



TML elects new board members, Gatlinburg Mayor as president

The Tennessee Municipal League recently elected its 2020-2021 board of directors during its annual business meeting recently held via video conferencing. Gatlinburg Mayor Mike Werner was elected president.

As president of the League, Werner will lead the organization as it determines and proposes legislation cities want passed into law. He also plays a major role in the National League of Cities, which represents municipalities with Congress and the federal administration.

"TML has been very instrumental in supporting legislation for cities of all sizes. Large and small communities across the state are looking for similar solutions to local problems," said Werner. "As president, I will work hard to accomplish the League's goals and legislative priorities."

Other board elections include three vice presidents: Ken Moore, Franklin mayor; Bobby King, Henderson mayor; and Ron Williams, Farragut mayor. TML vicepresidents are traditionally in line to serve as president.

The TML board also includes TML past presidents, mayors of Tennessee's largest cities, eight district directors, and eight at-large directors.

The eight district directors, representing their section of the state, were nominated and elected during district caucuses. They are: District 1: Todd Smith, Greeneville city manager; District 2: Randy Childs, Kingston councilmember; District 3: Katie Lamb, Collegedale mayor; District 4: J.H. Graham, Crossville councilmember; District 5: Gina Holt, Springfield city manager; District 6: Blake Lay, Lawrenceburg mayor; District 7: Mike French, Somerville alderman; and District 8: Terry Jones, Millington mayor.

The eight at-large directors were nominated by a five-member nominating committee composed of municipal officials statewide. They were then elected for a one-year term

PE Partners Board approves organizational restructuring

Public Entity Partners' Board of Directors is guiding the organization through a strategic planning process to position the organization to continue to provide a high level of service to members in the future. This long-range planning began several years ago when the board approved a plan for a new corporate headquarters, located in Franklin, and will continue this fall with a formal strategic planning retreat with the management team and board of directors.

Currently, the board of directors is conducting a search for a new president and CEO to take the place of retiring President and CEO Charles DeMore. DeMore has served in this role since March 2020, when Dawn R. Crawford retired. DeMore had previously announced his intent to retire but stepped into the president and CEO role after serving as executive vice president, chief financial officer, and director of personnel for more than 15 years.

"Our board of directors has vision and insight into the future of PE Partners, and I am grateful for the opportunity to lead this organization during this time," said DeMore. "The board has recognized the importance of succession planning and development of our staff to ensure continuity of operations and maintain the extensive institutional knowledge that so many of our employees have. As with many organizations who have celebrated employees with long tenure, we have actively planned to ensure continuity within our opera-



Mike Werner
Gatlinburg Mayor

by a majority vote of the entire membership. Those directors are Paige Brown, Gallatin mayor; Vance Coleman, Medina mayor; W.T. Daniels, Greeneville mayor; Doris Hensley, Erwin mayor; Christina Martin, Columbia vice mayor; Keith McDonald, Bartlett mayor; Lonnie Norman, Manchester mayor; and Mary Ann Tremblay, Three Way vice mayor.

The chairmen of the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund – offering low-interest loans for capital improvements – Public Entity Partners – providing affordable, dependable liability coverage to municipalities – also sit on the board.

A representative from an affiliate organization is also a voting board member, Tracy Baker, Sevierville assistant city administrator and president of the Tennessee City Management Association.

TML is thankful for the leadership and guidance the 2019 - 2020 board provided to the organization. We look forward to working with the new 2020 - 21 board members as we all work to strengthen municipalities in our efforts to help move Tennessee forward.



Jon Calvin
VP Underwriting



Michael G. Fann
VP Risk Services

tions."

The PE Partners job notice for president and CEO candidates began circulating July 13 and will run through July 24, 2020.

See **PE PARTNERS** on Page 6

Schools preparing for new routines as Tennessee plans return to classroom

By KATE COIL
TML
Communications
Specialist

While students are still enjoying their summer break, officials at K-12 schools, colleges, and universities are preparing for the safe return of students and staff in the fall.

While many state school districts are vowing to have a full return to the classroom, some districts and parents are concerned about classrooms contributing to further spread of the disease. Likewise, many universities, colleges, and community colleges across Tennessee are looking at a mix of in-person and remote learning options for their fall semesters as well as canceling traditional breaks that might contribute to the disease's spread.

On the federal level, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos and President Donald Trump have both said they want to see schools reopen in the fall. During a conference call with the nation's governors, DeVos said she expects schools to be "fully operational."

"Ultimately, it's not a matter of if schools need to open, it's a matter of how," DeVos said. "School[s] must reopen, they must be fully operational. And how that happens is best left to education and community leaders."

K-12 CONCERNS

The cost of returning to in-person classes is also a major concern for many. Tennessee Department of Education Commissioner Penny Schwinn said each individual school district in the state may have



A video from the Tennessee Department of Education demonstrates how classrooms should be set up to comply with best practices in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Making sure desks are six feet apart and requiring masks and temperature checks for students are among the new practices coming to schools in the fall.

to spend between \$1 million to \$1.75 million to purchase cleaning and hygiene products, personal protective equipment, and other necessities that will be required for in-person classes. Schwinn said some funds from the CARES Act will go to covering these expenses, but there will still be a "significant need."

Gov. Bill Lee and the Financial Stimulus Accountability Group announced \$81 million in Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) funding is available through grants for K-12 schools and higher education institutions to assist with plans for safe reopening.

"Reopening our schools, colleges and universities is a key priority and grant funding ensures institutions can make proper accommodations to keep educators and students safe as we continue to fight COVID-19," said Gov. Lee. "This first wave of funding provides for technology and distance learning support as well as measures to improve social distancing."

This first wave of grant funding includes releasing \$11 million for grants to local education agencies (LEA) to support reopening efforts from the Coronavirus Relief Fund Grants with districts eligible to receive between \$25,000 and \$150,000 each. An additional \$50 million will be made available to support technology grants that can be used on wi-fi devices, laptops, or any other devices needed to support reopening that allows a match program.

Some education officials have also expressed concern about whether or not younger students and students with special needs are capable of maintaining appropriate social distancing, wearing masks, and other health practices in a classroom setting. Most states are requiring students to wear face masks when returning to school and some have even required face shields as well as face masks for staff or both students and staff.

To help guide school districts in this process, the Tennessee Department of Education has released *See SCHOOL on Page 7*

As COVID further exposes national housing crisis cities seek solutions

By KATE COIL

With millions of Americans filing for unemployment due to the COVID-19 pandemic, experts are expecting to see large-scale evictions as emergency orders end, also putting an end to moratoriums on utility and rental payments.

Many states, counties, and cities included halting collection on rents and utilities as part of their emergency orders, but as those orders are lifted these collections can resume. As a result, those who have lost their jobs as a result of the pandemic are also struggling to keep a roof over their head in addition to finding new employment. By the end of June, an estimated 30 million Americans remained jobless as a result of the pandemic with the nation reporting its highest unemployment rate since the Great Depression.

To address concerns that the pandemic might lead to a housing crisis in communities across the country, the National League of Cities conducted a webinar titled "Keeping Families Housed: How Cities Can Help Renters Navigate the Eviction Cliff" on June 25.

Denise Belser, program director for NLC's Economic Opportunity and Financial Empowerment Institute for Youth, Education, and Families, said the pandemic has exacerbated the already fraught national housing situation.

"We know that housing is a basic necessity, one of just a handful we as humans need to survive and thrive. It's considered an essential human right, yet it's become unaffordable for many," Belser said. "Unfortunately, housing instability has already been an issue long before the COVID-19 pandemic hit for nearly half of U.S. renters and it is escalating



With millions of Americans already struggling to afford housing, the financial crisis created by the COVID-19 pandemic is expected to lead to a wave of foreclosures and evictions. While many states and cities have issued a moratorium on rent or utility payment collections during the pandemic, the ending of emergency orders means many who have been financially impacted by the crisis will not be able to make current and back payments when they become due.

as more Americans file for unemployment benefits. The number of renters paying half of their income toward housing costs continues to increase. Many Americans are just one unexpected expense away from disaster and say they are not able to cover a \$400 emergency."

Belser said cities can expect to see a wave of evictions when the moratorium on rent and utility payments expire as renters have to pay months of overdue rent. This "eviction cliff" may also impact homeowners who cannot make mortgage payments and are forced into foreclosure.

"With the unexpected crisis from COVID-19, it is even more important that cities plan ahead to mitigate long-term effects on household and family security and keep as many people, especially the most vulnerable, in their homes," she said. "U.S. renters are increasingly rent-burdened, especially

the extremely-low income households. Data says that 10.9 million people of the nation's 44 million renters are extremely-low income. Of that nearly 11 million, 71% severely housing-cost burdened and these families spend more than half of their income on rent and utilities. What is important for us to see is that people of color are impacted even more and fall off this cliff even faster."

Dr. Stephen J. Sills, director of the Center for Housing and Community Studies at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, said his department's study of Greensboro reflects many of the same struggles faced by medium-sized cities across the American South-east.

Following the 2010 foreclosure crisis during the Great Recession, Sills said Greensboro saw the average price of rent increase 55% *See EVICTION on Page 3*

NEWS
ACROSS
TENNESSEE



BELL BUCKLE

The town of Bell Buckle has a new 160,000-gallon water tank to serve roughly 850 homes and businesses in the community, replacing a structure originally built in 1936. Located on the Webb School campus, the tank is painted a Webb School blue and was part of a land swap between the town and the school. The new tank is constructed with glass-fused panels to prevent corrosion. The tank was funded through the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation’s State Revolving Loan Fund and cost \$866,000. The loan will also cover the cost of replacing several hundred feet of aging cast iron pipes that connect the tank to the city water pipe system on Webb Road. The town also has an agreement that they do not have to pay back the loan money provided they work with TDEC to develop and implement a program for management of their water system infrastructure that will serve as a template for other small communities across the state.

CHATTANOOGA

The city of Chattanooga has been selected as one of a handful of cities to participate in a national nonprofit group’s program to begin city-led efforts to provide more consumer education and protections against predatory lending. The Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund (CFE Fund) and Annie E. Casey Foundation provided more than \$42 million in grants to 82 cities for consumer counseling and assistance program. Chattanooga will begin an education campaign to raise consumer awareness of scams and predatory practices. These efforts are part of a multi-pronged approach that supports broader consumer financial protections to complement the city’s Economic Mobility plan, which seeks to prioritize alternatives to payday lenders and support family financial education programs. A study by the Mayor’s Council of Women three years ago said Tennessee’s disproportionately higher number of payday lending stores may be linked to the state’s above-average bankruptcy rate. Tennessee consistently ranks among the top states in the share of persons filing for bankruptcy.

CLARKSVILLE

Agero plans to invest \$2 million to expand operations and create 900 jobs in Clarksville in the next five years. The company provides roadside assistance, accident management, connected car services and tow software. The company previously established a call center in the Clarksville area in 2012, where it currently employs 750. The company also has a second facility in the Tri-Cities area of the state. The new Clarksville expansion will call for extending its Clarksville operations center by nearly 14,000 square feet. Agero is the leading B2B provider of driver assistance services, including roadside assistance and accident management. The company supports more than 115 million vehicles in partnership with leading automakers, insurance carriers and other clients. The company responds to approximately 12 million requests for roadside and accident assistance annually.

COOKEVILLE

TTI Floor Care North America will invest \$20 million to increase manufacturing at its facility in Cookeville, creating 500 jobs over a five-year period. TTI Floor

Care’s Cookeville investment will allow the company to diversify its manufacturing footprint and enhance its product portfolio. TTI Floor Care will add several new production lines, products and shifts at the facility. The company’s capital investment will go toward building improvements, upgrades and the installation of new equipment. TTI Floor Care owns three of the biggest names in the floor care industry: Hoover, Dirt Devil and Oreck. Its parent company, Techtronic Industries Co. Ltd., is a fast-growing world leader in power tools, accessories, hand tools, outdoor equipment and floor care appliances. The TTI brands also include MILWAUKEE and Ryobi.

DRESDEN

The town of Dresden has received an improved fire suppression classification, meaning lower insurance premiums for both commercial and residential property owners. Dresden Mayor Jeff Washburn announced the town moved from a Class 5 Public Protection Classification to a Class 4 Public Protection Classification, which will take effect on Oct. 1. The one class classification decrease will typically result in up to a 10% decrease in insurance premiums. The town’s last ISO inspection was held in 2014.

FAYETTEVILLE

Free public wifi has arrived in downtown Fayetteville, providing access for downtown visitors and events like the annual Slawburger Festival and annual Christmas events. The project was conducted by the city of Fayetteville in conjunction with Fayetteville Public Utilities and the Lincoln County IT Department, allowing for the installation of wifi services at a cost of \$3,000, well under the \$15,000 initially budgeted by the city for the project. The wifi is managed by the city but was installed by the local public utility.

FRANKLIN

Ramsey Solutions will invest \$52 million to expand its corporate headquarters in Franklin and create 600 jobs. Ramsey Solutions will build a second office building, totaling nearly 192,000 square feet and six stories, on its corporate campus as part of Ramsey Solutions’ continued expansion, which started in 2015 when the company closed on 47 acres of land in the Berry Farms development. In 2019, the Ramsey team moved into the first six-story office building, which includes podcast and radio studios, more than 200,000 square feet of workspace, a team member cafeteria, a bookstore and coffee shop for guests watching “The Dave Ramsey Show” live in the studio. This latest expansion will accommodate the company’s continued growth. Construction on the second office building began in August 2019 and is expected to be completed in May 2021.

GALLATIN

An unnamed company has purchased more than 800 acres of land off of Hartsville Pike adjacent to the city of Gallatin’s industrial park for the construction of a massive data center project. The center will employ approximately 140 people, 40 of whom would be direct jobs with an average annual salary of \$80,000 and the other 100 as subcontractors who would earn an average annual salary of \$50,000. The privately-owned property was purchased for \$19.9 million by a company operating under the name Woolhawk, LLC. The Gallatin Planning Commission has since approved a site plan for

a project on the site that includes 982,500-square-foot data center with associated infrastructure along with a gate house, substation and construction office. An incentive package totaling an estimated \$19.5 million in tax breaks for the project was previously approved by city leaders. According to an economic impact analysis study completed by Younger Associates, the development would represent a \$714.8 million capital investment by the company and would result in a local tax benefit of \$62.7 million.

KNOXVILLE

The city of Knoxville will invest \$5.5 million in local and federal funds in the Interstate 275 Business Park Access Improvements Project, an underused commercial corridor that will attract new business investment to the city. Crews with Jones Brother Contractors will build a 1,100-foot-long extension of Blackstock Avenue, connecting West Fifth Avenue and Bernard Avenue. A 1,600-foot-long section of Marion Street between Bernard and Baxter Avenues will be improved, along with a 650-foot-long section of Baxter, between I-275 and the railroad tracks by Second Creek. The new section of Blackstock and the upgraded Marion will feature two 11-foot-wide lanes, curb and gutter, 5-foot-wide sidewalks and a 10-foot multipurpose trail from West Fifth Avenue to Bernard Avenue. Marion is being realigned from Dameron Avenue to Baxter Avenue. There also will be minor improvements to the intersections of Fifth Avenue and Blackstock Avenue; Marion Street and Bernard Avenue, and Marion Street and Baxter Avenue.

NASHVILLE

The city of Nashville has broken ground on a new pedestrian bridge at Shelby Park around Sevier Lake. Local construction company Bell and Associates, who also constructed the John Seigenthaler Pedestrian Bridge and the Korean War Veterans Memorial Bridge, will complete the park’s pedestrian loop around the lake. The company recently announced they are donating the construction of the bridge to Friends of Shelby Park and Bottoms, the nonprofit that cares for both Shelby Park and the Shelby Bottoms Natural Area. When finished, the bridge will complete a 1-mile walking loop around the lake to be used by both pedestrians and cyclists. The bridge is being done in tandem with the rehabilitation of two vehicular bridges in the park.

THREE WAY

The town of Three Way held its first board meeting in its brand new city hall on July 6. After months of construction, the new city hall building was officially opened for business on June 2. The roughly 4,000-square-foot building includes a large boardroom, storage closets, mayor’s office, smaller conference rooms, and public restroom facilities. The \$1.4 million structure was paid for through a low-interest loan from the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund. City officials have been planning to construct the facility since November 2005 when the town purchased 15 acres of land next to the fire station on Three Way Lane. Incorporated in 1998, the town has been holding board meetings in a small office in front of the fire station and then later in a meeting room constructed in the back of the fire station. The new municipal complex now includes the city hall and a city park. An official ribbon cutting ceremony for the building will be held at a later date.

Kingsport’s new Miracle Field opens with ceremonial pitch



Officials with the city of Kingsport cut the ribbon on the city’s new Miracle Field, which is expected to serve between 2,500 and 3,000 children in the region. Located at Brickyard Park, the Miracle Field project began five years ago and took two years of fundraising efforts. The project was led by Visit Kingsport Executive Director Jud Teague, whose son Nathan has Downs syndrome. Jud and Nathan Teague threw the ceremonial first pitch at the field, signaling the Miracle League is ready to play ball in Kingsport. The \$2.5 million field is the first of its kind in the region and will also be used by leagues for senior citizens and wounded veterans. Future planned additions include a second baseball field, a soccer field, and a zip line.

Clarksville officials break ground on new police precinct



Officials with the city of Clarksville broke ground on the new District 3 Police Precinct. Handling the ceremonial groundbreaking for Clarksville’s District 3 Police Precinct were, from left, Capt. James Smith, City Councilman Jeff Henley, Mayor Joe Pitts, Chief David Crockarell, Daniel Binkley of Rufus Johnson Associates, and J.R. Fredrick of Boger Construction. The precinct will be built on a 1.5-acre site on International Boulevard next to Clarksville Fire Rescue Station 12. The 11,958-square-foot building will include a lobby, offices for command staff and detectives, a training and community meeting room, a sally port, and fitness gym. The more than \$2.99 million project is expected to be complete in Spring 2021.

Madisonville Fire Department acquires new pumper truck



Members of the Madisonville Fire Department recently traveled to Greenport, N.Y., to obtain a new firetruck. The 1993 Spartan pumper truck was custom-built and has long been at use as Greenport Fire Station No. 1. Greenport Fire Chief John Onufrychuk along with Lt. Casey Simmons, Training Officer Doug Garrison, and Greenport Fire Commission Chairmen John Mausolf, Frank Laccino, and Corey Simmons handed the keys over to Madisonville Fire Chief John Tallent and Madisonville Fire Capt. Todd Torbett, Capt. Lee Fadeley, and Firefighter Dan Hickey.

TENNESSEE TOWN & CITY
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WAUFORD

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PEOPLE



Tom Allen will resign from his position after serving 14 years as an alderman for the town of Collierville. Allen said he will resign his position effective Aug. 9 due to a recent diagnosis of stage four pancreatic cancer to focus on his health and family. Allen was first elected to the board of mayor and aldermen in 2006 and has been instrumental in the development of the Collierville School System and the opening of the Linda Kerley Center. A resident of Collierville since 1989, Allen has long been an active community volunteer and serves on numerous boards and committees. A veteran of the Korean War, Allen holds a bachelor’s degree in agriculture from Tennessee Tech and worked as a business owner as well as for the Arcadian Corporation as a regional manager for more than 30 years.



Tom Allen

of Inspector (OIG) where he will work to investigate TennCare and Medicare fraud as well as special investigations launched by the governor. Howe’s last day with Dresden was June 24, though he will continue to work in a liaison position with the Dresden Police Department in the next few months to help the department transition to a new chief. Howe began his career with the Dresden Police Department as an investigator in 2012 and was promoted to chief of police in 2017. Dresden Assistant Police Chief Chris Crocker will serve as the interim police chief until a permanent replacement can be found.



Steve Howe

sity and a master’s degree from Cumberland University.

LaKenya R. Middlebrook has been selected to serve as executive director of the city of Knoxville’s Police Advisory and Review Committee (PARC). A respected community leader and lawyer, Middlebrook will lead the seven-member board – who have been appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the city council – to provide an independent review of police activity and to make recommendations to the chief of police. Middlebrook holds a bachelor’s degree in history from the University of Kentucky. She received her law degree from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. She has worked as a private sector attorney for 10 years, as well as the director of the YWCA Phyllis Wheatley Center. She serves on several community boards including the Knox County Foster Care Review Board.



LaKenya Middlebrook

Floyd Flippin, city attorney for the city of Humboldt, was recently installed as the 39th chair of the Tennessee Bar Foundation at its annual membership meeting. Flippin was first elected to the Tennessee Bar Foundation’s Board of Trustees in 2013 as a West Tennessee trustee and previously served as a member of the organization’s grant review committee. The foundation is a nonprofit that honors attorneys who have distinguished themselves and the profession and administer grant programs on behalf of the Tennessee Supreme Court. A native of Milan, Flippin received his bachelor’s and law degrees from the University of Tennessee. He has been in private practice since 1983 and serves as the county attorney for Gibson County.



Floyd Flippin

Kay Lokey has been selected as a new deputy chief for the Metro Nashville Police Department, making her the city’s first female deputy chief in nearly a decade. Lokey presently serves as commander of the Metro Nashville Police Department Midtown Hills Precinct and is a 22-year veteran with the department. She assumes command of the Administrative Services Bureau, which consists of the Crime Laboratory and Crime Scene Investigations, Training Division, Human Resources Division, Behavioral Health Services, Information/Technology Division, and the Records Division. Lokey graduated from the MNPD Academy in April 1997 and worked as a patrol officer in South Nashville. She was promoted to sergeant in August 2004 and was assigned to the Training Academy before being promoted to lieutenant over recruitment operations in October 2006. Lokey was promoted to captain over the Domestic Violence Division in January 2011, where she served until her appointment as the first commander of the Midtown Hills Precinct in July 2014. Lokey holds a bachelor’s degree from Trevecca Nazarene Univer-



Kay Lokey

Shelley Smith, Tullahoma Planning Commissioner and Downtown Director, has been appointed to the national board for directors for Preservation Action, a nonprofit organization created in 1947 to serve as the national grassroots lobby for historic preservation. Smith specializes in real estate development, historic preservation, neighborhood revitalization, and public-private partnerships. She has worked for more than 20 years as a real estate developer, consultant, and small business owner before joining the city of Tullahoma. Smith earned a bachelor’s degree in history from Birmingham-Souther College, holds a master’s degree in historic preservation from the Savannah College of Art and Design, and a master’s degree in real estate development from Clemon University as its inaugural Faison Fellow.



Shelley Smith

TNDAGC welcomes new executive director

The Tennessee District Attorney’s General Conference has announced the retirement of its executive director and the selection of a new director

Jerry Estes has retired from his position as the executive director. An attorney from Athens, Estes was named executive director of TDAGC in 2015. Estes had previously served as the district attorney general for District 10 from 1982 until 2006, was engaged in private practice in Athens.

Guy Jones, who previously served as the conference’s deputy director since 1997, has been selected as the new executive director. Jones is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University and the Nashville School of Law.

“Our team could not imagine someone better for the executive director position than Guy,” District Attorney General and TDAGC Conference President Amy Weirich said. “He has been a vital asset



Jerry Estes



Guy Jones

to our team for more than 20 years, and I know he’ll be instrumental in our continued growth.”

The Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference was created by the General Assembly in 1961 to provide for a more prompt and efficient administration of justice in the courts of the state. It is comprised of the district attorneys

general from the state’s 31 judicial districts.

The district attorneys are elected for a term of eight years and are responsible for the prosecution of criminal cases on behalf of the state. The office of the executive director serves as the central administrative office for the District Attorneys General Conference.

Brentwood Police announces officer retirements, promotions

Brentwood Police Department Chief Jeff Hughes has announced the retirement, promotion, and new positions for several officers with the department.

One of the biggest changes for the department is the retirement of Assistant Chief Tommy Walsh after 31 years with the Department. Walsh retired on June 28. Richard Hickey has been promoted to assistant chief of police effective June 8, taking over the position from Walsh. Hickey has previously served the department as a patrol officer, detective, criminal investigations lieutenant, criminal investigations captain, patrol captain, and technical support services captain.

Officer Mark Wood also retired on June 1 after 30 years of service with the department. Officer Colin Lane has been selected to fill Wood’s role as the specially assigned Community DARE Officer.

Effective on June 8, Captain Jim Colvin was promoted to serve as the captain in charge of the patrol division. Colvin is a 15-year department veteran who has served as a patrol officer, detective, patrol sergeant, and patron lieutenant. He also holds a bachelor’s degree in



Jimmy Campbell



Jim Colvin



Richard Hickey



Colin Lane



Dustin Miller



Tommy Walsh

criminal justice from the University of Tennessee at Martin and a master’s degree in emergency management from Jacksonville State University.



Mark Wood

Dustin Miller was also promoted to lieutenant of the patrol division on June 8. Miller is a 23-year department veteran who has worked for most of his career in patrol. He most recently served as a detective in the criminal investigation division.

Patrol Captain Jimmy Campbell was also selected to attend the FBI National Academy and is being transferred to serve as captain of the technical support services division.

Late Clarksville street employee honored with memorial plaque



Ericka Prosecky, Clarksville Street Department Director David Shepard and Mayor Joe Pitts unveiled Monday a plaque to honor the memory of Jeffrey Prosecky Jr., a city of Clarksville Street Department employee who was killed on the job last year when he was struck by a tractor-trailer.

Officials with the city of Clarksville, family members, co-workers and friends gathered to unveil a plaque honoring a city street department worker who was killed on the job last year.

Jeffrey Prosecky Jr., 34, was killed in September 2019 when he was struck by a tractor-trailer while working for the Clarksville Street Department.

More than 100 people gathered at the corner of College Street and Riverside Drive where the incident occurred to honor Prosecky’s memory and to unveil a plaque honoring his legacy.

Prosecky’s widow Ericka Bone Prosecky, family, and friends joined Clarksville Mayor Joe Pitts and Street Department Director David Shepard to unveil the

plaque, which reads: “In Memory — Jeffrey A. Prosecky Jr. — September 3, 2019.”

“Today, this solemn event is all about Jeffrey,” Mayor Pitts said. “We remember his spirit, his work ethic and his love of the outdoors. From now on, when we see this plaque we will pay tribute to his good name, and to a good man. He will always be a part of the city of Clarksville family and the Street Department family.”

Mayor Pitts also noted that the city is working with local state legislators and the Tennessee Department of Transportation to create a truck route that would restrict large trucks from using the lower end of College Street and the intersection at Riverside Drive.



PUBLIC ENTITY PARTNERS

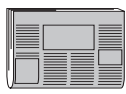
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BUILDING INSPECTOR

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

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

ENGINEER

JACKSON. The city of Jackson has an opening for a city engineer. The person employed in this position will plan, organize, and direct all activities of the engineering department. Must be able to exercise sound judgment and make independent decisions regarding engineering activities; assist in project management for the construction of the municipal public works projects. Oversee assigned projects to ensure contractor compliance with time and budget parameters for the project; review all contracts for projects covering streets or bridges; work closely with the Planning Department in reviewing subdivision plats and zoning requests; prepare estimates for project costs to correct drainage problems; follow-up on complaints regarding drainage and street flooding; prepare and submit budget for the Engineering Department and control the expenditures; Evaluate the work

of subordinates and departmental working conditions; formulate and prescribe work methods, policies and procedures; maintain regular contact with consulting engineers, construction project engineers, county, state and federal agencies, professional and technical groups and the general public regarding Engineering activities and services. Bachelor's degree from an accredited college in the area of construction architectural systems, civil engineering or a related field, and least 10 years of experience or equivalent as an architect, engineer, inspector, contractor, superintendent of construction or any combination of these (five years of which shall have been in responsible charge of work, plus five years' experience as supervisor/manager in City/County government. Generous benefit package; hourly rate \$34.13; EOE/M/F/V/D. Minorities are encouraged to apply. Apply on line at www.jacksontn.gov or contact the City of Jackson Human Resources Department, 127 E. Main Street, Suite 303, Jackson, TN 38301: Phone: (731) 425-8252; Fax: (731) 425-8673. **INTERNAL AUDITOR JACKSON.** The city of Jackson has an opening for an internal auditor. The person employed in this capacity will perform his/her duties under the direction of the mayor. This person will conduct protective and constructive audits to review the accuracy and effectiveness of financial controls, records, and operations; will perform a range of auditing and compliance duties using a systematic, disciplined approach. Will also provide staff services, including financial planning, payroll, human resources, purchasing, information technology, risk management, public safety etc. Specific job duties include: responsible for studying and evaluating internal accounting controls related to the various accounting systems determining the adequacy of controls and operating procedures; assist all departments and/or divisions in setting up bookkeeping systems to monitor expenditures; review, discuss and make recommendations for improvements to departmental systems of record-keeping in order to ensure good, sound financial reporting and accountability; make on-site visits to conduct audits and/or inventory checks at all city-owned departments; review and discuss changes necessary for compliance; ensure compliance with regulations and controls by examining and analyzing records, reports, operating practices, and documentation; recommending opportunities to strengthen the internal control structure. Bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, business or public administration, or a closely related field, and five years of progressively responsible municipal finance work. Master's Degree preferred and CPA certification desired. Must be bondable. Generous benefit package; hourly rate is \$34.13. EOE/M/F/V/D. Minorities are encouraged to apply. Apply on-line at www.cityofjacksontn.gov or contact the City of Jackson Human Resources Department, 127 E. Main Street, Suite 303, Jackson, TN 38301: phone (731) 425-8252; Fax: (731) 425-8673.

PERMIT ASSOCIATE I CODES DEPARTMENT

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

PERMIT TECHNICIAN

PIPERTON The city of Piperton has an opening for a full-time permit technician. Must obtain ICC Certification within two years of hire. Duties will include (but are not limited to) handling phone calls, emails, and customer service at the window, scheduling inspections, issuing permits and processing payments, record maintenance, and responding to public requests for service and resident's concerns. Working knowledge of local ordinances, legislation, rules and regulations is desired. Computer proficiency and excellent communication skills are a must. High school diploma or equivalent and valid driver's license is required. Priority will be given to applicants with current background in office environments in building or related trades. Background check will be conducted. Hourly wages will be commensurate with experience. Medical and retirement benefit package is provided. Applications may be obtained at the Piperton Administrative Office at 3725 Hwy 196 Suite B, or at www.pipertontn.com/jobs. Return application and resume to tjohnson@pipertontn.com. EOE.

POLICE DISPATCHER

SHELBYVILLE. The Shelbyville Police Department will be accepting applications for full-time police dispatcher. Applicants must be 18 years of age and high school graduate or equivalent. Applications and a copy of job description may be picked up at city hall during normal business hours. Applications must be returned to City Hall Administration Office, 201 N. Spring Street and will be accepted until position is filled. EOE/drug free workplace. Successful applicants required to pass background check, physical and drug screen. Applications and job descriptions can be picked up at City Hall or download from the city website: www.shelbyvilletn.org.

POLICE OFFICER

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

TOWN PLANNER

GREENEVILLE. The Town of Greeneville is seeking a FT Planner to join our Building/Zoning/Planning team. Ideal candidate is an enthusiastic, detail-oriented, hands-on individual with a strong knowledge of all phases of Planning. Review and evaluate various types of land use applications, project designs, plans and technical documents for compliance with Town standards and regulatory requirements. Assist in developing and implementing comprehensive land use plan, updating the Town's zoning and subdivision regulations. Make presentations/recommendations to Planning Commission and Town Council. Additional duties include ensuring compliance with Town's MS4 permit, stormwater presentations, public education, and responsible for stormwater maintenance agreements. Proficient in Microsoft and GIS. Bachelor's degree from accredited college/university in urban planning, engineering, or related; advanced degree desired. Prefer five years' experience in municipal planning and AICP certification. Salary DOE. Download application at www.greenevilletn.gov or pick up in person at Town Hall (Finance Window). Please return in person or postal mail to ATTN HR Director, 200 N. College Street, Greeneville, TN 37745, or email pfuller@greenevilletn.gov. Open until filled. EOE/Drug Free Workplace

UTILITY DIRECTOR

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

UTILITY OPERATOR

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

PE Partners Board approves organizational restructuring



PE PARTNERS from Page 1

Additionally, the board recently approved an organizational restructuring that will allow the team to better serve members. Jon Calvin, director of underwriting, and Michael G. Fann, director of loss control, were both selected to serve as vice presidents of PE Partners, with each leading a group of departments best suited to his unique skill set.

Calvin joined the Public Entity Partners underwriting department in June 2010. He has been instrumental in shaping the coverages offered to members and tailoring programs to the evolving exposures of Tennessee's local governments. While serving in this role, Calvin has created the PE Partners Privacy & Network Liability coverage program, including the recent Cyber Extension that covers ransomwares, social engineering and data restoration expenses. He also developed the Employment Practices Liability program, and coverages for punitive damages, class action lawsuits and more.

In addition to writing coverage documents, serving on the reinsurance committee and working with actuaries to ensure the accuracy of premiums, Calvin designed and programmed a new underwriting system, led the department to go paperless, and launched electronic applications and policy documents, all while focusing his team on service to members.

Calvin is quick to remind his staff that they should always look for ways to partner with members and understand their unique challenges. In his new role, Calvin will lead the underwriting, administrative services and information technology departments as vice president of underwriting and internal services.

Fann began his career with Public Entity Partners in 1986 as a loss

control consultant. If you have spent any time with Fann, you know that he is passionate about risk management and local government. He has been a staunch advocate of the loss control training program, helped to champion the grant and scholarship programs offered by PE Partners, and worked to mentor numerous risk managers across the state.

In his 26 years as director of loss control, Fann has shaped the risk control survey program, a key way that PE Partners works to increase awareness of best practices and recommendations aimed at keeping local government employees safe, safeguarding public resources and protecting citizens. In addition, the department has received national awards for its property conservation program, and is continually called on for training and educational events across the state and nation.

In his new role, Fann will lead the loss control, communications and research, and member services departments as vice president of risk services.

Public Entity Partners works with more than 90% of the cities and towns across the state of Tennessee to provide liability, property, and workers' compensation coverages and risk management programs. The mission of Public Entity Partners is to passionately provide members with the very best in risk management products and services, expert claims administration and comprehensive insurance options with absolute integrity.

"As we move into the next 40 years of service to our members," said DeMore, "we are positioned to provide programs and services that will help us to achieve our mission, provide members a stable municipal insurance marketplace, and honor the hard working individuals across the state that have helped us to get here."

Municipal League requests city contact information

We need help maintaining our database with the most up-to-date city information.

With the upcoming August elections, we realize that there will be many changes to your city contact information.

Please send your updates to



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

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Schools preparing for new routines as Tennessee returns to classroom

SCHOOL from Page 1

a series of toolkits encouraging education officials to dive deeper into considerations, recommendations, and best practices for the upcoming school year.” The toolkits provide information from ideal classroom set up to preparing school meals to transportation, staffing, and professional development.

“We are encouraged by the feedback we have received statewide from district and school leaders in response to our school reopening toolkits and guidance, and we will continue to partner with our districts as they prepare for the fall and make local decisions on how to best serve their students,” said Commissioner Schwinn.

As chair of the senate health and education committee, Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., said much of the nation is trying to figure out a way to safely return to school in the fall during a special education committee hearing titled “COVID-19: Going Back to School Safely.”

“The question for governors, school districts, teachers and parents is not whether schools should reopen – but how,” Alexander said. “Any teacher can explain the risk of emotional, intellectual and social damage if a child misses a school year. Schools need to assess how this year’s disruption has affected our children and get student learning back on track.”

Alexander suggested school boards, superintendents and principals should focus on the following steps:

- Creating an environment where students and teachers can socially distance;
- Making modifications to the school year calendar and daily schedule;
- Preparing to integrate more distance learning;

- Restructuring classrooms and extracurricular activities;
 - Providing meal services in a safe way;
 - Making sure the school has gloves, masks, and other protective equipment; and
 - Protecting students and adults in the school buildings who are at a higher risk.
- For many students, Alexander said school is a lifeline that keeps them safe and focused on the future with many families relying on schools for programs like free and reduced lunches and breakfasts as well as child care during working hours.
- If schools do choose to continue with alternative learning, educators have expressed concerns that there isn’t enough technological infrastructure for online education. More than three-fourths of educators said they needed more technological support for remote learning amid the pandemic, according to a survey conducted by the Tennessee Education Research Alliance at Vanderbilt University.
- “Educators across Tennessee consistently reported on technological barriers preventing remote learning, their concern for student access to crucial services, and their need for additional guidance and resources,” said Susan K. Patrick, one of the study’s authors and a post-doctoral scholar with TERA.
- “These needs were even more pronounced in rural communities lacking internet infrastructure and schools serving more low-income families.”
- Other top concerns expressed by educators included access, resources, and engagement. More than half of teachers said they were concerned students didn’t have access to remote learning or crucial services like meals and counseling when away from school.
- More than two-thirds of teachers also reported that fewer than one-quarter of their students regularly responded to virtual classrooms or electronic learning

resources. Teachers also described additional instructional needs, such as teacher training on virtual learning and guidance for supporting students with disabilities and English learners.

Statewide, re-opening plans will vary by district and on a case-by-case basis. The state is also working on guidelines for staff members on what to do if a student tests positive for COVID-19 this fall. Some K-12 school districts, like those in Maryville, Milan and Bartlett, have pledged to do their utmost to return to in-person learning in the fall.

Others like the Metro Nashville school system are polling parents and teachers on what they feel most comfortable doing for students and have floated suggestions such as remote learning options for students. Nashville education officials have also presented three possible school opening plans based on how high the risk of disease spread is when the school year starts.

The Clarksville-Montgomery County School System created a new position – an administrator of virtual learning – as part of the plan to allow interested parents and students to register for virtual learning over in-person classrooms if they see fit. The city of Oak Ridge will be returning to school on July 29, but students will have the option of learning online. Similar decisions have been made in Blount, Hamblen, and Jefferson counties.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Universities across the state are also coming up with ways to keep their communities safe when the fall semester begins. The state of Tennessee also announced grants to help higher education institutions reopen safely.

Gov. Lee announced \$20 million in grants to public and nonprofit private higher education institutions for Coronavirus Relief Fund including 2-year (TBR) and 4-year public and private (TICUA) institutions.

These grants will be available to cover expenses associated with implementing social distancing and technological improvements for distance learning. THEC in co-

operation with the Department of Finance and Administration will oversee administration of funds. Funds will be made available to institutions based on their low-income student population. Regionally-accredited public and private, nonprofit institutions of higher education (IHEs) who are both eligible for Title IV funding and domiciled in Tennessee may apply.

As precautions for public health, schools are expected to make physical changes, limit enrollment in on-ground classes, install or upgrade technology, and may adapt classroom configurations to ensure classes are taught in a socially distanced manner. Similarly, colleges may incur costs to provide student housing that complies with COVID-19 health precautions.

The University of Tennessee at Knoxville system announced students will be returning to campus in the fall, a decision made in coordination with UT System President Randy Boyd and the other system chancellors. UT created a Re-Imaging Fall Task Force headed by Chancellor Donde Plowman to find the safest way forward for students and employees.

Plowman said masks and face coverings will be mandated when students return in the fall. Teachers, who will be outfitted with face shields, will have extra masks for students needing help, and classes will be spread out for social distancing. Up to 40% of classes at UT system schools will be online this fall. Students won’t be allowed to hang out in dorm lobbies and will be asked to self-test and take their own temperature each morning before either going to class or to the health center.

East Tennessee State University has determined a start date of Aug. 24, 2020, with no fall break and the last day of in-person classes to be held on Nov. 21, 2020, before the start of the Thanksgiving break. Online classes will continue after the break with final exams taken online.

Similarly, Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro said they wanted to keep their reopening in the fall “more fluid.” A task force at the Tennessee Board of Regents recommended with doing away with the fall break typically held in October so in-person classes could end before Thanksgiving with final exams taken online.

The MTSU task force’s report also emphasized that it may be necessary to revert to a full remote learning environment in the event COVID-19 hotspots are located near the campus, especially with medical officials predicting a resurgence of the pandemic in the fall.

The University of Memphis also plans to do a phased reopening with classes starting and ending earlier than usual. The first day of in-person classes for students will be Aug. 17, 2020, – a week earlier than normal – with the coursework and final exams completed before the beginning of the Thanksgiving break. Students will not return to campus after this break.

NATIONAL BRIEFS

Only 44% of Americans say they plan on overnight vacations or leisure travel in 2020, according to a new survey commissioned by the American Hotel and Lodging Association (AHLA). Travel plans for Americans this year include road trips, family events, and long weekends with 68% saying their trip will likely include a stay in a hotel. Of those planning overnight trips, 59% say they will take one by the end of the summer and 72% are planning an overnight vacation in the next five months. The overwhelming majority say they do not plan to take a cruise, travel by plane, or in a camper or RV. The majority –

75% - also say they are planning to travel two or more hours. Holiday travel and attending family events like weddings and reunions were among the top reasons Americans said they would travel.

An estimated 5.4 million Americans have lost their health insurance because of job losses during the coronavirus pandemic, the greatest single loss of healthcare coverage in the nation’s history. A 23-page report by nonpartisan consumer advocacy group Families USA said that the number of Americans who lost health insurance between February and May is 39% higher than any annual increase ever recorded, breaking the previous

high of 3.9 million people who lost their insurance between 2008 and 2009. Nearly half of those who lost insurance live in the states of California, Texas, Florida, New York, and North Carolina. Additionally, more than a fourth of adults in Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Texas are now without health insurance. Researchers said the numbers could also be much higher as they do not include the family members of workers who recently lost their jobs and with it their health insurance. The report is the product of compiling data from each state to examine the effects of COVID-19 on workers below 65, the age at which one is guaranteed Medicare.





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