



Be sure to check out special happenings in the Exhibit Hall

The vendors' program is an important component of the overall conference experience. The Exhibit Hall, located in Hall C-D of the Chattanooga Convention Center, provides the perfect opportunity for local officials to learn about new products and services, while interacting one-on-one with companies that support municipalities.

New this year is a special City Hall Showcase that celebrates city achievements, and highlights successful, creative programs implemented in municipalities across the state. City programs featured include:

- Athens' sustainable initiatives;
- Chattanooga's neighborhoods program, violence reduction initiative, and youth and family development initiatives;
- Franklin's designation as a Valley Sustainable Gold Community;
- Portland's community wellness initiatives; and
- South Pittsburg's National Corn Bread Festival.

An informative vendor presentation will also take place in the Exhibit Hall on Monday, June 23, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Entitled *When Disaster Strikes: Be Prepared Before and Recover After*, will be presented jointly by the American Red Cross and Servpro® Industries, Inc.

Also on Monday, during lunch

Water Infrastructure Bill finally clears Congress

BY CAROLYN BERNDT
National League of Cities

With large bipartisan majorities, the House and Senate passed the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) that will provide resources to upgrade the nation's aging water infrastructure. The bill authorizes \$12.3 billion for 34 new lock, dam, levee, port and ecosystem restoration projects and includes a new pilot program that makes loans available to local governments building large water and wastewater-related infrastructure projects and activities. NLC had advocated for the bill, which now awaits the President's signature.

The five year, \$350 million pilot program, known as the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act program, (WIFIA, modeled after the successful TIFIA program), provides low-interest loans and loan guarantees for large water and wastewater-related infrastructure projects and activities (projects of at least \$20 million or \$5 million for communities serving less than 25,000 people). While there are limitations on the use of the program, including a cap on the percentage of a project that can be funded through the program and a provision that tax-exempt municipal bonds cannot be used for the non-federal share of the project, this is a good first step to providing communities with more financing options to upgrade our

in the Exhibit Hall, TML will recognize several vendors and conference sponsors who have been involved with the League for more than 25 years.

As TML celebrates its 75th Annual Conference, the League is proud to recognize these companies for their lasting partnership with the League and their enduring support and commitment to serve Tennessee towns and cities.

- Since 1976 (38 years):
UT - Municipal Technical Advisory Service
- Since 1978 (36 years):
Utility Service Co., Inc.
- Since 1983 (31 years):
Local Government Data Corp.
- Since 1985 (29 years):
 - *Barge, Waggoner, Sumner, and Cannon, Inc.;*
 - *CMI Equipment;*
 - *J.R. Wauford & Company Consulting Engineers, Inc.;*
 - *Waste Management*
- Since 1986 (28 years):
The Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR)

TML greatly appreciates all of the vendors who participate in the annual conference and encourage city officials attending the conference to take the time to visit the Hall. You just never know what new product or important business contact you'll find there!

nation's aging infrastructure.

The bill includes several important other provisions:

- Sets target expenditures for a gradual increase in the percentage of user fees that are spent through the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund for harbor and port maintenance, reaching 100 percent by 2025.
- Amends the Clean Water Act to ensure that projects funded with State Revolving Loan Funds maximize the potential for efficient water use, reuse, recapture and conservation; adds language that states may provide additional subsidization to local governments in the form of principal forgiveness and negative interest loans; includes a Buy American requirement for iron and steel and requires EPA to conduct a review of the SRF State allotment formula.
- Allows local project sponsors to submit proposals to the Army Corps, which in turn would submit a list to Congress for project authorization.
- Allows local project sponsors to contribute their own funds to the Army Corps to carry out studies and move projects forward via the processing of permits.
- Sets a hard deadline of three years for Army Corps feasibility studies and requires concurrent reviews of feasibility studies and environmental reviews.

other factors such as their ability to shift to natural gas or expected closings of coal plants when setting a 2030 goal.

The agency started with a baseline of 2012 emissions and applied some key assumptions about what each state could reasonably achieve by 2030. The EPA took that 2012 data, assumed basic increases in efficiency, accounted for unused capacity in the less-harmful natural gas sector, estimated how much a state could generate from renewable or nuclear sources and, lastly, forecasted how much a state could decrease demand from users.

Each state must cut carbon emissions under new EPA regs

BY CHRIS KARDISH
& KEVIN TIDMARSH
Governing Magazine

When the EPA announced it will require states to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide to 30 percent below 2005 levels by 2030, it wasn't applying that exact target to everyone.

In practice, some states will have to lower emissions by more than 30 percent while others will cut below that, but the overall reduction would basically amount to the EPA reduction. That's because the agency set up a formula that looks at states' most recent emissions along with

Free Conference mobile app available

Connects to all smartphone devices

A mobile app featuring the 2014 Annual Conference information is available for free and is accessible from any smart phone device.

The app was developed by the Tennessee Municipal League to help improve smartphone users conference experience with this easy to use digital guide. It contains detailed conference information on workshops, speakers, exhibitors and special events – and it's all at your fingertips.

To download the free app, it's as easy as searching for "2014 TML Annual Conference" in the Apple App Store or Google PLAY Marketplace. There is a web app available for Blackberry and Microsoft phones.

How to Use It

Once your app has successfully downloaded to your phone, the conference schedule, workshop information, vendor contact information, plus much more is accessible through easy, navigable functions.

Schedule. To access the conference schedule, tap on the schedule icon and scroll up and down, or flip left and right through the different days. You can also tap the arrows at the top corners to switch between dates. Touching an event will reveal a description, and if it's a workshop, speaker bios are also available. As an added feature, you can create your own personal schedule by touching the plus symbol next to events. You

can also set reminders for yourself if you like. Conference events are color-coded by each event type. By using the filter button at the top to apply a filter, you can quickly reference categories such as food, workshops, or special events.

Speakers. To learn about each of our conference speakers, scroll through the list and tap on the speaker's photo to reveal their bios.

Exhibitors. The exhibitors section includes contact information, booth numbers, and links to company websites. And once you've left the conference, you can always refer back to this app to find all the contact information you need to get in touch with a vendor.

Sponsors. TML Sponsors help underwrite some of the conference expenses, as well as support us in the daily work of representing Tennessee's municipalities. In this section, you can learn more about our *See TMLAPP on Page 3*



Improve your conference experience with this easy to use free mobile app.

Upswing in state's business filings points to brighter economic forecast

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

Never before analyzed data from Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett's office, suggests a strong correlation between the number of new business filings in Tennessee and an upswing in the state's economy. The number of initial filings is found to have a positive and significant relationship with a number of important Tennessee economic indicators such as employment, personal income, and total tax revenues, according to the newly released *Quarterly Business and Economic Indicators Report*.

"It's a very timely database on what businesses are doing in our state," said Dr. William Fox, director of the Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Tennessee, which partnered with the state in developing the report. "It's a new tool in our arsenal to understand what's going on in Tennessee."

With highs nearing pre-recession figures, the report notes, in the past 12 months, the state has filed 28,798 new companies, compared with 30,000 in 2007.

"Growth in the number of start-up businesses in the first quarter signals continued improvement in the economy over the spring and summer," Fox said. "We've seen initial evidence of this in employment numbers for April."

According to Fox, the report will accomplish three things: explains and describes what's happening in terms of new business filings, reporting, and dissolutions of Tennessee businesses over the recent quarter and the last year, and shows a picture of what the overall economy



Hargett



Fox

is doing across the state, as well as the nation.

"As you look at the data, you see some really exciting things for Tennessee," Fox told reporters during a recent conference call. "By creating a history such as the Secretary of State's office, we can study not just what's happening in the current quarter, but what's happened in more than a decade, giving us a very good measure of these relationships. What we find in this most recent quarter is a 10th consecutive quarter of growth in the number of new entities. You have to go back to the middle of the 2000s to see a window that long."

According to Fox, sectors such as LLCs, particularly those initially headquartered outside of the state, are faring very well along with domestic entities. The leisure and hospitality industry continues to grow strongly, he notes, with business services showing vitality.

"We're beginning to see a pick-up in construction, which has been a little weaker than we would have expected for a recovery," he said.

"The durable manufacturing sector is doing well. The non-durable with a life of under three years, aren't seeing any growth, but the durable--think automobiles-- is showing a lot of health in Tennessee."

Franchise and excise taxes experienced better April collections than the rest of the fiscal year, according to the report, a question Fox and his agency hope to gain greater insight into in the coming year.

"It looks like there were a number of one-time events that might explain why we saw such a big decline, and not things strictly related to underlying economic trends, but more linked to tax planning and relationships between individual companies in Tennessee," said Fox. "The thing about franchise and excise taxes is that their relationship with broad economic measures is actually quite loose. You would think, the economy grows, so does franchise and excise taxes, but that's simply not the case. There's a limited correlation between them."

The Secretary of State said the idea for the new quarterly report grew with the amount of data his office has been collecting throughout the years.

"We collect hundreds of thousands of documents and filings that have many different data points, whether it's business startups or trademarks with all businesses," Hargett said. "My desire is to look and see what the correlation is economically and the different trends in the state. We partnered with Dr. Fox and asked them to see what the correlation is, and maybe give us some information that policy and business leaders across the state could use."

To view the complete report visit <http://tn.gov/sos/be-reports/201405.pdf>

The Environmental Protection Agency used a formula that considers where states are now and where they could be by 2030, leading to wide variation in emissions targets.

Tennessee 38.9 % reduction
2012 Emissions: 1903 lbs/MWh
Target: 1163 lbs / MWh

The cuts are in pounds of carbon dioxide per megawatt hour of electricity generated.

Big coal-producing states such as Kentucky, Wyoming and West Virginia have more modest targets, at 18 percent, 19 percent and about 20 percent respectively. Vermont *See EPA on Page 6*

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



BARTLETT

Bartlett made the cut to appear in the June 2 *NerdWallet.com* list of best small cities to call home. It appears on the list at No. 18. NerdWallet turned the spotlight on America's vibrant small cities — communities that are not only thriving economically, but also are places that provide an affordable life-style for residents. These are some of the best places to live, with the vitality and growth of big cities combined with affordability and income equality. The city experienced a 17.1 percent population growth between 2009-2012, and an income growth of 9.1 percent during the same period. Other factors considered in the analysis were: change in poverty rates and yearly homeowner costs/median income. Collierville made the same list, ranking No. 17.

BRENTWOOD

Boiling Spring Academy, a two-story brick schoolhouse built around 1830, and Primm Historic Park, containing Native American mounds that date back to 1200 A.D., will be available for tours June-Oct. Open houses are scheduled from 2-4 pm Sunday, held the third Sunday of the month through October. Volunteer docents will be on hand to answer questions. The sites are on Moores Lane near Wilson Pike.

CHATTANOOGA

Plastic Omnium Auto Exteriors, LLC, officials announced the company will invest \$65 million to construct a new facility on 27 acres at Enterprise South Industrial Park. A tier one supplier for Volkswagen and other major Southeast automotive manufacturers, the company will create 184 new jobs by the time it starts production in 2015 and expand its payroll to include 300 people within three years of opening. Manufacturing operations at the Chattanooga facility will include injection molding, painting and assembly of automobile exterior components, such as bumpers and fenders, for sale and delivery to OEMs. Initially, all of the products will be for the production at Volkswagen Chattanooga, but Plastic Omnium will soon extend its reach to Ford, GM, Honda, Mercedes, Nissan and Toyota.

CHATTANOOGA

Mayor Andy Berke signed an executive order creating an open data policy. Executive Order No. 2014-04 adopts open standards to improve transparency of government functions, provides more access to public information, and improves coordination and efficiencies among organizations across the public, non-profit, and private sectors. Not only will the Open Data Policy be established, but the city will create an open data web portal, advisory group, and data inventory, as well as an annual open data compliance report. The order pushes city hall to collaborate and create open-source web applications that will address important issues like public safety and growing the local economy.

COLUMBIA

The groundbreaking ceremony for the first three buildings on the new Franklin campus of Columbia State Community College will be July 18. The ceremony, which will be held at the college's 36-acre property on Liberty Pike, signals a move into new, modern classrooms from the cramped classrooms behind Franklin High School. The Franklin campus is projected to be a draw for future students living in the college's nine-county area. The three buildings should accommodate about 2,200 students and will be dedicated to arts and sciences; mathematics; and administration offices. The college's current Franklin location is near capacity, with about 1,400 students, school officials said. Work should be completed by 2016.

GOODLETTSVILLE

Officials from Tyson Foods, Inc. announced the food processor will invest \$15.5 million to expand its current operations and hire and train 157 new workers. Tyson Foods will add four production lines and expand cold storage capabilities at its Tyson Fresh Meats facility in Goodlettsville. The nation's second-largest food processor produces case-ready beef and pork products for grocery stores and other retailers at the plant, which already employs roughly

1,600 workers. Work has already begun to install the new equipment. Hiring is expected to begin in June for the newly created production jobs, all of which are full-time. Applications for employment should be filed with a Tennessee Workforce Development office.

HARTSVILLE

ARC Automotive, Inc., announced it will invest approximately \$3 million to locate a new manufacturing facility in Hartsville to expand its automotive airbag inflator product production capability, creating 66 new jobs. The new facility will be built at the PowerCom Industrial Center, centrally located and convenient to ARC Automotive's Knoxville and Morgantown inflator manufacturing operations. Site development is expected to start within the next few weeks with the construction of roads, buildings and infrastructure.

HENDERSONVILLE

A healthcare center is set to open a new call center that will add 275 new jobs. Xtend Healthcare's latest addition expects to open its doors to the first 120 employees. The company already has one location in the strip mall on Main St., as well as a headquarters division and Antioch branch. These three locations assist in patient insurance claims. This will be the first customer-oriented location, assisting in payment of bills and balances for hospital stays and doctor visits. The new building will open on the corner of Indian Lake Boulevard and Main Street.

JACKSON

Metal Exchange Corp., which bought ElementAL Holdings LLC, out of bankruptcy in 2009, is closing its Jackson location. ElementAL, which has 39 employees in Jackson, converted prime and recycled aluminum into precision "slugs" used in the production of packaging items including aluminum bottles and components for the automotive and defense industries. "This is just unfortunate," Jackson Chamber CEO Kyle Spurgeon said. "Team Madison County has worked with ElementAL very close the past few years, and market conditions led to the company's closing."

JOHNSON CITY

A 6x5 foot sectional art project unveiled recently at the city's Blue Plum Festival features images of Johnson City's history painted by more than 85 area youth, as part of the Targeted Community Crime Reduction Project (TCCRP) and KidScape. KidScape, a partnership between TCCRP, Ink Revolution Studios and Hands On! Museum, brought together young people ages 10-16, from various youth organizations and the Johnson City Alternative School. The project's goal is to help kids develop valuable skills outside the classroom.

LEBANON

Automotive parts supplier Southtec LLC, said that it will invest \$23.6 million to expand its manufacturing facilities, bringing 210 new jobs. The company will add 30,250 square feet of space to house two new automotive metal-stamping presses. A second Lebanon location also is being developed, in an existing building, Southtec said. Southtec is part of Belleville, Mich.-based L&W Engineering Co. Founded in 1973, the company is a Tier 1 auto supplier that makes such products as oil pans, engine mount brackets and other components for auto manufacturers.

LEXINGTON

Eighty people will lose their jobs in coming weeks, as Altama Delta Corporation closes its doors. The company, which provides combat boots for the military, has been in Lexington for more than 20 years. The company, which has locations in Tennessee and Puerto Rico, is closing down due to lack of finances. It is the leading provider for military standard boots in America.

MEMPHIS

Graceland, the longtime home of Elvis Presley, plans to host an auction of authentic artifacts related to the rock and roll icon in Memphis. Elvis Presley Enterprises said the auction is scheduled for Aug. 14, during the annual celebration of Presley's life, music and movies known as Elvis Week. The auction will feature rare,

authenticated items from the collection of Greg Page, a prominent collector of Presley artifacts. Items from other private collectors also will be auctioned. None of the items will come from the Graceland Archives. Presley lived at Graceland for 20 years until he died on Aug. 16, 1977. It will be the first auction of its kind at the house-turned-museum.

NASHVILLE

Nashville is one of the nation's Top 25 largest cities, according to the latest Census data. The population for the city stood at 634,464 in July 1, 2013, a five percent increase since 2010. It now has surpassed Baltimore and is closing in on the cities of Boston and Washington D.C. The numbers reflect only Nashville growth, and doesn't take the entire metro area into account. When comparing metro areas, Nashville's ranking drops to No. 36 overall. Still, the growth rate — both in Nashville and the entire metro area — ranks among the fastest-growing in the country over the past couple of years.

NASHVILLE

The tourism industry has hit a record. *The Tennessean* reported that March saw the highest number of hotel rooms sold in one month in the city. The 640,000 rooms sold broke the previous record in October 2013 by almost 7 percent. Compared to other Top 25 market for March, Nashville reported the second largest increase in rooms sold and it was in the top five for occupancy growth. The city's occupancy tax, which also indicates how the hospitality industry is faring, also experienced growth, up 34 percent compared to March 2013.

NEWBERN

Royal Building Products officials announced the company will invest \$24 million in new equipment to support PVC pipe production. The company is a leading manufacturer and distributor of home remodeling, building and municipal construction materials, and will create 85 new jobs in Dyer County.

SODDY-DAISY

The State Fire Marshal's Office recently hosted the first Get Alarmed smoke alarm installation event in the community. With the help of the Soddy-Daisy Fire Department and Hamilton County Emergency Services, the Fire Marshal's Office installed 200 smoke alarms in area homes. The Get Alarmed program is a part of a major effort to reduce fire deaths, injuries, and property damage in Tennessee.

SPRING HILL

IBEX Global is preparing to hire 800 additional people for its call center, raising its total workforce by 300-400 and cementing its ranking as the second largest private employer in Maury County. IBEX Global is located within three buildings at Northfield Workforce Development and Conference Center and takes up about 75,000 square feet of space. The company said it plans to hire about 240 people by June 9, hiring in phases until August when the total 800 are slated to be employed. IBEX opened in Spring Hill about three years ago as TRG Customer Solutions.

SPRING HILL

City officials are ready to break ground on a long-anticipated, \$4.7 million park and fire hall. Construction began on the new Port Royal Road Park and Port Royal Fire Station — also known as Spring Hill Fire Station No. 2 — on June 9. Members of the city's Parks and Recreation Committee and fire department hosted a groundbreaking ceremony at the site to celebrate the start of the two long-awaited projects. The park will include amenities such as sports fields, a splash pad, a playground for handicapped children and a veterans plaza. The cost of the fire station is estimated between \$1.95 million and \$2.14 million.

UNION CITY

Officials from MVP Group International Inc., announced plans for expansion of its operations. The home fragrance company will create 100 jobs, thanks to a \$2 million investment. MVP is consolidating its distribution operations from South Carolina and Mississippi to Obion County to be closer to its manufacturing operations in Mayfield and Fulton, Ky. The company designs, manufactures and markets private label, licensed and branded candles and home fragrance products including Febreeze Home Collection.

Cumberland Region Tomorrow recognizes Bernhardt, Cowan



Cumberland Region Tomorrow, (CRT) a regional nonprofit organization committed to quality growth, presented Rick Bernhardt, Metro-Nashville Planning Department executive director, and distinguished civil engineer Everett Cowan with awards for Regional Thinking and Action in honor of their leadership on regional growth and development issues. The annual awards, one each for the public and private sectors, recognize excellence in guiding regional growth and development and commitment to appropriate planning, design, and implementation. They were presented by Steve Turner, honorary event chairman and a principal leader in development of the Gulch area in Nashville, during CRT's sixth annual POWER OF TEN Regional Summit April 30. Both Bernhardt and Cowan were leaders in the development and implementation of CRT's Quality Growth Toolbox, an award winning program of strategies and recommendations which support appropriate growth and development practices. Both are also nationally recognized leaders in the planning and engineering professions, and act as resource experts and spokespersons nationally and in Tennessee to advance best practices in land use, transportation integration, and strategic infrastructure investments that support Middle Tennessee's Quality Growth Implementation. Pictured left to right: Steve Turner, CRT honorary event chair; Rick Bernhardt, Everett Cowan; Bridget Jones, executive director, Cumberland Region Tomorrow; John L. Batey, CRT board co-chair; Marion Fowlkes, CRT board co-chair. Artist Annie Goetze painted the two local scenes given to the award recipients.

Country music stars to help commemorate opening of Bristol Sessions museum



The Aug. 1 grand opening of the Smithsonian Institution-affiliated Birthplace of Country Music Museum was made official during a joint concert-press conference held by the Bristol Country Music Association and its various partners at the Paramount Theater in downtown Bristol. The album, entitled "Orthophonic Joy: the 1927 Bristol Sessions Revisited," was also unveiled during the event. The project will feature performances by Dolly Parton, Vince Gill, Marty Stuart, and others.

The Birthplace of Country Music Alliance (BCMA) is partnering with some of country music's biggest names to not only commemorate the opening of a new museum this summer, but also to pay tribute to the legacy of the legendary producer Ralph Peer and the historic 1927 Bristol Sessions.

The Aug. 1 grand opening of the Smithsonian Institution-affiliated Birthplace of Country Music Museum was made official during a joint concert-press conference held by the BCMA and its various partners at the Paramount Theater in downtown Bristol, Tenn.

The album, entitled "Orthophonic Joy: the 1927 Bristol Sessions Revisited," was also unveiled during the event.

The project will feature performances by Dolly Parton, Vince Gill, Marty Stuart, Emmylou Harris, Doyle Lawson, Steve Martin and the Steep Canyon Rangers and several other artists. Voice of the Grand Ol' Opry Eddie Stubbs is also participating. Each track on the album, which is currently being recorded and slated for an October 2014 release, will be selected from the list of original Bristol Sessions recordings by Nashville producer Carl Jackson.

The BCMA also announced a nationwide contest that will allow one artist, or act, to perform a song from the Bristol Sessions on the album.

More information on the contest is at www.birthplaceofcountrymusic.org.



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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Mike Krause will join Gov. Haslam's Office as executive director of the Drive to 55 and Tennessee Promise initiatives. He will lead and manage the launch of both initiatives. The Tennessee Promise commits to providing two years of community college or a college of applied technology (TCAT) free of tuition and fees to graduating high school seniors beginning with the class of 2015. Krause currently serves as assistant executive director for academic affairs at the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, where he has coordinated THEC's work on Drive to 55, led the state-wide expansion of SAILS, and pioneered state efforts in open online education.



Krause

Robin Roberts, field consultant with the County Technical Assistance Service, has been promoted by the University of Tennessee's Institute for Public Service to the position of CTAS executive director, effective July 1. Prior to joining CTAS, Roberts served as director of accounts and budgets for Lawrence County. He is a member of the Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants, and a licensed CPA.



Roberts

Clay Thompson, president of Cat Financial Insurance Services, has been named chairman of The Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry Board. He succeeds Wes Blumenshine, who announced his move to Caterpillar Inc. as Group General Counsel in IL. Thompson joined Caterpillar in 1997 after practicing law in Davenport, Iowa.



Thompson

Alisa White was named the next president to lead Austin Peay State University. White is currently the provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs at the University of Texas at Tyler. She will join Austin Peay on June 30. White holds a Ph.D. in mass communications from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Town of Farragut Assistant Town Administrator **Gary Palmer** has been accepted to the prestigious Senior Executives in State and Local Government program at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. Palmer will attend in June. The program provides traditional and hands-on learning experiences to help seasoned public officials meet the changing needs of their constituents and communities. Serving as assistant town administrator since 2006, Palmer received a scholarship from Harvard to attend the program.

Danny Farmer, veteran city manager of Mt. Juliet from 1983 to June 2000, and former president of the Tennessee City Managers Association, has passed away after a long battle with Alzheimer's Disease. He was 76 years old. Farmer was a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army, serving in Vietnam, and received The Bronze Star Medal and The Meritorious Service Medal.



Farmer

Former Collegedale Commissioner and Mayor **David A. Magoon**, 94, passed away June 2. A World War II veteran, Magoon moved to Collegedale in 1965. He is the father of TML Pool staff member Bill Magoon.

Community Development Director **Shari Brown** has been selected to head Bristol's new Department of Economic and Community Development. The department will house the divisions of building inspection and code enforcement, planning and zoning, administrator of Community Development Block Grants, and economic development. Brown has received several honors during her tenure, including the city's 2011 honor for Best Planning Tool for Small Cities and an Outstanding Implementation award in 2013 from the Tenn. Chapter of the American Planning Association.



Mayor Karl Dean launched the first coordinated afterschool system in Tennessee, the Nashville After Zone Alliance (NAZA) in 2010, which targets high-need middle school students and aims to keep them engaged by nurturing a passion for learning and adequately preparing them for high school.

Nashville Mayor Dean honored for work with school program

BY EMILY PIKREN
National League of Cities

Karl Dean, mayor of Nashville and former co-chair of NLC's Council on Youth, Education, and Families (YEF Council), was honored last month in Washington, D.C., for his commitment and leadership on afterschool and expanded learning programs.

Dean was named a State Afterschool Champion at the "Breakfast of Champions," part of the 13th annual Afterschool for All Challenge.

This annual event is sponsored by the Afterschool Alliance. NLC has a strong partnership with the Afterschool Alliance to inform cities about state and federal funding streams that can support citywide afterschool system building efforts, as well as help increase public awareness about the importance of afterschool.

Dean was one of 11 state champions and the only mayor honored at the event. The United Ways of Tennessee nominated Mayor Dean for the honor because of his strong support for innovative approaches to expanding learning that build student skills and create pathways for lifelong learning. Education has been his top priority as mayor.

Elected in 2007 and re-elected in 2011, Dean launched the Nashville After Zone Alliance (NAZA) in 2010, with a bold new line item of \$400,000 in the city budget, and has helped to grow support for NAZA to \$1.6 million today. NAZA is the first coordinated afterschool system in Tennessee.

A partnership between the Mayor's office, the school district, local agencies and youth-serving organizations that is modeled after the Providence After School Alliance's "AfterZones" model, NAZA targets high-need middle school students and aims to keep them engaged by nurturing a passion for learning and adequately preparing them for high school.

NLC worked closely with Mayor Dean and Metro Nashville to develop their afterschool system, and provided guidance and technical assistance to get NAZA off the ground through NLC's 2010 Mayors' Institute for Children and Families, ongoing consultation and through connections to other city leaders building afterschool systems.

"Four years ago, out of our collective concern about the high school dropout rate, we launched this innovative afterschool program to help fill a huge gap in high-quality afterschool programming for some of our most high-need middle-school students," Dean said. "What started as a pilot with 200 students will now engage 1,500 middle school students from across the city in academic supports and fun enrichment. Independent research has shown links between these programs and improved school attendance, fewer school behavior issues and even improved grades in math."

Mobile app puts conference schedule at your fingertips

TML APP, from Page 1 sponsorship partners, including how to get in contact with their company.

Convention Center Map. A detailed map of the Exhibit Hall, home of the TML Marketplace vendors, are available in this section, as well as maps of the convention center where the workshops and general session are held. You can move maps around, or swipe left and right between maps, or zoom in or zoom out. The room numbers on the schedule correspond to the rooms on these maps. The booth numbers attached to exhibitors in our exhibitors section correspond to numbered booths on the Exhibit Hall map.

If you need help while at the conference, find a TML staff member to assist you. After the conference, contact Mark Barrett at TML at 615-255-6416.

There is a web app available for Blackberry and Microsoft phones.

zwk11s.m.attendify.com/#

You can scroll the maps of the convention center floors or a detailed map of the Exhibit Hall, home of the TML Marketplace vendors.

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You can learn about each of our conference speakers, by scrolling through the list and tapping on each speaker photo to reveal their bio.

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STATE BRIEFS

Plan targets epidemic prescription painkiller abuse in TN

Gov. Haslam announced a seven-point, multi-agency plan to combat Tennesseans' "epidemic" abuse of prescription painkillers in a state that ranks No. 2 nationally for per-capita use of opioids. Parts of the plan call for increased focus on drug courts and treatment, which Haslam and administrative officials say ultimately reduce costs rather than repeated incarcerations. The state ranked No. 13 in drug overdose death, according to a 2011 U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study. Joined by agency heads, Haslam said about 221,000 adult Tennesseans used prescription pain relievers for non-medical purposes, that's almost five percent of adults. Of these, 69,000 are addicted to the drugs, often obtained from friends and family members or prescribed by physicians.

TN among 12 manufacturing communities selected nationwide

The Tennessee Valley led by the University of Tennessee, is among 12 designated "manufacturing communities" identified by the U.S. Commerce Department to take part in a federal economic development effort intended to boost manufacturing jobs. These 12 areas across the U.S. were chosen from among 70 applicants for the program, which initially has \$1.3 billion in federal funds earmarked for qualifying projects. The goal is to make targeted investments in demonstrably strong public-private partnerships to strengthen regional manufacturing. In addition, each designated community will also receive a federal liaison and branding and promotion as a designated Manufacturing Community to help attract additional private investment and partnerships.

Major drop in carbon emissions

Carbon emissions in Tennessee dropped by a third over five years, according to a new study by Massachusetts-based consulting firm M.J. Bradley & Associates. The study says the closure of coal-fired plants and the historically low price of natural gas are driving the trend.

Between 2007 and 2012, Tennessee's coal-powered energy dipped 40 percent. At the same time, natural gas generation was 11 times greater — up 1000 percent. The study examined the country's 100 largest power producers based on their 2012 data. The Tennessee Valley Authority is the sixth largest energy producer in the nation.

State brings back electric chair

Gov. Haslam signed a bill into law allowing the state to electrocute death row inmates in the event the state is unable to obtain drugs used for lethal injections. State lawmakers overwhelmingly passed the electric chair legislation in April. Richard Dieter, the executive director of the Death Penalty Information Center, said Tennessee is the first state to enact a law to reintroduce the electric chair without giving prisoners an option. Dieter said he expects legal challenges to arise if the state decides to go through with an electrocution, both in terms of whether the state could prove that lethal injection drugs were not obtainable and on the grounds of constitutional protections against cruel and unusual punishment.

New TBI report shows drop in domestic violence cases

Domestic violence rates have dropped in Tennessee, according to the TBI. The new report says this is the greatest year to year decrease. More than 200,000 domestic violence victims were reported. There were 5.7 percent fewer offenses compared to 2.9 percent in 2012. The director of WRAP (Women's Resources and Rape Assistance Program in Jackson) says the report shows their work has not been in vain. For a full look at the report, visit http://www.tbi.tn.gov/tn_crime_stats/publications/Domestic%20Violence%20in%20TN%20%282011-2013%29%20SECURE.pdf.

Foreclosures reach pre-recession levels

Residential foreclosures are at the lowest level in the state since mid-2007 when the housing collapse began, according to a Tennessee Housing Development Agency

(THDA) report. THDA also cited a RealtyTrac market report noting that residential foreclosure filings were 32 percent lower in the first quarter of this year compared to the same quarter in 2013. Area bankers say they are seeing positive patterns revealing a healthier real estate market.

Mosquito-borne virus making its way to Tennessee

A disease that just emerged in the Americas may have made its way to Tennessee. The Tennessee Department of Health said it is investigating the first potential cases of chikungunya virus in the state. It is a mosquito-borne disease that is circulating in the Caribbean. Tennesseans who traveled there are showing symptoms of the disease. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a warning in December about chikungunya when it was first reported detected on Caribbean islands — the first confirmed cases of the virus being contracted in the Americas. "This is often a terribly painful and uncomfortable illness with no vaccine to prevent it and no specific treatment for those infected," said Tennessee Health Commissioner Dr. John Dreyzehner. "Recovery can be prolonged, so prevention is the only good option." Symptoms include fever, headache, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, muscle pain, rash and joint pain.

New plan spurs independent living for intellectually disabled

A new plan to overhaul the way the state cares for people with intellectual disabilities could make Tennessee first in the nation to specifically gear services toward independent living and employment as the "first and preferred option." The plan represents a sharp shift in state priorities for the expenditure of about \$860 million each year — a mix of state and federal dollars that has largely gone toward paying for around-the-clock residential care for thousands of people. Instead, the state would provide more limited and less costly services, such as personal assistance and transportation — largely minus the housing component — while offering vocational training, job coaching and job support to new enrollees. State officials say the plan would allow them to serve a greater number of people in a more cost-effective way.

TN state parks among Top 100

Paris Landing, Pickwick Landing and Tims Ford State Parks were listed among the Top 100 Family Friendly Places to boat and fish in the U.S., according to *Take Me Fishing*, whose first Top 100 list was released recently including park and recreation areas in 24 states. The Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation's *Take me Fishing* campaign initiated the nationwide vote to provide families and outdoor enthusiasts with a recommended list of the best family-friendly places to experience boating and fishing. Criteria for the top places to boat and fish included having a public body of water within an hour of a major city and good fishing opportunities.

Application Deadline July 7

USDA announces funding for advanced communications technology in rural areas

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that USDA is accepting applications for grants to enhance telecommunications and broadcast services in rural areas.

"This funding will help small, rural communities across the country gain access to communications technologies to improve health, education and other services," Vilsack said. "It will help open doors to the global marketplace. It will deliver specialized medical care and educational services. It will ensure that public television stations can fully convert to digital signals and transmit public safety, health, educational and cultural programming in isolated areas."

The funding is available from the Community Connect Grant Program, the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program, and the Public Television Station Digital Transition Grant Program.

Through the Community Connect Grant Program, USDA plans to provide up to \$13 million to fund broadband in unserved areas to support economic growth and deliver enhanced educational, health care and public safety services. Awardees must serve an area where broadband

TN receives State of Year Award for economic development



Business Facilities Editor-in-Chief Jack Rogers visited Nashville and presented Gov. Haslam and TNECD Commissioner Bill Hagerty with the State of the Year Award for Economic Development. It was announced in January that Tennessee grabbed top honors for the number of new jobs created and amount of capital invested in 2013.

Cumberland Mountain, Edgar Evins State Parks host grand re-openings



Located on the Cumberland Plateau near Crossville, Cumberland Mountain State Park celebrated a grand re-opening of its 145-site campground on May 21. Renovations include conversion from 30 amp to 50 amp electrical service and ADA improvements. Wi-Fi accessibility will be coming soon. Four campground areas are now open with the remaining one scheduled for completion in mid-June. The 1,720-acre park was opened in 1938 and includes a multi-arched bridge and dam at Byrd Lake. Pictured left to right: TN State Parks Senior Advisor Anne Marshall, Cumberland Mountain State Park Manager Chip Hillis, Deputy Commissioner Brock Hill, State Rep. Cameron Sexton, East TN Park Area Manager Robin Wooten and TN State Parks Facilities Management Director David Benton.



Located on the shores of Center Hill Lake, Edgar Evins State Park celebrated a grand re-opening of its 60-site campground May 21 with state and local representatives. Most of the 60 sites received upgrades from 30 amp to 50 amp electrical service. In addition, the platform-type sites of steel and concrete were inspected and any potential structural degradation issues were repaired. The renovation project also included the extension of the length of several sites to accommodate larger RVs. Many of the sites have lake views.

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NATIONAL BRIEFS



Several recent studies show that entrepreneurial activity in the United States has slowed down, to the point where American businesses are dying faster than they're being born. A report from the *Kansas City Star* analyzes new research that has some economists worried about what a slower start-up rate could mean for the United States' future. The report says economists aren't worried about business failures, which are expected and aren't happening at a faster rate than usual. The concern is that failures release supplies into the market, like workers and buildings, and in a good economy, new startups come along to put those resources to better use. Without those startups, slack begins to appear in the market.

Almost a third of the world is now fat, and no country has been able to curb obesity rates in the last three decades, according to a new global analysis. Researchers found more than 2 billion people worldwide are now overweight or obese. The highest rates were in the Middle East and North Africa, where nearly 60 percent of men and 65 percent of women are heavy. The U.S. has about 13 percent of the world's fat population, a greater percentage than any other country. China and India combined have about 15 percent. The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington, which led the study, reviewed more than 1,700

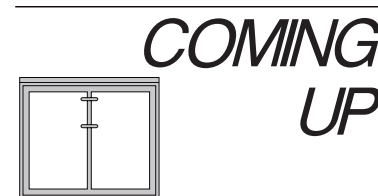
studies covering 188 countries from 1980 to 2013. The World Health Organization recommends that heavy people be sent to free weight-loss classes to drop about 3 percent of their weight. It reasoned that losing just a few pounds improves health and is a more realistic goal.

The Obama Administration says Americans' electricity bills will shrink and their children will be healthier due to new emissions limits on power plants. Promoting the climate change plan during a conference hosted by the American Lung Association, the president said the plan provides a huge incentive for states to become more efficient and to boost solar, wind, hydro and other clean sources of energy. The plan aims to curb carbon dioxide emissions from power plants by 30 percent by 2030. The Tennessee Valley Authority says it has already reached that target system-wide and "expects to exceed it."

The National Parks Service is offering free tours of the Stones River National Cemetery this summer. The hour-long "Hallowed Ground" tours are conducted by a park ranger and take place by lantern light. The tours will include stories from the letters and diaries of men who fought and died in the Civil War. The cemetery is located within Murfreesboro's Stones River National Battlefield, a 650-acre national park dedicated to preserving

the memory of those who fought and died at this crucial Civil War battle. The "Hallowed Ground" tours are free, but reservations are required. More information is available at www.nps.gov/stri.

According to a report in *The Los Angeles Times*, about 1 in 8 American children will experience some form of maltreatment serious enough to be confirmed by government authorities, new research shows. Slightly more than 2 percent of kids are victimized during their first year of life, 5.8 percent are mistreated before their fifth birthdays, and 12.5 percent experience some form of abuse or neglect before they turn 18, according to a study published JAMA Pediatrics. The estimates are based on data from the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System Child Files, which identified nearly 5.7 million children who suffered documented cases of neglect or physical, sexual or emotional abuse from 2004 to 2011. (The true count is believed to be much higher, since most cases never make it to government officials.) Researchers from Yale University, the University of Southern California, the University of California, Berkeley, Columbia University, and the University of Washington used that data to extrapolate the cumulative risk that American children would become victims of these types of maltreatment before they reached adulthood.



July 13-15: The Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association's Annual Conference held at the Marriott Airport Nashville. For more information about the conference, go to <http://www.tnfirechiefs.com/conference-and-meetings>.

Save The Dates: Sept. 13-17: International City/County Management Association Annual Conference in Charlotte, NC. For information or to register, visit <http://icma.org/en/icma/events/conference/about/annualconference>

Sept. 20-24: International Personnel Management Association Annual Conference in Philadelphia, PA. For more information or to register, visit <http://ipma-hr.org/professional-development/conferences>

Oct. 12-14: Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council (TREEDC) International Conference. For more information contact Warren Nevad at warren.nevad@tennessee.edu.

Nov. 13-14: 61st Annual Governor's Conference on Economic and Community Development at the Renaissance Nashville Hotel. Rooms will be available at a special rate of \$185 per night for conference attendees. Registration and conference details at govcon.tnecd.com.

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UT MTAS July Classes

Municipal Legislative Update



This course will provide a summary of legislation passed by the Tennessee General Assembly during the 2014 session that will impact municipalities. Public Acts touching every aspect of municipal operations will be discussed.

This course will offer participants the opportunity to ask questions about any new legislation.

Instructor: MTAS legal consultants

Time: All courses begin at 8:30 am and end at 12:30 pm EST and CST.

Schedule of Sessions
July 22 - Jackson
July 23- Nashville-CST
July 29- Kingsport
July 31- Knoxville-EST

Locations:
Knoxville, Univ. of TN. Conference Center
Jackson, Univ. of TN - West TN-Research & Education Center
Nashville, TBI Headquarters, 901 R.S. Gass Boulevard
Kingsport, Kingsport Center for Higher Education

Cost: Tennessee Municipal Employees- \$50/person/class. A fee of \$65 is charged for non-city officials.

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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. MTAS will need to receive payment in order to confirm attendance. For registration assistance, call 865-974-0411 or for more information, contact Kurt Frederick at 615-253-6385 or kurt.frederick@tennessee.edu.

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PLANNING DIRECTOR

SPRINGFIELD. The city is accepting applications for the position of Planning Director. Individual will plan, organize and direct the activities of the Community Development & Planning Department under a Council/Manager form of government. Current director is retiring with more than 14 years of service in the position. The Community Development & Planning Department administers all planning functions and activities, economic development projects, residential, commercial and industrial development and codes administration. Qualifications include a bachelor's degree in planning, public administration or other related field, required master's degree in planning and AICP certification preferred. A minimum of five years (5) of supervisory, administrative or consultative experience in municipal or regional planning, community development or related field required. Salary range \$ 55,703-\$76,066 (DOQ). Applications must be received by Monday, June 30, at: Human Resources Department, City of Springfield, P O Box 788, Springfield, Tennessee, 37172. The City of Springfield is an AA/EOE employer.

FINANCE DIRECTOR/ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

DANDRIDGE. The town is accepting applications for the full-time position of Finance Director/Assistant Town Administrator. This position will perform difficult professional and administrative work in planning, organizing, and directing the financial activities of the town, along with other related work as required. The work will be performed under the general supervision of the town administrator. The job's essential duties include: daily financial reporting, budget preparations, grants administration, auditing & financial controls, financial planning, purchasing, and other duties as assigned. Supervisory responsibilities include: Town Recorder/Executive Assistant and Human Resources Clerk. Required Education: A bachelor's degree in finance, public management, or related discipline from a four-year college or university; or four to five years related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience. Preferred Education and/or Experience: Master's degree (M.A. or M.S.) or equivalent in finance, public management, or related discipline; or four to five years related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience. Preference will be given to a Certified Public Accountant, Certified Municipal Finance Officer or Certified Government Financial Manager. This position will be a 9 in a job classification series, non-exempt status, with a salary range beginning at \$17.28 per hour, negotiable DOQ/E + benefits. Applications and a detailed job description may be picked up and will be accepted at Dandridge Town Hall, 131 East Main Street, Dandridge, TN, during the hours of 8am-5pm, Mon.-Fri. until June 30, 2014. For more information, call 865-397-7420 ext. 11. The Town of Dandridge is EOE and does not discriminate based upon all applicable federal, state, and local law.


**TENNESSEE
FESTIVALS**
July 2: Munford*Celebrate Independence*

A free event held at the city park on College St. Beginning at 7:30 pm, the Navy Band Mid-South's contemporary entertainment ensemble will perform a 45-minute concert. Grand finale is a spectacular fireworks display. Food and beverage will be offered for sale in support of the Munford High School Band along with t-shirts and other items at the "Celebrate Munford" table. Rest room facilities located inside the Munford Police Department. Limited handicap parking will be available in the city hall parking lot at the corner of Munford Ave. and College St. Bring your own lawn chairs and your family and friends for this fun event.

July 3: Clarksville*Independence Day Celebration*

Features music and fireworks. Held at McGregor Park from 5 to 10 pm Spectacular fireworks on the river is choreographed to a patriotic soundtrack and will be broadcast on Q108, The Beaver 100.3 FM, Z 97.5 and Eagle 94.3 radio stations during the show. Performing are the 100th Division Rock Band, Hypertension, and Chris Robertson & The Country Music Band. For more information or for ADA assistance, call 931-645-7444.

July 3-5: Jonesborough*Jonesborough Days Festival*

Parade at 10 am on July 4. Fireworks at 10 pm on July 5 in downtown. Call 423.753.1010 for more information or visit Jonesborough Days on Facebook.

July 4: Bristol*4th of July Parade and Fireworks*

Free event held from 5-11 pm (combined with Border Bash and fireworks in Cumberland Square Park in historic downtown. For more information, visit www.believeinbristol.org.

July 4: Nashville*Let Freedom Sing*

The sky above downtown will light up with more than 25,000 fireworks shells coordinated with the Nashville Symphony's original medley of songs performed live. The celebration includes an amazing array of musical artists including Billy Currington, Ashley Monroe and Striking Matches. Family Fun Zone located along 2nd Avenue, features games, cool inflatables, free samples, and activities. Plenty of delicious food



Celebrate summer on Main Street.
From festivals to farmers' markets,
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one-of-a-kind downtowns.

A complete listing of Main Street summer events can be found at:
<http://tn.gov/ecd/pdf/Other/MainStreetEvents.pdf>

and drink vendors top off the full day of fun.

July 4: Nashville*Music City Hot Chicken Festival*

Held from 11am - 3 pm at East Park on Woodland Street. This free event features the unique southern flare of local restaurants and puts amateur cooks head-to-head in competition for the best hot chicken recipe. For more information, visit <http://www.hot-chicken.com/>.

July 4: Greeneville*American Downtown 4th of July Celebration*

The celebration kicks off at 2 pm with a Main Street Parade themed "Let Freedom Ring." Nearly 20 musical and dance acts perform on two stages in the Big Spring area behind the Greeneville-Greene County Library in the afternoon and evening kicking off at 2:30 pm. From the Big Spring area, see headliner Annabelle's Curse from Bristol TN, who take the stage at 8:25 pm, along with local favorites: swing tunes from Heppy Kats, rhythm & blues from Frank Bowman & the New Chronic Dream, classics by JB (John Brown) and the Wild Honey Band, and bluegrass from Lonesome Pine. A mix of pure country, contemporary Christian, and high-energy rock from Richard Spain, Savannah Faith, Makayla Edwards with Tyler Warren, Nick Fillers & the Fugitives, R.J. Smith, Step Cousins, Claxton Creek, and Capgun Alliance. Three local dance groups Winter & Company and LMH Cloggers are joined by Studio 922. Seating limited in the Big Spring area. Festival goers encouraged to bring chairs and blankets. The Funville Kids Zone offers free inflatables and a variety of activities for younger members of the crowd, food vendors, and more. The Yankee Noodle Dandy macaroni cooking contest coordinated by local chef Jan Charles. For information, contact Scintillare restaurant, 1240 East Andrew Johnson Highway, 638-1000. This year, a large fireworks display to be launched from the nearby practice field at Greeneville High School. For more information about the event,

contact Amy Rose, 639-7105 or arose@greeneviltn.gov, or visit www.greeneviltn.gov or www.facebook.com/TownofGreeneville.

July 4: Knoxville*4th of July Festival*

This free festival begins at 4 pm and ends at approximately 10 pm. Good music, food and fun on the Festival and Performance lawns of the Worlds' Fair Park. Regal's Kids Zone. Starting at 8 pm, the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra begins its free two-hour concert on the World's Fair Park's performance lawn, the perfect accompaniment to the fireworks spectacular at 9:35 pm. Free parking: World's Fair & Blackstock Parking Lots, 11th Street, Locust Street, State Street & Market Square Garages - ADA Parking at Fort Kid Parking Lot. This event is rain or shine. For more information, visit <http://www.city-ofknoxville.org/events/4th/default.asp> or call the Knoxville Office of Special Events at 865-215-4248.

July 4: Kingsport*4th of July Celebration*

Live music at 6:30 pm; fireworks at 9:45pm on Broad Street. For more information, visit info@down-townkingsport.org.

July 4: Pigeon Forge*24th Annual Patriotic Festival*

Thousands gather at Patriot Park for this free event. The fun starts around noon with games and activities for kids. Live musical entertainment, starting early in the afternoon until 9:30 or 10 pm. The event headliner is Lonestar, the Tim Kellar Band, bluegrass group Adkins & Loudermilk, and the Jimmy Buffet tribute band Sons of Sailors. A trolley shuttle service will run from the Municipal Parking Lot on Teaster Lane right into Patriot Park.

July 4: Franklin*Franklin on the 4th*

Starting at 10 am, the square will be bustling with music stages, children's activities, food, crafts, as well as other things to do and see. The Kid's Zone includes inflatables, slides, climbing walls, a petting zoo and pony rides. There will also be an expanded craft vendor section featuring high quality hand made items. The Children's Parade begins at 5 pm. (Children will begin lining up at a designated marked location at 4:45) There will be prizes for best costume and decorated bikes and wagons. Pets are welcome. The event ends at 8:00 pm..

July 10: Gallatin*Music at the Market*

The Music at the Market is a new series of family-friendly events taking place this summer. The concerts, which run from 6:30 to 8 pm, are held at the Farmers Market, 160 Franklin Street near the Gallatin Police Department. Coming up, Mike Scott takes the stage with Banjo and Bluegrass. And on Aug. 14, the market comes alive with The Todd London Jazz Trio. For more information, contact the mayor's office at 615-451-5961.

July 11: Livingston*Live in Livingston*

A free summer concert series the second Friday night of July, and August from 5:30 pm - 9 pm on the historic Courthouse Square in Downtown Livingston. Bring your family and experience true Americana Music in Livingston, Overton County. "Home

of Americana Music." For more information, visit www.homeofamericana.com or call 1-800-876-7393.

July 11-19: Kingsport*Fun Fest 2014*

Both nights the Sunset Concert Series features a variety of musical genres. Internationally known Christian group MercyMe will kick off the series Thurs., followed by Martina McBride on Fri. On Sat., the series finale will be Train. Enjoy great food, games, Fun Fest Parade, Fishing Tournament, Car Show and much more. For more information, visit www.visitkingsport.com/funfest/.

July 11-12: Ripley*Lauderdale County Tomato Festival*

Kicks off on Thurs. night on the newly renovated downtown square with a concert by "Dr. Zarr & The Funk Monsters". Opening ceremonies at 10 am on the main stage at Ripley City Park. Tomato Tasting, Saturday Salad, Methodist Market, Pistol Shoot, the 5-K run, art exhibit, tomato contest, car & bike show, Poker Run, sidewalk sales, tent sale, carnival rides, food, crafts, and much more. Main stage entertainment by South Wind Band on Fri. night. Gospel Jubilee Sat., and headliner band Sat. night. Bring swimwear and cool off at the Ripley Pool and Water Slide. See the 1st Annual Festival Softball Tournament and Tennis Tournament in the park.

July 19: Covington*Art on the Square*

An all day event at the historic downtown square featuring sidewalk chalk art, vendors, homemade artwork, kids activities and live music. Visit the unique shops downtown. Admission and parking free with handicapped parking available.

July 19: Mountain City*The Sunflower Festival*

Held downtown on Main and Church Streets from 9 am-5 pm. Live music, festivities, quilt show, contests, family and children's activities. At least 75 vendors selling everything from rare antiques and collectibles, to handmade and popular jewelry, to Native American art, to African and metal yard art. For more information, call 423-727-1950 or visit www.johnsoncountyttn.org.

July 26: Monteagle*55th Annual Mountain Market**Arts & Crafts Show*

Located behind City Hall, 16 Dixie Lee Ave. from 9 am -5 pm Sat. and 10 am-4 pm Sun. One hundred artisans and crafters displaying handmade creations including: fine art, stain glass, pottery, both fine and primitive furniture, bird houses, paintings in a variety of media, quilts, woodcrafts, toys, jewelry, metal art, hand sewn and embroidered items and much more. Several demonstrators on hand including: soap making, blacksmithing, charcoal and graphite painting, woodcrafts and chain saw carving. Enjoy live entertainment both days by local and area musicians. Train and pony rides and arts & crafts for the kids. A juried art show with cash prizes. A variety of delicious food from beans & BBQ to German Schnitzel & Baklava. For more information, including vendor info, lodging and schedule of events, visit www.monteaglechamber.com, email at mmtnchamber@blomand.net or call the Monteagle Mountain Chamber, 931-924-5353.

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States cut carbon emissions under new EPA regulations

EPA from Page 1

and Washington, D.C., have no emissions goal because neither has a fossil-fuel-powered plant.

Susan Tierney, an expert on energy policy at the Analysis Group, said that she believed the EPA's new requirements were and "respectful of existing technology" in each state, and that the methodology to determine how much each state must reduce emissions does not unfairly target states that rely on coal for

their current power. "The EPA is not asking a state to go farther than its resources will allow it to go," Tierney added.

States will have the opportunity to question the targets set by the EPA over the next 120 days and try to amend them before the agency finalizes the rules are finalized a year from now. The rules will likely face legal challenges from states and private companies.

TML presents the 2014 Municipal Achievement Awards

Knoxville: Excellence in Green Leadership

Creating a green city takes time, cooperation and resources and Knoxville has invested all three in its quest for a healthier, sustainable and more cost effective environment for the community. The city's initiative, backed by quality staffing and innovative programs, is not only producing measurable results in air quality, but is setting the bar for green energy programs across the state. In honor of the city's efforts to provide a cleaner environment for its citizens, the Tennessee Municipal League recognizes Knoxville with an award for Excellence in Green Leadership.

Since 2007, Knoxville's Energy and Sustainability Initiative, supported by countless municipal staff and community partners, has helped make the city a greener, more sustainable community, one where the city's economy and environment thrive both today and in the future. Championed by Mayor Madeline Rogero, the goals of the initiative, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated within both city and community operations by 20 percent by the year 2020 (relative to 2005 levels), is supported by two full-time staff members at the city's Office of Sustainability. A unique position was also created, Alternative Transportation Engineer, to help advance transportation infrastructure for bicyclists, pedestrians, and transit users.

The project's recent inventory, based on 2012 data, shows significant progress where city operations greenhouse gas emissions dropped 12.99 percent, hitting a projected milestone for 2012. Emissions, on the community level, also fell approximately 7.75 percent, relative to 2005 levels.

In 2013, the city won an IBM Smarter Cities Challenge technical assistance grant, which enabled the city to mobilize an effort to improve energy efficiency services for the community's lower income residents.

Partnering with the University of Tennessee, Knoxville's focus on reducing vehicle emissions brought about the community's first public car-sharing program, ZipCar. The city also continues to expand its recycling services and facilities and has launched recycling at city parks, while creating a new educational website on e-waste (knoxcycles.org).

The city is currently updating its 2014 Energy & Sustainability Work Plan and Emissions Inventory online, and is working with the Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council (TREEDC), of which Mayor Rogero is a member, in its educational outreach activities across the state.

In 2013, TVA awarded Knoxville a platinum rating in the TVA Valley Sustainable Communities program. This award – the first platinum award presented in the state – recognizes the many sustainability programs in the city and highlights local commitment to integrating economic development principles into sustainability efforts.

"The city of Knoxville has become a national role model in pursuing green initiatives," said Warren Nevad, University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service consultant and TREEDC executive director. "They are, without a doubt, deserving of the TML Green Leadership Award."



Since 2007, Knoxville's Energy and Sustainability Initiative, supported by countless municipal staff and community partners, has helped make the city a greener, more sustainable community. The goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated within both city and community operations by 20 percent by the year 2020 (relative to 2005 levels). As part of the initiative, the city continues to expand its recycling services and facilities and has launched recycling at city parks, while creating a new educational website on e-waste.

Jackson: Excellence in Community Wellness



Paths throughout the nearby residential site provide opportunities for physical activity along the way, and connects the Jackson Walk health-themed development with downtown. The development is anchored by an 82,000-square-foot/7,600 square mile, medical care-based fitness/wellness center called LIFT.

In the world of health and longevity, there are many success stories, but none quite as extensive as the city of Jackson's, which after taking its first collective step with a community walking program, determined to change the shape of the community. The city's drive to decrease healthcare costs and deliver wellness opportunities to citizens not only culminated with a nationally recognized health initiative, but a multi-million, health-themed, downtown community, anchored by a \$50 million, state-of-the-art wellness center. The development not only establishes Jackson as the healthiest city in Tennessee, but has injected new hope and economic vibrancy into the city's downtown area.

For Jackson's efforts in building wellness into the very fabric of the city, the Tennessee Municipal League is proud to present Jackson with an Excellence in Community Wellness award.

It's a fitness dream. The Healthy Community master developer selected an 82,000-square-foot/7,600 square mile, medical care-based fitness/wellness center as the main attraction and anchor for a commercial/residential, health-themed community called Jackson Walk. The center was christened LIFT (Living in a Fit Tennessee) and what it represents is years of tireless dedication by the city toward the health and well being of Jackson's citizens.

In 2010, Tennessee had the second highest obesity rate in the nation. Children were suffering from early onset diseases such as Type 2 diabetes, the earmark of childhood obesity. News that potentially high employee health care costs had actually discouraged a company from moving to Jackson. It was a wakeup call for the city.

In 2007, the city started the Jumpstart Jackson program, with the intent to improve the health of local citizens, while also drawing healthy economic development opportunities to the community.

Jackson Walk and LIFT is the culmination of this initiative, a hub offering healthy activities and numerous community events, including monthly five-kilometer runs, obstacle course runs, and high-speed bicycle races that attract several thousand people.

Opening in January 2013, the LIFT facility alone has attracted more 3,000 members and exceeded membership and financial projections in its first year. Operated by West Tennessee Healthcare, it's the area's only medical fitness center, also housing a preventative care wellness center, a primary care clinic, and a café that serves sugar-free meals for diabetics and calorie-conscious diners.

The fitness center, includes a gym with a basketball court, indoor pools, cardiovascular and strength-training equipment, and an indoor walking track. The wellness center offers physical and occupational therapy; cardio and orthopedic rehab; and programs focused on women's health. The center holds numerous outreach events at schools and seniors' centers, and has an extensive disease-management program that offers free educational programs on diabetes and congestive heart failure.

Located near three of the city's largest employers, the center's corporate-wellness program partners with Jackson businesses to offer preventative care resources and guidance to employees.

Visitors can walk or drive to the gym, visit the drycleaner, grab a quick lunch, or even go to the West Tennessee farmers' market, without ever having to drive to each destination.

New single-family homes, a city-owned amphitheater, and a dog park create a warm neighborhood environment around the center. The infill redevelopment features retail space and apartments as well.

In the meanwhile, the city's Jumpstart Jackson initiative, which encourages citizens to eat right, get out and get active, is credited with reducing employee healthcare costs. The community-wide health and wellness initiative prompted the U.S. Conference of Mayors to select the city in 2013 as one of the most livable small cities in America.

"Jackson Walk certainly deserves recognition," said David Angerer, UT MTAS Municipal Management consultant. "The project has attracted national attention and could not have been possible without the city's enthusiastic support. The city has worked very hard on this project and it is paying benefits."

Morristown : Excellence in Governance



Greater operational efficiency has been fostered since the transfer of ownership of the city of Morristown's sewer system to the Morristown Utility Board. As the board administers the city's water system, the switch, including transferring all the employees, was accomplished with little or no disruption of service to citizens.

The key to a successful city lies in good management and a drive to keep reaching for the best. It's the hallmark of the way Morristown conducts business. The city's council and staff interact as a team devising the most innovative and economical approaches to everyday services through partnerships, education initiatives and creative programs, all designed to keep Morristown on the move. In honor of the city's strong emphasis on cooperation, quality services and creativity in governance, TML is proud to present Morristown with an Excellence in Governance award.

Those who undertake the effort to improve city services, while all the while, having to budget for and maintain a long list of other service-related demands, are a rare and special group. They tend to have a unique ability to look forward, to articulate long-range goals, build support for such efforts, and see the projects through from beginning to end. Morristown is a city like that. Known as one of the best governed and best managed communities in East Tennessee, cooperation and innovation is the name of the game in Morristown, where the city council and staff are a perfect blend of policy and administration. These two governing components devise an array of top-notch traditional services, while encouraging and supporting a variety of creative approaches to service delivery.

Good government begins with good communication and Morristown has reached out to the community by revamping the city's website to make it more user-friendly. The addition of Facebook and Twitter helps keeps the public well informed.

The city's cooperative spirit carries over to its outstanding partnerships with other community entities. Forging a partnership between the city, Hamblen County 911 and Morristown Utility Board has not only resulted in each agency gaining access to a GIS mapping program, but each has saved money in the process by sharing operating costs.

Greater operational efficiency has also been fostered, since the transfer of ownership of the city's sewer system to the Morristown Utility Board. As the board administers the city's water system, the switch, including transferring all the employees, was accomplished with little or no disruption of service to citizens.

Continuing education is vital to progressive cities. Morristown partnered with the town of Greeneville recently to send supervisory personnel through the MTAS Municipal Management Academy. Both communities have now completed Levels I and II of the academy and have budgeted to finish Level III in FY 2015. In addition, Morristown joined the MTAS Benchmarking Program, where data from the program helps the city measure its municipal services. The program recently generated data to evaluate the city's fire department.

Having received accreditation through the Tennessee Law Enforcement Accreditation program for the sixth time, the city's police department established a reserve officer program where a group of 10 appointed officers enhance police activities during special events. The project has created significant savings from reduced overtime costs.

In the Planning Department, a new "shepherding" program is taking the guess work out of the review process for potential developers. With a new "developer friendly" focus, the process provides guidance to developers about city codes compliance.

New programs are being generated throughout the extended community as well. Cleanup's a breeze since the city kicked off its new litter reduction program, the first of its kind to utilize a crew to assist neighborhoods with community cleanup efforts.

Reaching out to Morristown's youngest and most vulnerable citizens, for the past two years, the city has administered a Summer Feeding Program, which has resulted in more than 30,000 meals being fed to local children each summer.

The city's staff are reaping the benefits of an employee clinic, operated in partnership with Hamblen County. The clinic is free of charge to employees and dependents, and has generated significant savings for the city.

"As with all well-governed cities, these projects did not have to happen. Services were fine as they were," said Pat Hardy, MTAS municipal management consultant. "But constantly looking to improve is what the Morristown city council and staff is all about. Projects like these cannot be accomplished without a high-quality governance team of both elected officials and appointed staffs, who are able to work together to conceive of, design, and implement exciting and new approaches to otherwise standard service delivery. The city of Morristown is well deserving of the TML Excellence in Governance Award."

TML Achievement Awards presented Tuesday, June 24, 8 to 10 a.m. at the Annual Awards Breakfast, Chattanooga Convention Center, Ballroom E-F

TML presents the 2014 Municipal Achievement Awards

Athens: Excellence in Community Service

Known for its pioneering spirit and willing volunteerism, a large number of volunteers turn out each year at Athens' Day of Service event. This year, was no different, as corporate executives to Eagle Scouts showed up to contribute time and energy to the Blazing Trails project. Volunteers cleared the way for two unique trail projects that will ultimately open the door to greater health and recreational opportunities for the community. The project also saved Athens countless manpower hours and thousands of dollars. In recognition of the city's tremendous work ethic and ingenuity in creating this unique volunteer opportunity that will bring years of pleasure and physical fitness to the community, the Tennessee Municipal League recognizes Athens with an Excellence in Community Service Award.

On Athens Day of Service, volunteers typically handle projects not solved by local governments, such as graffiti removal, creek cleaning, tree planting and community garden building. But this year, the focus was on two very special trails, built on land that could not be developed. Located on Redfern Road in an industrial park, the Eagle Trail property was acquired as part of an economic development investment of property marketed as having rail access. One section of property was identified as being too steep for industrial development but perfect for trail development. Today, a trail head exists in the gravel parking lot and in the future, incoming industry where employees have access to healthy walking areas. Eagle Trail runs more than three miles and includes picnic tables, benches, and great views from the peaks of the city.

In 2009, Athens and McMinn County were notified that CSX was abandoning the rail line between Athens and Englewood that split McMinn County. For almost a 100 years, trains ran on this line carrying people to and from the region. The rail will be alive once more, as Athens and McMinn County have acquired more than four miles of rail and trail head property and are developing this as a greenway for walking, biking and horseback riding.

Volunteers removed tires, crossties, brush and garbage by the truckload to make the trail usable. Phase One of the trail involves the construction of a "health triangle." This is a half mile walking triangle with signs relative to diabetes education and simple items such as how many laps equals one cupcake. Promoting community health through education and exercise is essential to a healthy quality of life which is vital to a strong economic base. The rails to trails project will be a landmark project not only for Athens and McMinn County, but also will be a tourist attraction for Tennessee.

"Many citizens across our nation have come to believe that it is the sole responsibility of government to provide the means for their every need and project. In Athens that is not true, as the volunteer spirit is alive and well," said Margaret Norris, Municipal Technical Advisory Service management consultant. "The city deserves this TML award. The staff and council have a respectful relationship, they work well together, and move forward accomplishing great things."

Clinton: Excellence in Police Services

A culture of planning, caring and excellence; it's what takes a municipal Police Department from ordinary to outstanding. And the Clinton Police Department is all that. A model of efficiency and outreach, officers, several with advanced specialty degrees, strive to provide the utmost in community service and training to area schools and other agencies, while being



Clinton Police officers provide information to citizens at the city's recent Emergency Management Fair. The department provides training to schools and other police agencies throughout the region.

good stewards of the community resources. An extraordinary focus on communication among the department's command staff is reflected in the city's reduction in crime rate. For Clinton's efforts to provide a model police department to the community, TML awards the city with an Excellence in Police Services Award.

It was a banner year for the Clinton Police, as Anderson County Attorney David Clark announced that the department had reduced crime by 20 percent this year. Two years ago, the department's command staff formed the unique habit of meeting each morning to exchange information from the previous 24 hours and plan their strategies for the next 24 hours. While meeting that often is demanding, the results speak for itself.

"The Clinton Police Department has consistently performed over the last decade and this last year was no exception," said Rex Barton, Mu-

nicipal Technical Advisory Service police consultant.

Taking a leadership role throughout the region, the department's K-9 division currently provides training to eight other law enforcement agencies. Three of the department's five investigators alone hold National Forensic Academy certifications. They extend this training to area schools, where officers developed the Core Safety Program, teaching 5th and 6th graders the basics of gun safety, bike safety, social media and drug/alcohol prevention. The new program replaces the older DARE program. Child safety continues to be a priority in the city of Clinton. The department started the School Resource Officers program in 2013, placing one officer in each of the three K-6 elementary schools. The city and the schools share the cost of the program.

Saving taxpayers thousands of dollars over the past 15 years, the

department purchases used vehicles from the Missouri State Police. The vehicles have limited miles and are well maintained. The savings made way for a new command vehicle and a crime scene truck.

Reaching out to the extended community, the department suggested a venue change to the downtown area for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life event. "The department 'made it happen,'" said Relay for Life Coordinator Joyce Klee. "They provided the tactical assistance needed to ensure the safety of the teams and participants."

"From patrol officer to the Chief, I don't know of a police department with the quality, commitment, results and culture of excellence of the Clinton Police Department," Clark said. "They have set a standard for the entire state."

Barton agrees, "They are perfect candidates for the TML Excellence in Police Services Award."

Mt. Juliet: Excellence in Fire Services

Mt. Juliet re-established a municipal fire department from scratch and in a short time period, as part of the city's mission to provide the best and most economical fire protection for its citizens. The city's new fire station, trucks and equipment, along with an outstanding fire department staff, is a reflection of the community's hard work and cooperation in bringing this project to life. The new fire station on Belinda Parkway, is staffed to serve this ever expanding community in a progressive manner, and are already becoming trusted neighbors and safety partners with the community.

For Mt. Juliet's initiative in researching all the possibilities in providing safe, efficient and affordable fire services to its residents, the Tennessee Municipal League is proud to present the city with an Excellence in Fire Services Award.

Many years ago, Mt. Juliet had its own fire department, but in 1986, the city made the decision to allow the Wilson County Emergency Management Agency to provide fire protection for the city. The relationship served the community for over

a quarter-century. But as Mt. Juliet grew, residents requested improvements in fire services, and the city explored the pros and cons of re-establishing a city fire department.

In 2012, at the request of Mt. Juliet's City Manager, Kenny Martin, the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) conducted a review of fire service options, including: continuing to contract for fire services with Wilson County EMA, contracting with a private company, and starting a municipal fire department.

In September 2012, the city commissioners voted to start a municipal fire department, with the goal of transitioning into a fully functional fire department in 2½ years. Once the decision was made, things moved quickly. The city began construction on a 7,000 square foot fire station that was completed and dedicated in June 2013. In a very short period of time, the city went from having contract fire services to having a professional and progressive full-service combination fire department.

Searching for a progressive fire chief to lead the new department,

Erron Kinney was selected from a field of 45 applicants. A former tight-end for the Tennessee Titans, Chief Kinney immediately began the process of purchasing apparatus and equipment, hiring and training new firefighters, writing standard operating procedures, equipping and furnishing the new fire station, finalizing the first operating budget, and many other critical tasks. The Mt. Juliet Fire Department began providing service to the community September 30, 2013.

"Residents challenge government officials and leaders to deliver or improve services at the lowest cost possible," said Dennis Wolf, MTAS Fire Management Consultant. "The city leaders and residents of Mt. Juliet desired improved fire services, and the city delivered. This would not have been possible without the full support of the city commission, city staff, and residents, and the dedication and hard work of the members of the fire department. Mt. Juliet has improved significantly the level of fire protection in the community, and they truly deserve recognition for their efforts."



Volunteers Brett Hansen (Eagle Scout) and Troy Caison are blazing trails during Athens' Annual Day of Service. The trail project saved Athens countless manpower hours and thousands of dollars.

Bulls Gap: Small Town Progress



Bulls Gap Town Square was once the site of the old central railroad station. Today, the site serves as a popular stopping point, where passengers riding the old railroad steam engine from Bristol, disembark, eat box lunches, listen to Bluegrass and tour the town's two museums, one dedicated to the city's native son, Hee Haw comedian Archie Campbell.

In Bulls Gap, town leaders are strategically building economic vitality for the community upon the town's rich railroad heritage; they have successfully preserved the past—while ensuring a modern and viable future through effective planning and services.

In honor of the city's ingenuity in building upon its resources, the Tennessee Municipal League is proud to recognize Bulls Gap with a Small Town Progress Award.

Twice yearly, the old railroad steam engine makes its way to Bulls Gap from Bristol Tennessee, where passengers disembark from vintage railroad cars to enjoy a box lunch and savor the rich history along the town square. Once the site of the old central railroad station, live bluegrass music fills the air, as visitors are free to explore the town's two museums, all part of this typically sold out fare.

Late Hee Haw TV show comedian and Bulls Gap native son, Archie Campbell's museum is located inside the town's historic town hall, an impeccably preserved museum piece in itself. Every Labor Day weekend, the citizens of Bulls Gap celebrate Campbell's life with a street festival in downtown Olde Bulls Gap, complete with vendors and live music. An old caboose parked beside town hall serves as a reminder of the town's continuing relationship with the railroad.

Other signs of progress include staggering four-year terms to increase continuity and promote

financial savings for the community. This strong board of Mayor and Aldermen also strive to work cooperatively with the town's Planning Commission, targeting new areas for growth and implementing quality programs—from ensuring citizens receive sanitary sewer services—to increasing employee productivity, and saving money through sensible town purchases.

Striving to maintain the utmost in financial professionalism, Mayor Mike Solomon stepped up to the plate to become the town's Certified Municipal Finance Officer, ensuring the community met state requirements.

Town leaders continue to remain active with the Tennessee Rail Coalition, as it works to promote passenger rail service throughout Tennessee. They were also instrumental in establishing a region-wide annual Labor Day Celebration that is enjoyed by the entire community.

"Each of these accomplishments demonstrates what quality leadership and the commitment of a strong Board of Mayor and Aldermen can accomplish," said Pat Hardy, Municipal Technical Advisory Service management consultant.

"Working to move forward, while also preserving a rich historic past, can be difficult, as competing views pull on decision-makers," said Hardy. "But Bulls Gap has done a fantastic job of balancing these challenges and are deserving of the award for Small Town Progress."



The Wilson County Emergency Management Agency provided fire protection to Mt. Juliet since 1986. But the city decided to re-establish its own municipal fire department, as part of Mt. Juliet's mission to provide the best and most economical fire protection to its citizens. The community accomplished this feat in a short time frame, building a new fire station on Belinda Parkway, adding new fire trucks and equipment and hiring a quality staff along with Fire Chief Erron Kinney.

TML presents the 2014 Municipal Achievement Awards

Algood: Small City Progress

In Algood, city leaders aren't afraid to tackle the larger challenges to provide the best in services for the community. Algood citizens enjoy the same conveniences as much larger communities, with the construction of the city's new municipal building, with all city departments under one roof for one-stop ease. Upgrades to vehicles and services in the Public Works and Utilities departments have resulted in greater efficiency as well throughout the community in sanitation, water/sewer and brush pickup. New emphasis on public safety along with expanding growth is changing the face of the city. The Tennessee Municipal League is proud to recognize Algood's continuing achievements with a Small City Progress Award.

2013 was a year of change in Algood. Revising its charter, the city also took the community to the next level of service with the completion of a new city hall. The building houses the utility office, police department, council chambers, and court room all under one roof and should take the community into the next century.

The building has expanded the accessibility to the public with a drive thru window and drive up night drop for payments. Much needed office and meeting space as well as dedicated space for a council chambers and court room, alleviates the need for meetings to be held at the community center. The best part is the building is completely paid for with no incurred debt for the project.

The Sanitation department went through a major upgrade in service recently, with the help of Stringfellow, Inc., providing a new automated residential service truck and 96 gallon Toter carts to the community. The new automated service has improved the look and overall efficiency of residential garbage service, with the new truck running garbage routes in two days instead

of the usual three. The improvement has placed extra manpower back on the city's streets, as only one driver is needed, rather than the former two additional employees.

The city's Water and Sewer departments have taken a step into the future as well, with new equipment and the purchase of a new F450 crane truck to lift pumps out of the stations. The truck provides more safety to employees and efficiency of operation. It also has a built in air compressor and power inverter, reducing the need for extra equipment on job sites.

As the city continues to purchase newer equipment and vehicles, greater economic success is being achieved through the repurposing of the city's retired vehicles. For example, the city's new Tarco leaf machine, equipped with power hose lift to keep the leaves and debris off the street, will be pulled by a retired residential garbage truck that became surplus after the new automated service came into play. The garbage truck has been retrofitted in-house to be used as a leaf and chip truck, freeing up a dump truck for other use. The retro fit of this truck was done at minimal expense to the city bringing new life to the older truck.

The city is also repurposing a 1994 Ford F800 truck from a boom truck to a new brush truck. The truck was in the city service through the surplus equipment program and was too big for the city's needs. Employees removed the bed and sent the truck to Stringfellow of Nashville for an upgrade to a new knuckle boom loader for brush and large trash items pick up service. The \$150,000 outfit came in at only \$57,000 cost to the city, through the use of this truck frame. This improvement of service has removed the need for a backhoe and a dump truck to go around town picking up brush. The operation is now much safer and more efficient

than the city has seen in the past.

The hiring and training of a new codes officer is improving the safety as well as the appearance of the community. Algood's plan to improve neighborhoods has brought the new codes officer to 135 different properties, all with violations that are being resolved and only 21 needing further attention. The yearly average prior to this change was only 15 being addressed per year and corrected.

Also on the safety front, citizens are feeling more secure, in the event of a medical emergency, now that the city has partnered with the Putnam County EMS. A new 12-hour ambulance service is operating out of the current fire hall.

Algood's Police department was the recipient of a GHSO grant for \$5000, which allows for a much needed upgrade in computers for the city's officers.

"The city has received numerous awards and recognition from state-wide organizations, so it is fitting that TML awards Algood with the Small City Progress Award," said Warren Nevad, MTAS municipal management consultant. "The community has the city's leadership, administration, mayor and board of aldermen and staff to thank for a great job."



As Algood purchases new vehicles and equipment, they are repurposing retired vehicles at a huge savings to the city. The city recently repurposed a 1994 Ford F800 truck from a boom truck to a new brush truck. The truck was in the city service through the surplus equipment program and was too big for the city's needs. Employees removed the bed and sent the truck to Stringfellow of Nashville for an upgrade to a new knuckle boom loader for brush and large trash items pick up service. The \$150,000 outfit came in at only \$57,000 cost to the community. This improvement of service has removed the need for a backhoe and a dump truck to go around town.

McKenzie: Excellence in Community Planning

If imagination is good for the soul, then dreams are coming true in McKenzie where city officials, business owners, citizens and other local entities are bustling with plans to help revitalize the city's downtown and add business potential. In the process, the community is employing new development strategies, hosting more community events and funding historic restoration projects, as part of the new vision for the city. In recognition of McKenzie's efforts to boost the community's quality of life and create a more economically sound future for its citizens, the Tennessee Municipal League is proud to present the city with an Excellence in Community Planning Award.

In 2010, when the town kicked off its first "Re-Imagine McKenzie" meeting, town leaders, business owners and residents sat down together to define the direction the city should take to ensure future success. Ideas included drawing more visitors and business prospects to the city, revitalizing the downtown area

and increasing the city's economic potential. This meeting resulted in a Quality Master Plan and a flurry of projects that are now drawing visitors to the community.

Having achieved Certified Local Government status, the city passed a historic zoning ordinance to preserve its downtown business district, setting up a conservation district as well, to preserve surrounding neighborhoods.

The city also partnered with Bethel University, sponsoring a "Make a Difference Day," where more than 300 volunteers worked to paint, clean up, paint murals and landscape the city's downtown area. McKenzie's business community applied for and received a Tennessee Downtowns development grant, which was used to improve and beautify downtown building facades. The grant awardees participated in a series of city-sponsored small business seminars aimed at helping them grow their businesses.

The renewed McKenzie Business Association also meets on a



McKenzie is hosting more community events and festivals, as part of a strategic plan to draw more tourists to the city. More than 300 volunteers also painted, cleaned up, painted murals and landscaped downtown.

monthly basis to discuss topics relevant to business owners and to develop strategies to help local businesses succeed.

"The city has significantly increased business licenses by creating an environment where businesses want to open downtown," said Dana Deem, Municipal Technical Advisory Service management consultant. "This effort has helped to fill empty buildings and increase pedestrian traffic downtown."

The new McKenzie Economic Development Task Force utilizes the Bethel students as interns and volunteers who could call a list of companies identified to do well in expanding or relocating to the city. The effort was achieved through a partnership between the city, Bethel University and the Tennessee College of Applied Technology. An Industrial Leadership Breakfast also meets quarterly, in order to gather leaders in industry, such as: the city's Industrial Development Board, City Council, College of Applied Technology, Bethel University and

McKenzie Special School District. The group hears a speaker and discusses strategies to further the local workforce and area's industrial development.

The town purchased the historic train depot, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, renovating the structure to create quality office space for the Industrial Development Board. The city created a dual website shared with the IDB, for easier access to information concerning the city. The remaining portion of the building has been transformed into an interesting train museum.

Renovations to the historic Park Theatre are also taking shape, restoring the beloved landmark to its 1940s grandeur. The town plans to use the facility for movies, community performances, job training and meeting space.

For Civil War buffs, the Tennessee Historic Commission has placed two Civil War Trails markers to recognize significant Civil War events which took place in McKenzie.

A boost in events and festivals

is not only injecting more fun into the community, but dollars. The city revived its popular July 4th Freedom Festival, which attracts approximately 5,000 people each year, and added a Southern Fried Food and Sweet Tea Festival, along with numerous other cultural events, such as "Nights on Broadway." The event brings a different musical group to the downtown square every Saturday night during the months of May and June.

The city's expanded Parks and Recreation program provides quality of life experiences to people of all ages, with specialty classes from cake decorating to pottery along with the Carroll County Walks program. Area children can't wait to get their chill on at the highly anticipated downtown splash pad, in the works. The water venue will join an existing skateboard park and 18-hole golf course.

"McKenzie has made significant progress in their master plan and deserve the TML Community Planning Award," Deem said.

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Crime reduction, increasing youth literacy, ending homelessness among Berke's top priorities as mayor of Chattanooga

BY LINDA BRYANT

Chattanooga Mayor Andy Berke is often referred to as a rising political star. The 46-year-old attorney is likely one of only a handful of Democrats in the state who can lay claim to such a title. Before leaving the Tennessee State Legislature to run for mayor, Berke represented Hamilton and Marion counties in the 10th District as state senator from 2007 to 2012.

During Berke's five-year legislative tenure, he served as the vice-chairman of the Senate Democratic Caucus and was a member of the Senate Education and Transportation committees. He worked on key legislation, including Tennessee Works, First to the Top and Complete College Tennessee. He also sponsored a number of bills to help spur entrepreneurship, including the Tennessee Small Business Job Tax Credit, which offers tax credits for small businesses that expand and hire new employees and the Tennessee New Entrepreneur Tax Credit, which helps Tennesseans start up small businesses for the first time.

Berke says he learned the basics of "how to move a community forward" in the legislative chambers of the State Capitol. Chattanooga voters apparently approved of the experience and knowledge Berke gained at the state level. He won his mayoral seat in a landslide in early 2013, receiving a whopping 72 percent of the vote.

Chattanooga roots run deep in Berke's extended family. His grandfather, Harry, founded a local personal injury and family law practice 80 years ago in 1934. His father Marvin and uncle Ronald work at the firm, and it's also where Berke landed in the 1990s after getting his undergraduate degree from Stanford University and his law degree from the University of Chicago.

Following law school, Berke worked as a law clerk for Judge Deanell Tacha of the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Judicial Circuit in Denver, CO. During this time, he also taught at Kansas University Law School as an adjunct professor. When he saw many of his former classmates and colleagues migrating to big cities to take jobs with large corporations or law firms, Berke started to realize that he preferred Chattanooga for many reasons, not the least of which was the friendly, person-to-person attributes of the family law practice.

Chattanooga also stood out as a fine place to call home because Berke recognized that it would be a great place to raise a family. He is married to Monique Prado Berke, a prominent business leader and classmate from Stanford, and is father to Hannah, an eighth grader, and Orly, a fifth grader.

Berke has had a full-plate during his first year in office. He restructured the city government and launched numerous initiatives -- from crime reduction to increasing youth literacy to ending homelessness, particularly among veterans.

He's also keenly focused on making sure Chattanooga is known as one of the most innovative and technologically advanced mid-sized cities in the country. Sounds lofty, but it's probably not a stretch to think of the city of 172,000 in these terms.

Chattanooga is the first city in the Western Hemisphere to offer one-gigabit-per-second fiber Internet service to all residents and businesses. At 200 times the speed of the national average -- "the Gig" as Chattanoogaans call it -- is the most advanced smart grid system in the nation. Berke and other city leaders see it as a foundation to continuing innovation in job creation, education and public use of technology.

"In our past, Chattanooga has experienced the dangers of letting time pass us by, of relying on industries that pollute our air and river," Berke said in his State of the City address in April. "Today we plant seeds in new fields. By growing companies that harness the power of Chattanooga's gigabyte infrastructure and utilize the vast amount of data collected over our smart grid, we are staking out our place in an innovation economy."

Berke loves his family life, sports and watching movies. He's also known for being an avid fan of American rocker Bruce Springsteen. He hosts an annual celebration and fundraiser "Bruce, BBQ and Berke" to stay in touch with constituents and feed his passion for the Glory Days.

TT&C: You were born and raised in Chattanooga and went on to college at prestigious schools such as Stanford University and the University of Chicago Law School. You decided to settle in Chattanooga in the 1990s, even though it seems like you could have lived just about anywhere. Why?

AB: I love Chattanooga. Certainly, when I was growing up here, it wasn't the city it is today. I went off to college; I didn't really realize I'd be back someday. When I looked at the possibilities, it was clear that Chattanooga was the right place for me. It was, and still is, a place where a lot is happening. People care about each other, and there's a real sense of community. It's big enough to be a real city but not so big that people get lost in it.

TT&C: You served in the State Senate before you were elected mayor in 2013. Can you share some lessons you learned in the



Chattanooga Mayor Andy Berke



With his family by his side, Andy Berke announces his decision to run for Chattanooga mayor. Pictured are his wife Monique, and daughters Orly and Hannah.



During his five-year tenure in the Tennessee General Assembly, Berke served on the Senate Education and Transportation committees. He worked on key legislation, including Tennessee Works, First to the Top and Complete College Tennessee.

General Assembly? How did it prepare you for your current job?

AB: I had never served as an elected official before I got elected to the legislature. I learned a lot just from the act of serving and from watching Gov. Phil Bredesen. I'm talking about basics such as writing a budget, getting bills passed and establishing priorities. All those experiences formed my beliefs about how we can best move a community forward. In addition, I learned a lot about how to deal with legislative bodies. I certainly remember my days in the legislature, when I talk to and deal with city council here in Chattanooga. In the legislature, I learned how to deal with different voices and opinions. I learned the importance of constituent service and making sure the priorities of different areas and neighborhoods are recognized.

TT&C: You have been mayor since April 15, 2013. You recently hit the one-year mark and also recently gave your first State of the City address. You came into office with a goal of restructuring city government. Can you share some of the changes you've made?

AB: When I first came into office, we immediately eliminated four departments and put the core functions into three new ones, saving taxpayer dollars in the process. Part of what we did was to match the city government structure to community priorities. We established a new Department of Transportation because of the importance of transportation to business development and neighborhood streets. We put together a new Youth and Family Development Department because the city has traditionally

been absent from the education discussion. I wanted to change that, and I believe strongly that we need to help all young people succeed in our city. We also started a new department of Economic and Community Development. Traditionally, the city had relied on the Chamber of Commerce for our recruitment and retention efforts. I thought the city needed to have a seat at that table. I've prioritized four things here in Chattanooga -- safer streets, smarter students, stronger neighborhoods and a growing economy and sounder government. We're making progress on all fronts.

TT&C: What were you most surprised about during your first year? Did you have any unexpected challenges, disappointments or great victories?

AB: We took on the issue of our pension fund, which was a very difficult process. When I took office, the fund was 52 percent funded. I couldn't look at our police officers and firefighters in the eye and tell them that the benefits would be there for them when they retired. Through a lengthy and difficult process, we ended up making the future of the fund secure, while saving the city of Chattanooga \$227 million in the process. Securing the pension fund is big victory for sounder government because it saved taxpayers a great deal of money. It also has great implications when it comes to safer streets because we need to have a solid pension fund to recruit our police officers and firefighters.

TT&C: How did you do it?

AB: We put together a task force of business and public service leaders. We worked with

our firefighters and police officers to ensure they understood the scope of the problem. We discussed the various potential solutions, so that we could identify what was most important to keep as we restructured benefits. We put forward a solution that the employees bought into. It was a pretty big achievement.

TT&C: When you were in the Tennessee General Assembly, education issues were a priority for you. You won several awards for your service, including the Tennessee PTA's 2012 Legislator of the Year. As mayor, how are you bringing forward your educational priorities?

AB: Yes, education is a very important issue to me. I have two young daughters, so I understand how critical education is to their future. We all have a role to play in making sure our kids can succeed. One example is the new Literacy Initiative we put forward. One year later, we have more than 2,000 kids enrolled in the initiative. In six months time we've seen 437 kids make a year's worth of progress. On September 2013, we had 31 students reading on their grade level. Now we have 341. In addition, we're working on character issues. They are very important in determining who's going to be successful in life. For example, we've taken 25 young men and 25 young women to do intensive mentoring, job training and life skills coaching.

TT&C: You have stated growing the local economy and creating jobs in Chattanooga as one of your top priorities. What are you doing to achieve these goals?

AB: We have seen 2,047 jobs created in Chattanooga over the last year. The city has gotten more involved in business development through the Department of Economic and Community Development. In addition, I started a process called Chattanooga Forward. It consists of six task forces, and one of them -- the Gig, Tech and Entrepreneurship Task Force -- is key to technology job growth.

Chattanooga has the fastest, cheapest and most pervasive Internet in the Western Hemisphere. We're committed to keeping our momentum going forward, as we continue to build a world-class high-tech ecosystem right here in Chattanooga. The Technology, Gig and Entrepreneurship is hard at work and has put forth a report that says we need to do the following three things. No. 1 is to capitalize on tech and business development opportunities here in Chattanooga. No. 2 is to establish an Innovation District that brings together young creatives, existing business and university students and faculty in one place to foster the greatest creativity. The third is to cross the "digital divide."

TT&C: Most towns and cities are challenged with aging infrastructure. What are some of your biggest infrastructure challenges?

AB: We're operating under a consent decree for water, which is estimated to cost the city roughly \$250 million over the next 15 years. Through the Department of Transportation we're trying to ensure that we prioritize the most important projects first. We have a finite amount of resources and we have to be sure we're using them in the best possible locations.

We have a number of projects going on, including changing our streets to make sure they are friendly to people whether traveling by car, bus or bicycle. Recently, we passed a Complete Streets policy to ensure that our roads are efficient and friendly to all travelers. Complete Streets follows what some other cities have done in working to make sure policies work to keep streets safe for every type of transportation -- pedestrians, bicyclists, cars, and bus riders. We know that one-third of Americans don't drive, whether by choice because of health issues or because of economics. I believe that transportation is about connecting people to opportunity, business to market and neighborhoods to each other. It's incredibly important and we should make sure our streets fulfill that promise.

TT&C: Public safety is another one of your top priorities, particularly the reduction of violent crime. How is it going?

AB: Our streets have been too violent. It's been the No. 1 issue here in Chattanooga. We've seen progress. We changed the way that we police thanks to the Chattanooga Violence Reduction Initiative. At the end of last year, we saw a 40 percent reduction in our shootings. We have budgeted for more police officers than ever before in our history. We also budgeted to allow a new U.S. Attorney to be focused solely on crimes that occur within the Chattanooga city limits.

TT&C: What is an example of something you are doing to build and strengthen neighborhoods?

AB: Chattanooga has a problem with affordable housing. We have started the Affordable Housing Pilot Program to try to put blighted parcels back into the market. The program provides incentives for developers to turn vacant or empty city-owned lots into quality homes that are also affordable. We'll take pieces of property that currently have zero value to the neighborhood or negative value to the neighborhood, and make them assets to the community again. We're partnering with developers who are willing to invest their personal capital.