatment plant. Gallatin's Economic Development Agency (GEDA) was awarded for their "Gallatin Gets It" campaign. From left to right: Administrative Assistant Tamecka Strawther, Mayor Paige Brown, Councilman Ed Mayberry, GEDA Program Development Manager Mary Gauerke, Special Projects Director Rosemary Bates, Special Census employee Mike Clinard, Chief Water Plant Operator Bennie Baggett, Superintendent of Public Utilities David Gregory, and Utility Operations Support Coordinator Troy Warren.

Kasai holds traditional ceremony at opening of Murfreesboro facility



Tennessee Economic and Community Development Commissioner Randy Boyd and officials with Kasai participate in a Kagmai Biraki, a traditional sake barrel ceremony, to officially celebrate the opening of the new Kasai location in Murfreesboro. The opening of the sake barrel is said to bring good luck for future endeavors. In late 2014, the Japanese-based company, which supplies Nissan and other automotive companies, announced plans to invest \$13.4 million and add 250 jobs in Murfreesboro.

Cemetery at Parkers Crossroads. The 132-acre cemetery will be located at 693 Wildersville Road and will serve more than 45,000 veterans and their families within 17 counties in west Tennessee. The Tennessee counties within a 75 mile radius of the proposed cemetery include Benton, Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Decatur, Gibson, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Lewis, McNairy, Madison, Perry, Wayne, and Weakley counties.

UNION CITY

Discovery Park of America will invest \$1.5 million in the largest expansion the park has seen since it opened in 2013. The Children's Discovery Garden will be located on the north

side of the property with more than 23,000 square feet of space. Guests can look forward to enjoying a fossil embedded pathway, the Rhapsody outdoor musical garden, landscape sculptures, a sensory garden, outdoor classrooms, a meditative pathway, butterfly garden, giant outdoor checks and chess boards, and other structures. Landscape Sculptures, Inc. is designing a giant version of the Discovery Park of America logo that will rest high above the play area to create shade. In this space, the Imagination Playground blocks earlier donated by KaBOOM and Blue Cross Blue Shield Health Foundation will find a home as children can build and create with these unique building toys.

TENNESSEE TOWN & CITY

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Lenoir City, UT partner for Smart Communities Initiative

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surrounding areas.

Students and faculty members from disciplines including architecture, advertising and public relations, economics, retail, hospitality and tourism management, and Spanish will contribute between 20,000 and 40,000 hours of service to advance the pursuit of environmental sustainability, economic viability, and social integrity in the area.

"We look forward to working with the Lenoir City community to establish a common vision and steps forward for the downtown," Ellenburg said. "We have found these courses to be extremely impactful for all involved, certainly for our students. We want to direct our students' studies toward contemporary challenges, and give them opportunities to propose solutions in line with best practices in their fields."

Merchandising students will be exploring existing and preferred uses for the downtown area and identifying opportunities for market and retail growth in alignment with local needs and preferred uses.

Advertising and public relations students will develop a comprehensive brand strategy and visual identity for the downtown and Lenoir City Merchants Association in partnership with downtown businesses, merchants, and community members.

The school's architectural students will be proposing new design concepts for downtown buildings, including an extension to the city's fire hall, and tourism management students will identify new strategies to help bring tourists into the downtown area. Students in the school's Spanish program will be working to engage the city's Hispanic community in downtown revitalization.

Additionally, students will work on projects including collecting citizen input on preferred uses for downtown, identifying opportunities for marketing and retail growth alignment, developing a comprehensive brand strategy and visual identity for downtown.

Other goals include identifying

ways to engage the local community downtown through opportunities including live music and public art, and developing a downtown master plan that incorporates vertical development, mixed use concepts, pedestrian, and bicycle access, and softscapes.

"This is an opportunity for us to work with a smaller community that has a whole lot going for it," Ellenburg said. "We hope our students can bring some additional capacity to help them actualize their vision for the downtown. It is a charming, tight-knit community."

While the communities walk away with the project with new ideas and perspectives on how to improve their cities, students participating in the project get to apply techniques and lessons they previously only learned about in a classroom setting.

Scott-Kelso said she and other city officials are excited that UT students will have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience from the program and learn how their fields of study can be utilized in a government setting.

"As a UTK alumni, myself, I feel strongly about the experience that the students are gaining from this program. They are gaining a real world understanding, as they implement the concepts and theories which have been lectured to them in the classroom setting. There is no amount of classroom time that can compare to the applications of such in a real world setting. In addition to the application of their academic concepts, I hope the students learn how to interact with those outside the classroom, and how to properly articulate themselves and their ideas."

Several local entities have also pledged their support to the project. In addition to the city government, the Loudon County Visitors Bureau, the Loudon County Chamber of Commerce, and the Loudon County Economic Development Agency have also pledged to help in the project. Pat Phillips, director of the Loudon County Economic Development Agency, will serve as the program coordinator for the SCI.



The Natchez Trace extends 110 miles through Tennessee from Nashville to the state line south of Collinwood, passing several historical markers and state parks. At present, the 440-mile-long parkway is in need of \$403.5 million in repairs, around \$383 million of which is road-related. Congress allocated the entire National Park Service a \$28 million increase for transportation projects at sites across the country this year.

Cities advocate for additional NPS funds

PARKS from Page 1

nessee. Because of the park and the way the beauty has been maintained, it makes this area so desirable. The park helps a good part of East Tennessee, even all the way out to Knoxville. We have a responsibility as stewards and to help protect the national park. It's our biggest asset in this area; there is no question about it."

In addition to providing a tourism draw, Werner said the park is also an important amenity for local residents. An avid hiker himself, Werner said a lot of residents are eager to participate in the 100-mile challenge Superintendent Cassius Clay has issued to celebrate the National Park Service Centennial.

U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander also expressed his support for helping the park system with needed maintenance. Alexander spent Aug. 25 – the official Centennial of the National Park Service – hiking in the park with East Tennessee students.

"It's easy these days to hear about what is wrong with America.

It's also easy to see what is right, and a great way to do that is reflect on the beauty, magic and serenity of the American outdoors and to celebrate 100 years of the U.S. National Park Service," Alexander said. "It is our responsibility to ensure the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and all other national parks around the country, are protected and preserved so future generations can enjoy them, just like we have."

Alexander said the roads in national parks are a particular need Congress must address.

"In the last several years, we have funded at least \$50 million for the Foothills Parkway and another \$10 million just last month," Alexander said. "In my view, park roads should receive a larger share of the federal gas tax, which was a recommendation of the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors, which I chaired for President Reagan."

While the larger national parks draw the most attention, the

multi-billion maintenance backlog is also affecting other properties in Tennessee managed by the NPS.

Some of these properties are important to historical locations, like the Andrew Johnson National Historic Site in Greeneville. The site devoted to the 17th president has deferred more than \$480,000 worth of maintenance to buildings and other infrastructure.

Important battle sites have also had to put off millions of dollars' worth of maintenance in the past few years. The Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park in Chattanooga has deferred \$50 million worth of work while the Shiloh National Military Park in West Tennessee has deferred \$7.1 million. In Middle Tennessee, the Fort Donelson National Battlefield in Dover has deferred \$5.6 million worth of maintenance while Murfreesboro's Stones River National Battlefield in Middle Tennessee has deferred \$5.1 million in maintenance.

The NPS also manages the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area near Oneida and the Obed Wild and Scenic River site in Wartburg. Big South Fork has more than \$28.5 million in deferred maintenance to buildings, housing, campgrounds, trails, water systems, and roads while more than \$378,000 in maintenance to buildings, campgrounds, trails, and roads have been delayed at Obed.

Scenic parkways and trails that travel through parts of Tennessee are also facing shortfalls, including the Appalachian Trail in East Tennessee, the Natchez Trace Parkway in Middle and West Tennessee, and the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, which crisscrosses the state in a variety of segments. Stretching from Georgia to Maine, the Appalachian Trail has a \$16 million backlog of maintenance projects while the Natchez Trace National Parkway is facing more than \$403.5 million in deferred maintenance. Around \$383 million of that is related to road paving.

Congressional funding for the National Park Service in 2016 includes an additional \$90 million for non-transportation maintenance. Congress also passed a new highway bill which will provide a \$28 million increase for transportation projects in parks this year. Funding for transportation-related maintenance and construction will continue to rise, by \$8 million per year for five years, until it reaches \$300 million per year in 2020.

While these contributions have helped, Jarvis said maintenance costs and needs continue to increase. As a result, the NPS has asked local communities to express to Congress the importance of maintaining NPS properties around the country.

"We have a lot yet to do but I think everything is moving in the right direction," Jarvis said. "Congress has pitched in with base funding and with additional funds for the Centennial Challenge – a program that enables us to leverage private and non-profit partner contributions to complete important projects that improve visitor services in parks. There is more Congress can do through the Centennial Act now under consideration including short-term mandatory appropriations."

For more information on the NPS backlogs and the needs of individual sites, visit <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/plandesignconstruct/defermain.htm>.

Pooling resources for a sustainable recreation opportunity

Loretto opens state-of-the-art aquatic facility

BY TOM DOHERTY

TDEC's Office of Sustainable Practices

Located five miles north of the Alabama border, in southern middle Tennessee, is the city of Loretto. While Loretto may be recognized as the birthplace of Major League Baseball pitcher David Weathers, or home to the folk group, The Civil Wars, the city of Loretto is certain to make another splash with the opening of a new state-of-the-art recreation space.

Through a partnership with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's (TDEC) Office of Sustainable Practices and Recreation Educational Services, Croy Engineering, and the city of Loretto, the city celebrated the opening of their new pool on Aug. 27.

The former city pool, 25 years old, was decommissioned in 2011. After almost five years without any aquatic recreation facilities, the city and its citizens were eager to develop a new facility. The interest in a new pool came out of a master plan questionnaire to the community where stakeholders identified an outdoor swimming pool and walking trails as the most important priorities for the city. Specifically, 33 percent of respondents expressed dissatisfaction with the existing recreation services. Mayor Jesse Turner looked at this as a top priority and opportunity to develop a new pool and splash pad as Phase 1 of their master plan.

Recreation Educational Services Director Gerald Parish said the city applied for a Local Parks and Recreation Fund (LPRF) grant in 2014. The LPRF program provides funding to eligible entities to purchase lands for park, natural areas, greenways and recreation facilities.

"The application talked about several new ideas of using both recyclable material and energy efficient features."

After several discussions between the Office of Sustainable Practices and Recreation Education services, it was decided that this was



Loretto's new aquatic recreation facility is a model in swimming pool development for the state of Tennessee in using recyclable products and energy efficient equipment

an ideal opportunity to showcase a truly sustainable development.

"In a meeting with Mayor Jesse Turner, his staff, and state Rep. Barry Doss, it was determined to move forward with this project," Parish said.

With roughly \$500,000 in funding from the TDEC's Office of Sustainable Practice through the Clean Tennessee Energy Grant, and the Recreation Educational Services LPRF grant, the city was able to leverage the resources to make this project a reality. Additionally, the city matched roughly \$500,000 in local funds, bringing the project total to nearly \$1 million.

Shortly after the city was awarded the funding, they began working with an Alabama-based engineering firm – Croy Engineering – who was known for their proficiency in the development of several innovative parks and recreation facilities. Croy Engineering was quick to address both the city's and TDEC's interest in sustainability, and the need for a high-quality recreation facility.

A recycled glass bead pool filter system, a pool deck composed of 40 percent fly-ash – a byproduct of coal combustion – and a retractable pool cover to help maintain ideal aquatic temperatures are just the beginning of the sustainable features of the pool. The pool-house facility has a

white reflective roof to reduce heat during hot summer months, skylights to allow for natural lighting, efficient LED lighting to illuminate the interior, and it is built from fly-ash concrete blocks.

Other interior features such as low-flow toilets, automated sensors on sinks, energy efficient water heaters, and low-flow shower heads will help the city reduce operating costs, while using the newest technology.

The remainder of the property includes several low-impact developments. Additional features including pervious pavement and bioswales were added to assist with lower site runoff and groundwater recharge. All sustainability and low-impact developments are identified on-site with permanent signage.

The city has been instrumental in setting the bar for sustainability and helped create an environment that supports health and wellness, a community gathering space, and addresses the need for a recreation facility in the region. All pool facilities, parking, restrooms, and side-walk areas are ADA accessible.

Andy Somers, a project engineer with Croy Engineering, said the firm worked in incorporate Loretto's overall goals into the project.

"The pool was not designed as a stand-alone project, but was specif-

ically sited to fit in with the overall park plan, and includes elements that help meet the plan's defined goals for better handicap accessibility, improved public restroom facilities, and a continuous walking path around the park perimeter," he said.

The community and project stakeholders have been thrilled that the project has had such strong social and environmental benefits.

"We now have a model in swimming pool development for the state of Tennessee in using recyclable products and energy efficient equipment to help preserve our environment," Parish said.

Mayor Turner said the collaborative efforts of the pool development helped show the best Loretto has to offer.

"As mayor of a small town, I always want our projects to reflect the best of our community. It can be a struggle to find the resources to make that project come true," Turner said. "This is why I am so proud of our new community pool project. Folks at the state and local level worked together to design and fund a project that is a model for small communities. Not only does it provide a great source of recreation for everyone in our town, it is also a beautiful structure – one that will make Loretto proud for many years to come."



PEOPLE

Metro Nashville Councilman **John Cooper** has been selected to serve as chairman of the council's budget and finance committee, replacing Bill Pridemore who held the position for the past two years. The brother of U.S. Rep. Jim Cooper, D-Nashville, he is a real estate developer and investor from the Woodlawn area of the city. Cooper ran for office in 2015 based on a desire to ensure the city made sound financial decisions. He holds a bachelor's degree in history from Harvard University and a master's in business administration from the Owen School of Management at Vanderbilt University. He founded PLC properties in 1995 in Nashville.



John Cooper

to hold political office after being elected to the Spring City Commission. A freshman at Bryan College, Hufstetler graduated from Rhea County High School in May. He volunteers at the Spring City Chamber of Commerce, Spring City Care and Rehab, Rhea County Relay for Life and the Tennessee Valley Theater. Additionally, Hufstetler founded a nonprofit organization for child abuse prevention called Heroes and Angels. He was awarded the Governor's Volunteer Star Award earlier in 2016 for his volunteer efforts in his community.



Bailey Hufstetler

Shan Criswell has been selected as the new director of parks and recreation for the city of Bartlett. Criswell began her career with the city in 1988 as the director of the Singleton Community Center. She was promoted to assistant director of the parks department in 2014. During her career, Criswell has held several positions with the Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association including executive board secretary, west district chairwoman, and municipal county chairwoman. Through TRPA, she received the Maynard Glen Award twice for Most Outstanding Recreational Programming for the state in 1992 and again in 2004. She has also served as secretary and vice-president of the Tennessee Recreation and Parks Education Foundation.



Shan Criswell

Warren Miller, a longtime alderman for the town of Pegram, died Sept. 14 at the age of 87. Miller had served on the Pegram board of Mayor and Aldermen for several years, having been most recently elected to a four-year term beginning in 2014. In addition to his work with the board, Miller was a lifetime member of the Pegram Fire Department. Pegram Mayor Charles Morehead described Miller as a true community servant who treated others like they were part of his family. The city board will appoint a new member to Miller's seat until such time as an election for the office can be held.



Warren Miller

Roy Wilson retired on Aug. 31 after 41 years of service to the city of Dayton. Wilson began his career in 1975 with the city of Dayton Electric Department. He eventually came to the city's Maintenance and Sanitation Department where he rose through the ranks to become supervisor of the department. In 2010, he also took on the role as supervisor of the city's Parks and Recreation Department after the retirement of the former supervisor. In this role, Wilson has overseen the city's 11 ballfields, nine tennis courts, football stadium, college size basketball court and three soccer fields. He has served in this dual role for the past six years.



Roy Wilson

Carol Hudler has been selected as the new chief executive officer and president of Cumberland Region Tomorrow. Hudler presently serves on the board of directors for American Hometown Publishing, Inc., and has previously served as the publisher of *The Tennessean* and as founder of Hudler Success Strategies. Her new duties will include facilitating CTR's eighth annual Power of Ten Regional Summit and executing the organization's new three-year strategic plan. She holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Kansas and started her career in 1982 as a sales manager for the *Orange County Register* in Santa Ana, Calif. Hudler worked at various media companies – including the *Long Beach Press Telegram*, *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle*, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, *Knight Ridder*, *The Macon Telegraph*, and *Gannett* – before coming to work in Tennessee in 2009.



Carol Hudler

Vickie Wilson retired Aug. 31 after serving 31 years with the city of Dayton. Wilson joined the city in 1985 as a billing clerk in the billing and utility office. She later transferred to the city's administration department, where she became the general fund bookkeeper. Wilson's last several years with the city have been spent as the water and sewer department's bookkeeper.



Vickie Wilson

Bailey Hufstetler, 18, has become the youngest person in Tennessee

Chiefs, officers honored during Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police conference

The Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police recently held its 2016 Annual Awards Banquet in Chattanooga, honoring chiefs and officers from the state's three grand divisions for their service and dedication.

The Chief of the Year Award is presented to a police chief based upon the following criteria: the chief's ability to be progressive, innovative, and professional in the management of his or her department; the chief's involvement with the community he or she serves; and the chief's involvement with local, county, state and national organizations to promote and enhance the professional image of all police personnel.

The Officer of the Year Award is presented to an officer who demonstrates exceptional achievement and shows genuine commitment in his profession, agency and community.

EAST DIVISION

Chattanooga Police Chief Fred Fletcher was presented with the Chief of the Year Award for his dedication and poise during the shooting at the U.S. Navy Reserve center in Chattanooga in July of last year. Fletcher left a gang violence reduction meeting to respond and worked with multiple agencies during the incident as well as visited with his own injured officers.



Chattanooga Police Chief Fred Fletcher



Eastern Division Officer of the Year: Elizabethton Police Capt. Jerry Bradley, right, with Jeff Hughs, Brentwood police chief and TACP president

Elizabethton Police Department Capt. Jerry Bradley was presented with the Officer of the Year award. Bradley was shot twice in the apprehension of a subject wanted by the U.S. Marshals, but he continued to provide relevant and accurate information about the subject to other officers en route to the scene after being wounded.



Middle Division Chief of the Year: Cookeville Chief Randy Evans, right, and Chief Hughs.



Middle Division Officer of the Year: Cookeville Lt. Mitch Harrington, center, with Chief Hughs, left, and Chief Evans, right.

MIDDLE DIVISION

Cookeville Police Chief Randy Evans was selected as Chief of the Year. He was honored for contributions to his department including developing agency policy for body worn cameras to naloxone implementation.

The Officer of the Year Award was presented to Cookeville Police Lt. Mitch Harrington. Earlier this year, Harrington responded to a structure fire in Cookeville. Despite the heavy smoke and visible flames, he went into the building after hearing an occupant responding to shouts from officers. He found himself trapped inside the apartment building when the falling ceiling forced the door closed. This extended exposure to the smoke and fire inflicted serious physical injuries that required extensive medical treatment.



Western Division Chief of the Year: Dyersburg Chief Steve Isbell with Chief Hughs, left.



Western Division Officer of the Year: Lexington Police Officer James McCreedy, center, with Chief Hughs, left, and Lexington Police Chief Roger Loftin, right.

WEST DIVISION

Dyersburg Police Chief Steve Isbell was selected as Chief of the Year. Isbell was selected for raising the bar of standards for police excellence, his longstanding commitment to professionalism in law enforcement and his hard work in developing community ties.

Lexington Officer James McCreedy was selected as the Officer of the Year. McCreedy is the first cadet in TLETA history to win both the leadership award and outstanding cadet award. Following graduation, he has become the first and only officer to be honored with the Lexington Police Officer of the Year award twice.

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STATE BRIEFS



Tennessee exports totaled more than \$32.4 billion in 2015, according to new data from the U.S. Department of Commerce. While a slight drop from the year prior, Tennessee's exports outperformed national export figures. Nationwide, exports dropped nearly 5 percent from 2014 to 2015, mainly due to a strong U.S. dollar and high commodity prices. Since 2011, exports from Tennessee are up 8.6 percent. Brie Knox, the director of the Commerce Department's U.S. Commercial Service in Nashville, said Tennessee's export figures show that Tennessee companies can succeed internationally despite the economic concerns in many countries.

A new state law authorizes pharmacists to dispense naloxone to a person at risk of opioid overdose or to a family member, friend or other person to assist someone at risk of an opiate-related overdose. Public Chapter 596 sets up a state-wide pharmacy practice agreement for what is called "opioid antagonist therapy" for willing licensed, practicing Tennessee pharmacist with proper training in opioid antagonist therapy. Authorized pharmacists may dispense an opioid antagonist such as naloxone to help prevent an opiate-related overdose. The pharmacist must provide proof of completing an opioid antagonist training program within the past two years before he or she can enter into the agreement to dispense naloxone. Once under the collaborative practice agreement found on the TDH website, pharmacists will need to take an opioid antagonist training course.

More than 15 percent of Tennessee households do not have enough food to meet their needs, according to new data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Tennessee ranks in the bottom 13 states in the nation for food security. There are 479,000 low-income children in Tennessee receiving free or reduced price lunches, but

only 61 percent of them are getting a school breakfast, which experts say is one way to reduce food insecurity among children. Nationwide, food insecurity has declined from 2014 to 2015—with 13.4 percent of households struggling with hunger in 2015. That still leaves 42 million Americans living in food insecure households. Rates of food insecurity are typically higher in households with children, minority households and those headed by a single man or woman.

Construction has begun at a new state-of-the-art metrology laboratory at the Tennessee Department of Agriculture's Ellington Agricultural Center in Nashville. The expansive laboratory will house and maintain the primary standards of mass, volume and length for the state and will include the most current equipment and testing capabilities to ensure fairness in the marketplace. Businesses that depend upon certified scales, meters and temperature measuring devices will significantly benefit from the services that will be available at the laboratory. In addition to testing gas pumps and grocery store scales, professionals in the metrology lab are responsible for regulating a sophisticated, fast-moving marketplace. They check signage, advertisements and price computations to make sure consumers are not misled. They also verify that the fuel being sold to drivers meets quality standards.

The State Board of Education has launched a public review website to gather feedback on Tennessee's newly revised K-12 social studies standards. This is the first time the social studies standards, recently revised by Tennessee educators, will be available for public review. All Tennesseans are invited to review each social studies standard by grade level and provide comments and suggestion through Oct. 28.

Tennessee needs at least \$41.5 billion in public infrastructure improvements

Tennessee needs at least \$41.5 billion for public infrastructure improvements during the five-year period of 2014-2019 according to a new report by the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR). The need for public infrastructure improvements as reported by state and local officials is down \$299 million (0.7 percent) compared with the year before, mainly because of a \$611 million decrease in the Transportation and Utilities category that was driven by \$1 billion in decreased costs for road projects already in the inventory.

Costs for current infrastructure needs fall into six general categories:

- Transportation and Utilities: \$25.4 billion
- Education: \$8.5 billion
- Health, Safety, and Welfare: \$5.0 billion
- Recreation and Culture: \$1.6 billion
- General Government: \$614 million
- Economic Development: \$379 million

Transportation and Utilities has always been the single largest category and it remains so despite a decrease of \$611 million (2.4 percent) from last year to \$25.4 billion. Many Tennesseans are aware that the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) reports an approximately \$6 billion backlog of projects, but this includes only the total estimated cost of remaining phases of work for projects already approved by the Tennessee General Assembly and currently under development. The inventory's much larger estimate of \$25.2 billion for transportation (not including the category's other \$215 million for other utilities) includes all transportation improvements identified by state and local officials as needed, whether or not any funding has been approved or is even likely to be forthcoming.

The decrease in the inventory's Transportation and Utilities category is driven by a combination of decreased costs for existing road projects and road projects that were completed, canceled, or postponed, would be greater if not for the addition of new projects. Nearly \$200 million, or roughly one-fifth, of the decrease in road costs is reductions resulting from TDOT's Expedited Delivery Program, which develops lower cost, more timely alternatives for projects that have been needed but not funded for a long time. Comprising 60.7 percent of estimated costs for all infrastructure improvements,

transportation alone dwarfs all other types of infrastructure needs.

Education is the second largest category and increased \$204 million (2.4 percent) to \$8.5 billion, mainly because of a \$218 million (10.5 percent) increase in the amount needed to renovate or replace existing public school buildings. This increase was partially offset by an \$80 million (5.1 percent) decrease in the need for new school space. Asked about the overall condition of their school buildings, public school officials reported that 91.6 percent are in good or better condition. Post-secondary education accounted for 29.9 percent of the increase in the education category—there was a \$61 million (1.3 percent) increase in improvement needs at the state's public college and university campuses, which now stands at \$4.6 billion.

Health, Safety, and Welfare, the third largest category, increased by \$265 million (5.6 percent) to \$5 billion. This increase resulted primarily from increases in the need for improved water and wastewater, and infrastructure needed for storm water.

Water and wastewater accounts for the largest portion of the category at \$3.3 billion; it increased by \$202 million (6.5 percent) from last year as the cost and extent of EPA-decreed improvements in Nashville increased.

The amount needed for storm water improvements increased by \$95 million (91.9 percent) to \$198 million, and the estimated cost for public health facilities improvements increased by \$87 million (24.7 percent) to \$441 million, both driven by the addition of a few costly, new projects.

The total cost of two other types of infrastructure in this category also increased: fire protection increased by \$1.8 million (1.1 percent) to \$168 million and public housing increased by \$800,000 (75.6 percent) to \$1.9 million. The estimated cost of infrastructure improvements needed for law enforcement and solid waste decreased—law enforcement decreased \$117 million (12.6 percent) to \$812 million, and solid waste decreased \$5 million (15.9 percent) to \$26 million—primarily a reflection of projects completed.

The **Recreation and Culture** category decreased overall by \$119 million (7 percent) to \$1.6 billion because of decreases in all three types of infrastructure in this category but mainly because of community development projects that were completed, which reduced the

total for that type of infrastructure by \$79 million (29.5 percent) to \$190 million. The estimated cost for libraries, museums, and historic sites decreased by \$25 million (6.9 percent) to \$343 million—few new projects of this type were added to the inventory, while several were completed, canceled, or reported as having a cost reduction. In addition, the estimated cost of infrastructure for recreation decreased \$14 million (1.4 percent) to \$1 billion as completed and canceled projects slightly outweighed the costs of new projects added.

The estimated cost of **General Government** infrastructure improvements decreased by \$56 million (8.4 percent) to \$614 million. This category includes only two types of infrastructure: public buildings and other facilities. The estimated cost of improvements in other facilities such as those used for storage and maintenance decreased by \$49 million (35.4 percent) to \$89 million, and the need for improvements in public buildings decreased by \$7 million (1.4 percent) to \$525 million.

The estimated cost of infrastructure improvements in the **Economic Development** category—the smallest category this year—increased by \$19 million (5.3 percent) since the last inventory and now totals \$379 million, mainly because a new \$40 million industrial park access road project at the Airport Industrial Park in White County produced a net \$28 million (11.8 percent) increase the cost of industrial sites and parks, which now totals \$261 million. The cost of business district development decreased by \$9 million (6.8 percent) to \$118 million.

In general, the more people a county has and the more its population grows, the more infrastructure it will need and, fortunately, the more wealth it will likely have to pay for those needs. As has been the case throughout the history of this inventory, relationships among these factors are strong and well demonstrated by the variation reported for each Tennessee county, although they are not perfectly aligned in any county.

Some counties are able to meet their infrastructure needs more easily than others, some continue to report the same needs year after year, and even fast growing counties can find it difficult to meet their needs. And, relative to county population, counties with small populations need and complete just as much or more infrastructure than counties with large populations. Five counties—Davidson, Shelby, Rutherford, Williamson, and Montgomery—account for 42.7 percent (\$5.9 billion) of the needed \$13.8 billion in infrastructure improvements reported by local officials.

Officials are confident in obtaining funding for only \$11.8 billion of the \$32.7 billion needed to meet infrastructure improvement needs. These figures do not include improvements for which funding information is not collected, such as improvements at existing schools or those in state agencies' capital budget requests. Most of this funding, \$11.3 billion, is for improvements that are fully funded; another \$528 million is for improvements that are partially funded. That leaves another \$20.9 billion of improvements for which funding is not yet available.

Unfunded infrastructure improvement needs are much less likely to be completed the longer they remain unfunded. For example, of the improvements needed in the current inventory that have been in the conceptual stage for three years, 28.7 percent are now fully funded. Only 0.04 percent of conceptual needs that have been in the inventory for eight years are now fully funded, and 82.5 percent of that is for transportation improvements.

Revenue sources matter when it comes to this growing backlog of unfunded infrastructure improvements. For example, transportation infrastructure depends on a revenue stream that has been declining relative to need for many years because fuel costs and the related taxes have declined, but water and wastewater infrastructure is paid for by utility customers, for which only 7.8 percent of 8-year old projects remain unfunded in this inventory.

The full report is available on TACIR's web site at <http://www.tn.gov/tacir/article/tacir-infra-2014-2019>. For more information, contact Dave Keiser, Project Manager, at david.keiser@tn.gov or 615.253.4237.

August revenues \$38M more than expectations

Tennessee revenues exceeded the budgeted estimates for August, which is the first month of the state's fiscal year.

Finance and Administration Commissioner Larry Martin reported that overall August revenues were \$948.2 million, which is \$49.8 million more than August of last year and \$38 million more than the budgeted estimate. The growth rate for all taxes in August was 5.54 percent.

"Corporate tax receipts and sales tax revenue reflecting July's consumer activity posted positive growth for the month," Martin said. "All other tax revenues, taken as a group, also recorded positive growth."

"The positive revenue numbers for August reflect a continuing good economic environment in our state. It should be noted, however, that the sales tax, which is our largest revenue source, grew at a moderate rate of 2.2 percent. This is well below the average growth of 7.3 percent over the first six months of the calendar year," said Martin.

General fund revenues exceeded estimates by \$32.3 million and the four other funds that share in state tax revenues were \$5.7 million over estimates.

Sales tax revenues were \$24.9 million more than the estimate for August. The August growth rate was positive 2.16 percent.

Franchise and excise taxes combined were \$10.3 million more than the budgeted estimate of \$31.8 million. August is usually a very small revenue month for F&E taxes.

Gasoline and motor fuel revenues increased by 1.09 percent from August of last year and were \$4.6 million more than the budgeted estimate of \$70.8 million.

Inheritance tax revenues exceeded the budgeted estimate by \$1.3 million. Privilege tax revenues were \$5.6 million less than the budgeted estimate of \$26.5 million.

Business tax revenues were \$4.4 million more than the August estimate. Tobacco tax revenues for the month were less than the budgeted estimates by \$900,000.

All other tax revenues were under budget by a net of \$1 million.

The budgeted revenue estimates for 2016-2017 are based on the State Funding Board's consensus recommendation of Nov. 23, 2015, and adopted by the second session of the

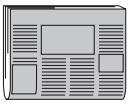
109th General Assembly in April 2016. Also incorporated in the estimates are any changes in revenue enacted during the 2016 session of the General Assembly. These estimates are available on the state's website at <http://www.tn.gov/finance/article/fa-budget-rev>

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ASSISTANT CITY ADMINISTRATOR FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION FRANKLIN. The city of Franklin is accepting applications for an experienced assistant city administrator (ACA) of Finance and Administration due to the upcoming retirement of their current ACA. This position reports directly to the city administrator and holds a key leadership role with responsibilities for providing oversight of all financial operations of the city, assisting in the coordination of activities across all city departments, and overseeing the planning, organizing, staffing, operations, and administration for all assigned departments. The ideal candidate will possess the ability to manage time demands of multiple projects while overseeing a variety of departments. This position will direct the financial management of the city while overseeing the Finance, Purchasing, City Court, Water, Sanitation, Environmental Services, and Information Technology departments. Successful candidates will possess a master's degree in Finance, Public Administration, or related discipline, plus 10 years of progressively responsible public sector financial management and administrative experience or a combination of education and experience. In order to be considered, the candidate must be a Certified Municipal Finance Officer (CMFO). EOE. Send resumes to: Franklin HR Director Search, University of TN – MTAS, 226 Capitol Blvd., Suite 606, Nashville, TN 37219

BUILDING CODES OFFICIAL EAST RIDGE. The city of East Ridge Fire Rescue Codes Division is currently accepting applications for a full-time building and codes inspector. Qualified applicants should be able to perform all activities related to ensuring compliance with building standards including plans review, inspections, and corrections of hazards and to enforce city codes and ordinances pertaining to the city's building and housing code. Recommended qualifications: five years experience in building inspection standards and plans review. A full job description may be viewed on the city's website www.eastridgetn.gov. Resumes may be submitted to tperry@eastridgetn.gov or mailed to Trish Perry, Human Resources, City of East Ridge, 1517 Tombras Avenue, East Ridge, TN 37412. Open until filled. EOE

BUILDING INSPECTOR/CODES ENFORCEMENT OFFICER FAIRVIEW. The city of Fairview has an immediate opening for the following position: building inspector/codes enforcement officer. This position is responsible for the inspection of residential, commercial, and industrial including alterations for compliance with city, federal codes and regulations. This position reports directly to the planning/zoning/codes director. Qualifications include: at least 10 years experience or equivalent, as an architect, engineer, inspector, contractor, or superintendent of construction, or any combination of these, five years of which shall have been in responsible charge of work. Requires knowledge of building standards and materials; standards of inspection, general knowledge of wiring, mechanical and plumbing systems. Must be state certified or obtain within 12 months of employment. Requires experience with computer systems and software. Specific duties and responsibilities: reviews and reads architectural blueprints; answers and investigates citizen complaints; deals with property owners, contractors and tenants to resolve various nuisance problems, such as: sanitation, abandoned vehicles, trash, and maintenance of lots; issues building and sign permits for

residential, commercial and industrial use; completes residential, commercial and industrial building fire inspections; undertakes special projects, as assigned by the director; and reports and recommends action on various city matters to the director. Applications available at www.fairview-tn.org. This is a full time position with starting salary at \$42,658 (doq) plus benefits. Applications should be submitted to city recorder, Brandy Johnson, 7100 City Center Way, Fairview, TN, 37062, by mail or in person or via email at recorder@fairview-tn.org. Applications and resumes are subject to disclosure. Deadline for submittal is Sept. 30, 2016. EOE.

CITY MANAGER CROSSVILLE. The city of Crossville is seeking resumes for the position of city manager. Starting annual salary is market competitive, plus a generous benefits package. DOQ/DOE (minimum \$69,166.37, maximum \$110,572.83). This position is under the general guidance of the Crossville City Council consisting of a mayor and four councilmembers. The city manager shall be responsible to the city council for the administration of all city affairs placed in his/her charge by/under city charter. The city manager is responsible for overseeing the annual budget (\$20,626,000 for the 2016/17 FY) and exercises responsibility for planning, organizing and leading, through department supervisors, the activities of 170-180 full time employees. The city is seeking an individual that is accomplished, assertive and has current knowledge of municipal government and economic development; is able to interface with the public, media, industry heads and a variety of governmental boards and organizations. Requirements include: graduation from an accredited four year college, or university, with a major in public administration, business administration, economics, or related field. Five to 10 years of increasingly responsible experience in a general business environment, of which three years must have been in a responsible administrative, supervisory or consultative position. A master's degree in public administration, business administration or related field is preferred, but not required. Able to pass a background check, post-employment offer physical and drug screening. Residency within Crossville within six months of the date of hire. Reasonable relocation expense reimbursement may be negotiated. Resumes are to be submitted to Leah Crockett, human resources administrator, City of Crossville, 392 North Main Street, Crossville, TN 38555 or leah.crockett@crossvilletn.gov. Letters and resumes will be accepted until Sept. 30, 2016. Qualified candidates will be contacted with an invitation for interview. EOE

DIRECTOR, PERFORMING ARTS & CONFERENCE CENTER BARTLETT. The city of Bartlett is accepting applications for director for the Bartlett Performing Arts & Conference Center (BPACC). The director serves as the chief executive of BPACC and reports to the mayor of Bartlett. This position has responsibility for all programming and administrative operations of BPACC, and will supervise the sales, marketing and maintenance staff. The director also serves as the primary spokesperson for BPACC to the public. The director is responsible for building and maintaining community awareness about BPACC and its mission, and to foster and maintain relationships with all patrons. The director also oversees sales and marketing, facility rental, sponsorships, and facility and equipment maintenance. Qualified applicants will have a bachelor's degree, master's degree preferred, and a minimum of seven to 10 years of progressively responsible senior management experience in the performing arts sector. An equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered. Experience working for a municipal facility and with nonprofit boards is highly desirable as are excellent budgeting, people management and communication skills. Must have a valid driver's license. Must pass a background check, driver's license

check and a medical examination, including a drug screen. Will work in a non-smoking work environment. Annual salary is \$70,234 to \$82,220 commensurate with training, education and experience. This is a full-time position with excellent benefits such as health insurance, life insurance, social security and a retirement plan. Interested persons may apply in person to the Personnel Department, Bartlett City Hall, 6400 Stage Road, Bartlett, TN 38134, or on-line at www.cityofbartlett.org. Applications must be accompanied by a current resume. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled, but interested candidates are encouraged to apply no later than Sept. 30, 2016. EOE.

HUMAN RESOURCE DIRECTOR FRANKLIN. The city of Franklin is accepting applications for an experienced human resources director due to the retirement of their current director. This position reports directly to the city administrator and holds a key leadership role responsible for directing the Human Resources operations and activities for the city. This position will advise management on all aspects of discipline, promotions, transfers, terminations, labor relations, EEOC regulations, and ADA compliance. The successful candidate will serve as trustee and plan administrator for the city's three pension plans. This position will oversee employee relations, staffing considerations and oversee the recruitment, selection, promotion, and onboarding process of all employees. The ideal candidate will possess the ability to establish good working relationships while gaining trust of all employees. The position requires a strong ability to recruit and retain talented employees. Successful candidates will possess a master's degree or equivalent with five to 10 years of related experience or a combination of education and experience. In order to be considered, the candidate must possess one of the following certifications: SHRM-CP, PHR and/or SPHR. Send resumes to: Franklin HR Director Search, University of TN – MTAS, 226 Capitol Blvd., Suite 606, Nashville, TN 37219. EOE.

PLANNING CLERK ARLINGTON. The town of Arlington is seeking a highly motivated, qualified individual for a full-time position in the Planning and Development Department. This position will perform work requiring skills in administrative support, public relations, research, mapping, and basic math. Applicant must have an associate's degree and two years experience in an administrative support position, or an equivalent combination of education and relevant experience. A detailed job description and application are available at Town Hall, 5854 Airline Rd, Arlington, TN 38002 or at www.townofarlington.org. EOE.

POLICE CHIEF ELIZABETHTON (population 14,200 with 40 Sworn officers) is seeking an outcome-focused manager with proven leadership, interpersonal and communication skills to become the chief of police. This position reports to the city manager and requires a team player with sound decision making skills and the ability to interact and communicate effectively with the public, local, state and regional law enforcement personnel. POST Certification, a bachelor's degree in related field with a minimum of six years supervisory experience is required. The hiring process includes an assessment center. Salary DOQ: range is \$63,128 - \$66,310. Resume, cover letter and completed job applications to: Human Resources, 136 S. Sycamore Street, Elizabethton, TN 37643 or you may apply via the city's website: <http://www.elizabethton.org> by Oct. 7, 2016. Resumes are a public record.

STREET DIRECTOR. JONESBOROUGH. The town of Jonesborough is accepting applications for the street director position. Beginning salary - \$53,862. The position is responsible for all aspects of the operation of the Street Department including supervisory and

technical work in construction, maintenance and repair of streets, bridges and related public works, planning, organizing, snow removal, etc., assigning and reviewing the work of a group of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers. An application and position description can be obtained from the Administrator's Office at town hall, 123 Boone Street, Jonesborough, TN 37659. Applicant information can also be obtained through the town of Jonesborough's website www.jonesboroughtn.org. EOE

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER FAIRVIEW. The city of Fairview is seeking applications for a volunteer firefighter. Prior fire service experience not necessary. Volunteer firefighters receive training to qualify as a firefighter I/II and emergency medical responder. Training and equipment provided. The Fairview Fire Department's Volunteer Firefighter Program is a community-based program. This program gives members of the community the opportunity to augment a full-time career. Volunteer firefighters receive a nominal stipend and limited benefits for their voluntary participation in this program. Aptitude, physical tests and background investigations will be conducted. The next scheduled aptitude and physical test is scheduled for Nov. 19. Applicants will receive more information about the testing process when application is received. Once initial training is completed volunteer firefighters are required to attend two 3-hour training drills a month (normally the 1st and 3rd Tuesday) and to be on standby 12 hours a month (6 hours minimum shifts). Volunteer firefighters can also participate in station training activities, public education events and other fire department sponsored activities. Requirements include: high school diploma or GED; 18 years of age or old; valid driver license with acceptable driving record; not convicted of a felony; legal right to work within the United States; reside within 50 miles of Fairview; must be able to pass a background check; and must be of good health and pass city of Fairview physical requirements. The ideal candidate would have the ability to read and interpret written instructions, have strong communication and mechanical skills. Interested candidates should download the application at: <http://www.fairview-tn.org/wp-content/uploads/Employment-Application.pdf>. Applications will be accepted by mail at: Fairview Fire Dept; Attn Training Officer; 7131 Bowie Lake Road; Fairview TN 37062; or can email to stopfire@fairview-tn.org. Applications will be accepted until Nov. 4.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR, SR. COLLIERVILLE. This position requires the performance of highly responsible, skilled trades work in the operation and maintenance of the town's wastewater treatment plant in accordance with EPA standards. Requires a bachelor's degree with major course concentration in engineering, chemistry or a related science field; and one year operating experience at a Grade III or Grade IV Wastewater Treatment Plant; or any equivalent combination of education, training and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills and abilities for this job. Must be in compliance with TDEC Rule 0400-49-01 and remain in compliance throughout employment. Must possess and maintain a valid driver's license. Salary range is \$38,525 - \$66,042 (DOQ) annually with excellent benefits package and is full time. Applications and complete job descriptions are available online at www.collierville.com or in the Human Resources Office, 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN 38017, M-F, 8-5. The official application of the town of Collierville must be filled out and may be accompanied by a resume. The job number for the position, JN16-18PS, needs to be included on the application. Applications and resumes are subject to disclosure. Position will remain open until filled. EOE



TENNESSEE FESTIVALS

Sept 29 - Oct 1: Columbia Muletown Musicfest
This community collaboration will highlight local businesses and restaurants in Maury County through a venue driven showcase of talented musical acts. Held on the Historic Downtown Square, the celebration, will include great food, friends, fun and a surprise or two. For more information, go to <http://muletown-musicfest.com/>.

Oct. 1: Chattanooga Wine Over Water
Premier wine-tasting festival with wine samples from more than 100 world wineries. Held on the historic Walnut Street Bridge in downtown Chattanooga, the festival, will also feature four local chefs that will perform food demonstrations and offer samples free of charge. For more information or to purchase tickets, go to www.wineoverwater.org

Oct. 7-8: Bristol Parks & Recreation Wildlife Weekend.
Come get your passport to nature at the Park Lodge Friday, Oct. 7, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The evening program includes a photography lecture featuring Marq Marquette along with a reception and photography contest awards ceremony. Also featured will be information on the exciting expansion of the Nature Center. Saturday events begin at 8:30 a.m. and include bird banding; a children's nature walk; lots of kids' activities; a fossils, mushroom and wildflower walk; geology hike and much more. For more information, go to www.friendsofsteelcreek.org or call the Nature Center at 423.989.5616.

Oct. 14 - 17: Nashville Southern Festival of Books
This celebration of the written word brings together more than 200 of the nation and region's most notable authors from across genres and is held at War Memorial Plaza. Book signings, panel discussions, and readings make this festival great for any bookworm. For more information, go to www.humanitiestennessee.org

Oct. 21: Farragut Farragut Food & Wine Festival
Hosted by the Farragut Business Alliance and the town of Farragut, the festival will showcase samples from Farragut's eateries and wine pairings from area wine distributors. Event will also include live entertainment, featuring Knoxville favorite The Coveralls. Held from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., advance general admission tickets can be purchased for \$30 at www.farragutbusiness.com through noon the day of the event, or \$35 if purchased at the gate. VIP seats are limited to the first 64 sold and are \$100. Admission for children under 10 is \$10 in advance or \$15 at the gate, with children under 5 free. Learn more by calling 307-2486 or emailing info@farragutbusiness.com.

Oct. 21: Franklin Franklin Wine Festival
Fill up your wine glass and raise cash for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee. Cheers to exploring different flavors of wine with more than 300 varieties from around the world, along with tastings from Middle Tennessee's best chefs and restaurants. Held at The Factory at Franklin beginning at 7 p.m. For more information, go to www.franklinwinefestival.com

Oct. 22: Greeneville Second Annual BBQ & Bluegrass
Fun-filled day of music, dancing, kids activities and vendors offering a variety of food, and crafts in Downtown Greeneville. The free family event, scheduled from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., will feature two star-studded bluegrass shows at the Capitol Theatre. The first show will feature Carson Peters and Iron Mountain at 1 p.m., followed by Blue Mafia at 2 p.m. Tickets to see both of these groups are \$10. The second show will feature Icy Holler at 7 p.m., followed by Blue Highway at 8 p.m. Tickets to see both of these groups are \$20. For more information, search Facebook for "BBQ & Bluegrass featuring Windows to the Past," "Town of Greeneville", and "The Main Street Mile Run/Walk." Tickets can be purchased at the theatre or online at www.capitolgreeneville.org.

NLC CITY SUMMIT
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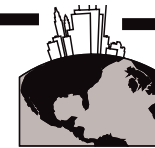
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NATIONAL BRIEFS



The income of the average American rose by 5.2 percent in 2015, the fastest increase ever recorded by the federal government. The U.S. Census Bureau reported the increase is the first significant boost to middle-class pay since the end of the Great Recession. Additionally, the poverty rate fell by 1.2 percentage points, the steepest decline since 1968. There were also 3.5 million fewer Americans in poverty in the past year in during this same period between 2014 and 2015. The share of Americans who lack health insurance continued a years-long decline, falling 1.3 percentage points, to 9.1 percent. Real median household income was \$56,500 in 2015, the Census Bureau reported, up from \$53,700 in 2014. The gain was a combination of rising wages in the economy - spurred by a labor market where unemployment is falling and employers are being forced to compete more for workers - and low inflation.

The national economy added 151,000 jobs in August, despite labor markets slowing in momentum. The U.S. Department of Labor reported the national unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.9 percent with the pace of job growth and the stagnant unemployment rate more disappointing than analysts had predicted. While job growth was not spectacular, officials said the numbers are not weak enough to indicate the economic recovery has been derailed. The highest gains were in the food service industry followed by financial services and the health-care industry. The biggest losses were recorded by the manufacturing sector.

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded \$28.4 million in Advanced Placement (AP) grants to 41 states and Washington, D.C. as part of its efforts to boost college- and career-readiness for historically underserved students. The grants will help defray the costs of taking advanced placement tests

for students from low-income families. By subsidizing test fees, the program encourages all students to take advanced placement tests and obtain college credit for high school courses, reducing the time and cost required to complete a postsecondary degree.

The latest job estimates from the U.S. Labor Department suggest a recent uptick in local government payrolls. In August, the sector added 24,000 jobs, while July estimates were revised for a monthly gain of 43,000 positions nationally. Total local government employment, including education, has expanded by about 1 percent so far this year. Growth in hiring among schools, in particular, appears to have accelerated after changing little over the first half of the year. Employment for all other areas of local government registered increases each month this year. In all, local public employment (excluding education) has expanded by 68,000 positions since December,

an increase of 1.1 percent. Still, local government employment remains a long way off from prerecession levels. By comparison, state-level public employment has shown little movement. Current estimates for total state government jobs, excluding education, are the same as they were in January.

The U.S. Department of Transportation is urging the public to make sure children are properly buckled up in the correct car seat for their size and age. Newly released data from the NHTSA 2015 National Survey of the Use of Booster Seats shows 37.4 percent of children ages four to seven in the United States were not being properly restrained. Of that number, 25.8 percent were restrained by seat belts and 11.6 percent were unrestrained. 13.6 percent of children from one to three years old were prematurely transitioned to booster seats, a significant increase from the prior year.

U.S. Senate begins consideration of water resources bill; House action stalled

 BY CAROLYN COLEMAN
National League of Cities

Earlier this month, the Senate began debate on the Water Resources Development Act (S. 2848, WRDA). With an amendment deadline of Sept. 8, debate on the bill will likely carry over, with the bill's sponsors, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chair James Inhofe, (R-OK), and Ranking Member Barbara Boxer, (D-CA), developing a manager's amendment on the bill.

The Senate WRDA bill authorizes 25 flood protection, navigation, and ecosystem restoration projects under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Army

Corps) in 17 states.

Additionally, the Senate bill supports clean water and drinking water infrastructure for Flint and other communities, including provisions that would:

- provide relief to communities struggling to comply with unfunded federal mandates,
- help cities and towns reduce public health risks posed by lead, offer aid to schools seeking to improve the quality of their drinking water,
- increase assistance for rural water and wastewater utilities,
- advance research to improve water treatment,
- reaffirm the value of the state revolving funds, and
- jumpstart a new financing pro-

gram for major water infrastructure projects.

The \$9 billion bill passed the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee in May with overwhelming bipartisan support.

On the House side, the timeframe for bringing their version of WRDA to the floor for a vote remains unclear. The bill, H.R. 5303, authorizes 28 flood protection, navigation, and ecosystem restoration projects under the Army Corps, but does not include the additional water infrastructure provisions that are included in the Senate bill.

NLC supports both the House and Senate versions of WRDA and urges Congress to send a final bill to the President for signature.

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Go to the MTAS website at mtas.tennessee.edu to register!



Dr. P. J. Snodgrass, MTAS training consultant is a FIRO-B certified instructor.

No loan is too large or too small



The city of Sweetwater closed a \$1.2 million loan for the purpose of refinancing some outstanding debt, renovation of a city building, and for the acquisition of equipment. It is the city's sixth loan through TMBF's various programs.

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



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Columbia vice mayor brings rural roots, dedication to office

Dr. Christa Martin has spent more than 35 years with local community college, more than 20 serving on city council

BY LINDA BRYANT

It's hard to keep up with Dr. Christa Martin. Close colleagues who know her from her many years of public and professional service in Columbia, Tenn., say they marvel at her as she juggles her many responsibilities.

Not only is Martin Columbia's vice mayor; she has worked at Columbia State Community College since 1979, and currently holds the position of assistant to the president for access and diversity. Her volunteer activity, which includes service on a variety of local and regional boards and committees, is through the roof.

For more than 23 years, Martin has served as a Columbia City Council member, and she has been a member of more than 23 local boards and committees during the past 30 years.

Martin's boss, Columbia State Community College President Janet F. Smith, is definitely a fan.

"Dr. Martin greets you with a smile and always a kind word," Smith said. "She looks for the best in others. She has a plan for what she needs to accomplish and motivates those she works with through her energy and involvement to move forward with her. She is a team leader. I regard her as a person who lives a life of high integrity, ethics and honesty."

Wayman Hickman, former CEO of First Farmers & Merchants Bank in Columbia, said he learned to appreciate Martin's penchant for getting things done when she served on the bank's advisory board.

"Christa has the ability to express herself and listen to other people," Hickman said. "She's effective and knowledgeable. Her work has touched many people and continues to do so."

Martin laughs when asked about her heavy work load and reputation for getting things done.

"I tell people I move on invisible roller skates," she said. "I'm hardly ever in my office. I'm usually out meeting with people. I might be going to a youth program to talk about how education changes lives, at a city council meeting or driving to a board meeting in the community."

Church is also an important source of strength and commitment for Martin. She and her husband Willard are active members of New Smyrna Cumberland Presbyterian Church. She was ordained as an elder in 2004. The Martins have two grown children, Jyuana, a Columbia State alumna and Maury County school board member; and Karlston, who resides in Georgia with his wife and two children.

Martin is also an at-large board member for the Tennessee Municipal League. *Tennessee Town & City* spoke with her recently about highlights of her many years of professional and public service.

TT&C: Tell us about your background. Where did you grow up?

CM: I have lived in Maury County my entire life. I grew up on a huge farm in the Bear Creek Pike Community. We lived about a mile off the paved street. We had to walk for miles to catch the bus. My grandmother's family had 12 sisters and brothers, and her mother had 15 brothers and sisters. There were seven kids in our family — three girls and four boys. My brother and I went to a two-room country school house with one teacher for 12 grades. Church was always very important. Our church had a stove in it, and we had to work hard to cut wood and bring the coal in.

My family farmed about 700 acres and had cows, chickens, horses, pigs, tobacco, and hay. We made farm items such as our own soap. We took our baths in a tin tub. We didn't have a bathroom; we had an outhouse. I did farm work in the morning and performed more farm work when I got home from school. Farm life serves as a basis for everything I do, and it's the reason for my strong work ethic. My dad and mom taught us to help other people. They taught us about making a positive impact. Everybody had to carry their load.

Working on a farm prepared me for planning, ordering and making requests. I got a pretty good idea of how to work with public officials pretty early on. I remember every spring we'd ride over to the county road superintendent's house, and my dad would talk to him about coming to fix our road, which washed out frequently. I used to just sit there and listen attentively while dad negotiated with the superintendent.

I graduated from Central High School and came straight to Columbia State. I received my associate's degree in data processing and went on to Middle Tennessee State University to get my bachelor's degree in business administration. Then I went for my master's in information systems and got my doctorate in higher education leadership from Nova Southeastern University.

TT&C: How did you get involved in politics?

CM: I have always liked being involved and always served on a lot of boards and committees. In 1992, Mayor Barbara McIntyre approached Dr. Paul Sands, who was the president of Columbia State at that time, and asked him if she could nominate me for an open position. Dr. Sands gave her the green light. She went before the council, and I was appointed with a 4-2 vote. Even though I won, I wanted to know why two people didn't vote for me. I asked them why, and they said I was too young. I've always laughed about that. I ran for Colum-

bia City Council six times and won each time. Four of the elections were unopposed.

I ran for vice mayor three times. The first time, in 2005, I lost by 240 votes. I lost by 41 votes in 2009; and in 2014 I won by 706 votes. I had to be talked into running for vice mayor that third time. I'm glad I listened.

TT&C: What kept you motivated to run and stay engaged with the public



Dr. Christa Martin



Columbia's Fire Department was the first in Tennessee to receive a Class 1 ISO rating.

for such a longtime?

CM: There was a lot to learn. I represented the 3rd district, but I also had to be knowledgeable about the other four districts. When the agenda is presented, it's for the whole city, not just one district. I became very concerned about what was happening in all parts of the city. My campaign slogan this last time was, "Moving us from good to great." I really did mean that for all of Columbia and still do.

TT&C: What are some of your duties as vice mayor?

CM: I attend all meetings and facilitate the meetings when the mayor is not present. In addition, I take calls from citizens all over the city. Columbia has about 37,000 residents, so I might get a call from anybody about anything. It's not like I'm stepping on another council member's toes. I communicate citizens' concerns to the city manager for consideration by the Columbia City Council. I serve on some of the internal boards for the city. For example, I serve as a trustee for the retirement system.

TT&C: You have lived in Columbia since you were born and seen massive change. Can you speak to one of the most notable changes?

CM: We've had tremendous growth. In the 1990s we had around 29,000 residents. Today we're at 37,000. Our industries have become more diversified. We have more residents of different ages and ethnicities. Columbia State definitely has a much larger student population and employee base than we had 20 years ago. Many of the downtown businesses that were here 20 years ago have shut down. But now we're in a revitalization of downtown Columbia with the growth of small specialty stores, restaurants and coffee shops. We have national banks in Columbia now. Twenty years ago we had small town banks and that was it.

TT&C: What are some of the most important issues Columbia is facing today?

CM: Our most important issue is serving the people. I'm concerned about paving our streets and making sure our infrastructure is ready for our growing population. It's become important for us to market the city as a destination, as a place where people want to come to live, work or start a business.

We have to continue to diversify our jobs and make sure there's a place for all kinds of talents in Columbia. We are challenged with providing education to our workforce so that large corporations and other industries want to locate here. We want to make sure we have a prepared workforce that can immediately go to work. We have important historical properties such as the James K. Polk Home and African American history sites in Columbia. One of the oldest buildings in downtown Columbia, the Jack and Jill Building (built in 1817), is under renovation.

I think we need a new industrial park. We need to position ourselves well and have spec buildings ready to accommodate new industry. I'm also a big believer in parks and recreation. It's so important to provide an outlet for recreation, whether it's walking, riding a bike or playing a sport. We need to invest in attracting tourism. We can brand ourselves nationally on

that level since we have a presidential home in Columbia.

Our employees are important. We want to make sure we're continually assuring them that they're valued. We need to make sure we are paying them well and giving them options. I think it's important for Columbia to be a part of the Regional Transportation

about what bills are going to be considered in the next legislative session. I get that paperwork, sit down with it and ascertain which bills might be good for cities and which ones might be bad. Communicating and listening to the TML staff is critical, so that when they go before our state legislators they are taking a message that's going to be a good fit for cities.

TT&C: You have been working in education for many years and made a big impact at Columbia State. Can you name some of the most gratifying aspects of your tenure in education?

CM: I am assistant to the president of Columbia State, Dr. Janet Smith. The college is growing and expanding. We just opened the Williamson County campus on Liberty Pike, and we have a large enrollment there. My work at the school for 20-something years was in the computer area. I was the computer center director in a time when people who held these positions didn't look like me. I was involved in exciting work. I developed specifications and ordered new mainframe computers, which were big ticket items. I was a part of the initial installation of fiber optics at the college.

Over the course of my tenure we've built new buildings in Lawrenceburg, Lewisburg and Clifton. We added a campus in Waynesboro. I made sure those schools had technology and software that handles all our needs with school information, financial records, payroll processing, etc. For the last 13 1/2 years my work has focused on access to the college, opening doors for people and looking at diversity issues. We value everybody who comes to our college. We do that in our actions and not just in our words. I think Tennessee community colleges offer life changing opportunities.

TT&C: What does diversity mean to you?

CM: Diversity is serving the widest variety of people you can. There are so many aspects of diversity. For example, it can be about age. You want to be sure you can serve a traditional student or an older student. You want to serve students whether they've been homeschooled or been out of school for a long time. Diversity is serving different cultures, different socioeconomic statuses, races and more. It's having a variety of ways to access education inside and outside the classroom. Diversity is not just important for the student population; it's important to staff, to the people actually doing the teaching. We have faculty from all over the nation coming to teach at Columbia State.

TT&C: How does your work at Columbia State inform or relate to your position as vice mayor?

CM: People ask me this all the time. Both jobs involve serving people. Both jobs are all about solving problems, listening, conducting negotiations, respecting opinions and keeping people informed. The two jobs actually feed off one another. My compassion for people comes to the table in both jobs. It takes a lot of work to negotiate the hours it takes to perform both jobs well and balance my husband and my two adult children. It's definitely a challenge to be a wife, mother and grandmother.

TT&C: Do you have a leadership style or guiding principle?

CM: I learned a lot at home in the country. Growing up with seven kids, a mom, dad and a grandmother is a negotiation. My mom and dad taught us that you never know who you are going to learn from and that every day you need to seek to learn something you didn't know the day before. They taught us a philosophy of respect.

TT&C: What causes do you care the most about?

CM: Education is a consistent concern. So much of what I've done, whether serving on daycare center board or supporting the Boys & Girls Club of Maury County, has been about kids. We started the Columbia Children's Museum a few years ago, and I was able to be on that initial board. Children need a place to grow and need to know someone cares.

Health care is also important to me. I've served on the Maury Regional Medical Center board, and that's where bringing health care to where people actually are became an important concern. I'm also a Silver Life member of the NAACP. I am interested in work that impacts people of color. I've been on First Farmers & Merchants Bank's advisory board. This points to the part of me that's interested in numbers and math and likes making sure all people have access to money, loans and information about investments.

TT&C: Can you name a couple of important mentors?

CM: My first grade teacher, Pauline Flippin, who taught all 12 grades in a little country school, was a great inspiration. When I went to city school, I was just as prepared as anybody else! I think about Maxine Smith from West Tennessee. She was a Tennessee trailblazer and a Tennessee Regent. She worked through several civil rights initiatives in the Memphis area. It was amazing to meet her, know her and go to her house. She inspired me to persevere and never give up. I can't talk about influences without talking about Shirley Chisholm, who ran for president in a major party. I was so inspired by her commitment and vision.

Authority and look at how we are moving cars, trains and bringing in and shipping out inventory. Of course, we need to make sure we have good relationships with our elected officials at the county, state and federal level.

TT&C: How do you keep up with typical small city challenges such as maintaining sewers and roads?

CM: Our Columbia City Council members are good listeners. We have been able to make good purchasing decisions, make great plans for our capital projects and stay on top of the level of repairs necessary for our streets. We've kept our taxes pretty low, considering the services we provide. We engage in a lot of dialogue and try to make sure we are making good decisions about our big projects. We get a lot of input from the experts before we make decisions. We have focus groups, and we talk a lot with TML (Tennessee Municipal League) and MTAS (Municipal Technical Advisory Service).

TT&C: Going back over the past 20 years can you name some of the council's most significant accomplishments?

CM: Our street paving program is definitely on the list. We were able to move Columbia City Hall to an older bank building on a thoroughfare that goes through the middle of town. It was a great move and served our citizens well. We have a large investment in Ridley Sports Complex, where we're growing tournaments for soccer and softball. We're very proud of our Fire Department's Class 1 ISO rating. It represents a major accomplishment. [ISO collects and evaluates a community's fire suppression capabilities. Columbia's Fire Department was the first city in Tennessee to receive a Class 1 rating. Less than one percent of all fire departments in the U.S. receive a rating.]

We have a free recycling program and curbside pick-up in place. We have a partnership with Maury County for our animal shelter. We upgraded Fairview Park, and we have an Arts District that's really coming along. We've just started the Columbia Sports Council. We are really doing a lot of creative things to include our citizens and businesses.

Importantly, we just finished Riverwalk Park on the Duck River. The federal government gave us \$6 million for this project, and we are very proud of it. People are at the Riverwalk every day. All the different pieces of the Columbia community came together to help make it happen, including our public and private sectors.

TT&C: What is the nature of your work with Tennessee Municipal League?

CM: TML is another way to keep me informed and allow a better transfer of information from the city council to the state legislature. There's so much value in attending meetings in Nashville with legislators and meeting with key people from our region and other cities to find out what they are doing. I learn about the critical laws and bills being considered. I'm able to bring that kind of information back to the city manager, and he's able to share it with the council. I get to speak with the folks from the east, west and middle parts of the state and find out their best practices.

TML spends a lot of time informing us