



Save the Dates

TML Legislative Conference

March 2-3, 2015

TML Annual Conference

June 6-9, 2015

Nashville

Review of Anti-Kicking the Can legislation

BY SHAREE BREWER

MTAS Finance Consultant

One of the many complicated issues that local governments must deal with regarding debt management relates to structuring the timing of debt principal and interest repayment schedules. It is good stewardship for municipal finance officers to consider budgetary constraints for the foreseeable future in structuring those payments. Two common terms found on this topic are frontloading and backloading.

Simply put, frontloading debt is the strategic placement of higher debt repayments in the near term, while backloading debt delays higher debt repayments to the latter term of the repayment schedule.

Recent action by the Tennessee legislature became effective on July 1, 2014, with the passage of the Anti-Kicking the Can Act. This act addresses the practice of backloading debt principal and interest repayment schedules.

The legislation addresses back-

loading by using the term balloon indebtedness and defines it as debt that:

- 1) has a maturity date of more than 31 years after issuance;
- 2) delays principal payments for more than three years;
- 3) capitalizes interest beyond the later of the construction period or three years after issuance; or
- 4) does not have substantially level or declining debt service.

With this legislation, a plan must be submitted to the Office of State and Local Finance before any local government can issue any form of balloon indebtedness.

This plan will be reviewed by that office and may be approved only if it is determined that the repayment structure is in the public's interest. After receiving the plan, accompanied by all requested supplemental documentation, the director of state and local finance must report the approval or disapproval of the plan to the governing body within 15 business days.

AAA drives senior transportation options home at local summit

BY VICTORIA SOUTH

TML Communications Coordinator

Jumping into our car to go someplace: the grocery store, the pharmacy, to visit a friend—even for ice cream—it's something many of us in Tennessee may take for granted. But for aging citizens, driving can become a real challenge due to health problems or other issues related to aging—even to the point where the individual becomes completely homebound.

The state of Tennessee, along with AAA Tennessee and many other stakeholders are working together to help aging drivers stay safe, mobile and active.

Reaching 75, 85 or even 95 years of age isn't an automatic end of one's ability to drive safely. That's the message AAA Tennessee presented at its recent Older Driver Summit held in Murfreesboro. The agency is working with other stakeholders to ensure that policies and practices designed to improve senior safety and mobility takes this knowledge into account and decisions about driving are made on a case-by-case basis.

According to AAA statistics, teen drivers are more likely to cause fatal crashes than senior drivers, who are more prone to wear their seatbelts and avoid driving in bad weather or other high-risk situations. In fact, AAA statistics find it is not until the age of 85 or older that drivers begin to experience the highest rate of fatal crash involvement of any other age group. However, it is older adults themselves, who are at greater risk of being seriously injured or killed in a car crash.

By the year 2030, it's projected that one out of every four drivers in Tennessee will be age 65 and over. According to the Governor's Highway Safety Office (GHSO), Tennessee's senior adult population is currently 14 percent of the total state's population and growing.

"We need to put more of a focus on aging drivers," said Amanda Brown, Government Highway Safety Officer (GHSO) public information officer. "In 15 years, we're going to have 50 percent more



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older drivers out on the road. Are we prepared and how are we going to support those people?"

In order to meet the transportation safety challenges of an aging population, the GHSO is collaborating with state and national partners to improve the safety, access, and mobility of Tennessee's aging population.

The GHSO goals for 2014-2015 include:

- Creating awareness about challenges associated with the aging process;
- Providing education, training and support for current statewide initiatives; and
- Working with collaborative partners on a comprehensive strategic plan development 2014-2017.

"This is not about taking drivers licenses away. This is about making sure older drivers are as safe as they could possibly be," said Brown.

"This is the first year that GHSO has included in its strategic plan the component of senior driver," said Rose Boyd, GHSO program manager. "All Areas on Aging are working actively with our folks and the Tennessee Department of Transportation."

According to Boyd, the state has identified 14 counties in seven different regions in which to target driving programs: Washington,

Blount, Hamblin, Sevier, Union, Bledsoe, Hamilton, DeKalb, Pickett, Stewart, Wilson, Franklin, Hixson and Weakley.

The Tennessee Coalition for Aging Driver Safety (TNCADS) will develop the state's Aging Road User Strategic Plan to ensure that initiatives aimed to reduce crash, injury and fatality rates for senior drivers, ages 65 and over, are implemented throughout the state.

The coalition will include professionals who will focus their efforts on the 4 E's: engineering, education, EMS, and enforcement. The goals will include reducing injury and emergency room visits along with hospitalizations and deaths resulting from motor vehicle crashes for senior drivers ages 65 and over by 10 percent.

To help create awareness, resources will be developed such as a rack display card: Senior Driver Safety Tips—which will be distributed to 42 DMV locations; posters distributed to physician offices and a Tennessee Guide for Aging Drivers in English and Spanish. TNCADS meetings will likely begin in December, according to Boyd.

The state's current initiatives will be bumped up as well, such as CarFit, an educational program that See AAA on Page 7

Homelessness in Tennessee, America: The way to zero goes through cities

BY ELISHA HARIG-BLAINE

Principal Housing Associate
National League of Cities

During the 1980s, 90s and into this century, as homelessness rose in cities across the country, many thought it was an intractable problem. Some communities resorted to just trying to move people along, with sit/lie ordinances and bus tickets out of town. Efforts to address the underlying problems were lacking.

However, in recent years, there has been dramatic progress across the nation in the effort to end homelessness thanks to bold leadership, unprecedented community collaboration and historic levels of federal resources. These elements are being paired with data-driven strategies that have resulted in a decline for one sub-population that we can all celebrate. Since 2010, Veteran homelessness has declined by 33 percent, paving the way for progress in other sub-groups of the homeless population.

Dedicating More Resources

Data from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) shows fewer homeless veterans than chronically homeless individuals or people in families (see chart). The lower number of homeless veterans comes because of historic levels of resources dedicated to this subpopulation and the use of proven strategies such as uniform and coordinated assessment, rapid re-housing and Housing First.

Broad bi-partisan Congressional support exists for programs, administered by HUD and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), that span the spectrum of housing need. As the capacity of programs such as



In recent years, there has been dramatic progress across the nation in the effort to end homelessness thanks to bold leadership, unprecedented community collaboration and increased levels of federal resources.

	Total Homeless	Total Persons in Families	Total Family Households	Total Chronic	Total Veterans
2010	649,917	241,951	79,446	109,812	74,770
2011	636,017	236,181	77,186	107,148	67,495
2012	633,782	239,403	77,157	99,894	62,619
2013	610,042	222,197	70,960	109,132	57,849
2014	Data not yet available	Data not yet available	Data not yet available	Data not yet available	49,933
% change 2010-2013(4)	-6.1%	-8.2%	-10.7%	-0.6%	-33.2%

Source: U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development Point-in-Time Counts
<https://www.onecpd.info/resource/3031/pit-and-hic-data-since-2007/>

HUD-VASH, Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) and the Grant and Per Diem (GPD) program have increased; the number of homeless veterans has steadily fallen.

Federal resources have been complemented by philanthropic commitments. The Home Depot Foundation alone has committed more than \$83.7 million that has helped cities build or preserve more than 13,000 units of housing for veterans. In addition, volunteer groups

of Home Depot associates known as Team Depots have worked on more than 3,780 projects building or improving homes for veterans.

In Tennessee alone, The Home Depot Foundation has invested nearly \$650,000 and/or provided volunteer support for 65 housing projects benefiting veterans. These private investments have joined more than 1,260 housing vouchers provided by HUD that are specifically designated See HOMELESS on Page 4

New NLC Report: city officials optimistic about financial health

City officials are overwhelmingly feeling optimistic about the health and direction of local fiscal conditions for the first time since the recession, according to a new report from the National League of Cities. The 29th annual City Fiscal Conditions report shows that city revenues are showing the first positive growth in 5 years and cities are beginning to hire workers again.

City officials clearly believe cities are in better shape than at any point since the recession. But there are still questions over what the next few years will bring since the report also indicates that revenue is likely to be flat next year, with increases in: service costs, long-term infrastructure needs, and city pension and health care obligations, along with decreased federal and state aid.

"While we are very optimistic about the future, it is not without clouds on the horizon," said Chris Coleman, mayor of Saint Paul, Minn. "We know there are long-term challenges that will need a national commitment if cities are to succeed. They need a continued partnership with the federal government, with the state government, and with all of the residents of our cities. It requires that type of cooperation if we are to tackle the immense challenges posed by our aging and underfunded infrastructure."

When asked about the most impactful factors on their budgets, health of the local economy (81 percent) and value of the local tax base (73 percent) lead the pack as having the greatest positive influences. Infrastructure needs (52 percent), health benefit costs (51 percent) and pension costs (47 percent) weigh most negatively on city budgets. Although gradual economic recovery

is stabilizing local budgets, these negative factors represent demands on local budgets that are likely to persist and hold back local budgets from full recovery for years to come.

"The report clearly shows that city finances are beginning to move in a positive direction," said Clarence Anthony, Executive Director of the National League of Cities. He continued, "But growth is still happening at too slow a pace. It is imperative that Congress begin to prioritize investments in our communities."

"Revenue projections for next year continue to show slow growth that remains susceptible to outside budget pressures," said Christiana McFarland, Research Director of the Center for City Solutions and Applied Research at the National League of Cities. She continued, "Cities have not reached full recovery, and with uncertainty and lackluster economic growth, they continue to build their ending balances to ensure a financial cushion."

NLC's City Solutions and Applied Research team provides research and analysis on key topics and trends in cities, and provides city leaders with qualified information, innovative and proven solutions and assistance as they seek to improve their community's quality of life.

NLC conducts the survey each year in partnership with the University of Illinois at Chicago's College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs. Michael A. Pagano, Dean of the College, has helped conduct the survey and author the report since 1991.

For a complete copy of the report, go to <http://www.nlc.org/find-city-solutions/city-solutions-and-applied-research/finance/city-fiscal-conditions-in-2014>

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



BRENTWOOD

Brentwood is the recipient of the 2014 Google eCity Award for Tennessee. The eCity Awards recognize the strongest online business communities in all 50 states. The businesses in these communities are embracing the web to find new customers, connect with existing clients and fuel their local economies. Brentwood joins the ranks of America's leading cities in the digital economy.

BRENTWOOD/FRANKLIN

A California-based developer of trampoline parks is renovating a building with plans to open a 35,000-square-foot extreme sports center. AboveAll Trampoline Park is set to open in early January after a \$2 million makeover to the building at 1647 Mallory Lane. The opening will coincide with Sky Zone Indoor Trampoline Park's separately planned 29,000-square-foot facility at the Williamson Square Shopping Center in Franklin. The Trampoline Park is expected to feature more than 15,000 square feet of trampolines, flying trapeze, trampoline dodgeball arena, dunk hoops and a ninja warrior obstacle course plus a viewing mezzanine for parents and observers..

BRENTWOOD/FRANKLIN

Emergency notifications for all of Williamson Co. including Brentwood and Franklin are now being provided by a single vendor, Everbridge Inc. The change improves the ability to rapidly mass-notify residents about emergencies, and gives residents greater control over the process. To participate, residents are asked to visit their respective websites and click on the link to Citizen's Alert button to register. The system works with any type of phone line, text, email, or TTY/TDD hearing impaired line. Information provided to Everbridge will not be shared with 3rd parties. The city and the county elected earlier this year to switch to Everbridge. The decision was based on the company's ability to notify tens of thousands of residents in a matter of minutes, and its ability to custom-deliver messages to residents based on the notification preferences.

BROWNSVILLE

A restored one-room schoolhouse where Tina Turner attended classes opened earlier this month as a museum honoring the singer's career and recalling her childhood in this West Tennessee town. More than 100 people attended an opening ceremony, ribbon cutting and tour of the Tina Turner Museum at Flagg Grove School, located on the grounds of the West Tennessee Delta Heritage Center in Brownsville. The museum features gold-and-platinum records and glittering outfits and dresses worn during performances by Turner. Private donations, including a sizable one from Turner, and public funds helped pay for the \$300,000 restoration of the school. Turner, who lives in Zurich, Switzerland, did not attend the ceremony, but she recorded a video that was played for those in attendance

BURNS

The Burns Fire Department recently acquired a new brush truck with funds saved from last year's budget. The 2000 Chevy 3500 1-ton pickup will replace the department's '68 Jeep Kaiser, which has been in service for more than 30 years. The truck was purchased for \$6,200 with funds saved from last year's budget. The savings also covered the wrap and lettering on the truck. The town invested \$8,000 total in the pickup. An anonymous donor provided \$5,000 to pay for the truck's equipment. The new truck will allow the department's main apparatus to be kept at the fire hall. The town leased the '68 Jeep from the state forestry service, and likely will employ it as a backup vehicle.

CLARKSVILLE

Hankook Tire broke ground on an \$800 million plant expected to create 1,800 jobs. The world's seventh-largest tire maker, announced last year that it will build the facility, and the Tennessee State Funding Board approved \$16 million in incentives for the project. Hankook officials plan to begin making high-end performance tires by early 2016 and hope to make 11 million tires annually. "We had a secret weapon,

and a secret weapon in recruiting Hankook that we will continue to deploy and the code name of that secret weapon is Fort Campbell," said Commissioner Economic & Community Development Bill Hagerty.

CROSSVILLE

The city recently conducted a citizen satisfaction survey to gauge citizens' opinions on services, programs and projects. Seventy-six percent of respondents rated their overall perception as satisfactory. Basic city services ranked 69 percent satisfied with a high of 86 percent satisfied with public safety and a low of 53 percent on enforcement of city codes and ordinances for building and housing, and a 53 percent satisfaction rating for the city's drainage and stormwater system. A total of 77 percent of respondents were satisfied with the overall feeling of safety in the city and 83 percent rated the overall appearance of the city as satisfactory.

GALLATIN

The city has seen more than a 19 percent increase in new building permits when compared to 2013, and officials predict more is on the way. From January through September, the city issued 192 combined commercial and residential building permits. By comparison, the city issued 132 permits during the same time period last year. When compared to the first nine months of 2011, the city has seen a 74 percent increase in combined commercial and residential building permits issued. In order to keep up with the growing demand, the city's codes department is adopting new technology. Starting next month, builders will be able to apply for a building permit and view inspection results online without leaving their home or office.

GREENEVILLE

A ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the completion of Huf North America's \$20 million expansion. Gov. Haslam joined top Huf Group executives, some from as far away as Germany, where the Huf Group is based, to usher in new plastic injected molding and paint facilities at the plant. Huf North America manufactures door handles, locking systems and other automotive components for car companies such as Chrysler, General Motors, Ford, BMW and Mercedes. The expansion has added about 150 jobs and in the coming months, as many as 30 more employees could be hired, bringing the plant's total employee count to about 350. About 52,000 square feet were added to the plant, which is a subsidiary of Germany-based Hulsbeck and Furst GmbH and Company, KG.

JONESBOROUGH

Tennessee's oldest town now has its own version of Monopoly, and it benefits Relay for Life. The board game, "Jonesboroughopoly," available for purchase, is a local twist on the classic board game. Jonesboroughopoly features merchants, businesses, and historical areas of the town. Designed by Relay For Life of Jonesborough volunteers, proceeds will go to the Relay for Life fund, which supports year-round ACS initiatives for local cancer patients. For more information, contact Jessica Poff at jessica.poff@cancer.org or 975-0635.

KNOXVILLE

A new 50-kilowatt solar photovoltaic array added to the roof of the Jacob Building at Chilhowee Park will offset greenhouse gas emissions by 50 tons per year – the equivalent of planting 1,185 trees. The Jacob Building is the fifth city-owned facility to which solar energy-producing panels have been added. The new solar array increases the total solar capacity on city properties to 197 kW at any given time. Besides offsetting greenhouse gases, the solar panels at city-owned facilities will produce 261,000 kW hours of energy a year – or nearly enough electricity to power 22 average-sized Knoxville homes each year.

LEBANON/MURFREESBORO

Amazon has announced it will be creating 80,000 seasonal holiday jobs, but this opportunity just may be the gift that keeps on giving. This past year, Amazon converted thousands of seasonal employees into regular, full-time roles after the holidays, and expects to do the same this year. Amazon employs more than

5,000 workers split between its two fulfillment centers in Murfreesboro and Lebanon. Earlier this summer, it announced plans to build a sorting center in Nashville.

MT JULIET

Under Armour has selected the city for a massive distribution facility targeted to open in January 2016. The sportswear apparel giant announced it would build a one million-square-foot distribution "house" at a 200-acre site off Interstate 40 near Beckwith Road, expected to employ about 1,500 workers. The Tennessee State Funding Board approved \$6.75 million in state funds for the company, which said the city was picked mainly for its location, along with state and local incentives. The company's investment will be around \$100 million. The city commission rezoned the property in July for industrial use.

NASHVILLE

Thirty-five local businesses and organizations set up mini-parks at metered parking spaces on Lower Broadway and around downtown as part of the third annual PARK(ing) Day led by the Nashville Civic Design Center. The one-day parks included everything from resting places to music venues to pirate ships, showing the potential that pedestrian-friendly spaces could bring to downtown, said Ron Yearwood, the assistant design director for NCDC. "Nashville has lots of larger parks, but what we don't really have is a lot of pop-up parks or parklets," Yearwood said. Audra Ladd with the Land Trust for Tennessee said the trust's mini-park, gave people a moment to breathe and see what more green spaces could bring to a largely paved downtown.

NEWBERN

The city is building a 7,500 square ft., \$1.3 million safe room at Newbern Elementary School. The town has been devastated twice by tornadoes, one in 2006 took 16 lives. "It was a hard impact on our community," said Mayor Olen Parker. The new safe room will be a protective shelter against tornadoes and earthquakes. It will be exclusively for students during school hours, and open to the entire community the rest of the time. A tunnel and tornado proof hallway adjoins the safe room and the school, differentiating the project from any other in the state. According to the mayor, once the safe room is complete, it'll be able to hold more than a thousand people, at a cost almost completely covered through government grants.

WHITE HOUSE

The city recently received an award by the Greater Nashville Regional Council for excellence in parks and recreation for its all-inclusive playground opened in April. The playground, at the city's municipal park, is designed to allow children to play, regardless of special needs. The facility was donated by Miracle Recreation. White House resident Cayden Long, who has cerebral palsy, assisted the company in coming up with new ideas for playground equipment.

Allardt pumpkin largest in Tenn.



Photo courtesy of Sandra Turner

Kevin Garrett, of Allardt, can boast of growing the biggest pumpkin on record in Tennessee. Garrett won his town's 23rd Annual Great Pumpkin Festival turning in a pumpkin weighing 1,405.6 pounds. Christopher Garrett, of Allardt, came in second place. He grew a 1,337.3-pound pumpkin, followed by Jason Terry, of Helenwood, with a 1,254 pound pumpkin.

Tullahoma Police Station hosts a Little Free Library



The new Little Free Library, located at the Tullahoma Police Department, is a "take a book, return a book" gathering place where neighbors share their favorite literature and stories. Pictured left to right: Lenore Blackwell, president, Tullahoma Sunrise Rotary; Jerry Wear, Rotary district governor; Lynda Welty, assistant district governor, Tullahoma Sunrise Rotary; Dot Watson, Tullahoma Sunrise Rotary, chairman of the Adult Literacy Council; and Chief of Police Paul Blackwell.

The latest Little Free Library has been placed in the lobby of the Tullahoma Police Department. A project of the The Tullahoma Sunrise Rotary club, the community project, soon to include surroundings areas, is a way to promote reading and literacy, while fostering a collaboration with the local Literacy Council.

The Little Free Library is a "take a book, return a book" gathering place where neighbors share their favorite literature and stories. The Literacy council sponsors a used bookstore and this will be the source of the books for the library. At this time the Sunrise Rotary has 12 libraries planned and in the building phase.

In its most basic form, the library is a box full of books where anyone may stop by and pick up a book (or two) and bring back another book to share. Some libraries even have a journal where readers can log information about the book they

have read for others to see.

In some locations, the Little Free Library is a place where children in crisis or in a traumatic situation have access to a book for them to take their mind off their situation at the moment, a comfort measure for children and adults.

The addition of the police department library will provide not only books, but applications for the Literacy Council free book program.

Many children come to the police department for various reasons, the books will provide a welcome and enjoyable reading opportunity. Reading is the gateway to information, adventure, travel, and recreation.

As the police department sign says, "Stop and Read." The Tullahoma Sunrise Rotary appreciates the police department's participation in this program and encourages others to consider a Little Free Library.

Tennessee Drug Card saves Tennessee citizens \$30M

As cold and flu season falls upon us, TML would like to remind you about one of the League's endorsed programs, the Tennessee Drug Card, that offers a free statewide prescription assistance program for your patients. To date this program has saved Tennessee residents more than \$30,000,000 on prescription costs. This program can be used for savings of up to 75 percent on prescription drugs

at more than 56,000 regional and national pharmacies. Here's how you can participate:

- Display cards at your office location for employees and residents to take. Contact Natalie Meyer, program director, at Natalie@TennesseeDrugCard.com or 1-888-987-0688 and a supply will be mailed to your office at NO COST.
- Encourage members of your community to print a FREE Tennessee Drug Card at TennesseeDrugCard.com.
- Inform members of your community that they can ask for the Tennessee Drug Card discount at any CVS pharmacy in the state – even if they don't have a card in hand.

Don't blow your savings this flu season.

Save up to 75% on your prescription medications with Tennessee Drug Card.

TENNESSEE DRUG CARD

Tennessee Drug Card

Free Rx iCard

Through the Tennessee Drug Card program, you can help uninsured and underinsured Tennessee residents access much-needed prescription medications at a discounted rate. The program is used by people who have health insurance coverage with no prescription benefits, which is common in many health savings accounts (HSA) and high deductible health plans. Additionally, people

with prescription coverage can use the program to get a discount on prescription drugs that are not covered by insurance. The program has no membership restrictions, no income requirements, no age limitations, and no applications to complete. TML hopes you take advantage of this easy and innovative way to help members of your community get the prescription drugs they need. For more information about the Tennessee Drug Card, visit TML's website at www.TML1.org

Collierville preserves past, sustains future

BY VAUGHN CASSIDY
TDEC
Office of Sustainable Practices

Can a community preserve the past yet sustain the future? The town of Collierville may have found the answer to that question with its rich tradition of preservation of both history and the local environment.

Founded in 1835 by Jesse R. Collier, the town began as a stage-coach stop and eventually a railroad destination in 1852.

In 1940, the United Daughters of the Confederacy erected a marker on the town square in memory of the Civil War battles fought in Collierville. This would be the beginning of a long tradition of honoring the past in Collierville.

In fact, Collierville has received many national awards for historic preservation. The most recent recognition was “Best Main Street in America” from *Parade Magazine* in June of this year. Collierville was chosen from among a final list of 16 cities that included such southern jewels as Greenville, S.C., and Corinth, Miss. The primary reason that the readership of *Parade Magazine* gave for selecting Collierville was the charm of turn-of-the-century architecture that has been so faithfully preserved or restored.

An excellent example of historic preservation is the restored train depot on 125 North Rowlett next to the town square. The train depot was recently converted to an office while maintaining the look and feel it had more than 100 years ago. Laura Todd, executive director of Main Street Collierville, a local non-profit organization partially funded through the Department of Economic and Community Development, stated that “Collierville is a beautiful city with a rich history.” “We’ve worked very hard and appreciate the recognition from *Parade Magazine*.”

In order to preserve the historic town square neighborhood, a plan was developed that was approved and implemented in 2010. Allen Green, a local real estate developer and resident of Collierville, stated in the approved plan that, “The square is our trademark. We should do what it takes to ensure the long-term success of this asset because it makes good business sense.”

Collierville’s main street is impressive but there is much more. Collierville has 10 parks within a short distance from the town square. Around every corner there is another park with wonderful stands of native trees and informative and beautiful historic markers. From Estanaula Park to the south, to W. C. Johnson Park to the north, Collierville’s greenbelt plan includes more than 60 miles of trails and walkways to provide a scenic yet educational nature walk.

While the preservation of history was quite important to the continued economic success of Collierville, the preservation of the local environment was a top concern as well. Recognizing the importance of the region as a major point of recharge for the local aquifer, Collierville partnered with the Wolf River Conservancy to preserve more than 1,200 acres of wetlands. “We’re probably the primary recharge area for Shelby County’s aquifer,” said Town Administrator James Lewel-

len. “You have to protect that.”

In Collierville, even such utilitarian projects as a stormwater retention pond becomes an opportunity to make the city even more beautiful while protecting the environment. The Queen Oaks Regional Detention Pond, when not filled with stormwater, has the appearance of a park-like setting, surrounded with sidewalks and homes in the northeast area of Collierville. Deputy Town Engineer Jason Walters was project manager for the design and construction of Queen Oaks. “Our goal was to prevent flooding, protect property, homes and our residents with the detention pond design. When this is done, then we strive to make the necessary area usable, feasible and a nice fit with the surrounding landscape.”

The dedication and diligence that Collierville has shown was recently recognized by Gov. Bill Haslam and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. Collierville was the recipient of a \$250,000 grant through the department’s Local Parks and Recreation Fund, which provides grants to eligible local government entities for the purchase of lands for parks, natural areas, greenways, and recreation facilities. The grant will be used by Collierville Parks for phase 1 of the Wolf River Blvd. Trail project, which includes a half-mile trail. “This grant



Collierville’s restored train depot serves as an office for Main Street Collierville and the Arts Council.



The founding of Collierville is commemorated within the beautifully preserved town square.

Signs designating Collierville’s Historic District are placed appropriately throughout the town.

Photos by Vaughn Cassidy

provides Collierville with funds for continued expansion of the existing greenbelt system,” said Bob Richards, TDEC Greenways and Trails Program Coordinator. “Collierville’s greenbelt is an important component of the overall West Tennessee trails system as it connects to other parks and trails along the Wolf River in Shelby County.”

With a strong commitment to historic and environmental preservation, a vibrant local economy and the charm of a small town, the town of Collierville is indeed an answer to the question of whether or not a community can embrace the future and honor and preserve the past. Collierville’s answer is: Yes!



The Queen Oaks Detention Pond looks more like a park



Oct. 31-Cleveland
Halloween Block Party
A safe alternative to trick-or-treating held in downtown on Halloween night. Food vendor booths and two stages of live music, candy and games, costume contest. Free admission. Donations accepted. Begins at 5 pm. Presented by Main-street Cleveland. For more information, call 423-479-1000.

Oct. 31: Goodlettsville
Pumpkin Festival
Children can enjoy a safe night of trick-or-treating at Moss-Wright Park. Candy, a hayride through the park, inflatables, and games. Line will be cut off at 7:15pm. For more information or to obtain a booth, call Allison Baker at 615-851-2231.

Oct. 31:Jonesborough
Halloween Haints Storytelling
Select members of The Jonesborough Storytellers Guild bring spooky local tales from Northeast Tenn. to the Visitors Center at 8:30 pm. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, and \$6 for students. This event is not recommended for children 12 and under. For tickets, call 423-753-1010 or visit jonesboroughtheatre.com and click on ‘buy tickets’.

Nov. 1-2: Parker’s Crossroads
9th Annual Celtic Fest
Held at the city park, Hwy.22 just north of I-40, exit 108. 10 am-5pm both days rain or shine. Admission is \$6 per person per day or \$5 with non-perishable food items. Live music, herding demonstration (Sunday), re-enactors, food, vendors of unique merchandise and more. Fun for the whole family. Food donation given to RIFA (Regional Interfaith Assoc.) and the proceeds will benefit the new Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery.

Nov. 1: Spring Hill
Rippavilla’s Vines & Vintage Wine, Antique & Artisan Market
5700 Main St. Sample and buy the best Tennessee wines and antiques. Live music and mouth-watering food. Purchase tickets at <http://rippavilla.org/vinesvintage.asp>.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

State Rep. **Curtis Johnson**, Clarksville, was recognized recently by the United States Department of Defense for his "leadership on public policy changes positively impacting the quality of life of service members and their families. The award of appreciation comes after Rep. Johnson successfully passed several bills to aid military service members and their families, including House Bill 1372 which was approved this year. That new law would allow certain out-of-state veterans to pay in-state tuition and fees at state colleges and universities.



Johnson

Joe Barker, executive director of the Southwest Tennessee Development District, was elected to the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) 2014 – 2015 Board of Directors on Aug. 26, at NADO's Annual Business Meeting. The meeting was held in conjunction with the association's 47th Annual Training Conference in Denver. The NADO Board of Directors oversees the association's budget and operations and develops policy on issues affecting regional development organizations.



Barker

Metro-Nashville government has appointed a Veterans Service officer to help promote and protect the rights of veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces and their dependents. **Lisa Kiss** will assist Davidson County veterans and their families with federal burial and survivor benefits and educational and employment opportunities. Kiss honorably served in the U.S. Army from 1995 to 2002. She most recently worked at the Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs in the office of the Deputy Commissioner of the Middle Tennessee Region. Kiss is located in the Department of Human Resources.



Kiss

Tennessee Human Rights Commission (THRC) Executive Director **Beverly Watts** was recently honored by the Tennessee State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) with the Frances Dancy Hooks Award. The award recognizes women who have made and are making pioneering or significant contributions to their communities through their professional careers or through volunteerism and advocacy work. The award was presented to Watts at the 68th Annual Tennessee State Convention WIN (Women in the NAACP) Breakfast. She has been Tennessee Human Rights Commission executive director since 2007 and has served as chair of Women Executives in State Government.



Watts

Corinne Gould, former Nashville news producer, has been appointed as Department of Agriculture deputy director of public affairs. Gould joins long-time department spokesman and public affairs director Tom Womack, and will be responsible for helping to coordinate media relations, social media as well as internal and external outreach for the agency.



Gould

Former Farragut Town Manager **Dan Olson** passed away Oct. 1 after battling brain cancer. He was 54. Olsen served the town for 14 years. He previously held city management positions in Illinois and Iowa. Olson was also active in the Farragut Rotary Club.



Olson

Hayden "Corky" Lawson will fill the seat of Paris council member **Melvin Minnis**, who passed away this month of cancer. Minnis resigned from the city commission in September. Lawson, 86, is a retired educator and administrator who has attended the council meetings for the past 10 years.

Oak Ridge Fire Chief **Darryl Kerley** was recently appointed to the Commission on Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education as a representative of the Tennessee Fire Chief's Association, the Tennessee Fire Safety Inspectors Association, and the Tennessee Fireman's Association. The appointment runs through July 31, 2020. Kerley has more than 37 years experience in fire and emergency services, serving in various capacities for East Tennessee agencies including fire chief for the Seymour Volunteer Fire Department, rescue technician and diver for the Knoxville Rescue Squad, and fire chief for the U.S. Department of Energy at the K-25 Gaseous Diffusion plant in Oak Ridge. The commission is responsible for the certification of volunteer and paid firefighters in Tennessee.



Kerley

Lauren Bean, market manager for the Dresden Farmer's Market, is now the city's new community development director. A Knoxville native, Bean recently graduated from the University of Tennessee Martin with an Ag-Business degree. Her duties will include continuing her work with the farmers market, as well as planning community activities to help draw visitors to the city.

TNECD has announced former Business Development Consultant **Gary Human** has been named regional director for East Tennessee and former Business Development Consultant **Tracey Exum** has been named regional director for Southwest Tennessee. Both will lead the state's economic development efforts in their respective regions and serve as the primary point of contact for existing industry expansions, new business recruitment, workforce development alignment and support other regional economic and rural development initiatives.



Human



Exum

Homelessness in Tennessee

HOMELESSNESS from Page 1 for veterans. The VA has provided organizations serving veterans across the state with more than \$5.4 million to prevent the homelessness of veterans or rapidly re-house them should they fall into homelessness.

When these federal and philanthropic investments are combined with the unique health and service benefits available to Veterans and mainstream anti-poverty resources, cities are showing they have the necessary resources to end veteran homelessness.

Achieving "Functional Zero"

In Phoenix and Salt Lake City, Mayors Greg Stanton and Ralph Becker have stepped forward and joined the efforts of local stakeholders to improve the community coordination of these resources. As a result, Phoenix and Salt Lake City began a concerted push to house all chronically homeless veterans in their communities.

In the last year, both cities reached a point called "functional zero." The housing systems in each city ensure that a homeless veteran has access to a housing solution in less than 30 days after being identified as being in need and wanting assistance. By reaching this point, these cities can credibly claim they have ended chronic veteran homelessness.

Nashville is nearing this milestone as well. Earlier this year, the city's efforts were highlighted on 60 Minutes. Nashville is providing the staff and capacity support for the How's Nashville campaign. The campaign has brought the city together with the area housing authority, private landlords, the VA, and other service providers to prioritize people for housing based on how likely they are to die on the street.

After prioritizing people for placement, housing units are paired with homeless individuals using resources such as Housing Choice Vouchers and HUD-VASH vouchers. The commitment of vouchers has been paired with philanthropic contributions of reduced rent apartments by private landlords.

The decline in Veteran homelessness and the success in Phoenix, Salt Lake City and Nashville show

that homelessness, as we know it, can end. As more cities focus on ending veteran homelessness, the improvements can be extended to other segments of the homeless population. People will always fall into homelessness, but just as roads, bridges, and sewers need on-going maintenance, so do service systems. Cities are showing that by developing and maintaining effective and efficient service systems, we can rapidly end homeless episodes.

Local Leaders Step Forward

To build on the progress of the past four years and meet the federal goal of ending Veteran homelessness by 2015, First Lady Michelle Obama has announced the creation of a Mayor's Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness. To date, more than 225 mayors, county officials, and state leaders have pledged their support. In Tennessee, the mayors of Nashville, Chattanooga, Memphis, Franklin, Jackson and Murfreesboro have joined the challenge.

As elected leaders pledge their support, they are finding community organizations with new federal resources and national partners, such as the National League of Cities, equipped with best practices developed from across the country. In addition, leaders from HUD, VA and the U.S. Interagency Council to End Homelessness are actively engaged to provide leaders with the support needed to ensure effective collaborations are in place.

After more than a decade of war, veterans are returning to cities in the thousands and the public is all too aware that they are owed nothing less than the nation's best opportunities. If communities lose this chance to show that local leadership, public will, private and federal resources are not enough to end homelessness for our veterans, we may never have the chance to show we can do it for anyone.

Join the Mayor's Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness today by going to www.onecpd.info/homelessness-assistance/mayors-challenge/. For information on how the National League of Cities can help your community end veteran homelessness, email harig-blaine@nlc.org

September revenues up from last year

Collections \$61.9 million more than budgeted estimate

Finance and Administration Commissioner Larry Martin reported that overall state revenues in September were \$1.2 billion, which is 7.38 percent above the same month a year ago.

"The growth in state tax collections was driven by strong sales tax growth reflecting improved consumer confidence and better than expected corporate collections," Martin said. "While our total revenue situation shows some improvement, we continue to be cautious about corporate revenue due to its historical volatility. Consequently, we will maintain our careful monitoring of spending throughout state government."

On an accrual basis, September is the second month in the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

September collections were \$61.9 million more than the budgeted estimate. The general fund

was over collected by \$58.1 million and the four other funds were over collected by \$3.8 million.

Sales tax collections were \$15.2 million more than the estimate for September. The September growth rate was positive 5.32 percent. Year-to-date collections are 6.02 percent above this time last year.

Franchise and excise taxes combined were \$29.3 million above the September budgeted estimate of \$289.2 million. The September growth rate was positive 14.95 percent, and 14.36 percent on a year-to-date basis.

Gasoline and motor fuel collections for September increased by 2.81% and were \$3.3 million above the budgeted estimate of \$70.5 million.

Tobacco tax collections for the month were undercollected by \$1.0 million, and the growth rate was negative 1.45 percent.

Privilege tax collections were \$5.1 million more than the budgeted estimate of \$22.2 million. Business Tax collections were \$7.8 million above the budgeted estimate for September.

Inheritance and estate tax collections were \$1.4 million above the budgeted estimate.

All other taxes were overcollected by a net of \$0.8 million.

Year-to-date collections for two months were \$86.3 million more than the budgeted estimate. The general fund was over collected by \$80.8 million and the four other funds were overcollected by \$5.5 million.

The budgeted revenue estimates for 2014-2015 are based on the State Funding Board's consensus recommendation of Dec. 17, 2013, and adopted by the second session of the 108th General Assembly in April 2014. They're available at www.tn.gov/finance/bud/Revenues.shtml.



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STATE BRIEFS

TN exports rise on national level
According to Livingston’s latest Global Commerce report, Tennessee is home to about 7,000 exporting companies with state exports increasing by 20 percent since 2000 and by 10 percent since 2009, following a generally upward national trend. According to the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, although the state’s exports account for only 2 percent of the U.S. total, Tennessee is increasingly more competitive, moving from the 18th-largest exporting state in 2002 to 14th in 2011. Livingston’s report notes Tennessee exports have topped the \$8 billion mark for the fourth successive quar-

ter. Its sales to Europe, Japan and Southeast Asia were flat or slightly down, but were up 5 percent to the Middle East, up 9.2 percent to Australia and up 9.9 percent to Latin America. Sales inside NAFTA were up 2.8 percent and to China were up 2.6 percent. Robert Leach, director of Knoxville’s U.S. Export Assistance Center, said that if a company wants to export, it needs to develop a plan. “The thing that really stops companies from exporting is they don’t have a dedicated plan,” he said. “They are mainly reactive exporters rather than proactive exporters.” The Export Assistance Center offers advice and counseling to companies seeking to export, helps them with

legal and regulatory issues, helps settle disputes, teaches companies about foreign cultural issues and business protocol and even helps companies develop overseas customer contacts.

State’s health facilities preparing for Ebola
Tennessee medical officials are pushing protocols, hospitals holding drills and emergency room staffs being trained in the wake of the nation’s first confirmed imported case of Ebola from the epidemic in West Africa. Vanderbilt University Medical Center held a drill last month and Officials with the Tennessee Department of Health conducted a community outreach meeting with people of West African origin living in Nashville and have held strategy sessions with hospital administrators. Materials include a situation manual developed by the Tennessee Department of Health Emergency Preparedness Program. It includes scenarios and how to deal with them as well as resource guides, including a basic checklist for hospitals and instructions for putting on and removing personal protective equipment. Woody McMillin, a spokesman for the Tennessee Department of Health, said the agency is planning other events to share information about Ebola and make preparation should a case occur in this state. Training exercises will occur at hospitals across the state, he said.

Admission to UT process refined
Students who leave one of the state’s community colleges with an associate degree and a B-average will now earn guaranteed admission to the University of Tennessee. The new policy, approved by the system’s Board of Trustees, comes on the heels of the state’s new Tennessee Promise scholarship program. The Promise award guarantees two free years of community college to all of the state’s graduating seniors — something Knoxville and other campuses expect to drive up the enrollment of transfer students. “It provides them with clarity, because we are selective,” said UT Provost Susan Martin.

Paychecks for Patriots to help vets entering workforce
An event being held in 10 cities in Tennessee is offering an easier transition for veterans looking to enter the workforce. Paychecks for Patriots is a state-wide event that will allow employers to talk face to face with members of the military. The event is designed to streamline the normally difficult hiring process. For a full list of locations and participating businesses, follow the link at the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development’s website. <http://www.tn.gov/labor-wfd/Patriots/Paychecks.shtml>.

Tourism brings record tax revenue to state
Visitors to Tennessee generated a record \$1.3 billion in tax revenue in 2013, state tourism Commissioner Susan Whitaker told industry professionals, with Nashville as the top destination. “Our industry generated \$1.3 billion in state and local sales tax revenue. This means more dollars that can be used for education, public safety and other essential services for all the citizens of Tennessee,” she said. Tourists spent \$16.7 billion on travel to Tennessee in 2013, a 3.4 percent increase over the previous year, according to statistics provided by the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development.

State parks celebrate battle anniversary
Johnsonville and Nathan Bedford Forrest State Parks are hosting several events in October and November to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Johnsonville.
Johnsonville State Park
• A Civil War quilt show through Dec. 31 at the Welcome Center featuring traditional patterns from the Civil War period.
• A Halloween night program, “Halloween: 1864,” Oct. 31 at 7 pm, featuring Civil War Halloween traditions. The event will take place in the park’s upper area. Visitors are encouraged to bring blankets/lawn chairs, a flashlight and to park in the lot across from the Crocket cemetery.
• “Free at Last! Emancipation and Reconstruction in Tennessee” traveling history exhibit through Dec. 31.

On Nov. 4, the actual date of the Battle of Johnsonville, an 11 am ceremony and a 1 pm walking tour will include visits to many of the original Union defenses that saw action during the Battle of Johnsonville. All activities are free and include special living history demonstrations at both parks. Programs are 10 am - 5

State allocates \$28M for CDGB grants

Gov. Bill Haslam and Economic and Community Development Commissioner Bill Hagerty recently approved more than \$28 million in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) to assist Tennessee communities with infrastructure, health and safety projects, and downtown improvements. “Community Development Block Grants play an important role in helping communities across Tennessee prepare for future economic development opportunities and continued growth,” Haslam said.

“Working with our communities in making these improvements helps bring us one step closer toward our goal to making Tennessee the No. 1 location in the Southeast for high quality jobs.” Allocation of CDBG funds is based on priorities set at local levels where community needs are best known. The CDBG program is administered in Tennessee by the Department of Economic and Community Development. Below is a list of municipalities who were awarded grants.

Community	Project	CDBG Amount	Local Funds
Allardt	Water System Improvements	\$417,600	\$17,400
Bolivar	Sewer System Improvements	\$483,600	\$36,400
Bradford	Sewer System Improvements	\$400,000	\$43,677
Caryville	Drainage Improvements	\$315,000	\$35,000
Coalmont	Housing Rehabilitation	\$458,500	\$0
Columbia	Neighborhood Revitalization	\$315,000	\$51,280
Copperhill	Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements	\$226,800	\$25,200
Crab Orchard	Fire & EMS Station	\$267,000	\$33,000
Decaturville	Sewer System Improvements	\$525,000	\$91,348
Erin	Water System Improvements	\$525,000	\$45,655
Gates	Water System Improvements	\$333,260	\$3,400
Gleason	Fire Protection	\$157,500	\$0
Greeneville	Water System Improvements	\$427,889	\$127,811
Greenfield	Water Treatment Plant Improvements	\$88,200	\$1,800
Gruetli-Laager	Water Treatment Plant Improvements	\$525,000	\$5,303
Halls	Fire Protection Improvements	\$242,659	\$10,111
Harrogate	Sewer Line Extension	\$473,024	\$24,896
Hohenwald	Sewer System Rehabilitation	\$525,000	\$39,516
Hornbeak	Regional Emergency Response Training Facility	\$315,000	\$116,821
Jamestown	Sewer System Improvements	\$507,970	\$135,030
Kenton	Sewer System Improvements	\$398,415	\$20,969
LaFollette	Sewer System Improvements	\$524,998	\$45,652
Lenoir City	Sewer System Improvements	\$500,000	\$175,700
Linden	Fire Protection	\$315,000	\$55,588
Madisonville	Sewer System Improvements	\$524,975	\$107,525
Manchester	Drainage Improvements	\$315,000	\$55,589
McEwen	Sewer System Improvements	\$500,000	\$31,915
McKenzie	Sewer Plant Improvements	\$500,000	\$44,000
Mosheim	Sewer System Improvements	\$364,000	\$36,000
Mountain City	Sewer System Improvements	\$525,000	\$104,000
Mt. Carmel	Sewer System Improvements	\$525,000	\$20,000
Mt. Pleasant	Water System Rehabilitation	\$525,000	\$33,511
New Tazewell	Housing Rehabilitation	\$330,000	\$0
Oliver Springs	Sewer System Improvements	\$525,000	\$225,000
Pikeville	Sewer System Improvements	\$491,400	\$48,600
Puryear	Sewer Plant Improvements	\$122,880	\$5,120
Red Boiling Springs	Water System Rehabilitation	\$521,520	\$16,130
Ridgely	Fire Protection	\$300,000	\$0
Ripley	Sewer System Improvements	\$525,000	\$45,653
Rocky Top	Water System Improvements	\$360,840	\$27,160
Sneedville	Water System Improvements	\$525,000	\$34,000
Spring City	Sewer System Rehabilitation	\$353,400	\$26,600
Tazewell	Housing Rehabilitation	\$220,500	\$0
Tiptonville	Water System Improvements	\$525,000	\$0
Townsend	Water System Improvements	\$500,000	\$450,000
Trimble	Fire Protection	\$300,000	\$0
Vonore	Emergency Service Improvements	\$199,800	\$70,200

pm Nov. 1 and 10 am - 3 pm Nov. 2. Each park will feature artillery firing demonstrations, infantry drill, cavalry demonstrations and period

civilian activities. For complete information, visit <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/johnsonville>.

State Fire Marshal announces “Close the Door” campaign

“Close the Door!” That’s what Gary West, state fire marshal, is telling Tennesseans in an effort to save more lives if a fire should occur. “A door is one of the best pieces of fire-fighting and lifesaving equipment,” said West. “If you leave a room that’s on fire, simply closing the door behind you can be the best decision you make.” Closing the door reduces fire growth and spread, limits damage to your home and could possibly save lives. A closed door cannot only hinder flames and smoke from spreading to other rooms it also helps deprive a fire of oxygen, smoldering the fire. It is a good idea to sleep with your bedroom door closed as well. The act of closing the door can provide time for you and your loved ones to escape and help control the fire. For more information on the



“Close the Door” campaign, contact the State Fire Marshal’s Office at 615-532-5847 or visit www.tn.gov/fire for more fire prevention tips.



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NATIONAL BRIEFS

The nation’s poverty rate dropped last year for the first time since 2006, but the number of Tennesseans living below the poverty line increased in the most recent two-year period, according to Census Bureau figures. Nationwide, the poverty rank fell to 14.5 percent from 15 percent in 2012, driven by an increase in people with full-time jobs last year. The number of people working full time rose last year by about 6.4 million to 105.8 million, including nearly 1 million households with children under 18 years old. Employment also improved across the mid-South. But poverty rates in Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama remained above the national average. In Tennessee and Georgia, one of every six residents was in poverty during the most recent 2012-2013 survey by the Census Bureau. The share of persons living in poverty rose to 18.4 percent in Tennessee. Poverty was highest in the nation in Mississippi, at 22.2 percent, and lowest in New Hampshire, at 8.6 percent. Nationwide, the child poverty rate dropped last year for the first time in a decade. In 2013, 19.9 percent of allchildren in the United States lived in poverty, down from 21.8 percent the previous year. Despite the decrease, the poverty rate last year remained two percentage points higher than in 2007.

Governing magazine reports that many jurisdictions do not have an accurate inventory of their own property resulting in underuti-

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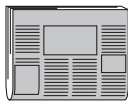
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ASSISTANT BUILDING OFFICIAL

GALLATIN. The city of Gallatin is currently accepting applications for an Assistant Building Official. Duties include: Performing difficult technical and administrative work in the examination of plans and specifications for construction of residential multi-family, commercial and industrial buildings; Serving as the Building Official in his/her absence; Assisting the Building Official with personnel, department budget, and administrative issues for the building permit and inspection process. This is a 40 hrs. per week, day shift position. The hourly range is \$23.32-\$34.44 + excellent benefits. Must have five years experience in building department administration and any combination of education and experience equivalent to graduation from a community college with major course work in a variety of inspection specialties; Possession of a valid driver's license; Certification as a Plans Examiner and Building Mechanical, Plumbing Inspector (ICC or other approved model agency is acceptable). Interested persons must apply on-line at www.gallatinonthemove.com. Applicants may also come to City Hall at 132 W. Main Street and utilize the HR Department computers to apply. The City of Gallatin is an EOE/drug-free workplace. Telephone 615-451-5890 (HR/Personnel).

ASSISTANT UTILITIES DIRECTOR

GERMANTOWN. The Germantown Public Services Department is seeking an Assistant Utilities Director to assist in the overall planning, organization and management of all aspects of utility operations, including general administration, budgeting, planning, and policy and performance measure development. This position will serve as technical advisor for the department on utility CIP projects requiring knowledge of civil/municipal engineering practices. This position also serves as acting utilities director when the director is not present. The successful candidate must be an experienced leader; possess a good understanding of water and sewer utilities; and be very knowledgeable of current technical trends with the ability to operate and implement specialized system programs. Requirements include the equivalency to a bachelor's degree in public or business administration, environmental science, engineering or related field and at least five years of increasingly responsible professional experience in utility management, including at least three years in a supervisory/management capacity. Hiring Range: \$65,000 - \$72,000. For a complete job description, duties and requirements, go to <http://www.germantown-tn.gov/index.aspx?page=444>. Those interested in the position should submit a City of Germantown employment application or resume to the Human Resource Office, 1930 S. Germantown Rd. Germantown, TN 38138. Position open until filled.

CODES INSPECTOR I

GALLATIN. The City of Gallatin is currently accepting applications for Codes Inspector I. Duties include: Conducting field inspections and re-inspections of residential, commercial, industrial and public facilities for compliance with building, plumbing and mechanical codes and other ordinances; Resolving complaints regarding defective construction and handling enforcement issues; inspecting existing buildings for hazardous conditions or structural failure. This is a 40 hrs. per week, day shift position. The hourly range is \$18.30-\$26.99 + excellent benefits. Must have any combination of education and experience equivalent to graduation from high school supplemented by course study in a variety of inspection specialties and considerable experience in the building construction trade; Possession of a valid driver's license; Certification by the state of Tennessee as a building inspector. Interested persons must apply on-line at www.gallatinonthemove.com. Applicants may also come to City Hall at 132 W. Main Street and utilize the HR Department computers to apply. The City of Gallatin is an EOE/drug-free workplace. Telephone 615-451-5890 (HR/Personnel).

E911 COORDINATOR

DYER COUNTY. The Dyer County E911 board is seeking applicants for its coordinator and after hours technician. The successful candidate should have the following and or equivalent combination of: Bachelor's Degree; NENA ENP Certification; NENA 911 Center Manager Certification; APCO RPL Certification; Mangement background in PSAP Operations, including but not limited to 911 systems, networks, and network operations; CAD operations and radio operations. The position is contractual and salary will be based on experience and education. Full job description is available by emailing jroberts@cityofnewbern.org. Resumes should be submitted by mail, email or in person at 103 Jefferson St, Newbern TN 38059 ATTN: Jason Roberts.

PARKS & REC DIRECTOR

LEWISBURG. The City of Lewisburg is accepting resumes' for a Director of Parks and Recreation. The Director oversees the development, management, and operation of all City parks and recreational facilities, Recreation and Youth Services. Work includes organizing, planning, coordinating, evaluating, and directing the work of professional staff and other support employees.

Work is performed under the managerial direction of the City Manager. Required knowledge, skills, and abilities are but not limited to: comprehensive knowledge of administrative practices relating to parks and recreation. Comprehensive knowledge of the philosophy and principles of public park and recreation services. Comprehensive knowledge of occupational hazards and safety precautions. Thorough knowledge of local, state, and federal planning agencies and funding grants. Ability to analyze operational problem areas and to make improvements. Ability to perform public appearances, interviews, and speaking engagements to promote Parks and Recreation services. Ability to use a personal computer for the purpose of creating reports, record keeping, and communication by e-mail. Minimum qualifications: Bachelor's Degree in parks, recreational, and leisure services or related field, preferable from a National Recreation and Parks Association accredited college or university; minimum of one to three years of experience in public recreation at a organized recreational facility (ex. Community Recreational facility, Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, etc.) experience should include planning and administration. Any equivalent combination of acceptable education and experience providing the knowledge, abilities, and skills cited above. Must have and maintain a valid Tennessee Drivers License and pass a post offer drug test. For more information, to view the full job description please visit our website at www.lewisburgtn.gov or contact Pam Davis, Recorder at 931-359-1544, pam.davis@lewisburgtn.gov. Resumes' will be accepted until Nov. 21, 2014. The City of Lewisburg is an EOE, drug-free workplace.

PARK THEATER COORDINATOR

McMinnville. The city's Park & Recreation Department is accepting applications for a Park Theater Coordinator. Preferred skills, knowledge and abilities include: Knowledge of principles in performing arts program planning and in the maintenance of safe facilities, knowledge of effective methods of facility preparation for events; such as performing arts, rentals, and recitals and knowledge of sound, video and audio equipment. Preferred education and requirements include: Bachelor's degree from an accredited four year college or university and 2 years of work experience or Four years of progressively responsible experience in the field of performing arts of which one year must have been in a responsible supervisory, consultative, or administrative capacity. Position requires a background check, drug screen and physical. Must have a valid Tennessee driver's license. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Applications can be picked up at City Hall 3rd Floor or submitted on line. For more information, to view the full job description or to apply online please visit our website at www.mcminnvilletn.com or contact Jennifer Rigsby at 931.473.1209. The City of McMinnville is an EOE/Drug-free workplace.

POLICE CHIEF

JEFFERSON CITY. The City of Jefferson City, TN., is accepting applications for Chief of Police. Current Chief is resigning after 3 years of service to take a position with the State of Tennessee. Seeking a well-rounded individual with proven leadership skills; strong interpersonal, organizational, supervisory and decision making skills; ability to interact and communicate effectively with local, state, regional, and federal law enforcement personnel, local officials and the public; extensive knowledge of criminal and civil law. Position requires a team player who can work well with other city departments, the city manager, the city council and outside agencies. This position answers directly to the city manager. POST certification and a bachelor's degree with a major in criminal justice, public administration, business administration or a related field required. At least 10 years experience in the profession with 5 years in command/leadership position. Also provide management/leadership training and professional accomplishments. Information concerning the position may be obtained at jeffcitytn.com. Cover letter, resume and application to: John B. Johnson, Jefferson City Manager, P.O. Box 530, Jefferson City, TN 37760. Deadline Nov.17. or until filled. Jefferson City is an EOE/Drug-free workplace.

POLICE DETECTIVE

ETOWAH. The City of Etowah is accepting applications for a full time Police Detective position until, Friday, Nov. 7 at 4:30 p.m. The Detective will investigate crimes that include, but are not limited to, serious assaults, property crime, rapes, child abuse, death by suspicious nature, death by violence, robberies, hostage situations, kidnapping, bombing incidents, and drugs/narcotics. The Detective is responsible for the recovery of physical evidence during investigations of crime scenes. Applicants must possess a valid Tennessee driver's license, shall be a certified law enforcement police officer in the State of Tennessee or be POST certified in another state and capable of passing the Tennessee Peace Officer Standard Training Commission Transitional School in accordance with POST training and testing standards. Require 5 years of law enforcement experience. Preference may be given to those with prior detective experience. Position is full time with full benefits. Applications may be obtained at Etowah City Hall, 723 Ohio Avenue, Etowah, TN. A full job description will be available along with application. You may also obtain an application from the website: <http://www.cityofetowahtn.com>

WATER/WASTEWATER OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

MCMINNVILLE. The city of is accepting applications from qualified individuals for the position of Director of Water/Wastewater operations. The ideal candidate will possess highly developed technical, presentation and communication skills and have in-depth knowledge and experience in management of water/wastewater systems. He or she will have significant operational experience, and will be responsible for the general administration of the department's operating budget and enforcement of city policies regarding employees, facility use and overall supervision of the activities of three divisions of the Water Department. Duties are, but not limited to: preparing operating budget, working with city administrator and water committee to develop capital plan and budget for department, overseeing and coordinating the various operations at city facilities, and the ability to plan, organize, delegate, supervise and inspect work of subordinates. A minimum of five years of progressively responsible experience in water and wastewater operations of which two years must have been in a responsible supervisory consultative, or administrative capacity or a bachelor's degree from an accredited four year college or university with a major in civil engineering or related field or an associate degree may be substituted with eight years of progressively responsible experience required. Candidate will be examined by city physician to determine if applicant can perform all essential duties required of this position. Residency within the city is required within 90 days of employment. The full job description can be viewed at <http://www.mcminnvilletn.com/>. The salary for this position is dependent on experience and qualifications. Salary range is \$45,801 to \$85,092. In addition, the city offers an extensive benefit package that includes paid vacation, paid holidays, health insurance, dental, vision etc., and contributions to the state of Tennessee retirement plan. Qualified persons should submit an application, a resume of experience and qualifications, letter of interest, salary history and professional references to: Jennifer Rigsby, Human Resource Administrator, City of McMinnville, P.O. Box 7088, McMinnville, TN, 37111. Closing date for applications is until filled.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT CHIEF OPERATOR.

PORTLAND. The City of Portland is accepting applications for the position of Wastewater Treatment Plant Chief Operator. Starting rate of pay is \$18.71 per hour DOE and qualifications. This position is full time, with full benefit package available including vacation, sick days, paid holidays; health, dental, vision, life/AD&D, TCRS retirement and supplemental voluntary benefits. Graduation from a standard high school or equivalent GED with additional formal training (post-secondary is preferred) in chemistry, biology, sanitary and/or environmental engineering or related fields as applicable to the wastewater treatment industry. At least 3 years' experience in the operation of a water treatment facility. Strongly prefer minimum of 1 year experience in supervision at the wastewater treatment plant level. Must possess a valid, State of Tennessee driver's license. Must possess a valid, State of Tennessee Class III Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators license. Must achieve State of Tennessee Class IV Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator license within 18 months of placement in position. An application and job description may be obtained from the receptionist at Portland City Hall, Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 4:30 PM. A complete job description is posted on the city's website, can www.cityofportlandtn.gov and by clicking the link: Portland Employment Opportunity This position is open until filled. Completed applications must be returned to: Human Resources, Attn: John Grubbs Portland City Hall, 100 South Russell Street, Portland, TN 37148. Pre-employment drug screen and physical may be required. The City of Portland is EOE.

AAA presents senior transportation options



Photo by Victoria South

Participants of the AAA Tennessee Older Driver Summit include: left to right: Jake Nelson, American Auto Assoc. director for Traffic Safety Advocacy & Research; Rose Boyd, program manager TN Governor's Highway Safety Office; Don Lindsey, AAA TN Public Affairs director; and Elin Schold Davis, American Occupational Therapy Assoc. project coordinator for the Older Driver Initiative.

AAA from Page 1

offers older adults the opportunity to check how well their personal vehicles "fit" them. The CarFit program provides information and materials on community specific resources that could enhance driver's safety and/or increase their mobility in the community. CarFit training sites will be located in Cookeville, Dickson, Nashville and Knoxville.

The Tennessee Yellow DOT Program is designed to provide first responders with an individual's medical information in the event of an emergency on Tennessee's roadways, which can mean the difference between "life and death" in the "Golden Hour" immediately following a serious incident.

For senior citizens who find driving is no longer an option, transportation is a growing challenge across the nation, notes Helen Kershner, National Volunteer Transportation Center out of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Kershner discussed the success of the driving programs, especially for ages 85 and above.

"Ages 85-plus is the most difficult to provide transportation for, because of physical and cognitive limitations," she said. "Even if public transportation is there, they can't access it."

"Back in 2000, we were talking about transportation options for older adults," she continued. "We had a survey annually for the past 15 years, and realized many who responded were already volunteers with volunteer driving programs."

Kershner listed the most recognized family of transportation options for older adults begins with family members, caregivers, neighbors and friends; followed by community transportation services including ADA Paratransit, Dial-a-Ride and even the latest transportation craze UBER and LYFT.

"I am here to site volunteer driving programs as a viable alternative that all of us might want to think about in our communities," she said. "They are important option for older adults because they offer special assistance and support."

Currently, the primary source

of funding for volunteer driving programs is based on government grants such as with the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services or the Administration for Community Living.

The programs have been considered a huge success in Knoxville-Knox County and the Upper Cumberland, where the majority of the participants are from the senior centers, are low income, live alone and may not have family who check on them on a regular basis.

In Knoxville-Knox County, for as little as \$3 one way, \$6 round trip, citizens 60 and older can always depend on the availability of a volunteer driver, even on nights and weekends. The program goes to doctor, hair and other appointments, the grocery store, prescription pick up, even social trips. Driver training includes CPR and first aid as well as vehicle orientation.

The program in Pickett County is based on a voucher system, which has eliminated the \$1 fee, according to Holly Henegar Williams, assistant director of the Upper Cumberland Area Agency on Aging and Disability. The program provides 15,000 trips per year at \$78,338 for FY15. Three thousand trips were made in July-August for 184 clients.

"We had a lady who came to our senior center a few times a year, said Williams. "I informed her of the new voucher ride program and told her she could come to the center, socialize and eat a hot meal as often as she wanted to. She was very excited and signed up for two days a week. After being here a few weeks, I noticed she was always wearing an unusual amount of clothes. I asked her if she was cold, and she informed me that her heat was out and she could not get anyone to come and repair it because she lived so far up the mountain. I called the local heating and cooling person and informed him of her situation. He was able to fix it for her that day. Thanks to the voucher program, we were able to see her twice a week and offer her different services beneficial to her health. The transportation assistance may have saved this woman's life."

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TML Risk Management Pool Board to meet Nov. 13

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the TML Risk Management Pool will meet in regular session on Thursday, Nov. 13, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. local time in the Board Room at The Pool, 5100 Maryland Way, Brentwood, Tennessee for the purpose of considering and transacting all business which may properly come before the Board. Additional information concerning the meeting may be obtained by calling The Pool's office at 800-624-9698.

For 21 years, students’ eyes fixed on LaFollette

UT Professor’s photo project becomes state museum exhibit

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

The first time Professor Rob Heller set sights on LaFollette, he and his advanced photojournalism students only caught a glimpse of the surface: historic downtown, a spatter of Mom & Pop shops and greasy spoon cafes, all encircled by encroaching modernity—AKA fast food joints and a super Walmart. Now 21 years and thousands of photographs later, Heller’s class has produced not only a stunning visual history of the small East Tennessee community — but an endearing portrait of mankind.

Today, 202 photographs taken by 102 photographers and organized by Professor Heller are currently on display in the exhibit “Eyes on LaFollette: UT Student Photojournalism Project Marks 20 Years” which is now showing at the Tennessee State Museum through Nov. 30.

Like so many small towns, LaFollette, pop. 7,300, might seem vaguely familiar. But each spring, it’s all new for Prof. Rob Heller’s photojournalism students from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Since 1993, Heller and his class have made a 45 minute trek north along I-40

an individual picture,” adds Heller. “I hope they will spend time researching in advance, making some contacts and connections. I want them to spend time with people in their homes or businesses. I want them to be shooting a story, not just a picture.”

And then there’s the bonding that occurs between the students during the project. The class meets as a group for dinner at the end of the day to discuss their individual experiences and photography subjects.

“I have gotten so many comments from students through the years saying this is the best experience in their whole college life,” Heller said.

Without a doubt, some favorite places and stories have accumulated through the years during the project. One such spot is an old fashioned barber shop.

“We photograph that place more than any other,” Heller. notes “People show up first thing in the morning and schmooze and every type of character comes in there. Every year, when I



Good food and conversation at the cafe.

Photo by Molly Morgan



A little girl explores lures in the tackle box.

Photo by Jordan Vest

to spend a day and a half photographing small town people going about their everyday lives.

As part of the project, the local newspaper, *The LaFollette Press*, publishes a special section of these photos entitled “*Eyes on LaFollette*.” Heller’s class is given complete artistic control in the editing process along with layout and design, writing captions and short stories, while thoughtfully selecting among the thousands of photos, both film and digital. Pictures are broken down in thematic areas such as: People at Work, Children, or People at Play. “The themes make it easier to layout the paper,” according to Heller.

It’s a display Norman Rockwell would be proud of.

“I wanted the students’ work to get published and for the people of LaFollette to see it,” he said, adding that his connection to *LaFollete Press* publisher Larry Smith helped trigger the idea of documenting the small town. Smith was teaching adjunct at the school of journalism and his daughter was a student of Heller’s.

Preparation for the project each semester also includes a spring research trip, where students meet with *The LaFollette Press* staff to talk and gather ideas about subjects.

“They usually bring someone in to talk to us like the mayor or the police chief and at that

think I should tell the students not to photograph there, because we’ve done it before, I realize it’s new each year to them and only the same to me.”

The project has become such a part of LaFollette’s culture, that it’s not unusual for residents to brag about being photographed before in years past.

“A student went to photograph a local artist who invited her to her home. The artist remembered being photographed by the instructor years ago. That’s me,” Heller chuckled. “Rarely do I include one of my own pictures. But years ago, when I was just driving around town, I saw this woman driving one of these oversized pickups with the giant wheels. I followed her as she parked. She was a bit short and had to jump out of the truck to get out of it. I photographed her just when she jumped and it was a very funny picture.”

There’s been several foreign exchange students in the program. “We’ve had them from China, Ireland, all kinds of places,” Heller said. “Citizens still remember their names and

“I didn’t want to outstay our welcome, so for the first several years, I only conducted the project every other year. I remember Larry asking me why, and when I told him, he said “No, the people here love it! You need to do this every year,” Heller exclaimed. “It was at that point, we continued. I knew this was something special and it was important to continue doing it.”

So far, 17 editions have been made in 21 years, which has added up to a massive project. “We kept doing it and the students kept making great photographs, and I thought to myself, this is really something.”

The project is so popular that the newspaper usually runs an advanced story with a little reminder that the students will be coming.

“It makes it easy to photograph there,” said Heller. “Students say they’re with the project, which gives them an introduction. Otherwise, people might not be as comfortable having their picture made.”

After 20 years, Heller said he thought he should do something significant with the tens of thousands of great photographs.

“I was thinking exhibit and possibly a book

Army Liberators in Tennessee,” had been hosted in Poland with the assistance of Ashe.

“I asked him if he would help me present the idea to the commission on state museums and they agreed to the exhibit,” said Heller. “They saw quality student work and I was so delighted.”

Heller completed all the design work and created the exhibit in partnership with the state museum. He also had to get in touch with 250 of his former students to let them know he would be showcasing their work.

“When we had the opening, about 20 former students showed up, some as far back as the beginning of the project, coming as far away as New York and Texas. It was a wonderful experience,” said Heller.

When asked whether he would consider doing the project in another town, Heller’s thoughts, like an automatic shutter, keep turning.

“I think there’s something fascinating to this documenting over time. Maybe I’ve gotten lazy, because I know we can do this every year, I know the ends and outs, and what to expect. But I’m not inclined yet to do another community.



Photo by Samantha Thornton

A young woman’s pensive gaze is captured by student Samantha Thornton.



Photo by Ben Moser

The neighborhood hot spot, the barber shop, is LaFollette's place to catch up on current events.

point, students ask questions that may give them ideas about the project in April,” said Heller. “They get to know a few people in town and the news staff knows everybody, so they can give student pointers about who to speak with and contacts or events. They give us copies of the paper as well about a month or two in advance, so students can explore what goes on in the town.”

“One thing I always hope for is that students are not just going to wander around trying to find

inquire about them.”

One year, a foreign exchange student asked his home town newspaper if they’d like to have a page of photos.

“We sent them the photos and they translated the text,” said Heller. “There’s all kinds of ways that the project has been bigger than the way it its perceived in LaFollette alone.”

Ironically, while things went very smoothly in its initial year, the “Eyes on LaFollette” project’s 20-year run almost never happened, as Heller notes.

and approached a history museum in Knoxville and a few other places,” he said.

At the time, no one was able to present the exhibit locally in Knoxville, so Heller decided to approach the Tennessee State Museum in Nashville. He discovered the museum’s commission was once headed by former Knoxville Mayor and U.S.Ambassador to Poland Victor Ashe. Heller’s previous photography project entitled “Living On: Portraits of Holocaust Survivors and

I wouldn’t turn it down....maybe we would do a project that’s not exactly the same with some of our writers...have multi-media create a website project. There are some possibilities that I’m open to.”

“I think photos transcend any specific town,” he continues. “Theres a 1950s exhibit in modern art called *The Family of Man*. The exhibit and book was seen by millions around the world, because there is something familiar in small towns. Whether it’s the faces or businesses or whatever, it’s not necessarily unique in any given place and people can appreciate this, as they see the work.”

Robert Heller, professor in the School of Journalism and Electronic Media at the University of Tennessee since 1986, taught photography and graphics for five years at the University of Miami, and was publications designer and photographer at the State University of New York College at New Paltz and Elmira College in New York. Heller also taught photography at The Center for Photography at Woodstock, New York.

His photographs have been selected for numerous juried exhibitions and he continues to do freelance work in both graphic design and photography.

Heller served as photo manager for the Ocoee Kayak and Canoe Olympic venue at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

A book of his photographs, “More Than the Game: The Ten-

nessee Football Experience” has been published by Sports Publishing Inc., Champaign, Illinois.

“Living On,” an exhibit of his portraits of Holocaust survivors and liberators from Tennessee has been in museums around the state of Tennessee and at major cities in Poland. The book was published by the University of Tennessee Press in spring 2008.

Heller is a member of the National Press Photographers Association, the Society for News Design, and the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, where he has served as head of the Visual Communication Division.



Heller

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