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Our police and fire protect. Our EMS providers respond. Our sanitation workers are on the streets helping to keep our cities clean, and our water and wastewater operators are working 24/7 to ensure service continues as normal.

While the location of work may have changed, certain requirements have not

BY ELISHA HODGE *MTAS Legal Consultant*

In the last couple of months, local governments across the state have adjusted to something that was inconceivable to most, COVID-19. As cases of COVID-19 cropped up, municipal officials closed municipal buildings and allowed those employees who could, the option of working from home. And while municipal employees have successfully navigated the transition to working from home, it is critical that employees remember that while the location of work has changed, the requirements related to the records created and received as part of that work have not.

Every municipality should have a properly adopted records retention policy that addresses records made and received as part of municipal business. This policy dictates how long certain municipal records and information, whether in paper or digital format, created on a work computer or smart phone or a per-

sonal computer or smart phone, must be retained. Employees need to be familiar with this policy and adhere to it.

Additionally, if employees removed municipal records from the office for use at home, a log of those records should be maintained. As the records are returned to the office, the log should be updated to indicate that the records were returned.

Finally, municipal employees need to be cognizant of the fact that citizens and the press are very interested in how governments are operating right now. An increased number of public records requests related to the response to this pandemic is very likely in the coming months. Putting in the time now to ensure that records and information are maintained properly will assist municipal employees in effectively and efficiently responding to the requests that are sure to be forthcoming.

If you have questions, contact Elisha Hodge at 615-532-6827

Tennessee's Economic Recovery Group partners with UT for data collection

Tennessee's Economic Recovery Group (ERG) has called upon the University of Tennessee, Knoxville's Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy and the university's Social Work Office of Research and Public Service (SWORPS) to assist in the collection and analysis of survey data.

The group will conduct surveys every other week throughout the summer to track citizens' sense of safety and economic well-being as the state reopens. The first round of data has been released online at core19.utk.edu.

"Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we've taken a data-driven approach to evaluate and formulate the best response to protect lives and livelihoods," said Gov.

Bill Lee. "Business owners across Tennessee have really stepped up to adapt their practices to protect employees and customers, and this survey will help us gain a better understanding of how we can meet the needs of Tennesseans during this time of immense change."

"The collaborative partnership between the Baker Center and SWORPS will provide expert-level data collection and analysis, giving a welcome perspective to policymakers," said Matt Murray, director of the Baker Center. "It is important for state and local leaders to have the best information available regarding Tennesseans' attitudes toward the reopening of economy, and the Baker Center is See DATA on Page 6

TN AG Slatery intervenes with Waters Protection Rule

Multi-state coalition seeks to ensure states' ability to administer waters within their borders

Attorney General Herbert H. Slatery III has joined a 23-state coalition to protect Tennessee property owners, farmers and energy producers

The motion to intervene, filed-June 1, seeks to ensure the court considers Tennessee's interests and that of its coalition partners when it decides a challenge brought by a separate group of attorneys general led by New York and California.

The coalition urges a federal district judge to uphold the Trump Administration's Navigable Waters Protection Rule, which gives greater certainty to farmers and landowners with predictable and reasonable lines between waters subject to federal and state regulation.

The coalition also opposes a motion that would keep the new rule from going into effect anywhere in the country while the case moves forward.

"States are the primary regulators of land and water resources, and this office will continue to support protections for individual property owners from federal encroachment," said General Slatery.

The rule also corrects flaws

within the Obama-era regulation, Waters of the United States, which extended the authority of the EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers far beyond what Congress intended and the Constitution permits.

Read the coalition's motion to Intervene in Support of Defendants here: https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/attorneygeneral/documents/pr/2020/pr20-22-motion.pdf

Read [Proposed] State Intervenors' Opposition to Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Injunction here: https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/attorneygeneral/documents/pr/2020/pr20-22-opposition-to-pi.pdf

Both were filed in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

Tennessee joined the motion to intervene, led by West Virginia and Georgia, along with attorneys general from Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah and Wyoming.

Legislators return to wrap up session, balance budget amid revenue deficit

Tennessee lawmakers returned to Capitol Hill earlier this month, amid a wide range of devastating effects caused by the Coronavirus. The General Assembly is working to wind up the 2020 legislative session this week (June 15 - 19).

Among the most important task is passage of a revised balanced budget that reflects significant revenue reductions due to the economic impact of the virus.

Lawmakers must plug a \$500 million deficit for the current budget year and cut \$1 billion for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

On June 4, Finance and Administration Commissioner Butch Eley presented to lawmakers a revised budget, which paints a bleak picture of the upcoming fiscal year.

The Administration proposed

The Administration proposed an additional \$284 million in recurring expenditure reductions on top of the nearly \$400 million reductions the legislature approved in mid-March.

With more than \$4 billion in reserves, the Administration stated they anticipated cash on hand to lessen the impact of immediate

spending reductions.

To make up for some of the shortfalls anticipated in the 2020-2021 fiscal year, Gov. Lee is asking the legislature for a three-year approach in cutting the budget to avoid harsh cuts that could cause interruptions in current state services.

They hope to achieve budget reductions

through department efficiencies and reduction of the employee workforce over the next two years through a voluntary employee buyout initiative. The Administration is also proposing to reduce any new capital projects and funding for capital maintenance, as well as authorizing bonds for existing capital projects previously funded with each

In addition, the Administration is asking each department to reduce expenditures by 12% and conduct a thoughtful review of business practices.

The state will press forward with many enacted but delayed commitments. The annual BEP growth, the full pension funding, the June \$325 million rainy day See BUDGET on Page 6

Nashville campaign helps businesses find safe, healthy ways to get back to work

By KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

Nashville officials want tourists to know that the city is "good to go" in light of the coronavirus pandemic, encouraging visitors to safely enjoy what the city has to offer as part of a new tourism campaign.

The "Good to Go" campaign is centered around safely bringing shoppers, diners, and visitors back to the city. Nashville Convention and Visitors Corporation CEO Butch Spyridon said his organization is partnering with Vanderbilt Health and Ryman Hospitality Services to show that visitors can safely enjoy all Nashville has to offer

"People are looking for a safe environment. On any given day, we have less revenue than most of our competition," Spyridon said. "So, in light of this, we have to be better



Nashville's Good to Go campaign seeks to help local businesses assure their customers they are opening safely and taking necessary precautions.

funded and better prepared because it's going to be an arms race between Vegas and Disney and some of those markets." Part of the campaign asks businesses to be more stringent in their precautions to prevent the spread *See* **NASHVILLE** *on Page* 7

Erwin banners focus on hometown heroes

By KATE COIL

With social distancing guidelines preventing major gatherings for holidays like Memorial Day, officials with the town of Erwin have found a unique way to honor the community's

veterans.

The Erwin Hometown Hero's Program seeks to honor military veterans from the community with banners depicting their time in the service. The banners have then been hung throughout the town to display Erwin's pride in its veterans. The banners were put up before the Memorial Day holiday and will remain up through the Fourth of July

Fourth of July.

Jamie Rice, communications specialist with the town of Erwin, said residents could sponsor a banner depicting a friend or family member by paying \$50. The banners are hung on 18 different utility poles downtown with a different veteran on each side, honoring a total of 36 veterans.

"Families were so eager to honor their loved ones and share their stories with me.," Rice said. "It was certainly an emotional project for me at times. I had all these photos laid out on

all these photos laid out on my dining room table as my 6-yearold little boy was playing in the next room. Imagining what their mothers felt seeing their babies go

to war. Most of them were just kids,



Erwin Mayor Doris Hensley shows off one of the Hometown Heroes banners that will be on display in downtown Erwin for Memorial Day until July 4. This banner recognizes former Unicoi County Commissioner and town of Unicoi Alderman Dwight Bennett who served in the National Guard for 26 years.

barely 18 years old."

Erwin has also recently worked to promote one of its own unique military stories, that of the Erwin Nine. During World War II, nine

young men from Erwin volunteered to serve in the U.S. Army Air Corps. While none of the men served together despite being from the same hometown, they were all shot down at different times during the war and all somehow managed to be taken to the same prisoner of war camp in Nazi Germa-

ny: Stalag Luft IV. Miraculously, all nine both survived the camp and a forced death march at the end of the war. All nine men eventually returned home to Erwin. Dick Franklin, the last surviving member of the Erwin Nine, died in 2019 at the age of 94. Banners similar to those now on display for other veterans honored the Erwin Nine in 2017.

Rice said Franklin's story was one of the many she encountered during the project.

"I read the story of one of the POWS, Dick Franklin, from World War II," she said. "He skipped High School Band

practice to hitch hike to the recruiting office. He and his buddy flipped a coin to decide if they were going to join the army or the navy."

See ERWIN on Page 2

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



BRENTWOOD

The city of Brentwood has purchased approximately 52 acres of land for \$5.2 million from the Sensing Family that will go toward the creation of one of the largest parks in city history. The parcel of land located on Old Smyrna Road at the intersection of Jones Parkway is located near the east side of Interstate 65 and the purchase was funded through a combination of money from the city's General Fund, Adequate Facilities Taxes, and \$150,000 raised by the non-profit group Brentwood Green Space. Members of the Sensing family wanted to preserve the pastoral beauty of the Windy Hill area and were pleased to ensure the land would be kept as parkland when sold to the city. Another 40 acres of the property includes the Constantine Sneed Historic House, pond, and outbuilding being placed into a conservation easement to preserve all 92 acres of the former family farm. The plans for Windy Hill Park include a passive park with walking and bicycle trails, a playground, and open field areas.

CHATTANOOGA

The city of Chattanooga has furthered its "Gig City" reputation as a coalition of government, university, business, and nonprofit agencies have secured \$110 million in federal funding to execute the Chattanooga Smart Community Collaborative. The collaborative is a series of projects being used to apply new, connected, and interactive technologies that can positively influence everything from the city's energy consumption to public and environmental health to the city's transportation footprint. Many of these projects can be conducted as a result of the city's fiber network installed by the city's utility company in 2009. Since its inception, the city's fiber network has created at least 2,800 jobs and spurred more than \$865 million in investment as well as reduced local power outages, improved data connections, and lowered power bills. To learn more about the Chattanooga Smart Community Collaborative visit www.theenterprisectr.org

CHATTANOOGA

Site prep work has begun on a proposed \$30 million mixed-use, retail and housing development near Montague Park, part of an overall makeover to Chattanooga's East Main Street corridor. The project at 1040 East Main Street calls for between 50 and 60 townhomes or condominiums as well as 20,000-square-feet of retail space. Work has already begun on the demolition of existing buildings on the site, many of which were formerly the home of Raines Brothers, Inc. Developers say that they already have commitments for 75% of the retail space the project will make available. There are two other major redevelopment projects also underway in this same corridor including the \$120 million Mill Town development at the former Standard-Coosa-Thatcher textile site and the \$40 million mixed-use development at the former Rock-Tenn facility. There is also a proposal for the \$20 million mixed-use redevelopment of the former Lucey Boiler industrial site off South Holtzclaw Avenue.

DECHERD

Officials with the city of Decherd cut the ribbon on a new \$11.3 million wastewater treatment plant that recently went online in the community. The new plant is a significant

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step toward the city's efforts to promote residential, industrial, and commercial expansion. The new plant has a daily capacity of 2.65 million gallons with a peak volume of 7 million gallons, more than doubling what the previous plant was capable of. The new plant also features a state-of-the-art ultraviolet disinfection process that turns wastewater into clean water. The project started in 2015 and was funded through a \$400,000 Community Development Block Grant, a \$500,000 Appalachian Regional Commission grant, a \$1 million **Economic Development Adminis**tration grant, a \$1.808 million U.S. Department of Agriculture grant, and a \$7.6 million USDA Rural Development loan.

ERWIN

Mexico-based PlastiExports has invested nearly \$7 million into the Riverview Industrial Park and will create more than 115 jobs by 2025. PlastiExports TN, LLC, a newly-formed subsidiary company, purchased the facility formerly occupied by Regal Beloit, who plan to close its doors sometime this September leaving 125 employees without jobs. PlastiExports investment marks the largest ever investment in Unicoi County. PlastiExports TN, LLC Business Leader J.P. Metcalf announced that the move will be beneficial for both the employees that will occupy the facility and the county.

FARRAGUT

In lieu of the town's annual Fourth of July parade, the town of Farragut is asking residents to have a Festive Fourth at Home. Residents and businesses are encouraged to decorate their homes, buildings, yards, cars, trucks, and property as well as dress in festive attire on July 4. Participants are asked to submit their location to the town's media department by July 2 so that a map of participating locations can be put out in time for the holiday. Residents are then encouraged to visit these locations from 9:30-11 a.m. on Saturday, July 4, as a way to celebrate the holiday as a community while maintaining social distancing.

. LEBANON

The Lebanon Planning Commission recently approved the construction of an approximately 861,840-square-foot industrial building to be built on Odum Lane near Central Pike and Interstate 840. The structure is tentatively named the Central 840 Logistics Center and is being built by Core5 Industrial Partners. The company said the facility has the ability to expand up to 1.3 million square feet of space if needed by a client. A specific user for the new facility has not yet been announced.

LEBANON

The Lebanon City Council has approved \$880,600 in improvements to the city's wastewater treatment plant with pending approval of additional expenditures of \$357,645 and \$149,000 for refurbishments of the facility. Many of the improvements are to pumps, flow meters, and other aging parts of the plant infrastructure used to measure the flow in and out of the plant. The project also includes work on two water control gates and the plant's lab. Repairs are also needed because of wipes and rags that have been flushed during the COVID-19 pandemic, which have clogged pumps. Larger refurbishment is planned for the ultraviolet disinfection system with additional funds to be used for thickener, parts, labor, and start up. In addition to water plant improvements, the council passed the first reading of a \$1.3 million bid to install a 1-million-gallon water storage tank at Seay Hill. The city received \$1.4 million for the project through the State Revolving

Loan Program. The new tank will increase the amount of water available to the city.

KNOXVILLE

The city of Knoxville has won a 2020 Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award for Energy and Renewable Resources. When the city of Knoxville launched its Energy and Sustainability Initiative in 2017, it quickly became obvious that converting the city's roughly 29,000 streetlights to LEDs would yield huge benefits for both the environment and the city's bottom line. The streetlights were the city's largest municipal use of electricity, and the bill to "keep the lights on" topped more than \$4 million annually. Started in 2017 and completed in 2019, the project reduces streetlight energy consumption by more than 65%. Additionally, since the lifespan of LEDs is far longer than the former high-pressure sodium streetlights, the project will also significantly reduce maintenance costs and outages in neighborhoods and other critical roadways. As a result of this project, utility bills for streetlighting will decrease by \$3 million per year and associated maintenance costs will decrease by \$2 million per year. The city will also reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 13,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year. The new LEDs provide a crisp, bright light and help limit light pollution which minimizes impacts on nocturnal wildlife, reduces glare and sky glow, and improves nightscapes. Gov. Bill Lee and Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Commissioner David Salyers recently announced the winners of the annual awards, which recognizes exceptional voluntary actions that improve or protect our environment and natural resources with projects or initiatives not required by law or regulation.

NASHVILLE

Nashville Mayor John Cooper is partnering with the Nashville Convention and Visitor's Corp and Nashville Songwriters Association International (NSAI) to highlight the importance of the city's musical community. The "Nashville Needs a Song" contest was held to select one of three entrants to appear in marketing initiatives for the community in light of the coronavirus pandemic. Songwriters from across the city were asked to submit uplifting original songs to the contest and three finalists were selected by NSAI officials: "Looking Up" by Jesse Labelle Rob Crosby and Jamie Moore; "Times Like These" by Conner Sweet, Lance Carpenter, and Liz Hengber; and "We Will Survive" by Ryan Kinder and Justin Morgan. Residents of Nashville had a chance to vote for their favorite song online. All three finalists will receive cash prizes, and officials hope the contest will encourage musicians to keep playing in Music City.

SPRING HILL

The Spring Hill Board of Mayor and Aldermen is sponsoring a resolution aimed at renaming the city's largest park after late Parks and Recreation Director Kevin Fischer and the city's dog park after his service dog, Bentley. The resolution was brought before the board at a June work session as a proposal from the city's Parks and Recreation Commission as well as Vice Mayor Amy Wurth, Alderman Hazel Nieves, and several city employees. Fischer served as the city's parks and recreation director for more than 15 years before dying earlier this year after a long battle with cancer. One of the projects he was most proud of was the design, funding, and construction of Port Royal Park, the largest park in the city. The \$5 million park opened in 2015 and includes a Veterans Plaza, splash pad, and playground as well as Spring Hill Fire Station No. 2. The resolution would rename the park Fischer Park at Port Royal with the city's dog park at Evans Park named Barkley Park in honor of his service dog.

Erwin banners focus on heroes

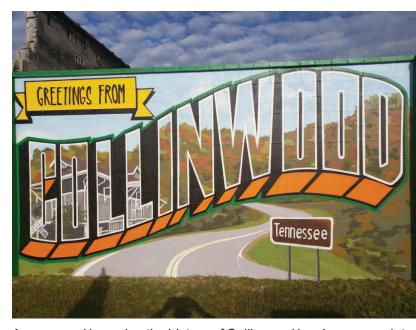
ERWIN from Page 1

Rice said the community has been extremely supportive of the banner project and there are plans to continue it in the future

"We have had such a positive reaction from everyone in the community and the timing has been perfect," she said. "With all our community events cancelled during the COVID-19 pandemic,

this is a great way to honor our veterans while practicing social distancing guidelines. These banners will be used for two seasons, and then replaced with a new group of soldiers. We sincerely hope that this program is a daily reminder to our citizens and visitors that freedom is not free. Many families are still grieving and paying the price for our freedom."

Collinwood unveils mural



A new mural honoring the history of Collinwood has been completed on a wall outside the Wayne County Welcome Center in the town. The mural was painted by Nashville-based artist Eric Bass. Officials have encouraged both locals and visitors on the Natchez Trace Parkway to take selfies with the new mural.

Fayetteville cuts ribbon on new greenway segment



Members of the Fayetteville Board of Mayor and Aldermen cut the ribbon on Phase I of the Fayetteville Greenway Project that now connects downtown to Stone Bridge Park. The project began in 2008 when the city was awarded funding from the Tennessee Department of Transportation and later received funding from a Transportation Alternative Grant Program. The greenway is part of the city's overall greenway/blueway plan and is the first in a series of greenway projects. The second phase of the project calls for a pedestrian bridge over the Elk River to connect the current phase with the Camp Blount Historical Site and Huntsville Highway shopping district. A third phase includes a river walk from the pedestrian bridge around Camp Blount.

Kingsport public art project to brighten downtown alley



A new public art project is underway in Kingsport as part of the city's Creative Placemaking Grant Project. Six artists were selected to participate in the project through a jury made up of Public Art Committee members. Each artist will paint a mural in the alley between Shelby Street and Cherokee Street off Main Street. Additional lighting will then be installed in the alley so the artworks can be enjoyed at night. The project was created by the Tennessee Arts Commission with support from the Downtown Kingsport Association and Engage Kingsport.

Gallatin public art project beautifies recycling center



This rendering shows what new recycling bins at the Gallatin Recycling Center will look like once it has been painted as part of an art project funded through the Bonnaroo Works Fund. The city of Gallatin was awarded \$4,500 from the fund with a 100% match from the city to fund the project, which includes the cleaning and preparation of three dumpsters before local artist Bryan Deese paints them. The project is a continuation of a similar project conducted by students at Gallatin High School and Volunteer State Community College to reproduce art in the style of Monet's "Water Lilies" on recycling bins.

Chattanooga programs connect emergency officials, special needs citizens

By KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

Programs created by emergency officials in Chattanooga to better connect first responders and citizens with special needs are now being implemented statewide.

Chattanooga's Take Me Home program was launched in 2018 as a way to help locate residents with autism or similar developmental disabilities in case they are found alone or reported missing. The program is now being used as a model for a similar state-sponsored program.

Sgt. Vincent Holoman, unit supervisor of the Chattanooga Police Department's Juvenile and Missing Person Unit, said Chattanooga's Take Me Home program was actually started when the police department was approached by a local firefighter.

"The concept of the Take Me Home Program was brought to the attention of the Chattanooga Police Department by Chattanooga Fire Capt. Skyler Phillips and Roddey Coe of the Chattanooga Autism Center," Holoman said. "Both have autistic children and are affiliated with the Chattanooga Autism Center. Capt. Phillips credits his autistic son with finding the program that was developed by Lt. Jimmy Donohoe of the Pensacola, Fla., Police Department. Lt. Donohoe developed the Take Me Home program to assist people who are non-verbal and to improve potential encounters with law enforcement. Lt. Donohoe developed this program so it could be easily shared to other agencies free of cost."

Holoman said he knew the program would be a good fit for his department and worked with the Chattanooga IT Department to improve it for the city's use.

"As a supervisor over the Chattanooga Police Department's Missing Persons Unit, we felt this program to be another tool to local law enforcement if an individual with cognitive and developmental disabilities is found alone or has been reported missing," he said. "After the city IT department researched the program information provided by Lt. Dononhue, the IT department realized the program was more than 10 years old and very dated. The IT department had ideas on how they could make this look amazing. They made it online accessible to individuals to enroll and for emergency services to easily access it from any device.

While the program was initially designed for citizens with autism, Holoman said those with a variety of conditions can be enrolled. The program is available to aid any citizen who has a condition that may lead to difficulty in communication or wandering tendencies like Asperger's syndrome, ADHD, Downs syndrome, Tourette's syndrome, traumatic brain injury (TBI), and Alzheimer's.

"Based on questions for getting information about the enrollees, emergency personnel could search by those criteria," Holoman said. "The criteria are tied to the enrollees' photo, so when a search is conducted it would narrow down the photos to the closest match. Not all information is required for the enrollee to fill out, such as medical conditions that cause the enrollee to be nonverbal and to wander.



Chattanooga FIre Captain Skyler Phillips conducts one of the Special Needs Awareness Program (SNAP) trainings he helped create for firefighters. The father of an autistic son, Phillips was instrumental in both this program and the implementation of the Take Me Home porgram by the Chattanooga Police Department.



Surrounded by officials with the Chattanooga Police Department, Chattanooga Fire Department, and autism advocates from the city, Gov. Bill Lee signs the Take Me Home program into statewide law.

Since the enrollee has volunteered to sign up and provide information about the enrollee, there are no violations of HIPAA. The Chattanooga Police Department has also implemented policies as well as training on how to handle sensitive information such as medical conditions."

The information can then be used by officers if they encounter an enrollee. If an officer comes across an enrollee who cannot speak or identify himself due to his disability, the officer can then use the program to identify them. They can also use the program if an enrollee is reported missing by the family. The emergency contact information gives a photograph of the individual, a detailed physical description, and other information that can save time in tracking down enrollees.

Holoman said there is plenty of opportunity for other law enforcement agencies to participate in the Take Me Home program and connect with other agencies already doing so.

"Take Me Home is currently a multi-site on Flywheel, which means that when other agencies come on board with the Take Me Home program, they will have their own site to maintain," he said. "With the multi-site, there is one large database of all the enrollees. Agencies can search the entire database, or narrow down to their approved enrollees from the enroller choosing their agency as the closet agency to them. As more and

more agencies join on, enrollees will have more agency options to choose from, but the only agencies that they can choose from are the agencies that are signed up for the Take Me Home program."

Overall, the program ensures that law enforcement and families are working together to ensure the safety of citizens with special needs.

"As police officers, we have encountered people who have difficulties communicating due to them being non-verbal or having limited communication skills," Holoman said. "This program becomes beneficial to law enforcement when they encounter such a person and are able to cross-reference the Take Me Home database. If this individual was reported missing or has wandered off, officers will be able to quickly identify the individual and return them home. I think families can benefit from the Take Me Home program by having another 'tool of security' available to them when it comes to caring for and protecting their loved ones."

The Take Me Home program isn't the only way officials in Chattanooga are working to help first responders better connect with special needs citizens. Chattanooga Fire Department Capt. Skyler Phillips, who helped develop the Take Me Home program, is also working to educate his fellow firefighters about interaction with special needs citizens.

Phillips said his concerns

physical, medical and communication challenges, particularly in crisis or high-stress situations. The SNAP training teaches attendees how to better understand: Challenges faced by families and how those issues might affect their interactions with first responders, Potential responses of someone overwhelmed by sensory stimulation, Potential triggers for someone in an emergency situation and ways to avoid those triggers, Multiple de-escalation tech-

these responders understand how

those with these disabilities may not respond in the same way as

others as well as may experience

intellectual, sensory, behavioral,

niques and strategies, andWays to identify someone with an invisible disability.

The SNAP program is also working with the Hamilton County 911 system, collaborating with a staff member who also has a son with autism, and who teaches 911 Communicators how to interact

with people with autism during a 911 emergency call.

"We developed a process where you can enter your name, address, telephone number, the disability and who in the household has the disability – all that sort of thing gets programmed into the 911 system," Phillips said. "Police, firefighters, county sheriff – we all have the same computer system, so if people have registered, that information pops up on our computers when that address comes up."

All of these efforts are meant to make emergency calls easier for emergency personnel, the individuals and families that experience disability, and to better prepare everyone for what could be an intense life or death situation.

"We don't want to get that call," he said. "We're afraid that it's just going to turn into violence, so we just restrain people. We're so worried about ourselves that we don't take the time to think about what the real cause might be. So we try to open their eyes by telling them, 'look, if you just step back and give them some space, you may find that you get a better outcome."

For more information about SNAP, contact Captain Phillips at skyler.phillips@lifelinefamilies.org. There is no cost for the training. For more information on the Take Me Home program, contact Sgt. Vincent Holoman, 423-643-7696 or at vholoman@chattanooga.gov.

situation led to him creating the Special Needs Awareness Program or (SNAP), a first responder training course he developed with Lisa Mattheiss of LifeLine, a Chattanooga-based support group for families of children with disabilities. The program was designed based on the

about how

his son might

react in an

emergency

experiences of local families who had encounters with first responders regarding a developmentally disabled loved one.

"This class is not about teaching people how to answer calls," Phillips said. "This class is about

helping first responders make these calls go easy. The whole purpose – and this is what I tell them in my class – is to make the world safer for people like my son and to be better prepared to respond."

While the program primarily targets firefighters, the course has also been efforted to police of figure.

While the program primarily targets firefighters, the course has also been offered to police officers, emergency medical professionals, and even emergency dispatchers. The goal of the training is to help



The Take Me Home progran was initially the idea of a police officer from Pensacola, Fla. Chattanooga has since expanded the program and now it is being used as a statewide resource for officers from agencies across Tennessee to help protect special needs citizens.



Franklin Mayor lauded by

state as mental health hero

The Tennessee Department

Mayor Moore recently

launched the mental health and

wellness initiative "Find Hope

Franklin" that seeks to both help

citizens with mental health con-

cerns address those issues as well

as educate other citizens on how

they can help their friends and

neighborhoods through mental

blue-ribbon panel from Mayor

Moore to examine issues around

student mental health and suicides

occurring at the Natchez Trace

Bridge. The panel brought togeth-

er clinics, hospitals, counseling

centers, advocacy agencies, city

and county health officials, and

the launch of a website earlier

this month to help citizens find

The result of the panel was

The project started as a

health problems.

concerned citizens.

and wellness in this city.



PEOPLE



Ronny Beasley has been selected as the new fire chief for the La Vergne Fire Department and will begin his workwiththe



Ronny Beasley

department on June 29. Beasley is a 28-year-veteran of the Memphis Fire Department where he served as a lieutenant, battalion chief, and division chief. During his tenure in Memphis, he also oversaw the training division where he supervised the training of firefighters, paramedics, and other fire officers. Beasley holds a bachelor's degree in fire science and a master's degree

in public administration. He was also designated an executive fire officer by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Fire Academy and is certified as a chief fire officer with the Center of Public Safety and Excellence.

Chapel Hill Mayor Jackie King has tendered his resignation to the Chapel Hill Board of Mayor and Aldermen effective April



Jackie King

30. King cited "unforeseen personal reasons" as why he needed to step down from the position. King was in his first term as mayor but has long served the community and the town. He worked for many years with the Chapel Hill Police Department, serving as chief of police until his retirement in 2013. Per the town charter, Vice Mayor Marion Joyce will assume mayoral duties until the next election can be held.

Jim Mullens, public works director for the city of LaFollette, has announced his retirement after more than 13 years in the position. Mullens said his last day will be on or before June 30, depending on when a replacement can be found. Mullens worked in construction for about 40 years before taking his position with the city.

of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) has honored Franklin Mayor and TML 2nd Vice President Dr. Ken Moore as one of their Everyday Heroes for his commitment to mental health



Dr. Ken Moore Franklin Mayor and

TML 2nd Vice President community resources, particularly to fight anxiety, trauma, depression, and suicidal ideation during

COVID-19.

The site has also hosted community training events and plans to keep advocates and agencies in the city more connected to help citizens in crisis.

Visit findhopefranklin.com to find mental health screenings, helplines, crisis lines, and links to wellness resources and clinics that provide service on a sliding scale.

Collierville Fire specialist Daniels to retire

She may be hard to recognize at first behind the mask, but if you ask a Collierville preschooler, "Who is Miss Erin?" that child will likely tell you she is the Fire Safety Lady.

Every school year, Erin Daniels, public education specialist with the Collierville Fire Department presented Kid Safe, a free fire safety education program, to preschools and childcare centers around the Town.

Ten Collierville preschools, as well as each of the Collierville Elementary Schools with preschool classes, embrace the CFD Kid Safe program. An average of more than 1,000 preschoolers participate in Kid Safe every year keeping Collierville's young children knowledgeable about fire

Daniels also played a huge role in the Tennessee State Fire Marshal's Fire Safety Poster Contest that is a state-wide competition where Collierville students have a long history of placing in the state level.

While Daniels is retiring from her role, the Kid Safe program will continue offer fire education to the community. In addition to a different fire safety educator, there will likely be more virtual education opportunities and creative approaches to the typical hands-on learning scenarios.

"Collierville is very fortunate



Erin Daniels, public education specialist with the Collierville Fire Department, is retiring from her position with the department. In addition to teaching fire safety classes at local preschools and elementary schools, Daniels had been involved with the State Fire Marshal's Fire Safety Poster Contenst, a statewide competition encouraging students to promote fire safety messages through their artistic skills.

to have such fine men and women keeping watch over its citizens," Daniels said. " I rest well each night knowing that my loved ones are in very good hands from both above and here within close proximity," said Erin.

The Collierville Fire Department is committed to continuing

fire safety education. While the Kid Safe Program focuses on children practicing and remembering fire safety skills, it also encourages fire safety discussions with families at home, which is invaluable to everyone. Visit colliervillefiredepartment.org for fire safety education resources and more.

Hayes re-elected Livingston Mayor

Curtis Hayes has been elected to a new term as mayor of Livingston after running unopposed in the town's June 3 municipal election.

Hayes first ran and was elected for a seat on the city council in 2000. He was first elected to the position of mayor in 2006, becoming the first African-American to both hold office as a mayor in the Town of Livingston and of any municipality in Overton County.

Hayes is also a past-president of the Tennessee Municipal League, having held the presidency in 2015, and was selected as the TML Mayor of the Year in 2011.

A lifelong resident of Livingston, Hayes began his career with the city as a park manager at the young age of 16. After graduation from high school, followed by a vear at Roane State, Curtis became a member of the Livingston Police Department.

During his tenure with the town, Hayes has also been involved on numerous public boards including Public Entity Partners, Tennessee Homeland Security,



Curtis Hayes Livingston Mayor and TML Past President

Tennessee Renewable Energy, and Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund.

Additionally, voters in Livingston re-elected Ken Dodson (341 votes) as well as elected two new aldermen: John R. Clough (394 votes) and Rex Dale (341).

The three new aldermen defeated challenger Josh Deck, who received 223 votes in an unsuccessful bid for one of the three open aldermen seats.



STATE **BRIEFS**

The state of Tennessee has ranked fourth in the nation for the ability of its healthcare infrastructure to deal with the impact of COVID-19. Financial planning website WalletHub.com ranked each of the 50 states on a variety of factors including public hospital system quality, public health emergency preparedness, public health spending, uninsured population and number of hospital beds per capita. Tennessee ranked only behind North Dakota, West Virginia, and Mississippi in is healthcare infrastructure.

The Tennessee Department of Education has announced an additional \$5 million in funds available to state school districts to provide compensatory services and support innovative approaches to the remediation of students with disabilities due to extended COVID-19 related school closures. These one-time, compensatory grant funds will be disbursed to districts July 1 as an increase in districts' federal IDEA part B formula funding. Allocations are based on each district's relative share of the state's IDEA part B allocations for the most recent year for which the department has final allocations (FY20). Districts will then be able to budget these additional funds in concert with their FY21 allocation for IDEA part B for the purposes of providing compensatory services required by law. Compensatory services are services that should be provided to a student, when needed, to elevate the student to the position they would have otherwise occupied had services not been delayed or postponed. It is a remedy designed to deliver services that a student should have received in order to be provided a free appropriate public education (FAPE). For additional information on COVID-19 related resources, please visit https://www.tn.gov/ education/health-and-safety/update-on-coronavirus.html.

Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett announced a new statewide campaign to recruit more poll officials for the Aug. 6, 2020, state and federal primary and county general elections. Poll officials perform various tasks to help polling sites run smoothly, including greeting voters, answering questions, processing voters, explaining how to cast a ballot and counting votes. Any voter is eligible to apply, regardless of political affiliation. Poll officials must be at least 16 years old or a registered voter if over the age of 18, not be a candidate or close relative of a candidate, and be able to read and write in English. Poll officials are compensated for working during early voting and on Election Day, as well as for attending required training sessions. For more information, visit GoVoteTN.com

As snakes come out during the summer season, officials with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) are reminding residents it is illegal to kill snakes in the state unless there is immediate danger to humans or **livestock.** There are more than 30 types of snakes in Tennessee, the majority of which are not harmful to humans and in fact often eat pesky insects and vermin. Only four snakes found in the state are venomous: the timber rattlesnake, copperhead, cottonmouths, and water moccasins. TWRA encourages residents to give snakes a wide berth. If you see a snake, you can snap a picture of it, and either message TWRA on Facebook or email them at ask.twra@tn.gov. to identify the snake. If you need further assistance, or need a venomous snake removed, you can contact a licensed wildlife damage control operator from the list maintained on TWRA's website...

April unemployment reaches historic high nessee's highest unemployment Unemployment levels in

Tennessee have reached a record high as a result of the COVID-19

Data released by the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development on May 21 reported that the state had a preliminary seasonally-adjusted statewide unemployment rate of 14.7% for April 2020, a spike of 11.4% over the previous month. This exceeds the state's all-time highest seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate of 12.9% originally set in the months of December 1982 and January 1983. The state has only recorded unemployment levels since 1979.

The unprecedented and historic spike in unemployment affected some counties more drastically than others, but no area of Tennessee escaped the pandemic's effect on the state's workforce.

Statewide, unemployment reached a historic high in April. The seasonally adjusted rate of 14.7 percent surpassed the previous all-time high figure of 12.9 percent in January 1983.

Fayette County had Tennessee's lowest unemployment rate in April. At 9.4 percent, the county's rate increased by 6.1 percentage points when compared to its revised March rate of 3.3 percent.

Weakley County had the second-lowest unemployment rate for the month at 9.6 percent, followed by Hardeman County at 9.7 percent. Fayette, Weakley and Hardeman were the only counties in the state with unemployment rates below 10 percent in April.

Sevier County recorded Ten-

rate for the month. The county's new jobless figure of 29.5 percent represents a spike of 26 percentage points when compared to its revised March rate of 3.5 percent.

When comparing Tennessee's three largest cities, Nashville nad the highest unemployment rate in April. The city's rate of 15.9 percent is a 13.5 percentage point increase over its revised March rate of 2.4 percent. Memphis recorded a rate of 14.3 percent, a spike of 10.1 percentage points from the previous month, and Knoxville's April rate of 14.7 percent is an 11.8 percentage point jump.

Total non-farm employment in Tennessee decreased by 376,900 jobs between March and April. The largest decreases occurred in leisure/hospitality, manufacturing, and professional/business services

Over the last 12 months, nonfarm employment decreased by 341,000 jobs. Like the month-tomonth data, the largest decreases for the year occurred in the leisure/ hospitality, manufacturing, and professional/business services sectors.

Tennesseans searching for new employment are invited to view the state's workforce development website, www.Jobs4TN.gov. The site also has information about job retraining opportunities, interviews, resume technique, and local job data.

For a complete list of data county by county, go to https://www. tn.gov/workforce/tennessee-economic-data-/labor-force-statistics/ unemployment-rates.html

May revenues \$197.3 M below budget estimate

Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration Commissioner Butch Eley announced that revenues for May were \$981.9 million, which is \$197.3 million less than the budgeted monthly revenue estimate. State tax revenues were \$184.7 million less than May 2019 and the overall revenue for the month represented a negative growth rate

"May sales tax collections represent consumer spending that occurred during April, when Tennesseans were staying at home and many businesses were closed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic," Commissioner Eley said. "While sales of autos, apparel, furniture and restaurants dropped extensively, building materials and food stores sales experienced considerable growth. The state also realized large drops in gasoline tax receipts, motor vehicle title and registration taxes and mixed drink revenues.

"We responded quickly to develop plans that would mitigate revenue shortfalls at the outset of the pandemic and now the work begins to bring spending in line with what economists predict we will experience," Commissioner Eley continued. "We are encouraged about the improving employment numbers in Tennessee and while we hope for solid recovery trends, we are preparing for a longer and slower growth period, managing our budget conservatively as we work to help all of Tennessee recover from this unprecedented economy."

As previously noted last month, the Tennessee Department of Revenue extended the due date for certain taxes on April 6.

General fund revenues were

less than the budgeted estimates in the amount of \$144 million and the four other funds that share in state tax revenues were \$53.3 million less than the estimates.

Sales tax revenues were \$112.3 million less than the estimate for May and were 13.36 % less than May 2019. For 10 months, revenues are \$70.1 million higher than estimated. The year-to-date growth rate is 2.97 %.

Franchise and excise tax revenues combined were \$2.2 million lower than the budgeted estimate in May, and the growth rate compared to May 2019 was negative 10.25 percent. For 10 months, revenues are \$251.4 million less than the estimate and the year-to-date growth rate is negative 16.31 %.

Gasoline and motor fuel revenues for May decreased by 28.4% compared to May 2019, and they were \$33 million less than the budgeted estimate of \$102.7 million. For 10 months, revenues have exceeded estimates by \$400,000.

Tobacco tax revenues were \$1.8 million less than the May budgeted estimate of \$21.1 million. For 10 months, they are \$400,000 less than the budgeted estimate.

Hall income tax revenues for May were \$2.5 million more than the budgeted estimate. For 10 months, revenues are \$52.9 million less than the budgeted estimate.

Privilege tax revenues were \$29.2 million less than the May estimate, and on a year-to-date basis, August through May, revenues are \$5.2 million more than the estimate.

Business tax revenues were \$1.4 million less than the May estimate. For 10 months, revenues are \$42.4 million less than the budgeted

Motor vehicle registration revenues were \$9.3 million less than the May estimate, and on a year-to-date basis, revenues are \$10.9 million less than the estimate.

Mixed drink, or Liquor-by-thedrink, taxes were \$10.7 million less than the May estimate as on-premise drinking establishments were closed. For 10 months, revenues are \$8.7 million less than the budgeted

All other tax revenues exceeded estimates by a net of \$100,000.

Year-to-date revenues for 10 months were \$285.4 million less than the budgeted estimate. The general fund recorded \$308.2 million less than the budgeted estimate and the four other funds were \$22.8 million more than estimated.

On March 19, 2020, in the second session of the 111th Tennessee-General Assembly, the Legislature passed the 2019-2020 budget, which included the State Funding Board's current year revised ranges and also the administration's amendment to the proposed budget.

The administration's amendment, in an effort to recognize the economic impact from the COVID-19 pandemic, included a reduction of \$153.8 million of previously projected revenue to acknowledge potential shortfalls. The governor signed the appropriations bill on April 2, 2020.

With the passage of the appropriations act, Public Chapter 651, the Tennessee General Assembly recognized in the current fiscal year an additional \$396.1 million in total revenue and a corresponding increase in general fund revenue in the amount of \$345.9 million.

TNECD taps virtual site visits and new approaches to recruiting jobs

By CHASSEN HAYNES TNECD Business Development

The novel coronavirus has required economic development professionals to embrace new tools and technology.

And so far, TNECD has been taking full advantage of them, especially when it comes to one of the most important parts of economic development: site selection.

For our business development team, we're doubling down on digital resources – not starting from scratch. Long before COVID-19, Tennessee had been on the forefront of using more technology and virtual resources to help tell the Tennessee story and pitch potential industrial sites to businesses.

TNECD saw more and more corporate executives and consultants who wanted to research sites remotely; and we made it a priority to tap new digital resources to help our marketing efforts. For quite some time, we have had interactive industry dashboards and county profile tools on our website. TN-ECD's Select Tennessee Certified Sites are all featured online, complete with interactive maps, aerial drone videos of sites and other technical videos.

The future of our recruitment efforts will rely heavily on these virtual tools. Sites with more due diligence are even more competitive in this new environment, as corporate site selectors consider them lower risk options. For us to continue to recruit new jobs and industry, it's crucial to get Tennessee's available sites before corporate decision makers. And with a steady pipeline of economic development projects, we are doing just that.

In the past, site selectors and companies would go through extensive on-site visits. But with various company travel restrictions in place, there's an even greater



The 22-acre Team Lawrence East site located in the town of Ethridge is one of several certified industrial sites being advertised by the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (TNECD). The department is utilizing digital resources to continue to promote industrial sites across the state and reach out to prospective buyers.

need to grab the attention of site selectors with digital resources.

For now, video conferencing has become more prevalent. My colleagues and I have already conducted several virtual site tours with prospective businesses. Working with partners like the Tennessee Valley Authority, TNECD is using Google Earth to provide interactive community and real estate tours.

We've used company plans to map out how individual sites could be developed. And we have also used these tools to show utility locations, optimal traffic routes, training resources in the area and nearby emergency services.

Thanks to our Select Tennessee Certified Sites program, we are also able to provide ample environmental and engineering information to prospects. This type of intelligence is crucial for site selectors and corporate executives. Companies will eventually step foot on real estate options, but it appears that they will tour fewer sites when that moment arrives.

Thus far, TNECD has received positive feedback from prospective businesses on our virtual tours. Our goal moving forward is to continue to leverage our digital resources and make these tools even more seamless. We're exploring ways to show sites in real-time with drones and tailor these virtual tours to better meet a prospective company's

While our day to day efforts look vastly different than they did just three months ago, TNECD's overall goals remain the same. Tennessee continues to offer businesses with a variety of advantages, from our low taxes and skilled workforce, to our quality of life and close access to major markets across the U.S. By being nimble during these changing times, TNCED's business development team remains focused on recruiting quality jobs to communities across Tennessee.

Gov. Lee announces Tennessee small business relief program to mitigate COVID related losses

Gov. Bill Lee, Lt. Gov. Randy McNally, House Speaker Cameron Sexton, and the Financial Stimulus Accountability Group announced a new relief program for Tennessee businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Tennessee Business Relief Program will direct approximately \$200 million in federal Coronavirus Relief Funds through the Department of Revenue directly to small businesses that qualify.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has created immense economic pain across our state and especially among small businesses that faced temporary closure," said Gov. Lee. "As we responsibly steward our federal stimulus money we have worked to quickly prioritize our small businesses and I thank the work of the Financial Stimulus Accountability Group for their partnership in this."

The Tennessee Business Relief Program amounts awarded will be based on the annual gross sales of the business. More details will be posted on the Department of Revenue's website in the coming days.

Roughly 28,000 businesses are

expected to qualify, with over 73% of those businesses earning annual gross sales of \$500,000 or less. The following types of small busi-

nesses are eligible: Barbershops, beauty shops,

- Tattoo parlors, spas, and other personal care services Gyms and fitness centers
- Restaurants and bars
- Hotels and other travel accommodations
- Theaters, auditoriums, performing arts centers and similar facilities
- Museums, zoos, and other similar attractions
- Amusement parks
- Bowling centers and arcades
- Marinas

- Amusement, sports and recre-
- ational industries
- Promoters of performing arts,
- sports, and similar events Agents and managers of artists,
- athletes, and entertainers Independent artists, writers, and performers

In addition, the following small businesses are eligible if their sales were reduced by at least 25%, as shown on their April sales tax returns (filed in May):

- Furniture stores
- Home furnishing stores
- Clothing stores
- Shoe stores
- Jewelry, luggage, and leather goods stores
- Sporting goods, hobby, and musical instrument stores
- Book stores
- Department stores
- Office supply, stationery and gift stores
- Used merchandise stores



CLASSIFIED ADS

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

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

ADAMSVILLE. The city of Adamsville is accepting resumes for the position of city administrator. This position will perform professional and administrative work in planning, organizing, and directing the activities of all departments of the city, along with other related work as required. The work will be performed under the general supervision of the City Commission. Supervisory responsibilities include administration of personnel policies including: to employ, promote, discipline, suspend and discharge all employees, including department heads, in accordance with the personnel policies and procedures adopted by the commission.

Candidates should possess a bachelor's degree in public administration, or related discipline from a four year college or university; or four to five years related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience. This position is non-exempt with a salary range up to \$55,000 depending on experience and qualifications. City of Adamsville website: http://www. cityofadamsville.com/ Resumes should be returned to: Ronnie.Neill@Tennessee.edu. Resumes will be accepted until 5:00 P.M. June 19, 2020. For additional information, call Ronnie Neill at 901 412-2121 or email Ronnie.Neill@ Tennessee.edu. EOE. All resumes are subject to public disclosure.

FIRE TRAINING OFFICER

PIGEON FORGE. The city of Pigeon Forge Fire Department is accepting applications for Full-Time Fire Training Officer. Information may be found on the city website at http://cityofpigeonforge.com/current_jobs.aspx. You may also contact the HR Dept at 865-453-9061 for more information.

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 n an administrative role. Must have cer tification 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

PLANNING / ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR ELIZABETHTON. The city of Elizabethton is accepting applications for the director of planning and economic development. This position reports to the city manager and supervises the planning and building departments. This position is responsible for ensuring all planning & economic development functions are complete and goals are met by directing activities related to urban planning, zoning, building codes and community and economic development; recruits new retail businesses and revitalizes existing business corridors, manages, administers and coordinates grants obtained by the city and carries out other directions of the city manager. Minimum requirements: master's degree in urban planning, public administration, architecture, or a related field or be AICP certified; and a minimum of five years of progressively responsible planning experience with at least three of those years being supervisory experience. Salary range: DOQ. Benefits: TCRS Retirement, Medical, Vision and Life Insurance. Apply at elizabethton.org -Job Openings. Applications accepted until the position is filled. EOE.

PROJECT MANAGER / CIVIL PLANS REVIEWER

MT. JULIET. The city of Mt. Juliet is seeking a full-time project manager/ civil plans reviewer to assist the director and deputy director of public works and engineering in a variety of functions related to development services, general engineering, construction plans review, and the publication of manuals, specifications for the city of Mt. Juliet. Selected candidates will be required to complete pre-employment testing as deemed necessary by each specific position. Must hold a valid TN driver's license. Excellent benefits and TCRS Retirement; Salary DOQ. Detailed job descriptions and requirements are available online. Applications must be filed electronically and are available at the city's website, www.mtjuliet-tn.gov. This position will be open until filled. The city of Mt. Juliet reserves the right to stop accepting applications at any time. For questions, regarding the electronic application process, please call (615) 754-2552. EOE/ Drug-free Workplace.

STORMWATER COORDINATOR

LA VERGNE. The city of La Verge is currently accepting application for a stormwater coordinator. Under the general supervision of the city engineer, the stormwater coordinator assists in the management of the city of La Vergne's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit. The stormwater coordinator will be responsible for managing the public outreach and education portions of the permit, providing reports on stormwater quality measures, coordinating stormwater projects, providing inspections, receiving citizen feedback in regards to drainage issues, preparing land disturbance permits, scheduling inspections, and performing various stormwater mapping projects. A bachelor's degree in environmental science, biology, geology, hydrology or other closely related technical field. Two years' experience preferred dealing with stormwater issues. Salary range is. \$23.90-\$27.69. To apply, go to www.lavergnetn.gov Applications will be accepted until June 25, 2020.

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 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.

TN legislators return to work to balance budget

BUDGET from Page 1

fund deposit, the August sales tax holiday, and the January full repeal of the Hall Income tax will proceed as scheduled this upcoming fiscal year

The new spending plan pulls back proposed pay raises for state employees and teachers that were approved in the preliminary budget passed in March. However, employee pay and 401 K contributions will remain at current levels under the proposal,

Eley said tapping into the state's Rainy Day Fund would be a last resort to fill any budget gaps. Lawmakers want to ensure, given the uncertainty of the length and depth of the recession and any future effects of COVID-19, that adequate emergency funds are maintained. The fund will

reach \$1.2 billion after an additional deposit of \$325 million at the end of the fiscal year on June 30.

On Thursday, June 11, the Senate approved the state budget with very little changes to Gov. Lee's revised spending plan.

Among the most significant changes that affects local governments is that the Senate voted to loosen restrictions related to a \$200 million grant program allocated to cities and counties. Gov Lee's proposal stipulates how the funds can be used; whereas, the Senate-approved version allows local governments to determine how to best use these funds.

At press time, the House had not taken up any budget documents but is scheduled to vote on the budget this week prior to adjournment.

Recovery Group partners with UT for data collection

DATA from Page 1

excited to be in a position to help."

"Tennessee is leading the way as Gov. Lee believes in the power of research and data to drive decisions and protect the citizens of this great state," added Mark Ezell, director of the Economic Recovery Group. "It's important to Gov. Lee, ERG and all Tennesseans that we continue to do robust research to understand both the health and economic impacts of COVID- 19 and we're pleased to partner with UT on this initiative."

According to the data, the economic impacts of COVID-19 are just as real as the health impacts to many Tennesseans. Overall, 77% of respondents support the Tennessee Pledge, and most report taking additional precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The survey polled 1,100 Tennesseans in both metro and rural areas and covers such COVID- related topics as health and economic

concerns, personal financial impact, activity reengagement, COVID-19 prevention and Tennessee Pledge. Baker Center researchers who are part of the university's CORE-19 team helped form the survey questions in cooperation with the governor's ERG and will provide research support throughout the data collection process.

SWORPS, a center in the university's College of Social Work, will coordinate administration of the survey and offer technical support and evaluation expertise.

Tennessee began a phased reopening under the Tennessee Pledge, a plan to help Tennesseans get back to work safely and reboot the economy.

Restaurants resumed business with limited capacity on April 27, quickly followed by a number of additional industries enabling tens thousands of Tennesseans to return to work.

TML Board of Directors to meet June 25

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Municipal League will meet in regular public session on Thursday, June. 25, 2020, at 10:30 a.m., local time, in the conference room of the Tennessee Municipal League, 226 Anne Dallas Dudley Blvd. Nashville, TN., for the purpose of considering and transacting all business that may properly come before the TML Board. Some members of the TML Board of Directors may participate in such meeting by telephonic means, which will be audible to any member of the public attending such meeting. If reasonably possible, an agenda will be available on Monday, June 22, in the offices of the Tennessee Municipal League, 226 Anne Dallas Dudley Blvd., Suite 710, Nashville, TN. Additional information concerning the above may be obtained from Jackie Gupton, 615-255-1561.

TMBF Board of Directors to meet June 25

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund will meet in regular public session on Thursday, June. 25, 2020, at 9:00 a.m., local time, in the offices of the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund, Suite 502, 226 Anne Dallas Dudley Blvd. Nashville, TN., for the purpose of considering and transacting all business that may properly come before said Board. Some members of the TMBF Board of Directors may participate in such meeting by telephonic means, which will be audible to any member of the public attending such meeting. If reasonably possible, an agenda will be available on Monday, June 22, in the offices of the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund, 226 Anne Dallas Dudley Blvd., Suite 502, Nashville, TN. Additional information concerning the above may be obtained from Jackie Gupton, 615-255-1561.

No loan is too large or too small



The Town of Livingston recently closed on a \$1.8 million capital outlay note with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund TMBF) issued to finance waterline improvements. The Town has used TMBF"s various loan programs 11 times since 1996. Seated L to R: Linda Mooningham, TMBF Marketing Director and Legal Coordinator; Livingston Mayor Curtis Hayes; and Livingston Town Clerk Phyllis Looper.

See us for your special projects needs. (615) 255-1561



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



Tennessee Municipal League 2018-2019 Officers and Directors **PRESIDENT Iill Holland** Mayor, McKenzie

VICE PRESIDENTS Mike Werner Mayor, Gatlinburg Ken Moore Mayor, Franklin **Bobby King** Mayor, Henderson **DIRECTORS**

Jimmy Alexander Mayor, Nolensville **Andy Berke** Mayor, Chattanooga John Cooper Mayor, Metro Nashville **Tony Cox** City Administrator, Morristown (District 2)

Vance Coleman Mayor, Medina Mike French Alderman, Somerville (District 7)

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Nashville campaign helps businesses reopen safely

NASHVILLE from Page 1 of COVID-19. They have also been encouraged to display a green music note – a symbol of the initiative – at their location and on their websites.

Vanderbilt medical experts will be working with businesses on safe opening procedures while the Convention and Visitor's Corp will work to create community awareness. Both entities will work to spread the message through a variety of media both locally and nationally.

Vanderbilt University Medical Center CEO Jeff Balser said the overall message is one that Nashville is reopening with the safety of its visitors and business community in mind.

"Nashville has carefully managed many of the issues that have disproportionately impacted other major cities," Balser said. "Our success has been possible through creative problem solving by leaders from government and major industries who have joined together around a shared vision for how best to help the city get safely back to business. 'Good to Go' will ensure that informational tools and best practices are readily available for businesses working to keep their employees and customers safe. Vanderbilt Health is proud

to play a leadership role in this effort.

Deana Ivey, executive vice president and senior vice president of marketing for the Nashville Convention and Visitors Corp, said the idea for the Good to Go campaign began out of travel research indicating that 73% of consumers said they wouldn't be returning to patronize businesses unless they could be assured those businesses were operating in a safe and healthy manner.

We knew that in order to get back into business we have to have our house in order, and we have to show both our businesses and our customers that we care about them and their safety," Ivey said. "We started brainstorming on this program. Vanderbilt Health has done so much in the field of COVID-19 and were one of the first to jump on testing and researching a vaccine. We are so fortunate they are in our backyard. We partnered with them, and it has turned out even better than we expected. Vanderbilt offering their expert advice to the businesses in our community is just unbelievable. People can email the leading infectious disease doctors and get a response right away."

So far, Ivey said more than 450 businesses in Nashville have made the "Good to Go" pledge and 90% of those have already gone through online training. Ivey said the businesses participating in the program range from retail and restaurants to law firms, banks, real estate agencies, and live music

Once online training is complete, the Nashville Convention and Visitor Corps sends those businesses a toolkit featuring additional training videos, signage, and other recommendations. Some of the training resources were developed by Ryman Hospitality Services for their own employees who offered to share their resources with other businesses in the Nashville community. Videos include everything from information on proper sanitation techniques to how to take employee and customer temperatures properly.

"It's free and you can learn things from it to make sure you are ready when you're opening," Ivey said. "One of the big benefits of the program is keeping businesses updated on what is changing and what those changes mean. We just want to streamline the information and make it easier for them to digest. People want to make sure they are doing the right thing and taking things seriously. We are hoping we make things easier for our businesses to adhere to the CDC guidelines and the Metro Nashville Health guidelines. We hope the customers see that we care as a community and a city and that these individual businesses are taking things seriously."

When the training sessions are complete, businesses can then show

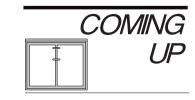
PARTICIPATING BUSINESS

off to their customers that they have made the effort to stay safe.

"Once people have signed the pledge and go through the training, they get their green music note decal they can put on their door," Ivey said. "That is a way for customers to know they have gone through that training. We often use the red music note as branding for music city and we decided to use the green music for this because it means 'go.' We wanted to say that Nashville is good to go and these businesses are good to go."

Ivey said the response to the program has been massive.

"The businesses are really appreciative from the small businesses even to the bigger businesses with more resources," she said. "They like that we are giving easy to digest information that can be applied to their company. We have gotten a lot of thank you notes. The 'ask the expert' advice has really been a good benefit."



October 7-9, 2020 TGFOA Fall Conference Murfreesboro

November 3-5, 2020 TCMA Fall Conference Franklin

November 18-21, 2020 NLC City Summit Tampa, Fla.

March 15-16, 2021 TML Legislative Conference Nashville

July 31 - Aug 3, 2021 TML Annual Conference Chattanooga

NATIONAL BRIEFS

While theatres, bars, restaurants, and gyms across the U.S. are reopening, the majority of Americans said they have no intention of returning to this establishments because of coronavirus fears. The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research conducted a poll of those who frequented certain businesses before the coronavirus and asked them how likely they would be to return to these establishment as closure orders were lifted. Of the respondents, 58% said they would not be going to movies or concerts in theatres, 57% said they would not go to a sporting events, and 50% said they would not exercise at a gym or studio. Only 51% said they would consider trav-

el, 52% said they would go to

a bar or restaurant, and 69% said they would shop for non-essential items. Getting a haircut was the top reason most people said they would return to public spaces at 72%. Additionally, a quarter of respondents to the survey said they or someone in their household had lost a job because of the pandemic.

Single-family home sales rose in the U.S. for the month of April despite the COVID-19 pandemic. The U.S. Department of Commerce reported that initial numbers indicated that new home sales increased by 0.6% to a seasonally-adjusted rate of 623,000 units last month. New home sales generally account for about 10% of housing market sales. The median price for a new home sold in April was \$309,900, dropping 8.6% from a year ago. Home sales dipped by 13.7% in

March with economists predicting further declines in home sales as the pandemic continues.

In a surprise to economists, the U.S. added 2.5 million jobs in May with the national unemployment rate dropping to 13.3%. The U.S. Labor Department said the report showed one of the largest one-month spikes in hiring in U.S. history after the country lost 20.7 million jobs in April, sending the national unemployment rate to 14.7%. Economists were predicting the U.S. would lose between 2 and 8 million jobs in May. The 2.5 million gain in jobs was boosted by a 2.7 million decline in temporary lavoffs. However, the number of people who permanently lost their jobs spiked by 295,000 in May, raising some question as to if May's gains would be sustainable.

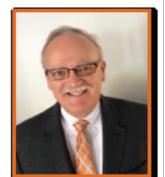


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Ed Stewart, ChFC, CLU, CF Financial Advisor

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Cities continue to protect and serve amid COVID crisis

COVID-19 has changed our world.

The landscape, lives, and livelihoods of our communities throughout the United States will forever be impacted. As Tennessee cities and towns face falling revenues, strapped budgets, and challenges to our health and well-being, we continue to provide essential services to our citizens.

Our police and fire protect. Our EMS providers respond. Our sanitation workers are still on the streets helping to keep our cities clean, and our water and wastewater operators are working 24/7 to ensure service continues as normal. Local government services did not and do not shut down. We continue to do what we do best - serve and protect our communities.



To help honor the Bolivar Central High School class of 2020, members of the Bolivar Streets and Sanitation Department hung banners througout the town that featured pictures of the graduating seniors.



Franklin City Hall reopened to the public in May allowing citizens to make bill payments in person. During the COVID crisis, the city has waived any online fees for those who continue to pay online.







Members of the Bartlett Fire Department distribute free face masks to families in the Bartlett community.



Morristown Public Works crews continue work on a major ctiy paving project on one of the city's main thoroughfares.



community's assisted care facilities to help keep their spirits up during this time of isolation.



The Collegedale Police Department launched a Collegedale Pride Campaign during the COVID crisis that highlights a local business on their Facebook page while demonstrating proper social distancing.



Sevierville Fire Marshal JC Green staffs the Sevier County 911 Central Dispatch Center.



The Brentwood Library opened back up to the public on May 26, pledging to maintain proper safety protocols like quarantining returned books, employees wearing face masks, and all patrons are asked to sit and stand six feet apart.