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# TML Annual Conference registration to begin July 6

Conference planning for the TML Annual Conference in Chattanooga, slated for Sept. 18-21, is well underway. Registration will begin July 6.

The four-day conference will feature top-notch speakers and workshop sessions, several special events, and ample time to network with your peers.

The opening general session on Sunday, Sept. 19, will feature a keynote speech on conflict resolution and consensus building.

Entitled "Must Disagreement be Disagreeable," Matt Lehrman will share 12 pragmatic points that are both inspiring and wholly actionable for leading your cities and towns from conflict to conversation.

Amidst unprecedented disruption and uncertainty, there's never been a more necessary time for community leaders to learn how to tackle complex and sensitive issues in ways that make people feel heard, respected, and empowered.

Lehrman animates the principle that where people work together courageously, their potential is unlimited.

"The purpose of government is to enable individuals to join together in recognizing and solving community problems," explained Lehrman. "As leaders, we possess the reasonability to inspire trust by raising the quality of civic engagement. We must neither avoid nor fear disagreement – but rather learn how to conduct it via processes that leave people feeling heard, respected, and satisfied."

Lehrman is co-founder of Social Prosperity Partners, and Arizona-based firm that works nationally to help leaders and people in their communities achieve consensus around important decisions.



Matt Lehrman

discussion on Monday morning, Sept. 20, that invites attendees to seek practical insight and advice from a diverse panel of Tennessee community leaders. Come prepared to "wear your heart on your sleeve" about how to engage more people and gather agreement around whatever you hope to accomplish in your community.

Other conference highlights include a panel presentation on Planning for Tomorrow's Ready Workforce; and a panel presentation on Local Ethics Investigations featuring attorneys from one of Nashville's leading law firms Frost Brown Todd., LLC.

TML's annual conferences have traditionally featured a strong educational component. A total of 18 concurrent sessions covering a broad range of topics important to cities and towns will be offered as part of our conference lineup. And as in the past, we will be offering many workshops that qualify for CMFO and Utility Board Training continuing education hours.

When registration opens TML will post a link to the registration forms on our website, <u>www.TML1</u>. <u>org</u> as well as send an email notice to all members.

### Summer festivals planned across Tennessee



Festival goers enjoy a weekend packed full of music and fun at the recent TN River Jam in Paris. After a year of social distancing, folks are ready to gather again and make the most of the warm weather. To take advantage of the events happening from Memphis to Mountain City, click here for a list of festivals and outdoor events, <u>https://tnecd.com/news/celebrate-summer-across-tennessee/</u>

## **Bipartisan legislation introduced to protect Metropolitan Statistical Areas**

### **BY CAROLE GRAVES**

TML Communications Director

Bipartisan legislation has been introduced in Congress that would protect more than 140 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), including three in Tennessee, from losing its MSA classifications. Losing this classification could, among other things, harm communities' access to certain federal funding opportunities and their ability to grow and attract businesses.

The Metropolitan Statistical Area Preservation Act by U.S. Sens. John Thune (R-S.D.) and Mark Kelly (D-Ariz.) would prevent the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) from increasing the minimum population of 50,000 to 100,000 to be considered an MSA and ensure these communities retain their MSA classification.

The federal government uses these designations to establish eligibility for specific grant programs. Two primary funding sources frequently cited as being affected by MSA designations are Federal and Highway Transportation dollars and Community Development Block Grants. These dollars support programs for low and moderate-income people, public transportation projects, economic development, water and sewer projects, public health programs, and the elimination of slums and blight.

The Tennessee Municipal League submitted comments in response to the OMB proposal, stating concerns that the proposed alteration, if implemented, would have an immediate and significant effect on the cities of Morristown, Cleveland and Jackson. This increase would recategorize three cities from metropolitan to micropolitan, and it would place these larger, more urban areas into the same status as much smaller, very rural communities.

"The League is concerned that the proposed alteration, if implemented, would have an immediate See MSAs on Page 7

Following his keynote address on Sunday, he will also facilitate a candid and helpful follow-up So mark your calendars and plan to attend TML's 81st Annual Conference in Chattanooga.

## The American Rescue Plan

## UPDATE: Distribution of ARP funds to NEUs not likely before end of July

Non-Entitlement Units of local government, or NEUs, are generally defined as those municipalities with populations of less than 50,000, excluding cities that are designated principal cities of Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

Based on conversations with state officials, the earliest date on which an NEUs may make application for its allocation of federal American Rescue Plan Act funds is likely to be the end of July. Please note, this is an estimation. No definitive date has been set and the timing of the actual commencement of the application process is subject to change. Rest assured, your TML team will remain in contact with state officials and will continue to monitor updates from Washington in an effort to keep you apprised of the latest news and developments.

Initially, it was suggested NEUs would receive the first of their two allotments within 90 days of enactment of the federal law, which would have been this month. However, subsequent guidance further clarified the timeline to indicate that the distribution of funds to NEUs would occur concurrently with the federal government's distribution to the state of

Tennessee. Revelations concerning the difficulty in correctly classifying local governmental units across the states and accurately determining the allocation for each unit led the federal government to delegate associated responsibilities to each state. As such, it is now left to the state of Tennessee to perform such tasks as: determining the eligibility of NEUs, confirming operational budgets, identifying municipalities affected by the 75% limitation, calculating each NEUs allocation and establishing a process for receipt of applications.

Currently, the state is in the process of preparing to make an application to the federal government for its designated funds and is developing an online portal to facilitate the receipt of applications from the state's NEUs. As soon as TM receives additional information concerning the timing of the state's request to U.S. Treasury or the readiness of the state's online portal, we will share this news with you.

In the meantime, we would encourage those cities and towns classified as NEUs to begin gathering the required information for submission to the state. The required *See* **FUNDS** *on Page 4* 

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# Adamsville site provides glimpse into Tennessee's ancient history, dinosaurs

**By KATE COIL** *TML Communications Specialist* 

A unique area of West Tennessee offers visitors and researchers alike a chance to dig for dinosaurs and explore the state's ancient past.

Located on 240 acres in Adamsville, UT Martin's Coon Creek Science Center offers a rare glimpse into what Tennessee was like millions of years in the past. Dr. Michael Gibson, director of the UT Martin Coon Creek Science Center, said the history of the area begins during a time when West Tennessee was under an ancient ocean.

"The geological history of the site goes back 72 million years," he said. "At that time, earth was going through a really huge global warming event. The sea level was hundreds of feet higher than it is today, high enough that the Gulf of Mexico flooded the interior of North America. You could have swum from Biloxi all the way to the Arctic Ocean without getting out of the water. Our little area of West Tennessee was an embayment off to the side of this high sea level. This is the Cretaceous period, which is when there were dinosaurs. West Tennessee was actually an ocean, so we had everything that was in the ocean during that period. Middle and East Tennessee probably did have dinosaurs, but they weren't as well preserved except what was carried out to sea and dumped in the ocean where it was preserved in our Coon Creek formation."

While geological changes that happened between the Cretaceous period and now destroyed evidence of dinosaurs in other areas, Gibson said it worked to preserve the evidence in the Coon Creek formation accessible at the site. As a result, fossils at the site are basically



Participants at one of the group tours hosted at the Coon Creek Science Center near Adamsville get a chance to clean up fossils they have found. The site contains fossils from the Cretaceous period when West Tennessee was buried under an ancient ocean.

at their original state, offering a unique view into history.

This layer of geology, known as the Coon Creek formation, is visible from Kentucky down to Mississippi. While not every inch of formation has fossils, the Coon Creek Science Center is located on one of the eight areas of the formation where there is a known abundance of fossils. The center is the best preserved of those eight known areas.

However, it wasn't until some 150 years ago that this wealth of prehistory first came to light. When the first settlers of European descent came into West Tennessee in the 1800s, they began to notice something was different about the area. In 1867, the Weeks family set up a farm on what is now the Coon Creek Science Center property.

"Dave Weeks found if he ground up the sea shell fossils and fed them to his chickens they produced better eggs because of

the calcium in the shells," Gibson said. "The site then became recognized not because of the fossils but because it was a resource for farmers. Another Tennessean from Trenton who was getting his geology degree at Vanderbilt became aware of the site, and it became his dissertation at Johns Hopkins. After that, the site became famous among scientists around the world because of its unique character. Since then, the site has been a mecca for people to come from all over the world to study these organisms and that time period."

The Weeks family sold the property in the 1950s to A.Z. Smith and his family. The Smith family recognized the scientific significance of the site and allowed researchers into the site until the 1980s. The Smith family then decided to return to Memphis and sold the site to the Pink Palace Museum in Memphis. *See* FOSSILS *on Page 3* 



### ASHLAND CITY

A local resident has given the city of Ashland City a \$200,000 gift to use at the city's parks and an additional \$50,000 specifically for the city's Caldwell Nature Park in honor of her late husband. Jane Crisp made the donation in honor of her husband Doug O'Rear, who died of COVID-19 last July. Both lifelong conservationists, Crisp and her husband had long talked about doing something to benefit the city park system. The \$50,000 for Caldwell Nature Park will be used for constructed restrooms and a covered picnic pavilion. Other funds donated by Crisp may also be used for a conservation easement at the park with continued input from Crisp on the property.

### CLARKSVILLE

The Clarksville City Council has approved the construction of a new water treatment plant on the north side of the city to manage population growth and increased demand for service. The cost will be paid for by an increase to water and sewer rates gradually over four years with the total bill increase through 2024. The increases will cover a \$138 million long-needed water treatment plant and a \$70 million upgrade to the city's sewer treatment system, including a \$14.5 million sludge-drying system at the new plant. Officials said the system will alleviate both volume and odor issues at the Bi-County Landfill. The city already purchased the \$6.8 million parcel of land for the plant on the Cumberland River off Barge Point Road.

### **ELIZABETHTON**

Mack and Nancy Cooke have donated 1.36 acres of land to the city of Elizabethton to be incorporated into the Tweetsie Trail. The lifelong residents of Elizabethton said they gave the property to the city as a way to give back to their community. Elizabethton Mayor Curt Alexander presented them with a plaque in appreciation of the gift at a recent city council meeting. The land will be turned into a park along the trail, which stretches 10 miles across a former railroad line from Elizabethton to Johnson City. Early plans for the park include picnic areas, a water station, and restrooms.

### GALLATIN

NIC Global officials have announced the company will invest \$2



which includes both its OXO and Hydro Flask brands. Construction is expected to commence in July 2021, with anticipated completion by the end of calendar 2022.

### **JACKSON**

The city of Jackson has begun a new plan to provide residents with financial empowerment education as part of a federal grant program. The Cities for Financial Empowerment Program helps cities give residents in financial trouble counseling to help them be better managers of their money. Jackson has utilized a grant from the program to unveil the new CityStart Financial Empowerment Blueprint. The city will be cooperating with local non-profits like the United Way to provide one-on-one counseling and other services. The plan will be fully executed by early 2022 with a non-profit set up to handle the program. Results from the program in other communities include helping bolster the local economy as well as bringing residents out of poverty.

### **KINGSPORT**

Kingsport has announced the creation of the new 24-acre Riverbend Park that will reach the banks of the Holston River. The land for the park was donated to the city in 2015 by a local development company. Plans for the first phase of the new park include a half-mile walking trail along the river, a fishing pier, parking, and emergency access. Construction could begin by mid-fall or early winter and will take 120 days to complete. The park will be a multiphase project developed over five to 10 years. Future plans include play areas, pavilions, restrooms, benches, scenic spots, interpretive signs, and boardwalks.

### KNOXVILLE

The city of Knoxville has committed more than \$2 million to streetscape and revitalization projects to the Burlington community in East Knoxville. The project will include new sidewalks and streetlights along a section of Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, in the heart of Burlington, between Kirkwood and Shelby streets, near the city fire station and Greater Warner Tabernacle AME Zion Church. The project will also make Prosser Road more walkable between MLK Jr. Avenue and Holston Drive while street parking will be added to the area. Other goals for the project include public amenities envisioned in the Burlington Enhancement Plan, developed by the East Tennessee Community Design Center in partnership with local residents and businesses. The conceptual study provided recommendations to revitalize the Burlington Commercial District and stimulate economic development by enhancing beauty of the streets, creating more public spaces, improving pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular infrastructure, and enhancing navigation with gateway entrance and wayfinding signage.

ed to be completed by late summer and will be a day-use only facility. The city also recently entered into a 30-year lease with Grace United Methodist Church for 12 acres of North Mt. Juliet Road. This facility will be constructed in two phases with the first phase including a dog park and the second walking trails and pavilions. A potential third phase adding an amphitheater is also being discussed.

### NASHVILLE

Simple Logistics Solutions (SiLo) officials will establish new operations in Nashville, creating 92 new jobs and investing \$712,000 in its headquarters operations at 414 Union Street. SiLo, a new, full truckload freight brokerage, concentrates in specialized, oversized open deck truck shipments. The company works with both shippers and carriers to arrange the safe transport of goods and services across the U.S. and Canada.

### **OAK RIDGE**

The Oak Ridge City Council has approved the purchase of three drones for use by the police and fire departments. The \$56,624 cost will be paid through a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. The drones will be used to respond to imminent threats as well as gain information in a way that will not pose danger to officers or firefighters. Assessing incidents like fires or hazardous materials spills, looking for missing persons, and monitoring traffic can be done through drones without putting personnel in dangerous situations. The drones will be put into use after city officials approve an official use policy to provide for privacy concerns.

### **SMYRNA**

The town of Smyrna has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. Smyrna's report was judged by an impartial panel to meet

### Collegedale unveils statue honoring women veterans



Collegedale officials, along with U.S. Congressman Chuck Fleischmann, gathered at Veterans Memorial Park on Memorial Day to unveil a life-size bronze statue of a female Army nurse as a tribute to all women who have served in the U.S. military. The sculpture was created by artist Greg Johnson.

# Morristown cuts ribbon on new public works facility



Officials with the city of Morristown recently gathered to cut the ribbon on the city's new public works facility. The new state-of-the-art facility was designed by Nashville-based Lose Design and includes large bays for work vehicles, offices, training and conference facilities, and an impressive equipment shop. The building replaces a former facility constructed in the 1960s that could no longer accommodate larger vehicles required by public works crew. The former public works facility has been given to the state of Tennessee and will be used to expand the Tennessee college of Applied Technologies (TCAT) in Morristown.

### Hendersonville breaks ground on new inline hockey facility



million and create 28 new jobs by expanding its operations in Gallatin. NIC Global specializes in mechanical and electromechanical assembly, expert sheet metal fabrication and global sourcing of metal and plastic components. NIC Global currently has 200 employees at its Sumner County operations, located at 501 N. Belvedere Drive in Gallatin. The expansion includes investments in new fabrication equipment, special error-proofing systems and upgrades to its powder coating capabilities. Additionally, NIC will be adding 26,000 square feet of additional manufacturing space to support new programs.

### GALLAWAY

Helen of Troy Limited announced the company will establish new distribution operations and create 350 jobs in Gallaway. Helen of Troy, designer, developer, and worldwide marketer of consumer brand-name housewares, health and home, and beauty products, intends to develop a 2 million-square-foot facility with state-of-the-art automation and direct-to-consumer fulfillment capabilities at Hickory Withe Road and TN-196 in Gallaway. The new facility is being designed and built specifically to house the company's housewares segment operations,

**TENNESSEE TOWN & CITY** 

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### LOUDON

A new drive-in movie theatre has opened in the city of Loudon. Opened by Loudon Entertainment, LLC, the LoCo Drive-In was constructed on a more-than-10-acre property leased to the company by both the Loudon City Council and Loudon County Commission. The company has the option to buy the property after the five-year lease ends. The property can hold 400 vehicles and hopes to show both new and old movies as well as host other events like concerts and showing sporting events. The drive-in also features a concessions stands, restrooms, play area for children, and an area for food trucks, which will be rotated nightly at the site.

### MT. JULIET

Officials with the city of Mt. Juliet are moving forward with development at three local parks. The city's Sgt. Jerry Mundy Park will receive three new tennis courts, four pickleball courts, and an expanded playground as parts of upgrades to the facility and to relieve usage of similar facilities at other parks that have become extremely popular, leading to waiting periods in peak times. The second project is the development of 8.6 acres of land near Tate Lane and West Division Street into Hamilton-Denson Park, a facility featuring eight multi-use sports fields for practices. Parks officials said work on the new park is expectthe high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report.

### TAZEWELL

The state of Tennessee's newest family justice center has opened its doors in Tazewell. The Office of Criminal Justice Programs (OCJP) and Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration were vital in securing the federal funds needed to construction the new Claiborne County Family Justice Center located within the city. Family justice centers throughout the state provide services to victims, including children, impacted by family violence who need a variety of services. The center in Tazewell is the tenth such center opened in the state and serves as a community-wide collaboration of public and nonprofit agencies providing co-located, wraparound services in one safe, convenient, and family-friendly location. In addition to benefiting victims and their families, the FJC model benefits the broader community by reducing competition and redundancy among stakeholders.

### WHITE HOUSE

Advanex Americas will relocate its headquarters and manufacturing operations from Cypress, Calif., to White House, investing \$17 million and creating 102 new jobs. The spring and component parts manufacturer will build a new facility at 514 Hester Drive in White House. Products manufactured by the company are used in everything from ballpoint pens to space stations. Advanex Americas is the U.S. division of Advanex Inc., a Japanese company founded in 1946 and headquartered in Tokyo, Japan, that has grown into 15 group companies around the world. The company manufactures precision springs, wire form, pins, stampings, plastics and assemblies for companies in a range of sectors including automotive, aerospace, medical and agriculture.

Hockey players, fans, and Hendersonville officials gathered to break ground on a new \$2.8 million inline hockey complex at the city's Volunteer Park at Arrowhead. The new complex has two covered inline rinks and it's the first of its kind in Middle Tennessee. Rinks once located in the city had been flooded out in 2010 and again in 2019, prompting the relocation of the rinks to their new facility. Officials with the Hendersonville Inline Hockey Association (HIHA) said they have already been contacted by multiple tournament directors who would like to host their events in Hendersonville once the new facility is complete. Construction is expected to be complete in October.

# Restoration begins on historic Rogersville law office structure



The first phase of the restoration of the historic Powel Law Office has begun in the town of Rogersville. The early 1800s-ear log building is being stabilized as part of restoration efforts funded through a Tennessee Historic Commission grant with a grant match of \$23,500 – 40% – by the town. The cabin served as the home and law office of one of Rogersville's most prominent early citizens: attorney, judge, and U.S. Rep. Samuel Powel. The building was constructed in 1806, the same year Powel began his law practice in Rogersville. Powel ran the state's first law school and served the state in Congress from 1815 to 1817.

### Gallatin cuts ribbon on state's largest park aimed at children of all abilities

**By KATE COIL** *TML Communications Specialist* 

The city of Gallatin recently cut the ribbon on the largest recreational complex for citizens of all abilities in Tennessee.

Gallatin's new Miracle Park offers nearly six acres of fun including a Miracle ballfield, a pedal park, and the largest inclusive playground in the state. The park is already drawing visitors from around the region and is a source of pride for local officials.

Mary Gauerke, marketing director for the Gallatin Parks and Recreation Department, said the park has been more than 20 years in the making.

"Our parks director David Brown has been with the parks since he was 19 and is now in his late 60s," she said. "About 20 years ago, he saw a poured-inplace surfacing for ballfields at a conference and said he wanted one for Gallatin. Elaine Hudson, our assistant parks director, had seen a pedal park she thought would be a good addition."

Gauerke said she was also inspired by her own son when helping create the park.

"I joined the department four years ago, and I have a son with autism," she said. "When we would go to parks when my son was younger, there was nothing there for him sensory-wise. He would be digging in the mulch and dissecting dandelions with more excitement than he would have running around with other kids. Other than the swings, he was not interested in a typical playground at all. He is 17 now, and was the inspiration for the chill zone of the park, which is our sensory area under the shade. It's a place for kids to have a quiet space."

Construction of the park began on a former ballfield in the city in 2019. Funding for the project included a \$500,000 grant from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation with a matching loan from the city. The park then raised \$100,000 in donations from All Access Coach Leasing and Goodall Homes. Hundreds of other donations from individuals, local organizations, and businesses were also donated for the project.

Gauerke described the playground as "ginormous." The 27,000-square-foot playground includes wheelchair and walker accessible swings and equipment, a merry-go-round, gliders, sensory panels, musical instruments, a zipline, and other amenities.

"When I drive by it every day, I feel like it's something that belongs at Disney World," she said. "It's huge, complex, and wonderful. We tried to hit every aspect of every ability. We have braille, sound, things for the visually impaired, and we also have sensory area. The ramps go up two levels for ability-impaired children. There are different interactive components to it. We also have different things that kids in a wheelchair can use like a merry-go-round experience. We have a glider that you can also roll someone in."

The playground also highlights local citizens with different abilities whose desire for a place of their own to play helped inspire the project.

"We tell a story at our park," Gauerke said. "We have kids who were a huge impact to this park, that were inspirations to this park featured on 11 signs throughout the park. Some of them are mobility impaired, one has Down's syndrome, one has a cochlear implant, one has had seizures and a stroke, and they put my son's picture up there because he is the inspiration



The Gallatin Miracle Park includes a ballfield for Miracle League play, a pedal park, and an inclusive playground. The park is the largest of its kind aimed at serving children of all abilities in the state.

for the sensory area."

The 17,000-square-foot ball field is comprised of a pourable rubber that makes it easier for those in wheelchairs, walkers, or with mobility issues to run the bases. Gallatin will also have its own Miracle League to call the field home.

"Everything is poured into the surfacing from the white lines to the bases so someone can roll," Gauerke said. "It's perfect for anyone who has any type of mobility impairment, whether it's a rolling walker or a wheelchair. It is smaller than a typical ball field, but it is wonderful. The dugouts don't require you to step down. You can roll from dugout onto the field. Every time I go over there, there are kids of all different abilities playing a pickup game of wiffleball. We have a feeling that when we get our Miracle League going we will have a lot of participants. The team will travel to play with other teams that have these fields, like in Murfreesboro and Clarksville."

The park is also the home of an 18,000-square-foot pedal park that aims to help kids learn road safety.

"The pedal park is like a little town," Gauerke said. "It gives kids the opportunity to learn the rules of the road before they are driving. They learn about stop signs, roundabouts, pedestrian crossings, no passing zones, and passing zones. They can stop at a car wash, a burger joint, and a little puppet theatre. We have a group, the Friends of Gallatin Miracle Park, who are working on grants to add to the pedal park because there is plenty of room."

The reaction to the park has been overwhelmingly positive.

"We know there is going to be an economic impact that this park has for the city of Gallatin," she said. "We had one parent who came with ten kids and took a lot of pictures then posted them on our Facebook page. They really loved the park. We've had a tremendous response." As both a parks employee and

as a mom, Gauerke said the park has a massive impact.

"I believe recreation for all is very important," she said. "It's how kids thrive and grow physically, emotionally, and mentally. These kids are having the opportunity for inclusion. All that is going to do is make them better adults. When you build that kind of acceptance at a young age of kids who don't look or play like you, it has a positive impact. I think it is important to have that opportunity to play together. All children in all communities should have the chance to do that. As a mom of a child who has special needs, even though he is 17, he enjoyed the ribbon cutting ceremony and the park. This park is the legacy of these kids and what we've learned as parents to make the best better. We want to make sure the next generation of kids have a place and aren't forgotten."

### Adamsville site provides glimpse into TN's ancient history, dinosaurs

### **FOSSILS** from Page 1

The Pink Palace built most of the facilities now on the site, including a full science camp. This past April, the Pink Palace Museum turned the site over to UT Martin to run on a long-term lease. UT Martin has been conducting research for the Pink Palace on the site since the 1990s and so it was a natural fit.

Gibson said fossils on the site range from marine shells and vertebrates to marine life like sharks and crabs we would recognize today as ganisms like clams, oysters, snails, and various types of cephalopods. Even the plankton that was in the water and sediment is preserved, so we have the entire food chain up and down."

Many of the fossils found on the site help researchers determine the origins of many species commonly found in the modern ocean.

"There are many groups we find that are still living," he said. "The actual species may be extinct, but you could find other types of that group if you were beach walking the Gulf. If you were walking on the beach in the Cretaceous period, you would recognize clams, snails, crabs, lobsters, and shrimp. We have other types that are completely extinct. A lot of these are the same creatures that would have gone extinct during the same extinction event as the dinosaurs, for example your large swimming reptiles like the plesiosaur or mosasaurus. We can then look at those that survived those extinction events and figure out why they survived when others did not." Occasionally, artifacts from

other periods of history also turn up. "We find signs of Native American occupation and activity, early farming, and later human habitation on the site," Gibson said. "We have an archaeological history there as well as a paleontological history. Coon Creek is actually a modern creek that is cutting down into an old deposit that is the Coon Creek formation. This little creek has exposed this formation for us to see, and we now have evidence change on a global magnitude. This site shows just one time we can demonstrate that type of change in Tennessee. Other nearby areas like Parsons have evidence of other ocean flooding events at different times. There are at least six global rises and drops of sea levels on a huge scale in Tennessee alone that can be traced worldwide."

The site offers visitors a chance to dig their own fossils as well.

"Visitors to the site get to dig – and keep – their own finds from the formation," Gibson said. "One of the things we do with the site is called paleotourism where you learn about the site and what it has to offer. We are also doing active research on the site. People can come in to volunteer to help us. We teach them how to do dig work, how to clean the fossils, and prepare them." Beyond paleontology, plenty of other research goes on at Coon Creek. ponds on the site that we use to help us study how ecology effects the modern farmer," Gibson said. "We do a lot of things on the site, including astronomy. We have a science lab on site. This is really a STEAM center where all sciences can be taught. We do engineering, math, arts, and all things of that nature on the site. The central theme here is that we want everyone to have an outdoor field setting. We want them to experience this in the real world."

The Coon Creek Science

well as the remains of what may look like sea monsters.

"We have found several mosasaurus at the site, one of which is on display at the Pink Palace Museum," he said. "We have what is probably going to end up being a plesiosaurus, which is what everyone thinks of when they think of the Loch Ness Monster. We have also found one flying reptile – a pterosaur – which we've found in the Coon Creek material. We have more than 400 species of marine orof three earlier versions of this creek that ran through this area at different times."

Gibson said the site teaches important lessons about how sea level change can impact the planet.

"This site is 400-feet-above sea level, but you dig out your own marine fossils, which indicates this area had to be a sea floor sometime in the past," he said. "At the very minimum, it demonstrates the reality of sea level change and not just a little sea level change but sea level

"We also do modern forest ecology, and we have a couple of

Center takes two and four-hour reservations for weekday group tours and activities, such as those for scout groups, school groups, birthday parties, and others. Gibson said the center will also be opening up on certain weekends to host community days where the general public can make reservations to visit the site.

Those who wish to make reservations to visit the center can call the UT Martin Selmer Campus at 731-646-1636 for more information.

## No loan is too large or too small



The city of Pulaski recently closed on a \$12 million fixed rate loan with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF) for water system improvements. The city has used the TMBF various loan programs10 times since 1991. The latest loan was with First National Bank in Pulaski. Seated are: Mayor Patrick Ford and Tracy Porterfield, CFO of First National Bank of Pulaski. Standing are: Terry Harrison, Pulaskit city administrator, city recorder, and finance director; and Kevin Krushenski, TMBF marketing representative.

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



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





Matt Austin has been appointed as interim chief of the Bristol Police Department. Austin presently serves as a major



with the department, overseeing the department's operations bureau. During his 30-year career with Bristol Police, Austin has worked as a narcotics investigator, school resource officer, patrol captain, and SWAT team leader. A U.S. Marine Corp veteran, he holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Tusculum University and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy. Austin will serve as interim until city officials appoint a replacement for retiring Police Chief Blaine Wade.

### JeffBeaman

vious posi-



Jeff Beaman

tion as assistant fire chief for the Germantown Fire Department. Beaman holds a master's degree in emergency services from Columbia Southern University and has more than 30 years of experience in the fire service.

Cody Chapman has been promoted to assistant chief of police for the town of Jacksboro, according to



Cody Chapman

Jacksboro Police Chief R. Jeremy Goins. Chapman has 11 years of experience in law enforcement, most recently serving as a detective sergeant with the Jacksboro Police Department. Prior to that, he served as a patrol sergeant at the Campbell County Sheriff's Office. He is also a graduate of Waters State Community College where he also attended police academy training.

Mike Dedmon, deputy budget director with the state of Tenne



Mike Dedmon Tennessee,

serving under five governors and nine finance commissioners. Dedmon had served in the state budget officer for nearly 19 years. Prior to that, he served for nearly three years as deputy commissioner and one year as a budget director with the Tennessee Department of Human Services. Dedmon had a master's in public administration from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and a bachelor's degree in international relations and affairs from Middle Tennessee State University. Tennessee Finance and Administration Commissioner Butch Eley praised Dedmond for "his friendship, sense of humor, depth of knowledge, and love of family" and said: "Mike had more than three decades of service to the state and was a senior advisor to me and to Gov. Bill Lee. Moreover, Mike's influence and network of friends spread beyond state government across Tennessee." He leaves behind his wife, Stephanie, who is Tennessee's chief information officer, three sons, and a grandchild, along with his mother and stepchildren.



ous role as city engineer. Hines has been with the city since 2016. Prior to that, he had more than 10 years' experience working in the private sector, including six years as a principal engineer and project manager for EWH Engineering. Hines has also held positions with the Chattanooga Engineering Group, the Farley Nuclear Plant in Alabama, Charleston-based Atwell, LLC, L.J. Farrow and Associates, and Alday-Howell Engineering, Inc. Hines also worked as a civil engineer on the Fukushima disaster response for H.B. Robinson and Catawha Nuclear Plants He holds



a bachelor's degree in agricultural engineering with a specialization in land and water resources from the University of Florida, where he also served as a research assistant.

Dana Mc-Lendon, Ward 2 alderman for the city of Franklin, has announced his retirement af-

Dana McLendon ter nearly 25 years of service. A Franklin resident

since 1995, McLendon became the city's Ward 2 alderman two years later at the age of 29. McLendon graduated from the University of Florida in 1989 and then from the Vanderbilt University School of Law in 1993. He is a practicing lawyer in the city of Franklin and also serves as the chairman of the city's capital investment projects committee and designee for the city to the Williamson County Wastewater Authority.

Shira McWaters, public works director for the city of Oak Ridge, died June 19, 2021, at the age of 60 after a short illness.



Shira McWaters

McWaters had been at the helm of the city's public works department since she joined the city in 2016. Prior to that, she spent nearly 23 years as an associate at Tata and Howard, Inc., a municipal and private water utility firm. She held a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Remembered as a "high-energy, involved leader" by City Manager Mark Watson, McWaters oversaw the establishment of a planned program for capital investment, upgrades to the city's wastewater plant, and the implementation of a strategy to replace the city's aging water filtration plant with the least financial impact to consumers. Public Works Utility Manager Patrick Berge has been appointed interim director of public works.

## Sen. Ken Yager selected as new TACIR chairman

State. Sen Ken Yager, R-Kingston, has been elected chairman of the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR).

Yager will take over leadership of the committee from Cleveland Mayor Kevin Brooks, who was appointed interim chair of TACIR after the death of previous chairman and state Rep. Mike Carter in May. Brooks was re-elected vice chairman of TA-CIR at the same meeting.

Yager has represented Tennessee State Senate District 12 in 2009. He has served as Republican Caucus Chairman in the Senate and is presently a member of the Commerce and Labor; State and Local Government; Joint Fiscal Review; and Finance, Ways, and Means committees.

Before that, he served as county executive of Roane County from 1982 and 2006, and as county attorney for Roane County from 1978 until 1982.

He holds a bachelor's degree and master's degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin and



State Sen. Ken Yager

a law degree from the University of Memphis.

TACIR's mission is to serve as a forum for the discussion and resolution of intergovernmental problems; provide high-quality research support to state and local government officials in order to improve the overall quality of government in Tennessee and to improve the effectiveness of the intergovernmental system to serve the citizens of Tennessee better.

### Joan Carter selected to fill late husband's District 29 House seat

Joan Carter has been appointed to hold the seat of her late husband state Rep. Mike Carter until an election can be held later this year.

Rep. Mike Carter, R-Ooltewah, died in May at the age of 67 after a battle with pancreatic cancer. His widow Joan was chosen by the Hamilton County Commission to fill the remainder of her husband's term representing District 29 in the Tennessee State House.

"Thank you commission for this honor. I consider this a true tribute to Mike's legacy." Carter said of her appointment. "When you're together as long as Mike and I were, you really grow together."

Gov. Bill Lee has scheduled a special election to be held for the seat with a primary on July 27 and a general election on Sept. 14 of this year. The successful can-



Rep. Joan Carter

didate from the election will then serve out the remainder of Carter's original term, which was due to end in November 2022.

Mike Carter had served in the Tennessee House since 2013 and previously served as a Hamilton County general sessions judge from 1997 until 2005.



## **Distribution of ARP Funds** not likely before end of July

### **ARP** from Page 1 information includes the following:

Local government name 1.

- Local government's Taxpayer 2.
- Identification Number
- Mailing address 3.
- DUNS number 4.
- A DUNS number is a unique nine-character number used to identify an organization and is issued by Dun & Bradstreet. The federal government uses the DUNS number to track how federal money is allocated. Registering for a DUNS number is free of charge.
- If your municipality does not have a valid DUNS number, please visit this page or call

1-866-705-5711 to begin the registration process.

5. Authorized representative name, title, phone and email

6. Financial institution information (e.g., routing and account number, financial institution name and contact information)

7. Total NEU budget (defined as the annual total operating budget, including general fund and other funds, in effect as of Jan. 27, 2020) 8. Signed award terms and conditions agreement (as provided by Treasury to be signed)

9. Assurances of compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (as provided by Treasury to be signed).

The Public Entity Partners' Safety Partners Matching Grant Program is designed to help qualified members purchase safety-related items aimed at reducing workers' compensation claims, including employee safety devices and equipment or employee education/training that is necessary to control employee safety hazards.

The application period for the Safety Partners Grant opens June 28. All PE Partners members with Workers' Compensation coverage through July 1, 202, are eligible to apply.

Public Entity Partners started the Safety Partners Matching Grant Program in 1997. Last year, 100 grants were awarded, which provided approximately \$185,000 in safety equipment and training.

"The Safety Grant funding helped provide us with safety equipment we needed," said Matthew White, fire chief for the city of Baxter.

"Thanks to Public Entity Partners for spending their valuable funds in fulfilling our grant application. We truly appreciate the time and funds to assist our fire department. This provides us with the opportunity to improve the safety of our members and enhance our overall firefighting capabilities."

While applications will be accepted June 28 through Aug. 20, grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Please visit www.pepartners.org for instructions on how to apply.

Chester Darden, assistant director of loss control for PE Partners, has long been an advocate for the Safety Partners Grant.

"I've seen firsthand the difference proper personal protective equipment makes for our members," he said. "During risk control surveys, I see members with training and equipment needs that could prevent an injury or accident. Every injury we are able to prevent or reduce means a local government employee can go home to his or her family. We talk about it a lot, but our vision is to make a difference in the lives of public entity employees and the citizens they serve. This grant has made a difference in improving safety and will continue to impact our members for years to come."

Public Entity Partners' grants and scholarships programs provide financial assistance to members, enabling them to purchase items and seek training opportunities to increase their knowledge of risk management and loss control techniques.

For questions about Public Entity Partners' grants and scholarships program, please contact Tahtia Mitchell at TMitchell@ PEPartners.org or 615-371-0049.

## **Safety Partners Grant Application Window: June 28th – August 20th** FOUNPATION PLAN. 5916 59/2 Applications will be considered in the order they are received Visit www.pepartners.org for more information PUBLIC ENTITY PARTNERS



The Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR) has voted to begin a comprehensive study on litter pollution in the state. The Tennessee Wildlife Federation advocated for the study saying that despite the \$15 million in taxpayer money spent to clean up litter in the state each year, the Tennessee River contains more microplastics per gallon than any other river in the world. The group says the litter has negative economic consequences, such as giving tourists a negative perception of the state and costing \$60 million a year in agricultural damage. The new study will include the sources and composition of litter, financial and environmental costs, and the economic opportunities of recovering waste.

Tennessee has the fourth highest rate of childhood obesity of any state in the nation, according to a new survey conducted by financial planning website 24/7 Wall Street. The survey found the state had the third highest rate of youth who were overweight at 18.3% and the second lowest number of communities who promote physical activity among youth at 47.8%. Tennessee ranked in the bottom seven states when it came to park access with only 58.1% of Tennessee children having easy access to a public park or playground. The state also had the ninth highest childhood poverty rate, ninth highest overall poverty rate, and ninth lowest median household income.

An estimated 20.9% of high school students in the state are overweight and less than half of the state's youth (44.1%) engage in some type of physical activity at least five times a week.

Cougars and alligators are moving into Tennessee, according to new evidence from the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA). Species that are expanding their ranges into the state are protected and therefore cannot be hunted under state law. Cougars and alligators are also both protected species by state law. TWRA said that alligators are moving into the state of their own accord rather than through human intervention, though there is no evidence of breeding alligators within the state borders.

TNECD is partnering with Heartland Forward to get eligible Tennesseans connected to affordable internet through the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program. The program utilizes federal COVID-19 relief funding to provide eligible households discounts of up to \$50 a month on home internet service, making the service more affordable and accessible for qualifying low-income families. The program also offers a \$100 discount toward the purchase of a laptop, computer or tablet from a participating provider. For more information, visit https://www.fcc. gov/broadbandbenefit.

## 24 Tennessee cities awarded TDEC parks and recreation grants

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has announced 24 municipalities will benefit from grants for park and recreation improvements, including a number of ADA compliance projects.

TDEC recently announced \$7,584,530 will be awarded to communities throughout the state from the Local Parks and Recreation Fund (LPRF) program and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program. The state is also awarding \$1,892,642 in grants from the Recreation Trails Program (RTP).

Ardmore will receive \$37,500 in funds for improvements to Ardmore City Park, including the expansion of an existing splash pad and playground improvements as well as adding ADA features like walkways, parking spaces, and ramps.

The city of **Clinton** received \$500,000 for a project to reconfigure and renovate the municipal pool compound. The present pool will be replaced with a smaller, ADA-compliant pool and adjacent splash pad while the existing bathhouse and entrance will receive ADA upgrades.

**Cleveland** received \$500,000 for the development of the Candies Creek Park in the western area of the city, including the construction of a 16,500-squarefoot ADA-compliant playground, pavilion, restrooms, fishing ponds, entrance, and parking lot.

The town of **Collierville** was granted \$500,000 for the paving of an existing trail and parking area as well as for the development of an accessible playground to include a ramp, climbers, slides, net climbers, platform, and town overlooks. The funds will also provide a permanent stage cover, accessible ramps, electrical service, and lighting to the town's existing amphitheater.

Elizabethton received \$500,000 for enhancements at Covered Bridge Park. Renovations will include enhanced entrances on both sides of the bridge and park, a new ADA-compliant pavilion and restroom, ADA-compliant parking and paths, ADA-compliant picnic tables, fencing, lighting/electrical upgrades, and the planting of trees. A \$500,000 grant will be used

to develop a park at the site of the future Liberty Creek School campus in Gallatin. Plans for the project include construction of a pavilion with restrooms, three overlooks with shade structures, benches, picnic tables, trailhead parking with kiosk, signage, fencing, lighting, landscape, and signalized crossing. The work will include nature trails, mowed grass paths, accessible pathways, trails, and an amphitheater. Goodlettsville has received a \$350,000 parks and recreation grant for a playground at the city's Peay Park from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). The funds will be used to help develop the Rachel's Garden inclusive playground at Peay Park. The 9,231-square-foot playground will be enclosed with an approximately 420-foot fenced area. The park is named in honor of Rachel West, the daughter of retired Goodlettsville Fire Captain Ricky West. The city of Grand Junction received \$116,000 in recreation trails grant funding to create a looping walking path, trailhead, and parking area at the city's park. Halls received a \$280,000



Elizabethton's Covered Bridge Park is one of 24 cities that will benefit from parks and recreation grants recently awarded by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). Elizabethton received \$500,000 for enhancements to Covered Bridge Park with renovations to both the bridge and park being financed. Many of the grant funds went to helping make ADA-compliant improvements to various parks, playgrounds, ballfields, and walking trails across the state.

grant to add energy-efficient LED lighting to ballfield at Crichfield Park.

A \$94,152 grant was awarded to make ADA compliance upgrades to the Trey Park Complex in **Hartsville**. Originally built in 1998, the grant will finance upgrades including the improvement of ramps to meet ADA requirements, replacement of a sidewalk, and the extension of a sidewalk to a presently inaccessible pavilion.

The town of **Huntsville** received \$342,500 to develop property adjacent to Huntsville City Park. Plans for the 14-acre property include a large pavilion, parking area, walkways connecting to the existing park, the installation of turf and a shade sail at the existing playground, and paving.

**Jackson's** Middle Fork Bottoms will see the development of a trailhead, restroom facilities, information kiosk, boardwalk, overlooks, educational signage, site fixtures, and site access control as the result of a \$400,000 grant to parking, and door features that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as well as larger kitchen and assembly areas and new storage rooms.

A \$499,378 grant will benefit the town of **Luttrell**. The grant will be used for land clearing, drainage, erosion control, and stockpiling, placing, and spreading topsoil, parking, adding an entrance road and gravel parking lot, providing ADA-compliant parking, trails, restrooms, concessions facilities, soccer fields and a playground.

**Manchester** has received \$500,000 for LED light installation at three softball fields in Dave King Park and three baseball fields in Fred Deadman Park.

The **Memphis** River Parks Partnership received \$800,000 for a new pedestrian path to link the southern and northern portions of the River Edge Trail, which will include access to the Civic Gateway fountain, restrooms, fitness stations, and elevate access to overlooks of the Mississippi River

# May revenues \$432M more than budgeted estimate

Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration Commissioner Butch Eley announced that revenues for May were \$1.6 billion, which is \$432 million more than the budgeted monthly revenue estimate.

State tax revenues were \$587.3 million more than May 2020 and the overall growth rate was 59.8%.

"Just as April tax revenue receipts revealed substantial growth, May state tax revenues continue to reflect extraordinary increases compared to this same time last year when most economic activity was weakened because of the pandemic," Eley said. "When comparing more than the estimate and the year-to-date growth rate is 49.87%. Gasoline and motor fuel revenues for May increased by 55.37% compared to May 2020, and they were \$7.7 million more than the budgeted estimate of \$100.7 million. For ten months, revenues are less than estimates by \$11.1 million.

Hall income tax revenues for May were \$36 million more than the budgeted estimate as the tax filing deadline for this tax was extended into this month. For ten months, revenues are \$22.5 million less than the budgeted estimate.

Tobacco tax revenues were \$5 million more than the May budgeted estimate of \$19 million. For ten months, they are \$14.6 million more than the budgeted estimate. Privilege tax revenues were \$29.4 million more than the May estimate, and on a year-to-date basis, August through May, revenues are \$101.8 million more than the estimate. Business tax revenues were \$8.1 million more than the May estimate. For ten months, revenues are \$43.2 million more than the budgeted estimate. Motor vehicle registration revenues were \$1.9 million more than the May estimate, and on a year-to-date basis, revenues are \$15.5 million more than the estimate. Mixed drink, or Liquor-bythe-drink, taxes were \$0.8 million more than the May estimate. For ten months, revenues are \$23.9 million less than the budgeted estimate. All other tax revenues were less than estimates by a net of \$0.8 million. Year-to-date revenues for ten months were \$2,444.6 million more than the budgeted estimate. The general fund recorded \$2,339.2 million more than the budgeted estimate and the four other funds were \$105.4 million more than estimated.

May 2021 tax growth to May 2019, the monthly growth is 34.5 percent rather than the 59.8% growth over May 2020.

"May sales tax revenues, reflecting April taxable sales activity, grew across all industries except for groceries and food stores, which experienced a minor reduction. Corporate taxes, represented as franchise and excise taxes, exhibited the second largest monthly growth year-to-date. Also notable is that income taxes, normally due in April, are included in this month's receipts due to a filing deadline extension. While the year-to-date revenue balance continues to advance, we will continue adhering to the conservative management of our budget as we approach the end of the fiscal year. We must continue to acknowledge the role that federal funds and inflation are playing in this already volatile economy.'

On an accrual basis, May is the tenth month in the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

General fund revenues were more than the budgeted estimates in the amount of \$392.8 million and the four other funds that share in state tax revenues were \$39.2 million more than the estimates.

Sales tax revenues were \$258 million more than the estimate for May and were 51.21% more than May 2020. For ten months, revenues are \$1,483.8 million higher than estimated. The year-to-date growth rate is 14.08%. Remote sales and marketplace facilitator laws contributed \$54.9 million to sales tax receipts in the month of April. For nine months, online sales tax revenues represent 36.55% of all sales tax growth to the state. Franchise and excise tax revenues

Franchise and excise tax revenues combined were \$85.9 million greater than the budgeted estimate in May, and the growth rate compared to May 2020 was 127.76%. For ten months, revenues are \$851 million the West Tennessee River Basin Authority.

The city of **Kenton** received \$94,915 for a new Little League ballfield and the renovation of an existing field as well as new ADA-compliant parking and access paths. Milan will utilize a \$500,000 grant to renovate two ball fields and add ADA-compliant parking and sidewalk improvements.

LaFollette will use a \$250,000 grant to develop an ADA-compliant amphitheater with walkways, parking, and lighting upgrades at the city's Liberty Park.

The city of **La Vergne** received a \$161,501 grant for the development of a new neighborhood park in the Brookside neighborhood. The proposed location is on the east end of Peak Top Trail and will connect to the end of the Brookside Greenway. The park design includes a playground, shelter, soccer practice field, and additional parking.

**Loretto** received \$412,981 for the renovation of the Loretto Community Center at Loretto City Park, which will include restrooms, in the tree canopy.

**Middleton** will use \$100,050 in grant funding to renovate Middleton City Park, including work on a concessions and restroom building, repairs to walls, painting, and improvements to walking paths and a parking lot.

The city of **Spring Hill** received a \$321,115 parks and recreation grant to enhance the Walnut Street Skate Park by adding four pickle ball courts and restroom facilities and improve Fischer Park at Port Royal by adding an ADA)-compliant mobility track with cornhole, lighting, irrigation, and field restoration.

The city of **White House** has received a \$500,000 grant for the expansion of the W.L. Anderson Sports Complex on Old Highway 31. The funding will install a new ADA-compliant parking area, pavilion, and pathways. The town of **White Pine** will receive \$139,437.50 for improvements at Lions Park including installing an LED system on a multipurpose field, replacing existing lights in the parking areas, and field renovations and improvements.



## CLASSIFIED ADS

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

### ASSISTANT CITY ENGINEER

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

### ASSISTANT CITY RECORDER

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

### **CITY ENGINEER**

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

million general fund budget and 68 full-time and 25 part-time employees in administration, police, fire, public works, and finance. Red Bank (11,651 pop ) is geographically surrounded by the city of Chattanooga in Hamilton County. Located within ten minutes of downtown Chattanooga, it is conveniently located near a large retail center, quality health care facilities, higher education institutions, fine dining, and a metropolitan airport. The minimum requirement for this opportunity is a bachelor's degree, with a preferred focus in public administration, management, business administration or closely related field. A master's degree is preferred. A minimum of five years of municipal leadership experience as a city manager or manager of a public agency or department with related duties is required. Salary commensurate with education, experience, and marketplace conditions. The city offers a comprehensive benefits package including participation in the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (TCRS). Interested applicants must submit a resume, cover letter and professional references to: City of Red Bank, Attn: Tracey Perry, 3105 Dayton Blvd, Red Bank, TN 37415 or submit by email to tperry@redbanktn.gov. Initial review of applications will occur in June/July 2021. Direct questions to Honna Rogers, MTAS Management Consultant, at: honna.rogers@tennessee.edu. Applications are subject to public disclosure. EOE / TN Drug Free Workplace.

**CODES ENFORCEMENT OFFICER** MONTEREY. The Town of Monterey will be accepting applications for a part-time certified codes enforcement officer until Friday, July 2 at 4:00 p.m. Applications can be picked up and turned in at Monterey City Hall, 302 E. Commercial Avenue, Monterey, TNMonday – Friday between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The Town of Monterey reserves the right to reject any and/or all applications. EOE.

#### **CODES INSPECTOR**

SHELBYVILLE. The city of Shelbyville is accepting applications for the full-time position of codes inspector for the building and codes department. The codes inspector is responsible for technical work in the enforcement of building and zoning codes and city and state ordinances. Must be a high school graduate or possess equivalent. Excellent communication skills, both verbal and written. ICC/State of Tennessee Residential Building Inspector certification, ICC/State of Tennessee Residential Mechanical Inspector, and ICC/State of Tennessee Residential Plumbing Inspector certifications preferred, or ability to obtain within 2 years of employment. This is a full-time position with an hourly rate of \$18.88. The city provides a comprehensive benefits package. Applications and a complete job description may be picked up at city hall during normal business hours or download from the city website: www.shelbyvilletn.org. Applications must be returned to City Hall Administration Office, 201 Spring Street or submitted online and will be accepted until position is filled.EOE / drug free workplace. Successful applicants required to pass background check, physical, and drug screen.

### **DEPUTY TOWN ENGINEER**

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

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

### FINANCE DIRECTOR.

BRISTOL. The city of Bristol, TN, with a budget of \$70 million, is seeking a well-rounded professional with proven leadership skills to serve as the finance director. This position is responsible for planning, directing and supervising the city's financial management, including financial planning and reporting, account practices, revenue collections, cash management and internal controls. Position reports to the city manager. Full understanding of accounting principles, GAAP, GASB, and financial management systems (including Excel) with strong interpersonal, organizational, supervisory, and decision-making skills required. Must be a team player who can work well with other city departments, the city manager, outside agencies and the public. Bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, or public administration, or a related field; supplemented by five or more years of progressively responsible work experience in finance, with demonstrated administrative and management skills; or an equivalent combination of education, training, and experience. CPA, Master's Degree, CMFO, and/or CPFO preferred. The successful candidate can expect a competitive benefits package with an annual salary range of \$67,377 to \$104,434. Salary offered will be dependent on qualifications. To read more about the city of Bristol, TN. the position and to apply, candidates must complete an online application and upload a resume at: http://bristoltn.org/jobs.aspx.

#### FIREFIGHTERS

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

### FOOD BUSINESS INCUBATOR INTERIM DIRECTOR

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

Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Position will remain open until filled. EOE.

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR BRENTWOOD. The city of Brentwood seeking candidates for an experienced human resources director. The purpose of this job is to provide leadership to the city by serving as an advisor to management and employee advocate and ensuring legal compliance and implementation of the organizations mission and talent strategy. This is accomplished through developing and offering a comprehensive line of personnel services, including collaborating and advising management on compliance with legal requirements and city policy, supervising the HR and payroll functions and staff, overseeing the recruitment/staffing and retention of qualified talent, developing and maintaining competitive compensation and benefits plan, providing effective employee relations through the development and communications of effective policies and procedures including discipline and termination, developing and delivering effective employee training and organizational development activities and coordinating strategies to maintain a safe and healthy work environment free from discrimination and harassment. Bachelor's degree in human resources, business administration, or related field required. Related master's degree preferred. A minimum of 5-years of senior management experience in human resources, or related, preferably in a local government environment. Strong human relations and customer services skill and advanced proficiency with MS Office, specifically with MS Excel required. Must be technically competent in general business practices and in all functional areas of human resources. Or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Starting salary range is \$97K-\$120K DOQ plus excellent benefits including free medical insurance, pension plan and 401K match. To apply: complete job description and apply by June 30, 2021, at City of Brentwood. (brentwoodtn.gov)

### PAYROLL/HUMAN RESOURCES SPECIALIST

BRENTWOOD. The city of Brentwood has an immediate opening for an experienced payroll/HR specialist. This position reports to the human resources director and is primarily responsible for all aspects of processing the city's bi-weekly payroll for approximately 325 employees using a proprietary system. Also responsible for ensuring all payroll deductions are accurately reconciled and reported to the general ledger, filing payroll taxes and providing reports to various internal clients, outside agencies and state and federal jurisdictions as related to payroll. A minimum of five years of payroll processing experience required, with responsibility of the total payroll process. Bachelor's degree in business administration or related preferred. Prior related human resources/benefits experience helpful preferably in local government environment. Starting salary range is \$49K-\$61K DOO plus excellent benefits including free medical insurance, pension plan and 401K match. To apply: complete job description and apply by June 30, 2021, at City of Brentwood (brentwoodtn.gov)

### POLICE CHIEF

ARDMORE, ALA. The city and town of Ardmore are accepting applications for CERTIFIED ONLY candidates for police chief. Eligible applicants must be certified as a police officer in either Alabama or Tennessee, possess a valid driver license, have a high school diploma or GED, no felony convictions and be able to successfully pass psychological and physical exams as well as a drug screen. Starting salary is \$45,000. Must be capable of obtaining certification in the state not already certified. At least five years police officer experience required. Supervisory experience is a plus. Applications are available by contacting the City Hall at 931-427-2124, 25844 Main Street, Ardmore, TN or the Town Hall at 256-423-3011, 26494 1st Street, Ardmore, Alabama. Applications and/or resumes must be received by July 19, 2021.

extensive experience in professional planning preferably in municipal government or equivalent combination of education and experience. AICP certification is preferred but not required. In addition, the successful candidate should be detail oriented, possess excellent communication, problem solving and time management skills. Minimum annual salary is \$60,449.79 DOQ. The city of Maryville offers a comprehensive benefits package including health, dental and vision insurance, life insurance, retirement pension with the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System, Section 457 plan, Roth IRA and 24hour access to on-site fully equipped fitness center. Deadline to apply: Initial review of applicants will begin on June 21, 2021. The position is open until filled. Applications are available at the City of Maryville Municipal Center, Human Resources, 400 W. Broadway or on our website www.maryvillegov.com/ jobs.html.EOE

### **TOWN PLANNER**

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

### TOWN RECORDER

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

#### TOWN RECORDER.

PEGRAM. The town of Pegram is accepting resumes for town recorder and intends to fill the position and provide in depth training for an extended period of time with the current town recorder, who is retiring. This position is fulltime and will report to the mayor of Pegram. Interested parties should submit their resume, including references, to the Town of Pegram at PO Box 249, Pegram, TN, 37143 or email mayor@pegram.net; recorder@pegram.net General responsibilities of the Town Recorder include, but are not limited to: Oversight and maintenance of the town financial accounts; purchasing; payroll; cash management; tax and business licensure. Candidates must have a high school diploma or GED. Preference will be given to those holding a post-secondary degree or those with direct professional fiscal experience. Applicants will be required to successfully complete the Certified Municipal Financial Officer certification and the state of Tennessee Clerk and Recorder certification within the state timeframe. Further, interested candidates should be self-motivated, analytical, organized, have exemplary customer service, written, and communications skills. Proficiency in general office software including Word, Excel, and Adobe is preferred. EOE / Drug Free Workplace.

#### **CITY MANAGER**

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

### CITY MANAGER

RED BANK. The city of Red Bank is seeking applicants for the position of city manager who works under the general direction of the commission. The city manager oversees city operations with an approximately \$7

#### ELECTRIC UTILITY DIRECTOR

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

### EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/ MUNICIPAL COURT CLERK

EAGLEVILLE. The city of Eagleville is hiring an executive assistant/municipal clerk/court clerk. This position is full-time and non-exempt. The position is 40 hours a

### HORTICULTURIST

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

### POLICE CHIEF

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

### PRINCIPAL PLANNER

MARYVILLE. The city of Maryville is seeking a principal planner in the Planning Division of the Development Services department. This is a supervisory position overseeing the daily functions of the Planning Division. The position performs difficult professional and technical work managing the city's planning program, assembling and analyzing social, economic and other data for city planning activities, preparing short- and long-range planning documents, supervising and assisting the city's land use planning staff in the processing of land use and zoning applications and requests, preparing documentation for relevant boards and commissions, maintaining case files and related work as apparent or assigned. Reports to the deputy development services director. Minimum qualifications include a master's degree in urban planning, public administration or a related field and

### TOURISM, MARKETING CONSULTANT

SHELBYVILLE. The city of Shelbyville seeks to retain the services of a professional consultant to develop a comprehensive tourism and marketing department for the city. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to: development of policies and procedures for department; preparation of a Tourism and Marketing Plan; seek grants and other funding as may be identified to assist with the plan; work with the Tourism Advisory Board to seek, review, and grant community support grants for tourism. Work with local attractions, events, and businesses to market our community and to promote tourism. Submit a letter of interest along with qualifications to Mrs. Lori Saddler, Purchasing Agent, 201 North Spring Street, Shelbyville, TN 37160. Mustbe received by the Purchasing Agent on or before 11:00 a.m. CST, Friday July 2. Factors that will be considered in evaluation are: experience in required disciplines; experience in department development; experience in effective communication; understanding of our community and the region; understanding of local, regional, and national tourism & marketing approaches. The city council has allocated \$25,000 within the FY22 budget to hire a consultant to assist the city in the development of a Tourism & Marketing Department. This consultant will work under the direction of the city manager as the sole contract employee of the Tourism & Marketing Department. The consultant will have an office space provided that will include phone services, computer services, internet services, and printing services. The requested length of a contract will be approximately 1 year, effectively ending on June 30, 2022. Over the course of the contact, the consultant will work with the city manager to establish the policies and procedures for the department. The consultant will also be responsible for establishing contacts within the community to effectively create partnerships that will form the foundation of long-term success for the city of Shelbyville. Upon selection, a specific professional services agreement shall be negotiated based upon the scope of work proposed. For more detail concerning this RFQ and proposed scope of work, please contact City Manager Josh Ray at 931.684.2691 (ext. 114) or via email at josh. ray@shelbyvilletn.org. EOE.

### Tennessee Municipal League 2020-2021 Officers and Directors

PRESIDENT **Mike Werner** Mayor, Gatlinburg VICE PRESIDENTS Ken Moore Mayor, Franklin **Bobby King** Mayor, Henderson **Ron Williams** Mayor, Farragut DIRECTORS Paige Brown, Mayor, Gallatin **Randy Childs** Councilman, Kingston (District 2) Vance Coleman Mayor, Medina John Cooper Mayor, Metro Nashville W.T. Daniels Mayor, Greeneville Mike French Alderman, Somerville (District 7) **Blake Lay** Mayor, Lawrenceburg (District 6) **Terry Jones** Mayor, Millington (District 8) Tim Kelly Mayor, Chattanooga Indya Kincannon Mayor, Knoxville Katie Lamb Mayor, Collegedale (District 3) **Christa Martin** Vice Mayor, Columbia **Keith McDonald** Mayor, Bartlett Wade Morrell President-CEO, TN Municipal Bond Fund **Todd Smith** City Manager, Greeneville (District 1) Jim Strickland Mayor, Memphis Mary Ann Tremblay Vice Mayor, Three Way PAST PRESIDENTS Jill Holland (2019) Mayor, McKenzie WallaceCartwright(2018)Mayor,Shelbyville Bo Perkinson (2017) Vice Mayor, Athens John Holden (2016) Mayor, Dyersburg Curtis Hayes (2015) Mayor, Livingston Dale Kelley (2013) Mayor, Huntingdon Kay Senter (2011) Morristown Vice Mayor

AFFILIATE DIRECTORS Tracy Baker, Sevierville (TCMA) **TMLAFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS** (Ex-Officio Directors) TN Assn. of Air Carrier Airports TN Building Officials Assn. TN Assn. of Chiefs of Police TN Assn. Municipal Clerks & Recorders TN Government Finance Officers Assn. TN Fire Chiefs Assn. **TN Fire Safety Inspectors** TN Assn. of Floodplain Management TN Assn. Housing & Redevel. Auth. TN Municipal Attorneys Assn. TN Municipal Judges Conference TN Chapter, American Public Works TN Recreation and Parks Assn. TN Chapter, American Planning TN Personnel Management Assn. TN Assn. of Public Purchasing TN Section, Institute of Transport TN Public Transportation Assoc. Assoc. Independent & Municipal Schools TN Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council

Sam Tharpe (2010) Commissioner, Paris

Tommy Pedigo (2009) Councilman, Morristown

TN Urban Forestry Council

## Legislation introduced to protect MSAs

MSAs from Page 1

and significant effect on the cities of Morristown, Cleveland and Jackson, as it would alter their current designation and jeopardize their eligibility status for valued federal programs and grants," said Anthony Haynes, TML executive director. "However, our concerns are not just limited to these three Tennessee cities."

TML is also concerned about the combined effect of the reclassification of not only these three Tennessee cities, but of the reclassification of 144 cities of similar size across the nation on Tennessee's smaller, more rural cities and towns. This combination will likely result in Tennessee's smaller cities being in direct competition with these three larger Tennessee cities for a share of what is likely to be a reduced allocation of federal assistance designated for non-Metropolitan communities in Tennessee.

"Should the MSA or urban areas be redefined, Tennessee's more rural communities would be competing with much larger, urban communities for federal funding," said Haynes. "This competition would likely impact not only the amount of federal resources to individual communities within Tennessee but also the total amount distributed to all Tennessee cities as the definitional change would recategorize cities in other states as well. Many smaller communities in Tennessee currently lack organic resources for necessary investments and improvements, and these communities rely on federal assistance to grow their cities and towns."

On Jan. 19, 2021, OMB issued a notice and request for public comment on a set of recommendations from the Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Area Standards



The Metropolitan and Micropolitan Area Standards Review Committee is recommending an increase to the minimum urban area threshold from 50,000 to 100,000 people.

• This increase would recategorize three Tennessee cities from metropolitan to micropolitan, and it would place these larger, more urban areas into the same status as much smaller, very rural communities.

- o Morristown, TN 30,193 population
- o Cleveland, TN 45,504 population
- o Jackson, TN 67,191 population

o Average size of the 318 non-MSA municipalities in TN is 3,653.

• Two primary funding sources frequently cited as being affected by MSA designations are Federal and Highway Transportation dollars and Community Development Block Grants. These dollars support programs for low and moderate-income people, public transportation projects, economic development, water and sewer projects, public health programs, and the elimination of slums and blight.

• Should the MSA or urban areas be redefined, Tennessee's more rural communities would be competing with much larger, urban communities for federal funding. This competition would likely impact not only the amount of federal resources to individual communities within Tennessee but also the total amount distributed to all Tennessee cities as the definitional change would recategorize cities in other states as well (144 nationwide). Many smaller communities in Tennessee currently lack organic resources for necessary investments and improvements, and these communities rely on federal assistance to grow their cities and towns.

Review Committee to revise certain requirements for communities to be classified as an MSA. Among other things, the recommendations would increase the minimum urban area population needed to qualify as an MSA from 50,000 to 100,000.

In addition to filing formal comments with the OMB, TML has contacted members of the Tennessee Congressional delegation stating our opposition and requesting their assistance with the proposed changes. They, too, have filed comments with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) asking that they halt any upcoming rulemaking until the end of the pandemic and to work with Congress and stakeholder to implement updated statistics as appropriate.

"These communities, which have been ravaged by the pandemic, would face increased competition among rural communities for scarce funds. Many of these areas are burgeoning manufacturing, technology, and workforce hubs, but companies may choose to invest in other MSAs if these communities were downgraded," stated U.S. Sens. Marsha Blackburn and Bill Hagerty, and U.S. Reps. Chuck Fleischmann, Diana Harshbarger, and David Kustoff.

TML greatly appreciates their support in this matter.



### July 2-3: Smithville

49th Annual Smithville Fiddlers' Jamboree and Crafts Festival Downtown Smithville hosts this annual event that pays homage to bluegrass, old time Appalachian music and dance, and traditional crafts. Each day features more than 35 music and dance categories as well as craft and food vendors. The free family festival has been named the official Jamboree and Crafts Festival of the state of Tennessee. Learn more at <u>http://smithvillejamboree.com/.</u>

### July 9-18: Gatlinburg

Gatlinburg Craftsmen's Fair The talented artists will showcase their original works in jewelry, wood, pottery, leather, clothing/ fabric, hair accessories, apothecary, glass, paintings, mixed media, photography, food, and more. In addition, there will be music, kid's corner, demonstrations, and more. For more info, visit <u>https://</u> <u>craftsmenfair.com/</u>

### July 10: Cookeville

Cookeville Watermelon Crawl Festival

Cookeville Watermelon Crawl Festival will be held on July 10th, 2021. This festival will feature 125+ arts and crafts vendors, local small businesses, food vendors, boutiques and more. Also enjoy live music. Free admission. For more info, visit <u>https://www.facebook.com/events/155-fairgroundst-cookeville-tn-38501-unitedstates/watermelon-crawl-festival/501306010887015/</u>

### July 10: Cumberland Gap

Stroll with the Masters Arts Festival

Meet some of the most famous artists from the past creating their signature masterpieces as interpreted by members of the Cumberland Gap Aritsts Co-op. The event will feature an insight into the lives of Van Gogh, Picasso, Ansel Adams, Mary Cassatt, and Bob Ross. Learn more at <u>https://www.cumberlandgapartistscoop.com/</u>

## NATIONAL BRIEFS

A new federal holiday – Juneteenth-hasbeen added to the calendar. President Joe Biden signed the law creating the holiday after a measure was overwhelmingly passed since Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was established in 1983.

U.S. retail sales dropped more than expected in May as COVID-19 restrictions were lessened allowing for sales in other sectors. The U.S. Commerce Department reported that May retails sales fell 1.3% despite a surge of 28.1% on a yearon-year basis. Instead, more money is being spent on air travel, hotel accommodation, dining out, and entertainment. Other retail sales, like motor vehicles and electronics, were hampered by shortages that have limited production. Consumer spending, which accounts for more than two-thirds of U.S. economic activity, grew at a 11.3% annualized rate in the first quarter. Another quarter of strong growth is anticipated, and most economists are forecasting double-digit GDP growth in the second quarter.

the COVID-19 pandemic, largely due to a lack of support and rise in unemployment triggered by the pandemic. The U.S. recorded 90,722 overdose deaths in 2020, well above the 70,630 recorded the previous year. Many of the overdose deaths were those who had relapsed after support services were canceled or went online during the pandemic or those who experienced stresses like job loss during the pandemic. Other Americans feeling pressured by the pandemic tried drugs for the first time. Three-fourths of overdose deaths in the country are related to opioid abuse. Another reason for the increase in opioid-related deaths is due to the prevalence of fentanyl, which was present in more than 80% of opioid-related deaths in 2020. The opioid crisis cost the U.S. more than \$2.5 trillion from 2015 to 2018 and is the leading reason why American men are declining in participation in the American labor market, according to federal data.



TN Stormwater Assn

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#### TML STAFF

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in Congress to commemorate the date. Juneteenth will be celebrated annually on June 19, commemorating the day on June 19, 1865, when Union soldiers brought news of the emancipation proclamation to enslaved people in Texas, some two-and-a-half years after they had been freed through the Emancipation Proclamation and more than two months after the Civil War had officially ended. The day has long been celebrated by African-Americans throughout the U.S. and is already observed as a state holiday in 38 states, starting with Texas in 1980. Juneteenth is the first new federal holiday

Opioid deaths increased during

Sept. 1-3, 2021 *TCMA Fall Conference* Chattanooga

**Sept. 15 -17, 2021** *TAMCAR Fall Conference* Franklin

Sept. 18-21, 2021 *TML Annual Conference* Chattanooga

Sept. 21-23, 2021 NRPA Annual Conference Nashville



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# TML Board of Directors hold June meeting





Members of the Tennessee Municipal League Board of Directors listen to a presentation about legislative successes and upcoming goals for the league at the June Board of Directors meeting held in Nashville.

TML Executive Director Anthony Haynes gives his director's report to the board.



TML Third Vice-President and Farragut Mayor Ron Williams with TML Past President and Athens Mayor Bo Perkinson.



TML District 3 Director and Collegedale Mayor Katie Lamb with TML Second Vice-President and Henderson Mayor Bobby King.





**Above**: TML Deputy Director Chad Jenkins makes a presentation about TML's activity during the 2021 Legislative Session as TML President and Gatlinburg Mayor Mike Werner and TML Executive Director Anthony Haynes follow along.

**Right:** TML Past President and Livingston Mayor Curtis Hayes with Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund President and CEO Wade Morrell.



**Above**: TML At-Large Director and Gallatin Mayor Paige Brown with TML Past President and Morristown Vice Mayor Kay Senter.

**Right**: TML Past President and Paris Commissioner Sam Tharpe with University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service Executive Director Margaret Norris.

TML Past President and Dyersburg Mayor John Holden with TML District 7 Director and Somerville Alderman Mike French.



