

Gov. Lee calls Special Session to address Coronavirus liability

Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee called for the Tennessee General Assembly to convene on Monday, Aug. 10, 2020, for a special session to address COVID-19 liability protections, telehealth services and laws governing the Capitol grounds.

“As COVID-19 continues to present unique challenges, we feel it is in the best interest of the state to convene a special session to address liability protections and telehealth,” said Gov. Lee. “I thank Lt. Gov. McNally and Speaker Sexton for their continued partnership as we work towards an efficient, productive assembly.”

The special session will address extending COVID-19 liability protections in order to provide legal clarity and certainty for health care providers, businesses, schools, non-profits and others.

Lawmakers will address the expansion of telehealth services to Tennesseans and encourage insurers to cover clinically appropriate, medically necessary services provided via telehealth. They will also address laws governing Capitol grounds and surrounding areas that have recently been subject to vandalism, defacement and unlawful overnight camping.

TN Comptroller issues guidelines on \$115 M in Local Government Covid-19 Relief Funds

TML wants to call to your attention a memorandum distributed by Office of the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury relating to the \$115 million in Coronavirus Relief Fund monies made available to cities and counties on a per capita basis.

The federally approved CARES Act included payments to state and local governments through the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) to assist with the financial impact of COVID-19. Through the CRF, Tennessee was allocated more than \$2.6 billion. Of that amount, based on population, Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County and Memphis and Shelby County each received direct allocations of over \$284 million. Tennessee is allocating some of the remaining \$2.36 billion balance of the CRF funding to other local governments, schools, and non-profits. \$115 million of the

state’s allocation is being directed to local governments based on a \$15 per capita basis.

This memorandum is intended to address issues related to the \$115 million allocated to local governments:

1. The Department of Finance and Administration (F&A) has established a website that provides information related to the allocation of CRF funding: <https://tncaresact.tn.gov/>

This website provides information on how much CRF funding your local government will receive, and it includes a page of frequently asked questions such as how to request CRF funding and what are eligible expenses.

2. Local governments should consider these general rules for spending CRF funding:
See FUND on Page 3

Cities play essential role in supporting businesses through COVID pandemic

BY KATE COIL

As the nation continues to experience an economic downturn as a result of the coronavirus, there are steps municipalities can take to ensure both that local businesses survive and that their communities are poised for future economic recovery.

With enhanced federal unemployment payments phased out at the end of July, economic analysts have predicted an increase in bankruptcy filings across the nation and especially in Tennessee. Since March, Tennessee’s rate of personal bankruptcy filings per capita have been third-highest in the nation with 6,725 individuals seeking bankruptcy protection.

Major companies like J.C. Penney, Old Time Pottery, Pier 1 Imports, 24 Hour Fitness, Hertz, and Briggs & Stratton have also already filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy due to losses amid the coronavirus pandemic and many of these companies are closing Tennessee locations.

With major corporations already being impacted, Main Street isn’t far behind.

Jeanette Barker, vice president of strategic development for Nashville Downtown Partnership, said small businesses that rely on foot traffic and that have fewer employees are even more exposed than major retailers because they usually depend on cash savings to survive. She said Nashville is already bracing for the impact COVID-19 will have on small business.

“Something people don’t realize is that, as a whole, downtown is nearly 75% locally-owned,” Barker said “These are our neighbors and our friends. We’ve got 75,000 employees downtown and the vast majority of them are not going to lunch or going to after work happy

hour. So that has a very real impact.”

Bradley Jackson, president and CEO of the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce, said the relative speed the pandemic hit with has made it difficult for a wide variety of businesses to quickly adapt. Businesses with 500 or less employees are expected to be hardest hit by the downturn.

Jackson said that studies have shown that consumer confidence is largely impacting the state’s economy at the moment. As the number of COVID-19 cases in an area rise, less consumers are willing to go out and spend money.

Additionally, the same studies have demonstrated consumers are less likely to patronize local businesses if they find either the business itself or other patrons are not taking health precautions like wearing a mask. Jackson said cities may need to take the lead on promoting health measures, like those outlined in Gov. Bill Lee’s Tennessee Pledge, to ensure that consumers feel safe in their communities.

“We have cities that have said businesses in their community didn’t know about all the health guidelines or how to address them until someone from the city



As small businesses continue to struggle amid the pandemic, cities can help encourage consumer confidence like promoting mask wearing and other health practices.

Hagerty, Bradshaw to face-off in Nov. Senate race

In the August primary, Bill Hagerty secured the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate after a primary battle against Manny Sethi. Hagerty took nearly 51% of the vote (330,893), while Sethi finished with 39.4% (256,732).

Hagerty is the former U.S. Ambassador to Japan and former commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development under the Haslam Administration. He will face Democrat Marquita Bradshaw in the November general election to succeed retiring U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander. Bradshaw, a Memphis Democrat, secured her party nomination in a four-way challenge. She garnered 35.5 % of the votes.

In the Republican primary for the open District 1 U.S. Congressional seat, Kingsport pharmacist Diana Harshbarger won her party’s nomination in a 16-candidate race. Harshbarger collected a total of 18,069 votes representing 19.2%. State Rep. Timothy Hill, R-Blountville, came in second with 16.7% of the votes, followed by state Sen.



Bill Hagerty



Marquita Bradshaw

Rusty Crowe, R-Johnson City, who placed third with 16.1%.

Harshbarger will face Democratic candidate Blair Walsingham, an Air Force veteran, in the Nov. 3 general election.

Other notable primary races include four upset incumbent seats in the state House. In District 6, Republican Tim Hicks beat incumbent Micah Van Huss, taking 57.5 % of the votes to Huss’ 42.5%.

In House District 7, Republican

Rebecca Alexander beat incumbent Matthew Hill, taking 63.1 % of the votes to Hill’s 36.9%.

In the Democratic primary for state House District 15, Sam McKenzie won the seat in a close three-way race. He beat out incumbent Rick Staples with 39.5 % of the votes to Staples 21.4%.

And in state House District 92, Republican Todd Warner beat incumbent Rick Tillis with 47.2% of the votes.

Elections held in 52 municipalities

By KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

In addition to voting in state and federal primaries, voters also went to the polls in 52 cities on Thursday, Aug. 6, to cast their ballot in municipal elections.

Referendums were on the ballot in five municipalities across the state on issues including municipal charter changes in Nolensville and Oak Hill and proposed sales tax increases in Rossville, Somerville, and South Carthage.

Citizens in Nolensville approved a referendum aimed at changing the city’s charter from a mayor-alderman general law charter to a city manager-commission charter. A total of 1,910 citizens cast their ballots for the



measure while 731 voted against.

The change to the city’s charter was first proposed in February 2020 by Alderman Derek Adams. A petition for the charter change received enough signatures – approximately 33% or one-third of the city’s electorate – for the referendum to be approved by the Williamson County Election Commission on May 20.

In addition to selecting three commissioners, voters in Oak Hill voted overwhelming to change the city’s charter change expanding the city commission from three members to five. The move to change the charter received 1,286 votes with only 552 voting against.

Rossville voters passed a proposed sales tax increase from 2.25% to 2.75% with voters casting their ballots 190 in favor and 130 against the increase.

Meanwhile voters in nearby Somerville voted down a similar proposed sales tax increase from 2.25% to 2.75% with 293 voting against the measure and 281 voting for.

In South Carthage, a proposed sales tax increase from 2% to 2.75% was also rejected by voters. Citizens voted 132 against and 98 for the increase.

Other election results across the state include:

ALEXANDRIA

Incumbent Lynne K. Dickerson was the only candidate who qualified to run for the three open alderman seats on the Alexandria Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

There were also two open unexpired terms on the board, but no candidates qualified for election.

See MUNICIPAL on Page 5



Partnering for Success webinars to begin Aug 19.

The Tennessee Municipal League and Public Entity Partners together are excited to announce a new webinar series they are working together to provide educational content to our members.

As you know, due to the Coronavirus, the TML’s Board of Directors and PE Partners Board both determined it was in the best interest of our membership to cancel TML’s Annual Conference and PE Partner’s Symposium. As a result, city officials and staff will miss out on some outstanding programming and professional development opportunities afforded during these events.

TML and Public Entity Partners are partnering together to launch a series of virtual presentations and workshops. This series will fill the vacuum created by the cancellations. All sessions are free to our members and most sessions will qualify for continuing education units for the CMFO program and the required utility



board training.

The “Partnering for Success” webinar series will kickoff **Wednesday, Aug. 19 at 1:00 p.m. (CST)** and will run for eight weeks – with each session planned for the same time on Wednesday afternoons. You can find a schedule of the series with each topic on both our websites, www.TML1.org, or www.pepartners.org Event reminders with links to each online presentation will be sent out in advance of the session.

Both of our organizations regret that we had to cancel our annual events. But we are excited about being able to offer this virtual experience. So be sure to reserve your Wednesday afternoons and tune into our virtual “Partnering for Success,” webinar series.

NEWS
ACROSS
TENNESSEE



BLUFF CITY

A former school building in Bluff City will soon be renovated to house offices for nonprofits, conference rooms, and rental office space. Chris Laisure of Business Information Systems has purchased the former Bluff City Middle School with the intention of renovating the building into a center for local nonprofit agencies named the Impact Community Center. Businesses who need conference space or to rent or lease a space for large meetings will also be able to do so at the property while nonprofits will receive donated office space on the site. Laisure also plans to allow the 4,800-square-foot former gym to be used by several nonprofits aimed at local athletes with a goal of holding sports clinics and camps in the future. Local groups including the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Junior Patriots have also moved into the facility. The school's former band room is also being turned into a local historical museum to open sometime next year. Bluff City Middle School was originally constructed in 1932 with major additions in the 1960s and 1980s. The school closed in December 2019.

BRENTWOOD

The city of Brentwood in partnership with Williamson County Parks and Recreation has opened the new Brentwood Splash Park at the Williamson County Indoor Sports Complex in Brentwood. The 10,000-square-foot splash park has an interactive aquatic venue with multiple features including four slides, two double loops, a single loop, a straight slide, a series of ground and ring sprays, a rain curtain, a 100-gallon dump bucket, and four elevated platforms with sprays. The project began in 2018 when Williamson County Parks and Recreation officials expressed an interest in adding another splash pad to their venues after the success of a splash pad previously opened in Franklin. The city of Brentwood matched county funds for the project and added \$1.5 million to the development fund. Construction began in the fall of 2019.

CHAPEL HILL

Gov. Bill Lee and other state officials were among those who oversaw the beginning of construction of a two-story visitor center and new, 6,381-square-foot restaurant space representing \$8.25 million in improvements to Henry Horton State Park in Chapel Hill. The visitor center will feature a 1,154-square-foot exhibit and interpretive area, as well as a conference room of matching size, and another 2,100 square feet of office space. The center will also feature a gift shop and information desk. The restaurant will seat 120 people in its dining area and lounge, along with outdoor dining for 52. It will include a 32-seat area for private dining. The construction is part of a long-term strategy of improvements at state parks across the state in the last several years.

CHATTANOOGA

Chattanooga's Lovell Field has received a grant of more than \$1.3 million to expand the airport's terminal facility as part of \$273 million in airport grants awarded by the Federal Aviation Administration to 41 states and territories. Chattanooga's grant totals \$1,359,406 as part of the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) as well as the CARES Act. Grants will be used for a variety of critical infrastructure and safety

projects ranging from purchasing aircraft rescue and firefighting equipment, constructing runways and taxiways, repairing runways and taxiways, installing aircraft lighting and signage, conducting airport master plan studies, and installing airport perimeter fencing.

DANDRIDGE

The Dandridge Town Council has accepted more than \$1 million in construction bids for a new utility water tank and lines that will enhance service to the area around Exit 417. The project coincides with a \$2.5 million tax increment financing plan (TIF) that is aimed at spurring more development at the exit along Interstate 40. The plan calls for the construction of a 250,000-gallon water storage tank with appurtenances along with 6,865 linear feet of 8-inch pipe and one pump station. The new tank and line will improve water and fire service for 26 existing businesses in the project area and support future growth at the exit, which is considered the busiest in Jefferson County.

JONESBOROUGH

The town of Jonesborough has received a Department of Justice Community-Oriented Policing Services grant to fund two new officers for the Jonesborough Police Department. The \$250,000 COPS grant will receive a 25% match from the town with the grant itself funding about 72% of the new officers' salary and benefits for three years. The town plans to hire two experienced officers at a higher pay-grade than required by the COPS grant with officials saying it would be cheaper to higher the experienced officers with the grant than to hire one new officer who needed to be put through similar training.

LA VERGNE

The city of La Vergne has received more than \$2.6 million for improvements to Murfreesboro Road as part of the city's Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) project. Funds for the project were approved by the Tennessee Department of Transportation. The grant will be funded with \$2,675,750 in federal CMAQ funds and will require a match from the city of \$86,150. The total project cost and the federal and local match amounts are subject to change. The project's purpose is to install sidewalks along the entirety of Murfreesboro Road as well as crosswalks to every lighted intersection. City officials said the project will greatly improve the city's walkability on one of its main thoroughfares as well as provide safer travel alternatives.

LENOIR CITY

Former and current officials with Lenoir City gathered with state representatives and community members to open the new Grayson-Denton Fire Hall in the city. Located on Depot Street, the building was formerly occupied by the Lenoir City Utilities Board (LCUB) and will replace the city's Fire Station No. 1 previously located by the LCUB administrative building downtown. The new facility allowed the fire hall to go from about 1,100 square feet in space to roughly 2,600 square feet and allows room for growth. The building is named after former Lenoir City Mayor Joe Grayson, who served from 1970 to 1976 and was chairman of the LCUB, and former Fire Chief David Denton, who began his career in 1975 and 10 years later became the city's first full-time chief until his retirement in 2005.

MT JULIET

Amazon will establish a new, state-of-the-art fulfillment center in Mt. Juliet, creating 1,000 new, full-time jobs when it launches in 2021. The center will be 855,000-square-feet and is the seventh fulfillment center the company operates in the state. It will also be the second fulfillment center in Tennessee to use innovative robotics technology and will be used primarily to pack and ship smaller items like books, electronics, and consumer goods. Amazon currently operates fulfillment and sorting centers in Charleston, Chattanooga, Lebanon, Memphis, Murfreesboro, and Nashville; a Prime Now Hub in Nashville; and various other facilities supporting last mile delivery operations across the state. The company is in the midst of building a corporate office in downtown Nashville, which will house the management functions for Amazon's Retail Operations division. Since 2010, Amazon has invested more than \$6.5 billion into its local fulfillment center infrastructure and through compensation to thousands of employees in the state.

PIGEON FORGE

The Pigeon Forge City Commission recently approved a \$5.4 million project that will construct a new mass transit center in the community. The city's present mass transit center is located at Patriot Park and officials said the new center will also be located in the park but on the eastern end of the existing transit center's parking lot. A further 313 public parking spaces will be added to the parking lot and the new transit center will include a trolley turnaround for the more than 40 trolleys that travel six routes in the city. Construction is expected to begin soon with the completion of construction predicted for August, 2021.

PIKEVILLE

Aviagen will invest \$35.5 million to expand its operations in Pikeville, creating up to 36 new jobs. The global poultry genetics company will build a new state-of-the-art feed mill as part of the company's larger expansion plans for the area and accommodate company group. The company supplies broiler breeding stock to customers in more than 100 countries under the Arbor Acres, Indian River, and Ross brands. The company currently employs 714 Tennesseans across multiple locations in the state including the Upper Cumberland region.

SAVANNAH

Aero Millwork, LLC will locate new operations in Savannah, investing \$890,000 and creating 62 new jobs. Aero Millwork, a division of Aero Manufacturing, will manufacture food service equipment in laminate, stone, glass and millwork. The Savannah location will be the company's first manufacturing facility in Tennessee. Headquartered in Clifton, N.J., Aero Manufacturing has been one of the country's leading manufacturers of stainless-steel foodservice equipment for more than 75 years. The company specializes in producing stainless-steel sinks, tables, cabinets, and shelving for a variety of industries.

SPRING HILL

Groove Life Corporation announced it will expand its current Spring Hill headquarters and manufacturing operations, investing \$1.9 million and creating 76 new jobs in the next five years. The company presently employs 120 people in Spring Hill and intends to upgrade an existing space and

Livingston dedicates mini park honoring local artist



Officials with the town of Livingston dedicated a new mini park named Bishop's Corner in honor of locally-renowned artist and art museum director Budd Harris Bishop. From left, Carol and Johnny Fred Coleman, who were instrumental in the design and construction of the mini-park; Ray Evans, who worked with Budd Bishop on Livingston Downtown Revitalization; Livingston Mayor Curtis Hayes; and unveiling the marker, Julia Bishop, wife of the late artist.

Germantown horses, riders mask up for awareness



Germantown has launched a mask awareness campaign by placing locally-branded masks on the famed statues of horses and riders around town. Officials will also be distributing masks with the Germantown logo in high traffic areas of the community. Those already out and about with face masks on may also receive rewards for participating in the city's mask campaign in the form of hand sanitizer and stickers encouraging the city's campaign.

Columbia opens dog park



Left to right, Maury County Mayor Andy Ogles, Columbia Mayor Chaz Molder, and UT President Randy Boyd unveil the marker of the new Muletown Bark Park at the Maury County Park located within the city of Columbia. The county and city jointly received a grant from the Boyd Foundation's Dog Park Dash to finance the park.

renovate a newly purchased building. Founded in 2015, Groove Life manufactures silicone rings, watch bands, and other accessories tailored for active lifestyles. Customers can purchase breathable silicone rings from six collections, as well as a custom collection, for both men and women. More

recently, Groove Life began designing, testing and manufacturing the world's first breathable silicone watchband. Each watchband is made with breathable grooves on the interior of a medical grade silicone band and designed to fit Apple, Fitbit, and Samsung watches.

TENNESSEE TOWN & CITY
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WAUFORD

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

IT Budgeting: Top six mistakes when cutting IT costs

BY JOHN HEY
VC3 Chief Strategist

A study in late 2019 found that 44% of organizations planned to increase IT spending in 2020. But with COVID-19 and a disrupted economy, many have changed that plan to cut costs. Does that sound familiar?

As the managed IT partner for more than 260 cities and towns, we see budgets of all sizes. We’ve helped organizations prioritize IT investments to maximize return and reduce frustration. Here are the common mistakes we hope you’ll avoid and some better alternatives.

Make a Plan

So where do you start? As a leader in your city or town, resist the urge to pull out your red pen and slash the IT budget. While it may be tempting to postpone projects like hardware updates, it is not that simple. Add in something less tangible like cybersecurity, and it quickly becomes complicated. It is better to start with a more structured and deliberate approach.

Don’t Use Hardware Past End of Life

Organizations often use hardware past its end of life. It may seem like no big deal to continue using that piece of hardware a little while longer. When that hardware stops working, you are faced with unexpected replacement costs and downtime.

Additionally, there are security risks to consider. Security updates often don’t work on older machines, putting your organization at risk for a cyberattack.

Moving your hardware expenses from a capital expense to an operational expense can help

protect your organization’s cash flow. Working with a strategic IT partner to utilize desktop virtualization is an easy way to do this.

Don’t Ignore Server Costs

Much like hardware, an unplanned server replacement can cost you in both time and money. One option is to audit your existing servers. We’ve found that organizations often have servers they don’t need or are not using effectively. There are added costs associated with a server, such as the cost of the physical space to house it, cost to support it, and the electrical costs to power it. Reduce the number of servers you have, and these costs also go down.

There are two main ways you can reduce the number of servers you have. First, determine if your servers are being fully utilized. If two are being partially utilized, you may be able to combine the data onto one server. Second, explore a switch to the cloud. Moving data or applications to the cloud eliminates the need for a dedicated server.

Don’t Purchase Equipment that Doesn’t Fit Your Needs

There are a lot of options when it comes to laptops and desktops, and with these options comes a wide range of prices. Employees may need different systems with different specs depending on their job responsibilities. Organizations often take a one-size-fits-all approach



resulting in both overspending and under-spending. Instead, consider moving to desktop virtualization. With a virtual desktop model, you can provision new desktops to your staff with a lower cost of ownership. Because applications and tasks run in a virtual, cloud-based environment, desktop hardware often has a longer lifespan.

Don’t Think of IT as Just Cost

There are situations where spending money upfront on a technology investment can result in massive cost savings in the long run. For many organizations, this includes automation and document management and storage.

Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software is a big expense for many organizations, especially implementation costs. As a result, upgrades are often pushed to a later time. As technology has advanced,

so have the features and benefits. Many current ERP programs allow you to automate tasks that are being done manually. Automating tasks frees up employees to focus on other things which may reap payroll savings and increased productivity. Files and paper storage can be a large expense for many organizations, especially those in the professional services field. There are costs for the physical storage location plus the employee time to locate a file when needed. Instead, consider a digital document management solution. Many are scalable as your organization grows, have an easy-to-use interface, and search features. The technology requires an initial investment, but the long-term savings are more than monetary.

Don’t Hire a Jack or Jill of All Trades

Many organizations are better suited

to outsourcing IT to save money and improve performance. IT is a specialized field and no one person can do it all. Ideally, you have someone to manage your overall IT, someone to manage your network and servers, someone to handle support requests, and a cybersecurity expert. Instead of your organization shouldering the costs of four IT employees, you can outsource IT to a managed services provider and benefit from multiple experts within the organization.

Don’t Neglect Cybersecurity

Cybersecurity isn’t tangible. We get it. It feels like something you can put off for another time. But cyberattacks are happening more often, and the average cost of an attack is over \$1 million. It’s crucial to have a strong defense in place to protect your organization. The risks of cutting cybersecurity far outweigh any financial gains. Downtime should also be considered. The average downtime from an attack is 16.2 days – that’s over two weeks! Can your organization afford to be inoperable for over two weeks?

Balancing Costs and Prioritizing Needs

How do you balance the IT needs of your organizations when faced with the reality of needing to cut costs? What areas of IT can you cut without impacting your organization and employees? Organizations often make mistakes when trying to cut costs because they lack strong IT guidance and only focus on the bottom line.

If your organization is struggling with growing IT costs and no solid plan, it’s time to consider a strategic IT partner. Find an IT partner who can help put in place the best IT solutions for your budget.

Comptroller issues guidelines for Covid-19 Relief Funds

FUNDS *from Page 1*

a. Expenditures should be limited to those incurred due to COVID-19; b. Expenditures should not have been accounted for in your budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020; c. Eligible expenditures must be incurred during the period March 1, 2020 to December 30, 2020; d. As of the date of this memo, CRF funding cannot be used to cover revenue shortfalls; and e. Unused CRF funding, or CRF funding used for ineligible expenses, must be returned to the U.S. Department of Treasury.

3. Local governments wishing to apply for CRF funding must use the Tennessee Cares Act Management System (TN CAMS) web portal. Local governments will be required to upload all necessary documentation for each claimed expense. A designated user from each local government will receive an email enabling them to set up an account and begin requesting funds.

Local governments must register through F&A for a TN CAMS account.

4. Local governments will be given an option to receive an immediate 30% advance of funds that have been allocated for their jurisdiction. The remaining 70% can be accessed on a reimbursement basis after the advance has been substantiated.

5. Local governments are not required to take the 30% advance. They may opt to request all funds on a reimbursement basis. It should be noted, if a local government receives an advance, the local government should not spend any of those funds until the proposed uses are deemed eligible by F&A. Funds used for ineligible expenses will have to be returned to F&A.

6. Here are the deadlines related to the distribution of CRF funding established by F&A:

- Aug. 15, 2020: Deadline for all local governments to request

a TN CAMS account (or CRF funding could be forfeited).

- Sept. 1, 2020: Deadline for requesting a 30% advance.
- Sept. 30, 2020: Deadline to spend the 30% advance. Any unused funds must be returned to F&A.
- Nov. 1, 2020: Deadline to submit reimbursement requests for the remaining 70% of CRF funding. These requests can include anticipated December expenditures.
- 7. CRF money should be maintained separately from other funds received by your government. Expenditures for mitigation or response to the COVID-19 virus should likewise be separated from other expenditures. This may require that money already received or expended will need to be reclassified from one expenditure account to another. Detailed documentation for all transactions should be maintained.
- 8. CRF funding will be subject

to audit under the Single Audit Act and OMB’s Uniform Guidance.

9. The Division of Local Government Audit has added new accounts to the Uniform Chart of Accounts to allow counties to track CRF funding separately. This new Chart of Accounts can be located at <https://comptroller.tn.gov/office-functions/la/resources/chart-of-accounts.html>.

10. While COVID-19 expenditures may be considered reimbursable expenses under multiple programs, duplication of benefits is strictly prohibited. All expenses submitted through TN CAMS will be subject to review by the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) for eligibility under the Stafford Act Public Assistance program. If eligible for Stafford Act Public Assistance, claims will be processed through TEMA, not F&A and CRF funds. The state of Tennessee will cover all local cost-share provisions for Stafford Act

claims, which is otherwise ½ of the non-federal cost-share or 12.5% of the total claim.

11. Local governments must be careful to maintain adequate internal controls over spending of CRF funding. This is required by state statutes and OMB’s Uniform Guidance.

As noted, this guidance is general in nature. F&A should be your direct contact for questions related to eligible expenses and submitting information into TNCAMS. Do not hesitate to contact the Comptroller’s Office as well. We are working closely with the County Technical Assistance Service (CTAS), the Municipal Technical Assistance Service (MTAS), and other local government official support organizations to stay informed as new developments arise.

If you have questions or comments, you may address those to Bryan Burklin at Bryan.Burklin@cot.tn.gov or 615.253.3909.

No loan is too large or too small



The Town of Livingston recently closed on a \$1.8 million capital outlay note with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund TMBF issued to finance waterline improvements. The Town has used TMBF’s various loan programs 12 times since 1996. Seated L to R: Linda Mooringham, TMBF Marketing Director and Legal Coordinator; Livingston Mayor Curtis Hayes; and Livingston Town Clerk Phyllis Loooper.



The City of Clinton recently closed a \$1 million note with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF) issued to finance city school system improvements. Seated L to R: Kelly Johnson, Director of Clinton City Schools; Clinton Mayor Scott Burton; and Gail Cook, Finance Director. Standing L to R: Roger Houck, Clinton City Manager; and Steve Queener, TMBF Marketing Representative.

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PEOPLE



Billy R. Barron, long-time city attorney and legal counsel for the city of Dyer, died July 18, 2020, at the age of 71. Barron began his tenure as city attorney for Dyer in 1995 and served as the city’s bond counsel for numerous capital improvements and projects. A native of Dyer, Barron graduated from Union University with a degree in history and then obtained his law degree from the University of Memphis. He later earned a master’s degree in military history from Norwich University. He practiced law in Dyer for 42 years, serving as the attorney for the Gibson County Special School District in addition to the city of Dyer.



Billy Barron

July 12 after a prolonged illness at the age of 73. Goode served more than 28 years in Charleston city government and was first elected to the Charleston City Commission in 1986, eventually becoming the city’s mayor. Except for one term when he stepped back to spend time with family, he then served continually. Born in Etowah, Goode graduated from College Hill School in Cleveland before serving a tour of duty in the U.S. Marines. He then returned to Charleston, working in the Peerless Mill, with the L&N Railroad, and Tennessee Valley Authority before spending 25 years at Cutler-Hammer. After his retirement in 2002, he worked for the Bradley-Cleveland Community Services Agency. Goode is survived by his wife of 47 years, Sue, their four children, and five grandchildren.



Walter Goode

Chattanooga, she was appointed by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee as a federal probation officer with the Department of Justice.

Dayle Mathis has been selected as a new economic development specialist for the Southwest Tennessee Development District (SWTDD) based in Jackson. She will assist cities and counties in the region in economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. The position was made possible through a partnership with SWTDD, the U.S. Department of Commerce, and Economic Development Administration (EDA). A U.S. Air Force veteran, Mathis will serve SWTDD’s region that includes cities and counties of Madison, Henderson, Decatur, Hardin, McNairy, Chester, Hardeman, and Haywood.



Dayle Mathis

Carmen Davis has been selected as the first city administrator for the city of Hendersonville. Davis most recently served as the county administrator for Hinds County, Miss., for nearly a decade. Prior to that, she served as a city planner in Detroit, Mich., from 1993 until 2001, and then again from 2007 until 2009. Davis holds a master’s degree in business administration and a bachelor’s degree in urban planning and geography both from Wayne State University in Detroit. The Hendersonville Board of Mayor and Aldermen voted to create the new city administrator position in May. Davis is expected to begin her duties with the city by the end of August.



Carmen Davis

Angela Hayes has been selected as the new director of the city of Chattanooga’s Office of Early Learning. Hayes will replace the office’s inaugural director Ariel Ford, who has accepted a position as the state of North Carolina’s Director of the Division of Child Development and Early Education. The Chattanooga Office of Early Learning was established in 2017 by Mayor Andy Berke. A Chattanooga native, Hayes will be responsible for developing and building the capacity of high-quality early learning opportunities in Chattanooga as well as maintaining existing programs. Hayes has been working with the city since 2014. Prior to coming to



Angela Hayes

Andy Sonner has left his position as assistant city manager for the city of Alcoa to join international engineering corporation WSP Global, Inc., in their Knox County-based office. Sonner has been the city’s assistant city manager since 2018. Sonner first joined the city of Alcoa in 1997 as a civil engineer. He was promoted to chief engineer and assistant director for the city’s engineering and public works department in March 2015 and was eventually promoted to the director of the department in 2017. Sonner received his bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from the University of Memphis and holds a professional engineer license.



Andy Sonner

Nashville announces changes to personnel

Nashville Mayor John Cooper has announced two personnel changes, the creation of a new position, and the realignment of city departments to better serve continued and emerging needs in the community. Shanna Whitelaw will transfer from Metro Water Services to act as interim director of Metro Public Works, where she will lead the department through a review process to determine the best ways to realign the transportation and solid waste functions of public works. Whitelaw, a professionally licensed civil engineer with 14 years of experience in the private sector and another 14 years of experience in government service, has extensive experience in design and construction management of municipal projects and long-range capital planning and asset management. Her last five years have been spent in strategic planning and process improvement in Metro Water Services, where she has been a significant contributor to Metro Water Services’ status as a utility that provides exceptional services at one of the lowest costs compared to local and regional peer cities.

Meanwhile, present Director of Metro Public Works Mark Sturtevant will move to Metro’s Planning Department as a director of development, a new position within the department focused on addressing Nashville’s infrastructure challenges in historically underserved neighborhoods. “Recent events have highlighted that we can and should not wait to make fair, cost-effective infrastructure improvements in our neighborhoods,” said Mayor Cooper. “The challenges that existed for Metro Nashville-Davidson County before the coronavirus still exist – and once the pandemic is over, these problems will remain if they are not addressed. I am grateful that Mark Sturtevant, with his many years of experience and expertise on Nashville’s most important public projects, will help us attend to them in a timely and efficient manner.” In this new role, Sturtevant will leverage his extensive experience to plan for, align, and organize Metro-wide delivery of neighborhood investment, both public and private. He will ensure coordination and cost-effective infrastructure

development across Metro departments and is also directly tasked with increasing fairness, transparency and public benefit from Nashville’s major development projects. The duties and responsibilities of the Director of Development align with Mayor Cooper’s campaign commitments to responsible development and improved neighborhood infrastructure. Sturtevant began working with metro government at the Metro Historic Commission in 1985. In addition to his involvement on various Metro development projects and his tenure as director of public works, he has also served as the director of Development at the Metro Development and Housing Agency, project manager for the Music City Center, and special projects manager at the Metropolitan Transit Authority.

Bolivar water rescue team begins training



The city of Bolivar has taken the initial steps to creating and certifying an emergency response dive team as part of the city’s emergency services. Inaugural members of the team include, from left to right, Bolivar Police Department Officers Chris Wilkerson, Cris McKinney, and Nellie Munoz, and Bolivar Fire Department Engineer Rory White. The four-person team completed their first phase of training in July and are being trained through the Dive Shop in Memphis. The decision to create the team was made after the opening of Sand Beach Lake last year, and the team will work with the Hardeman County Rescue Squad to keep waterways in the area safe.

STATE BRIEFS



Tennessee has tied with Nebraska as 16th on a list of cheapest states to buy a home, according to financial advice website Smart Asset. Tennessee ranked in the top half of the list due to its median list price of \$257,900, median price-per-foot of 136, and median value of bottom-tier housing at \$99,300. Nebraska tied Tennessee for the slot with a median list price of \$200,000, median price-per-foot of 139, and median value of bottom-tier housing at \$104,100. West Virginia ranked as the state with the cheapest home prices while Massachusetts ranked as having the most expensive home prices. States were ranked on metrics including effective property tax, median listing price, median listing price-per-square-foot, median value in the bottom one-third of homes, and average cleaning costs.

The Tennessee Lottery has raised \$5.5 billion for education since its inception 16 years ago. Officials with the state lottery recently announced that 2020 has been its highest grossing fiscal year to date with about \$1.84 billion generated in the 2019-20 fiscal year. Of that, more than \$438 million went to funding educational scholarships and other projects across the state. Lottery President and CEO Rebecca Paul Hargrove also praised retailers, players, the lottery board of directors and the Tennessee Education Lottery Corporation (TEL) for their continued dedication during the pandemic.

Tennessee ranks in the bottom of the nation in terms of children’s healthcare, according to a new study conducted by financial planning website Wallet Hub. The state ranks 41 out of 51 in the study that compares children’s health care data from all 50 states and Washington, D.C. Tennessee also ranked dead last in nutrition, physical activity, and obesity as well as 32 out of 51 in healthcare and 22 out of 51 for dental care. Researchers measured and compared 33 different health-related criteria such as family doctors per capita, share of children in good health, percentage of youth with depression, and daily exercise. **Tennessee residents can now take advantage of a new discount program when they stay overnight at any of the state’s 56 state parks** The Tennessee Resident Discount Program allows residents of the state to take 10% off their overnight accommodations at most campsites, cabins, and lodges across the state to encourage residents to stay closer to home when selecting vacation destinations as well as practice social distancing during trips during the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to qualify, Tennessee residents must be at least 18 years old and present a valid, state-issued ID. The discount is not additional to other discounts offered by the state park system, such as those for active military, disabled veterans, senior citizens, disabled residents, or state employees. For more information, visit TNStateParks.com.



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Voters in more than 50 municipalities go to polls

MUNICIPAL, *from Page 1*

ALGOOD

Incumbent Luke Hill will be joined by newcomer Ronald Stephen Graves on the Algood City Council, defeating challengers Patt M. Judd and Tim McPherson for the two open seats.

BAILEYTON

Current Alderman William “Kenny” Kerr defeated challenger Bobby Stevens to take the mayoral seat in Baileyton. Present Mayor Thomas Casteel did not run for re-election.

Incumbent Steve Hall will be joined by newcomer Sherrie L. Ottinger to serve as aldermen for Baileyton.

No other candidates ran for the two open seats. Likewise, no candidate qualified for the unexpired alderman term on the board.

BAXTER

Incumbent John Martin ran unopposed and was re-elected to serve as the mayor of Baxter.

In the Baxter City Council race, incumbents Jeff Herald and Dustin J. Stanton also retained their seats on the council, defeating challenger Ben Brewington.

BELL BUCKLE

Incumbent alderwoman Besty Wheeler will be joined by newcomer Andrew McRady to fill the two open seats on the Bell Buckle Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

CHAPEL HILL

Incumbents Marion Joyce and Dottie Morton will be joined by newcomer Joe Sedlak in the three open seats on the Chapel Hill Board of Mayor and Aldermen, defeating both incumbent Horace Hill Jr. and challengers Stephanie Bergeron, Robert “Bob” Gallahaire, and Sam “Santa” Sands.

Horace Hill Jr.’s fourth place in the race may mean the board appoints him to fill the unexpired term of the late Tommy Lawrence. Members of the board had previously expressed being open to appointing the race’s fourth-place finisher to the seat as it was too late to place it on the ballot.

CHARLESTON

No candidate qualified for two open city commission seats in Charleston.

CLEVELAND

Incumbent Avery Johnson Sr. defeated challenger Larry Hafley to retain his at-large seat on the Cevaland City Council. Johnson has served on the council since 1993.

Fellow incumbent Tom Cas-sada also retained his seat over challenger Scott McGowan to win the District 3 seat on the council.

COLLIERVILLE

Incumbent Lee Ann Pafford Dobson ran unopposed and was re-elected as the municipal judge for the town of Collierville. Dobson was first elected to the role of municipal judge in 2019.

DOWELLTOWN

Current alderwoman Pamela Redmon ran unopposed and was elected to the mayoral seat in Dowelltown. She will take over from outgoing Mayor Gerald Bailiff.

Two newcomers will join the Dowelltown Board of Mayor and Aldermen with Phillip D. Byford and Chris Walker elected to the two open seats on the board.

ELKTON

Incumbent aldermen Payton Blade, Bill Bonjour, and Bobby L. Sherrell ran unopposed and were re-elected to the three open alderman seats on the Elkton Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

No candidate qualified for the unexpired-term alderman seat.

ENGLEWOOD

Challenger Tony R. Hawn defeated incumbent Jason Hitt to obtain the mayoral seat in Englewood.

Incumbent candidate Walter Arrowood will be joined by newcomer James C. Cochran after the two ran unopposed and were re-elected to the two open seats on the Englewood City Commission.

ENVILLE

Incumbent Melinda Johnson ran unopposed and was re-elected to serve as mayor in Enville.

Incumbents Shane Johnston

and Wanda “Kaye” Ritter will be joined by newcomer Nick Weatherington to serve as aldermen in Enville. There were five open aldermen seats on the board, but only three candidates ran.

ERIN

Newcomer Welsey Mitchum defeated incumbent Jackqlyn Largent Smith to take the Erin Ward 1 alderman seat.

Incumbents Betsy Ligon and Jacquiline Parchman ran unopposed and were re-elected to represent Erin’s Ward 2 and Ward 3 respectively. No candidate qualified to run for the open Ward 4 seat.

ETOWAH

Incumbent Jim Swayne will be joined by newcomer John James, who defeated incumbent Gene Keller for the two open seats on the Etowah City Commission.

FAIRVIEW

Incumbent Shannon L. Crutcher defeated challenger Shawn P. Sirgo to retain his seat as municipal judge for Fairview.

Incumbent Gina Mangrum ran unopposed and was re-elected as court clerk for the city.

FARRAGUT

With no contested races, Vice Mayor Louise Povlin retained her Ward 1 seat in Farragut while Drew Burnett retained the Ward 2 seat.

FRIENDSVILLE

No candidate qualified for two open city commission seats in Friendsville.

GAINESBORO

Lloyd Williams ran unopposed and was re-elected to serve as mayor of Gainesboro.

Incumbents Jackie Jenkins Jr. and Wayne Strong will be joined by newcomer Travis N. Agee on the Gainesboro Board of Mayor and Aldermen, defeating incumbent Roger Dale Gore along with challenger Ricky Head.

GREENBRIER

Newcomer Lanny Adcock defeated fellow challengers Burtis Ridge and present Alderman Jeff DeLong to take the mayoral seat in Greenbrier. Current Mayor Bonnette Dawson did not seek re-election.

In the Ward 1 race, challenger Sam Owen defeated incumbent Carol Fagg to win the alderman seat.

Incumbent Steve L. Higdon ran unopposed and was re-elected to represent Greenbrier’s Ward 2. Bill Deaver, who had been appointed to fill a vacancy on the board, ran unopposed and was elected to fill the remainder of the Ward 3 unexpired term.

GREENEVILLE

Incumbent W.T. Daniels ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Greeneville. Daniels was first elected mayor of Greeneville in 2010.

Incumbents Scott Bullington and Tim Teague also retained their aldermen seats, running unopposed for the two open seats on the board.

GRUETLI-LAGER

Incumbent Cody B. Wise and challenger Kevin Tate ran unopposed and were elected to the two open seats on the Gruetli-Lager Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

HARRIMAN

After running unopposed, incumbent Wayne Best was re-elected mayor of Harriman.

Incumbents Kenyon Mee and Tim Johnson will be joined by newcomer Brian Frost, defeating challengers Johnny “Knobby” Brackett and Buffy M. Mee to obtain the three open seats on the Harriman City Council.

Lonnie H. Wright, who was recently appointed to a vacancy on the city council, ran unopposed and was elected to serve the remainder of the unexpired term on the council.

HENDERSON

Incumbent Robert W. “Bobby” King retained his seat as Henderson mayor, defeating challenger and sitting alderwoman Donna Butler.

In the Henderson City Alderman race, incumbents Michael A. Phelps and Buel Snookum Maness will be joined by newcomer Jason Rhodes to take the three open seats,

fending off challengers James “Mike” Alexander, Dennis Clay Brown, Sharon Cooper, Todd L. Davis, and Tommy Davis.

LEWISBURG

Incumbent Roy “Bam” Haislip defeated challenger Sharrin Marie Lusco to keep the Ward 1 seat on the Lewisburg city council while newcomer Joseph “Joe” Bradford defeated both incumbent Nicholas Kyle Tipper and Toby Adams for the Ward 5 seat.

LINDEN

In the Linden Board of Mayor and Aldermen races, incumbent candidates Billy R. Yarbro and Bart Young ran unopposed and were re-elected to the Ward 1 and Ward 2 seats respectively.

Incumbent Richard E. Jones also fended off challenger Forrest White to keep his Ward 3 seat.

LOBELVILLE

Incumbent Steve Hester will be joined by newcomer J.B. Trull as they ran unopposed for the two open seats on the Lobelville Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

Incumbents Brooke Pippenger, Walker Jones, Jim Bentley, and Frank Schriner will be joined on the Lookout Mountain City Commission by newcomer David S. Paschall. Incumbent Don Stinnett decided not to run for re-election to the commission, so Paschall will be taking his seat.

LYNNVILLE

Newcomer Robert White defeated incumbent Floyd Pratt and challenger Patty Patterson to obtain the mayoral seat in Lynnville.

Two new faces will also have seats on the Lynnville Board of Mayor and Aldermen with Charles Jett and Carrie Riner defeating fellow challenger William Morse.

MANCHESTER

Incumbent Lonnie J. Norman fended off challenger Steven Jones to retain his seat as mayor of Manchester.

Incumbents Bob Belamy, Chris Elam, and Ryan P. French also kept their three aldermen seats over challengers Tammie K. Fuller, Donny N. Parsley, and James Threet.

MICHIE

Incumbent Mayor Anthony Smith ran unopposed and was re-elected to serve as mayor of Michie.

Newcomer Wesley A. Rainey will join incumbent candidate Jed Baker as the two ran unopposed and were elected to the two open aldermen seats on the Michie Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

MINOR HILL

Incumbent Roger Thompson and newcomer Chad Ingram were elected to the two open seats on the Minor Hill Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

MONTEREY

Current Ward 1 Alderman J.J. Reels defeated incumbent Bill Wiggins to serve as mayor of Monterey.

Amy Callahan Martin defeated fellow newcomer Julie Bohannon to take the Ward 1 seat vacated by Reels for his mayoral run. Incumbent James “Connie” Foster defeated challenger James Wolfram to keep his Ward 3 seat.

Incumbents Mark Farley and Charles “Pokey” Looper both ran unopposed and were re-elected to serve on the council’s Ward 2 and Ward 4 seats respectively.

MOSHEIM

Incumbent Thomas L. Gregg Jr. ran unopposed and was re-elected as mayor of Mosheim.

Incumbent Dave Long ran unopposed and was re-elected to represent Mosheim’s Ward 1 while fellow incumbent James A. Foshie ran unopposed and was re-elected to represent the city’s Ward 2.

MURFREESBORO

Incumbents Bill Shacklett and Kirt Wade will be joined by newcomer Shawn Wright, who unseated incumbent Eddie Smotherman to take one of the three open seats on the Murfreesboro City Council.

NEW JOHNSONVILLE

Incumbent David Cagle retained his seat as mayor of New Johnsonville, defeated challenger



Shane Daniel.

Incumbents Charles Larry Bradford and Stella Matney will be joined by newcomer James “Rodney” Spencer on the New Johnsonville City Council. Spencer defeated incumbent Tim Daniel for the third open council seat.

OAK HILL

Newcomers David P. Demarco, Winston Evans, and John DeLuca will take the three open seats on the Oak Hill City Commission, defeating incumbent Stacy Widelitz and fellow challengers Zach Baldwin and Elizabeth “Liz” Beavers.

PETERSBURG

Newcomers Jacob Bradford and Rita Cowan took two of the open seats on the Petersburg Board of Mayor and Aldermen. Two write-in candidates also qualified to run for the three open seats with Logan Jolly earning enough votes to qualify for the third and final seat, according to early, unofficial returns. Write-in candidate Corey Smith did not garner enough votes.

RIPLEY

Challenger Craig Fitzhugh defeated incumbent John Pavletic to obtain the mayoral seat in Ripley. Pavletic had previously served four terms as mayor.

Incumbents Paul Hankins and Billy Chipman both ran unopposed and were re-elected to the Ripley Ward 1A and Ward 1B seats respectively. Additionally, incumbent Bill Davis ran unopposed and was re-elected to serve on the Ward 2A seat while incumbent Janice Treadway ran unopposed and was re-elected to represent Ward 2 B.

In the only challenged race for alderman, Nyrita F. Alston fended off challengers Garie Andrew and Charles Blue to retain her Ward 3A seat on the board. Incumbent Alonzo Beard also ran unopposed and was re-elected to represent Ward 3B.

SARDIS

J.W. Creasy ran unopposed and was elected to serve as mayor of Sardis. Creasy will succeed outgoing mayor Joseph Hudgins Sr. who did not run again for the seat.

All five incumbents – Teresa R. Beecham, Richard Holland, Kenneth R. Scott, Larry Smith, and Gail Wade – retained their aldermen seats in Sardis with no challengers running in the election.

SCOTTS HILL

Current alderman Kenneth “Kenny” Parrish was elected to serve as mayor of Scotts Hill, defeating challengers Don Buckingham and Annette Scott. Current mayor Jessie Powers did not run for re-election.

Incumbents Betty Sims, Mary L. Connell, and Billy J. Snider will be joined by four newcomers on the Scotts Hill Board of Mayor and Aldermen. Bonnie Butler, Woody Capley, L.D. Sims, and Tiffany M. Lyles, defeated fellow challengers Richard M. Edlin, Wession L. Reeves, and Monty Ray to take the open aldermen seats. Incumbents Steve Dickson, Sharlene Roach, and Darlene Stout did not seek re-election to their aldermen seats.

SMITHVILLE

Incumbents Danny Washer and Shawn Jacobs will be joined by newcomer Jessica L. Higgins to take the three open seats on the Smithville Board of Mayor and Aldermen. They defeated incumbent H. Don Crook along with challeng-

er Tim Perricone in the race.

SOUTH CARTHAGE

Incumbent Christy Thackxton Grisham ran unopposed and was re-elected to serve as alderwoman for Ward 2. There were no qualified candidates for the open Ward 1 seat.

SPARTA

Incumbents Jerry Lowery and Judy Parker Payne will be joined by challenger Brent L. Young on the Sparta Board of Mayor and Aldermen after running unopposed for the three open aldermen seats.

SPRING CITY

Newcomer Woody Evans defeated current Alderwoman Reba Murphy and fellow challengers Pam Burger Anderson, Bailey Hufstetler, and Jason Price to take the open mayoral seat in Spring City. Current mayor Billy Ray Patton did not seek re-election.

Additionally, new faces will be found on the Spring City Commission. Leon Locke and Kevin Jenkins defeated fellow newcomers Lee Booker and Jeff Rhear tor the two open seats on the commission.

TENNESSEE RIDGE

Incumbent Stony Odom ran unopposed and was re-elected to serve as mayor of Tennessee Ridge.

Challenger Bryan Bumpus will join incumbent Ray Bradley after both ran unopposed for the two open seats on the Tennessee Ridge City Commission.

TOWNSEND

Incumbent Becky Headrick and challenger Ted Godfrey ran unopposed and were elected to the two open seats on the Townsend City Commission.

TULLAHOMA

Current alderman Ray Knowis defeated fellow challengers Daniel Berry and Karl K. Smithson to serve as mayor of Tullahoma. Incumbent mayor Lane Curlee did not seek re-election to the post.

Curlee was first elected to serve on the Tullahoma Board of Mayor and Aldermen in 1982 for two years before being elected mayor in 1993. He served as mayor for three years before not seeking re-election and then began his most recent term as mayor in 2004.

Incumbent Robin Dunn will be joined by newcomer Jenna Amacher in the two open aldermen seats in Tullahoma, defeating challenger Ashli Collinsworth Shockley.

WARTBURG

No candidates qualified to run in the alderman-at large race in Wartburg.

WAYNESBORO

Incumbent Jeffrey Wayne Davis will be joined by newcomer Lynn Warren on the Waynesboro City Commission, defeating challengers Phillip Carroll and Tracy Martin.

WHITEVILLE

Challenger Gene Bowden narrowly defeated incumbent Aubrey Phillips and challenger Leon Crisp to take the mayoral seat in Whiteville.

Tommy Turner was the only one of three incumbents to retain his seat on the Whiteville Board of Mayor and Aldermen. He will be joined by newcomers Deborah Burkeen and Ernest Pirtle who defeated incumbents William Chares Phillips and Emily M. Rosson along with challenger Betsy Johnston.

TN Municipal League needs new city contact information

We need help maintaining our database with the most up-to-date city information. With the recent August elections, we realize that there will be many changes to your city contact information. Please send your updates



to Jackie Gupton at jgupton@TML1.org, or Debbie Kluth at dkluth@TML1.org, by phone at 615-255-6416.



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BUILDING INSPECTOR LAVERGNE

Performs routine semi-skilled and technical field inspection work for industrial, commercial and residential building projects during all phases of construction, renovation and/or remodeling projects, issues permits, works with contractors, industry and the general public and ensures compliance with federal, state, and local codes and standards and ensures contractual provisions are met. High school diploma or general education degree (GED) required. Minimum of three years of construction or inspection experience. Any equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered. ICC Certificates and/or State of TN certificates required. Must possess a valid State of Tennessee driver's license or the ability to obtain one prior to employment. Must be physically capable to moving about on construction work sites. This position is open until filled and applicants can apply on city website www.lavergnetn.gov.

BUILDING INSPECTOR

TULLAHOMA. The City of Tullahoma is accepting applications for the position of Building Inspector which reports to the Planning Director. The Building Inspector conducts periodic and required inspections of buildings and structures for compliance with applicable building codes, including mechanical and plumbing inspections as required. This position also reviews and approves construction and specification plans for compliance with Standard Building Codes. The building inspector conducts inspections throughout the community, investigating complaints of code violations, generating notification letters, and issuing citations as needed. Applicants need to have a high school diploma and a college degree is desirable. Certification as a building inspector is preferred and additional certifications in mechanical and plumbing are also preferred. Knowledge of applicable building codes is required and ability to review construction and specification plans are preferred. Other ICC certifications will be required within one year. This is a full-time position with an annual salary between \$47,530 - \$50,446, depending on qualifications. The hours of work are 7:30am to 4:30pm. The city offers a comprehensive benefits package including participation in the TN Consolidated Retirement System. Individuals interested in applying for this position can print the application available on-line at www.tullahomatin.gov and complete the form or obtain an application at City Hall. City Hall / Municipal Building, 201 W. Grundy Street, Tullahoma, TN The application or a resume can be submitted by to City of Tullahoma, Attn: Human Resources, PO Box 807, Tullahoma, TN 37388; by email: cbrice@tullahomatin.gov; or by Fax: 931-455-2782. A complete copy of the job description is available upon request. Open until filled. EOE

CIVIL ENGINEER/INSPECTOR

COOKEVILLE. The Public Works Department is now accepting applications for a Civil Engineer/Inspector. Work in roadway design, inspections and assisting with design and surveys, and responsible for project layout in the field. Provides technical assistance in roadway, drainage and other construction projects. Verifies GIS data, visually inspects roadway and subdivision construction; acts as liaison with contractors; keeps inspection records. Degree in civil engineering and a valid TN driver's license are required. Two to five years experience and professional engineer license preferred. Must possess Local Government Guideline Manual, Right-of-Way Training Certificate, TDOT certification for purchase of right-of-way, or obtain all within one year of hire date. Pay range \$52,312 - \$78,478, DOE. This position will remain open until filled. Applications/resumes must be submitted online at <https://www.cookeville-tn.gov/> EOE.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

ALCOA. The city of Alcoa is seeking highly qualified candidates for the position of director of finance. Under the appointment and general direction of the city manager, the director of finance serves as a member of the senior management team. The director of finance provides day to day supervision over approximately 33 direct / indirect reports in the areas of accounting, revenue collection, customer service, utility meter services, and city recorder functions. This position is responsible for the coordination and preparation of the City's \$159 million annual operating budget. Key responsibilities include but are not limited to the following: Serves as chief financial advisor to the city manager; forecasts and compiles financial data for the city's annual budget; continuously monitors revenues and expenditures to ensure the fiscal well-being of the city; prepares financial reports in compliance GAAP and for submission for GFOA's Certificate of Excellence Award; provides oversight responsibility for the annual audit process; establishes and maintains internal control procedures in accordance with state and national

standards; serves as the city recorder (city clerk); supervises the collection of utility payments, taxes, fees, and other receipts in accordance with laws and regulations; oversees the investment of city funds; directs the preparation of state and Federal reports, including tax reports; develops finance-related ordinances and resolutions. Applicants must be a proven leader who demonstrates professionalism and support to staff. Must possess superior management skills and the ability to make sound decisions pertaining to assigned staff and financial matters. In addition, the ideal candidate will have considerable experience and knowledge in the following areas: modern governmental accounting theory, principles, and practices; public finance and fiscal planning; accounting related functions; budgetary, accounting and reporting systems, GAAFR, GAAP and GASB; ability to prepare and analyze complex financial reports; ability to maintain efficient and effective financial systems and procedures. Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in accounting or finance preferred. Closely related fields in business or public administration will be considered. Five years of progressively responsible municipal finance work along with experience in a management level position. Must be bondable. Must possess a CMFO (Certified Municipal Finance Officer) certification or equivalent exemption. Certified Public Accountant (CPA) preferred. Interested persons may obtain additional information and an online application on the City website - www.cityofalcoa-tn.gov. The city of Alcoa is an Equal Opportunity Employer. ADA/ADEA/Title VI Compliant. Please no phone calls.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

MUNFORD. The city of Munford is searching for an economic development professional—someone with initiative, a positive mindset, ability to build and sustain strong relationships. The economic development director reports to the city mayor and will provide advice on all economic development matters in the city and supporting ongoing efforts to promote the local and regional economy while building upon the quality of life enjoyed by residents. This position is responsible for enabling retail, commercial and industrial development that will enhance job growth and the city's tax base. This position serves as the city's primary liaison with firms/individuals desiring to locate retail, commercial and industrial businesses within the city. The economic development director will develop, plan, execute and evaluate the goals, strategies, and policies for economic development to ensure a favorable climate for business and sustainable economic growth. Minimum requirements: bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in public administration, marketing, economic development, business, communications, or a related field required. A minimum five years professional experience, with a proven track record of success in related economic development function, eight years if degree is not related. Experience and success in retail recruitment and downtown redevelopment is necessary. Grant writing experience and knowledge of funding sources a plus. Please send a cover letter, resume and salary requirements to mpinner@munford.com. A full description of the position is available on www.munford.com

ENGINEER

JACKSON. The city of Jackson has an opening for a city engineer. The person employed in this position will plan, organize, and direct all activities of the engineering department. Must be able to exercise sound judgment and make independent decisions regarding engineering activities; assist in project management for the construction of the municipal public works projects. Oversee assigned projects to ensure contractor compliance with time and budget parameters for the project; review all contracts for projects covering streets or bridges; work closely with the Planning Department in reviewing subdivision plats and zoning requests; prepare estimates for project costs to correct drainage problems; follow-up on complaints regarding drainage and street flooding; prepare and submit budget for the Engineering Department and control the expenditures; Evaluate the work of subordinates and departmental working conditions; formulate and prescribe work methods, policies and procedures; maintain regular contact with consulting engineers, construction project engineers, county, state and federal agencies, professional and technical groups and the general public regarding Engineering activities and services. Bachelor's degree from an accredited college in the area of construction architectural systems, civil engineering or a related field, and least 10 years of experience or equivalent as an architect, engineer, inspector, contractor, superintendent of construction or any combination of these (five years of which shall have been in responsible charge of work, plus five years' experience as supervisor/manager in City/County government. Generous benefit package; hourly rate \$34.13; EOE/M/F/V/D. Minorities are encouraged to apply. Apply on line at www.jacksontn.gov or contact

the City of Jackson Human Resources Department, 127 E. Main Street, Suite 303, Jackson, TN 38301: Phone: (731) 425-8252: Fax: (731) 425-8673.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The TN Municipal League is soliciting applications for its Executive Director. The Executive Director serves as the chief executive officer. The Executive Director manages and directs all TML staff and programs, including sustaining working relationships with all member municipalities, related agencies and affiliated programs and organizations. The position requires the ability to conceive and implement programs and policies affecting all TN cities. Also required is the ability to communicate effectively both orally and in written form. The incumbent must possess the ability to work effectively with and implement the policies of the Board of Directors and member municipalities. The position requires a bachelor's degree with a major in public administration, political science, or a related field or at least ten (10) years of progressively responsible experience in municipal government or relevant association work, preferably in Tennessee. To apply, please submit your resume' electronically to: TMLExDirSearch@tennessee.edu Deadline to apply: Aug. 31, 2020.

INTERNAL AUDITOR

JACKSON. The city of Jackson has an opening for an internal auditor. The person employed in this capacity will perform his/her duties under the direction of the mayor. This person will conduct protective and constructive audits to review the accuracy and effectiveness of financial controls, records, and operations; will perform a range of auditing and compliance duties using a systematic, disciplined approach. Will also provide staff services, including financial planning, payroll, human resources, purchasing, information technology, risk management, public safety etc. Specific job duties include: responsible for studying and evaluating internal accounting controls related to the various accounting systems determining the adequacy of controls and operating procedures; assist all departments and/or divisions in setting up book-keeping systems to monitor expenditures; review, discuss and make recommendations for improvements to departmental systems of record- keeping in order to ensure good, sound financial reporting and accountability; make on-site visits to conduct audits and/or inventory checks at all city-owned departments; review and discuss changes necessary for compliance; ensure compliance with regulations and controls by examining and analyzing records, reports, operating practices, and documentation; recommending opportunities to strengthen the internal control structure. Bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, business or public administration, or a closely related field, and five years of progressively responsible municipal finance work. Master's Degree preferred and CPA certification desired. Must be bondable. Generous benefit package; hourly rate is \$34.13. EOE/M/F/V/D. Minorities are encouraged to apply. Apply on-line at www.cityofjacksontn.gov or contact the City of Jackson Human Resources Department, 127 E. Main Street, Suite 303, Jackson, TN 38301: phone (731) 425-8252: Fax: (731) 425-8673.

PERMIT ASSOCIATE I CODES DEPARTMENT

GALLATIN. The city of Gallatin is accepting applications for a permit associate in the codes department. The purpose of this position is to assist the public and provide technical office support duties related to the processing and issuance of building permits. Essential duties and responsibilities include: reviews plot plans, plats, and permit documents for

pertinent information in order to verify accuracy and completeness of information; determines permit, plan, and process requirements for prospective applicants; processes permit applications and plan intake; and determines processing needs for projects. Must have valid driver's license. Bachelor's degree in business or other professional related field. Must have a minimum of three years relevant experience in construction/inspections experience, preferably in an administrative role. Must have certification as a permit technician through a recognized certification organization within one year from date of hire. Knowledge of internal and external public agency permitting requirements. Knowledge of construction plans, construction terminology, construction practices, and basic math. Interested persons MUST apply online at www.gallatintn.gov to be considered for this open position. Under the How Do I tab, click on Employment Opportunities. Once the Employment page pulls up, click the apply button and follow the instructions.

POLICE OFFICER

SHELBYVILLE The Shelbyville Police Department is now hiring Tennessee POST certified police officers. Starting pay based on years of experience. Successful applicants will be required to pass a background check, physical, psychological, and drug/alcohol test prior to final consideration for the position. Applicants must be minimum age of 21 years old. Applications and job descriptions can be picked up at city hall or download from the city website: www.shelbyvilletn.org. Applications will be accepted until position is filled and may be returned to City Hall Administration Office, 201 N. Spring Street Shelbyville, TN 37160. EOE / Drug Free Workplace.

SENIOR PLANNER

TULLAHOMA. The city of Tullahoma is seeking applicants for a senior planner in the community development Department. Tullahoma has an estimated population of 19,555, and is a progressive community located in southern middle Tennessee close to Nashville, Chattanooga and Huntsville, Ala. The city has numerous parks and greenways, nearby lake access and a top-rated school system making it an ideal place to live. The senior planner is responsible for all aspects of municipal planning including zoning, current and long-range planning, site planning and special projects. The senior planner provides information and technical services to various boards and committees. This position requires someone who is professional, has strong analytical and problem-solving skills and is able to build effective working relationships. Bachelor's degree from an accredited undergraduate program in planning or other related field is required. Five (5) years of related planning experience in state or local government and AICP certification preferred. Salary range is \$55,000 - \$62,000, DOQ. Tullahoma offers an excellent benefits package and participates in TCRS. Please send resume with cover letter to: City of Tullahoma, Attn: Human Resources, P.O. Box 807, Tullahoma, TN 37388 or send email to: cbrice@tullahomatin.com. Position open until filled. Drug Free Workplace/EOE.

TOWN PLANNER

GREENEVILLE. The Town of Greeneville is seeking a FT Planner to join our Building/Zoning/Planning team. Ideal candidate is an enthusiastic, detail-oriented, hands-on individual with a strong knowledge of all phases of Planning. Review and evaluate various types of land use applications, project designs, plans and technical documents for compliance with Town standards and regulatory requirements. Assist in developing and implementing comprehensive land use plan, updating the Town's zoning and

subdivision regulations. Make presentations/recommendations to Planning Commission and Town Council. Additional duties include ensuring compliance with Town's MS4 permit, stormwater presentations, public education, and responsible for stormwater maintenance agreements. Proficient in Microsoft and GIS. Bachelor's degree from accredited college/university in urban planning, engineering, or related; advanced degree desired. Prefer five years' experience in municipal planning and AICP certification. Salary DOE. Download application at www.greenevilletn.gov or pick up in person at Town Hall (Finance Window). Please return in person or postal mail to ATTN HR Director, 200 N. College Street, Greeneville, TN 37745, or email pfuller@greenevilletn.gov. Open until filled. EOE/Drug Free Workplace

UTILITY DIRECTOR

SAVANNAH. The city of Savannah is currently seeking a qualified and experienced professional for the full-time position of utility director to manage its natural gas, water and wastewater operations. This includes supervision of 35 full-time employees, being responsible for the acquisition and distribution of natural gas supplies for present and future use, as well as the proper operation, maintenance, reporting, collection, treatment, distribution, and/or disposal of water and wastewater. The successful candidate should possess a bachelor's degree in business administration, industrial management, civil engineering or related field, with 5 to 10 years extensive responsible administrative and supervisory experience in the public utilities field. Prefer certifications in water treatment; wastewater treatment; water distribution system operator; wastewater collections system operator; and natural gas operator qualifications. Benefits include a competitive salary (DOQ), paid health, dental, vision and life insurance, 401(a) retirement, paid leave and holidays. Interested applicants must complete and submit an "Application for Employment" utilizing forms furnished by the city. These forms and a full job description are available at City Hall Human Resources, 140 Main Street, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday except Holidays or on the City's website at www.cityofsavannah.org. Applications may be submitted via email to bmatlock@cityofsavannah.org or mailed to Savannah City Hall, Attention: Human Resources, 140 Main Street, Savmmah, TN 38372. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. EOE.

UTILITY OPERATOR

WARTRACE. The town of Wartrace is currently accepting applications for a utility operators Work includes any and all duties required to operate and maintain a municipal wastewater collection system, as well as water distribution, public works, and other general maintenance duties as assigned. This work is performed primarily outdoors and is subject to extreme weather conditions. Occasional work after hours and on-call hours required. Must be at least 18 years of age, high school diploma/GED, and valid TN drivers license. CDL License (or ability to obtain CDL within 6 months). Any and all water and wastewater licenses or certifications helpful and will be verified. Experience with operation of heavy equipment: backhoe, skid loader. Finalist must pass a background, drug & alcohol checks prior to employment Salary DOQ. This is a full-time position with benefits that include health, vision, and dental insurance, vacation, sick, and holiday leave. Applications should be mailed to the attention of Town Recorder at Wartrace Town Hall, P.O. Box 158, Wartrace, TN 37183. Open until the position is filled.



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Cities play essential role in supporting local, small businesses through COVID

BUSINESS *from Page 1*
purchased PPE then given it to smaller businesses at discount pricing,” he said. “A small business may not need to order 500 masks or 500 gloves, so that might be something cities can help out with.”

Being more flexible with certain regulations can also help businesses in unprecedented economic times.

“What really helps small businesses is being flexible in terms of permits, such as tax filing deadlines,” Jackson said. “Some cities have reduced taxes and fees if businesses can prove they’ve been harmed by the pandemic. We have also seen cities through their emergency orders loosen regulation on alcohol services for restaurants or allowing restaurants more space. Some cities have closed down certain streets and allowed restaurants use them for a temporary period of time to encourage people to patronize them.”

Some cities have also seen success in bringing the business community together to discuss community needs.

“Working groups are also a great idea,” Jackson said. “We have seen cities convene a number of business leaders and owners to have a conversation about what city and citizens can do to help those businesses moving forward. They can help promote things like take out services.”

Jackson said the pandemic is going to change the way we do business, and cities should be prepared.

“We are seeing some trends that are going to be

permanent, one of which is a lot more utilization of automation,” he said. “Automation doesn’t get sick and doesn’t require the training. Even small businesses are looking at more way to automate things. Instead, we are going to see more of a demand in the people who service those automated processes.”

A reliance on technology – even by small businesses – is another trend coming out of the pandemic.

“We are also seeing the digitization of businesses,” Jackson said. “A lot of businesses that were already on the front end of seeing how they could best do business technologically are the businesses that are coming out of this ahead. We are seeing businesses change to primarily online ordering, processing orders, and rearranging kitchens in restaurants to better facilitate delivery and pick-up. Some things cities can do is not to fight those two trends but encourage them and let their citizens move forward.”

One of the things communities might need to address both during the pandemic and after it ends is the availability of reliable, fast internet service.

“Internet service is a major issue, and broadband is fundamental to so much of this,” Jackson said. “It has really become an essential infrastructure piece to any city, and for more rural areas that can be challenging. As a result of the pandemic, employers are starting to figure out that their employees actually enjoy working from home. They have found about a third of employees want to work from home full-time and another third would like to work from home half of the time and

come into the office half the time.”
With more companies seeing working from home as a cost-saving measure, Jackson said where we live might not also be where we work in the future.

“With good service, it’s possible for someone to have a job with a company that is based in Nashville, but they work from home in Jackson or Clarksville,” he said. “We are seeing a lot of people wanting to leave those more urban communities for smaller communities, and that is easier to do if you can connect with your job wherever you are.”

One of the lessons from the Great Recession of 2008 is that it is never too early to start planning for economic recovery. Investing in workforce development and education are two of the biggest things cities can begin doing now.

“One thing we think is important is for cities to start thinking about that recovery and to position themselves to be on the growth side of it,” Jackson said. “When we look at the last recession in 2008, the cities who planned ahead, made investments, and thought about their strategy about how they were going to come back were more successful on the growth side.”

Likewise, cities should also be planning for change.

“As cities think about their economic development, they should really focus on what will change permanently,” he said. “Typically, economic development has been about offering an abatement or a PILOT, but it’s going to become a lot more complex after this. We are going to see more onshoring where companies are bringing businesses back to the U.S., especially pharmaceuticals and PPE. We might also see a lot of smaller headquarter type operations looking for smaller cities to locate to.”



Aug. 22-23: Oak Ridge

Cars for Canines
Come down to the waterfront at Melton Lake Park for a car show, Crafter’s Brew, and pet-friendly fun! The event is free and welcome to all. All proceeds go to the Oak Ridge Animal Shelter and Anderson County Humane Society. For more info, visit <http://exploreakridge.com/event/>.

Aug. 30: Knoxville

7th Annual Knox Asian Festival
More than 40 food vendors, a parade, performances of traditional Asian music and dances, and a film festival highlight this celebration that supports the local business community and showcases Asian culture and heritage. To see a complete list of vendors and activities, visit www.knoxasianfestival.com.



November 3-5, 2020

TCMA Fall Conference
Franklin

November 18-21, 2020

NLC City Summit

March 15-16, 2021

TML Legislative Conference
Nashville

July 31 - Aug 3, 2021

TML Annual Conference
Chattanooga

NATIONAL BRIEFS



The U.S. economy shrunk at a seasonally-adjusted rate of 32.9% during the second quarter of 2020, according to the U.S. Commerce Department. Between April and June, the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) shrunk at a pace that would have wiped out roughly a third of the value of the national economy if continued over a year-long period. Economists predict the scale of the fall in the second quarter of 2020 will dwarf what has already been recorded in the first. This is the strongest decline the U.S. has reported since the start of the financial crisis in 2008 when output shrank by 8.4%. The decline has been created by mass layoffs, business closures, and a decline in consumer spending. Investments in buildings, equipment, and intellectual property have also fallen as have exports.

More than half of Ameri-

cans believe major changes and nearly all believe at least some changes are needed to improve the state of policing in the country, according to a new Gallup poll. The survey found that the vast majority of Americans would like to see changes to policing with 58% of Americans saying major changes are needed to improve policing while an additional 36% said minor changes are needed. Some of the ideas with broad public support from the poll include requiring officers to have strong and positive relationships with members of the community, greater accountability for misconduct, and community-based alternatives such as violence intervention programs and a greater reliance on community organizations to intervene with high-risk youth.

The U.S. economy gained 1.8 million jobs in July and saw the national unemployment rate fall to 10.2% from the rate of 11.1% previously recorded

in June. The new report from the U.S. Labor Department saw the jobs market slowly recovering amid surging cases of coronavirus. However, the July gains were not enough to outpace the 10.6 million jobs lost since the beginning of the pandemic with only 1.3 million reporting their unemployment as temporary. Permanent job losses to the economy also stayed flat at 2.9 million. Economists have warned that the failure of the federal government to pass a second stimulus bill would not only force millions of Americans into financial peril as the pandemic continues but also seriously jeopardize the overall economy recovery of the nation as a whole, creating permanent human losses of jobs and homes.

More than half of Americans said the COVID-19 pandemic has made them regret not saving more money. A recent survey from Bankrate found that 53% of Americans said the pandemic made them realize they didn’t have enough

saved in case of an emergency (23%) or hadn’t saved enough in their retirement accounts (20%). A further 17% of respondents said the pandemic made them realize they had too much while 14% said a lack of income stability has been their biggest regret since the crisis began. A previous survey conducted by Bankrate found that one-in-four Americans have already taken or anticipate taking money from their retirement accounts in order to make it through the crisis. Moving forward, Americans’ top financial priority is to pay down debt (20%) once the pandemic is over while saving more for emergencies (17%) is the second-highest priority. Another 17% of Americans said they don’t know what their biggest financial priority will be when the pandemic ends. Other financial priorities moving forward include saving more for retirement (12%), living within their means (11%), finding a more stable source of income (10%), and other financial priorities (11%).





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Downtown Development

Humboldt street art creates unique downtown branding

BY DR. BRIDGET JONES
jones-bridget consulting group

The city of Humboldt is located just minutes west of Jackson and halfway between Memphis and Nashville with the city predominantly in Gibson County and a portion in Madison. With annual festivals and fine arts, movies and music, shopping and sporting events and everything in between, Humboldt is authentically Tennessee. Community leaders promote the opportunity to live the small-town life just minutes from Jackson and several other West Tennessee towns and cities.

Humboldt is the home of the West Tennessee Strawberry Festival held the first week of May. Established in 1934, it has gained national recognition featuring one of the largest Grand Float Parades in America and possibly the largest non-motorized parade in the world. City residents and visitors enjoy events and activities held during the week-long celebration.

Downtown Humboldt is the heart of this community and the historic, traditional business district where it all got started. With the iconic shops and businesses, the Opera House Event Hall, and the Plaza Theatre, it is easy to recognize that Downtown Humboldt is unique.

The historic business district, private and civic buildings, the stories and the people of Humboldt all combine to form a place rich with character.

TENNESSEE DOWNTOWNS DESIGNATION

In 2016, Humboldt was selected to participate in the TNECD Tennessee Downtowns program. This coincided with an effort by downtown property owners, the Chamber of Commerce, and the city to improve the downtown district for residents and visitors.

As part of the selection process to become a Tennessee Downtowns community, Humboldt leaders formed a Steering Committee that continues to guide the community's redevelopment efforts in conjunction with chamber of commerce and city leaders.

During the eighteen-month program, leaders participated in training and technical assistance sessions and received a \$15,000 grant for improvements to and promotion of the downtown district.

The steering committee proposed a grant project to build Humboldt's brand, and the activities were designed to have an immediate visual impact and address some of the most noticeable negative aspects of the downtown's appearance.

Interrelated improvements highlighted the historical significance of downtown properties and Humboldt's identity as the "Straw-

berry Capital of Tennessee" through the installation of public art and signage along the gateway through the downtown. The grant project had three strategies:

Strategy One: Building identity through historical information Element One: Historic property signage

The committee proposed to design and install up to 50 individualized signs to be placed on buildings in the project area to promote their historical significance and to purchase Tennessee Downtowns signs for gateway entries to the downtown district.

The historical signs would be constructed of flat aluminum that could easily be mounted to the buildings with a consistent color scheme and fonts and branded with the city's logo. The signs give current and historical information about each building including its uses and ownership through the years. The committee intended the Historic Property Signage project to provide interesting background to keep people engaged as they visited the downtown district.

Strategy Two: Visual improvements and marketing of downtown properties Element Two: Pull-up banners for vacant storefronts

The committee proposed to design and produce 40 individual pull-up banners with historical photos to be used in vacant storefronts. These banners would rouse positive memories of past downtown businesses and block the view of building interiors that were vacant.

Each banner would be similar in color and style and would be another tool to engage visitors by providing a more positive visual than empty or decaying building interiors. As vacant buildings are occupied, these banners can be moved to different locations and used at other community functions.

Strategy Three: Gateway and streetscape public art installations Element Three: Install a series of stainless-steel strawberries along the Downtown Streetscape

The committee proposed to install eight stainless-steel strawberry statues to reinforce the city's brand identity. This public art would provide a striking visual element and serve as an interesting backdrop for events and photographs.

The strawberries would be substantial enough to be outdoors and withstand the elements and would be installed on public rights-of-way so they could be maintained by the city. The strawberries would be 32 inches wide and 42-inches tall and would be designed and produced by a downtown artisan.



The city of Humboldt achieved Tennessee Downtown program status in 2016 and recently became an accredited Main Street Community. Its historic downtown includes unique destinations like the Plaza Theater, Opera House Event Hall, and the Strawberry Museum. Known as the "Strawberry Capital of Tennessee," each year the city honors its agriculture heritage by hosting the West Tennessee Strawberry Festival Downtown. Unique public art of strawberries are also located throughout the community. Recently, the city has begun making numerous improvements to highlight both the beauty and heritage of its unique downtown community with new branding and signage aimed at both improving the overall appearance of vacant storefronts as well as giving passersby a glimpse into how the area looked in the past.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC IMPACT

The overarching goal of all of Humboldt's downtown investments is to make the city a vibrant destination that attracts residents and visitors who will spend money at local businesses, events, and entertainment venues. To this end, downtown leaders successfully created destination branding through public art and historical signage that is creating increased awareness and pride. The project also is catalyzing new businesses, retail and promotion. The local utilities employee who made the strawberries and signs is now looking for a 10,000-square-foot building to house his business. A new retail cluster around the Plaza Theater for "Dinner and a Movie" opportunities is promoting entertainment and dining. A new downtown mini park with benches and solar panel chargers is creating an open-air workspace. A promotional effort by three Gibson County Chambers of Commerce is creating a list of must-visit places for selfies that chamber staff hope leads to posts on various social media platforms. Additionally, the Humboldt Chamber of Commerce and downtown committee are working together to support five popular event venues within ten minutes of downtown through focused marketing efforts and exploration of the establishment of a community commercial kitchen in downtown to serve these and attract other food and event-related businesses and tourism. Increased customer traffic will provide the greatest benefit to existing local businesses and future investors that are being recruited to the community.

FIRST YEAR RESULTS

Historic Plaques installed on downtown properties	50
Storefront Window Banners installed	40
Public art strawberries installed	8
Downtown Events Hosted*	2
*2017 and 2018 Christmas On Main	
Downtown Events Attendees	1,100
Social Media Photo Locations Created	3
New Downtown Jobs Created	51
New Downtown Businesses Created/Expanded	10
(new and existing restaurants, coffee shop/restaurant, children's clothing stores, bakery, art studio/classroom, ladies' clothing boutique, radio station, insurance company expansion/merger)	

PROJECT FUNDING

TNECD Tennessee Downtowns Grant	\$15,000
Strawberries Streetscape Public Art	\$9,600
Historic Banners for Vacant Buildings	\$3,000
Historic Information Building Plaques	\$2,400
TOTAL DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT FUNDING	\$15,000

PROJECT LEADERS AND PARTNERS

Humboldt Chamber of Commerce
City of Humboldt
USDA Rural Development
Meales Metals
Bancorp South
Humboldt Downtown Business Association
Strawberry Festival Historic Museum
Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development
For project information contact the Humboldt Chamber of Commerce.

TNECD TENNESSEE DOWNTOWNS AND FACADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAMS
Downtown revitalization is a critical component of successful rural economic and community development. TNECD encourages revitalization and adaptive reuse of commercial buildings in downtown business districts through the Tennessee Downtowns and the Tennessee Main Street programs that provide technical assistance and funding for improvements. For more information visit TNECD Community and Rural Development.



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