

State Treasurer Lillard provides options for depositing ARP funds

As local government entities begin to receive federal dollars from the American Rescue Plan, I want to point out the options available to you through the Tennessee Department of Treasury for depositing public funds. This educational information may help you evaluate your investment options.

The Tennessee Department of Treasury manages state and local governments' short-term investments through pooled funds known as the State Pooled Investment Fund (SPIF) and the Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP). Treasury manages all of these funds with the objectives of safety, liquidity, and a competitive return on investments. The LGIP is commingled with the SPIF for investment purposes and provides local public finance officials an option to invest funds until they are needed, earning the same return on investments as the State Treasurer earns on the State's cash portfolio.

Funds from the American Rescue Plan received through the state may be directly deposited into an LGIP account. A separate LGIP account for ARP funds may also be established, allowing the funds to be tracked separately from operating funds. If your entity receives ARP funds directly from the federal government, you may establish an LGIP account and transfer the funds to the Treasury Department for investment in the LGIP. If your entity has an existing LGIP account for managing operating cash, you may wish to consider requesting an



David H. Lillard
TN State Treasurer

additional LGIP account for ARP funds. The application for the LGIP can be found at Treasury.tn.gov/LGIP under the "Apply or Manage Your Account" section.

Participants of the LGIP may also utilize a second pooled investment option managed by the Tennessee Treasury Department, which is the Intermediate Term Investment Fund (ITIF). The ITIF is a longer-term investment option for public funds where participants may benefit from a longer yield curve. The objective of the fund is to achieve a superior level of return at a reasonable level of risk measured over a longer-term investment horizon. The disclosure for the ITIF outlines the requirements for participation as well as the investment risks, which may be found at: Treasury.tn.gov/LGIP

See **ARP FUNDS** on Page 7

Metropolitan Statistical Areas classification to remain at 50,000

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) announced July 14 it is abandoning a proposed plan to change the criteria a city must reach to be considered a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). OMB announced it will maintain the MSA designation at 50,000 in population rather than raise the threshold to 100,000 in population.

Three Tennessee cities—Cleveland, Morristown and Jackson—would have been directly affected by the proposed change. But ultimately, it easily could have had a combined effect on many of Tennessee's smaller, more rural cities and towns who would have to compete for federal funding.

"This is a victory for the people in Cleveland, Morristown and

Jackson. Keeping the designation at 50,000 ensures that critical funding streams will not be cut off for vital programs," said TML Executive Director Anthony Haynes. "This decision also protects some of Tennessee's more rural communities from having to compete with much larger, urban communities for federal funding."

TML, in conjunction with its federal partner the National League of Cities, advocated against the change and outlined the harmful effects the proposal would have on MSA cities.

Two primary funding sources frequently cited as being affected by MSA designations are Federal and Highway Transportation dollars and Community Development

Block Grants. These dollars support programs for low and moderate-income people, public transportation projects, economic development, water and sewer projects, public health programs, and the elimination of slums and blight.

In addition to filing formal comments with the OMB, TML also worked with members of the Tennessee Congressional delegation, seeking their assistance to overturn the proposed change.

"We appreciate the assistance of U.S. Sens. Marsha Blackburn and Bill Hagerty, and U.S. Reps. Chuck Fleischmann, Diana Harshbarger, and David Kustoff—who strongly advocated against the change," said Haynes. "We are especially See **MSAs** on Page 7

Atoka PD host community forum focusing on cyber security, fraud

By KATE COIL
TML Communications Specialist

Cybercriminals stole an estimated \$1.8 billion from senior citizens in the U.S. in 2020, part of an overall \$4.2 billion scammed from Americans.

The FBI reported a 69% jump in cybercrime nationally last year with residents over the age of 50 losing the most money, between \$9,000 and \$10,000 on average.

The Atoka Police Department noticed a similar trend in their own community. Capt. Chris Ellwood with the Atoka Police Department said officials noticed numbers of reported fraud were climbing in the community, something Ellwood said was reflected in conversations officers were having with community members.

"Since January, we have seen an increase in reported fraud just to our particular area of about 14%," Ellwood said. "The amount of dollars each victim was losing was also climbing from about \$3,000 to \$5,000. We also know for that 14% who reported, there is probably about 40% who didn't report they were scammed because they were embarrassed or lost a lot of money to somebody. A lot of citizens were noting that they were experiencing an alarming number of robo-dials and text messages. We were hearing of some new identified scams just out of our local area. Our community was starting to get alarmed. So we sat down and talked with some other partners about what we could do together."

Ellwood said Chief Anthony Rudolph charged the department with finding a way to work with citizens on the problem. The result was an event titled "Coffee, Cops, and Cyber: Let's Talk" to discuss cybersecurity issues. The Atoka Police Department presented the seminar in conjunction with 25th District Attorney General Mark Davidson and featuring keynote speaker Assistant U.S. Attorney Debra Ireland discussing issues

such as email scams, social media threats, gift card fraud, digital device safety, and other emerging trends.

While the event was open to all citizens, it also specifically targeted seniors in the community as their age group is often the most targeted by scammers.

Ellwood said Assistant U.S. Attorney Debra Ireland made a significant point about why the scammers often target the elderly.

"Back in their day, when the phone rang



Protecting us all.

The recent education event held by the Atoka Police Department is part of new community-oriented policing efforts by the department.



After noticing a 14% increase in fraud reports in their community, the Atoka Police Department conducted an informational meeting discussing fraud, cybercrime, and other issues. Reports of phone and internet fraud have increased in the passed year with seniors being a major group targeted by scammers.

you always answered it," he said. "After 50 years of always answering that phone, it's hard to change that behavior. That paradigm shift

is what we have to get across to our elderly population. We have to say go ahead and answer the phone, See **ATOKA** on Page 7

To master cybersecurity, focus on the Three Ps

By JOE HOWLAND
VC3 Chief Information Officer

While cybersecurity can seem like an overwhelming problem, we strongly and consistently encourage cities to start with the initial step of addressing the most important low-hanging fruit risks we call the threePs: passwords, patching, and people.

If cities can improve upon these three areas, they can eliminate some of the biggest risks that lead to viruses, ransomware, hacking, and cybersecurity incidents. Being proactive and intentional about these problems will lead to strengthening your overall cybersecurity and decreasing your liability.

Let's look at the 3Ps in more detail.

1. Passwords

Too many cities still use default passwords, obvious passwords (such as a child's name, pet's name, college mascot, birth date, etc.), or weak passwords (like "123456"). Half of all security breaches involve stolen or easily guessable passwords. The weaker or looser the security around a password (such as people writing their passwords on paper notes around their desk), the easier it is for hackers to break into your systems and steal information.

Hackers use automated software to look for holes in your systems. That automated software attempts common and weak password combinations that are easy to crack.

- To protect yourself:
 - Do not write passwords

down and leave them visible.

- Use a password on all devices.
- Do not use simple or obvious passwords. We strongly recommend using passphrases.
- Do not save passwords to websites and applications.
- Change passwords regularly.
- Do not use the same password for all systems you access.

Two-Factor Authentication (2FA) is also becoming easier to use and vastly decreases the risk of a hacker using a password to break into your systems. With 2FA, your See **THREE** on Page 7



TML Annual Conference registration is now open!

Registration for the TML Annual Conference and Expo in Chattanooga, slated for Sept. 18-21, is now open. The four-day conference will feature top-notch speakers and workshop sessions, several special events, ample time to network with your peers, and an exhibit hall with reputable companies ready to meet your needs. Several conference sessions will meet the continuing education requirements for the Certified Municipal Finance Officers (CMFO) and Utility Board Member Training

To register, go to www.tml1.org/81st-annual-conference-and-expo

1 pm - 7:45 pm	FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 MTAS Elected Officials Academy Level II
8 am - 12:30 pm	SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 MTAS Elected Officials Academy Level II
1 am - 5 pm	Conference Registration
1 - 4:30 pm	CMFO Workshops (Set of 3)
1- 4:30 pm	Utility Board Training (Set of 3)
5:30 - 6:30 pm	Meet & Greet Reception
7:30 am	SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 Golf Scholarship Outing
9 am - 5 pm	Registration
9:30 am - 3 pm	Exhibit Hall Open
10:30 - 11:30 am	CMFO Workshop
10:30 - 11:30 am	Utility Board Training Workshop
10:30 - 11:30 am	Panel Presentation: Cybersecurity & Ransomware Attacks
11:30 am - 1:30 pm	Lunch
11:45 am - 1:45 pm	J.R. Wauford Ice Cream
1:15 - 2:15 pm	Roundtable Discussions
2:30 - 3:15 pm	District Meetings
3:30 - 5 pm	Opening Session
6 - 8 pm	Host City Reception: Chattanooga Aquarium
7:15 - 8 am	MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 Breakfast: Grab & Go
8 - 8:45 am	Annual Business Meeting
8:30 am - 3 pm	Exhibit Hall Open
9 - 10 am	Workshops (Set of 3)
10:15 - 11:45 am	Second General Session
12:15 - 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 - 3 pm	J.R. Wauford Ice Cream
2:45 - 3:45 pm	Concurrent Workshops (Set of 3)
4 - 5 pm	Concurrent Workshops (Set of 3)
6:30 - 11 pm	Public Entity Partners Social
8 - 10 am	TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 Awards Breakfast

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



CHATTANOOGA

Novonix officials announced the company will expand its Chattanooga manufacturing operations, investing approximately \$160 million and the creation of 290 new jobs. Novonix established its anode materials business, Pure Graphite, in March 2017 to develop and commercialize ultra-long-life, high performance anode material for the lithium-ion battery market, specifically for electric vehicles and similar storage applications. To address the need for a US-based lithium-ion battery supply chain, Novonix will expand its operations in Chattanooga to produce the high purity and high consistency anode material required for long-life batteries. Novonix plans to purchase and retrofit the former Alstom building, which will be the company's second facility in Chattanooga. The 400,000+-square-foot plant will accommodate a planned 8,000+-ton per year production operation and will join the existing operations located at 353 Corporate Place where the company has been since 2019.

COLUMBIA

The city of Columbia will be building a new, \$65 million wastewater treatment plant, the largest capital investment in the city's history. The present plant in the city has been operational since 1978. J.R. Wauford and Company will begin preliminary engineering for the new plant, which is expected to be complete and operational by 2027. Design for the new plant is expected to be complete by 2022, at which time it will go for review by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). After approval, bids for construction are anticipated to begin in 2023. The new plant will increase the city's capacity by 70%.

EAGLEVILLE

The city of Eagleville is taking part in a multi-million-dollar project underway by United Communications to bring broadband internet to the municipality. A check presentation was recently held at Eagleville High School where the state of Tennessee presented \$5.2 million to United Communications for a project that will expand broadband internet access to 1,400 locations, including Eagleville. The grant is part of \$7 million in grants the organization has received from the state in the past year. Eagleville High School was also presented with a \$1,000 check for its theater department as thanks for hosting the event.

FRANKLIN

The Franklin Fire Department has opened the city's newest fire station, which will be located on a street named after the city's first career African-American fireman. Fire Station No. 7 is located on John Fitzgerald Drive, which was unveiled in February. The department opened the new station with a hose uncoupling ceremony and wetdown ceremony for its apparatus. Station No. 7 is the first in the city that will have an ambulance wing, which was funded by Williamson County and is staffed by Williamson Medical Center EMS personnel.

JACKSON

The city of Jackson has received a \$950,000 Multimodal Access grant from the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) to fund high visibility crosswalks, pedestrian crossing signals, and ensure ADA accessibility along State Route 20 at the intersection of

North Parkway and Highland. The project is part of an overall strategy to enhance connectivity in the city by providing more pedestrian access. The city will contribute a 5% match to the project, which will include 1,300 feet of new sidewalk, four new pedestrian signals, and eight crosswalks.

NASHVILLE

Metro Nashville has for the first time surpassed \$5 billion in the value of its issued construction permits, according to officials with the Metro Department of Codes. By contrast, in fiscal year 2020, Metro issued 11,862 permits that had a total construction valuation of a then-record \$4.41 billion. Of those, 3,184 were commercial construction permits valued at \$3.21 billion, which added more commercial value in Nashville than in any single year in its history to that point.

OAK RIDGE

The Oak Ridge Fire Department has unveiled a new fire truck designed for wildland firefighting. Brush 1 was purchased by the city and the equipment was purchased with a grant received from the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency funded through the Department of Energy. The truck has a 300-gallon per minute Hale pump with a 300-gallon capacity water tank and a 5-gallon foam storage tank. It can pump water through a bumper-mounted nozzle, which is operated via joystick inside the cab, while the vehicle is being driven so fire along the roadside can be contained and extinguished. This prevents having to deploy a hose line for a small area and helps to cover a larger area in less time. Brush 1 also carries 200 feet of booster line for easy access, fire rakes, rogue hoes, and backpacks that allow a firefighter to carry a bladder of water on their back with a manual hand pump for extinguishing smaller fires. It has hose packs that carry 100-feet of one-inch fire hose and the necessary hardware for use away from the apparatus. The department also purchased two backpack leaf blowers that help with cutting fire breaks into the ground, while blowing the unburned fuels toward the fire line. A chainsaw was added for cutting burning trees that create injury hazards and fall into the unburned areas.

PULASKI

Martin Methodist College in Pulaski has become the fifth campus for the University of Tennessee system and the first addition to the education network in more than 50 years. The school will be named UT Southern and will retain current university president Dr. Mark LaBranche as the new chancellor of the university. The UT Board of Trustees unanimously approved the merger in June after nearly a year of collaboration with Martin Methodist officials. As a result of the merger, students will see tuition and fees cut by about 60% and grant students access to the UT Promise scholarship program. It is also the first UT campus for students in Southern Middle Tennessee, which does not have a public university. Founded in 1870 as a private all-female Methodist college, the university is expected to see enrollment double in its first five years after the merger.

ROCKFORD

Flex-N-Gate officials announced they will expand their Rockford operations, creating 91 new jobs. Flex-N-Gate, an automotive original equipment manufacturer (OEM) supplier, specializes in manufacturing plastic, metal, lighting and mechanical assemblies. The company will invest \$5.5 million to upgrade and expand its Rockford manufacturing facility and increase production in lighting materials. Flex-N-Gate has been manufacturing automotive parts since the 1960s. Headquartered in Urbana, Ill., Flex-N-Gate currently employs approximately 185 people at its Rockford location and 23,000 throughout the world.

SPRINGFIELD

Martinrea will expand its operations in Springfield, investing \$40 million and creating 97 new jobs. The automotive parts manufacturer will upgrade its large presses, add additional robots and welding cells and add 30,000 square feet to its

McMinnville cuts ribbon on new rec center



Officials with the city of McMinnville have cut the ribbon on the new Milner Recreation Center. The new, 20,000-square-foot facility includes indoor basketball courts, tennis courts, a larger wellness center, fitness equipment, a play area for kids, a spin bike room, a new pool, and room for fitness classes like yoga. The facility is named for Doug Milner, who is the owner of the Dr. Pepper Bottling Company facility in McMinnville and a longtime community advocate.

New mural commemorates Oak Ridge history



A new mural has gone up in the city of Oak Ridge, highlighting the city's past and present contributions to science and technology. Painted by local artist Megan Lingerfelt, the 102-foot-by-20-foot mural is located on West Tennessee Avenue on a building owned by the ORNL Federal Credit Union. The mural is based on photos taken by Manhattan Project photographer Ed Westcott as well as images of the city's International Friendship Bell, the desegregation of the local school system, and current ORNL research and development associate staff member Emma Betters. The mural took 33 days to complete.

existing facility at 1 Fabco Drive. Martinrea is a diversified and global automotive supplier engaged in the design, development and manufacturing of highly engineered, value-added Lightweight Structures and Propulsion Systems. It currently operates in 57 locations in Canada, the U.S., Mexico, Brazil, Germany, Slovakia, Spain, China, South Africa, and Japan.

SHELBYVILLE

The Shelbyville Parks and Recreation Department has received a \$750,000 grant from the Blue-Cross BlueShield Healthy Places program to construct a new wheelchair accessible playground along with a fitness station and swing set at the city's H.V. Griffin Park. Known as Celebration Station, the 20-year-old current playground at the park is one of the last standing wooden playgrounds built in the community in the 1990s. Inspections have found that wood has rotted underneath, necessitating a replacement of the facility. The new playground will be constructed with aluminum, steel, and plastic and will use a poured in place rubber surface. Officials expect the new playground to be operational by the fall. The playground renovation is part of an overall master plan for the park that includes two new tennis courts, bike tracks, a soccer complex, and softball field. The H.V. Griffin Park is one of 10 other projects BlueCross is completing in 2021. For more information on the project, visit <https://www.bcbst.com/about/in-the-community/healthy-places/>.

WHITE HOUSE

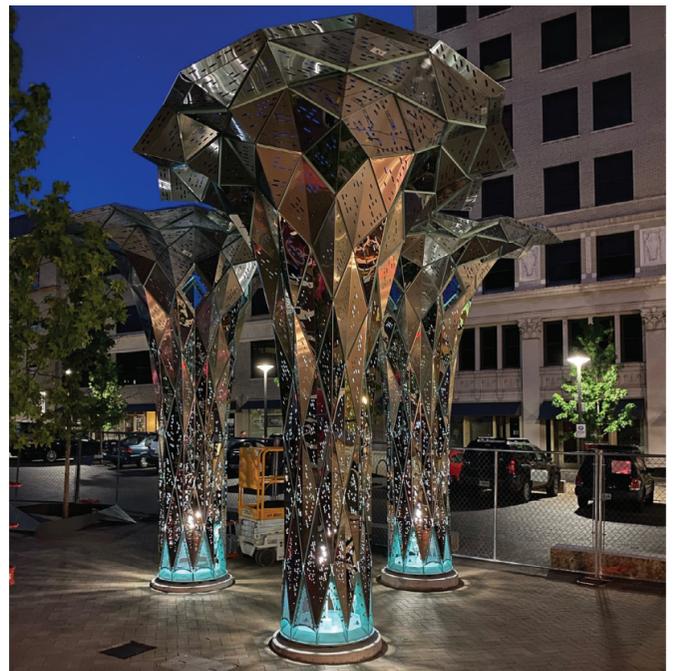
The city of White House, in conjunction with Robertson County, has announced plans for a new 300-acre business park to be located off Interstate 65. Bound by Hester Drive and Union Road on the west side, the property will extend to where Advanex Americans recently announced its new headquarters and an existing Lowe's Millwork Operations facility, which could also become part of the park. A conceptual plan shows the site could accommodate a large facility of more than 1 million square feet with several smaller buildings if needed. Officials said they are hoping to see a mix of manufacturing and office use as well as small regional headquarters, back office and support services, and research and development facilities.

Selmer officials unveil new TN Music Pathways marker



A new Tennessee Music Pathways marker has been unveiled in Selmer honoring the city's contribution to the rockabilly genre. Downtown Selmer is home to a collection of Tennessee music boxes as well as two murals honoring the area's contributions to rockabilly. Selmer is already the location of two markers on the Trail of Music Legends. To learn more about the Tennessee Music Pathways program, visit www.tn.vacation.com/tennessee-music-pathways.

New public art project unveiled in Chattanooga



The city of Chattanooga has unveiled its latest public art project on Patten Parkway. Titled "Radiance" the installation was created by Jason Kelly Johnson and Nataly Gattegno. The installation is part of a renovation designed to create a pedestrian-friendly gathering space for professionals, residents, and students and encourage more use downtown. The overall renovation also includes new pavement, trees, seating areas, and other amenities.

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Pandemic, low costs contribute to rising popularity of disc golf

By KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

Disc golf has become one of the most popular and rapidly growing sports in America.

Many players tried disc golf for the first time during the COVID-19 health crisis as the sport allowed participants to be outside while still socially distancing. Even while sales of other sporting goods equipment decreased, sales of disc golf equipment saw an increase during the pandemic.

Disc golf saw a 33% increase in popularity during the pandemic with an estimated 50 million rounds of the game played worldwide in 2020. Post-pandemic, many of those new participants in the sport are continuing to play.

Candi Rawlins, executive director of the Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association, said disc golf rose in popularity along with biking and hiking during the pandemic.

"I think during the pandemic any activity that allowed people to get outside and stay social distanced saw an increase," Rawlins said. "Even now, those trends are continuing. People truly appreciating the parks that they have access to and are enjoying the many opportunities that are out there. A lot of people tried something new or that they had never made the time to try before."

Even before COVID-19, Rawlins said the sport was gaining popularity.

"Disc golf has probably been on the rise for about the last 10 years," she said. "We have seen cities putting in new disc golf courses in that period just because it is becoming a very popular activity. It is one of those things that is very attractive to families as well as to individuals who really want to compete."

At present, the state of Tennessee is home to nearly 200 disc golf courses and dozens of locally-based disc golf clubs where fans play and promote the sport. One place where the sport's impact can be seen is the city of Morristown, which has earned the nickname Tennessee's Disc Golf Capital. The city was recently ranked fourth on the list of top small towns for disc golf by disc golf directory app and website UDisc.

The city also hosted the Tennessee State Disc Golf Championship in June where 550 players from 26 states came to compete. The championship tournament had a \$200,090 direct economic impact to the city, according to officials with the Morristown Chamber of Commerce.

Craig Price, director of Morristown Parks and Recreation, said the city's involvement in the sport began in 2007 when the first disc golf course was built in the city's Wayne Hansard Park in conjunction with the Morristown Kiwanis Club. Price said there are now five disc golf courses accessible to Morristown residents. In addition to the Hansard Park course, the city has two courses at its Frank Lorino Park while there is a course at the Hamblen County-managed Cherokee Park and Marina and one managed by the state at Panther Creek State Park.

"Having more courses has helped us bring in more people to the program," Price said. "If someone comes here, they can go play the tight, technical course at Wayne Hansard, grip and rip it at Panther Creek at the course called 'the Beast,' and Frank Lorino is a combination of both. Frank Lorino Park has a blue basket course and a yellow basket course, so you can play two courses in the same day."

A newcomer to the disc golf scene, the city of Springfield presently has one park opened at J. Travis Price Park. The course began as a nine-hole course but has increased to an 18-hole course. Opened during the pandemic, Springfield Recreation Programmer Sherry Bryant said the sport immediately began taking off.

"During the time most buildings were closed due to COVID restrictions, disc golf was a great opportunity for citizens to enjoy the outdoors and participate in a physically challenging activity," she said.

Disc golf has a widespread appeal.

"We have seen everything from four- or five-year-old kids to seniors, depending on the course," Rawlins said. "A lot of our depart-



Disc golf fans gather for the opening of the new disc golf course at Springfield's J. Travis Price Park. The sport has seen an increase in popularity during the pandemic as a result of its low cost to users and play that allows participants to be outside while still social distancing.



Morristown is home to five unique disc golf courses and has gained a reputation as the Disc Golf Capital of Tennessee. The city recently hosted the state disc golf tournament and is home to numerous disc golf events. A sport that is catching on with players of all ages, disc golf courses are relatively easy to construct and maintain for cities, providing hours of recreation to players at a lower cost to taxpayers and municipalities than many other types of recreation facility.

ments who have disc golf courses have introductory skill training days and give people a chance to try their hand at it."

For many in Morristown, Price said disc golf is a family affair.

"We have a lot of families who play together," he said. "People will come, eat lunch, and spend the day playing disc golf. There are a lot of young men and women who play. It's a sport people can do for a long time, up into their seventies and eighties. We see young kids out playing with their parents. It gets you out of the house and gives you great exercise. You are bending over, throwing, walking, and having to hop over logs. It's a great, healthy sport. There is also great solitude being outside in nature."

With the average starter set of discs costing between \$20 and \$30, the sport is affordable for most.

"You can invest a lot of money in disc golf, but you don't have to," Rawlins said. "Most cities who have disc golf courses will sell discs, or players can bring in their own. The discs aren't expensive, and players will play with anything from a four-to-five-inch disc to a frisbee."

Likewise, the courses themselves aren't as expensive to create or maintain as other facilities, such as ball golf courses.

"It is one of those activities that doesn't require a pristine, maintained course," Rawlins said. "As long as you can see the hole from the tee box and have a line of sight, you can play disc golf. They aren't looking for that clear area. They want trees and other things to get around to get to the tee."

Price said there is no comparison in what Morristown spends to maintain a disc golf course versus the cost of a ball golf course. Creating a disc golf course can cost several thousand dollars – with local groups often helping pitch in on the price tag – and players are often a big help in ensuring the course is properly maintained.

"Ball golf courses are much more expensive to maintain," he said. "All we have to do for our disc golf course is bring in a chainsaw every few months. Occasionally,

we have to lay down woodchips or mulch and spray for poison ivy – those sorts of things. Disc golf courses use what you've got."

Bryant said the use of the local landscape rather than man-made landscaping is one reason for minimal costs establishing a course.

"The cost of a disc course is extremely less expensive than most other recreation facilities," she said. "There is need for large expanse of hard surface like pavement and concrete for tennis courts. A disc golf course has minimal hard surface area typically for the basket installation and tee pads. The city partnered with a local wood chip company to dump wood chips along the course in the woods/tree canopy section. A regular/ball golf course requires daily manicured process for greens and fairways and large areas of expensive landscaping."

Disc golf clubs and groups have been the driving force behind many new courses across the state. Rawlins said these groups can be a valuable resource for cities looking to both build and maintain courses.

"Anytime one of our cities is looking at adding a recreation activity that hasn't been offered before, it is always helpful to have a local group with some expertise in it," she said. "In the case of disc golf, they often come out to the land and help create the course. In some cases, they will go and advocate for the funding to buy tees or baskets. It is huge in making sure these activities are offered and continue to be offered. A lot of courses are designed by local disc golf groups who figure out ways to make it work in the space that they have."

Bryant said the local Discin Disc Golf Group donated equipment and helped raise funds from local businesses – including the local Disc Golf Store – to finance the course in their community.

"Disc golf clubs and organizations were instrumental in construction of the course in an existing park in Springfield," she said. "The club provided portable course to offer a fundraising tournament. Funds were donated to the City

Parks and Recreation to purchase equipment and to cover construction costs of the 18-hole course. The disc clubs, local businesses and organizations support provide funds for the course layout kiosk, baskets as well as conducted a contest to name the course. The club conducted two tournaments with proceeds towards maintenance and enhancements. A third tournament is planned for September. All proceeds donated to the department for course improvements."

Unlike a lot of sports, Price said disc golfers will be out in all sorts of weather.

"Disc golfers are unique in that they love what they do, and we are glad to be able to support them," he said. "You'll find them out here on cold days or rainy days. They do ice bowl events where they play in the snow. Cold weather doesn't bother them. They just love to go out and do their thing."

Additionally, Price said local disc golfers have been eager to give back to Morristown for supporting their sport.

"They hold fundraisers to give back to the community," he said. "They are all the time throwing together a disc tournament to help someone in need. Our Rotary Club and Kiwanis Club are both involved in disc golf. Both of those clubs have been great to our parks and have seen the significance of disc golf. Kiwanis International even came in and did a feature on the small course our Kiwanis Club sponsored at Wayne Hansard Park that was featured in their magazine."

Price said Morristown's variety of courses has made the city a destination both for professional tournaments and fans of the sport who want to spend a weekend on the course.

"Over time, we have worked with our chamber of commerce and people in the community who love disc golf," he said. "We have all worked together to bring disc golf here. We recently had the largest group we had ever had come in four a tournament earlier this year. We have people all the time who come here to play. You might run

into individuals from South Carolina, Kentucky, or from Middle Tennessee. People come out on the weekend just like ball golfers and go out to different courses to play on. The fact that they can go out and play courses at different, diverse levels is what they enjoy."

As a result, the city sees a good return on its investment in disc golf.

"Disc golf has a daily economic impact on Morristown," Price said. "People come here from a good driving distance, spend the night over the weekend to play, buy gas, and eat. We have larger tournaments that bring in professionals. The economic impact is out there, it's consistent, and it's real."

Bryant said the Springfield course is already generating visitors for the city.

"Our parks director often meets citizens along the course and asks about their experience," she said. "Most users are from out of town. We have had participants come from Kentucky, Clarksville, Nashville, Mt. Juliet, and more. Many of the folks express their gratitude and how impressed they are with the course layout in the open as well as under a tree canopy. With out of town course users the city reaps the benefits of the unseen-indirect benefits and revenue to the city via sales tax with out of town customers visiting gas stations, restaurants, shops, boutiques, and more while in the area. The professional maintenance of the course reflects well on the city's image."

Rawlins said there are plenty of resources for those interested in building a disc golf course in their own community.

"Absolutely get in touch with the National Disc Golf Association who will give you resources or your local disc golf associations," she said. "We can also point them in the direction of grants and funds that will help in creating a course. Most of the time, disc golf courses aren't stand-alone parks. They are part of other parks that have other activities like walking trails. Disc golf courses are a great enhancement to a park."



PEOPLE

Ardo Ba has been selected as the interim electric director for the city of Oak Ridge. Ba has previously served as the operations manager of the Oak Ridge Electric Department and will take over as interim director after the promotion of former director Jack Sugg to deputy city manager. Ba has been with the Oak Ridge Electric Department since 2009, serving first as an electrical project manager then as electric operations manager. He is a Tennessee Valley Public Power Association (TVP-PA) Certified Power Executive. Ba moved to East Tennessee from Senegal in 2000. He studied at the University of Tennessee Knoxville's English Language Institute. He worked at Jackson Energy Authority for a year and served with the Tennessee Army National Guard from 2005 to 2017 as a cavalry scout where he was honorably discharged as a non-commissioned officer. He served missions in Baghdad where he was honored with an Army Accommodation Medal and Certification of Appreciation from the Department of State.



Ardo Ba

vant to the citizens of Bolivar. We will miss her greatly but wish her well," said Mayor Julian McTizic upon her retirement.

Brian Goss, chief of the Brentwood Fire and Rescue Department, has been sworn in as the state director representing Tennessee in the Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs (SEAFC) Board of Directors. SEAFC is the largest Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) representing more than 2,000 members in 10 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Goss has been with the Brentwood Fire and Rescue Department for 13 years and has served as the department's chief for the past decade. He is also the immediate past president of the Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association.



Brian Goss

Johnny Kimbrough has been selected as the new director of the Ned McWherter West Tennessee Cultural Arts Center in Jackson, known locally as The Ned. Kimbrough formerly served as director of music programs at Jackson Christian School and has more than 35 years of experience in the performing arts. The Ned provides a more than 2,200 square foot staging area in a 440-seat theatre and a cultural center that houses two art galleries for traveling and local exhibits. Gallery space and meeting rooms are available for receptions, weddings, seminars and dinners.



Johnny Kimbrough

Daryl Blair, fire chief for the city of Cookeville, has retired from his position after nearly 35 years with the department. Blair has served as Cookeville's fire chief since 2017, and was lauded by Cookeville City Manager James Mills for his leadership, especially in the wake of the March 2020 tornado outbreak in the community. Blair began his career with the Cookeville Fire Department in 1987.



Daryl Blair

Pamela Caskie has been appointed the new city administrator for Spring Hill. Caskie has been serving as the interim city administrator since February 1. She is the fifth person and first woman to serve in the role. Caskie has more than 20 years of city manager experience and 15 years of economic development experience. Before coming to the city of Spring Hill, she served as the development director for the city of Sevierville from 2014 until 2019. She has also served in municipal management roles in Vermont, Pennsylvania, and Nebraska as well as a regional government manager in Colorado. Caskie holds a bachelor's degree from Tennessee Tech and a master's degree in public administration from Bowling Green State University.



Pamela Caskie

Richard Mills has been selected as the new public directors for the city of Piperton. Prior to coming to Piperton, Mills spent 11 years with the town of Collierville first as a utilities division manager and a public utilities manager and 17 years as a utilities supervisor with the city of Newbern. Mills has a state certification in water distribution and wastewater collection.



Richard Mills

Richard V. Stevens, communications director for the city of Clarksville for the past five years, will retire in August, concluding a 40-year career as a journalist, media executive and communications professional. Before joining the city staff in 2016, Stevens spent 35 years as a reporter, editor, newsroom leader and later as the top executive of a local media company. He retired as editor and general manager of the *Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle* in 2015 after 16 years with the paper. Before that, he spent five years as an assistant managing editor, reporting team leader, and night city editor at *The Tennessean*. Stevens also served in reporting and editing roles in Illinois, Washington, Kansas, and in his home state of Missouri. He is a graduate of the University of Missouri St. Louis.



Richard Stevens

Shelia Dellinger has retired as the city administrator for the city of Bolivar after 44 years of service to the city. In addition to the 11 years Dellinger spent as the city administrator for Bolivar, she spent a total of 20 years serving as an accountant for the city. Dellinger joined the city in 1977. Dellinger's last day was June 30. "She has been a dedicated ser-



Shelia Dellinger

PE Partners Michael Fann honored for 35 years of public service

Several Tennessee lawmakers sponsored a resolution honoring Michael Fann, president and CEO of Public Entity Partners, for his 35 years of service to public entities across the state.

Presented to Fann by Senate Majority Leader Jack Johnson, R-District 23, on June 11 at PE Partners' Board of Directors meeting, the resolution was also sponsored by Rep. Brandon Ogles, R-District 61; Rep. Sam Whitson, R-District 65; and Rep. Glen Casada, R-District 63.

In addition to his current leadership position, Fann has served in several roles at PE Partners over the past three-and-a-half decades, including vice president of risk services, director of personnel, loss control director, loss control manager and loss control consultant.

"Michael Fann has dedicated his career to assisting Tennessee's local governments as they work to serve their citizens," Sen. Johnson said. "It is a privilege to present him with this resolution commending him for his 35-year commitment to public entities across our great state. As the resolution declares, he epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean."

Founded in 1979 by the Tennessee Municipal League, PE Partners was one of the first statewide mu-



Pictured from left are State Sen. Jack Johnson; Michael Fann, president/CEO of Public Entity Partners; and Livingston Mayor Curtis Hayes, chairman, Public Entity Partners Board of Directors.

nicipal liability pools established in the U.S. In addition to comprehensive insurance coverages for its members, PE Partners offers programs and services through training, consulting, risk control surveys, grants and scholarships, and expert claims administration. PE Partners serves nearly 500 local governments across Tennessee.

"It is a sincere honor to be presented with this resolution," Fann said. "I am exceedingly

grateful for the work PE Partners provides to our members, and would actually characterize it as a calling. For more than 40 years, our team members have devoted their careers to working with and for local governments throughout Tennessee, and we are proud to partner with them to help reduce their risk exposure, ensure the safety of their employees and the protection of their taxpayer dollars, and equip them to provide vital services for their citizens."

UT-MTAS hires three new staff members

The University of Tennessee's Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) has hired three new staff members for its Nashville office.

Tonya Travis and Cassie Wheeler have both been hired as finance and accounting consultants. Jessica Harris joins MTAS as a training and development coordinator and will also work in the Nashville office.

Travis comes to MTAS after having served two years as the finance director for the city of Spring Hill. Prior to that, she worked as director of business operations and finance at the University of Tennessee Space Institute (UTSI) in Tullahoma, as an accountant for the city of Shelbyville, and for 11 years as a finance director for the city of Fayetteville.

She holds a bachelor's degree in accounting with a minor in business administration from Middle Tennessee State University. While attending MTSU, Travis was also working as a co-op student with Winnett Associates, PLLC, in Shelbyville. She is also a certified municipal finance officer.

Wheeler most recently worked



Tonya Travis



Cassie Wheeler

in the internal audit department with the city of Clarksville. She received her degree from Austin Peay State University and is a Certified Municipal Financial Officer.

Harris most recently worked for the Tennessee Department of Revenue as a coordinator in the taxpayer services area. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Alabama in Huntsville and a master's in adult education and training from Strayer University.



Jessica Harris

TCHOA's Rodney Carmical retires after 53 years of public service; CTAS's Brett Howell appointed new executive director

Longtime public servant Rodney Carmical has officially retired as executive director from the Tennessee County Highway Officials Association (TCHOA), effective June 30.

He has served in that role since 2002, representing all 95 elected and appointed county highway officials before the Tennessee General Assembly, the Governor, and state departments.

Prior to being named TCHOA's executive director, Carmical served as the executive director of The University of Tennessee's County Technical Assistance Service (CTAS). He retired from CTAS after 23 years of service. During his tenure with UT, he was twice awarded the University's "Outstanding Public Service Professional" award and was recognized by the University with a vice-presidential citation for innovation in "Rethinking Customer Service."

He also worked for a decade in



Rodney Carmical



Brett Howell

the state Comptroller's Office and the state Department of Education. During that period, he also served as the city recorder in Lobelville and as a county commissioner in Perry County.

Brett Howell was named as his successor, beginning as TCHOA executive director July 1. He previ-

ously served as a communications consultant with CTAS for the past 26 years.

Prior to joining CTAS in August 1995, Howell was a newspaper editor with experience in university public affairs.

He holds a master's degree in public administration from Tennessee State University and a bachelor's degree in English/journalism from Tennessee Technological University, where he also received a minor in history. In 2019 he earned the Certified Public Manager designation.

At CTAS he worked directly with the county associations of highway officials, mayors and commissioners, and has been responsible for public policy and fiscal analysis, particularly as it relates to how the state budget and proposed legislation impact counties. During his tenure he has served as the managing editor of *Tennessee County News*.

TML wishes them both well!

WAUFORD

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

TML, TMBF meet with city officials in Middle Tennessee



Earlier this month, TML Executive Director Anthony Haynes and TMBF President and CEO Wade Morrell continued with their membership outreach visits, this time meeting with city officials in Middle Tennessee. Over the two-day period, they visited six cities and met with 12 city officials, one state senator, and three TML board members.

TML appreciates everyone's time and welcoming attitude.

AT Right: TML Executive Director Anthony Haynes and TMBF President and CEO Wade Morrell stopped in Brentwood and met with Mayor Rhea Little (second from left) and Vice Mayor Nelson Andrews (second from right). The city of Brentwood and the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund have a long and historic relationship. Brentwood was the first borrower in the TMBF loan program, dating back to 1986. TML appreciates very much the working relationship we still enjoy with the city today.



State Senator Joey Hensley, Haynes, Columbia Mayor Chaz Molder, TML Board Member and Columbia Vice Mayor Christa Martin, Morrell, Columbia City Manager Tony Massey, and Assistant City Manager Thad Jablonski.



Morrell and Haynes with TML Board Member and Gallatin Mayor Paige Brown.



Mt. Juliet City Manager Kenny Martin, Haynes, Deputy City Manager Sheila Luckett, and Morrell in Mt. Juliet.



Haynes and Morrell with Mayor Mike Callis in Portland.



Finance Commissioner Stuart Lawson and Lebanon Mayor Rick Bell with Haynes and Morrell in Lebanon.

STATE BRIEFS

The Tennessee Department of Tourist Development won a bronze Clio Music Award for our "For the Love of Tennessee, Travel Safe" campaign with VM-LY&R and FlyteVu. The campaign featured singer-songwriters Drew and Ellie Holcomb as they took an epic 1,600-mile family road-trip across the state. Along the way, the Holcomb's explored the picturesque natural wonders and destinations and crafted songs about their experience. Clio Music celebrates the power of music to connect consumers and brands.

The Boyd Foundation has announced the 15 recipients of the 2021 Dog Park Dash grant funds, which total more than \$400,000. Johnson City was the Grand Prize Winner and will receive the top prize of \$100,000. The remaining recipients who will receive \$25,000 include Ardmore, Charleston, Clifton, Decatur, Dickson, Gatlinburg, Huntington, Lexington, Memphis, Savannah, Sweetwater, and Tullahoma. A joint grant was issued to the cities of Chattanooga and East Ridge while Cheatham County also received a grant. Since its inception, the Dog Park Dash grant funds have contributed to more than 70 dog parks in the state.

Tennessee's Board of Regents has approved a tuition increase for the state's community colleges and technology colleges. The board that oversees Tennessee's 13 community colleges and 27 colleges of applied technology approved tuition, fees and preliminary budgets for the 2021-2022 academic year. The board says the tuition increase is the first in two years. It amounts to \$24 per trimester at the Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology and \$42 per semester at community colleges for students taking full course loads. The board says mandatory fees will not increase at the states' technology colleges.

The Tennessee Department of Correction (TDOC) has launched Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE), a free service that provides crime victims, their families and concerned cit-

izens with reliable information about custody status changes and criminal case information for offenders who are currently in the custody of TDOC. The VINE system allows individuals to opt-in to receive electronic notifications, have more control over the type of notifications received, and choose the method in which they are notified. Additionally, because many county jails already use the VINE system, TDOC hopes this addition will help to streamline victim notifications. VINE will be used in conjunction with TDOC's current victim notification system, which provides written notice of offender's location, transfer, sentence expiration, release, and parole eligibility. Anyone wishing to receive updates via VINE should log on to VINELink.com, select Tennessee from the dropdown menu, and search for the offender by name or offender ID. Once located, register to receive notifications by phone, email, TTY, and text message. Live operators are also available to provide support 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 888-868-4631.

Fatal crashes are up by 20% in Tennessee, according to new data from the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security. So far, there have been 284 fatal crashes reported between January and June in the state, an increase of approximately 100 crashes by this same time in both 2020 and 2019. The number of fatal crashes has gone up in both rural and urban areas. Of the 584 fatalities reported, 66 were either pedestrians or cyclists.

Tennessee is the third-best state for retirees and the most affordable state for retirees, according to a new survey by financial planning website Bankrate. The state's below-average living costs and low local and states taxes contributed to its rank as the most affordable state for retirees. Tennessee also ranked eighth in terms of weather. The state ranked lower in other categories, including 29 in culture, 42 in wellness, and 45 in crime rate. Georgia took the top ranking followed by Florida in second.

State announces site grants totaling \$4.6M

Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee and Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner Bob Rolfe announced 15 new Site Development Grants, totaling more than \$4.6 million.

The grants are designed to help communities achieve Select Tennessee site certification and prepare industrial sites for economic development projects. The funding helps communities invest in infrastructure and engineering improvements on project-ready sites.

"Thanks to the support of our General Assembly, I'm pleased to announce 15 more communities that will participate in the Site Development Grants program," Gov. Lee said. "Strengthening and supporting rural Tennessee is one of my major priorities, and these grants will help our communities attract jobs and enhance economic growth."

The Site Development Grant program, part of the Rural Economic Opportunity Act, works in tandem with TNECD's Select Tennessee program. Since 2016, TNECD has awarded 115 Site Development Grants across the state, totaling nearly \$39 million in assistance to local communities.

"Shovel-ready sites are key to recruiting new businesses to our state," Rolfe said. "The Site Development Grant program brings a community one step closer to achieving Select Tennessee site certification and strengthens it as an attractive option for economic development opportunity."

Applications were reviewed by an advisory committee made

Entity	Amount	Site
Brownsville	\$464,407	I-40 Advantage Industrial Park
Celina-Clay County	\$500,000	Mitchell Street Industrial Park
Dyersburg	\$439,110	Commerce Park Interstate Site
Greene County	\$99,954	Hardin Industrial Park
Halls	\$494,950	Highway 209 Industrial Site
Henderson	\$500,000	Henderson Industrial Site
Humboldt	\$500,000	Gibson County Industrial Park South Site
Lexington	\$349,883	Reeves Property
Ripley	\$435,670	American Way Site
Roane Alliance	\$147,464	Jones Road Site
Robertson County	\$40,833	White House Business Park
Scott County	\$100,000	Armstrong Property
Selmer-McNairy County	\$57,000	Selmer North Industrial Park
Tennessee Central Economic Authority	\$31,500	PowerCom Industrial Center North Campus
Union City	\$475,000	Northwest Tennessee Regional Industrial Center

up of TNECD, Austin Consulting, the Tennessee Valley Authority, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Tennessee Department of Transportation and

USDA Rural Development.

Each application was supported by the community's senator and representatives in the Tennessee General Assembly.

State completes largest General Obligation Bond sale in its history

Tennessean's will save millions thanks to record low interest rates

The state of Tennessee has completed the biggest sale of general obligation bonds in its history by closing on approximately \$658.7 million of bonds. The bonds sold with a record-setting low true interest cost of 1.41%.

The debt offering was sold in two series of bonds consisting of \$167.75 million of Series A tax-ex-

empt bonds and \$490.9 million of Series B taxable bonds.

A majority of the bonds were issued to refinance certain outstanding bonds to take advantage of low interest rates. These refunding bonds will allow the state to achieve \$50 million in net present value interest cost savings over the next 14 years.

Approximately \$125 million of the bond proceeds will be used to repay commercial paper that was issued to fund capital projects such as the new State Library and Archives building, the new lodge at Fall Creek Falls State Park, higher education classroom buildings, and many more.

Tennessee's debt level is one of the lowest, if not the lowest, of any state, and investors recognize its strong history of balanced budgeting and fiscal stability. Investor demand for the Tennessee's GO bonds generated a \$43.4 million premium.

"Tennessee is one of just 13 states with a triple-A credit rating from each of the three major credit rating agencies," said Comptroller Jason Mumpower. "As Tennesseans, we take pride in our state's fiscal responsibility. The commitment shown by Governor Lee and the General Assembly to strong financial principles saves all of us money whenever we sell bonds."

Two classes on the complete lifecycle of grants delivered online, in-person

Grant Writing USA, Center for Economic Research in Tennessee, Madison County Sheriff's Office and other regional hosts will present two grant training sessions this summer.

Grant Writing Training

Attend this two-day grant writing workshop to learn how to find the funding sources and write winning grant proposals. Beginning and experienced grant writers from city, county and state agencies, healthcare organizations, nonprofits, K-12, colleges, and universities

are encouraged to attend. Tennessee Municipal League member cities and their staff will receive a special tuition rate of \$425. Please use the discount code "ASSN" to receive this \$30 discount off full price at registration.

Tuition includes two days of terrific instruction, workbook, and access to Alumni Forums that's packed full of tools, helpful discussions and more than 200 sample grant proposals.

• **August 18-19 webinar**
<https://web.cvent.com/event/efe9d311-dd95-48c5-b34c-e>

[b699df29df8b/summary](https://web.cvent.com/event/b699df29df8b/summary)

• **September 9-10 - in person**
Jackson/Denmark, TN
<http://grantwritingusa.com/grants-training/grant-writing-workshops/denmark-tennessee-september-2021.html>

Grant Management Training

If your agency receives or plans to receive government grants, this class is for you. Attend this two-day class to learn how to administer government grants and stay in compliance with applicable rules and regulations.

No loan is too large or too small



The city of Pulaski recently closed on a \$12 million fixed rate loan with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF) for water system improvements. The city has used the TMBF various loan programs 10 times since 1991. The latest loan was with First National Bank in Pulaski. Seated are: Mayor Patrick Ford and Tracy Porterfield, CFO of First National Bank of Pulaski. Standing are: Terry Harrison, Pulaski city administrator, city recorder, and finance director; and Kevin Krushenski, TMBF marketing representative.



The city of LaFollette recently closed on a \$1.5 million note with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF) to finance various public works projects for the city. LaFollette has used TMBF programs 16 times since 1993. Seated L to R: Mayor Mike Stanfield, and Stan Foust, city recorder. Standing L to R: Steve Queener, TMBF marketing representative; Terry Sweat, finance director; and Jim Jeffries, city administrator.

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Atoka PD host community forum focusing on cyber security, fraud

ATOKA from Page 1

but instead of just saying ‘hello’ wait for 15 seconds. A lot of these robo-calls are based on hearing some kind of noise on the other end of the line, so if you don’t say anything they will just hang up.”

In 2020, 1 in 3 Americans fell victim to a phone scam, according to CallerID company Truecaller. Roughly 59.4 million Americans have lost money to phone scams while 19% have fallen victim to more than one scam.

Just like with kids, Ellwood said it is important to have conversations with seniors about “stranger danger” online.

“Now, stranger danger is on the internet,” he said. “These kids when they click on the internet they have a friend right there. They have an immediate affiliation or some common ground with people they meet on the internet. It’s the same with our elderly people; some are very lonely. They click to find a relationship or someone to talk to. Wherever they go, they can find someone they have something in common with it.”

One way of avoiding falling for a scam is to double check any information given by an unknown caller or email.

“Trust no one and verify everything,” Ellwood said. “If you get a call saying your grandkid is locked up in Clarksville and you’re here in

Atoka, all you have to do is hang up and then call the Clarksville jail. That’s all you have to do to verify. If they say you have a warrant out for your arrest, all you need to do is call the local police department.”

Most importantly, a person doesn’t necessarily have to fall victim to a scam to report a suspicious email or phone call. Ellwood said reports can often be passed on to federal agencies who are already building cases against fraudsters.

“We don’t need people to fall for a scam to get evidence,” he said. “When you get a call or email and feel you’re being phished or led on, that’s when you need to bring it to the police’s attention. A lot of times these calls are coming from Nigeria, Ghana, and Canada. The Department of Justice has a broader scope. The Federal Trade Commission also allows you to report internet crimes. We urge all of our victims to still report that to the Federal Trade Commission and Department of Justice because they can take the dots and draw the lines to who is doing this.”

Going over financial documentation with elderly relatives can also help ensure they haven’t been victimized.

“One of the biggest things is not taking control of your parents’ financial access but do ask to review their accounts with them,” Ellwood said. “You can also go to



To protect from fraud, Atoka Police Department Capt. Chris Ellwood recommends steps like frequently checking bank statements and credit scores online. For those with elderly loved ones, he suggests having honest conversations about finances and talking with bank officials to help monitor any unusual transactions.

the bank and have a conversation with them and their bank officials. You can also check their credit cards. There is no need for anyone to have 40 credit cards. Also, show them how to get their free credit report. Become part of their financial world.”

Banks are also usually willing to help if a customer feels they have been a victim of fraud.

“Banks invest hundreds of thousands of dollars in fraud software,” Ellwood said. “Report it immediately, because sometimes these transactions can pend for two or three days. Some of our laws have changed already to where if a bank sees \$300,000 is earmarked to go out to a foreign country, the bank can now stop that transaction until they verify it is legitimate. As a child of an elderly parent, I would say go to the bank officials and tell them the most they’re going to write in a check is \$500 for their expenses. Alert us if something

comes out of that bank account more than that.”

Ellwood also encourages everyone to use online tools to check their own financial information daily so they can be come familiar with frequent transactions and notice irregularities.

“We used to check our bank statements once a month when it came in the mail,” he said. “Shame on you if you don’t check it online every day now. It can be kind of hard for elderly people to get used to doing that, but if you show them how to log on and look at it every day and balance it every day instead of once a month you’ll see transactions and skimming coming out. Some people don’t realize \$3.40 came out of their account, but if a scammer does that to a million people they’ve made a lot of money.”

While having a conversation about finances with elderly relatives may be awkward, Ellwood

said that discomfort is well worth preventing the financial and emotional heartbreak a scam can cause them.

“There is no limit to the loss that may occur,” he said. “When they get down to complete devastation, they can even lose their homes. There are scams that get titles transferred into new names. There are quite a few people who have lost everything.”

With more and more fraud taking place over international boundaries, Ellwood said local police departments are finding educating the public on fraud prevention is essential.

“With scams now, it’s all about prevention,” he said. “We need to prevent more than we can take in police reports. If this scam is coming from Central America or Ghana, we can’t hop on a plane and figure it out. However, our partners at the DOJ can find out there is \$300 million in U.S. dollars going to Ghana, they are going down there. The government can start to seize some assets. It can be hard to follow that money, but our federal partners can do that.”

Ellwood said he encourages other departments to sit down with their citizens and educate them about these scams and what they can do to be part of the solution.

“It will make your heart feel better, because it certainly aches when you talk to a 75-year-old grandmother who just used her mortgage payment thinking she was getting her grandson out of jail,” he said. “It will increase rapport with the community to show the police are being proactive. Community-oriented policing and getting out there and talking to your citizens – even just an idle conversation in the grocery store – can make a difference. We are seeing positive outcomes by going out and talking with people.”

TN Treasurer Lillard provides options for depositing ARP funds

ARP FUNDS from Page 1

While the LGIP or the ITIF may provide options for investment of federal dollars, we would also like to remind local governments that there may be restrictions, conditions, or limitations on how federal dollars (specifically federal funds received as part of the American Rescue Plan) may be invested or managed. Treasury is not responsible for compliance with any restrictions, conditions, or limitations relative to the investment or use of federal funds in the SPIF/LGIP. We recommend consulting with the appropriate legal, tax, or other advisors to evaluate the risks and merits of any investment in the LGIP.

Please note, investment returns in an LGIP or ITIF account are not guaranteed and may fluctuate based on market changes, and losses or gains will be distributed to all par-

ticipants on a pro rata basis. Both the principal contributed to an LGIP or ITIF account and any investment returns are not an obligation of the State of Tennessee nor are they guaranteed or insured by the State of Tennessee, the State Treasurer, the State Funding Board, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Federal Reserve Board, or any other state or federal agency. LGIP investments and earnings can be found at Treasury.tn.gov/LGIP.

I appreciate the important work you do for your community, and the Tennessee Department of Treasury would like to support you in any way we can. If you would like more information regarding participation in the LGIP or ITIF or to establish an LGIP Account, visit Treasury.tn.gov/LGIP or call Casey Wright in the Treasury Investments Division at (615) 532-1163.

MSA classification to remain at 50,000

MSA from Page 1

grateful for Rep. Harshbarger, who took action by sponsoring legislation to protect these communities and served as a valuable resource throughout the process; and to Sen. Blackburn, who signed on as a co-sponsor in the Senate. The MSA reclassification would have jeopardized millions of dollars of federal funding to these communities, creating uncertainty for municipal governments as they continue to provide needed services to their citizens.”

A federal register notice published on July 16 includes this announcement about the proposed change in metropolitan areas:

OMB Decision: OMB does not accept the initial recommendation to raise the MSA core population

threshold in the 2020 standards, and has decided to leave the current threshold of 50,000 in place. A change to the fundamental criteria that determine whether an area is considered metropolitan would cause disruption to statistical programs and products, and would be difficult for the statistical agencies to implement. OMB decided that there is insufficient justification at this time to raise the threshold to 100,000 and that further research is necessary before deciding whether to change the criteria that determine whether an area is considered metropolitan. Finally, we also note the Standard Review Committee’s subsequent modification of their initial recommendation recognizing the value of additional research before modifying the threshold.

To master cybersecurity, focus on the three Ps

THREE from Page 1

employees may enter their email login information and then receive a notification through an app on their phone that they use to complete the sign-in process.

Even if a hacker somehow obtains an employee’s username and password, the information is worthless because they are required to validate the authorization through an app on the employee’s phone—which obviously they cannot access.

2. Patching

So many data breaches and cybersecurity incidents—including major stories that dominated headlines over the past few years such as Atlanta, Equifax, Petya, and WannaCry—are rooted in a simple failure to patch software security vulnerabilities.

Sadly, government entities (including cities) significantly lag on replacing outdated software, patching current software, and implementing endpoint defense that makes sure devices connected to the network follow a compliant process.

It’s not unusual for us to see cities using software that is 8-10 years old—or even older. That’s an eternity in technology time—so much so that software vendors often stop supporting those systems.

If you keep using older software, then security vulnerabilities are not getting patched and that software becomes more of a major vulnerability for your city. By not regularly applying patches, whether your software is older or newer, you are choosing to leave security holes

open for hackers to exploit.

There are a few important points you need to know about patching:

- Patch management is an essential element of cyber protection. Just do it. Fears such as “I’ll break my software” mean you need to modernize your software or you’re making excuses.
- You need IT professionals overseeing patch management and following rigorous procedures. There are too many risks when you let non-technical city employees apply patches themselves.
- Non-technical employees aren’t able to test patches before applying them. IT professionals test patches to monitor possible issues and ensure they will work before full-scale deployment.
- Patches need to be applied to all your machines regardless of their location. That includes the devices of remote employees using your city-owned hardware and software.

3. People

Ask yourself, even if you have the best information security at your city:

- Who is likely to receive an email with ransomware?
- Who is likely to click on a malicious website link?

- Who is likely to open a malicious file attachment?
- How is ransomware most likely going to enter your city network?

The answer? People. It’s possible that you, your staff, or some other user on your network will make a mistake that leads to a cybersecurity incident.

And what’s the answer to combatting this weakness? Training.

Today, training employees about cybersecurity is more important than ever. Hackers use techniques that trick employees into handing over access to your systems—and criminals know that people can be the weakest link in your security.

Those who need ongoing regular training include your mayor, elected officials, the city manager, the city clerk, and department heads, along with all other employees.

We’ve created a blog post titled “How to Create Effective Cybersecurity Training for Cities” that outlines what you need to cover in your cybersecurity training and how to get started.

Remember it takes just:

- One unprotected or unmanaged computer for a cybercriminal to exploit.
- One unsuspecting employee for the cybercriminal to trick.
- One critical best practice to overlook (such as regularly patching your software) for a cybercriminal to steal your data.

Safety Partners Grant

Application Window: June 28th – August 20th

Applications will be considered in the order they are received

Visit www.pepartners.org for more information



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Advertising: \$9.25 per column inch. **No charge to TML members.** Send advertising to: Carole Graves: cgraves@TML1.org.

ASSISTANT CITY ENGINEER

HENDERSONVILLE. The city of Hendersonville is currently accepting application materials for the assistant city engineer position in our Public Works Department. This position assists the assistant public works director and city engineer with professional engineering functions. Minimum qualifications: bachelor's degree in civil engineering. Sufficient experience to understand the basic principles relevant to the major duties of the position, usually associated with the completion of an apprenticeship/interiorship or having had a similar position for 5+ years. Possession of or ability to readily obtain a valid driver's license issued by the state of Tennessee for the type of vehicle or equipment operated. Working knowledge of AutoCAD/Microstation preferred. Proficiency in using computer equipment and computer experience with Microsoft Office suite products. Professional Engineer License (TN) required. Salary/Pay Rate: \$77,104 or higher DOQ. Interested and qualified candidates must submit a completed job application, resume, and cover letter highlighting career experience as it relates to this position. Return completed job application, resume, and cover letter to the Human Resources office at Hendersonville City Hall via the methods below. No faxed applications will be accepted. Mail or bring to: 101 Maple Drive North, Hendersonville, TN 37075; or email to: personnel@hvilletn.org. Open until position is filled.

ASSISTANT CITY RECORDER

MILLERSVILLE. The city of Millersville is accepting applications and resumes for assistant city recorder. This position will assist in the accounting, administrative and support services of the city including, but not limited to, accounts payable, purchasing, payroll, general accounting, cash management, risk and asset management, utility accounting and property taxes. Annual salary \$32,000 to \$47,000 DOQ plus benefit package. Application and complete job description available on the city's website at www.cityofmillersville.com or apply at Millersville City Hall, 1246 Louisville Highway, Millersville, TN 37072, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or email application/resume to cityrecorder@cityofmillersville.com. Position open until filled. EOE.

ASSOCIATE PLANNER

SPRING HILL. The city of Spring Hill is seeking a new associate planner. Under supervision of the planning director, the associate planner performs mid-level planning work in the planning department. Work includes the technical review of planning applications and the preparation and presentation of staff reports to the planning commission, board of zoning appeals, and the board of mayor and alderman as needed. Work may involve the collection and analysis of data, interpretation of codes, and other work as assigned. Bachelor's degree in city, regional, or urban planning or in a closely related field, such as landscape architecture or urban design is required. A minimum of two years' experience in a municipal planning agency is required; five years' experience is preferred. The city of Spring Hill offers an extensive and generous employee benefit package, which includes an 100% Employer paid medical coverage option for the entire family, optional vision insurance, employer paid dental insurance for the employee with the option to purchase family coverage, Flexible Spending Account, Employer paid Life, AD&D and LTD Insurance, as well as voluntary life and STD. TCRS Pension. Submit applications/resumes online at: www.springhilltn.org/Jobs.aspx Questions to staylor@springhilltn.org. No phone calls please. Applications will be considered on basis of qualifications, experience, and suitability for position without regards to race, color, religion, sex or national origin. EEO/AA/Title VI Employer. Minorities and women are encouraged to apply.

AQUATICS COORDINATOR

SHELBYVILLE. The city of Shelbyville is accepting applications for the position of full-time Aquatics Coordinator for the Recreation Center. Applicants must have Lifeguard Training, First Aid, CPR/AED for Professional Rescuer certifications. Water Safety Instructor (WSI) and Lifeguard Training Instructor certification preferred. Experience in aquatics programs with responsibility in supervisory, maintenance and pool chemistry capacity. Must possess a valid Tennessee operator's license, high school diploma or GED equivalent. This is a full-time position with an hourly rate of \$18.15. The City provides a comprehensive benefits package. Applications and a copy of job description may be picked up at city hall during normal business hours or download from the City website: www.shelbyvilletn.org. Applications must be returned to City Hall Administration Office, 201 N. Spring Street or emailed to stacey.claxton@shelbyvilletn.org and will be accepted until position is filled. EOE/ drug free workplace. Successful applicants required to pass background check, physical and drug screen.

BUILDING INSPECTOR I, II, III

HENDERSONVILLE. The city of Hendersonville is accepting application materials for Building Inspector I, II, III in our Building and Codes Department. MINIMUM CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: Building Inspector I: 1-3, certifications, Building Inspector II: 4-7 certifications, Building Inspector III: 8 or more. Although pay rates may be negotiated depending on qualifications and work experience, below is the annual salary range for each position: • Building Inspector I (pay grade 16): \$47,060 - \$71,604 • Building Inspector II (pay grade 17): \$49,435 - \$75,232 • Building Inspector III (pay grade 18): \$51,940 - \$79,040. Complete the City of Hendersonville Job Application and submit along with other required information to the Human Resources Department at Hendersonville City Hall. You can find the application at <http://www.hvilletn.org/> and view the Human Resources page or come by City Hall and pick them up. Other required information includes a Resume, a Cover Letter highlighted your work experience relevant to this position, a copy of your college transcript(s) and any relevant certifications you currently obtain in your application packet. Return or email your completed application packet to the Personnel Department at personnel@hvilletn.org or at the following address: Hendersonville City Hall Attn: Personnel Department 101 Maple Drive North Hendersonville, TN 3707. This recruitment is open until position is filled.

CITY ENGINEER

PORTLAND. The city of Portland is accepting

applications for the position of fulltime city engineer. Under the direction of the utilities director, the city engineer is responsible for providing highly skilled engineering services to the city on a wide variety of projects. This is a professional position requiring an individual who is capable of exercising independent judgment and who possesses the educational and relevant experience as relates to civil engineering principles. This position provides engineering services for all city departments primarily the utilities and public works departments; provides as-needed technical assistance to planning/codes; and may interface with other city departments regarding engineering needs. Position will function as the assistant to the utilities director, and may be delegated to make decisions for the department of utilities in the absence of the utilities director. A bachelor's degree in civil engineering or appropriate engineering field required; along with 5+ years of verifiable, acceptable experience in civil engineering, preferably in a municipal environment; or equivalent combination of education and experience. Applicant must be licensed as a professional engineer in the state of Tennessee, or possess comparable PE license with ability to obtain state of Tennessee licensing within city-approved time frame. A complete listing of duties, qualification requirements, work environment and responsibilities; along with applying can be completed online at <https://cityofportlandtn.gov/>; or by submitting a request for application & complete requirements to tkizer@cityofportlandtn.gov. Applications will be accepted until filled. This "exempt" position is eligible for full benefits and has a salary range of \$59,911 - \$95,702 DOE.

CITY ENGINEER

SPRING HILL. The city of Spring Hill is seeking to fill the full time, exempt position of city engineer. This employee performs administrative/technical functions to ensure that infrastructure proposed through development plans meets city regulations and to provide general engineering support to the Public Works Department, and other departments. Duties and responsibilities include providing technical expertise in areas of construction problems, floodplain and drainage issues; overseeing new development work; reviewing sewer and water system capacity in conjunction with the system managers; setting bond amounts to ensure city protection from developers' defaults; performing site inspections and estimating project costs; project management; and providing information to the public. This employee also supervises and directs the work of the associate engineer and utility inspectors. Bachelor's degree in civil engineering or related field required, with five to seven years of experience as a professional engineer knowledgeable in general construction, water and sewer system construction, stormwater drainage, roadway construction, estimating, and development plans review; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Valid Tennessee licensure as a Professional Engineer required. The city of Spring Hill offers an extensive and generous employee benefit package, which includes an 100% Employer paid medical coverage option for the entire family, optional vision insurance, employer paid dental insurance for the employee with the option to purchase family coverage, Flexible Spending Account, Employer paid Life, AD&D and LTD Insurance, as well as voluntary life and STD. TCRS Pension. Submit applications/resumes online at: www.springhilltn.org/Jobs.aspx Question to staylor@springhilltn.org No phone calls please. Applications will be considered on basis of qualifications, experience, and suitability for position without regards to race, color, religion, sex or national origin. EEO/AA/Title VI Employer. Minorities and women are encouraged to apply.

CITY MANAGER

ETOWAH. The city of Etowah is seeking applicants for the position of city manager who works under the general direction of the commission. The city manager oversees city operations with an approximately \$4.1 million general fund budget and 40 full-time and 40 part-time or seasonal employees in administration, police, fire, public works, parks and recreation, library, and finance. Etowah (3,490 pop) is a welcoming and vibrant community located at the edge of the Cherokee National Forest, Ocoee River, Hiwassee River, and are proud to host the L & N Hiwassee River Train Excursion at the original L & N Depot. Two schools within the city, a youth athletic program, summer camp at the Community Center, summer reading program hosted by the Etowah Carnegie Library area a few of our many activities. Minimum requirement is a bachelor's degree, with a preferred focus in public administration, management, business administration or closely related field. A minimum of five years of municipal leadership experience as a city manager or manager of a public agency or department with related duties is required. Salary range is \$68,931.20 - \$83,200.00 (DOQ). The city offers a comprehensive benefits package including participation in the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (TCRS). Interested applicants may apply online on our website under the Employment section at cityofetowahtn.com. Please attach a resume, cover letter and professional references. Initial review of applications will occur in July 2021. Applications are subject to public disclosure. EOE / TN Drug Free Workplace.

CITY MANAGER

RED BANK. The city of Red Bank is seeking applicants for the position of city manager who works under the general direction of the commission. The city manager oversees city operations with an approximately \$7 million general fund budget and 68 full-time and 25 part-time employees in administration, police, fire, public works, and finance. Red Bank (11,651 pop) is geographically surrounded by the city of Chattanooga in Hamilton County. Located within ten minutes of downtown Chattanooga, it is conveniently located near a large retail center, quality health care facilities, higher education institutions, fine dining, and a metropolitan airport. The minimum requirement for this opportunity is a bachelor's degree, with a preferred focus in public administration, management, business administration or closely related field. A master's degree is preferred. A minimum of five years of municipal leadership experience as a city manager or manager of a public agency or department with related duties is required. Salary commensurate with education, experience, and marketplace conditions. The city offers a comprehensive benefits package including participation in the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System Applicants must submit a resume, cover letter and professional references to: City of Red Bank, Attn: Tracey Perry, 3105 Dayton Blvd, Red Bank, TN 37415 or submit by

email to tperry@redbanktn.gov. Initial review of applications will occur in June/July 2021. Direct questions to Honna Rogers, MTAS Management Consultant, at: honna.rogers@tennessee.edu. Applications are subject to public disclosure. EOE / TN Drug Free Workplace.

DEPUTY TOWN ENGINEER

COLLIERVILLE. This is complex and professional engineering work involving land development projects, capital improvement projects, water, sewer, street, drainage, and public works projects and programs and ensures technical competence and compliance with all current codes and criteria. This position directly reports to the town engineer and works under his general guidance and direction. The incumbent may also perform the duties of the division director in the absence of the town engineer. Requires a bachelor's degree in civil engineering or closely related field; previous experience and/or training that includes civil engineering, environmental/utility engineering, computerized mapping, drafting, project management, research, and data analysis is preferred; and five years of previous professional civil engineering experience; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Must be registered as a Professional Engineer (PE) in the state of Tennessee or possess the ability to obtain license within six months of employment and maintain license throughout employment. Salary DOQ with excellent benefits package. To apply, submit an original Town of Collierville application. Applications are available to download at www.collierville.com under the Employment Opportunities tab, or obtain one from our Human Resources Office located at 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN, 38017, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Position will remain open until filled. EOE.

ELECTRIC UTILITY DIRECTOR

SPRINGFIELD. The city of Springfield is accepting applications for an Electric Utility Director with Springfield Electric Department (SED) from June 7-July 3, 2021. Essential responsibilities include performing difficult and complex professional and administrative work planning and directing the activities of professional, technical, skilled, and semi-skilled employees in the construction, operation, and maintenance of a small municipal electric system. Bachelor's degree from an accredited four-year college or university with a major in electrical engineering, business administration, or related field required; minimum of five years of practical experience in electrical engineering and/or engineering management; minimum of ten years of experience in supervision and administration. Master's degree in business administration preferred, or a combination of education and experience equivalent to the required knowledge and abilities. Salary \$79,899 - \$109,966/YR. Special Requirements: Registration as a professional engineer in the state of Tennessee desired. Applications may be submitted online at: www.springfieldtn.gov. EOE.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/ MUNICIPAL COURT CLERK

EAGLEVILLE. The City of Eagleville is hiring an executive assistant/municipal clerk/court clerk. This position is full-time and non-exempt. The position is 40 hours a week, Monday through Friday, with defined hours. Benefits include a stipend to assist in payment of health/eye/dental insurance premiums offered through Tennessee Partners for Health - Local Government, enrollment in the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System, paid vacation/sick leave and holidays as listed in the Personnel Guidelines. The hourly rate of pay will be \$14.00 to \$17.00 per hour depending on qualifications. For more information, please see the detailed job description at www.eaglevilletn.com Please apply to the Eagleville City Manager via email citymanager@eaglevilletn.com or by mail to PO Box 68, Eagleville, Tennessee 37060. A drug screening will be required as part of the Tennessee Drug Free Workplace Program. Open until filled. EOE.

FINANCE DIRECTOR

SPRING HILL. The city of Spring Hill is seeking to hire a new finance director under the general supervision of the city administrator and assistant city administrator. This employee plans and directs the disbursement and accounting of revenues and expenditures for the city. Work involves supervision of the budget, purchasing, accounting, general revenue collections, and payroll operations. This employee must exercise considerable independent judgment and initiative in planning and directing the fiscal control system. Work is performed in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, established municipal finance procedures, local ordinances and state and federal statutes governing the responsibilities of local government accountants. Work is evaluated through conferences, reports, and by an independent audit of financial records. Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Public Finance or a closely related field; 10+ years of professional finance experience, including 4-6 years of extensive, progressively responsible experience in municipal finance for a similarly sized agency; Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and/or Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) preferred. CMFO designation strongly preferred, or the ability to obtain within 1 year. The city of Spring Hill is an EEO/AA/Title VI Employer. Minorities and Women are encouraged to apply.

FIREFIGHTERS

MT. JULIET. The Fire Department of Mt. Juliet (FDM) is seeking Certified Firefighters. The Ability Test date will be given once applications close. Deadline to apply is Monday, July 12. The Fire Department of Mt. Juliet is a progressive all-hazards organization serving 38,000 residents and visitors. Minimum qualifications are IFSAC/ProBoard Firefighter II and National Registry Emergency Medical Responder or greater. The city of Mt. Juliet has been ranked by multiple outlets as one of the fastest growing cities in Tennessee. The successful candidate can expect a competitive benefits package with an annual salary range of \$42,000 to \$61,000 along with Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (TCRS). To read more about the City of Mt. Juliet, TN, the position and to apply, candidates must complete an online application and upload a resume at: www.mtjuliet-tn.gov. EOE/Drug-free Workplace.

FIREFIGHTER-AEMT/PARAMEDIC COLLIERVILLE. The Town of Collierville has 23 immediate openings for the following positions: 11 firefighter-AEMT and 12 firefighter paramedics. Collierville Fire & Rescue currently has five stations located in Town, and we are looking to expand and better provide for our citizens. Working in the fire service, no two days will ever be the same. We provide amazing benefits including medical, dental, and vision insurance, Town provided life and long-term disability insurance, paid time off, pension, and more. Minimum Requirements: High School Diploma or GED; Firefighter I Certificate (Firefighter II preferred but not required); Advanced EMT

License or Paramedic License; Valid Driver's License; Maintain permanent residence east of the Mississippi River no greater than thirty (30) miles from the Town's corporate limits; If a veteran, must possess an "Honorable" discharge from any military service; Must not have been convicted of a felony; Must not have been convicted of a Class A or Class B misdemeanor within 36 months of hire; Must be at least 21 years of age. If this sounds like the perfect job for you, please visit www.colliervilletn.gov and download our Fire Department application, or you can also visit Town Hall and submit a physical application in the Human Resources Department. EOE.

FOOD BUSINESS INCUBATOR INTERIM DIRECTOR

UNICOI. The town of Unicoi is seeking an interim director for their municipal food business incubator to serve through December 2021. The Mountain Harvest Kitchen (MHK) is a certified inspected commercial food processing facility that provides a critical resource for new and emerging food businesses in the region by lowering the barrier to entry and providing resources to assist with start-up and growth. The interim director will champion the department's mission of growing the regional economy by supporting food entrepreneurs and strengthening the vibrant regional food economy. Qualifications include a bachelor's degree from an accredited college in the area of food science and technology, culinary, or hospitality management with at least 5 years of relevant experience. This position reports to the city recorder and manages the MHK operations and programs. Responsibilities include management of the 4,000 facility, equipment service and repairs, and general kitchen use. This position is responsible for complying with all state and federal requirements and ensures all clients are in full compliance with safety policies, hygiene practices, and MHK procedures. Other responsibilities include preparing and reporting records and summaries of impact, funding, and accounts payable and receivables as well as management of the new membership process including training and assistance with feasibility of proposed food products. This is a part-time hourly role. Full position description may be viewed at www.unicoinet.net/mhk-resources and applicants should submit cover letter and resume to mountainharvestkitchen@gmail.com.

HORTICULTURIST

COLLIERVILLE. The purpose of this classification is to plan, direct, organize, and coordinate activities related to the maintenance of landscaping and horticultural operations. This position requires a positive, hardworking, motivated self-starter, who loves plants and the outdoors to join the town's Grounds and Park Maintenance Division of the General Services Department. As a professional horticulturist, you will provide technical expertise, care, and design ideas for high-end, very detailed, and horticulturally intense public properties in a variety of styles, themes, and palettes. Training, personnel, and professional growth, and group cohesion are very important and finding the candidate who fits well into the creative, team-based culture is of the highest priority. Bachelor's degree in horticulture, botany, landscape architecture or a related field; supplemented by three years professional horticulture work experience, at least 1 of which must have been at a supervisory level. Must possess and maintain a valid Tennessee Commercial Pesticide Applicator License OR immediately transfer an out of state license. Salary DOQ with excellent benefits package. To apply for this position, you must submit an original Town of Collierville application. Applications are available to download at www.collierville.com under the Employment Opportunities tab, or you may obtain one from our Human Resources Office located at 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN, 38017, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Position will remain open until filled. EOE.

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR

MCKENZIE. The city of McKenzie is currently accepting applications for a Parks and Recreation Director. The position performs a variety of complex and administrative work in planning, developing, scheduling, directing and implementing a year-round, city-wide parks and recreation program. Desired but not necessary qualifications include graduation from an accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree in parks administration, recreation, education, or physical education including course work in organization and administration, and five years of progressively responsible experience in parks and recreation programs. Salary is based upon experience and qualifications and has a comprehensive benefits package including health insurance, and retirement through the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System, paid time off, and paid sick leave options. Interested candidates must submit a cover letter, resume, at least five job related references and a City of McKenzie job application by 5 p.m. Aug. 6, 2021. The job application and additional information may be found at the city of McKenzie website: www.mckenziectn.org. All materials should be emailed to HR Director, Jennifer Waldrup at cityofmckenzie.com or mailed to HR Director, 2470 Cedar Street, McKenzie, TN 38201 Attn: Parks and Recreation Director Position, or brought by McKenzie City Hall, 2470 Cedar Street, McKenzie, TN. Any questions, please call 731-352-2292. Interview times and locations will be set after the application process closes on August 6, 2021. EOE

POLICE CHIEF

PITTMAN CENTER. The Town of Pittman Center (population 502) is seeking applications for a police chief. Salary DOQ plus excellent benefits. Current salary \$51K. Police Chief is responsible for ensuring the safety and security of commercial businesses, private residences and supervising all law enforcement activities for the citizens of Pittman Center. Also, will supervise and direct the activities of Patrol Officer personnel assigned to provide routine patrol. Position answers to the City Administrator. Must be a good manager with excellent communication and team building skills. At least five years' experience supervising support staff in a law enforcement setting. P.O.S.T certified, a degree in Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement or closely related field preferred. Application is a public record. The deadline for resume submission is June 30, at 4:00 p.m. Mail resumes to City Administrator, Tammy Watts Rochester, Town of Pittman Center, 2839 Webb Creek Rd., Sevierville, TN 37876. Or email resume to tkwatts@pittmancentertn.gov. Resumes may also be submitted at Town Hall, 2839 Webb Creek Rd, Sevierville, TN 37876 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday - Friday. EOE Complete Job Description and Application can be found at: www.pittmancentertn.gov

POLICE OFFICER.

LAWRENCEBURG. The city of Lawrenceburg is seeking qualified applicants for multiple Police Patrol Officers in the Lawrenceburg Police Department. Applications for this position will be accepted until 3:00 PM on July 30. The salary scale is DOQ, plus a host of wonderful benefits. Lawrenceburg is a community which takes pride

in its police officers and is very supportive of them. Applicants may include other job-related information with the Career Center Job Application. Information must be returned to the Tennessee Career Center at 702 Mahr Ave, Lawrenceburg, TN, by 3 PM on July 30, 2021. Selections for interviews will follow.

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

OAKLAND. The town of Oakland is seeking a strong, innovative, engaging, and visionary planning and community development director to oversee the town's planning, zoning, development reviews, and planning initiatives. The town of Oakland is a rapidly growing community; the director of planning and community development will have wide-ranging responsibilities within the town's organization. This position is responsible for the administration, direction, supervision, and operation of the planning and community development department. Minimum Qualifications: graduation from accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in urban planning, architecture, engineering, or public administration required. (Master's degree desired). Five to seven years of increasingly responsible administrative experience involving planning and zoning required. Experience in city or county government desired. Direct department budgetary experience required. American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) certification preferred. A full job description is available online at www.oakland-tennessee.org This is a full-time salaried exempt position with a salary range of \$49,920 - \$62,380 depending upon qualifications and experience. The Town of Oakland is an EOE/Drug Free Workplace employer. Cover letters and resumes should be submitted on or before Wednesday, July 28, 2021. Please submit to: Attention: Town Manager, Town of Oakland, P.O. Box 56, Oakland, TN 38060 or emailed to: jjohnson@oaklandtn.gov

TOWN PLANNER

ARLINGTON. The Town of Arlington is seeking a highly motivated individual for a full-time position at Town Hall. Applicants shall have excellent project management, oral and written communication skills. Applicant must have a bachelor's degree, master's degree preferred, from an accredited college or university in urban or regional planning, civil engineering, or a closely related field. At least five years of public management and professional planning experience, preferably in a municipality. AICP certification is preferred. Salary Range \$70,000-\$80,000 depending on education and experience. A detailed job description & application are available at Town Hall, 5854 Airline Rd, Arlington, TN or by visiting www.townofarlington.org. The town of Arlington is an EOE.

TOWN RECORDER

JONESBOROUGH. The town is seeking applicants for the position of Town Recorder. This position is the town's authority on all aspects of financial management and requires a comprehensive understanding of city government finance. Director manages the accounting, accounts payable, tax collection, debt service and cash management functions of the town and participates in certain aspects of the payroll process and purchasing. Bachelor of business administration in accounting, finance, or closely related field; Master's degree preferred. Certified Public Accountant (CPA) with governmental accounting practices and experience preferred. The ability to be bonded. Must have an ability to become certified as a city recorder by the state of Tennessee. Five to seven years of progressively responsible managerial positions in accounting and financial management required. Similar experience in the public sector is preferred. Salary is DOQ.

TRAFFIC SIGNAL TECHNICIAN

MARYVILLE. The City of Maryville is accepting applications for a Traffic Signal Technician who performs skilled technical work repairing and maintaining traffic control devices and related infrastructure affecting safe traffic flow in Maryville and Alcoa. This position works within the Maryville-Alcoa Central Traffic Operations group to coordinate a centralized communications network of traffic coordination throughout the Cities. Must possess a thorough knowledge of materials, techniques and equipment used in traffic control. Excellent analytical and electric trade skills are required. Must have a strong mathematical aptitude and the ability to read and interpret blueprints, schematics, and applicable State and Federal rules and regulations. A high school diploma or GED and moderate experience working with traffic signals, or equivalent combination of education and experience is required. Starting hourly pay rate is \$20.07 DOE. A complete job description, required application and instructions on how to apply are available on our website www.maryvillegov.com/jobs. Deadline to apply is August 17, 2021.

UTILITY DIRECTOR

SPRING HILL. The city of Spring Hill is accepting applications and resumes for a full-time, exempt utility director. He or she will perform administrative and managerial work in the planning, organizing, and directing of overall operations amongst the water and wastewater treatment plants; and, the water distribution, and sewer collection. This employee must possess the ability to make prudent and independent decisions as they apply to daily activities. The incumbent in this position will supervise assigned employees; coordinate activities between departments, and maintain records and budgets for various projects. The utility director provides substantive and highly complex staff assistance to the city administrator and operates under his or her direct supervision. The employee will perform other related and/or non-specific work as required, some of which will be mechanical. Must possess a bachelor's degree in engineering; Must possess Professional Engineer (P.E.) licensure from the state of Tennessee; Must possess a valid driver's license; 10 years' experience in water or wastewater system maintenance or construction, hydraulic engineering, or civil engineering of which some experience having been in an increasingly responsible administrative or supervisory capacity. The city of Spring Hill offers an extensive and generous employee benefit package, which includes an 100% Employer paid Medical coverage option for the entire family, optional vision insurance, employer paid dental insurance for the employee with the option to purchase family coverage, Flexible Spending Account, Employer paid Life, AD&D and LTD Insurance, as well as voluntary life and STD. TCRS Pension. Submit applications/resumes online at: www.springhilltn.org/Jobs.aspx Questions to staylor@springhilltn.org No phone calls please. Applications will be considered on basis of qualifications, experience, and suitability for position without regards to race, color, religion, sex or national origin. EEO/AA/Title VI Employer. Minorities and women are encouraged to apply.

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What local leaders want to see in an infrastructure deal

BY BILL LUCIA

Route Fifty

As the White House and congressional lawmakers try to hash out an infrastructure deal that can attract bipartisan support, a new survey of more than 400 local government leaders in cities, towns and counties across the U.S. sheds light on what they want the package to include.

The poll found especially high support—in the 70% to 90% range—in communities of all sizes and among Democrats, Republicans and independents for investments in roads, waterworks, broadband and the electric grid. In other areas, the findings give a sense of the gaps between officials in different political parties and in larger and smaller communities when it comes to spending priorities.

For instance, among Democratic officials who responded, 73% favored mass transit funding in a public works package. For Republicans the figure was just 35% and for independents 49%. Of the Republican respondents, 28% said they oppose including transit funding.

Other results illuminate partisan divides at the local level in areas that are central to the infrastructure agenda that the Biden administration and Democrats have embraced—like clean energy and electric vehicles, and the importance of using infrastructure programs to address issues related to racial inequalities and the environment.

Seventy-one percent of Democratic respondents said the impact of infrastructure in their community on racial equity is “very important” and 27% said “somewhat important.” For Republicans those figures were 22% and 44% respectively. Similarly, 73% of Democrats said infrastructure is very important when it comes to economic inequality, while only 31% of Republicans agreed.

Survey participants included 413 local government

policy makers from cities, counties and townships with populations of 1,000 people or more. The respondents are mayors, top elected officials and members of governing boards, commissions and councils.

The poll was conducted by CivicPulse in partnership with Stanford University and *Route Fifty*. Nathan Lee, managing director of CivicPulse and a public policy professor at the Rochester Institute of Technology, noted that nationwide there are thousands of local governments and that many of them are smaller sized, rather than major cities. The survey, he explained, was designed to accurately reflect this dynamic and the views of officials across this range of places.

“Because there are so many local governments, and many local governments are so small, often their voices are left out in the conversation in D.C.,” Lee said. “But when you put all these local governments together, they represent a huge portion of the ultimate users of this funding,” he added. “It’s really important to ground truth what their priorities are.”

Roads and bridges are a clear priority. Overall, 93% of respondents said that they favor road and bridge funding in a new infrastructure bill. Water and wastewater drew the second strongest level of support, with 83% of the officials surveyed saying it’s an area that they favor. The electricity grid and broadband, both checked in at 73%.

Each of these categories had high levels of support across party lines and among officials who represent places both large and small. “Roads and bridges, water and wastewater, there’s nearly universal support for. It’s very bipartisan,” Lee said.

Overall, 40% of respondents said they support including mass transit funding in a new infrastructure bill, 39% said they neither favor nor oppose doing so and 21%—just over one-in-five officials—said they oppose including this funding.

In addition to tracking with party affiliation, support for transit varied with jurisdiction size. In places with 75,000 residents or more, nearly three-quarters of respondents favored mass transit funding. In places with populations of 15,000 to 75,000, the figure drops to 55% and in localities with fewer than 15,000 residents it is just 40%.

“For the smaller towns, some-

what not surprisingly, mass transit was really quite low,” Lee said.

While smaller localities outnumber big ones around the U.S., an outsized share of the population lives in and around larger cities. Gallup polling from 2018 indicates that about 39% of Americans were living in big cities, or in suburban areas around them. Census estimates suggest that about 80% of Americans live in “urban” areas.

Lee added about the findings. “Support for mass transit is concentrated in larger cities.”

Clean energy and electric vehicles proved to be two of the most divided areas in the survey.

Ninety-two percent of Democrats favored including clean energy funding in new infrastructure legislation but only 28% of Republicans held that view. For independents the figure was 53%.

With electric vehicle infrastructure, it’s a similar story. Sixty-three percent of Democrats said they support this funding. Just 19% of Republicans and 41% of independents said the same. Thirty-nine percent of GOP respondents said they oppose electric vehicle funding.

Democrats were more supportive of infrastructure funding in general. The lowest level of support among Democratic officials among 11 infrastructure categories the survey asked about was the 63% figure for electric vehicles. For Republicans, there were six categories where 51% or fewer of the respondents favored funding.

The survey also asked about how important officials considered the impact of infrastructure in their communities on areas like public health and the environment. Ninety-two percent of Democrats said the impact of infrastructure was very important for the environment and 87% said the same of public health. For Republicans, that figure was 49%, for public health 66%.

State and local governments spend more money than the federal government to build and maintain much of the public infrastructure that Americans rely on day to day, particularly transportation and waterworks. But new infrastructure legislation has the potential to significantly boost the amount of federal dollars going to the state and local level to support spending on these kinds of public works projects.

NATIONAL BRIEFS



The federal moratorium on evictions has been extended another month. Issued last September by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the moratorium has provided protection for the nation’s 43 million renters during the pandemic. It has since been extended twice. Officials said it is still difficult to estimate how many renters will face evictions when the moratorium ends, though an estimated 7 million Americans are at least three months behind on rent. Experts expect homelessness numbers to increase as a result of evictions. A new study by the Eviction Lab at Princeton University has found that communities with the lowest vaccination rates tend

to have the highest eviction filings, raising additional health concerns.

The number of births in America declined yet again in 2020 with the steepest annual decline since 1973. The National Center for Health Statistics at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said approximately 3.6 million births were recorded in 2020, nearly 150,000 fewer births than the previous year and 700,000 below the record-high set in 2007. The largest number of births came in December, November, and October of the year, respectively, indicating that some may have held off on having children due to the pandemic. All 50 states and the District of Columbia reported a decrease in births with the states growing the fastest population-wise reporting equal declines to those

states that are showing the fastest population declines.

Food costs are going up, according to federal statistics. The Consumer Price Index reported that both the cost of eating out and the cost of buying food from grocery stores has increased. The USDA is predicting moderate increases on food to increase throughout the rest of the year. One of the reasons for the increase in food costs is that people have changed their eating habits as a result of the pandemic. The pandemic has also impacted the farming and food processing industries, increasing commodity prices. Rising gasoline prices are also making it more expensive to transport food and there have been disruptions in the transportation sector.



July 23-24: Franklin

*Bluegrass Along the Harpeth**Fiddlers Jamboree*Downtown Franklin will host fantastic bluegrass music performed by talented local artists. The event will also feature arts and crafts booths, local vendors, and food trucks. Learn more at <https://www.bluegrassalongtheharpeh.com/>

Tullahoma, Arnold AFB celebrate 70 years of partnership

By KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

The city of Tullahoma is celebrating alongside Arnold Air Force Base as the base celebrates the 70th anniversary of its Arnold Engineering Development Complex (AEDC).

The headquarters of more than 68 test facilities, AEDC has had a hand in the development of everything from commercial jets to military planes to space shuttles in its seven-decade history. One of the most advanced and largest complex of flight simulation test facilities in the world, a recent study found that AEDC and Arnold Air Force base have a \$680 million economic impact for the state of Tennessee.

Closer to home in Tullahoma, the base itself accounts for thousands of jobs both on site and those secondary jobs created by home construction and income generated by employees at local supermarkets, car dealerships, and retail.

Beyond economic impact, AEDC and its partnership with the University of Tennessee Space Institute (UTSI) – also located in Tullahoma – have created a more intangible impact. In the city with a population of around 20,000, it isn't uncommon for the world's top hypersonic scientists and researchers to make an appearance at school career day or to meet an astronaut while walking down the aisle at the grocery store.

TAKING OFF

The history of the base began during World War II when the U.S. Army purchased two properties in the city. The first, Camp Forrest, was used as a training area for infantry, artillery, engineer, and signal ordination as well as a hospital. Later, Camp Forrest became a prisoner of war camp for German POWs. The second, William Northern Field, was an air training base for B-24 Liberator bombers. The two bases helped the city's population grow from 4,500 at the beginning of the war to 75,000 at the end of it.

With World War II over, both properties began a transition. William Northern Field became what is now the Tullahoma Municipal Airport. Camp Forrest was selected by Congress in 1949 as the location for the new Air Engineering Development Center – the original name for AEDC – and was officially opened in 1951. The base was named The Arnold Air Force Base in honor of Gen. Henry Harley "Hap" Arnold, an aviation pioneer and commanding general of the U.S. Army Air Forces, the precursor to the modern Air Force.

C. Thomas Robinson, executive director of the Tullahoma Area Economic Development Corporation, said AEDC played an important role as the Cold War Space Race began to heat up.

"They knew from the work and fighting that went on during World War II that we needed to upgrade our scientific and testing abilities for this new phenomenon where airpower played such a significant role," Robinson said. "We could see going forward that we would continue to test and develop better products than we had during the war."

In 1964, UTSI was established to support AEDC's mission. Tullahoma Mayor Ray Knowis said UTSI has become a valuable resource to the community at large as well.

"One of the things that came necessarily at AEDC when it was being developed was a great need for advanced engineering degrees," Knowis said. "That was the genesis of UTSI. There are at least 14 astronauts who have gone through UTSI. The University of Tennessee Space Institute is a gem in our city."

Dr. John Schmisser, H.H. Arnold Chair and B.H. Goethert professor with UTSI, said UTSI's role has evolved with AEDC.

"I think our greatest contributions and real opportunities for moving forward is serve as an academic partner that can provide a foundation and cornerstone for the development of the workforce in this area of Tennessee," Schmisser said. "I think UTSI's role is not only to provide that type of workforce to AEDC but to also be a real driver for economic development and advanced technology development that supports not only AEDC but also utilizes the opportunities in Huntsville to create more technology-oriented economic growth in the state."

TESTING, TESTING

From small planes to space vehicles, AEDC has had a major role in making sure transportation is safe, no matter the altitude, atmosphere – or lack thereof.

Knowis spent two-and-a-half years as a designer at AEDC's Propulsion Wind Tunnel Design Section before working for AEDC contractor Micro Craft for more than 30 years and knows some of this work first-hand.

"When we began launching space vehicles, we didn't know how the materials would react in the harsh environment of space," Knowis said. "For instance, materials that will rust will rust many times more rapidly in the environment of space than they do on earth. You have harsh temperatures that materials have to go through. They built the space chambers, and the first space chambers they built at AEDC is still in use today. They can turn it into a complete vacuum and can test it at -470 degree Fahrenheit. They have added two other space chambers that are larger that are still in use. They don't need to do aerodynamic testing on space vehicles because there is no air in space. You would hardly know that it came out of AEDC, but a lot of the space application things they do can have implications for the



Tullahoma Mayor Ray Knowis, right, presents Arnold Air Force Base Commander Col. Jeff Geraghty with a proclamation honoring the 70th anniversary of the Arnold Engineering Development Complex (AEDC) and its involvement in both the city's aerospace heritage and as an asset in national defense.

everyday man on the street."

Closer to the ground, Knowis said the facility is also an essential part of ensuring aircraft operate properly.

"The aerodynamic testing is done in two primary wind tunnel facilities at AEDC," he said. "There is the propulsion wind tunnel, which is a trans-sonic tunnel. There is also a super-sonic tunnel. There is a range of wind tunnels in sizes and speeds. Engine testing is where they take anything from the engines they put in fighter jets all the way up to the giant engines built for commercial transport. Those engines are tested in the wind tunnels with live firing. They measure the thrust from those engines on their full power. All of the large transport planes you fly on today are flown on engines that were tested at AEDC."

Beyond flight, Schmisser said a lot of the work done by AEDC and UTSI has implications for most people they don't even realize.

"There are many things we take advantage of today that started off as aerospace capabilities," Schmisser said. "If you watch Netflix or Disney streaming, anything like that is delivered through satellite streaming. That started off as a capability the Department of Defense wanted to utilize. Odds are, some of the things that put those satellites in position or allowed them to survive in space took place at AEDC. As we seek to develop military capabilities, the long-term spin-off impacts general society. A lot of the things we take advantage of today are based on advancements from the space program."

Other projects have far-reaching consequences for American defense and the aerospace industry.

"Microcraft builds aerospace test vehicles and the MACH 10 flight vehicles like the NASA X-43A that set the air-breathing hypersonic aircraft speed world record," Knowis said. "We have GTL that has some proprietary technology for light weight fuel tanks for hydrogen and rocket vehicles. XP Services at our airport does helicopter refurbishing. We have those kinds of things going on in town in addition to some of the contractors in AEDC, who have their headquarters in downtown Tullahoma."

LOCAL IMPACT

When employees of AEDC and UTSI clock out for the evening, they spend their time – and money – in Tullahoma. Robinson said the two facilities have a large economic impact on the community.

"There are about 31,000 people who work at the base," he said. "Of that, about 60 to 70 are actual Airforce-uniform-wearing people. There is a good smattering of civilian personnel who are hired by and work for the government. A great number of the people who work out at the base are employed by defense contractors. These are private companies. There are seven prime subcontractors out at the base who do a great deal of the work, run some of the testing, and are involved in all aspects."

Robinson said the impact is felt in every economic sector of the community.

"All these people have to eat, buy clothes, and those things," he said. "One of the things I work on is retail development, and we are at the center of a lot of small towns. They all have some tie to us in that we have grown and attracted retail development. In the past five years, we had three pretty good-sized grocery stores, but we were still able to attract a Publix and an Aldi's. Over the last eight years, we have been averaging \$225 increase year-over-year with sales tax. We have a good regional hospital here that was recently taken over by Vanderbilt. The doctors that go with that hospital are higher-paying and help that economic surplus get better and better."

AEDC and UTSI have also proved to be powerful recruitment tools – and not just for the aerospace industry.

"One of the first things a potential industry captain or someone who wants to relocate their business to Tullahoma looks at it's the availability of the workforce and the education of

the workforce,"

Knowis said. "That is one of the strong suits that Tullahoma has. Our employment problem is not with unemployment but that we have more jobs than people. These are high-paying jobs. AEDC is one of the reasons we can grow in the way we want to grow."

Schmisser said the Tullahoma area has great potential as the center of a high-tech industry corridor.

"I think one of the greatest opportunities we have is to continue to use the space institute to drive more technology-oriented businesses to the region," he said. "I think AEDC has an opportunity to be an end user for technology and UT has an opportunity to foster that economic growth by supporting industrial development of regional businesses around AEDC. UTSI can be an incubator for new ideas."

AEDC and UTSI also have economic implications for the state of Tennessee at large.

"I think the greatest thing to keep in mind is that aerospace and defense is an unrealized opportunity within Tennessee we need to capitalize on more," Schmisser said. "There is a tremendous opportunity we have to foster and drive economic growth with more alignment of the state behind it. We have gotten tremendous support from the state. The state provided \$1 million for a new MACH 4 wind tunnel at UTSI that is designed to complement the facilities at AEDC. We have been able to develop new ways for visualizing the flow of field using that facility that have been transitioned and picked up over at AEDC. In terms of securing additional federal funding, we have brought in more than ten times the amount of resources than what the state provided in competitive federal funding to bring new resources to Tennessee as a result of that wind tunnel investment. We have made tremendous progress in getting federal and industry funding to support our progress and investment in the state."

Schmisser said the highly-educated workforce has trickled down to the local schools.

"One of the immediate benefits in terms of having an aerospace and defense-oriented culture is that our school systems are world class," he said. "I think we all take for granted the fantastic schools we have here in Tullahoma. We have a very educated population, and it reflects in the community around us. As we bring in new scientists and engineers, they typically buy a home. They contribute economically to the community and do so at a level appropriate for a technology-oriented household."

Knowis said another effect is that Tullahoma citizens have developed a sense of complacency about having top rocket scientists and astronauts as their neighbors.

"We have astronauts buying their groceries in downtown Tullahoma," Knowis said. "They are sending their kids to school with the Tullahoma citizenry. It is very easy and commonplace to associate ourselves with people who were going into space. They are our neighbors. Because of that, we have attracted a pretty high level of education workforce here in Tullahoma. That has translated into the school system. These kids are getting a great education in our school systems that helps elevate the academic performance of the whole system. We tend to take things like that for granted in Tullahoma because while we are unique, we have grown accustomed to it."



AEDC's Space and Missile Test Branch operates a diverse set of test and evaluation capabilities. Kellye Burns, right, a space test engineer, hands a material sample to Eric D'Ambro, a test operations engineer, that will be tested in a Space Asset Resilience thermal vacuum chamber, Aug. 3, 2020, at Arnold Air Force Base. Materials and space systems can be subjected to the natural and induced threat sources, such as protons, electrons, solar, atomic oxygen, thruster ions, material outgassing and spacecraft charging. (U.S. Air Force photo by Jill Pickett)



Apollo 11 mission commander Neil A. Armstrong, second from the right, the first man to step on the moon, visited AEDC in 1971 with a group of NASA and DOD officials who stopped during their tour of VKF to inspect some of the wind tunnel models. AEDC has been a major part of numerous space missions, including several Apollo and Saturn missions, and has numerous astronauts come through its facilities.

AD ASTRA

After 70 years, the mission of AEDC is not slowing down.

"Four-and-a-half years ago, the Department of Defense decided they were going to base all the testing for hypersonic vehicles at AEDC," Robinson said. "There are super-high-speed vehicles being tested there. We have the best and brightest hypersonic engineers in the world."

Schmisser said the work being done at the two facilities could have far-reaching consequences for ordinary travelers.

"The world gets closer together through aerospace capabilities," he said. "With the high-speed capabilities we are currently working on, we are drawing the world even closer together. One of the things being worked on right now is hypersonics, which is very high-speed flight. A couple benefits are coming out of that beyond national defense. The near-term application is national defense, but after that is brings down the cost of access to space. That has implications with global positioning, how cars are connected to satellites, and being able to populate those things where we can fix things when something goes wrong. Beyond that, imagine being able to get on a high-speed plane and being able to go on a day-trip across the world and come back."

The location of the new U.S. Space Force about 60 miles away in Huntsville, Ala., may also play a role in the future of the two institutions.

"One of the reasons they selected Huntsville, Ala., as the headquarters of Space Force is because of the large existence of airports, officers, and engineers in the area," Robinson said. "They also looked at the number and availability of high-speed engineers and support staff they could utilize in a 50-mile radius. It speaks well of Huntsville and Tullahoma that Huntsville was selected for this."

Even without Space Force, Schmisser said AEDC and UTSI are already busier than ever.

"There is a tremendous demand for what UTSI and AEDC do right now," he said. "The need for developing high-speed system is so great. We are operating well over maximum capacity at both AEDC and UTSI right now. The Space Force may create further demands, but honestly, we are in tremendous demand, just looking at atmospheric, high-speed flight. Many of the opportunities we have right now and the critical role that both UTSI and AEDC are playing are not as widely recognized in the public because there isn't a new Space Force with them. We are incredibly busy working on one of the top DOD priorities, which is the realization of hypersonic and high-speed system."

The work continues, from Tennessee to the stars.

"We make things in Tennessee," Schmisser said. "One day, we should be able to look back and say we designed, built, tested, and ultimately supported the entire aerospace/defense system from Tennessee. That is the goal we are working on with our communities, the state, and the University of Tennessee. We could all foster a greater technology base."