



TML Legislative Conference set for March 20 - 21

Make plans now to attend the Tennessee Municipal League's Annual Legislative Conference, slated for March 20 - 21 at the DoubleTree Hotel Downtown Nashville.

The two-day conference provides an excellent forum for city officials to interact with their legislators and to be updated on the many legislative issues being addressed by the 110th Tennessee General Assembly.

City officials are also encouraged to use their time in Nashville to attend Monday evening floor sessions and to schedule time to visit with their legislators.

The voice of Tennessee's municipal governments must be heard in the legislative process, and the TML Legislative Conference is a key opportunity to communicate with your legislators.

To register, go to www.TML1.org. Contact the TML offices at 615-255-6416 for more information. Deadline for hotel registration is Feb. 15. To reserve a room and to receive the group rate of \$153, contact the DoubleTree at (800) 222-8733.

Tennessee cities recovering from November disasters



TV host Robin Meade with CNN's *Morning Express* and Gatlinburg Mayor Mike Werner made a plea for private donations during Dolly Parton's "Smoky Mountains Rise" telethon to benefit those affected by the wildfires that ravaged Sevier County on Nov. 28.

BY KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

Disaster recovering funds will soon be made available to help communities rebuild from devastating tornados and wildfires that ravaged much of East Tennessee in November.

Two juveniles have been charged with starting the Nov. 28 wildfires in Gatlinburg that killed 14, injured dozens, destroyed more than 2,400 structures and created some \$500 million in property damages. During the disaster, some 14,000 people were evacuated from the area and more than 12,000 Sevier County residents were without power.

The following day, a series of tornados struck several counties in Tennessee and northern Alabama. Four deaths were attributed to the storm including two in Polk County, according to the Tennessee Emergency Management Council. Dozens of injuries were also reported throughout Coffee, McMinn, Polk and Sequatchie counties.

According to the National Weather Service, two EF-1 tornados with wind speeds of 105 miles per hour struck in Tullahoma and Manchester while Whitwell and Athens both experienced EF-2 tornados. Ocoee was hit with an EF-3 tornado with wind speeds of 140 miles per hour. Schools were closed as a result and crews sent help with wildfires in the Gatlinburg area were called back to help with recovery from the tornado. Some 4,000 residents were without power and at least 40 structures were destroyed as a result of the

110th convenes; McNally, Harwell elected speakers



It was the changing of the guard on Jan. 10, when Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey turned over the gavel to Sen. Randy McNally. McNally was elected by his fellow senators to serve as the 87th speaker of the Senate and lieutenant governor of Tennessee.

State Sen. Randy McNally was elected as the new speaker of the Tennessee Senate and Rep. Beth Harwell unanimously won a fourth term as speaker of the House. Both

were elected by their fellow peers when the 110th Tennessee General Assembly convened on Jan. 10.

McNally replaces outgoing Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey, who chose not to run for re-election. McNally was sworn in as 87th speaker of the Senate.

"It's a big job, and I'm certainly humbled by the trust you placed in me," McNally said. "I'm confident that my journey to this time and place

was prepared well in advance by the many interactions I've had with you and other people and friends and family. But I recognize that I can't complete that job alone."

Speaker Harwell thanked her colleagues for their trust and confidence, and said "Let's work to discover what we can accomplish together this year to live up to our state motto, 'America at its best.' In the words of Helen Keller, 'Alone we

may do so little; together we can do so much'."

Following its three-day organizational session, the legislature adjourned until Jan. 30, when Gov. Bill Haslam will deliver the State of the State address to discuss his 2017-18 budget recommendations.

Legislative leadership and committee assignments for 2017-18 in the Senate and the House can be found on Page 9.



Tennessee Town & City file photos

Speaker Beth Harwell was unanimously re-elected by her colleagues to a fourth term as speaker of the House.

Haslam unveils transportation funding, surplus spending plan

Proposal includes increase in gas tax; reduction in Hall, F&E and sales tax on groceries

Joined by mayors from across the state and leaders in the manufacturing and trucking industries, Gov. Bill Haslam announced a comprehensive and strategic plan to cut taxes on food and manufacturing while updating how the state provides Tennesseans the safe and reliable transportation network needed to support future job growth.

The IMPROVE Act, "Improving Manufacturing, Public Roads and Opportunities for a Vibrant Economy," is the first piece of Haslam's NextTennessee legislative plan, policy proposals aimed at building and sustaining economic growth and the state's competitiveness for the next generation of Tennesseans.

"This proposal is the next step in the conversation about how we're going to position the state to address expected growth, maintain Tennessee's economic momentum and remain competitive as we continue recruiting high quality jobs," said Gov. Bill Haslam.

The IMPROVE Act includes a balanced and equitable transportation plan that keeps Tennessee a pay-as-you-go state and its roads debt free.

The IMPROVE Act increases the road user fee by 7 cents for a gallon of gas and 12 cents for a gallon of diesel, and increases car registration fees by \$5 for the average passenger vehicle.

Tennessee last addressed how it funds its roads and bridges in 1989 when it raised its fixed tax rate to 21.4 cents per gallon, creating a transportation network that spurred the economic growth the state has seen during the last three decades. Due to inflation, increases in construction costs and the cost of land and better gas mileage, the state comptroller estimates that 21.4 cents in 1989 is now worth approximately 11 cents a gallon.

In July 2015, Haslam launched a statewide discussion on the state's transportation and infrastructure needs. In November 2015, he put out a list of projects already approved by the General Assembly but lacking funding, in addition to project needs heard during the 15 meetings across the state.

The Act places an annual road See **FUNDING** on Page 5



Photo by Carole Graves

Gov. Bill Haslam outlined his plan for increasing road funding while decreasing taxes on groceries, the Hall, and Franchise and Excise taxes.

NextTennessee: Transportation

A transportation plan for the next generation of Tennesseans

Comprehensive

For roughly \$4 a month

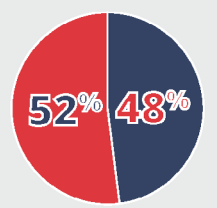
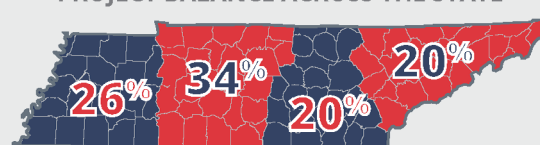
= 962 Projects

IN ALL 95 Counties

- Interstate Improvements
- State Routes
- Local Bridges
- Economic Corridors
- Improving Rural Access
- Safety

Balanced

PROJECT BALANCE ACROSS THE STATE



URBAN / RURAL BALANCE

Responsible

Increased investments in maintenance:

- Highway Resurfacing
- Existing Bridge Repair
- State Industrial Access Road Program Growth
- Transit Program Support

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



ADAMSVILLE

Sparks Custom Fabrication, LLC (SCF) will expand in Adamsville, creating approximately 140 jobs during the next five years. SCF specializes in millwork, stainless steel, stone, and refrigeration products used by the food industry. SCF's customers include restaurants, schools, the military, and hospitals across the country. All of SCF's foodservice equipment is custom made, ranging from hot and cold food bars, serving counters, stainless shelving, and other products. SCF opened in Adamsville in 2013 and currently has 120 employees. SCF will add 10,000 square feet of warehouse space to its existing 100,000-square-foot facility. The expansion and new hiring is needed to sustain the company's existing growth into the future.

CAMDEN

Jones Plastic and Engineering will expand in Camden, investing \$4.5 million and creating 52 new jobs. The company is one of the world's leading plastic injection molders and employs 2,400 employees worldwide. Primary markets for the manufacturer include appliances, outdoor products, medical supplies, electronics and automotive. Jones Plastic will expand its current facility in Camden to accommodate growing demand and to make room for new equipment. This is Jones Plastic's second expansion in four years in Camden.

CHARLESTON

Wacker Chemie AG will build a new production plant for its HDKâ brand of pyrogenic silica at its Charleston site, investing \$150 million and bringing 50 new jobs to the area. The Munich-based chemical company is the world's third-largest manufacturer in this sector. Located adjacent to and integrated with Wacker's existing polysilicon plant, the new production plant will have an annual capacity of 13,000 metric tons. Construction will begin in the second quarter of next year, with completion planned for the first half of 2019. The facility is a key addition to the Charleston site's supply chain. The main byproduct of polysilicon manufacturing is tetrachlorosilane, which either has to be converted and fed back into the production loop or can be used to create added value by being further processed into HDKâ. Wacker achieves maximum flexibility in the reprocessing of tetrachlorosilane, avoiding the need to dispose of waste products and thereby enhancing the efficiency of the integrated production system as a whole.

COLLIERVILLE

The town of Collierville has received a \$20,000 grant from the Tennessee Highway Safety Office (THSO) and the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security for a Roving DUI Patrol Program. The town was one of 384 agencies statewide awarded \$17.1 million in federal grant funding to support Tennessee highway safety efforts and education. The goal of a Roving DUI Patrol is to remove impaired drivers from behind the wheel of a vehicle and thus reduce the possibility of alcohol-related accidents. An additional goal of the Collierville program is to heighten awareness among the public of the dangers of driving while impaired. The funds from the \$20,000 grant will be used to fund future Roving DUI Patrols.

DANDRIDGE

The Dandridge Town Council has

initiated work on a \$1.5 million water line replacement project targeting six miles of old galvanized lines. The council agreed to begin the engineering process for the project, which will replace water lines believed to cause discoloration in local utility water. While the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has deemed the water safe to drink, the town is hoping that replacing the pipes – some of which date back to 1930 – will improve the overall water distribution system. After the project is completed, officials said homes and businesses with older faucets and pipes may still experience coloration issues. Town officials also authorized \$9,800 in water department to create a computer model of the town's water system, including pressure and flow information, that will aid planning and development.

GALLATIN

The city of Gallatin has been awarded a \$2 million Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) grant to replace 19 old vehicles and pieces of equipment with new ones at 20 percent of the cost. The total project cost is \$2,525,000 with the state covering \$2 million and the city contributing \$505,000. The intent of the grant is to improve air quality and reduce both diesel and gas emissions in certain areas of the state where there is a history of non-attainment. The city's grant application requested replacement of more than 50 diesel and gas vehicles with half of them being more than 20-years-old. Vehicles being replaced through the grant include knucklebooms, garbage trucks, dump trucks, plow trucks, box vans, a road grader, backhoe, and street sweeper.

KINGSPORT

Leclerc Foods will establish its U.S. headquarters in Kingsport and expand production operations already located there, investing approximately \$49 million to establish a second Kingsport facility and creating 105 new jobs. The facility will include a new manufacturing line for granola bars, warehousing and distribution space as well as Leclerc Foods' U.S. headquarters operations. Founded in 1905, Leclerc Foods is a leader in the cookie, snack bar and cracker industry. The Canadian food manufacturer employs more than 650 people in six facilities and distributes its products to roughly 20 different countries. Leclerc Foods' expansion in Kingsport is driven by increased market demand in the U.S. Leclerc Foods will continue operations at its first Kingsport facility, which opened in 2008 and has undergone two prior expansions. As part of the newest expansion, Leclerc Foods plans to renovate and upgrade an existing building. The work to rehab the facility will begin by the end of 2016. Leclerc Foods anticipates the renovations will be completed in by mid-2017.

KNOXVILLE

Erlanger Health Systems will create 400 new jobs in the Knoxville area often opening a \$50 million hospital expansion at Erlanger East. The expansion has enlarged the hospital's presence in the East Brainerd area and has doubled the number of hospital beds to 107. The expansion has also provided more services at the hospital including a new intensive care unit, four more operating rooms, a new cardiovascular lab, and cafeteria. Officials said the facility will focus on "healthy people with a temporary medical need" such as pregnancy and sports injuries. A walking trail, playground and putting green were added to the hospital campus to cater to patients and their families.

KNOXVILLE

The city of Knoxville's finance department has been recognized with the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA)'s City's Finance Department a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 28th year in a row. Award recipients, according to GFOA, "have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide an excellent example for other governments throughout North America. The award was presented to Finance Director Jim York,

who credited his staff's "insistence on accuracy, precision and transparency." To receive the distinction, the city of Knoxville satisfied nationally recognized guidelines designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide and a means of communications. Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories, plus the 14 mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award.

MARYVILLE

Maryville has achieved Tennessee Main Street accreditation, joining 33 other Tennessee Main Street communities that are accredited through the state program and the National Main Street Center, a program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Downtown Maryville applied for the designation for a Tennessee Main Street district that encompasses more than 40 historic commercial buildings in its downtown. The program provides training, support and grant opportunities to assist in downtown revitalization efforts. As part of the Tennessee Main Street program, Maryville will have access to technical assistance and funding opportunities to continue to make downtown improvements. In 2015, accredited Tennessee Main Street communities generated more than \$71.4 million of public/private investment and created 737 new jobs. Maryville's accreditation is based upon a successful application submitted by the community. The Tennessee Main Street Program requires communities to illustrate a commitment from local government and other local organizations, an adequate organizational budget, a strong historic preservation ethic, a collection of historic commercial buildings and a walkable district.

MEMPHIS

Cargill, Calysta, Inc. and third party investors plan to build a new manufacturing facility in Memphis, creating 75 jobs in the area. The new venture plans to build and operate the world's largest gas fermentation facility on Cargill's 69-acre property on President's Island. The new facility will produce Calysta's FeedKind® protein, a family of sustainable, traceable nutritional ingredients for fish, livestock and pets. The facility is expected to be completed by the end 2018. The new venture will begin hiring at its Memphis facility in mid-2017.

MEMPHIS

The state of Tennessee, along with the city of Memphis, will invest in public infrastructure surrounding St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis. The state will invest \$12 million in FastTrack funding to improve the public infrastructure surrounding the St. Jude campus in downtown Memphis, which will complement the research institution's expansion efforts announced in 2015, and will eventually lead to the creation of 1,800 new jobs. The city of Memphis will also be investing \$25 million in public infrastructure projects in addition to the state's investment. The infrastructure investments will benefit not only St. Jude, but all of the surrounding areas. St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is leading how the world understands, treats and cures childhood cancer and other life-threatening diseases. It is the only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center devoted solely to children. Treatments developed at St. Jude have helped push the overall childhood cancer survival rate from 20 percent to 80 percent since the hospital opened more than 50 years ago.

MURFREESBORO

The city of Murfreesboro has unveiled a new city website that will provide online services to property taxpayers. The new site will allow property taxes to be paid online and also provide online access to property tax information. Citizens can pay online via PayPal using Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover credit/debit cards or Forte Payment Services using an e-check. In addition, citizens can print a copy of their tax bill or a paid receipt, using the web site features. The online tax payment site was developed and will be maintained by Sturgis Web Services of Fort Mill, S.C., PayPal is an eBay company and is the largest secure Internet provider

Farragut celebrates largest capital improvement project in town history



The Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen celebrated the re-opening of Everett Road, largest capital improvement project in the town's 36-year history, with a ribbon cutting. The 0.94-mile section of Everett Road was reconstructed at a total cost of just under \$4 million for design, rights of way and construction costs. Prior to this 18-month long project, this road was considered substandard due to narrow lanes and ditches. The reconstruction expanded the road to two standard 12-foot lanes with curb and gutter for storm water.

Germantown officials working to restore historic city fire truck



Work is underway in Germantown to restore the 1942 American LaFrance fire truck dubbed Red Devil No. 1 as part of a historic display. The truck was purchased from the city at the end of World War II from a fireworks company in Cordova and served Germantown until 1983. Recently moved from Cloyes Park to Germantown Fire Station No. 4, the city's board of Mayor and Alderman recently formed a committee to oversee the restoration project.

Newport unveils new city logo



The city of Newport recently unveiled the municipality's new logo following several months and planning and design. The logo features a new city slogan - "Newport: The Eastern Gateway to Tennessee" - and incorporates mountain imagery. The design was unanimously approved by the Newport Board of Mayor and Alderman in September 2016. Posing with the new logo after its unveiling are, from left to right, City Planner Gary Carver, Mayor Connie Ball, Alderman Mike Hansel, City Administrator James Finchum, Alderman Roger Gribble, and Vice Mayor Mike Proffitt.

globally. Forte Payment Services, founded in 1998, is headquartered in Allen, Texas, and was named to the Inc. 5000 list in 2015 for the eighth consecutive year.

OAK RIDGE

The city of Oak Ridge is now the owner of the Department of Energy's (DOE) American Museum of Science and Energy (AMSE) building, along with its 17.12-acres, to the city of Oak Ridge. In exchange, DOE will receive space from the city in order to continue its public education and outreach efforts. The DOE first opened AMSE at its current location in 1975, as the successor to the American Museum of Atomic Energy which was initially established by the federal government in 1949, to showcase work classified for The Manhattan Project during World War II. Today the museum is managed by UT-Battelle, DOE's management and operating

contractor at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), and attracts about 65,000 visitors annually. The site currently serves as the starting point for DOE's Public Bus Tours which include ORNL's Graphite Reactor, the Y-12 National Security Complex, and the former K-25 site (now East Tennessee Technology Park). When the transfer is completed DOE will save more than \$2 million in long-term maintenance and operating expenses, and will receive new space to continue its public education and outreach efforts focused on Oak Ridge history, modern science, and national security. In exchange, the city of Oak Ridge will provide 18,000 square feet of space for 15 years to the federal government at no cost in rent, utilities, or maintenance. The occupancy agreement allows for DOE to continue to operate AMSE in its current location for 365 days while new space is being prepared.

TENNESSEE TOWN & CITY
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Tullahoma takes downtown into the Digital Age

Renovation project brings modern technology to city center without compromising area's historic charm

BY KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

After nearly five years of planning, city officials and local business owners gathered in Tullahoma to cut the ribbon on renovations designed to give the city's historic downtown area a facelift and bring it into the Digital Age.

A proposal to renovate downtown Tullahoma first came before the city's Board of Mayor and Aldermen in 2011, but wasn't officially approved until 2015. City officials worked with the community's Downtown Merchants Association, the Highland Rim Kiwanis Group and other citizens to develop a picture of what local residents and business owners felt the downtown area needed to remain attractive to visitors and consumers.

Local high school students also had an opportunity to provide more hands-on help with one of the beautification projects downtown. Students from Tullahoma High School's Career Technical Education (CTE) program were asked to design and assemble six trash can fixtures for the downtown area, with the assistance and supervision of program educators, according to Tullahoma Director of Community Development Winston Brooks.

"Florence Hull, owner of Clayton's Shoe Store, credited Dawn George, owner of The Iron Gate, with the original suggestion," Brooks said. "She suggested to our committee that we talk to Keith Gilliam at Tullahoma High School (THS) about getting students to help with the project. The downtown fixtures are very similar to the ones at the high school and require about the same amount of labor and so putting together a few downtown-specific fixtures would be no problem to his students."

Tullahoma Mayor Lane Curlee had seen the trash cans on the THS campus and thought it would be an excellent idea to have the high school students make some for the downtown. Once Curlee had worked out an agreement with the high school, he said he talked with Gilliam about using "It's Happening Downtown" and "Tullahoma" as a personalized design for the fixtures.

"They've done a great job," Mayor Curlee said. "I do hope — whenever they're downtown — that they see their work and they take pride, not only in their community, but in their contribution to the downtown and to Tullahoma."

While the frames do showcase student ability and craftsmanship, Curlee said that another benefit to having them produced locally was that of the price tag.

"These are heavy duty containers and they'll be bolted down," he said. "Without even the customization, if you order them nationally, they're over twice what we paid for these

things. That doesn't even count the customization—we don't have a clue what that would cost."

The price for each of the fixtures only came to \$350, for a total city investment of \$2,100.

Other physical improvements the city undertook downtown included replacing sidewalks, installing new lighting and benches, improving handicapped parking, pouring and stamping concrete crosswalks, and new landscaping for the 100 block of West Lincoln Street and around the corner to the 100 block of Northwest Atlantic Street.

"Downtown Tullahoma has changed a lot in the past year," Brooks said. "The downtown now boasts new sidewalks, lampposts, signage, flower beds, paving and striping. In addition, there are new European hornbeam trees in the planters, seasonal banners and many new businesses, new managers and owners, new product lines and many new building renovations."

However, one of the biggest changes to the downtown is something that can't be seen. Citizens felt the downtown area could benefit from some other, improvements more in line with the city's reputation for offering technological services not often found in rural communities.

Since 2006, Tullahoma has worked with local utilities to provide fiber-optic high-speed internet service to local residents and businesses. In 2012, Tullahoma Utilities Board began offering gigabit service making the city one of the smallest in the nation to provide ultra-high-speed broadband capability. Providing this capability for downtown businesses and visitors seemed a natural next step.

"The revitalization was one step into a larger strategic plan for the downtown," Brooks said. "One of our city's greatest assets is fiber. Access to broadband internet is accelerating a desire to attract higher paying jobs to support a diversified economy throughout Tullahoma. While the larger city is a regional retail draw, the downtown area has lagged behind in realizing the benefits of the high technology jobs at AEDC and through-tourism drawn by the neighboring whiskey distilleries. As a result, community leaders and economic development professionals have decided to begin aligning resources to capitalize on the future of broadband expansion in assisting with downtown revitalization."

Brooks said the broadband access provides necessary and state-of-



The city of Tullahoma recently renovated its downtown to help bring the area into the Digital Age. While some work was cosmetic, including new trash cans and sidewalks, not all of the city's improvements are visible to the naked eye. One of the largest upgrades was providing free Wi-Fi zones for visitors and upgrading Internet speeds for downtown visitors and businesses.

the-art Internet service to tourists, shoppers and businesses in the heart of Tullahoma's historic downtown.

"The growing capability of this resource to attract tourists, regional high tech jobs, and give citizens the ability to work remotely is causing economic development leaders to consider how to best use broadband capabilities in redevelopment efforts for its downtown," Brooks said. "Leaders would like to use amenities like free Wi-Fi zones in the downtown area to attract tourists, new businesses, and residents alike. With the new amenities in the downtown, such as the recently updated pedestrian network and potential free Wi-Fi zones, we want to brand downtown as physically and virtually interconnected with the rest of Tullahoma."

In addition to faster Internet speeds, Brooks said another project worked to set the stage for more festivals and events to be held downtown.

"One unique feature was partnering with the Highland Rim Kiwanis club to determine their power requirements for the 41-A Music Festival held in downtown Tullahoma each fourth weekend in September," Brooks said. "The city installed permanent power for stages and vendors, which will make preparations for the event much easier on the Kiwanians. The project's plans included the installation of a 600-amp electrical panel that connects to underground electrical boxes that can be used as power supplies during



The end result of Tullahoma's downtown renovation project is a city center that provides modern amenities to attract business and tourists while still retaining the area's historic charm. In addition to the city itself, local residents, including members of the Kiwanis Club and students with Tullahoma High School's Career Technical Education (CTE) program, used their own talents and skills to make contributions to the renovation project.

events like the 41-A Music and Arts Festival. We hope this will allow for more downtown festivals."

The bulk of the construction work on the project took place during the summer of 2016. The city provided a 20 percent match to a \$650,000 Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) grant to help pay for the renovations. Ultimately, the city was responsible for \$126,366 for the project, which included repaving streets, repairing sidewalks and adding new landscaping to the

downtown area.

Mayor Curlee said local business leaders were extremely patient and willing to work with the city during the renovation.

"We appreciate the merchants' patience," he said. "We believe the results were well worth the inconvenience. We have a great vision for our downtown. We hope businesses, residents and visitors enjoy a connected, mixed use, accessible, affordable and vibrant downtown atmosphere."

Jacob's Project: Lessons from the past lead to hope for the future

BY ASHLEY CABRERA

TDEC Office of Sustainable Practices

On the Southside of Johnson City, the 10-mile Sinking Creek stream flows through, into the Watauga River. It is surrounded by trees, plants, animals, and residents that want to enjoy the nature around them. However, if you look around, there are signs warning residents to stay out of the water. For one father, Bill Francisco, it became a main concern when he lost his 6-year old son, Jacob, in 2004 to complications with an E. coli infection. It is unknown exactly where Jacob was infected with the E. coli bacteria, but his family has made it their mission to make the public more aware of how the bacteria infects humans and how it can be avoided and eliminated.

In 2008, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) placed signs along the stream advising the residents not to swim or enter the water due to high levels of E. coli bacteria, caused by non-point sources, such as failing septic systems and runoff. Since then, the Boone Watershed Partnership (BWP), city of Johnson City, East Tennessee State University (ETSU), Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA), TDEC, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), and many volunteers and landowners have worked together to restore this creek and develop an environmental education park at Sinking Creek.

In 2013, Johnson City and ETSU identified failing septic tanks and

runoff along the stream that was contributing to the bacteria in the water. Together they eliminated 24 sewer tank connections, repaired five septic tanks, fenced the Catbird Creek tributary, which flowed through a cow pasture, and expanded wetlands to 2.1 acres, which improved the water quality and reduced flooding in the area.

In September 2013, Johnson City designated 28-acres at Sinking Creek for an educational park, just half a mile from Mountain View Elementary School. On April 16, 2015, the park was officially named Jacob's Nature Park at Sinking Creek in Jacob Francisco's memory.

The park has many features that educate residents about E. coli contamination, water quality, childhood obesity, and more. It has also become a place where people can come and enjoy nature in a safe and healthy way.

In August, Johnson City and the Tennessee Department of Correction constructed a bridge and ramp from the design plan of Tysinger, Hampton, and Partners, Inc. There is a 2-mile hiking trail through the woodlands that volunteers helped build. TDA awarded a \$20,000 grant to the project for educational signs to be placed along the bridge and



On Nov. 4, the Johnson City Department of Parks and Recreation hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony to highlight the progress made at Sinking Creek.

trails explaining the contamination to Sinking Creek and how it has been restored. The signs include educational information on the sources of the E. coli bacteria and how residents can reduce contamination and illness. Information can also be found about the various plants and animals in the nature park.

Currently, volunteers and partners of the project are still working on the park. Future plans include a pavilion that will serve as an outdoor classroom. Designed by Wilson Architects, the pavilion will incorporate various educational features, including a living roof. Volunteers are working to raise enough money to fund the building. Additionally, plans have been developed for a connector trails that links Sinking

Creek with the Tweetsie Trail.

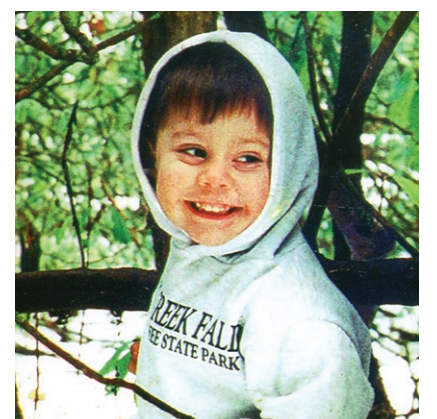
On Nov. 4, the Johnson City Department of Parks and Recreation hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony to show the wonderful progress made in the park at Sinking Creek.

Bill Francisco expressed his gratitude for all of the support that has gone into making this project happen and hopes that through continuous support, one day Jacob will be famous for his story, the awareness it spread, and the lives it saved.

The park was named Jacob's Nature Park in memory of Jacob Francisco, a 6-year old who died after being infected with the E. coli bacteria.



Educational signs explain the contamination to Sinking Creek and how it has been restored.





PEOPLE



U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander has been honored with the Scenic Byway Trailblazer Award from Scenic America, the National Scenic Byway Foundation and the Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership. Alexander was recognized at an event celebrating the 25th anniversary of the National Scenic Byways Program. During his time as governor, Alexander created 10,000 miles of state roads and scenic highways to protect outdoor spaces and showcase the natural beauty of Tennessee. The National Scenic Byway Foundation supports the National Scenic Byways Program, which was created in 1991 by the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act to provide federal funding for maintenance and improvement projects on federally-designated National Scenic Byways. According to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) there are currently 150 designated National Scenic Byways and American Roads in 46 states, including five that pass through Tennessee.



Lamar Alexander

Beverly Davenport has been selected by The University of Tennessee's Board of Trustees to serve as the first female chancellor of the public university's flagship campus in Knoxville. A Bowling Green, Ky.-native, Davenport earned her undergraduate and master's degrees from Western Kentucky University. She presently serves as the interim president of the University of Cincinnati and will begin her tenure with UT-Knoxville on Feb. 15. Her earliest responsibilities will be to name a provost, the school's chief academic officer, and a new athletic director. Davenport will replace Jimmy Cheek, who announced last June that he was stepping down to return to teaching. Cheek had been chancellor since 2009.



Beverly Davenport

Bobby Harmon, a foreman with the city of Kingsport, recently received the Award of Merit from TN Chapter of American Public Works Association. The Award of Merit is a state-wide award given annually at the TCAPWA Conference. The Award of Merit recognizes the dedicated service of the public works personnel at the operations level who perform responsibilities in an exceptionally efficient and courteous manner. Harmon has been employed by the city for nearly 39 years.



Bobby Harmon

Brian Kelsey has been selected as the new chief strategy officer for the city of Nashville, a position recently created by Mayor Megan Barry. A principal at Austin-based economic research and planning firm Civic Analytics, Kelsey will work with Metro department heads, employees, and citizens to "design and implement changes that will lead to improved government functions," according to the mayor's office. The goal of the position is to incorporate strategies from the business world to ensure Nashville's budget matches the same priorities as city residents. Kelsey will also work with Metro Chief Data Officer Robyn Mace to better collect, analyze, and publish data for decision-making. In addition to his employment at Civic Analytics, which he founded, Kelsey has worked as a faculty member of The University of Texas at Austin's Community and Regional Planning Department. Previously, Kelsey was a senior policy adviser at the U.S. Economic Development Administration.



Brian Kelsey

Jackson has served as interim director of the department since the retirement of former director Lanny Goodwin in August. Jackson is a graduate of Freed-Hardeman University with a bachelor's degree in social and behavioral sciences. She is also a 2012-13 graduate of the National Recreation and Parks Association Directors School and is a certified Parks and Recreation Professional (CPRP) through the National Recreation and Parks Association. She began working in the parks and recreation field in 1997, serving in Alaska and Hawaii. Jackson began her work with the city of Murfreesboro in April 2001 as the assistant program coordinator for the Wilderness Station at Barfield Crescent Park and later served as a program coordinator for the Murfreesboro Greenway system. In 2010, she was selected as assistant director of the department, a position she served in for six years.



Angela Jackson

Doug Kibbey has been selected as the new city manager of Clifton. A native of Portland, Kibbey graduated from the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis in 1986. He then served for 30 years as a naval aviator before retiring as a captain in June 2016. His various tours of duty included serving an instructor pilot in Pensacola, Fla., three tours at Operational Navy (OPNAV) headquarters at the Pentagon, and his last tour of duty was with the NATO Supreme Allied Commander Transformation headquarters in Norfolk, Va. He currently resides in Bath Springs.



Doug Kibbey

Sandy Neal has been selected as the new president of Alliance Water Resources. Dale Wagner, who is the owner of the company and has served as president since 2012, will remain involved in his role as chairman of the board. Neal previously served as Alliance's vice president and director of business development and human resources. She began her career with alliance 17 years ago as the human resources manager and has served in a variety of capacities with the company.



Sandy Neal

U.S. Rep. Phil Roe has been selected by the Republican Steering Committee to serve as chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee for the 115th Congress. Roe was sworn



Phil Roe

into Congress in 2009, and has been active on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee since that time. Roe earned his medical degree from the University of Tennessee in 1970, and served as a captain in the 2nd Infantry Division 2nd Medical Battalion of the U.S. Army Medical Corps from 1973 to 1974. During that time, he was stationed for nine months near the DMZ in Korea, served at a 121 evacuation hospital near Seoul for three months, and completed his service at Fort Eustis, Va. He is a recipient of the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal and the Army Commendation Medal. An OB-GYN, Roe spent time training at a VA hospital in Memphis and worked in consultation with the VA to see veterans in his private practice.

Nate Williams has been appointed the assistant director of parks and recreation for the city of Murfreesboro. Williams previously served as a recreation superintendent since 2011 and was integral to the growth and develop of the city's greenway system. Williams will be taking the position from Angela Jackson, who was recently selected as the new director for the city's parks and recreation department. A 2008 graduate of Middle Tennessee State University, he holds a bachelor's degree in business management. He began working with the parks department in June 2002, rising through the ranks as head lifeguard, pool manager, assistant aquatics coordinator, aquatics coordinator, and eventually was named recreation superintendent. Recognitions include the 2013 recipient of the Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association Wellness Across Tennessee Award, the 2012 Distinguished Professional Award, and the 2010 Longfellow Award.



Nate Williams

Doug Young, a longtime Murfreesboro councilmember and vice mayor, died Dec. 18 at the age of 68 after a long battle with cancer. The Murfreesboro native was known as both a local businessman and family man, and was described by Mayor Shane McFarland as one of the city's greatest champions and "one of the most selfless people I have ever met." Young was elected to the Murfreesboro City Council in 2002 and as vice mayor in 2014. Young was the owner of City Tile and Floor Covering Company since 1973. Young attended Hobgood Elementary School and graduated from Murfreesboro Central High School. He earned a bachelor's degree from MTSU in 1971, was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army and served in military intelligence from 1971 to 1973.



Doug Young

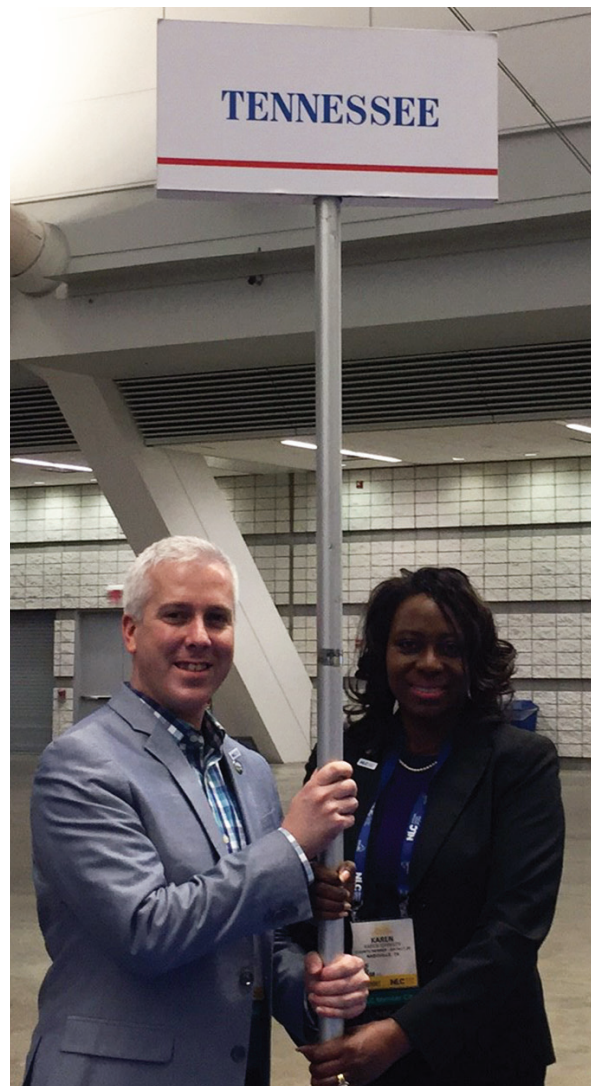
Two Tennesseans selected for NLC Board

The National League of Cities (NLC) named its 2017 leadership and board of directors at its annual City Summit in Pittsburgh.

The membership elected Councilmember Matt Zone of Cleveland, Ohio, to serve as NLC's 2017 president, Mayor Mark Stodola of Little Rock, Ark., as first vice president, and Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson of Gary, Ind., as second vice president.

Two Tennessee city officials were elected to NLC's Board of Directors. Karen Johnson, Metro Nashville councilmember, was elected to her first two-year term. Chris Anderson, Chattanooga councilmember, is currently serving in his second year of a two-year term on the board.

All officers are selected by the nominating committee and are elected by NLC's membership.



Chris Anderson, Chattanooga councilmember, and Karen Johnson, Metro Nashville councilmember, serve on the NLC 2017 Board.

Hatter, Boyd leave posts as state commissioners

As the new year begins, two state commissioners have announced they will be leaving their positions to return to the private sector.

Raquel Hatter, commissioner of human services, will be taking a position at the national level on poverty, social mobility and social justice with children, families, and communities across the country.

Hatter began her role as commissioner in 2011. She also serves as president of the American Public Human Service Association and is an alumna of the Ascend at the Aspen Institute.

Department of Economic and Community Development (EDC) Commissioner Randy Boyd will be leaving his position to serve as chairman of Radio Systems Corp., the business he founded in 1991.

Boyd has served as the EDC commissioner for two years and joined Gov. Bill Haslam's administration in 2013 as a special advisor to the governor for higher education, helping to create the state's Drive to 55 program.

Both will be leaving their offices in February.



Raquel Hatter



Randy Boyd

Coleman re-elected Medina mayor

Vance Coleman was elected to serve another four years as Medina mayor on Nov. 8.

He beat his closest opponent Piper Jenkins by 161 votes (754 to 593).

Coleman has served as the Medina mayor for 12 years and currently serves on the Tennessee Municipal League Board of Directors.

Other Medina elections include two aldermen seats: Frank Baker (939) and Samuel Gilley (988); and one seat to fill an unexpired term: Kevin Painter (968)



Vance Coleman

WAUFORD

J. R. Wauford & Company, Consulting Engineers, Inc.

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2835 Lebanon Pike
P.O. Box 140350
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615/883-3243

Branch Office (West):

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529 Old Hickory Blvd, Ste. A
Jackson, TN 38305
731/668-1953

Branch Office (East):

Maryville
908 W Broadway Ave.
Maryville, TN 37801
865/984-9638

www.jrwauford.com

Water and Wastewater Systems

Angela Jackson has been selected as the new director of the Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Depart-

STATE BRIEFS

Unemployment rates decreased in most Tennessee counties in November 2016, according to data released by the state Department of Labor. Rates decreased in 81 counties, increased in 10, and remained the same in four. For the month of November, Davidson County has the state's lowest major metropolitan rate at 3.5 percent, decreasing from 3.7 percent the previous month. Williamson County had the lowest unemployment rate in the state with 3.4 percent. The highest unemployment rate for any county in the state was 8.3 percent. Tennessee's preliminary unemployment rate for November is 4.8 percent, unchanged from the previous month's revised rate. The U.S. preliminary rate for November is 4.6 percent, decreasing three-tenths of a percentage point from the previous month.

Tennessee has been named as one of 10 states to receive a \$2 million grant to build on locally led initiatives that will strengthen and expand education-to-career learning pathways for students. The grant is through the New Skills for Youth program, which is supported by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and JPMorgan Chase & Co. This funding, which will be distributed over the next three years, is aimed at strengthening career-focused education starting in middle school and ending with postsecondary degrees or credentials aligned with high-skill jobs, so students will be equipped and able to support themselves and their families after graduation. This new grant allows Tennessee to build upon and scale the work started through funding from a smaller, Phase I grant awarded last year. In March 2016, Tennessee received a \$100,000 grant from CCSSO and JPMorgan Chase & Co. to pilot long-term career readiness education programs that align with the needs of Tennessee employers.

Tennessee spends less money on smoking prevention and cessation programs than the majority of

states, according to a recent study. Tennessee ranked 45 out of 50 in terms of spending money on anti-smoking programs according to the report titled "Broken Promises to Our Children: A State-by-State Look at the 1998 State Tobacco Settlement 18 Years Later." The state spent \$1.1 million on smoking-prevention programs in 2016 yet collected about \$418.3 million in revenue in 2016 from the settlement plus taxes on tobacco products, meaning less than 1 percent of the state's settlement money goes toward cessation programs. According to the report, tobacco use claims 11,400 Tennessee lives and costs the state more than \$2.6 billion in medical payments every year. This report was released by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, the American Lung Association, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights, and the Truth Initiative.

The Tennessee Department of Education has launched a new district and school system report card to help educators, families and community members have better information on their schools. The new site also includes results from the 2015-16 TNReady End of Course exams, which are coupled with the release of redesigned student reports that are already available for high school families to learn how their child performed on TNReady. The report card highlights a number of data points that capture the academic success of our districts and schools, and it also includes updated data from the 2015-16 year. The new report card also shares school and district-level results from the first year of TNReady. The department released state-level TNReady scores in November, which set a baseline for future growth based on new, educator-developed expectations that will better ensure all students are on track to graduate prepared for college and careers.

Cuts to sales tax on groceries, manufacturing and Hall part of Governor's IMPROVE Act

FUNDING from Page 1

user fee on electric vehicles and increases charges on vehicles using alternative fuels. The proposal also includes a 3 percent charge on rental cars and changes the state's open container law to allow the Tennessee Department of Transportation flexibility to use \$18 million in existing federal dollars on roads.

Fuel taxes would be indexed – but also capped – to the Consumer Price Index in order to keep up with the rate of inflation.

The IMPROVE Act would bring in \$278 million in new dollars to the state for projects while limiting the impact on the average Tennessee motorist to approximately \$4 a month. All funds would go toward transportation, including the 2 percent typically reverted to the General Fund, to provide funding for 962 projects across all 95 counties plus an additional \$39 million to cities and \$78 million to counties.

The legislation would also allow municipalities, only if approved by local voters through referendum, to impose a surcharge on their sales tax rate that would be solely dedicated to public transit projects.

"We've lowered the cost of government and experienced revenue growth so we're lowering the cost of food and bringing business taxes on manufacturers more in line with our neighbors. At the same time we have to ensure we have a transportation network that is not only highly ranked but also debt-free, just like it was given to us," Haslam added.

The IMPROVE Act also cuts the sales tax on groceries another 0.5 percent (\$55 million) to 4.5 percent, making a total cut to the sales tax on food of 1 percent, or \$101 million, during Haslam's administration; makes Tennessee's franchise and excise tax on manufacturing businesses more competitive by allowing companies to go to a "single weighted sales factor" (\$113 million); and cuts the Hall income tax 1.5 percent this year with a commitment to cut it another 1.5 percent next year (3 percent, \$102 million) – a tax that is statutorily required to be eliminated by 2022 but without a specific sched-



Photo by Carole Graves

TML Executive Director Margaret Mahery and Livingston Mayor Curtis Hayes discuss road funding with Senate Transportation Chair Paul Bailey during the governor's announcement at the Capitol.

ule to do so.

IMPROVE cuts taxes by an estimated \$270 million annually, bringing the total number of cuts made and proposed since 2011 to \$540 million annually, roughly nine times more than any other administration.

The governor also announced that his FY 2017-2018 budget proposal would use surplus one-time funds to finish repaying the Highway Fund by transferring \$120 million

from the General Fund.

Additional pieces of the governor's NextTennessee plan will be announced in the coming weeks. Haslam is scheduled to deliver his annual State of the State address on Jan. 30.

For more information on his plan and to see a complete list of proposed transportation projects, go to <http://www.tennessee.gov/news/48075#sthash.tiPG3mtw.dpuf>

Gov Haslam tax plan draws range of responses; Legislature to debate its merits in 2017 session

Lt. Gov. Randy McNally: "Governor Haslam's proposal does what Republicans do consistently: It cuts taxes. This plan addresses our transportation funding dilemma in a way that makes sense and still reduces the overall tax burden on our citizens. In just the past few years, we have repealed the gift tax, eliminated the death tax, reduced the sales tax on food and begun the phase out the Hall Income Tax. Governor Haslam's plan unveiled today does even more to reduce the overall tax burden on our citizens. This plan eases the tax burden on our manufacturers allowing them create jobs that Tennesseans need. The plan also takes another bite out of the food tax which gives our working and middle class citizens a tax break on the everyday necessities of life. For Tennessee's economic growth to continue we must have the infrastructure to support it. This plan attacks the funding issue in a responsible way. I appreciate Governor Haslam bringing forth this proposal. I look forward to a spirited debate on the merits in the House and the Senate."

House Speaker Beth Harwell: "I am grateful Governor Haslam has found ways to cut taxes and reduce the size of government in addition to calling attention to our infrastructure need and today putting forward a plan to address them. Transportation and infrastructure solutions are vital to ensuring our state remains competitive, creating jobs and bringing prosperity to all Tennesseans. I look forward to discussing these ideas and others to address these needs with my House colleagues."

House Majority Leader Glen Casada: "I owe the governor the respect to present this plan, and whatever comes out of committee is what I will be voting for on the House floor ... I am glad he is taking this on. He could have said we were done for two years. I am committed to do something. The governor has presented his plan, and the legislature will look at this plan. But I do expect the legislature to come up with their own plan. ... I think when I say I want to find a dedicated source for roads, everyone's with me. There will be varied opinions. Do we shift sales tax around? Do we fund it that way? As long as it is tax neutral I could definitely support it. But I will be voting for something."

House Minority Leader Craig Fitzhugh: "Investing in our infrastructure is one of the best things we can do as a state to create sustainable economic growth," said Fitzhugh. "While I look forward to hearing more about the Governor's plan, I also want to make sure whatever we do is equitable for all Tennesseans — regardless of their income or geographic location. ... I applaud the governor for his intention to cut the grocery tax by a half percent, but we should have done this much sooner. I brought legislation early in the governor's administration to reduce the grocery tax to this level. For almost 5 years, hard-working Tennesseans have paid an exorbitant tax on groceries compared to other states, while the Administration focused on cutting taxes for the wealthiest 4 percent of Tennesseans. This Hall Tax cut is putting local governments in a lurch and — at some point — those chickens are going to come home to roost."

Senate Transportation Committee Chairman Paul Bailey says he's been hearing from his constituents and most seem to support Haslam's transportation plan. "They see a need for additional funding for their city roads and their county roads. And they've been struggling."

Senate Minority Leader Lee Harris: "The Governor's remarks about infrastructure and public transit are initially encouraging. In my county alone, the state has \$874 million in backlogged road projects, like the Lamar Avenue project, which has been shovel-ready for 15 years. Seventy-seven thousand trucks pass through Tennessee every day. It's up to the state to ensure the highways are in good condition. As important, we have filed bills to expand public transit options by giving local governments the option to raise transit revenue, an idea the Governor endorsed this morning. I am also initially encouraged by the cut to grocery taxes, which is the kind of broad-based reform that has the potential to give some relief, albeit minor, to all Tennesseans. Finally, the Governor again raised the issue of cuts to the Hall Income tax, which is likely to raise concerns for local governments around our state that use that revenue for law enforcement, among other needs. Unlike cuts to taxes on groceries, Hall Income Tax cuts only help a very limited number of individuals, around 4.3 percent of Tennessee households and, in some counties, like mine, less than 1 percent of households pay the tax."

Senate Democratic Caucus Chair Sen. Jeff Yarbro: "I think a lot of questions remain whether this plan is giving local governments the flexibility they need to invest in transit meaningfully. If we don't do anything to get ahead of the transportation crisis in middle Tennessee, this is gonna fall short on votes and it's gonna fall short of achieving what the governor needs. ... Tennessee already has one of the most regressive tax systems in the country, if not the most regressive. And I think it's disappointing that we have to talk about making it more regressive in order to have a serious conversation about transportation."

BOOK REVIEW

The Necessity of Strangers: intriguing truth about insight, innovation, and success

BY ALAN S. GREGERMAN
(2013, 224 pages)
Reviewed by Jeff Broughton
MTAS Management Consultant

In his 224-page book on creativity, collaboration, and engagement, author Alan Gregerman establishes his framework in Part One of the book. His underlying premise is that remarkable things can be achieved by being open to "exploring the world around, connecting with the right people and ideas, turning those connections and ideas into conversations and then innovations that matter, and using those innovations as the catalyst for business and personal growth." The power of strangers is demonstrated with practical guidance and relevant examples.

The value of friends is discussed, as are its limitations of the small number of people with whom a person engages, and with the people known likely being much alike and thus likely to see the world in a similar way. Hence, the author contends that "it's not whom you know but whom you could know" that determines organizational and personal success – and underscores the title of the book.

A discussion on group-think, or the tendency of organizations to follow leadership or go along with the group even when they know there could be a better way is discussed, with most organizations averse to the insight of employees and strangers that question authority or the status quo – and all to the loss.

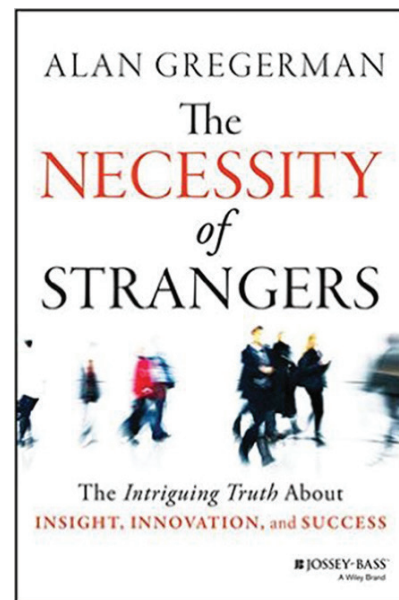
Mindset is discussed and how it determines the way that people engage the world. He notes that an open mindset furthers the ability to connect and learn from strangers, thereby increasing the potential for each person and organization to innovate and lead; while people and organizations with a closed mindset believe they know what is best – thereby stifling innovation. Four guiding principles to support openness to new people, ideas, and possibilities were presented, namely

humility (we don't know everything), curiosity (openness to new ideas), respect (everyone matters), and purpose (efforts to learn and grow).

In Part Two, the author discusses the areas of innovation, people, collaboration, customers, and leadership. He notes that innovation is essential to the success of organizations and individuals as in order to grow and prosper, organizations must deliver greater value to the customers served. And while real innovation is the quest to be different in ways that matter, most organizations rely on a few key staff members to create a slightly newer version of what is already done. With 99 percent of all new ideas based on an idea or practice that someone or something else has already had, his call to engage with strangers is suggested as the way to spur creativity, innovation, and success.

Examples of learning from strangers is discussed, such as the 2009 quest by Nissan Motors to develop technology to prevent car collisions by enabling vehicles to maintain a uniform distance of separation under any driving condition. The unlikely source for the company's inspiration came through the observation of schools of fish, which move in large numbers in close proximity making instantaneous starts, stops, and change in direction without ever colliding. Nissan is using the knowledge gained from finding this right "stranger" to innovate in its EPORO autonomous vehicle initiative.

Recognizing the genius in everyone is fundamental to organizational success as more than ever before, organizations need to find, develop, and engage people who ask tough questions and commit to finding and acting on the best answers; bring new ideas and fresh perspectives; have a sense of curiosity and openness to the world around them and the strangers in it; and are skilled at collaboration, knowledge sharing, and unlocking the hidden genius in everyone. Most organizations fail

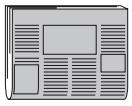


to reach full potential because they don't take collaboration seriously or don't understand how to collaborate with the strangers down the hallway or across the globe.

Connecting with customers and strangers, and making business services and expertise more accessible, is the new reality that must be embraced by organizations. This is so as the more informed and enabled customers are, the more loyal they will be to the products or services offered. The power of crowd-sourcing, which is the ability of strangers to share insights about an organization and share feedback with others, serves as an important resource to innovate and grow by leveraging the ideas and opportunities of customers and strangers that they present.

The book closes with a discussion on the power of travel and the fresh perspectives that can be gained in energizing thinking and opening the door to new possibilities, followed by an epilogue and a toolkit to enhance openness, collaboration, and help in finding the perfect stranger.

This book can be borrowed from the MTAS Watson Information and Research Center by emailing Dawn McMillen, MTAS Senior Library Associate, at dawn.mcmillen@tennessee.edu or calling 865-974-8970.



CLASSIFIED ADS

ASSISTANT FINANCE DIRECTOR COLUMBIA. The city of Columbia invites qualified candidates to apply for the assistant finance director position. This position reports to the assistant city manager/finance director, and interacts with elected officials, citizens and other staff members. The city operates on an annual budget of approximately \$54 million which includes one enterprise fund. This position will include tasks related to accounting, financial planning and analysis, financial reporting, controls over financial reporting, debt management, cash management, grant compliance and billing, investments, accounts payable, payroll, purchasing card program, revenue, and budget management. The ideal candidate will meet the following education, experience and minimum qualifications: Graduation from an accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree in accounting or a related field. A minimum of three years full-time professional employment in accounting, auditing, budgeting, or closely related financial activity. Other combinations of experience and education, which meet the minimum requirements, may be substituted. Licensed as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) with experience working with Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) principles is preferred. Experience in supervision of paraprofessional and/or clerical staff. Qualified applicants should submit applications and resumes online by visiting the city's website at www.columbiatn.com. First review of applications will be Jan. 31, position open until filled. The city of Columbia is an equal opportunity employer.

CITY ATTORNEY / LEGAL SERVICES

EAST RIDGE. The city of East Ridge will receive qualification statements from interested attorneys or law firms for services related to providing legal assistance to the city on or before 2:00 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 3, 2017. No late statements will be accepted. Interested parties should submit three copies of their statement of qualifications to: City Manager J. Scott Miller, City of East Ridge, 1517 Tombras Avenue, East Ridge, TN 37412. Please contact the HR Manager at 423-867-7711 for information required for statement of qualifications and the general scope of services. Please Note: The selection of an attorney or firm to provide the described scope of services will not be made on cost alone, but may be made based on the consideration of qualifications-related factors contained in this Request for Qualifications.

CITY MANAGER

WHITWELL (1,699). The city of Whitwell is accepting applications for city manager. Whitwell is a full-service city with 13 full time employees and a general fund budget of \$1.8 million. Position reports to a five-member board that is elected to four year staggered terms and meets once a month. Starting pay range is \$45,000 to \$47,000. Salary is DOQ. A minimum of a bachelor's degree and five years of supervisory related experience preferred. The ideal candidate will have city manager or assistant city manager experience in a full service city. Knowledge and skills required in areas of financial expertise, leadership, economic development, intergovernmental relations, and a strong desire to serve the public. The individual hired must reside within 30 miles of the city within 60 days of the job beginning. Mail resume and a cover letter to mayor, in care of City Recorder, City of Whitwell, PO Box 610, Whitwell, TN 37397 by Feb. 1, 2017. Whitwell is subject to the Tennessee Open Records Act. Background checks will be conducted. EOE.

CITY MANAGER

ASHLAND, KY. The city of Ashland, Ky, is seeking a qualified individual

to serve as city manager. The position requires strong leadership skills with great communication skills. Job candidates should enjoy solving complex problems and interacting with a highly skilled team of professionals. Demonstrated reliability, integrity and experience are key characteristics of this position. Qualified applicants should be highly motivated with an expectation of achieving excellence and have a thorough understanding of Kentucky's city commission/city manager form of government with appropriate experience and credentials. The minimum requirements for this opportunity include: bachelor's degree, MPA or closely related field preferred. An engineering background with knowledge and/or experience in utilities (water/sewer systems) and ICMA credentials are valued. Five years of progressive municipal administration experience desirable. Salary Range: \$120,000 - \$140,000. The application process will close January 31. A letter of interest, resume, and completed application including at least 5 work-related references, should be sent to the Office of Human Resources, Ashland City Building, 1700 Greenup Avenue, Room 301, P.O. Box 1839, Ashland, KY 41105-1839, (606) 327-2024. Applications may be downloaded at the city website: www.ashlandky.gov and must be received by Jan. 31, 2017. The city of Ashland is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital or veteran status, or non-job-related medical condition or disability.

DEPUTY FINANCE DIRECTOR

GALLATIN. The city of Gallatin, TN has re-opened its search for a Deputy Director of Finance in the Finance Department. This is a 40 hours per week, day shift position. Starting salary is \$67,110 + excellent benefits. Some essential duties include maintaining cash management for city funds and assisting in the preparation and maintenance of financial records and budgets. The successful candidate should have thorough knowledge of accounting theory, principles and their application as well as possess the ability to evaluate complex financial systems and efficiently formulate and install accounting methods, procedures, forms and records. The minimum requirements are a four year degree from an accredited college or university in accounting, finance, or business administration with emphasis in accounting and/or finance. Must hold CMFO certification or be able to obtain certification within 2 year from date of hire, as required by the State of Tennessee, or be exempted from the certification as noted in T.C.A. 6-56-405. Supervisory experience a plus. See the full description on our website. Interested persons must apply on-line at www.gallatinonthemove.com. Click Employment at the top of the webpage and follow the instructions. Submit an online application, cover letter and resume by Jan. 31, 2017. EOE.

ENTERPRISE SUPPORT MANAGER

KNOXVILLE. The city of Knoxville's Information Technology department is seeking to hire an Enterprise Support Manager with the following skills and responsibilities. The candidate must be strong technically with experience in all aspects of network infrastructure, security, data center and help desk operations. The ideal candidate should be familiar with Microsoft products, VMWare, and major manufacturers' hardware such as HP, Dell, EMC, and Cisco. The candidate will assist in writing equipment specifications and product evaluations. Other responsibilities include data storage, data back-

TN cities recovering from November disasters

DISASTERS from Page 1

our neighbors and friends back on their feet."

On Jan. 19, the U.S. Department of Labor also approved a \$5.82 million federal grant as a part of the agency's National Dislocated Worker Grant. The federal funding will be used by TDLAWD – in coordination with local governments, the Smoky Mountain Workforce Board, Walters State Community College, and the National Park Service – to clean-up and restore public areas decimated by the fire.

A disaster declaration was issued for Sevier County for wildfire damage on Dec. 15 providing disaster unemployment assistance (DUA) benefits are now available for workers. Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development (TDLWD) administers the program on behalf of the federal government. Persons unemployed as a direct result of the wildfire must file their claim for DUA benefits by Jan. 16, 2017, which is 30 days from the date of the announcement.

TDLWD will process all DUA claims filed after the wildfire first under the eligibility requirements of a standard Tennessee unemployment claim (TUC). If the claim does not meet TUC standards, it will then be processed as a DUA claim. Individuals who typically are not covered for regular unemployment benefits may qualify for disaster unemployment benefits. This includes self-employed workers and others not covered under the state unemployment insurance program, whose source of income has been interrupted by the disaster.

Weekly DUA benefits may range from an estimated \$116 to \$275 per week and are payable up to 28 weeks after the day of the declaration, which was Dec. 15, 2016. A person's DUA benefits will end if unemployment is no longer a direct result of the disaster.

In anticipation of a federal disaster declaration, TDLWD accepted claims earmarked for disaster assistance. As of Dec. 16, approximately 1,000 persons had applied for DUA benefits in Tennessee. If the federal government had not declared Sevier County a disaster, the state would have processed those benefits as normal unemployment claims and el-

ENTERPRISE SUPPORT MANAGER (cont.)

up, and email. The position reports to the I.T. Director and supports a team of engineers who install and maintain all file servers, application servers, database servers, web servers, domain controllers, firewalls, printers, scanners, workstations, laptops and tablets computers for over 1500 city computer users located at facilities across the city of Knoxville. To be considered for this role, candidates must have a Bachelor's Degree from a CHEA accredited four year college or university with a major in computer science, engineering, business administration, or a related field; and progressively responsible experience in computer systems operations, supervisory, and technical experience or a minimum of ten years extensive, progressively responsible supervisory and technical experience on the operation of diverse and/or large computer environments. Salary is commensurate with candidate's experience and qualifications. Application deadline is 2/3/2017. Apply online at www.knoxvilletn.gov/jobs. EEO/AA/TITLE VI/SECTION 504/ADA/ADEA EMPLOYER.



Community volunteers in Tullahoma help with clean up efforts following the tornado on Nov. 29.

igible dislocated workers would have received those benefits in accordance to federal and state laws.

Under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, a state's governor must first request relief funds within 30 days of the event in order to receive federal disaster recovery assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. After this request is made, FEMA officials conduct an assessment of damaged areas "to determine the extent of the disaster, its impact on individuals and public facilities, and the types of federal assistance that may be needed," according to the FEMA website. This assessment must prove that the impact on the area is of such a severity that the state and local governments are unable to effectively respond to it without federal help.

The Stafford Act allows for the president to make two major types of disaster declarations: emergency declarations and major disaster declarations.

Emergency declarations may not exceed \$5 million without Congressional permission and are used to provide emergency services such as protecting public health, safety and property or lessen or averting a disaster threat. Public assistance for debris removal and emergency protective measures are funded through this type of declaration as are the Individuals and Households Program and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

In contrast, major disaster dec-

laration is typically declared following a natural event, fire, flood or explosion that has "caused damage of such severity that it is beyond the combined capabilities of the state and local governments to respond." This declaration provides a wider range of federal assistance programs including both emergency and permanent work.

Under a major disaster declaration, individual assistance programs include crisis counseling, case management, unemployment assistance, legal services, and temporary Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. Before providing assistance, FEMA considers the concentration of damage, trauma, special populations, voluntary agency assistance, insurance and severity and number of damaged residences an area has experienced.

For public infrastructure and government entities, the major disaster declaration provides hazard mitigation assistance and including debris removal, emergency protective measures, and emergency work, repair or replacement to roads, bridges, water control facilities, buildings, equipment, utilities, parks, and other facilities.

Before providing this type of assistance for public infrastructure, FEMA considers the estimated cost of the assistance, localized impacts, insurance coverage, hazard mitigation, recent multiple disasters and other federal agency assistance programs already in place.

UT-MTAS FEBRUARY MAP CLASSES

INTRODUCTION TO GRANT WRITING

This class provides overview of the grant writing process and focuses on how and where to find available grants and how to write a grant proposal. Also discussed will be how to find federal and state government grant sources and how to find foundation grant programs. The essential components of the grant proposal package and how to craft a quality grant proposal designed to align with the grant makers interest will be addressed as well.

Target Audience:

All Municipal Employees.

Dates/Locations/Times:

Feb 6 Jackson
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CST
Feb 7 Nashville
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CST
Feb 9 Knoxville
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EST

Credits:

4 CPE/CMFO (Financial) (PA)

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

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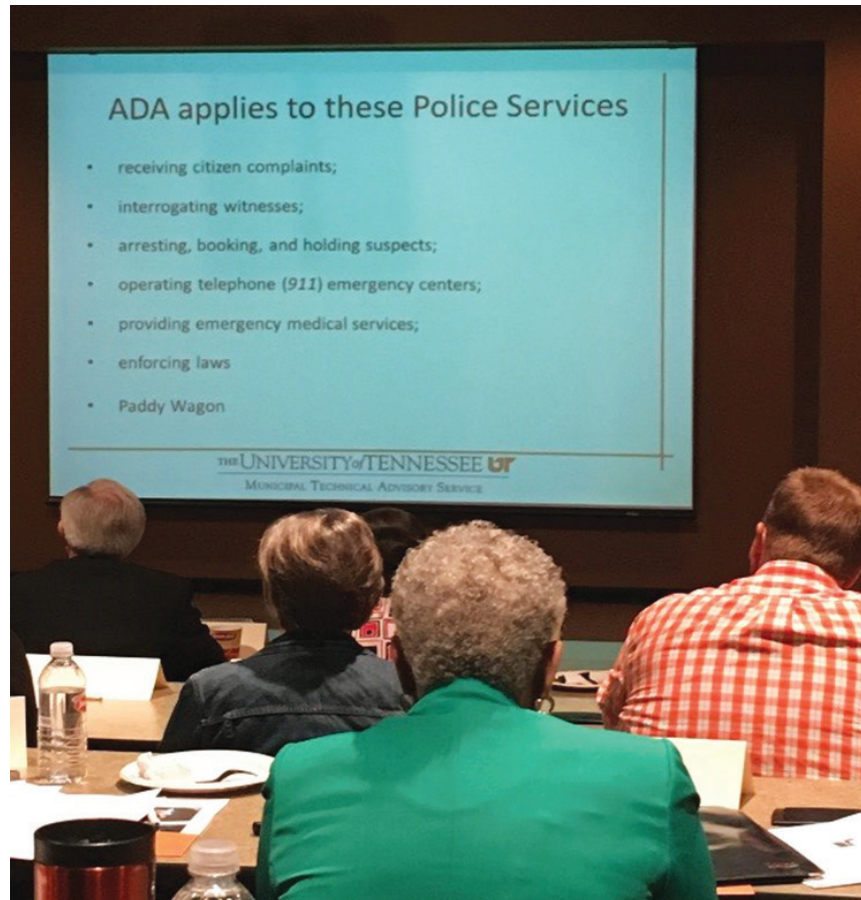
25 TN municipal employees earn 2016 Municipal Administration Certificate

Twenty-five individuals earned the Tennessee Municipal Administration Certificate in 2016: Jason Barnes (White House), Karen Bell (Jackson), Loretta Bell (Moscow), Kevin Carter (Arlington), Todd Christian (Dickson), Nora Clifton (Memphis), Connie Cox (Jackson), Debra Craig (South Fulton), Rhonda Fink (Lakeland), Stan Foust (LaFollette), Gary Graves (Millington), Tina Green (Whitwell), Donny Groves (Mount Pleasant), Michael Hay (Mount Pleasant), Angela Hayes (Bedford County), Christopher Hooper (Dickson), Jimmy Jeffries (LaFollette), Laura Johnson (Franklin), DeAnn Kraft (Franklin), Angie Marshall (Kingsport), Debbie Marshall (Mount Pleasant), Billy Ray Morris (Oakland), Kelly Rider (Ridge Top), Travis Taylor (Mount Juliet), and Bonnie Wright Woodward (Chattanooga).

The 2016 Tennessee Municipal Administration Certificate (TMAC) began on Jan. 1, 2016, and ended Dec. 31, 2016. Thirty-two hours are required for TMAC: 16 hours under the Leadership and Management Track, and 16 hours under the Public Administration Track.

According to Chris Hooper, Dickson special project coordinator, "The MTAS Tennessee Municipal Administration Certificate program is a great way to get job-specific training."

Karen Bell, Jackson finance director stated, "The TMAC program was a great opportunity for me as a city finance director to interact with other cities that participated in the classes and get insightful information about new ideas and ways of doing things. The relationships that I built with my peers across the state will be especially helpful



Enrollment is now open for the 2017 MTAS Tennessee Municipal Administration Certificate program.

as I approach problems and seek to implement new programs in our city. I am very thankful for this program and the opportunity that it allowed me to grow professionally in my position."

Travis Taylor, Mount Juliet information technology director, said, "I found the MTAS TMAC program to be educational and pertinent to my position as a department manager and a city employee. I believe the things learned in this program will benefit me, my employees, and my co-workers. The classes are fun and the instructors are personable. The

ideas shared amongst fellow municipal employees at these events is invaluable too. I would recommend the TMAC program to any municipal or government employee."

It's not too late to enroll. To enroll, or to find out more information about this calendar year's (2017) certificate program, visit the MTAS website at: www.mtas.tennessee.edu. Once there, click on the MAP tab under 'programs and resources' or contact Kurt Frederick @ 615-253-6385 or Kurt.frederick@tennessee.edu.



**Jan. 26: Union City
70s Dinner Theater**

It's time to do the hustle at Discovery Park. Enjoy dinner and a show in Dinosaur Hall. The folks from Badgett Playhouse in Grand Rivers, Ky., will have you dancing, singing, and laughing the whole night. Tickets are on sale now for \$35 per person. Discovery Park of America, 830 Everett Blvd. Union City, TN 38261. For more information or to purchase tickets, email kjarvis@discoveryparkofamerica.com, or call 731-885-5455, or toll-free: 1-877-885-5455.

**Jan. 27-28: Townsend
Winter Heritage Festival**

The Cades Cove Preservation Association in conjunction with the Great Smoky Mountain Heritage Center are proud to present the Winter Heritage Festival. Highlights include a free series of presentations by the Cades Cove Preservation Association located in the Great Smoky Mountain Heritage Center Auditorium. Local historians will share the stories and tales that created our past. Also available a ticketed Cast Iron Country Breakfast Sunday morning with proceeds for the "Coats for Our Community" project followed by a church service. For more information please visit the Great Smoky Mountain Heritage Center or call 865.448.0044.

**Feb. 4: Baxter
Wine Train**

Enjoy a wine tasting aboard the Tennessee Central Excursion Train. Boarding in Nashville at 8 a.m. and returning early evening. While at the winery enjoy music, food, games, scavenger hunt through the vineyard, and more. Event by: DelMonaco Winery & Vineyard. Boarding at Tennessee Central Railway Museum, 220 Willow Street Nashville, TN 37210-2159. Phone: (615) 244-9001

economic recoveries in modern history, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. Wages rose 2.9 percent from last December, the strongest increase in more than seven years. The data from the President Barack Obama's final full month in office was in stark contrast with the economy in January 2009, when he took office amid the depths of the recession. At that time, the unemployment rate was 7.8 percent. Last month, the jobless rate rose slightly to 4.7 percent. The decrease marks the second-largest drop in the unemployment rate during a presidency, after President Bill Clinton, since Dwight D. Eisenhower took office in 1953. December also marked the 75th straight month of job growth — the most extended streak the country has seen since 1939.

NATIONAL BRIEFS



Unemployment rates were lower in 271 of the 387 metropolitan areas across the nation in November 2016, higher in 90 areas, and unchanged in 26 areas than in the previous year, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Thirty-six areas had jobless rates of less than 3 percent and four areas had rates of at least 10 percent. Nonfarm payroll employment increased over the year in 303 metropolitan areas, decreased in 73 areas, and was unchanged in 11 areas. The national unemployment rate in November was 4.4 percent, not seasonally adjusted, down from 4.8 percent a year earlier.

Rural unemployment rates have dropped below 6 percent for the first time since 2007, and rural poverty rates have fallen, according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the U.S. Department of Agriculture as part of a report

on rural economic investments for Fiscal Year 2015-2016. Median household incomes in rural areas increased by 3.4 percent in 2015, and rural populations have stabilized and in some areas are beginning to grow. The report found that since 2009, the USDA has helped 1.2 million rural Americans buy, refinance or repair their homes; provided high-speed broadband access to 6 million rural Americans; invested \$12 billion in more than 10,500 essential community projects; provided loans or grants to more than 122,000 rural businesses, supporting more than 791,000 jobs; and provided \$13.9 billion for 5,825 water and wastewater projects, providing safe water to 19.5 million rural residents.

Local public housing agencies across the country have received \$2.9 million to provide a permanent home to 529 homeless veterans and their families in

rural areas, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The funds included \$48,337 to the Crossville Housing Authority and Tennessee Valley Healthcare System. The supportive housing assistance announced today is provided through the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program which combines rental assistance from HUD with case management and clinical services provided by VA. See local funding chart below. This year, HUD awarded approximately \$60 million to support more than 8,000 veterans and their families. HUD-VASH ensures that veterans experiencing homelessness receive both the housing and services to live stably in their own homes.

The U.S. economy added 156,000 new jobs in December, and is showing signs of one of the largest

No loan is too large or too small



The city of Dyersburg recently closed a \$2.8 million refunding bond issue through the TMBF loan program. It is the city's sixth loan financed through the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund.



Lenoir City and the Lenoir City Utilities Board recently closed two loans with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund — one variable rate loan in the amount of \$25 million and one fixed rate loan in the amount of \$25 million. The money will be used for a new administrative complex for the Lenoir City Utilities Board.



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Members of 110th TN General Assembly convene for business



Rep. Sam Whitson and House Finance Chair Charles Sargent.



Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris and Senate Finance Chair Bo Watson



House Majority Leader Glen Casada



Republican Caucus Chair Ryan Williams



Senate Speaker Pro Tempore Jim Tracy



Rep. William Lamberth and Sen. Jon Lundberg



House Speaker Pro Tempore Curtis Johnson



Sen. John Stevens



Rep. Joe Pitts and Rep. Johnny Shaw



Sen. Janice Bowling



Sen. Doug Overbey

At left: Reps. Kelly Keisling, Dennis Powers and Jimmy Eldridge



Legislative Leadership: 2017 – 2018

TENNESSEE SENATE



Speaker/Lt. Gov.
Randy McNally



Speaker Pro Tem
Jim Tracy



Republican Leader
Mark Norris



Democratic Leader
Lee Harris



Republican Caucus
Chair Bill Ketron



Democratic Caucus Chair
Jeff Yarbro

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Commerce: Chair Johnson, Green, Gresham, Ketron, Roberts, Tracy, Tate, Watson, Yager

Education: Chair Gresham, Crowe, Dickerson, Gardenhire, Haile, Hensley, Kelsey, Tate, Tracy

Energy: Chair Southerland, Bell, Dickerson, Green, Gresham, Harris, Massey, Niceley, Yager

Finance: Chair Watson, Dickerson, Gardenhire, Haile, Harper, Hensley, Ketron, Overbey, Norris, Stevens, Tate

Government Operations: Chair Bell, Beavers, Bowling, Crowe, Harper, Jackson, Lundberg, Roberts, Southerland

Health: Chair Crowe, Briggs, Haile, Hensley, Jackson, Kyle, Massey, Overbey, Watson

Judiciary: Chair Kelsey, Bowling, Bell, Harris, Kyle, Lundberg, Overbey, Roberts, Stevens

State and Local: Chair Yager, Bailey, Briggs, Gardenhire, Jackson, Johnson, Ketron, Norris, Yarbro

Transportation: Bailey, Beavers, Bowling, Briggs, Massey, Niceley, Stevens, Tracy, Yarbro

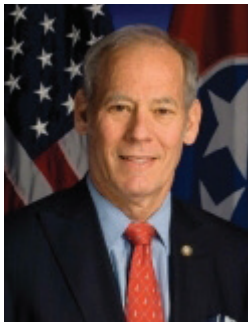
Calendar: Chair Massey, Norris, Harris

Ethics: Chair Overbey, Briggs, Dickerson, Harper, Norris

Rules: Chair Norris, Overbey, Steven, Watson, Yarbro

TN Constitutional Officers re-elected to two-year term

Members of the Tennessee Senate and House have re-elected Justin P. Wilson to serve as the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury and David H. Lillard as the state treasurer. The vote by acclamation was taken during a joint session of the 110th General Assembly.



Justin Wilson



David Lillard

Wilson is Tennessee's 34th Comptroller of the Treasury and was re-elected to his fourth two-year term. He leads a staff of more than 500 employees.

The comptroller's duties include the audit of state and local government entities and participation in the general financial and administrative management and oversight of state government.

The 110th General Assembly also reelected David H. Lillard, Jr. by acclamation to a fifth term as Tennessee state treasurer.

In his official capacity, Treasurer Lillard oversees the Tennessee Treasury Department and its more than 270 employees. The Treasury Department internally manages over \$55 billion in state and local government funds.

Treasurer Lillard has championed issues of financial literacy and strives daily find new ways to improve the financial lives of Tennesseans. Since first elected in 2009, he has worked with the Treasury Department to provide Tennesseans with financial tools needed to lead a better quality of life.

Both the comptroller and the treasurer serve two-year terms; whereas, the secretary of state serves four-year terms. Tre Hargett, the current secretary of state, was elected to his second four-year term in 2014.



Michael Curcio (R-Dickson) succeeds Democrat David Shepard, who did not run, in District 69. Curcio first sought the seat two years ago, when he lost to Shepard by 15 votes. He is an employee benefits adviser and has served on the Dickson County Board of Zoning Appeals.



Michael Curcio

Ron Gant (R-Williston), president of Insurance Associates of Tennessee, fills the District 94 seat that was served by Leigh Wilburn (R-Somerville) in 2015 and Jamie Jenkins this year. Gant, 45, a former Fayette County commissioner, serves as chairman of the Rossville Christian Academy school board.



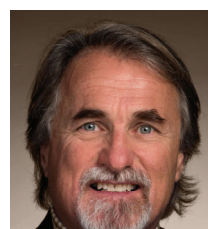
Ron Gant

Gary Hicks (R-Rogersville) technically isn't a new face. He served as interim state representative in District 9 after Mike Harrison stepped down to run the County Mayors Association. Hicks is technology director for Rogersville City Schools.



Gary Hicks

Mark Lovell (R-Eads) defeated Curry Todd in the primary and is the new representative of District 95. Lovell, 57, owns a company that promotes and operates fairs and carnivals. He is involved in several nonprofit community groups, including Clean Memphis, which he founded.



Mark Lovell

Tim Rudd (R-Murfreesboro) succeeds Rick Womick in District 34. He is a real estate broker and direct mail consultant for political candidates. Rudd is a former member of the Republican State



Tim Rudd

TENNESSEE HOUSE



Speaker
Beth Harwell



Speaker Pro Tem
Curtis Johnson



Majority Leader
Glen Casada



Democratic Leader
Craig Fitzhugh



Republican Caucus Chair
Ryan Williams



Democratic Caucus
Chair Mike Stewart

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AG & Natural Resources: Chair Halford, Vice Chair Holt, Hawk, Hulsey, Lollar, Marsh, Matheny, McDaniel, Mitchell, Reedy, Shaw, Tillis, Windle

Business & Utilities: Chair Marsh, Vice Chair Calfee, Camper, Clemmons, Doss, Favors, Gilmore, Goins, Gravitt, Hazlewood, Holsclaw, Johnson, Lovell, McCormick, Powell, Powers, Sparks, Swann, Tillis, White (Rutherford)

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Consumer & Human Resources: Chair Eldridge, Vice Chair Pody, Casada, Lovell, Lynn, Matlock, Staples, Thompson, White (Shelby)

Criminal Justice: Chair Lamberth, Vice Chair Curcio, Akbari, Coley, Farmer, Goins, Jones, Littleton, Parkinson, Sherrell, Van Huss

Education Administration & Planning: Chair Brooks (Knox), Vice Chair Smith, Akbari, DeBerry, Fitzhugh, Kane, Lollar, Matlock, Moody, Turner, Weaver, White (Rutherford), White (Shelby)

Education Instruction & Programs: Chair Forgety, Vice Chair Byrd, Brooks (Knox), Butt, Dunn, Holt, Kane, Kumar, Love, Pitts, Reedy, Stewart, Towns

Finance: Chair Sargent, Vice Chair Brooks (Bradley), Byrd, Camper, Carter, Coley, Crawford, DeBerry, Fitzhugh, Gilmore, Hawk, Hazlewood, Hicks, Hill (Washington), Johnson, Love, Lynn, McCormick, McDaniel, Miller, Swann, Williams, and Wirgau.

Government Operations: Chair Faison, Vice Chair Ragan, Calfee, Casada, Fitzhugh, Halford, Howell, Johnson, Mitchell, Stewart, Williams

Health: Chair Sexton (Cumberland), Vice Chair Kumar, Butt, Clemmons, Faison, Favors, Gant, Hicks, Hill (Washington), Holsclaw, Jernigan, Jones, Ragan, Ramsey, Sherrell, Staples, Terry, Whitson, Williams

Insurance & Banking: Chair Travis, Vice Chair Zachary, Beck, Brooks (Bradley), Curcio, Gant, Hardaway, Hill (Sullivan), Keisling, Matheny, Pitts, Pody, Powers, Rudd, Sargent, Sparks, Thompson, Towns, VanHuss

Local Government: Chair Wirgau, Vice Chair Howell, Alexander, Carr, Cooper, Crawford, Eldridge, Gravitt, Miller, Parkinson, Sexton (Cumberland), Sexton (Grainger)

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Business & Utilities Subcommittee: Chair Swann, Calfee, Gilmore, Gravitt, Holsclaw, Johnson, Lovell, Marsh, Powell, Sparks

Civil Justice Subcommittee: Chair Carter, Beck, Casada, Daniel, Farmer, Hardaway, Moody

Consumer & Human Resources Subcommittee: Chair Lynn, Eldridge, Matlock, Pody, Staples

Criminal Justice Subcommittee: Chair Goins, Akbari, Curcio, Jones, Lamberth, Van Huss

Education Administration & Planning Subcommittee: Chair White (Shelby), Brooks (Knox), DeBerry, Smith, Turner, White (Rutherford)

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Forgety, Pitts, Stewart

Finance Subcommittee: Chair McCormick, Brooks (Bradley), Camper, Coley, Fitzhugh, Hawk, Hazlewood, Hicks, Love, McDaniel, Sargent, Williams

Health Subcommittee: Chair Terry, Clemmons, Faison, Favors, Hill (Washington), Kumar, Sexton (Cumberland), Sherrell, Ragan

Local Government Subcommittee: Chair Carr, Crawford, Howell, Miller, Parkinson, Wirgau

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State Government Subcommittee: Chair Sanderson, Hulsey, Jernigan, Littleton, Ramsey

Transportation Subcommittee: Chair Weaver, Alexander, Cooper, Doss, Rogers, Sexton (Grainger), Whitson, Windle

Executive Committee and former treasurer of Tennessee Volunteers for Life.

2017 starts with new members

Reprinted with permission from the Tennessee Journal

The Senate has only one new member, Sen. Jon Lundberg (R-Bristol), who moves over from the House. He was elected as Ramsey's successor in District 4.

In the House, Rep. Gary Hicks (R-Rogersville), who last year was an interim representative, begins a full term.

Ten persons actually are new to the General Assembly — eight Republicans and two Democrats. They are all men and all in the House.

Jon Lundberg (R-Bristol) moves from the House to fill the District 4 seat vacated by Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey. Sen. Lundberg, 55, is a public relations executive and a captain in the Navy Reserve. He served 10 years in the House and was chairman of the Civil Justice Committee.



Jon Lundberg

John Crawford (R-Kingsport) succeeds now-Sen. Lundberg in House District 1. Rep. Crawford, 49, is owner of Plaques Inc. and CFO for Able Printers in Kingsport. He is a Sullivan County commissioner, a captain in the Kingsport police reserve program, and a board member of the Bloomingdale Volunteer Fire Department.



John Crawford

Paul Sherrell (R-Sparta) defeated Rep. Kevin Dunlap (D-Rock Island) in the District 43 general election. Sherrell, semi-retired, owns a real estate business with his wife, Miranda Sherrell. He has worked in a variety of fields, including law enforcement.



Paul Sherrell

Rick Staples (D-Knoxville) is the new representative in District 15. Staples, who works for a real estate firm, replaced Democrat Joe Armstrong on the ballot after Armstrong's resignation in September. He is active in 100 Black Men of Greater Knoxville.



Rick Staples

Dwayne Thompson (D-Cordova) won the District 96 seat in an upset against Republican incumbent Steve McManus. He is a retired human resources professional and longtime Democratic activist. A cancer survivor, he volunteers in counseling cancer patients and also is an MS Society volunteer.



Dwayne Thompson

Rick Tillis (R-Lewisburg) replaces Billy Spivey in District 92 after winning a tight primary race with Mike Waggoner. He is the owner of Tillis Jewelry on the Lewisburg square and a former firefighter. Tillis is the brother of U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.).



Rick Tillis

Sam Whitson (R-Franklin), a retired Army colonel, defeated Jeremy Durham in the August primary and handily won the general election to represent District 65. He chairs the Franklin Battlefield Preservation Commission and is a past chairman of the Carter House State Historical Site.



Sam Whitson

New Lt. Gov. Randy McNally puts focus on budget, health care

State senator from Oak Ridge discusses work with Sen. Douglas Henry, stepping into shoes of former Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey

By LINDA BRYANT

When lawmakers convened the 110th General Assembly on Jan. 10 there was little doubt about at least one legislative action. Sen. James R. "Randy McNally, R-Oak Ridge, would be nominated and voted in as senate speaker and lieutenant governor of Tennessee.

Prior to being sworn in, McNally had been unanimously nominated by fellow Republicans for this powerful post. His victory was assured because of the Republican supermajority.

But one wonders if McNally would have won even without the supermajority advantage because of the strong relationships he's built during his decades of service in the General Assembly.

McNally, a pharmacist whose full name is James Rand "Randy" McNally III, was first elected to the Tennessee House in 1978. He was eventually elected to the Senate in 1986.

McNally moved to Oak Ridge from Boston at the age of four when his father, a physicist trained at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was recruited to work on the Manhattan Project. He attended college at the University of Memphis, where he received his bachelor's degree in biology. Soon afterward, he enrolled in pharmacy school at the University of Tennessee health science campus in Memphis.

When he's not in Nashville working, McNally lives in Oak Ridge with his wife Jan. The couple has two grown daughters, three grandchildren, and a passion for rescuing golden retrievers.

McNally gives credit to many others for his success.

"There really have been so many important people in my life," he said. "That certainly includes my wife, family, parents, friends and colleagues. Each of them contribute to who you are and what you can accomplish."

The 72-year-old takes office when the session is expected to cover a host of substantial issues, including a potential gas tax increase and decisions related to how to spend the state's current budget surplus.

State Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris, R-Collierville, is confident that McNally is up for the task.

"Abraham Lincoln said, 'Character is like a tree and reputation like a shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing,'" Norris said. "I've seen the shadow and the tree in McNally. He's straight and strong and true. He casts a long shadow because of the depth and breadth of his knowledge and experience."

"He's thoughtful and quiet; a good listener and friend," Norris continued. "He truly cares about what's best for Tennessee. These qualities will serve him well as lieutenant governor, serve us well as his colleagues, and serve the state of Tennessee especially well as 'America at its best'."

TT&C: Thinking back over your long career as a pharmacist and legislator, what are some "lessons learned" in the public and private sector that you'll be able to apply to your important new role as Lieutenant Governor?

RM: I got into pharmacy and government service because I enjoy helping people. In pharmacy it's not always about just taking medication. You are taught to listen, evaluate people and direct them toward their best interests. This approach helped me over the years in both careers. When I ran for the state House, which was actually my first elected office, I was somewhat familiar with working on campaigns. But I found myself behind after the primary. Some of my friends helping me with the campaign told me to quit trying to run the campaign and just go out and knock on people's doors. Back then you could do that a lot easier than you can now. It was a very positive experience for me, and it really helped me in my new role. I learned it's more important to listen to people than it is for you to tell them what you are about.

TT&C: What prompted you to seek the role of Lt. Governor?

RM: There are a number of people that could have done extremely well in the position but most of those individuals had something else going on. It appeared to be a good time to begin the process of talking to people and finding out what they desired. Through this process I was able to

make the decision to run. We have a number of really great leaders in the legislature and also a number of new people that have great leadership potential. It felt like the right time, and in talking to folks, I discovered that it was.

TT&C: Do you have specific goals as you take on your new role?

RM: Well certainly in the area of finance I would like to maintain the state's AAA rating, I want to make sure the state's budget is structurally balanced each year. When we are working on projections, I want to make sure we're always on the side of underestimating revenues and overestimating expenses. Also important: staying on top of some of the elephants in the room as far as the budget — the TennCare program and controlling costs. Many commissioners have said if you can control TennCare then you can control the budget.

Gov. (Phil) Bredesen was very successful at reducing expenditures, but they have crept back to where they were prior to the re-verification changes that Tennessee made. It's also important to make sure the Senate functions responsibly and that each member is allowed to make contributions to that process. Members need to be able to develop their full leadership potential.

TT&C: Over the years, what legislation are you proudest of?

RM: Over the years, I have been very involved with state financing. Although this encompasses more than a single piece of legislation, it reflects my commitment to making Tennessee a fiscally sound state and to regaining and retaining our AAA bond rating from all three agencies.

When I was vice chair of finance, Sen. Douglas Henry, (D-Nashville), was the chairman. We were about to pass a budget where we solved the budget shortfall by simply upping the revenue estimate. Sen. Henry asked the speaker if he could go to the podium and asked the women in the chamber to leave. He had a piece of paper in his hand and it had three A's written on it. He explained what a folly it was to simply raise the revenue estimates. He made a statement that what we were about to do was to (expletive) away our AAA rating. It was classic Sen. Henry. Twenty years ago some of the women probably would have been offended by the word he used. But he was exactly right because we did lose our AAA rating.

It was important for me, the state and Sen. Henry's legacy to regain the rating. Over the years, we were able to make a strong case and gain it back. I'm very proud of that.

I'm also proud of anti-crime legislation that I've handled. Addressing the problem with the opiate epidemic that the state is facing is important as well as working on drunk driving legislation that started with a mandatory 48-hour jail time. Probably the latest advance was an exception to the exclusionary rule that grew out of the "Zoo Man" Husky [serial murder] case in Knoxville. There were various cases in Tennessee where the magistrate would make a simple mistake on the search or detention warrant. For example, in one case the judge circled a.m. instead of p.m. The officers utilized that warrant in order to search a house where they found a number of drugs. The case got thrown out because of the technicality. The appeals court said that the legislature needed to address that issue because federal law did have a "good faith exception." [In 2011 the legislature approved a bill that declares courts can ignore minor mistakes in search warrants and use the resulting evidence against criminal defendants in trials.]

TT&C: Talk about your chairmanship of the Joint Pensions and Insurance Committee. Are there important highlights?

RM: We did experience a real downfall in the assets of the pension system. It was just as State Treasurer David Lillard was about to take office. In working with him, Chairman Charles Sargent, (R-Franklin), and with other members of the committee we have actually been able to better diversify our holdings. For a long time we were just in stocks and bonds. We were able to diversify that risk. At the same time we were able to build the pension system back.

There are two things that have really affected us. One is that people are living a lot longer so their pensions are cumulatively a lot higher. In the past we could count on a 7 or



Lt. Gov. Randy McNally has represented his hometown of Oak Ridge in the state legislature since 1977, serving first in the House of Representatives and then in the Senate beginning in 1986. On Jan. 10, McNally began his tenure as the 87th speaker of the Senate and lieutenant governor for the state of Tennessee.

7.5 percent return from the market. We can't anymore. This will be an issue that we face this year. We will attempt to lower those returns. Even though when you compare Tennessee with other states, we are certainly at the top as far as returns and funding are concerned. It's a real challenge just to stay on top of it.

Sen. Douglas Henry, Sen. Leonard Dunavant and Rep. John Bragg are the ones who got us really great footing with this issue. In the past, before they took charge of it, bills would pass that increase pensions and insurance benefits, and we wouldn't have to fund them. In the 1970s, they came forward and proposed legislation — still on the books today — that requires all legislation to be reviewed by the Joint Pension and Insurance Committee. It also has to be funded in the budget, and you have to be able to project its long-term effects. That was a great help.

TT&C: You have a long history of working closely with retired Sen. Henry — despite representing two sides of the aisle. Do you miss those times?

RM: Sen. Henry is really one of a kind. He was my mentor. I had served on house finance for two terms; and when I went to the Senate, I saw a real opportunity to work with him on that committee. He taught me a lot. In fact, most of what I know about state government financing came from Sen. Henry. There are people like him still in the legislature. But he was really unique in his own right. Yet, he's a very modest individual and doesn't want to take credit for anything. Needless to say, he has a lot to take credit for.

Sen. Henry was a great leader on that committee. He didn't always necessarily get his way but he was always willing and gracious. At times, he allowed me and other individuals the opportunity to chair the committee, and it really helped develop leaders for the future. Lt. Gov. (Ron) Ramsey, whom I have worked with for the last 10 years, has many of the same qualities. He certainly helped me a lot and is a great leader.

TT&C: You are a longtime champion of transparency and ethical and open government. You played a key role in helping to uncover political corruption during the Operation Rocky Top investigation of charity bingo in the state. Why are these issues so important to you? How do we continue to meet the challenge of an open and honest government and hold people and institutions accountable? Is there still work to be done?

RM: When I first started campaigning, which was in the very late 70s, I met with Horace Wells, the publisher in the *Clinton Courier* and Tommy Owen, the publisher of the *Oak Ridger*. Those were the two papers in my district. The two men drilled into my head the importance of transparency and open government. It was reinforced to some extent during the Rocky Top investigation that occurred in the beginning of 1986.

[Having a transparent and open government] seems to offset some of the corruption that can occur when a lot of things are done in secret. There are times when there has to be secrecy for security reasons or

protection of individuals such as witnesses. A focus on open government and transparency can sometimes be a hardship on people in government, but it is really in their best interest in the long-term.

TT&C: Comment on some of the areas where Tennessee really stands out?

RM: Education is certainly one area — both K-12 and higher education. There's still much to be done, but we have made a great deal of progress. When you start at 48th [in the nation in education] it leaves a lot of room for continued success. We have made progress in recruiting jobs and improving the economy in Tennessee. Our state economy, to some extent, is a reflection of the national economy, which has been through a very anemic and slow recovery from the downturn in 2008. The danger is that it's been about nine years since the downturn occurred. Nine years is considered a long time as far as the ups and downs of the economy are concerned. So, it's very important for us to be prepared to move forward in an uncertain future. We need to make sure the pension system is fully funded, the budget is structurally balanced and the rainy day fund is strong. We need to make sure we're controlling costs in health programs and TennCare.

TT&C: How will the change of administration from President Obama to President Trump impact you as you begin your new legislative role?

RM: There are some real opportunities that will take President Trump and Congress working together to make those changes. Making changes in the Affordable Care Act can potentially be a great help to the state as well as to TennCare costs. There is some indication that the federal government will do a lot for infrastructure. Right now our roads are among the best, but keeping them among the best is important. I think a lot will be done for health care for military veterans who have served our country.

TT&C: What have been some of your biggest career challenges?

RM: One big challenge has been balance, particularly with my family. I'm away from home four days and three nights out of the week during session. After the General Assembly has adjourned, it's once or twice a week. It's really difficult when you have to miss an important event for one of your daughters or your wife. But I have a very understanding and supportive family. In my initial campaigns both my daughters were extremely active in helping. One daughter, Melissa, was in high school and she organized some of her friends to help with events. The younger one, Maggie, bless her soul, went door-to-door with me on some occasions. My wife, Jan, has always been very supportive. She is also a lot more skilled at writing than I am. She's had a great career in nursing and management. It's really been a partnership for us.

TT&C: How do you deal with dissent? Do you have a certain approach or leadership style that applies to disagreement or contro-

Sen. Randy McNally has a long held reputation as a seeker of justice — and for good reason. The Oak Ridge Republican played a dramatic undercover role in the FBI's Rocky Top bingo and gambling investigation in the 1980s.

As a part of the sting, McNally was asked to wear a recording device at the Legislative Plaza and the action opened up a hornet's nest of corruption at the state level. McNally was offered illegal bribes, including one for \$10,000 if he would vote in favor of a horse racing bill. The extensive investigation ultimately resulted in more than 50 convictions and several incarcerations.

Former TBI Criminal Investigation Division Deputy Director Jeff Puckett, who recently retired, worked closely with McNally during the Rocky Top shakedown.

"He was an integral part of the Rocky Top investigation," Puckett said. "It would have never been a success without him. He risked his political career by doing the right thing. The investigation was definitely a test of Randy's character and bravery. He was in a precarious position for many, many months."

As a result of the Rocky Top investigation, Puckett ended up becoming both friend and professional colleague to McNally.

"I couldn't imagine a more deserving or qualified person to hold the post of Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the Senate," Puckett said. "Randy is the most honest person I've ever met in government circles. He was dedicated to doing the right thing from the first moment I met him. If doing the right thing makes you successful then he's going to be a tremendous success."

versial issues?

RM: I like to involve the individuals around me. In the case of being the speaker, it would be to work with the senate's leadership and the committee chairman. When handling controversy, the bottom line is that you have to do what's right, but you also have to respect the other individual's point of view and learn from it. You will make some decisions that are wrong over time. I have made plenty. The biggest thing is learning from your mistakes and learning not to burn bridges. There will be times where people will feel alienated, and it's up to you to extend a hand to them and hopefully work with them in the future.

TT&C: You have already mentioned TennCare as a major challenge of the state. What are some of Tennessee's biggest challenges, legislatively speaking?

RM: Certainly the use tax issue and the issue of who collects taxes on internet sales. It's difficult for people to keep up with that now because some internet providers collect tax and some don't. Once this was a very small issue, but over time it's grown very big.

It's a challenge to balance the budget and make sure the reserves are strong. We need to be able to support our commitments. We want to continue to reduce the tax burden on businesses and individuals. What makes it a real challenge is that the two that I just mentioned — the burden and the budget — often conflict with each other as far as finding a balance or a sweet spot. Finding that balance will be a real challenge in the future.

We want to work with individuals so we can maximize their potential and their contributions to the senate and state. Of course, all the committee appointments will be important, but certainly as far as the state's financial future is concerned, the chairman of the Finance, Ways & Means Committee will be an extremely important appointment. Finding the right person to lead the committee and senate is very important. A lot of what I can accomplish is a team effort, so I need to make sure that team is strong. Lt. Gov. Ramsey put together a great team. He gave the chairmen a lot of freedom and allowed input on a lot of the decisions that were made. He will be an extremely tough act to follow.

TT&C: Do you have a mentor who has helped shape your values?

RM: Well, of course, Lt. Gov. Ramsey and Sen. Henry have been mentors. Also influential were some previous governors I've worked with. Gov. Winfield Dunn, Gov. Bredesen, and Gov. Bill Haslam all helped me along the way.

In my personal life, I have been lucky to have a lot of close friends that have helped me along the way. My parents and family were great influences on me. I have three brothers and three sisters. My parents stressed the importance of education and being able to fulfill your potential. All seven of us made it into college and all but one graduated. A number of us gained post-secondary degrees. I think the value of a good education is one of the most important goals a parent can instill in a child.