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Volume 72, Number 5

March 29, 2021

portion of our CARES money and

put it in our unemployment trust fund because of the rapid use of

TN leaders tout positive economic recovery at Legislative Conference

By KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

Gov. Bill Lee, Lt. Gov. Randy McNally, House Speaker Cameron Sexton, and Comptroller Jason Mumpower were among the state leaders who discussed the important issues facing Tennessee and its municipalities at the TML Legislative Conference held both virtually and in-person on March 15, 2021.

With participants both online and in the conference room of the Tennessee State Comptroller's Office at the Cordell Hull Building, speakers hit on a variety of topics including the state budget, education, tax revenues, rural development, economic recovery, healthcare, and forthcoming federal stimulus dollars.

Gov. Bill Lee said the state has faced numerous challenges since March 2020 including tornados, the pandemic, civil unrest, and economic concerns.

"It has not been an easy year for you or any person in a leadership role right now," Lee said. "It has certainly been a challenging year. But at the same time, it has created the opportunity for us to make decision that we think – together collectively with city leaders, our office, and the Legislature – will have a positive impact on Tennessee as we navigate through some tough waters."

Lee highlighted how the state has maintained its commitment to low taxes, investing in financial reserves, and responsible management of funding despite the ongoing financial concerns created by the pandemic. Unlike nearly half the states in the U.S., Tennessee's unemployment trust fund has remained solvent during this time.

"We have directly sent \$200 million to businesses out of that



Lt. Gov Rancy McNally reported on the fiscal health of the state.



CARES money and \$150 million to nonprofits," Lee said. "We set up an additional recovery grant program, the SURGE program, that has \$150 million set aside. We role municipalities have in the sta and the distribution of federal st recognize one of the most important things we needed to do use protect

recognize one of the most important things we needed to do was protect our businesses in the midst of this difficult economic time, so we made the decision to take the largest

Communication boards aim to include all at Spring Hill parks



Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee addressed 350 city officials via ZOOM during TML's 2021 Virtual Legislative Conference.



House Speaker Cameron Sexton discussed the state's economic recovery from the pandemic.

At left: Comptroller Jason Mumpower talked the importat role municipalities have in the state's overall financial health and the distribution of federal stimulus funds.

TN Comptroller releases initial guidance to cities on American Rescue Plan Act

The U.S. Congress has passed the "American Rescue Plan Act" (Act) of 2021. Provisions of the Act include \$130.2 billion for a Local Fiscal Recovery Fund to be split between cities and counties, as well as \$122.7 billion for an Education Stabilization Fund, which states are required to subgrant to local education agencies. At this time, the state is uncertain as to the exact amount of funding that will be made available to Tennessee local governments and to the State Department of Education. Some of this money will be sent directly to local governments from the U.S. Treasury and other funds will flow through the state. One half of Local Fiscal Recovery funds are to be made available within the next 60 days, with the second half to be provided 12 months later. Local governments will have until Dec. 31, 2024, to spend the funds. As a local government entity, cities should be preparing for another large influx of federal funds. As with the CARES Act, specific guidance as to eligibility and spending requirements is not yet available and may not be received before funds begin to be distributed. The Comptroller's Office is waiting for further directions from the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and other federal and state agencies.

Comptroller's Office is providing the following information:

1. Funds received related to provisions of the Act should be main-

the dollars in that fund and nearly 16% unemployment. We knew if we could keep that trust fund solvent that the rates that employers pay for unemployment trust insurance would not go up." As a result, Lee said Tennessee is one of seven states in America that has had a positive economic return

has had a positive economic return since April 2020, which will allow the state to move forward with other priorities like healthcare, mental health resources, broadband expansion, and supporting businesses and communities.

Lee also said he would like to see more strong investments in foster care services, adoption services, health services for families, modernizing TANF, and other issues that impact children and families.

House Speaker Cameron Sexton discussed issues including the state's budget, education, property taxes, and economic recovery from the pandemic. Sexton said he believes the Legislature is in favor of a proposal from Gov. Bill Lee to allocate \$200 million in state funds in the form of local government grants.

"Whether it will be the whole \$200 million, I'm not sure," he said. "There will be some amount that will go to the cities and counties. I would just say to be cautious and not budget what you think you are going to get. Last time when the governor proposed this, we changed the formula to help the smaller and *See* **CONFERENCE** on Page 3

By KATE COIL

A new project is hoping to create ease of access for patrons with disabilities at parks across the city of Spring Hill.

The city will be installing communication boards on the perimeter of the playgrounds at Harvey Park, Evans Park, and Fischer Park at Port Royal.

The project was started by Allyssa VelDink, a speech language pathologist at Arise Therapies in Spring Hill who specializes in augmentative and alternative communication device (AAC) therapy. Arise Therapies partnered with the Kiwanis Club of Spring Hill/ Thompson's Station and the city of Spring Hill to install the boards at parks across the city.

Kayce Williams, parks and recreation director for the city of Spring Hill, said the partnership is an example of Spring Hill residents coming together with the city for the benefit of everyone involved.

'Our city staff is highly committed to serving our community and our city leadership supports us, but sometimes we receive an extra blessing when we connect with wonderful private sector partners who have that same commitment to serving the community," Williams said. "We are so grateful to Arise Therapies and Kiwanis for making this possible. Their partnership on this project has been amazing. To some it may seem like an insignificant thing, but I promise you, it matters. Even if these communication boards only help just one person, it's worth it."

A type of AAC, communication boards can be used by people with conditions including autism spectrum disorders, speech apraxia, cerebral palsy, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, strokes, dementia, traumatic brain injuries, deafness, selective muteness, learning disabilities or delays, ALS, and other disabilities.

The boards have all patrons in mind, but are specifically designed



New communications boards have been erected at playgrounds throughout the city of Spring Hill. The boards help those with a vairety of conditions to better communicate with others.

for those who are non-verbal, highly unintelligible, or unable to use traditional forms of speech to communicate. These boards are composed of easy-to-understand pictures and an alphabet board that patrons of all ages can use if they are in need of assistance or to communicate with others.

According to the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC), communication boards are "a set of tools and strategies that an individual uses to solve every day communicative challenges" faced by both children and adults with certain impairments.

"Everyone uses multiple forms of communication, based upon the context and our communication partner," ISAAC's website reads. "Effective communication occurs when the intent and meaning of one individual is understood by another person. The form is less important than the successful understanding of the message."

Williams said the communication boards are another way of ensuring that all residents of Spring Hill feel included in the community.

"We want everyone to feel welcome and safe in our parks, especially those with verbal intricacies. It is not only important to provide a way for communication to happen in the event someone needs assistance, it is also important to provide another way for people to connect with one another," she said. "Our department's mission is to provide safe and accessible facilities for all of our citizens, enrich their quality of life, and foster community environments. Community is about living our best lives together. I believe that means meeting others where they are in their life, not expecting others to adapt to us. It is an attitude of service."

In the meantime, until the state receives specific guidance, the

tained separately from other funds received by your organization. Expenditures related to the use of these funds should also be separated from other expenditures. Detailed documentation for all transactions should be maintained.

2. The Division of Local Government Audit will add new accounts to the Uniform Chart of Accounts to allow counties to separately track funds provided by the Act.

3. A separate set of files should be established for these funds. They will be subject to audit under the Single Audit Act and OMB's Uniform Guidance.

4. The following should be considered before spending any funds associated with the Act:

- No expenditures should be made before cities are certain that the use of funds comply with the provisions of the Act.
- The comptroller recommends these funds be used for onetime expenses. This should be taken into consideration if funds are used for capital projects (i.e.; water, sewer, or broadband) that may require future resources or on-going maintenance.
- These funds cannot be deposited in a pension fund or be See FUNDS on Page 5



TML Annual Conference Sept. 18 - 21, 2021 Chattanooga

With the uncertainty that the Coronavirus still presents and the risks that it imposes to our public health, the Executive Committee of the Tennessee Municipal League Board of Directors agreed that it is in the best interest of our membership to reschedule TML's 2021 Annual Conference for a time later in the year.

With this in mind and with the support of the TML Board, TML staff worked to secur new dates – **Sept. 18-21, 2021** – at the Chattanooga Convention Center.

So please mark your calendars to save the dates. We will provide more program information in the upcoming months.





CLARKSVILLE

The city of Clarksville has purchased the historic Roxy Theatre at 100 Franklin Street from Roxy Theatre Productions, Inc., to maintain the modern performing arts center in the city's downtown. The Clarksville City Council voted in February to purchase the theatre with final transactions for the property closed in March. The city paid \$810,000 for a clean-title purchase of the property with closing costs bringing the total to \$813,000. Roxy Productions, Inc., will still operate out of the property under a lease agreement with the city. Under the current agreement, the city will combine the Roxy property with adjacent tracts already owned by the city to construct the new performing arts center. Built in 1947 after a previous theatre on the site burned down, the Roxy Theatre has served as a back drop for numerous films, photo shoots, music videos, and commercials.

COLLEGEDALE

The city of Collegedale and McKee Foods are moving forward on a new park after years of planning. The unnamed park is to be located on 10 acres of land owned by the city behind Collegedale Commons with McKee Foods building and paying for the park. The city will then maintain the facility once it is built. Plans for the park include an accessible playground area, walkways, a climbing wall, zipline, and open spaces for games or picnics. Officials hope the park project will be completed by the end of the year.

COOKEVILLE

A \$87,000 donation from the community will help finish the restroom facilities at the city of Cookeville's Dogwood Park's fully accessible playground. The Heart of the City Playground began as a community project in 2015 bringing together members of the city's playground committee, Cookeville Leisure Services, and a host of community donors and volunteers to create a 12,000-square-foot, all-inclusive playground. The new funds will allow for a restroom facility outside the playground fence featuring a pagoda-style roof that will also provide additional shade. The restroom will include two handicap accessible toilets. The playground attracts families from not just Cookeville but throughout the Upper Cumberland

and is expected to be completed in 2022. Royal Canin's investment will enable the facility to expand its capabilities to manufacture the Royal Canin and Eukanuba health and nutrition product lines. With the investment, Royal Canin will add more than 108,000 square feet of new working space with five additional highly automated production lines, doubling the plant capacity. Founded in 1968 and purchased by Mars, Inc. in 2001, Royal Canin is a global leader in pet science, health and nutrition. Royal Canin manufactures and supplies cat and dog food and is committed to science-based research and innovation that provides formulas with individualized nutritional solutions for cats and dogs.

KNOXVILLE

Knoxville has become one of only 38 cities and only the second in the state of Tennessee to earn the Tree Cities of the World Recognition from the Arbor Day Foundation and United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization. The city of Germantown was recognized by the program last year. Knoxville has joined 120 other cities from 63 countries to earn this unique designation, which aims to recognize the vital role trees play in healthy, livable, and sustainable communities around the globe. Knoxville has been a Tree City USA Award honoree for 29 consecutive years. In 2020, city crews under the direction of Urban Forester Kasey Krouse planted 785 trees in parks, at schools and in public rights-of-way. The city boasts more than 30,000 trees planted in public spaces. Visit www.treecitiesoftheworld.org to see a list of other recognized cities.

MORRISTOWN

The city of Morristown has received a \$500,000 HOME Program grant from the Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA) to make much-needed repairs to the homes of elderly and disabled residents. Funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the program recently awarded THDA \$6.9 million to grant to local governments and agencies statewide. Morristown officials said the funds will be used to renovate or rebuild at least 15 single-family homes within the city, benefitting low- and very-low-income individuals and families.

power initiatives, Nashville recently modified its building codes for greater energy efficiency in residential and commercial buildings. These upgrades could reduce energy use in newly-constructed homes by up to 30% – resulting in a net lifetime utility savings of \$8,034 for Nashville homeowners.

NASHVILLE

NTT DATA officials announced that the company will establish an innovation and digital delivery center in Nashville, investing \$9.9 million and creating 350 jobs. The global IT services leader said the project will have a focus on healthcare and manufacturing technology. NTT DATA's new center will focus on developing and deploying digital and industry skills within the IT sector. The company will provide U.S.-based service delivery to local, national and international clients and serve as a cross-industry and technology showcase from its office in downtown Nashville's Capitol View. NTT DATA Corporation, based in Tokyo, Japan, is one of the world's largest IT and business service providers. A Fortune Global 500 Company, NTT DATA Corporation employs 130,000 people worldwide and delivers services in more than 50 countries. NTT DATA Services is a U.S.-based division with headquarters in Plano, Texas, that employs more than 50,000 professionals who work with the world's leading brands.

NOLENSVILLE

The town of Nolensville will establish its first fully-staffed fire department with the intention of the department being fully operational by July. The city has been building the department from the ground up since December following the hiring of Fire Chief David Windrow. The town will begin hiring its captains and higher-level staff in the coming weeks while continuing to recruit full-time firefighters throughout the spring. The town is expected to hire up to eight firefighters. The new fire department will be headquartered in the volunteer hall and will continue to work with the volunteer department established in the town in 1973 as a combination department.

SEVIERVILLE

The city of Sevierville is one of the top wish-listed travel destinations in

Collierville unveils new police drone unit



The Collierville Police Department has announced the creation of an eight-member Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Unit to help both fire and police personnel in their work. The team consists of three police officers from the Collierville Police Department and three members of the Collierville Fire Department. Tyler Williams is the UAS unit commander as well as the assistant commander for the STAR (Strategic Tracking and Recovery) Unit. Other members of the unit include Justin Lewis, Jessica Peterson, Matthew Medlock, and Richard Gallo of the Collierville PD; and Lt. Dustin Johnson, Daniel LaPlante, and Mike Sansone of the Collierville FD.

Springfield city employees give back to those in need



Employees with the city of Springfield lent a hand at a recent food giveaway held by the Mid-Cumberland Community Action Agency at the city's J. Travis Price Park. Food insecurity has become a major issue for many communities due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic as citizens find themselves working less or out of work.

Sit-in participants honored with Jackson City Hall exhibit

region to enjoy the specialized play equipment.

FARRAGUT

A new temporary exhibit will highlight the life of Farragut's namesake, Admiral David Glasgow Farragut. Born only a few miles from where the town is presently located, the Union Admiral made his name during the Battle of Mobile Bay. Artifacts not typically on display will be brought out at the Farragut Museum to showcase some of the extensive collection of family photographs, manuscripts, letters, uniform ornamentation, personal china, and scrimshaw connected with the admiral. The exhibit will be featured in the museum's Bill Dunlap Gallery telling the story of how Farragut became the first commissioned admiral in the U.S. Navy. The museum is located within Farragut Town Hall and is operating at reduced hour due to COVID-19. Visitors can see the exhibit from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

LEBANON

Royal Canin announced the company will expand its Lebanon operations, adding more than 90 jobs and investing more than \$200 million. The facility expansion began in 2019

TENNESSEE TOWN & CITY

Tennessee Town & City (ISSN 00403415 USPS 539420) is published semi-monthly except in the months of June and December 19 times per year by Tennessee Municipa League, 226 Anne Dallas Dudley Blvd, Suite 710, Nashville TN 37219-1894 Subscription rates: \$6 per year to mem-bers, \$15 to nonmembers, \$1 a copy. Periodicals Postage Paid at Nashville TN POSTMASTER:Send address changes to Tennessee Town & City, 226 Anne Dallas Dudley Blvd, Suite 710, Nashville TN 37219-1894. Official publication of the Fennessee Municipal League. Publisher: Anthony Haynes (ahaynes@TML1.org) Editor: Carole Graves (cgraves@TML1. org; Phone: 615-255-6416. Advertising: Publisher reserves the right to reject any advertising deemed unacceptable. Fax classi fied ads to TT&C: Attention Carole Graves at 615-255-4752, or e-mail cgraves@ TML1.org. Fax advertising copy to TT&C Attention Debbie Kluth at 615-255-4752 or e-mail to dkluth@ TML1.org. Opinions expressed by non League officials or staff do not necessarily reflect policies of TML.

MORRISTOWN

Officials with the city of Morristown broke ground on Morristown Landing, the site of a new \$36 million community center that is expected to be opened next year on the west side of town. The name of the site is a nod to the location near the local airport and Morristown's history of aviation. The 100,000-squarefoot facility will feature a 25-yard, six-lane lap pool, a family aquatic center, fitness center, fieldhouse, four hardwood courts for basketball and volleyball, climbing walls, meeting rooms, event spaces, and an outdoor splash pad. The new community center will also host camps, youth and adult sports leagues, and membership programs for fitness.

NASHVILLE

The city of Nashville will install 9,777 solar panels in a large-scale photovoltaic solar facility housed at three of the city's water treatment plants. The panels will generate 3.2 megawatts of power and achieve a carbon emissions reduction equivalent to removing 600 vehicles from the road. In 2020, Metro Nashville became the first local government to pursue access to utility-scale solar power in the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) service territory. That project should result in yet another emissions reduction - this one equivalent to taking more than 14,000 vehicles off the road every year for 20 years. In addition to solar

the world for users of the rental website Airbnb. The company reported more than half of those who were looking into staying in Sevierville were also looking at outdoor pursuits in the area, particularly around the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Airbnb reported 76% of users said thinking about future travel plans helped ease anxiety during the pandemic with 60% wanting to visit new places and 61% wanting to return to a previous travel destination. Other cities at the top dream travel destination included Los Angeles; Seoul, South Korea; Atlanta; Paris, France; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Bali; Indonesia; Mexico City; Cape Town, South Africa; and London.

THOMPSON'S STATION

A new amphitheater carved out of the historic Graystone Quarry in Thompson's Station is expected to open by the end of the year. Live Nation Entertainment is behind the 7,500-seat open-air live entertainment venue on the 138-acre quarry site. The amphitheater will be positioned at the base of a limestone rock quarry surrounded by cliffs up to 100 feet tall, creating a dramatic outdoor location with ideal visual and acoustic space for music events. The reclaimed quarry was active 50 years ago, with the rock used in the construction of Highway 65. In addition to the amphitheater itself, the space will include a 1.5-acre plaza for gathering, dining, and retail.



A new exhibit at Jackson City Hall honors four local civil rights pioneers who participated in sit-ins to end racial segregation in the city. Former Lane College students Shirlene Mercer (center), Kimmie Davis, Wesley McClure, and Ernest Brooks Sr.(right) are honored in the exhibit that details their sit-in protest at the Woolworth's lunch counter in the fall of 1960. Known as "the freshman four," the students protest led to demonstrations at other downtown businesses in Jackson and were instrumental in changing laws in the city. Also pictured is Jackson Mayor Scott Conger (left).



State leaders tout positive economic recovery at Legislative Conference

CONFERENCE *from Page 1* more rural areas."

Sexton weighed in on a proposal that would cap property tax rates for municipalities in the state.

"There are a couple different ideas on this," Sexton said. "One is from the Beacon Center and another is to change how we access property taxes in the state. Florida uses the market value of the house, a certain percentage of what the value is unlike how we currently do it. But mostly, our approach is not to control what cities do but to make sure you don't price out senior citizens and lower-income people."

Lt. Gov. Randy McNally said he is still anticipating an April adjournment for the Legislature despite early delays in the session from inclement weather. Education, the budget, rural development, and closing gaps in internet and cell service are some of the priorities McNally said the state will be tackling during the ongoing session.

McNally said there will be about \$10.7 billion coming to the state from the Biden Administration for pandemic recovery that will be a combination of state, local, and direct aid to individuals. Of the \$6.3 billion going to state and local governments, McNally said \$3.85 billion is expected to go directly to the state, \$1.3 billion to counties, \$513 million to metro cities, and \$431 million to non-metro cities.

McNally also gave an update on the state's financial health.

"I would like to see us put more into the state's rainy day fund," McNally said. "Right now, we can run for about 25 days or so without any revenue. The standard is about 30 days. I would like to see that increase a little bit. The state took on no new debt in the past few years, and if you look at our overall indebtedness, we are at the very bottom of states that borrow money. We have a structurally balanced budget."

Senate State and Local Committee Chairman Sen. Richard Briggs said he believes working in local government is one of the toughest jobs but also one of the most important

"I've always said the toughest elected jobs in government – other than being president of the U.S. - are those local government jobs," he said. "If you're on the local school board, the county commission, the city councilmen and aldermen have to make these really tough decisions at every meeting that effect the people who live there. On top of that, when you go to church or go counties in Tennessee, what is the standing of your local governments. They understand the sum of the parts is key to understanding the health of the whole."

The impact of stimulus money is another issue Mumpower said his office is working on with local governments. Mumpower reported previous stimulus funds are one of the reasons why sales tax revenues increased in nearly every city and county in the state when compared to last year despite the pandemic and helped contribute to the state being more than \$1 billion over original estimates in terms of revenue.

The new round of stimulus money recently approved by the federal government will provide relief as well as challenges, he said.

"What a great load of money it is, but that is also a little scary," Mumpower said. "And if cities aren't also a little scared about this bucket of money being dropped in your lap, you aren't taking it seriously enough. While it is a program that will allow tens of millions, hundreds of millions of dollars to flow to Tennessee's cities and counties, it is a great responsibility. You must be careful in how you choose to use it, spend it, and invest it so as to create benefit for your community but not create an ongoing challenge by using this one-time money."

Department of Revenue Commissioner David Gerregano discussed the financial impact the pandemic has had on the state. One surprise was the increase in sales tax revenues reported amid



Sen. Richard Briggs Chairman Senate State and Local Committee



Rep. John Crawford Chairman House Local Government Committee



Ken Moore, TML 1st Vice President and Franklin Mayor



TML Executive Director Anthony Haynes and PEP President/CEO Michael Fann



Revenue Commissioner David Gerregano





and have to look them in the eye about making those decisions."

Briggs said this is why he feels it is important for the state to leave many issues up to local decision makers.

"We have so many preemption laws," he said. "What I try to do when we have the opportunity is to do what we call permission bills or local option bills. I don't like mandated bills, especially the unfunded mandates. Local governments know the needs, the personality of the local community, and how the people there like their government run."

House Local Government Committee Chairman Rep. John Crawford said one of the issues the legislature is looking at is how the need for electronic meetings during the pandemic has changed the way some governments and constituents want to see government business conducted.

"Looking at the data that has been provided to me, it seems to me that those participating in electronic meetings have seen both the attendance of local officials go up and there has been an increase in attendance by the public," Crawford said. "If Mom or Dad have to get home and fix dinner for the kids, they don't have time to run out to the local city council meeting. If they can pull it up on their computer, they can hear what is being said and still be a part of what is happening in their community."

Comptroller Jason Mumpower said municipalities have an important role in the overall financial health of the state.

"It is important to the state of Tennessee that local governments are successful," he said. "Every year – except last year – we go to New York City in person, and we place the state's credit rating up for review in front of the major bond fundraising agencies. We did this virtually this year, but whether it's virtual or in person, the way it has started for the past many years has been the same. They start by asking us what is the health of cities and



McKenzie Mayor Jill Holland and TMBF President/CEO Wade Morrell

the pandemic.

"The state was very concerned at the start of the pandemic, and as collections have come in, we have been cautiously optimistic – with an emphasis on caution - as we move forward," Gerregano said. "Some of this consumption may have been driven by the federal stimulus money that has come in, in context of sales tax in particular. I think unemployment benefits have been a huge help in maintaining consumption of sales taxable items. One thing in talking with the Labor Department a little while back is that they typically pay out \$200 million in unemployment insurance benefits in a calendar year. In October, they had already paid out \$6 billion."

The revenue department has also seen the way the pandemic is changing how Tennesseans are choosing to spend money.

"While overall collections are up and that is really great news, that doesn't mean every sector has fared the same," Gerregano said. "We have certainly seen that in collections. Grocery store sales are up while restaurants are dramatically down and have been down through this whole period. Of course, these things are constantly evolving. Sales tax from liquor-by-the-drink is down dramatically, but sales tax at package liquor stores is up. There is an obvious shift. What is interesting is building materials and durable goods are up significantly. A lot of people are staying home and doing home improvement projects, building out or refurbishing home offices. Home furnishing and appliance sales are up, which is driven by stimulus and unemployment payments."

Complete coverage of all of the speakers' remarks can be found on TML's website at <u>www.TML1.org</u>

TML Deputy Director Chad Jenkins and Paris Commissioner Sam Tharpe



Above: Gallatin Mayor Paige Brown and Lawrenceburg Mayor Blake Lay. **Below**: Henderson Mayor Bobby King, Livingston Mayor Curtis Hayes and TML Council Doug Johnson





Melisa Brown has resigned as vice mayor of La Vergne after making the decision to move out of the city. Brown was



Melisa Brown

first elected to the board in 2014 and has served as the city's vice mayor since 2019. The city will vote in April to name a replacement to serve the remainder of her term ending in November 2022 as well as to appoint a new vice mayor for the city.

Ray Burney has been promoted to battalion chief for A Shift with the Oak Ridge Fire Department. Burney most

recently

Ray Burney

served as a captain with the department and will take on the new role following Eric Rackard's recent promotion to fire marshal. Burney has been with the Oak Ridge Fire Department since 2004 and has been in fire service since 1985 when he began working for the Blair Volunteer Fire Department in Oliver Springs as a firefighter and EMT. He also worked part-time as an EMT paramedic for Roane County during that period. He began working as a fire protection specialist at the K-25 site in 1990 before coming to ORFD. He holds an associate's degree in fire science and bachelor's degree in fire administration both from Columbia Southern University.

Jerry Long has been selected as the new community engagement officer for the Springfield Police Department. The newly created position includes serving as a special events coordinator, city court officer, and a liaison for local businesses, general sessions court, historic district, and the neighborhood

watch program. Long has more than 23 years of experience in law enforcement with the Robertson County Sheriff's Of-



Jerry Long

fice and is a certified instructor for EVOC and firearms. He holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Bethel University and is a graduate of the Tennessee Law Enforcement Academy (TLEA).



with cancer

at the age of 71. Matherne served as mayor of the city from 2010 until 2014, during which time she helped Brownsville become part of the Main Street Communities program and the restoration of the Flagg Grove School as part of the Tina Turner Museum at the West Tennessee Delta Heritage Center. A Brownsville native, Matherne earned a bachelor's degree in education and a master's degree in communication from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. She worked for several years in marketing and public relations at local banks and then at her own firm. She returned to Brownsville in 1999 to work in the field and became involved in numerous local causes such as the Haywood Heritage Foundation, Brownsville Rotary Club, and Brownsville Art Council. Following her time as mayor of Brownsville, she took a position with the Southwest Tennessee Development District (SWTDD).

Jack Suggs has been promoted to deputy city manager of Oak Ridge



Congratulations to the following members of the Lebanon Fire Department for promotions in rank at the administrative level. David Means has been promoted to captain as communications coordinator. Joe Simms and Brian Fountain have been promoted to division chief of EMS and division chief of training, respectively. Captain Means has been employed with the Lebanon Fire Department since June 2005, with more than 20 years total experience in emergency services. Division Chief Simms has also been with the fire department since June 2005. Division Chief Fountain has been with the Lebanon Fire Department since November 2003.



from his po-

sition as the

city's electric

director. Ardo

Bo, who pres-

ently serves

as the electric operations

manager, will

serve as in-

terim electric director. Suggs has been with the city of Oak Ridge since 1989 when he was hired as assistant director of public works after serving in several similar positions in Texas. He was promoted to serve as the city's electric director in 1991. Suggs has served in a variety of leadership roles with the Tennessee Valley Public Power Association, Tennessee Municipal Electric Power Association, Appalachian Public Power Association, and national advisory roles for the Electric Power Research Institute. He holds a bachelor's degree in engineering technology from Texas Tech University and a master's of civil engineering from Texas A&M University.

Thompson has retired after 44 years as district attorney general of Tennessee's 15th judicial district, which includes Wil-



Tommy Thompson

son, Smith, Macon, Trousdale, and Jackson counties. Thompson was first appointed district attorney of the district in 1977 and was then elected to the position in 1978 for the first time. He would be elected to five more terms. At the time of his retirement, Thompson is believed to have the longest active tenure of any district attorney general in the state. Jason Lawson has been appointed pro tem district attorney general following Thompson's retirement with Gov. Bill Lee expected to make an appointment to fill out Thompson's remaining term, which ends in August 2022.

municipal finance officer (CMFO), and was selected as City Manager of the Year by the Tennessee City Management Association (TCMA) in 2018. Chattanooga, Dayton hold March municipal elections

Collegedale's Rogers retires

Collegedale City Manager Ted Rogers, left, with Collegedale Mayor

Katie Lamb, right, at Rogers' retirement celebration on March 12,

2021, after nearly 15 years of service. Rogers has served as the

city manager for Collegedale since 2006. With degrees in allied

health, education, management, and a master's in administration

and leadership, Rogers is an ICMA credentialed manager, a certified

Voters recently went to the polls in municipal elections held in March in the cities of Chattanooga and Dayton.

One new candidate was seated and three races will go to runoff elections in April following Chattanooga's municipal elections held on March 2.

Tim Kelly and Kim White were the top vote-getters in a crowd of 15 candidates for Chattanooga mayor. Kelly bested White by 300 votes in the initial election, though neither garnered the more than 50% total require to be seated as mayor.

Kelly and White are both business and nonprofit leaders in the Chattanooga community. Kelly is CEO of the Chattanooga Football Club and is the owner or past owner of several local businesses including a car dealership. White is the former CEO and president of the nonprofit redevelopment agency River City Co., and served in recruitment for Fortune 500 companies. If elected, White would be the first female mayor of Chattanooga.

Top-runners up in the race included former city attorney Wade Hinton and local entrepreneur Monty Bruell. Other unsuccessful candidates vying for the mayoral seat included Russell J. Gilbert Sr., Elenora Woods, Chris Long, Erskine Oglesby, Monty Dewayne Bell, Robert C. Wilson, Andrew McLaren, D'Angelo Davis, Christopher Dahl, George Ryan Love, and Lon Cartwright. Nine city council seats were also up for grabs in the city election. District 1 Councilman Chip Henderson and District 6 Councilwoman Carol Berz both retained their seats after running unopposed.

Incumbent Councilman Ken Smith won the District 3 race while incumbent Darrin Ledford fended off Bill Lloyd in the District 4 race. In District 8, incumbent Anthony Byrd retained his seat over challengers Marie Mott and D'Andrew Anderson while incumbent Demetrus Coonrod defeated Kelvin Scott to retain her District 9 seat.

District 7 voted to elect newcomer and community advocate Raquetta Dotley over former mayoral chief of staff Ken Hays in the race to replace councilman Erskine Oglesby, who unsuccessful ran for mayor.

The District 2 and District 5 seats will head to a run-off election. Hamilton County Board of Education Member Jenny Hill and local business owner Thomas Lee will face off to replace retiring Councilman Jerry Mitchell in the District 2 race while Hamilton Conty Democratic Party Vice Chairman Dennis Clark and entrepreneur Isaiah Hester will vie for the District 5 seat vacated by Councilman Russell Gilbert, who ran unsuccessfully for mayor.

Run-off elections for both the mayoral seat and two open district seats will be held on April 13.

The city of Dayton held a special election on March 17 to



Tommy

fill the term of late Councilman Jim Lewis who died in December, ahead of the city's regularly scheduled election on April 21.

Local contractor Caleb Yawn won the seat with 328 votes to former Graysville Mayor Ted Doss' 125 votes and restaurateur Lance Sholl's 59 votes.

Dayton citizens will return to the polls on April 21 to choose the city's mayor and two additional council seats.

No loan is too large or too small



The city of Trenton recently closed on a \$275,000 note with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF) issued for city paving projects. Seated L to R: Leigh Ann Grice, city recorder, and Trenton Mayor Ricky Johnson. Standing is Tommy Green, TMBF marketing representative. The city has used TMBF programs 10 times since 2000.

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.





The Great Smoky Mountains National Park experienced its second-busiest year on record despite being closed for more than a month due to COVID-19. The park had a total of 12,095,720 visits in 2020, just under the record of 12.5 million visitors reported in 2019. Park rangers have worked with local municipalities and visitors to solve challenges presented by the pandemic, including a pilot project to address congestion in some areas of the park. The surge in use did bring issues to the park including traffic, overflowing parking lots, crowded bathrooms, liter, and damage to park property. The Smokies remain the nation's most visited national park.

The new Tennessee State Library and Archives building is set to open in April. State Librarian and Archivist Chuck Sherill told a State Senate panel the ribbon cutting for the new facility is scheduled for April 12. Work began on the \$123.8 million facility in 2005 with a groundbreaking ceremony held in late 2017. Collections and staff currently situated at the 1950s era archives building directly west of the State Capitol are currently being moved into the new facility, which is located near the new Tennessee State Museum at the Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park.

Despite increasing the number of high school graduates attending college, a new report from the Tennessee Comptroller's Office suggests the Tennessee Promise program is not sustaining

long-term growth in college enrollment and graduate rates. Four years after the launch of the program, the college-going rate of Tennesseans has declined from 64.4% to 61.8% with less participants on track to graduate than five years ago. In order to achieve the state goal of increasing the percentage of Tennesseans with a postsecondary credential to 55% by 2025, officials said the state would have to increase the number of students who enter and remain in the Tennessee Promise program. The state reported a 10.3% drop in enrollment in community colleges this past fall due to the pandemic, and officials are concerned fewer Tennesseans will be earning degrees in the future as the pandemic exacerbated retention rates. To read the full report, visit: www. comptroller.tn.gov.

A new report from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation has reported crime has decreased on K-12 school campuses, though the pandemic might be some of the cause. The number of reported offenses on elementary, middle, and high school campuses dropped 59% between 2018 and 2020 with only 2,000 incidents reported in 2020. A total of 24,403 crimes were reported on campuses during the three-year period with simple assault being the most common offense followed by drug and narcotic usage. TBI also reported the number weapons found or used on school campuses declined from 4,895 in 2018 to 4,830 weapons in 2019 and 1,839 in 2020.

Updates, upgrades ongoing at state park facilities

Visitors to Tennessee State Parks this spring and summer will notice several renovations, updates, and upgrades to facilities across the state.

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) said approximately \$184 million in capital projects were conducted at the parks in 2020 with greater expectations for ongoing projects in 2021. Tennessee State Parks have already opened facilities including:

- 117-room lodge at Montgomery Bell State Park in Burns, a \$12.1 million investment expected to support 189 jobs. The economic impact of the construction is \$29.1 million.
- \$11.7 million renovation of the lodge at Pickwick Landing State Park, expected to involve 183 jobs. The construction economic impact is \$28.1 million.
- \$2.8 million visitors' center at Cummins Falls State Park in Cookeville, expected to support 43 jobs. The construction economic impact is \$6.7 million.
- \$3 million visitors' center at Fall Creek Falls State Park in Spencer, estimated to support 47 jobs. The economic impact of construction alone is \$7.2 million.

In addition to its new visitor's center, Fall Creek Falls State Park will see the opening of a new \$40.4 million, 85-room lodge, expected to support 634 jobs with an economic impact of \$97.2 million. Construction is under way at Paris Landing State Park on a new \$43.9 million lodge, expected to support





Top: The new lodge at Pickwick Landing State Park was part of \$184 million in renovations to park properties in 2020.

Bottom: Renovations to the lodge at Fall Creek Falls State Park are part of ongoing projects at parks this spring and summer.

689 jobs with an economic impact of \$105.6 million. Both facilities have been greatly anticipated.

Officials also recently cut the ribbon on the new Great River Road Visitors Center at Reelfoot Lake State Park, which will serve as a gateway for visitors to the park, northwest Tennessee, and the Great River Road Scenic Byway, which was recently named to the federal list of scenic byways.

TDEC announced construction of a two-story visitors' center and new 6,381-square-foot restaurant at Henry Horton State Park in Chapel Hill, an investment of \$8.25 million. Expected to be finished in the late spring or early summer, the renovations include an exhibit and interpretive area, indoor and outdoor dining areas, gift shop, and conference room. This construction will support 129 jobs with an economic impact of \$19.8 million.

Ongoing renovations at the Homestead Harvest Restaurant at Cumberland Mountain State Park are expected to be complete in Spring 2021.

February revenues over \$112.7M

Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration Commissioner Butch Eley announced that Tennessee tax revenues exceeded budgeted estimates in February.

February revenues totaled \$1.13 billion, which is \$112.7 million more than the state received in February 2020 and \$190.9 million more than the budgeted estimate. The growth rate for February was 11.06%.

"The two largest contributors to the state's tax base, sales and corporate tax revenues, delivered extraordinary growth for the month of February," Eley said. "Sales tax revenue growth, representing January consumer sales tax activity, occurred in most all segments of the state's economy, except for the restaurant and bar industry. Revenues from online sales taxes also boosted our monthly growth rate with approximately \$44.5 million in growth attributed to remote sales and marketplace facilitator laws. To date, online sales tax revenues have accounted for about 66.4% of all sales tax growth to the state. "On a year-to-date basis, state revenue collections continue to be well positioned to finish the fiscal year ahead of our budgeted estimates. Nevertheless, we must closely monitor the months of April and June as they are large corporate tax filing months and can be quite volatile. Further, it is important to note that federal aid related to COVID-19 is still flowing into Tennessee and will continue to do so in the near-term. Future economic projections will be difficult to achieve until that federal aid ceases, which means we must remain cautious."

On an accrual basis, February is the seventh month in the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

General fund revenues exceeded the budgeted estimates in the amount of \$154.2 million while the four other funds that share in state tax revenues were \$36.7 million less than the estimates.

Sales tax revenues were \$167.1 million more than the estimate for February and 15.67% more than February 2020. For seven months, revenues are \$900.4 million higher than estimated. The year-to-date growth rate for seven months was 7.11%. Franchise and excise tax revenues combined were \$16.1 million more than the budgeted estimate in February and the growth rate compared to February 2020 was 7.06%. For seven months, revenues are \$350 million more than the estimate and the year-to-date growth rate is 4.36%. Gasoline and motor fuel revenues for February decreased by 3.23% compared to February 2020. However, fuel taxes were \$2.8 million more than the February budgeted estimate of \$90.4 million. For seven months, revenues are less than estimates by \$10.5 million.

a year-to-date basis they are \$6.8 million more than estimates.

Tobacco taxes were \$2.3 million less than the February budgeted estimate of \$18.1 million. For seven months, they are \$7 million more than the budgeted estimate.

Privilege taxes were \$11 million more than the February estimate, and on a year-to-date basis, August through February, revenues are \$55.3 million more than the estimate.

Business taxes were \$5.9 million more than the February estimate. For seven months, revenues are \$20.8 million more than the budgeted estimate.

TN Comptroller releases initial guidance to cities on American Rescue Plan Act

FUNDS from Page 1

- used to offset revenue resulting from any tax cuts enacted since March 3, 2021.
- Funds may be used as replacement revenue to the extent there has been a reduction in revenue as a direct result of the public health emergency. Replacement revenue amounts should be based upon the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency (FY19). For example, local governments that experienced significant reduc-

flow through the State Department of Education.

6. Local government entities must be careful to maintain adequate internal controls over the spending of Act funds. This is required by State statute and OMB's Uniform Guidance.

7. If a primary government receives funding and decides to pass some of the federal funds down to another local government (i.e., sub-recipient grant), the primary government that originally received the federal funds will be subject to the strict OMB Uniform Guidance requirements related to sub-recipient monitoring. For this reason, we recommend not passing federal funds down to another government unless the primary government has a clear understanding of the roles related to monitoring sub-recipients. The guidance in this memorandum is very general in nature. All local government officials should remain alert for specific provisions of the Act. The Comptroller's Office stands ready to assist you. They will be working with the Tennessee Municipal League and the Municipal Technical Advisory Service to help keep cities informed as more information becomes available. Address any questions to Bryan Burklin (Bryan.Burklin@cot.tn.gov) or Jerry Durham (Jerry. Durham @cot. tn.gov) in the Division of Local Government Audit. They can be reached by phone: 615.401.7841.

UBLIC ENTITY

Motor vehicle registration revenues were \$5.7 million less than the February estimate, and on Hall income tax revenues for the month were \$800,000 less than the budgeted estimate. On a yearto-date basis, income tax revenues are \$500,000 less than the estimate.

Mixed drink, or liquor-by-thedrink, taxes were \$1.7 million less than the February estimate, and on a year-to-date basis, revenues are 21.1 million less than the budgeted estimate.

All other tax receipts were less than estimates by a net of \$1.5 million.

Year-to-date revenues for seven months were \$1.3 billion more than the budgeted estimate. The general fund recorded \$1.2 billion more than the budgeted estimates and the four other funds \$72.5 million.

These estimates are available on the state's website at <u>https://www.</u> <u>tn.gov/content/tn/finance/fa/fa-bud-</u> <u>get-information/fa-budget-rev.html.</u> tions in tourism revenues due to the emergency may use these funds to pay for expenditures that would have otherwise been funded by tourism revenues.

- Unused funds or funds deemed to have been used inappropriately must be returned to the U.S. Treasury.
- The federal government will require local governments to prepare periodic reports providing a detailed accounting of the use of funds.
- 5. Tennessee counties will directly receive approximately \$1.4 billion to be distributed based on the county's share of the U.S. population. Cities in Tennessee will receive over \$944 million. Early guidance indicates that some of these funds will go directly to cities while some cities will receive funding through the state. The Comptroller's Office anticipates education funds will

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

ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN/H.R. ASSISTANT

PIPERTON. The city of Piperton has an immediate opening for an accounting technician/H.R. assistant. The successful candidate must have the ability to interact with a variety of city staff, appointed and elected officials, vendors and contractors and possess effective communication (oral and written) and interpersonal skills and attention to detail. Experience with automated applications is desirable; computer literacy and extensive knowledge of Microsoft Office, especially MS Word and Excel, is required. The candidate must have attained a high school diploma or G.E.D., plus a minimum of two years accounting experience. A valid driver's license from state of residence is also required. The individual employed in this position will perform bookkeeping and fiscal work for various financial and accounts management functions as well us all Human Resource functions including payroll processing. The accounting work involves receiving, preparing and processing financial documents; performing accounts payable and/or receivables work; advanced customer service tasks; reconciling accounting transactions; maintaining and balancing accounting ledgers; creating and maintaining accounting databases and automated files; and preparing records, repolts and summaries regarding assigned fiscal operations. Hourly wages will be commensurate with experience. A background check will be conducted. Health insurance and retirement benefit package is provided. Email letter of interest and resume to mgeorgc@pipertontn.com. EOE.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND RECEIVABLE SPECIALIST

PUBLIC ENTITY PARTNERS. Public Entity Partners is a public entity risk pool that has been providing risk management and workers compensation, property and casualty insurance services to Tennessee cities and city agencies for nearly 40 years. Public Entity Partners insures more than 90% of the cities in Tennessee and is headquartered in Franklin. The accounts payable and receivable specialist will process and manage the company's accounts payable and receivable online workflow, manual functions, and financial reporting in accordance with company policies and procedures. Strong communication and interpersonal skills are essential as you will be interacting with almost 500 local government members and approximately 2,000 vendors and business partners. Key competencies include: knowledge of and experience in core business operations; creative thinking and problem-solving skills; strong work ethic and results-driven outlook; ability to work cooperatively and collaboratively on a professional level' ability to manage and maintain confidential information with the utmost care, security, and discretion. Bachelor's degree in accounting or related field from an accredited college or university, desired but not required Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite, Sage 100 and AvidXchange, desired but not required. Minimum of five years of experience in accounts payable and receivable functions. Demonstrated ability to accomplish multiple projects and tasks on deadline. Strong interpersonal, communication, and analytical skills. Technological competency in software applications. Full Job description can be found at pepartners.org. Excellent benefits and retirement plan. Please send cover letter and resume to ctaylor@ pepartners.org or Attn: Celeste Taylor, 562 Franklin Rd. Suite 200 Franklin, TN 37069. Salary range: \$65,000 - \$75,000 (DOE) EOE/ Drug-free workplace.

BUILDING INSPECTOR/CODE EN-FORCEMENT OFFICER

PIPERTON. The city of Piperton has an opening for a full-time building inspector/ code enforcement officer. Duties will include residential construction inspections (building, plumbing, and mechanical), record maintenance, responding to public requests for service and resident's concerns, and enforcing city ordinances. Must hold or obtain and maintain ICC Certifications within one year (building, plumbing, and mechanical inspector). Working knowledge of ICC and local ordinances, legislation, rules and regulations is preferred. Computer proficiency and excellent communication skills are a must. High school diploma or equivalent and valid driver's license is required. Priority will be given to certified inspectors or applicants with current background in building or related trades.Background check will be conducted. Salary \$38-\$45k and is commensurate with experience. Medical and retirement benefit package is provided. Applications may be obtained at the Piperton Administrative Office at 3725 Hwy 196 Suite B, or at www. pipertontn.com/jobs. Return application and resume to tjohnson@pipertontn.com. EOE

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

SPRING HILL. The city of Spring Hill (Pop. 46,000+) is seeking a city management professional to be their next city administrator. The city administrator is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. The city has a \$90.55M overall budget with 261 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees. Candidates should possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in public administration, business administration, or a field closely related to municipal management and a minimum of eight years of progressively increasing city management experience, or any combination of education and municipal experience that demonstrates proficiency in managing a complex municipal corporation. Residency within the city limits will be a requirement. A position profile is available at www.springhilltn.org. Salary commensurate with education, experience and marketplace conditions. Send cover letter and resume immediately by electronic mail to the University of Tennessee's Municipal Technical Advisory Service, attention Gary Jaeckel, at gary.jaeckel@tennessee.edu. Initial review of applications will occur in April/ May, 2021. Please direct questions to Gary Jaeckel, MTAS Management Consultant, at the same email address.

CLAIMS SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR

PUBLIC ENTITY PARTNERS . Under the direction of the Director of IT, the Claims System Administrator is responsible to: Support, enhance, secure, optimize, and maintain the Origami Claims Management System and supporting systems. Ensure data integrity and that the system maintains a high level of security, performance, and availability. Work closely with any IT Staff & End Users (internal, external, or third party) to resolve any issues. Provide any assistance needed to access PEP data sources to meet needs and protect sensitive information. Work closely with Adjusters and other Claims staff to understand processes and workflows, then make recommendations to automate these processes to gain efficiencies. Qualifications include: undergraduate degree in a computer related field from an accredited college or university, and six years of experience in the computer-related or information technology field, or a substantially-equivalent combination of education and experience is required. Experience maintaining, optimizing, and securing Microsoft Windows network systems. Experience supporting; Microsoft Windows 10 systems and peripherals; Microsoft Office \ 365 suite; Microsoft Windows Servers \ Networks. Experience using and supporting any of the following applications preferred but not required: Origami Risk Claim System; HTML \ XML; Microsoft SQL \ SSIS Packages; C#; Microsoft Visual Studio; Scripting; PowerShell. Full Job description can be found at pepartners.org. Salary range \$90,000 - \$102,000 DOE. Excellent benefits and retirement plan.Please send cover letter and resume to ctaylor@pepartners.org or Attn: Celeste Taylor, 562 Franklin Rd. Suite 200 Franklin, TN 37069.

ensure accurate and consistent messaging on behalf of the city of Spring Hill. Four-year degree in communications, public relations, journalism, public affairs or related area of study. Minimum of five years of relevant communications, media, or public relations experience. Excellent oral and written communication skills required. Knowledge of media tactics, and modern principles of digital mass communications and public relations required. Proficiency with Microsoft Office Suite and Adobe Creative Cloud. Management experience desired. Some event planning experience a plus. The city of Spring Hill offers an extensive and generous employee benefit package, which includes an 100% Employer paid Medical coverage option for the entire family, optional vision insurance, employer paid dental insurance for the employee with the option to purchase family coverage, Flexible Spending Account, employer paid Life, AD&D and LTD Insurance, as well as voluntary life and STD. TCRS Pension. Applications/resumes MUST be submitted online at: www.springhilltn.org/ Jobs.aspx Questions to staylor@springhilltn. org No phone calls please. EEO/AA/Title VI Employer. Minorities and women are encouraged to apply.

ELECTRIC MANAGER

CLARKSVILLE, AR. Clarksville Connected Utilities is accepting applications through 04/16/2021 for electric manager The electric manager must understand standard electrical distribution, construction, and maintenance methods. Which include (not limited to) receiving projects from the general manager and completion in a timely manner, resolve conflicts within the department (and the public) and work with and the other department managers and the general manager as needed. The manager will plan, organize, direct, and review work of employees in the operation/maintenance of the department. The position requires the individual to oversee trouble calls and emergency work to ensure a high safety standard with minimal outage time for customers. Authorize and track expenditures within the department. Assist the general manager in the preparation of an annual budget by providing input relative to the department's current and future needs. Works under the general supervision of the GM. Responsible for overseeing all things related to the daily operations of the department. Bachelor degree in engineering, or related field; six years of electric utility experience, three years in a managerial/supervisory role -or - high school diploma/equivalent; ten years of experience in electric distribution, three in managerial/supervisory role. -or- any combination of related education, experience, certifications and licenses that will result in successfully performance. Clarksville Arkansas is located in Johnson County and nestled between the Arkansas River and the Foothills of the Ozark Mountains, Interstate 40 and US Highway 64 intersect within the city limits. Clarksville-Johnson County is known for its peaches, scenic byways and abundance of natural outdoor recreational activities which include hunting, fishing, floating, and walking trails. Visit www.clarksvillear.gov for an overview of our beautiful community. CCU is locally owned and operated with excellent pay and benefits and is an Equal Opportunity, Drug Free Workplace. To Apply: Business Office: 400 West Main Street Clarksville, AR. 72830 Email: debbie.pintado@clarksvilleconnected.net Online: https://clarksvilleconnected. to the public in a polite manner, and the ability to work under pressure and deadlines to complete recreation programming, grants, and all assigned tasks from the board of mayor and alderman and the recreation commission. A BA/BS in parks and recreations with five years of experience in administration of parks and recreation facilities and programs including employee supervision is preferred. Applications and full job description may be picked up at City Hall, 200 W. Fort St. Manchester, TN 37355. Online applications may be filled out at www.cityofmanchestertn.com, resumes may be sent to cdavis@cityofmanchestertn. com. Applications will be accepted until April 1, 2021, at 9 a.m. EOE.

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR

TULLAHOMA. The city of Tullahoma is seeking applicants for the position of parks and recreation director who works under the general direction of the city administrator. Tullahoma has a population of 20,000, and is a progressive community located in southern middle Tennessee close to Nashville, Chattanooga and Huntsville, AL. The city has numerous parks and greenways, nearby lake access and a top-rated school system making it an ideal place to live. The parks and recreation director manages an operating budget of \$1.8 million and a staff of ten full-time employees and up to 100 additional part time/seasonal staff. The Parks and Recreation Director coordinates and directs a city-wide system that includes two community centers; eleven parks including a disc golf course; an indoor and zero entry water park; over twenty ball fields; acity greenway and maintenance of 225 acres of park land and 440 acres in partnership with the state of Tennessee. Responsibilities also include long and short-term planning related to development of new park facilities, maintenance and enhancement of existing facilities, and the creation of recreation programs.

Bachelor's degree in parks and recreation, business administration or a closely related field is required, with a Masters' degree and NRPA certification preferred. Seven years of progressive experience in the recreation field and five years of management experience required. Starting salary range is \$71,000 - \$76,000, DOQ. Tullahoma offers a comprehensive benefits package and participates in the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (TCRS). Interested applicants can mail a resume with cover letter and professional references to "City of Tullahoma, Attn: Human Resources, P.O. Box 807, Tullahoma, TN 37388" or send an email to Casta Brice, HR Director at cbrice@tullahomatn.gov. Resumes will be accepted until Monday, April 19, 2021. Applications are subject to public disclosure. A job description is available upon request. EOE/Title VI/Drug Free Workplace.

PLANS EXAMINER II.

FRANKLIN. The city of Franklin is hiring a Plans Examiner II. Franklin is accepting applications through the close of business on April 7, 2021. All interested applicants should apply here: https://cta.cadienttalent.com/index. jsp?POSTING_ID=95936556669&locale=en_US&SEQ=jobDetails&applicationName=CityofFranklinTNKTMDReqExt

PLANNING DIRECTOR

LAKELAND. The city of Lakeland is seeking qualified applicants for the position of planning director. This employee is responsible for a broad range of administrative and support services under the general supervision of the city manager. The planning director is primarily responsible for planning, organizing and directing all planning and land development for the city of Lakeland. Duties include: advising and making staff recommendations to city boards, commissions and departments on planning and land development issues including interpretation, revision, implementation and enforcement of regulations and ordinances and the creation and implementation of development and growth plans; directs implementation of sign ordinance, zoning ordinance, subdivision regulations, design guidelines, comprehensive plan and related plans and policies; provides strategic direction in short and long-range planning and growth management; researches, prepares and implements technical and operational studies, reports and projects; supervises staff with responsibility for employment-related decisions or recommendations that include hiring, disciplining, training, and evaluating performance; develops and implements the departmental operating budget and monitors costs to maintain budget integrity; evaluates and revises tracking procedures for development projects; makes presentations to boards, commissions, volunteers and other community groups. Successful applicants will possess the proven ability to maintain effective working relationships with the public, city officials, and other employees and the ability to prepare and present accurate reports to the governing body; five to seven years of progressive planning experience and a bachelor's degree with a focus in Planning and American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) certification required. Competitive salary and benefits offered. For more information and for a complete job description, please visit www.lakelandtn.gov/job

Office, 201 N. Spring Street, and will be accepted until position if filled.EOE/Drug-free workplace

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

CHAPEL HILL. The town of Chapel Hill (Est. pop. 1,850) is seeking a city management professional to be their next town administrator. The town administrator is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. The town has a \$2.5M annual budget with 13 full-time employees. Candidates should possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in public administration, business administration, or a field closely related to municipal management and a minimum of eight years of progressively increasing city management experience, or any combination of education and municipal experience that demonstrates proficiency in managing a complex municipal corporation. Residency within the town is not arequirement. Salary range \$70,000-\$90,000 (DOQ). Aposition profile is available at www. townofchapelhilltn.gov. Send a cover letter and resume immediately by electronic mail to the University of Tennessee's Municipal Technical Advisory Service, attention Chuck Downham, at chuck.downham@tennessee. edu. Initial review of applications will occur on May 11, 2021. Please direct questions to Chuck Downham at the same email address.

TOWN PLANNER

ARLINGTON. The town of Arlington is a growing community of 14,000+ residents, 12 miles east of the city of Memphis. The full-time planner will perform professional administrative and technical planning work using independent judgement and discretion. This position reports to the town administrator. Duties include: administering municipal zoning, design guidelines, research, and analysis in processing land development applications from submittal to site occupancy; code enforcement; assisting town officials and committees; long-range planning; and coordinating with other local, county, and state agencies. Considerable knowledge of planning theory, principles, and practices, such as zoning, land use, comprehensive planning, economic and community development, architectural design principles, and site planning necessary. Bachelor's degree required, Master's degree preferred, from an accredited college or university in urban or regional planning or a closely related field. At least five years of public management and professional planning experience, preferably in a municipal setting. AICP certification is preferred, as well as excellent project management, oral, and written communication skills. Abackground check will be conducted. Starting salary \$60-70k based on experience, with a competitive benefits package. Town of Arlington, 5854 Airline Road, Arlington, TN 38002.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNER I

JACKSON. The city of Jackson is accepting applications for a transportation planner I. The transportation planner will assist the planning director with work tasks to ensure compliance with federal and state guidelines and overall assistance with administration of the transpoliation-planning program, such as the UPWP, TIP, LTRP, and PPP, Specific job duties include: perform studies related to transportation planning; conduct research, analyze data, and prepare written reports. Manage preparation of meeting packets or special materials for distribution to the MPO Technical Staff and Executive Board. Prepare quarterly MPO grant billings. Bachelor's degree in Urban Planning, Business Administration, or a closely related field. Transportation planning experience is helpful, or any equivalent combination of education, knowledge, skills and abilities sufficient to satisfactorily perform the duties of the job may be substituted. Generous benefit package; salary beginning at \$24.94 per hour. EOE/M/F/V/D. Minorities are encouraged to apply. Job description on city web site: www. cityofjacksontn.gov. Please contact the City of Jackson, Human Resources Department, 127 E. Main Street, Suite 303, Jackson, TN 38301: phone (731) 425-8252: Fax (731) 425-8673

BUILDING CODE INSPECTOR III

GALLATIN. The city of Gallatin is seeking applications for a building codes inspector III. The purpose of this position is to perform intermediate technical work in the inspection of residential, commercial, industrial, and public facilities for compliance with building, plumbing, mechanical, gas piping and electrical codes, and other ordinances. May be assigned specific inspection areas, and other duties perposition. Performs field inspections of residential, commercial, industrial, and public facilities for compliance with building, plumbing, mechanical, gas piping and electrical codes, and other ordinances. Conducts building and related inspections. Prepares and maintaining inspection records and files. Receives and investigates complaints regarding non-compliant construction and inspects existing buildings for hazardous conditions or systems failure. Receives and resolves complaints regarding defective construction and handles enforcement issues. Researches manufacturing specs for compliance with standards. Communicates findings. Inspects existing building for hazardous conditions, structural failure. Reports hazardous or life-threatening conditions to the building official and assists with the complaint as assigned. High school diploma/equivalent. Must have 5 years recent construction related experience. Valid driver's license. IAE/or equivalent Electrical Certifications required. Musthavesix(6)ormoreI.C.C. certifications as identified by and beneficial to the City Must meet TN requirements for plumbing, mechanical, and/or building. To apply: go to www.gallatintn.gov or https://cogselfserve. gallatin-tn.gov/MSS/employmentopportunities/default.aspx. Position open until filled. EOE / Drug-free workplace.

BUILDING CODE INSPECTOR, I, II III

HENDERSONVILLE. The city of Hendersonville is currently recruiting for a Building Inspector I, II, or III position in our Building and Codes Department. This recruitment is open until filled. Clink on the job link to the Job Openings page with all recruitment information: Job Openings | City of Hendersonville <u>https://</u> www.hvilletn.org/departments/human-resources/job-openings

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

SPRING HILL. The city of Spring Hill seeks to fill the full time, exempt position of communications director. He or she will develop, implement and maintain the city information program, and oversee public communications throughout the organization. The director will serve as the city spokesperson and primary news media liaison. He or she will develop and implement a cohesive communications strategy. Manage all news media relations, serving as city spokesperson; write news releases, and other web and social media content; manage primary city social media pages using government social media management best practices; manage website using content management system, serving as website administrator; and gather facts to distribute to news media. Manage Multimedia Specialist position, approving all graphic design work, print and digital promotional materials, photos, video projects, and operations of live video streaming system. Attend weekly department head meeting and write internal weekly staff report; occasionally write staff memos based on topical research; occasionally write mayoral speeches and talking points; coordinate with community partner agencies to develop and distribute communications materials; provide communications support to city departments; and develop, present and manage annual communications department budget. Respond to citizen inquiries through multiple communications platforms; plan, manage and execute annual State of the City Address event. The ideal candidate has strong writing and verbal skills, experience in news media relations, social media and website management experience, and a passion for working in the public sector. This strategic communications position will serve a pivotal role in citywide communications to

net/297/Current-Job-Openings

FINANCE DIRECTOR

NASHVILLE. The Greater Nashville RegionalCouncil(GNRC) is seeking an experienced professional to serve as its finance director. The Finance Director manages the agency's financial, accounting, and budgetary functions and is a key member of the organization's senior leadership team. GNRC is a public sector agency with a typical annual budget of approximately \$15 million. The vast majority of revenue is sourced from state and federal grants allocated by formula or awarded competitively to fund the agency's work across a variety of programs and services aimed at improving the region's economy and quality of life. Approximately 60 percent of the budget is used to fund the agency's day to day operations including its 80 member staff. The remainder is subgranted to local community partners such as municipal and county governments, non-profit organizations, senior centers, and aging and disability service providers. The finance team is staffed by four professionals including the Finance director. For more information and to apply go to: www.gnrc.org/jobs.

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

EAST RIDGE. The city of East Ridge is seeking a qualified human resources manager. Duties include but not limited to managing/maintaining personnel/medical files, employee orientation; recommends, plans, and implements changes in personnel policies and procedures. Must be familiar with governmental requirements and reporting. Manages workers compensation claims and annual audit, responsible for all government reporting. Manages entire benefit program and serves as liaison with insurance company. Responsible and oversees payroll administration and prepares documentation for budget review. Clerical duties are also part of this job function. Qualified applicants should have five years experience in Human Resources management; or three years experience in Human Resources management with a bachelor's degree in human resources management, business management, or related field. Salary DOQ. Open until filled. EOE/ Drug free workplace.

PARKS AND REC DIRECTOR

MANCHESTER. The city of Manchester is seeking a director of parks and recreation. This will include day-to-day operation of the recreation complex. This includes providing advisement to the board of mayor and alderman on facility, program development, long-term maintenance of facilities, and development of additional funding through private donation and grant resources. Key attributes include ability to develop and update long-range plans for department, speaking ability to large groups of people, communicate

PLANNING DIRECTOR

SHELBYVILLE. The city of Shelbyville is accepting applications for the full-time position of planning & community development director (planning director). The planning director will be responsible for daily administration of all planning and zoning activities, including comprehensive planning, and the administration of subdivision regulations. The planning director will also implement and manage municipal projects related to the development of this growing community. The ideal candidate will have at least a bachelor's degree in urban planning or a related field (master's degree preferred), and a minimum of 5 years' experience involving municipal land use planning at local government level. This is a full-time salaried exempt position with a starting salary between \$64,896 - \$79,601, depending on qualifications. Applications and a copy of job description may be picked up at city hall during normal business hours or download from the city website: www. shelbyvilletn.org. Application/job description must be returned to City Hall Administration

UTILITY DIRECTOR

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

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Executive Director

During the March TML Board of Directors meeting, as TML's new executive director, I reviewed my first 100 days. The following highlights are from the report along with a few insights that will advance our organization and the interests of the people we all serve.

THE 100 DAY REPORT

First, I want to thank the members of the search and executive committees and the TML board for the opportunity to serve as your executive director.

In recent months, I have listened and learned from our mayors, city council members, city managers, board members, and legislators. Your time and counsel have answered the question: "What advice do you have for the new guy?"

During interview process for this position, one question was on what is my approach to the TML leadership job. These are my four areas of focus:

• Unification – Organizing ALL of our cities as one voice and one force to tackle our grand challenges and provide leadership for our state.

• Respect and Credibility – The way we do business with others – with our members and our government leaders.

• Communications and Visibility – TML needs to be seen, heard and visible in our

engagements. The ways we communicate, directly and through various media channels, are critical for the organization.

• Value – Members, sponsors, partners and all who interact with us must find real value in our actions, and our capacity to lead.

During the first 100 days, these are some of the key actions that are underway:

Communications–Communication is our lifeblood. The various ways in which we communicate have dramatically changed and there is no end in sight. We are assessing our existing communications tools and platforms and looking at ways to strengthen our internal and external communications and messaging. We have engaged an experienced, outside media and communications consultant to work with us on these initiatives and on developing a strategic communications plan.

Digital Platforms – A migration to digital platforms helps us:

- Provide immediate news and information you need and use;
- Capture analytics on our government relations work to share the return on investment;
- Expand our base of friends and supporters to include the public through connections on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.
- Assess the real economic value of our brand and reach based on human interactions and our media, messaging and engagements.

Improved Reporting to the leadership and Board – With the start of 2021, a weekly report is distributed to the executive committee that summarizes key points of staff engagement, issues and activities. A monthly report is generated to the full board. We believe a better informed board makes for a stronger organization.

Strengthening the Partnership among TML, UT-MTAS, Bond Fund and Public Entity Partners – All of our sister agencies were established by TML to assist with our mission for cities to have better access to capital, improve risk management and to provide essential training and consultation on municipal issues. At the start of 2021, we committed to meeting monthly to discuss and implement ways to achieve our mission and better support our towns and cities.

Strengthening the Partnership with our City Managers and Administrators – Also beginning with the new year, I committed to a standing meeting with the leadership of the TN City Management Association. These are the professionals who passionately support our cities and state and have a wealth of knowledge to share.

LOOKING AHEAD

Survey and Strategic Plan – An updated strategic plan was identified as a necessary tool to help move our organization forward. We are work-

NATIONAL BRIEFS

Nearly one in five Americans have lost a friend or family member to COVID-19, according to a new AP-NORC survey. Black and Hispanic respondents to the survey experienced the highest amount of loss with 30% and 29% reporting they had lost someone close to them during the pandemic. Only 15% of white respondents reported the same. The survey also found that those from low-income households were more likely to know someone who had died (24%) than those from households making \$30,000 or more (17%). The virus has claimed more than 2.62 million lives worldwide with roughly 20% of those coming from the U.S., the nation that has been hardest hit by the pandemic.

nificant spring drought since 2013 with roughly 74 million residents from the Pacific Coast to the Southwest to the Great Plains and Upper Midwest and even Florida impacted, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Drought conditions could grow worse and expand in other areas of the country if hotter-than-average temperatures and less rainfall continue. Water supplies could also dwindle in some areas. every state but Nevada where they hold 60% of the seats. Gains at the state level are also mirrored on the federal level where women now hold a record 27% of seats.

Adults under stay-at-home orders during the pandemic put on an average of two pounds a month, according to a new study. A study in the Journal of American Medical Association tracked weight measurements from Bluetooth-connected smart scales and found that adults under shelter-in-place orders were gaining more than half a pound every 10 days. Under lockdown habits, the average American could gain 20 pounds in the course of a single year. Obesity already a major issue for American adults, and those with higher BMIs are at a greater risk of developing more severe cases of COVID-19. Researchers noted that many of the studies participants had been actively losing weight prior to the pandemic, but shelterin-place orders prevented them from continuing healthy habits, like regular gym attendance or eating less healthy diets. Lockdowns also resulted in many becoming more sedentary in general.

ing with UT-MTAS, in developing the framework for our Strategic Plan that will launch with a stakeholder survey. Working with the executive committee, we will review and fine tune the next steps with the goal of engaging our membership in early summer.

Employee Baseline Assessment

& Performance Metrics – TML's job/position descriptions will be reviewed, updated and include measurable, performance metrics. This will make us a stronger team and perform at a higher level for our members.

Annual Review our Legislative Impact –At the end of a legislative session, our legislative team will review and reflect on our performance – how well we did, what worked and what could have been improved. We will also be looking at our team's metrics and ROI.

Continue to Evaluate and Assess the Value of our Brand for Sponsorships and Affiliation – Our sponsorship levels were updated over a decade ago. It is past time for a review. The move to digital platforms enables us to gather various analytics, offering sponsors tangible data on the impact of their TML investment. This information will also provide additional capital support for TML to achieve our mission of support for Tennessee's cities and towns and the people who live and work in our communities.

Going forward, I will share with you the progress being made on these focus areas, and new ones that emerge. Your continued support of the Tennessee Municipal League will strengthen the voice of our towns and cities and the Tennesseans who call them home.



April 6 - 8, 2021 TN Fire Chief Association Spring Conference Gatlinburg







TN Stormwater Assn

TML SPONSORS 5 STAR SPONSOR Voya Financial Advisors 4 STAR SPONSOR Blue Cross Blue Shield 3 STAR SPONSOR First Horizon Bank 2 STAR SPONSOR Alexander, Thompson, Arnold, CRA's Alliance Water Resources

Bank of America Bank of New York Mellon, Co. Entegrity Environmental Products Group Waste Management Inc. of Tennessee **1 STAR SPONSOR** The Brick Industry Charter Communications Employee Benefit Specialists, Inc. J.R. Wauford & Co. Consulting Engineers Local Govt. Corporation Mattern & Craig, Inc. NORESCO Pavement Restorations, Inc. Republic Services Smith Seckman Reid Tennessee 811

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TML STAFF

Anthony Haynes, Executive Director Chad Jenkins, Deputy Director Mark Barrett, Legislative Research Analyst Kate Coil, Communications Specialist Jackie Gupton, Administrative Assistant Carole Graves, Communications Director & Editor, *Tennessee Town & City* Sylvia Harris, Conference Planning Director John Holloway, Government Relations Debbie Kluth, Marketing Director / Member Services Kevin Krushenski, Legislative Research Analyst Denise Paige, Government Relations Nearly half of the U.S. is in the midst of a moderate to exceptional drought conditions with government forecasters expecting conditions to grow more severe in coming months. The country is presently in its most sig-

A record-breaking number of women are serving in state legislatures and in leadership positions within those legislatures according to a new report from the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). In 2021, more than 2,200 women were serving in legislatures across the state with 90 women serving in leadership positions within those bodies. NCSL tracking shows women held about a quarter of all seats in state bodies between 2009 and 2018, but that number has begun shifting upward since 2019. Women now account for about 30% of all state lawmakers. However, women represent 51% of the U.S. population and hold less than half of the legislative seats in

April 7 - 9, 2021 *TCMA Spring Conference* Murfreesboro

June 2 - 4, 2021 *TAMCAR Spring Conference* Murfreesboro

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

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

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



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Role of local airports vital to tourism, military operations

By KATE COIL *TML Communications Specialist*

Generating more than \$20.5 billion in economic impact for their communities, small and regional airports across Tennessee play a major role in generating value to both the state and local municipalities.

A recent Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) study on the economic impact of aviation in Tennessee found that the industry generates \$40 billion worth of economic benefits to the state and employs more than 220,000 people. Of that economic impact, 51.25% came from the 70 small and regional airports operated out of the state's non-metro municipalities.

While serving local businesses through travel, shipping, and other services is one of the major drivers of this economic impact, local airports can also serve other important roles in their communities. John R. Black, executive director of the **Smyrna Airport**, said many people are not aware of the variety of services their local airport may offer.

"There are so many services that airports provide, like medical services, agriculture, cargo and freight, law enforcement, military, and flight training," he said. "There are medical services like life flight services that are located at airports all around so they can easily respond to things like traffic accidents. Here in the last year, three times a week we fly COVID samples to the labs. During the pandemic, we have played a pretty big role in that. I know in West Tennessee, especially, they have a lot of crop dusters and work with agriculture.'

From hosting talent for local musical festivals to bringing in vacationers to facilitating military operations, local airports serve a variety of functions.

COME FLY WITH ME

Travel is big business for airports across the state. Of the nearly 7 million people who came through Tennessee airports during the year of the study, approximately 70% of air travelers came for leisure purposes. Of these visitors, an estimated 5.7 million came through commercial air service while 884,000 flew into a general aviation airport. Tennessee airports generate more than \$8.6 billion in visitor spending directly associated with these travelers.

Jon Glass, airport manager of the **Tullahoma Regional Airport** (**THA**), said the airport gets a lot of visitors flying in to visit the nearby



Outside of Tennessee's big four metro cities, the Tri-Cities Regional Airport is one of only two airports in the state that provide daily and weekly commercial flights. Destinations like Bristol Motor Speedway, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and the Appalachian Trail are some of the major destinations bringing air travelers in to the area from Texas, Georgia, North Carolina, and Florida.



Enthusiasts of the Beech Aviation Company are frequent visitors to the Beechcraft Heritage Museum at the Tullahoma Regional Airport, which was started by a local family who were fans of the plane. Cofounded by a Pulaski native, the love for this American aircraft draws visitors from all over to visit the airport for its annual "Beech Party" and other associated events.



Airshows, like the event shown here at the Millington-Memphis Airport, are a big tourism draw for many local and regional airports across the state. Airports provide an important tool for tourism, whether its bringing in big names to Bristol Motor Speedway or the Bonnaroo Main Stage or offering aerial tourism, skydiving lessons, and quick access to tourism destinations.

use our airport to stage from. They mainly fly in the performers, and then Bonnaroo picks them up in SUVs or limousines and drives them to the festival. Before I worked here, I worked at the Nashville airport. I occasionally might see Vince Gill or Alan Jackson, but it was nothing like what I see here."

The Tri-Cities Regional Airport (TRI) is also no stranger to big names coming through the terminal. From NASCAR drivers to musicians performing at venues like Bristol's Rhythm and Roots Festival, TRI Executive Director Gene Cossey said the facility sees its fair share of celebrities. "We see people come in all the time for music festivals and for race weekends at Bristol Motor Speedway," he said. "A lot of times folks come in for those on private aircraft, and sometimes they come in on the commercial aircraft. We definitely get drivers, team owners, and musicians coming through. The NASCAR drivers tend to ship all of their cars and equipment in on trucks, but they fly their crews and drivers around to the events."

that can go anywhere. We have a lot of people in the community who are flying for leisure travel."

Airshows can be another big draw to regional airports. Black said visitors from as much as nine different states come annually to watch the Smyrna Airport's annual show.

"You would be surprised how much tourism activity we see through here," Black said. "A lot of our corporate aviation actually goes out on trips on weekends or brings people in to town for different events. We also hold one of the major signature events in this area, which is the Great Tennessee Airshow. That single weekend has a million-dollar impact on the area. This year is a 50th anniversary of the airshow in June. The show draws from every state that touches our border and even some further away. We usually have folks from around a 200-mile radius come. People love aviation. We also offer airport tours and a big fish fry in the hangar that brings people from all around. " **Millington-Memphis Airport** Executive Director Roy Remington said the Millington airport also holds a popular regional airshow. Known for his high-energy aerial acrobatics, airshow pilot Skip Stewart is based at Millington. When he's not practicing, he's one of several pilots who is often featured on the bill for the Midsouth Airshow. The event has been known to attract approximately 75,000 spectators to Millington. "The Blue Angels are really the big draw, and they're the rock stars of the aviation world. When they come to town, Millington gets the tax receipts from fuel sales, people who buy food, rent hotel rooms and spend the night. All of that helps drive the local economy. It also signals how important the U.S. military is not only for Millington but also our nation. Those pilots are the best in the world, and they really demonstrate the pride and strength of the U.S. Navy, which is our largest employer here in Millington."

developed into the local airports used by communities today.

Millington is one such community that has deep ties to the military, both as a city and through its airport. Millington is well-known as the home of Naval Support Activity Mid-South, a naval base that provides logistic and operational support. The base began life at what is now the adjacent Millington-Memphis Airport before the Air transit. Squadrons will fly in to the airport together, go across the street, meet with their detailers, and figure out the next step of their careers."

Tullahoma's THA began life as William Northern Field, an air training base for Liberator bombers originally constructed for the U.S. Army Air Corps. The airport was then sold as military surplus in 1946. Recently, renovations began a World War II-era hangar at the airport by a local company that intends to refurbish it for use by three local businesses.

Glass said the airport's military legacy can still be felt.

"When the airport was declared surplus, the city of Tullahoma was given the first option to buy it, but the city couldn't afford it," he said. "John Harton, who was a mayor of Tullahoma and a state treasurer, bought the airport in 1947 and kept it going for 30 years as a privately-owned, public use airport. In 1977, the city began buying back the airport from the family and it is now fully city owned. However, the military conduct drills here from time to time, usually out of Fort Campbell."

The Greater Tullahoma area is still home to the Air Force as well. In 1949, Tullahoma was selected by Congress as the site of a new air engineering development center, which is now known as the Arnold Engineering Development Center at Arnold Air Force Base.

While the actual airfield at the base was decommissioned in 2009, Arnold Air Force Base is still used for missions supporting the Tennessee Army National Guard and Fort Campbell. It also maintains the largest and most advanced complex of flight simulation facilities in the world. Military contractors also work in the area. Glass said one of the airport's tenants is XP Services, who provide government and military contracting. The Smyrna-Rutherford County Airport was built in 1942 to serve as the home of the Army Air Force Combat Crew School, training troops to fly B-24 and B-17 aircraft. It was deactivated at the end of the war and then reactivated in 1948 under the U.S. Air Force and renamed Stewart Air Force Base in 1950. The airport was finally decommissioned fully in 1970 and transferred to civilian operation. However, Black said that doesn't mean the military doesn't still have a home there. "A lot of military comes through here, especially the National Guard," he said. "When they deploy or recover troops going on any kind of mission, they do most of that out of the airport. Last year, we had about 6,000 troops in and out of Smyrna. There is a piece of the airport the National Guard still owns and operates. They have a lot of training schools here people transition through and a medical unit here. There are several different units that operate from the Smyrna Airport, and then there is a joint facility used by the Army, Navy, and National Guard. There is still a big military presence here. They're great neighbors, and we love working with them." While no longer a military base, the Smyrna Airport is still home to a Tennessee Army National Guard helicopter unit that operates 60 helicopters with around 300 full-time personnel. The Tennessee Air National Guard also leases part of the airport facility for its Grubbs/Kyle Training Center, which supports 24 units and 1,270 part-time and fulltime personnel. For more information on the TDOT Airport Economic Impact study, visit https://www.tasp2040.com/.

Jack Daniels Distillery in Lynchburg and the airport itself is the home base of Skydive Tennessee, a local business owned by former military personnel that gives visitors an extreme view of Middle Tennessee, whether it's their first time skydiving or they are an old pro.

Another major tourism draw in the Tullahoma Area is the Beechcraft Heritage Museum, which has its roots at the airport.

"The Parish family started the Beechcraft Heritage Museum here in 1974," Glass said. "They were big enthusiasts of the Beechcraft Staggerwing, and it's just grown over the years to include all Beechcraft models. Walter Beech, the co-founder of the Beechcraft Aviation Company, was born in Pulaski. Every October the museum has a 'Beech Party' that brings in about 150 aircraft. They have expanded to having more events and have a pretty full schedule this year. There is an event about every other month."

Tullahoma has also garnered a national reputation for aviation enthusiasts.

"In 2014 and in 2019, the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association picked our airport as the location for one of their regional fly-ins," Glass said. "Twice we have been selected as one of four or five airports in the country used for that event, which is huge."

Of course, the biggest event that draws the biggest names to THA is actually an event that takes place in nearby Manchester. THA is the closest general aviation airport to the world-famous Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival. Traffic at THA increases by as much as 80% during the month of June when both performers and attendees fly in for the event.

"We have had pretty much every star you can think of fly in for Bonnaroo like Paul McCartney, Elton John, Tom Petty, Metallica, Pearl Jam, Eminem, Steve Martin, Sting, Beyonce, Jay-Z, and I could go on and on," Glass said. "Most of the big performers at Bonnaroo Cossey said the airport also brings in visitors to see some of the area's other biggest tourism draws.

"The biggest thing the airport does for this region is facilitate easy travel in and out of the area," he said. "We have a lot to offer in this area as far as tourism. People come here all the time for events, and we expect to see more of that as things like the casino planned in Bristol, Va., open. We offer easy access to the Appalachian Trail. We work a lot of with the different tourism groups to develop more air service.

TRI operates commercial flight services that allow locals to take trips for business or pleasure to a variety of destinations. The airport offers regular flights from the Tri-Cities area to Atlanta, Charlotte, Dallas-Ft. Worth, Orlando, and St. Petersburg-Clearwater, Fla. Outside of Tennessee's four major metro areas, TRI and Jackson's McKellar-Sipes Regional Airport are the only two that offer regularly scheduled commercial flights.

"The biggest thing our region as a whole benefits from is our commercial air service," Cossey said. "We have American, Delta, and Allegiant Air flying in and out of the airport on a daily or weekly basis. We have flights daily to Charlotte, Dallas, and Atlanta and connecting to the rest of the world there. We occasionally get charter flights in

AIMING HIGH

Many of Tennessee's airports have longstanding connections to the military. During World War II, the military and the burgeoning U.S. Air Force used many already existing airports as training grounds or bases of operations as well as built many new facilities across the state as part of the war effort. After World War II, several of these air bases were sold off as surplus and were Force became its own branch of the U.S. military.

'Millington used to be the Naval Air Technical Training Center for all of the U.S. Navy's aviation training. We only became a civilian airport in 1999," Remington said. "The city fathers of Millington and Memphis saw aviation as the next big thing in the early 1900s. The airport here at Millington was first opened here in 1917, right on the cusp of World War I. The Millington Chamber of Commerce and Memphis Chamber of Commerce gave the seed money to grade the property, clear the timber, and then donated it to the U.S. Army. Any aircraft operations during World War I were under the U.S. Army Signal Corp, and they operated the equivalent of an air base. After the war, it fell into general use, but with World War II, the Navy saw this centrally located inland base as ideal for their naval air operators, so they took it over. They then really built it out. "

In 1942, the facility became the U.S. Navy's Naval Reserve Aviation Base, later becoming Naval Air Station Memphis and the Mid-South Naval Air Station. It wasn't until 1993 that the facility and 550 acres of undeveloped adjacent property were transferred to the city of Millington as a result of a realignment of military bases.

Today, Remington said it's not unusual to see naval personnel at the airport.

"All of the high-level staffing decisions, all of the admiral advancement boards, and ordering and administrative functions of the U.S. Navy are all based in Millington," he said. "Every U.S. sailor around the world gets their orders from Millington. Even though they turned over the airport proper, they kept the property adjacent to it and have about 8,000 soldiers and sailors based there. Even though we aren't a base, they still use us quite a bit. You can imagine with 8,000 people, there are going to be needs for people to come for staffing reasons, dignitaries that fly in, and VIP