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345 Cities



- 60 % of the state's population live in a city More than 70 percent of our cities have populations less than 5,000 with few employees who work hard to provide essential services.
- Cities have taken extraordinary measures to protect the health, safety, and the continuation of essential services throughout the COVID pandemic emergency.
- Our police and fire protect. Our EMS providers respond. Our sanitation workers are still on the streets helping to keep our cities clean, and our water and wastewater operators are working 24/7 to ensure service continues as normal.

Tennessee cities are the economic engines of our state and are essential to our economic recovery

- Approximately 92% of the state sales tax collection is generated from inside municipal boundaries.
- Prior to the pandemic, the state enjoyed more than 8 years of substantial economic growth.
- The vast majority of this growth occurred in cities where local officials provided essential services, quality of life, and economic conditions that attracted new residents and fostered the creation of new businesses
- 93% of the state's business tax collections are generated within city limits. At least 86% of all commercial and industrial property value is located within city limits.
- Municipalities across Tennessee have lost millions in revenues and will experience budget shortfalls from pauses in commerce and tourism due to the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. This lost revenue to our local economies cannot be fully recouped through the local tax base. Without a funding relief lifeline, the negative effects of the pandemic emergency on local communities will continue long after this year.





Support for local recovery efforts essential to rebuilding state's, nation's economy

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, city and town leaders in the state prioritized the health and welfare of Tennessee's citizens above all other considerations.

In order to ensure safety, local officials closed all non-essential businesses and services, limited large gatherings, and implemented stay-at-home orders. These decisions were not made lightly, as the sales tax generated from these businesses and services is the primary source of revenue for local economies in Tennessee.

Now that we are navigating the recovery process, it is estimated that municipalities across Tennessee have lost approximately \$70 million in revenue during the months of March and April of this year. This lost revenue to our local economies cannot be fully recouped through the local tax base.

Communities across this state are on the frontline of this crisis and are taking extraordinary measures to protect our residents' health and safety, including continuing essential services. Unfortunately, the fiscal consequences of COVID-19 are unprecedented and unbudgeted. Without a relief lifeline to recover and restore our local economic activity, municipalities will have to consider major cuts to essential services and laying off local workers, including emergency first responders, sanitation workers, social service providers, and others who keep our communities safe and moving forward during this difficult time.

That is why the Tennessee Municipal League has joined with the National League of Cities and other state leagues across the country in asking for Congress' support for direct relief funding to protect the members of our communities who help protect us. Specifically, we are asking for legislation that includes: Sufficient federal aid for local

- governments; Fair and direct funding al-
- locations to each and every local government with no

- exclusions based on population; and
- Maximum flexibility for the eligible use of funds to address the budget consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A recent TML survey of our membership revealed the top priority and greatest need among local officials is the economic stability of their communities. Maintaining the health of their local economy is crucial, and fears of not being able to continue to provide the level of essential services citizens need is a broadly shared concern.

If cities are hampered and unable to provide services and create the economic environment that promotes expansion, then Tennessee will be very slow to realize any meaningful recovery.

Tennessee's cities are not bloated bureaucracies with a history of fiscal mismanagement. More than 70 percent of our cities have populations less than 5,000 and few employees. Our cities are the economic engines of this state. Tennessee relies heavily upon sales tax revenues and its cities and towns that generate 92 percent of the state's sales tax revenues. Prior to the pandemic, the state enjoyed more than 8 years of substantial economic growth. The vast majority of this growth occurred in cities where local officials provided essential services, quality of life, and economic conditions that attracted new residents and fostered the creation of new businesses. All the while, cities continued to produce balanced budgets each year, and city residents remain among the lowest taxed in the nation.

The impact on the people of Tennessee will be drastic if the federal government does not act quickly. This moment requires unprecedented partnership from all of us in order to protect public health and restore economic prosperity. Our state and our nation depend on it.

Stay-At-Home orders, massive unemployment claims deepen Tennessée's economic woes

BY CHAD JENKINS TML Deputy Director

KEVIN KRUSHENSKI TML Research Analyst

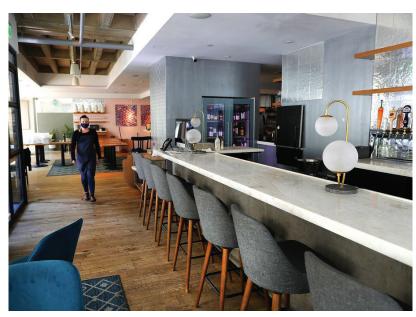
Every Tennessee county reopened in some form this month. Nashville's Phase 1 reopening began May 11, and the balance of the state gained a full week of experience operating under the Tennessee Pledge. The major ongoing question will continue to be consumer confidence and appetite for personal risk.

The re-opening was overshadowed by the state's release of April revenue collections (representing March activity). State revenues dramatically missed expectations. The state attributed the miss to COVID actions and behaviors as well as extended tax filing deadlines for business related taxes.

For the month of April, actual revenues missed budgeted revenues by nearly 38%. This miss was driven by a collective 65% under-collection in F&E, Business, and Hall Income taxes as well as Sales and Use missing budget by more than \$61 million, or 7%. Year-to-date, State General Fund revenues fell \$164 million under budget, once again, driven largely by the extended filing deadlines. The state's predominant revenue source (Sales and Use) was \$182 million above budget through nine

The May revenue report, which will not be released for nearly four weeks, will likely reveal the true depths of the economic downturn. This report will cover the four April weeks of extremely limited economic activity and massive unemployment claims. A glance at the taxes by sales classification highlight the purchasing behavioral impact of COVID and the stay-at-home orders, and this data may reveal short-term revenue expectations.

The immediate COVID-related job recessions appear to be slowing. The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development Weekly New Unemployment Claims release reported another reduction in new claims. For the week of May 9, new unemployment claims increased by 29,308 which is the lowest since the stay-at-home orders began. Over the last eight weeks, new unemployment claims totaled 503,888. Continuing Claims in-



Restaurants in all 95 counties have begun to reopen under the Tennessee Pledge guidelines, which requires restaurants to follow health and safety protocols to protect employees and customers.

creased to the highest level during the pandemic. As of May 9, 307,327 claims were paid totaling \$66.2 million state and \$228.4 million federal representing nearly \$960 per claim (~\$278 state and ~\$682 federal). In addition, on Monday the Department issued guidance that an individual must return to work regardless of health concerns if employment is available or else potentially lose unemployment benefits.

Local Government Revenues and Budgeting

As previously mentioned, the state released the April revenue report earlier this month. The report provided local governments the initial revenue impacts of the business shutdowns and stay-athome orders. While the report suggested deeper difficulties in May, local government revenue sources collected by the state were mixed. Local option sales tax did not fall nearly as much as the state sales tax, and the local business tax drop was attributed to the filing extensions.

Current year collections will be aided by eight months of revenue growth that exceeded expectations. Prior to April, the state sales and use tax grew at more than 6% year-to-date and is still 4.5% year over year after the April report. Business and fuel tax revenues also exceeded expectations prior to April. The state's amended budget reduced current year growth from 3.75% to 2.5% and may be tested by the May revenue report which will represent a full month of COVID-related business closures

and stay-at- home orders. Finally, despite April's bleak revenue report, local option sales tax collections are still growing at nearly 6% year over year and other revenue sources are currently up as well.

Local Option Sales Taxes

For the month, April 2020 aggregate local option sales tax fell by slightly under 1% when compared to April 2019, but yearto-date collections have grown by nearly 6%. As mentioned in prior summaries, while the state and local option sales tax applies to the same purchases, the sales "tax base" differs. This difference can be attributed to 1) the single article cap, which overweighs the importance of more expensive item purchases to state government compared to local governments, and 2) differential state rates on certain items such as food, which can impact the state budget but not locals if purchasing patterns migrate between rates. These two differences may help explain why state sales tax revenues fell much more than local option sales tax revenues.

Finally, local governments should be cautious of the potential for revenue migration between municipalities/tax jurisdictions. The total collections associated with catalog and mail order sales, which includes online sales, increased by nearly \$8.4 million or 62% for the month. Under destination sourcing, online sales tax revenues will accrue to the point of delivery (jurisdiction in which deliver occurs). To the extent that a portion See ECONOMY on Page 7

State lifts capacity restrictions on retail, restaurants; allows large attractions to open in time for Memorial Day Weekend

As Tennessee continues to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the state's Economic Recovery Group announced it is lifting capacity restrictions on restaurants and retail to instead focus on social distancing best practices effective May 22 and issue guidelines to facilitate the safe reopening of larger, non-contact attractions on or after May 22.

Six counties - Shelby, Madison, Davidson, Hamilton, Knox and Sullivan – may continue to follow individual, county-specific reopening plans created in consultation with state and local health departments.

"Tennesseans have worked incredibly hard to do their part and help slow the spread of COVID-19 so that our state can begin to reopen. Thanks to their continued efforts, we're able to allow restaurants and retail businesses to operate at greater capacity and large attractions to open in a safe and thoughtful way," said Gov. Bill Lee. "Our state continues to see downward trends in case growth and meets the White House criteria for a phased reopening. This progress has been hard-won,



Amusement parks such as The Island in Pigeon Forge were allowed to reopen on May 22 provided they follow the new state guidelines for protecting employees and customers.

and we can build upon it by reopening while also maintaining common-sense safety measures like mask-wearing and good hygiene. By taking the Tennessee Pledge, our businesses can reopen in a way that protects the health of their customers and employees, and protects the livelihoods of hard-working Tennesseans."

Large, non-contact attractions and venues including concert and performance venues, amusement and water parks, auditoriums, theaters and dinner theaters, zoos, large museums and more can also reopen safely under new Tennessee See TN PLEDGE on Page 4

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



BRENTWOOD

The city of Brentwood has announced construction will begin to add bicycle lanes to Granny White Pike this summer. Scheduled repaving of the road is set to begin on June 30. In 2016, the city began working with engineering firm Kimley-Horn to explore the feasibility of adding bike lanes as part of the regular striping progress. The final report from the citizen-led Brentwood Bike and Pedestrian Ad Hoc Committee suggested installing bike lanes when Granny White Pike was scheduled to be repaved. Citizen input helped secured a non-buffered three-foot bike lane with 10-foot-wide travel lanes with a center left turn lane through the corridor as the best design for the roadway.

BRISTOL

The city of Bristol has created a "Counting Rainbows" contest as part of efforts to encourage city residents to complete the 2020 Census. Rainbows have become a symbol of hope during the coronavirus pandemic, and the city created the contest as a way to get younger residents involved with the U.S. Census. To enter, contestants color a rainbow sheet provided by the city and place it in the window of their home. They can then send a picture of their art to the city via email as well as tell who completed the Census for their family. All those who complete both steps are then eligible to win a \$25 Food City Gift Card. The deadline for the contest was May 18.

CELINA

As many rural hospitals struggle to remain open, Celina's previously closed Cumberland River Hospital is celebrating its grand reopening. After closing more than a year ago, the hospital had a soft reopening on April 18. The new owner of the hospital is Johnny Presley, a Crossville-based physician and owner of Rural Hospital & Clinics of America, LLC. Presley purchased the hospital from Cookeville Regional Medical Center, who closed the facility due to declining revenues, reimbursements, and number of patients. The new general surgeon for the hospital is Dr. Barton Clement, whose grandfather helped originally open the hospital. Several other physicians and medical professionals who worked at the hospital were also rehired when it reopened.

CHATTANOOGA

Volkswagen's Chattanooga assembly plant has announced a phased ramp-up of production after a 57-day shut down due to coronavirus. The factory plans to implement more than 90 new health and safety measures for returning employees ranging from touch-free temperature checking to masks for daily workers to staggering shift and break times for employees. The plant initially suspended production on March 21 and furloughed 2,500 workers temporarily on April 11. Several of the plant's suppliers also idled factories in response. Volkswagen said its new safety measures will follow both recommendations from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as Tennessee Pledge, developed by Gov. Bill Lee, the Unified Command Group, and Economic Recovery Group. Sanitation stations will be put through common areas of

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the plant and more staff have been added to plant cleaning crews. Volkswagen will also require all of its suppliers to follow the same health and safety protocols to ensure all parts are safely prepared for assembly.

CLEVELAND

Demolition is nearly complete on a site that will be the focal point of a downtown revitalization project in Cleveland. Crews are nearly finished with the demolition of the former Whirlpool Corporation manufacturing site near downtown Cleveland, also known as the Flat-Top Building. The site has hosted various manufacturing companies over the year including Dixie Products, Magic Chef, Maytag, Cleveland Cooking Productions, and Whirlpool, who acquired the property in March 2006. The Whirlpool Corporation began the demolition of the site in 2019 after moving to a new, state-of-the-art LEED-certified location on Benton Pike to accommodate company growth. Once demolished, the 90-acre property will be used as a step toward the transformation of Cleveland's downtown and become a focal point for the city. Proposals for the redevelopment of the site have included a sports complex and music venue as well as green space or parkland.

FRANKLIN

Local tourism organization Visit Franklin has launched a fundraising effort to support recovery efforts of small businesses in both Franklin and communities in surrounding Williamson County who are struggling financially from falling tourism revenue. Tourism in Williamson County generated an average of \$1.3 million per day in 2018, but the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has stalled tourism spending in the area. Visit Franklin has partnered with local business Twine Graphics to create an "All In This Together" t-shirt that can be purchased for \$22. All proceeds go to support the tourism industry and local businesses.

FRANKLIN

The city of Franklin has been ranked fourth on Southern Living magazine's list of the South's Best Small Towns for 2020. The magazine gave Franklin top marks for its downtown, particularly the Art-Deco style Franklin Theatre dating to 1937 as well as the new luxury Harpeth Hotel recently opened along the Harpeth River. This is not the first time Franklin has received accolades from the magazine. Southern Living ranked the city as both one of the South's Prettiest Towns and one of the Best Small Towns for a Romantic Getaway in 2018.

GERMANTOWN

The Germantown Board of Mayor and Aldermen recently approved a \$233,800 contract with Lakeland-based engineering and architectural firm A2H, Inc., for the construction of a new water tower to be paid for out of the city's utility fund. The city's water master plan has long called for a third water tower in the eastern portion of the city to help expand and continue quality service to local residents. The city has been in talks about adding a second water tower since the 1970s. Present plans call for the tower to be constructed on 12 acres of land that will be kept as a nature preserve near Forest Hill Elementary.

KNOXVILLE

Crews have officially completed the \$7 million Magnolia Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project in Knoxville. The project includes the installation of new sidewalks, bike lanes, stamped crosswalks, and the addition of landscaped center medians and left turn lanes. Finishing touches to be put on the streetscape include the addition of new Knoxville Area Transit (KAT) bus shelters and art wraps on utility projects being designed by the Knoxville History Project. The streetscape covers Magnolia Avenue between Jessamine and North Bertrand Streets and is aimed at both improving the area's aesthetics and encouraging private commercial investment. The upgraded multi-modal street improves pedestrian safety at intersection crossings, encourages walkability with wider, tree-lined sidewalks, and makes it easier for people to bike and access transit services along Magnolia Avenue.

KNOXVILLE

A Knoxville tradition has continued despite the coronavirus with a drive-thru tree giveaway organized by Keep Knoxville Beautiful and Trees Knoxville on May 23. Each year, the two organizations partner to distribute free trees to be planted by local citizens, and this year, the annual give-away was held as a drive-thru event where volunteers could pick up trees from the safety of their car windows. The giveaway was held at the Knoxville Botanical Garden's Center for Urban Renewal. Participants received either an oak or chestnut seedling or sapling to plant. By planting trees, residents are helping restore Knoxville's urban canopy, provide nesting grounds for local bird populations, and improve the overall environmental health of the area.

SPRING HILL

The General Motors plant in Spring Hill is expected to run on 100% solar energy by the end of 2022. The company's green tariff agreement with the Tennessee Valley Authority to supply up to 100 megawatts of solar energy per year, the amount of electricity consumed by 18,000 average American households. Most of the energy will be supplied by a solar farm in Mississippi currently under development. The project is part of GM's overall plan of sourcing 50% of all company-owned sites energy from renewable sources by 2023 and 100% by 2030. Spring Hill Manufacturing is the largest GM facility in North America, totaling 2,100 acre, 700 acres of which are dedicated to farming with an additional 100 acres dedicated to wildlife habitat, composing of wetlands and native grasses. The wildlife area has received gold recognition and certification from the Wildlife Habitat Council. The plant builds the GMC Acadia and the Cadillac XT5 and XT6, as well as several engines.

WATERTOWN

Country singer Keith Urban performed an impromptu concert at the Stardust Drive-In in Watertown for roughly 200 front line workers from Vanderbilt University Medical Center. About 125 cars were in attendance while Urban played for an hour, later posting the video to social media. Audience members were encouraged to clap by using their headlights. Urban may have performed one of the first in a series of drive-in concerts being organized at sites across the country. Founded in 2003, the Stardust Drive-In has been operating at half capacity during the pandemic and has allowed the ordering of concessions via mobile devices.

Mural restoration kicks off Loretto downtown projects



Local artist Anthony J. Augustin works to restore the mural in downtown Loretto he first painted in 1992. The restoration of the mural is part of a Tennessee Arts Commission Arts Build Communities (ABC) grant received by local organization Loretto Lift-Up, Inc. The mural restoration comes as part of new construction downtown of a long-awaited streetscape and sidewalk project being funded through a Transportation Alternative Program grant awarded to the city from the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

New equipment, walking track installed at Troy park



Crews work to install fitness equipment along the new walking track at Trojan Park in Troy. Pavement of the walking track itself will be made of recycled tires. The project is primarily being funded by federal and state funds.

Nashville landmarks go purple in honor of nurses



The Metro Nashville Courthouse and Korean War Veterans Memorial Bridge, seen here, were lit purple to honor nurses making a difference in the lives of the community on May 12. The event also celebrated the bicentennial of the birth of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. The World Health Assembly has named 2020 as the Year of the Nurse and Midwife.

WAUFORD

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

Museums ask citizens to preserve pandemic history as it happens

BY KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

Museums, historical societies, and archives across the state of Tennessee are looking to preserve history as it unfolds by asking residents to preserve stories and artifacts related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Tennessee State Museum is presently working on increasing both its digital offerings and serving the needs of the state. Joe Pagetta, director of communications with the museum, said the museum is currently working with the Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA) to chronicle the outbreak statewide.

"The TSLA is currently soliciting for such things as diaries and photographs, and we'll be coordinating our efforts with them," he said. "It may be, as a general rule, that we shall be seeking three-dimensional items (though



Items like facemasks, gloves, and other personal protective items may one day be preserved in museums to connect visitors to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many museums and historical groups across the state are already asking residents to preserve diaries, photographs, posters, videos, and other artifacts showing how the epidemic is impacting their daily lives.

the creation and implementing of

that plan has been made somewhat

challenging by the pandemic itself

we are still creating our plan). We certainly recognize the importance of collecting at this time, though

and stay-at-home orders."

In light of the pandemic, the TSLA is also encouraging users to learn about similar periods of adversity faced by Tennesseans in the past, such as the quarantines created during the statewide Spanish Flu pandemic in 1918 or the yellow fever outbreak in the Greater Memphis area in 1879, today memorialized by the city's Martyrs Park. Artifacts from these

state archives website.

The Clarksville Parks and Recreation Department has asked residents to engage in a historical documentation project by chronicling their personal experiences during the pandemic such as how it has impacted their work, schooling, daily routine, and home life.

periods are on virtual display at the

Tracy Jepson, historical interpreter at Fort Defiance Civil War Park and Interpretive Center, has designed a project titled "Clarksville and COVID-19: Saving Our

Stories." Jepson is looking for local people who would be willing to share their personal experiences during the pandemic.

"I know that future generations will want to hear our perspectives and think about our experiences during this life-changing time in our community, state, and nation," she said. "I am creating a file of social histories to submit to our local archives for safekeeping."

Additionally, the project has partnered with more than 20 local photographers to document life in Clarksville during the period and is preserving news stories, data, reports, and other information surrounding the pandemic on the local, state, and national level.

Collierville's Morton Museum Director Lydia Warren said the museum is continuing to engage with the community as well as create a collection for future museum-goers archiving the town's experience with the pandemic.

"At the Morton Museum, we've launched several initiatives to capture the thoughts, feelings, and experiences of local residents during the pandemic," Warren said. "We have a journaling program, where students and adults are journaling at home during the pandemic and will submit their writing to the museum later this year. We have a short online survey, where residents are invited to share their experiences quickly, easily, and, if they choose, anonymously. This has been very well received. Katie Bailey, our visitor services coordinator, has been documenting the local and national media response by saving newspapers, magazines, photos, and (since she does our social media) memes. She also has a timeline of local closures and re-openings. With our online form, sharing is very easy. With our journaling project, we hope to make sharing accessible to those who are not tech savvy, or lack access to technology. We are also accepting photos and videos."

Warren said this collection will offer future historians and museum-goers a glimpse into this unique period in the town's history as well as a more personal perspective on the situation from local residents themselves.

"Archiving first-person stories from Collierville residents of all ages, and from all walks of life, preserves snapshots of different local responses, reactions, and experiences," she said. "Collecting and preserving this data shows the impact of national and global trends and policies on our community, and how our community is responding. While fear is a general theme in the submissions we've received, hope and help are, too. Collierville residents are more than happy to make masks and support local businesses when possible."

The Archives of Appalachia at East Tennessee State University is also asking residents from East Tennessee to document their personal experiences and chronicle how the outbreak has affected life in the region. ETSU's Center for Appalachian Studies and Services, which includes the Archives of Appalachia, will collect materials during the duration of the COVID-19 crisis and permanently house them within the center.

Dr. Jeremy Smith, director of the Archives of Appalachia, said interested persons are invited to share materials such as diaries, writings, photographs, videos, social media posts and business correspondences that represent their experience during this time.

"Our project, 'Telling Your Story: Documenting COVID-19 in East Tennessee,' will chronicle how the people of our region journeyed through these unprecedented times," Smith said. "We want to hear from our community how they spent their days, how their lives, families, and businesses were affected and how they experienced loss and hardship, as well as how they stood in solidarity and the lessons they learned."

Tennessee State Museum receives national recognition

The Tennessee State Museum has received prestigious recognition from two major national museum organizations.

Martyrs Park along the Mississippi River in Memphis memorializes

a mass grave dug for the victims of the city's 1878 yellow fever out-

break as well as the brave individuals who stayed behind to nurse

the sick and dying despite considerable risk to themselves. Just as

we today learn about how outbreaks like this impacted Tennessee

history, local historians said items collected from citizens will educate

future generations about the COVID-19 pandemic.

The State Museum has been re-accredited by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), the highest national recognition signifying excellence afforded the nation's museums.

In addition, the museum is a recipient of an Award of Excellence from The American Association for State and Local History (AAS-LH) for its 2019-20 exhibition, "Let's Eat! Origins and Evolutions of Tennessee Food. The AASLH Leadership in History Awards, now in its 75th year, is the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history.

"Recognition like this on the national level is an achievement that the museum and the people of Tennessee can be extremely proud of," said Ashley Howell, executive director of the State Museum. "It indicates that we are operating at the highest level in our service to our community and visitors, and in the presentation of our exhibitions and programs. The museum continues to serve through digital programming during our current closure."

Originally accredited in 2003, the Tennessee State Museum's re-accreditation comes more than a year-and-a-half after the museum opened in its new location at Rosa L. Parks Bouleavrd and Jefferson Street, at Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park in Nashville.

From October 2018 through February 2020, some 275,439 visitors came to the museum and military branch of the museum, including 56,257 students and adults through field trips and group tours.

In addition to its permanent exhibitions, the museum opened and closed four temporary exhibitions in that time, including "Let's Eat! Origins and Evolutions of Tennessee Food." It is readying its latest, "Ratified! Tennessee Women and the Right to Vote," for when the museum reopens to the public.

AAM Accreditation brings national recognition to a museum for its commitment to excellence, accountability, high professional standards and continued institutional improvement.

Developed and sustained by museum professionals for over 45 years, the Alliance's museum accreditation program is the field's primary vehicle for quality assurance, self-regulation and public accountability.

Of the nation's estimated 33,000 museums, over 1,070 are currently accredited. The Tennes-

see State Museum is one of only 17 museums accredited in Tennessee.

Let's Eat! Origins and Evolutions of Tennessee Food ran from August 9, 2019 – February 2, 2020. Curated by the Museum's Rob DeHart, who recently received a Merit Award from the Tennessee Historical Commission for his work on the exhibition, it explored the rich and diverse history of Tennessee's food.

In 4,000 square feet, the exhibition traced the state's food traditions from its Southeastern Indian origins to the influence of West African and West European cultural groups to the contribution of more recent immigrants and contemporary food festival celebrations. Stories were told through artifacts from the museum's collection, digital storytelling, graphics, location photography and generous programming.

No loan is too large or too small



Etowah recently closed a \$1 million fixed-rate loan with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF) to finance a new city hall. Etowah has used TMBF loan programs 21 times since 1997. Seated L to R: Mayor Burke Garwood and City Manager Tina Tuggle. Standing L to R: Finance Director Alison Bull, and Steve Queener, TMBF Marketing Representative.

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



East Ridge recently financed a \$132,748 note with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF) to purchase police cars. The city has used TMBF programs 16 times since 1992. Seated: Mayor Brian Williams. Standing L to R: Steve Queener, TMBF Marketing Representative; Chris Dorsey, City Manager; and Diane Qualls, Finance Director.





PEOPLE



Ad-Joe ams, former mayor and alderman for Newbern, died of complications due to COVID-19 in Hatties-



Joe Adams

burg, Miss., at the age of 89. A Newbern native, Adams joined the U.S. Army and served as a staff sergeant in the Korean War, earning a Purple Heart for his service. He returned home and became a licensed funeral director, working for the Johnson Funeral Home for numerous years as well as a manager of the Curry Funeral Home in Dyersburg for five years. He also served as director of Parkview Ambulance and director for Regional Emergency Medical Service (REMS), managing several ambulance services throughout West Tennessee. He also served as the Dyer County coroner for 17 years. He was elected to serve as an alderman for Newbern for four years and was then elected to eight terms as the city's mayor. He is credited with leading the efforts to restore the Newbern Depot and the resulting Depot Day celebration.

Fred L. Davis, a former Memphis City Council member, civil rights leader, and business leader from the Orange



Fred Davis

Mound community, died at his home on May 12 after several months of illness. He was 86 years old. Davis was a pioneer in multiple ways, founding the Mid-South's first black-owned insurance company, the first African-American member of the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America, Inc., and providing leadership during the sanitation workers' strike and desegregation of Memphis, particularly the Memphis Fairgrounds. A Memphis native, Davis worked in the Peabody Hotel and at meat packing houses to support himself through Tennessee State University, earning his degree in accounting. It was there he met his wife Ella. In 1968, Davis ran for an open seat on the Memphis City Council and became one of the first of three black members on the council elected that year. After serving 12 years on the council, Davis continued to serve his community as president of the Liberty Bowl, founding director and president of the Mid-South Minority Business Council, inducted into the Society of Entrepreneurs, president of the University of Memphis Society, trustee of the Community Foundation, director of the Memphis Leadership Foundation, founding director of the Assisi Foundation, and a recipient of the Humanitarian Award of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

Brandon O. Gibson has been selected as the new chief operating officer for the state of Tennessee, taking over the position from Butch Eley who was recently appointed commissioner of finance and administration. Gibson has served

as senior ad-



Brandon Gibson

visor to Gov. Bill Lee, working primarily on rural and criminal justice initiatives. Prior to joining the governor's administration, she served on the Tennessee Court of appeals for more than four years as an appointee of Gov. Bill Haslam. She has also served as the chair of the Board of Judicial Conduct and co-chaired the Tennessee Bar Association's Public Service Academy and Leadership Law program. A native of Dyersburg, Gibson earned her bachelor's degree and master's degree in agribusiness from Mississippi State University and her law degree from Southern Methodist University. She practiced law in West Tennessee for several years before her court appointments.

Stuart McWhorter will depart his position as head of Gov. Bill Lee's Unified-Command Group to return to the private sector.



Stuart McWhorter

McWhorter joined the Lee administration in 2019 as the commissioner for Finance and Administration but was tapped to lead the Unified-Command Group in March. McWhorter will leave the position as director of the state's COVID-19 response team in late May to take on a senior advisory role at Clemson University. Prior to his appointment to state government, McWhorter served as the finance manager for Gov. Bill Lee's election campaign as well as in various positions in the healthcare and consulting industries. McWhorter received his master's degree in health administration from The University of Alabama-Birmingham and a bachelor's degree in management from Clemson University.

beth Rickman-Vaden has been hired as the new American with Disabilities Act coordinator for the city of Hender-



Elizabeth Rickman-Vaden

sonville as part of city efforts to increase compliance with ADA. Rickman-Vaden has been working with the city for 13 years in other capacities while the ADA responsibilities were previously handled as part of the city's human resources director's duties. Rickman-Vaden's position will include educating the public about accessibility options in the city as well as strengthening the relationship between city leadership and those in the community with disabilities. She will also ensure that all city facilities, events, programs, and policies are in compliance with

Bobby Wilson has been selected as the new executive director of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency



Bobby Wilson

(TWRA) making him only the third person to helm the agency since its founding in 1978. He will take over the position from Ed Carter, who retired as the agency's head in February. Wilson himself is a 41-year veteran of the agency, starting work with TWRA only a year after its foundation as a part-time fisheries technician. In 1980, he was selected as the lake manager of Lake Graham and then served as a fisheries biologist for Region 1 from 1984 until 1987. He served as assistant chief of fisheries beginning in 1997 and was promoted to chief of fisheries in 2010. He was then selected as the assistant executive assistant director for TWRA in 2015. Wilson holds both a bachelor's degree and master's degree from Tennessee Technological University.

Large attractions open in time for Memorial holiday

TN PLEDGE from Page 1 Pledge guidelines.

Strong measures to protect

employees and customers are recommended, including screening of employees and customers, creating plans for managing guest flow, and limiting capacity to ensure separation between small groups.

Restrictions on social gatherings of more than 10 people remain in place for the time being.

Updates to Restaurant Guidance will include a lift on capacity restrictions, allowing for increased service as long as social distancing guidelines are adhered to, including 6 feet between tables.

Bars remain closed unless used for seated, in-restaurant dining where there is 6 feet of separation between customer groups. Live music is permissible with appropriate precautions, which include maintaining at least 15 feet of separation between performers and audience in order to reduce potential exposure.

The updated guidelines come as Tennessee continues to meet the White House criteria for phased reopening.

The gating criteria include: **Symptoms**

Downward trajectory of influenza-like illnesses (ILI) reported within a 14-day period; AND

Downward trajectory of COVID-like syndromic (CLI) cases reported within a 14-day

- Downward trajectory of documented cases within a 14-day period; OR
- Downward trajectory of positive tests as a percent of total tests within a 14-day period (flat or increasing volume of

Hospitals

Cases

- Treat all patients without crisis care; AND
 - Robust testing program in place for at-risk healthcare workers, including emerging antibody testing

Tennessee Pledge Guidelines Large Attraction Guidelines

https://www.tn.gov/governor/ covid-19/economic-recovery/attractions-and-large-venues-guide-<u>lines.html</u>

Undated Restaurant Guidelines https://www.tn.gov/governor/ covid-19/economic-recovery/ restaurant-guidelines.html

Updated Retail Guidelines

https://www.tn.gov/governor/ covid-19/economic-recovery/retail-guidelines.html



CITIES ARE ESSENTIAL

and National League of Cities is proving it!

NLC and your state league are asking Congress to provide at least \$500 billion in funding to cities, towns, and villages to address the significant financial impact of COVID on these communities.

Local governments are calling for direct federal funding to protect families, municipal workers and America's economic future.

Communities will use federal aid and support to facilitate a reopening of the national economy.

CITIES ARE ESSENTIAL TO AMERICA'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY.

Learn more at nlc.org/CitiesAreEssential Support the campaign on social media #CitiesAreEssential



STATE BRIEFS

Tennessee ranked as one of the top states for working from home in a new survey conducted by financial planning website WalletHub. Tennessee ranked 12 out of 50 on the list, boosted by its overall fourth rank in terms of living environment rank. The living environment rank included factors such as internet cost, electricity prices, amount of detached housing units, and average square footage of homes. The state also ranked 25 in its work environment rank, which included factors such as the amount of workers working from home, potential telecommuters, internet access, and cybersecurity. The state also ranked fifth in terms of lowest internet cost.

Tennessee recorded 10,664 identity theft reports in 2019, according to information from the Federal **Trade Commission (FTC)**. This accounts for a 56.6% increase in identity theft reports year-overyear with approximately 158 in every 100,000 Tennesseans filing an identity theft report in 2019. The majority of the identity theft reports filed in the state related to loan or lease fraud. On the national level, 650,572 identity theft reports were made in 2019, a year-over-year increase of 46.4%. The FTC reported the most common types of identity theft nationwide in 2019 were credit card fraud, loan or lease fraud, or phone or utilities fraud.

The state of Tennessee has reported its lowest level of unemployment claims since the beginning of the COVID-19 shutdown in mid-March. A total of 29,308 new claims were filled for the week ending in May 9, down from the historic high of 498,001 new claims filed the week of March 15. More than 36 million Americans have filed unemployment claims during the pandemic, including 3 million the week of May 9. Tennessee's tourism and hospitality industry has been especially hard hit during this period.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has announced a phased approach for the reopening of its facilities in the Nashville District and campgrounds within the Cumberland River Basin. Tennessee campgrounds will be opened on June 1 while Kentucky campgrounds will open on June 11 in accordance with reopening plans for both states. Campgrounds and day use areas will be accessible in June, though group picnic shelters and swimming areas will remain closed. The Corps of Engineers reminds all visitors to honor the six-foot social distance rule, stay away from parks and recreation areas if you are sick or have symptoms, keep parks clean by practicing "pack in and pack out" etiquette, and always wear a life jacket when near the water.

"Get Alarmed, Tennessee" campaign saves 300 Lives

BY GARY FARLEY Assistant Commissioner TDCI Fire Prevention

"Get Alarmed, Tennessee" is an in-home fire safety education and smoke alarm installation campaign implemented in November 2012 by the Tennessee State Fire Marshal's office.

As of May 12, 2020, we are thrilled to announce that 300 Tennessee lives have been saved through our statewide campaign of installing smoke alarms.

According to the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA), smoke alarms provide an early warning of a fire, giving people additional escape time. In 2012-2016, smoke alarms were present in three-quarters of American homes (74%) and sounded in more than half (53%) of the home fires reported by U.S. fire departments. Three of every five home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with zero smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. Therefore, having functioning smoke alarms in your home cuts your chances of perishing in a fire by half.

It is clear that smoke alarms save lives, but only if they are properly installed and maintained. To date, more than 500 out of 698 total fire departments in Tennessee and partnering organizations have participated in our "Get Alarmed, Tennessee" campaign. Additionally, 231,500 smoke alarms have been distributed to fire departments across the state through funding from FEMA's Fire Prevention and Safety Grant Program.

Through our system of matching saved lives with smoke alarm installation addresses, we were recently able to track 300 saved lives. In those instances, it has been confirmed by the local fire departments that the smoke alarms contributed to the occupant's ability to escape fire danger and survive.

More than 191,000 smoke alarms have been physically installed in homes across Tennessee. Through our campaign, we install 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms to ensure that the smoke alarms never need a new battery, and merely need to be changed every 10 years. Some tips to keep in mind when installing a smoke alarm are to install alarms in every sleeping area, outside of every sleeping area, and on every level of your home. A smoke alarm should be placed on the ceiling or high on a wall and should be kept away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. Remember, it is important to test your smoke alarms at least once per month to ensure they are still working. If the smoke alarm siren is malfunctioning, replace the alarm immediately. Also, be sure to change the alarm battery if it begins to chirp randomly, as that is a signal that the batteries are low.

After installation of your smoke alarms, practice your escape plan by yourself, with family, with roommates, and with anyone living in your home. Also, take the time to create an escape plan for your grandparents or elderly neighbors, as those 65 and older are twice as likely to be killed or injured by fires. Since a small flame can quickly grow out of control and turn into a large, uncontrollable fire in less than 30 seconds, it is vital for you and your loved ones to establish your family's fire escape route and designated meeting place. For your designated meeting place, pick a light post, a specific tree, a mailbox, or a known and recognizable marker a safe distance from your home. Remember Tennessee, building your fire escape plan can keep yourself and your community

For more information on "Get Alarmed, Tennessee!" Please go to our website: httml

Applications for Tourism Enhancement Grants open June 1, deadline July 15

The Tourism Enhancement Grant applications will now open June 1. The grant was scheduled to open second quarter of the year but given the situation with coronavirus, it was approved to alter the timeline pushing back the application and contract dates.

The grant is for counties and cities seeking to enhance existing tourism assets or develop new infrastructure to increase economic impact.

Funded by the Rural Economic Opportunity Act, the Tourism Enhancement Grant offers communities grants of up to \$75,000 with a match requirement based on economic status. This grant is funded by TN Department of

Economic and Community Development and is in partnership and facilitated by TDTD.

Given the current situation with Covid-19, the next round of the Tourism Enhancement Grant was delayed and will now open in June.

- June 1 Application Available
 June 24 Webinar at 1 pm CST
- June 24 Webinar at 1 pm, CST
 July 15 Applications due at
- 4:00pm, CST

 July 16 22 Application review /score period
- review /score periodAug. 5 Contracting begins
- For more information go to: tn.gov/

Sept. 23 - Contracts due back

tourism/statewide-partners/tourism-enhancement-grant.html

April revenues \$693.8M less than budgeted

Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration Commissioner Butch Eley announced that revenues for April were less than the monthly revenues from the previous year.

Overall state revenues for April were \$1.3 billion, which is a negative growth rate of 39.75% compared to last year and \$693.8 million less than the state budgeted.

"The signs of economic downturn due to the COVID-19 pandemic have begun to appear in Tennessee's April tax receipts," Eley said. "April sales tax revenues, reflecting March taxable sales activity, were weakened as the state began to withdraw from its usual patterns of consumer spending by mid-month. Franchise and excise tax receipts, along with Hall income and business taxes are also notably reduced due to filing extensions that will allow individuals and businesses to report their taxable activity later in the year.

"It has been 10 years since an economic downturn has impacted state revenues. The state's large monthly revenue surpluses built up throughout the beginning of the year will now be tested as the pandemic's impact begins to erase those gains. Yet, we remain committed to keeping the state's budget in balance despite the current challenges."

The Tennessee Department of Revenue extended the due date for certain taxes on April 6, 2020 and can be found on their website at https://www.tn.gov/revenue/news/2020/3/31/tennessee-extends-certain-tax-deadlines-due-to-covid-19.html

On an accrual basis, April is the ninth month in the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

General fund revenues were less than budgeted estimates by

\$650.9 million, while the four other funds that share in state tax revenues were \$42.9 million less than the estimates.

Sales tax revenues were \$61.2 million less than the estimate for April and they were 6.01% less than April 2019. For nine months, revenues are \$182.4 million higher than estimated. The year-to-date growth rate for nine months is 4.83%.

Franchise and excise tax revenues combined were \$486.6 million lower than the budgeted estimate in April, and the growth rate compared to April 2019 was negative 70.61%. For nine months, revenues are \$249.2 million lower than the estimate and the year-to-date growth rate is negative 16.50 percent.

Gasoline and motor fuel revenues for April decreased by 1.4% compared to April 2019 and they were \$5.6 million less than the budgeted estimate of \$108.7 million. For nine months revenues are more than estimated by \$33.4 million.

Motor vehicle registration revenues were \$10.8 million less than the April estimate, and on a year-to-date basis they are \$1.6 million less than estimates.

Tobacco tax revenues were \$3.2 million less than the April budgeted estimate of \$18.8 million. For nine months, they are \$1.3 million more than the budgeted estimate.

Mixed drink taxes were \$7.4 million less than the budgeted estimate of \$12.5 million.

Hall income tax revenues for April were \$62 million less than the budgeted estimate. For nine months, revenues are \$55.5 million less than the budgeted estimate.

Privilege tax revenues were \$7.2 million less than the April estimate, and on a year-to-date basis,

August through April, revenues are \$34.4 million more than the estimate

Business tax revenues were \$50.4 million less than the April estimate. For nine months, revenues are \$41 million less than the budgeted estimate.

All other tax revenues exceeded estimates by a net of \$600,000 Year-to-date revenues, August through April, are \$88.1 million less than the budgeted estimate. The growth rate for nine months is negative 0.89%. General fund revenues are \$164.2 million less than the budgeted estimate and the four other funds are \$76.1 million more than estimated.

On Nov. 26, 2019, the board revised revenue growth ranges to a low of 3.10 percent and a high of 3.60 percent for total taxes and a recurring range low of 3.20 percent to a high of 3.75 percent for general fund taxes.

On March 19, 2020, in the second session of the 111th General Assembly, the Legislature passed the 2019-2020 budget, which included the Funding Board's current year revised ranges and also the administration's amendment to the proposed budget. The administration's amendment, in an effort to recognize the economic impact from the COVID-19 pandemic, included a reduction of \$153.8 million of previously projected revenue to acknowledge potential shortfalls. The governor signed the budget bill on April 2, 2020.

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

State awards 11 cities with more than \$10M in transportation alternative grants

Gov. Bill Lee and Tennessee Department of Transportation Commissioner Clay Bright have recently announced the award of more than \$10 million in Transportation Alternatives Grants statewide in Tennessee.

The state awarded \$10,328,312 in grants to 11 municipalities across the state.

"Increasing safety, promoting healthy lifestyles and providing improved access to our cities and towns make our communities better places to live and work," said Gov. Lee. "I'm pleased the state can provide the support necessary to move these projects forward."

The transportation alternatives grant is made possible through a federally funded program and is administered by the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

"Through these grants, TDOT has funded \$397 million in non-traditional transportation projects," said TDOT Commissioner Clay Bright. "This program has assisted communities all over the state in their efforts to revitalize down-

Municipality	Amount	Purpose
Ashland City	\$650,000	Bicentennial Trail Extension
Charlotte	\$1,096,596	State Route 48 Sidewalks
Charlotte	\$406,314	Downtown Revitalization Phase 1
Clinton	\$1,028,854	Pedestrian Improvements Phase 2
Ducktown	\$719,453	Pedestrian Enhancement Phase 3
Elizabethton	\$697,447	Historic Covered Bridge Structural Rehabilitation
LaFollette	\$1,482,516	Pedestrian Improvements Phase 4
Livingston	\$450,000	Courthouse Plaza Improvements
Martin	\$1,255,000	Elm Street Pedestrian Improvements Phase 7
Milan	\$548,150	Downtown Revitalization Phase 4
Portland	\$697,447	Richland Park Sidewalk Connector
Spring Hill	\$1,195,998	Harvey Park Greenway Phase 1

towns, highlight historic areas, provide alternative means of transportation, and increase opportunities for economic development."

A variety of activities, such as the restoration of historic facilities, bike and pedestrian trails, landscaping and other non-traditional transportation projects, are eligible for grant funds under the federal program.

For more information on TDOT's Transportation Alternatives Program, please visit TDOT's website at https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/tdot/program-develop-ment-and-administration-home/local-programs/tap.html

11 Municipalities among entities awarded Federal Historic Preservation Grants (HPF)

The Tennessee Historical Commission (THC) recently announced the recipients of more than \$839,000 in Federal Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) grants, including 11 cities who will share in 12 of the 35 total grants.

THC is the agency designated as the State Historic Preservation Office and awarded the grants for various historic preservation and archaeological projects throughout the state. The grants are awarded annually for projects that support the preservation of historic and archaeological resources.

In addition to cities, counties, and historical societies, this year's multi-county grant category also included funds for the creation of preservation specialist staff positions at each of the state's nine development districts who can be utilized by all communities within the district.

"This program is one of the main ways in which our office helps protect historic places and contribute to the preservation of Tennessee's heritage," said Patrick McIntyre, Executive Director and State Historic Preservation Officer.

The federally funded matching grants provide 60% of project funds from the HPF and 40% of project funds come from the grantee. Grants are competitive and this year the Tennessee Historical

Municipality	Amount	Purpose
Algood	\$22,500	Restoration of White Plains museum
Belle Meade	\$14,000	Survey of historic resources
Bolivar	\$21,000	Restoration of United Sons and Daughters of Charity Lodge Hall
Collierville	\$15,000	Town survey
Franklin	\$14,700	Restoration of Harlinsdale Farmhouse
Franklin	\$6,000	Restoration of City Cemetery
Gallatin	\$14,000	City survey
Lawrenceburg	\$30,000	Restoration of Crockett Theatre
Lynchburg/ Moore County	\$10,200	Design guidelines, update city survey
McKenzie	\$6,000	Updating design guidelines
Nashville Historical Commission	\$17,400	Restoration of historic resources at Centennial Park
Rogersville	\$26,250	Restoration of Powell Law Office

Commission staff reviewed 50 applications with funding requests totaling approximately \$1.7 million, significantly more than the amount of funding available.

This year's selection included an archaeological survey, design guidelines for historic districts, rehabilitation of historic buildings, a poster highlighting the state's archaeology, and surveys of historic

One of the grant priorities is for projects that are in Certified Local Governments (CLG), a program

that allows communities to participate closely in the federal program of historic preservation. Nine CLG communities were awarded grants this year. Additional priorities include those that meet the goals and objectives of the office's plan for historic preservation. Properties that use the restoration grants must be listed in the National Register.

The next round of grants is expected to be opened in December 2020 with applications due in January 2021. Check www.tnhistoricalcommission.org for updates.



CLASSIFIED ADS

No charge to TML members. Send advertising to: Carole Graves: cgraves@TML1.org.

CITY MANAGER

OAK HILL. The city of Oak Hill (Pop. 4,700) is seeking a city management professional to be their next city manager. Oak Hill is located just a few miles south of downtown Nashville. The city manager is appointed and reports to a board comprised of commissioners popularly elected atlarge to staggered, four-year terms of office. The city has a \$2.5M budget with 5 employees and several contracted services. Serving this satellite city is a unique and rewarding opportunity to be part of the greater Nashville community. Candidates should possess a bachelor's degree in public administration, business administration, or a field closely related to municipal management, with a master's degree in a related field preferred; and a minimum of 10 years of progressive, responsible management experience that includes experience in city management, planning, zoning and finance. Position profile is available at www.oakhilltn.us. Send cover letter and resume by electronic mail to the City of Oak Hill, Attention: Jeff Clawson (jeff.clawson@oakhilltn.us). Initial review of applications will occur by the first week of April. Position opened until filled. For additional information please contact: Jeff Clawson (jeff.clawson@oakhilltn. us) and/or Gary Jaeckel (gary.jaeckel@tennessee.edu)

COMMERCIAL PLANS REVIEWER

GALLATIN. The city of Gallatin is currently accepting applications for a commercial plans reviewer in the codes department. The purpose of this position is to perform intermediate technical work in the review of plans for commercial, industrial, and public facilities for compliance with building, plumbing, mechanical, gas piping and electrical codes, and other ordinances. Essential duties and responsibilities include: Performs field inspections of commercial, industrial, and public facilities for compliance with building, plumbing, mechanical, gas piping and electrical codes, and other ordinances. Conducts building and related inspections. Receives and investigates complaints regarding non-compliant construction and inspects existing buildings for hazardous conditions or systems failure. Must have state of Tennessee Certification as a Commercial Plans Reviewer and a valid driver's license. Interested candidates must apply online at www.gallatintn. gov to be considered for this open positon. Full job description will be available online. Under the How Do I tab, click on Employment Opportunities. Once the Employment page pulls up, click the apply button and follow the instructions.

ENGINEERING SPECIALIST

SPRINGFIELD. The city of Springfield is accepting applications for an engineering specialist with Springfield Water/WW Department from May 11-June 12, 2020. Essential responsibilities include performing professional and technical engineering work assisting in the design and maintenance of water distribution and treatment systems and wastewater collection and treatment systems. Graduation from a four-year college with a bachelor's degree in civil or environmental engineering or engineering technology

Advertising: \$9.25 per column inch. (ABET); some practical experience in public water and wastewater systems preferred; or any equivalent combination of education, experience and training which provides the required knowledge, skills and abilities. Salary range is \$58,585 - \$80,608/YR. Applications may be submitted on-line at the following website: www-springfieldtn.org. City of Springfield Personnel Department, 405 North Main Street, P.O. Box 788, Springfield, Tn 37172.

FINANCE DIRECTOR.

NOLENSVILLE. The town of Nolensville is seeking to hire a professional, qualified municipal accounting professional to serve as finance director. Under the general administrative direction of the mayor, the finance director directs financial and operational activities of the town in accounting, accounts payable, budgeting, cash management, information services, payroll, purchasing, and human resources/ benefits administration. The ideal candidate is a highly professional, knowledgeable, confidential and ethical team player who can maintain diplomacy while executing his/ her duties in an efficient and effective manner. Bachelor's degree in accounting or finance, 6-8 years of governmental accounting and human resource experience is required, or equivalent combination of education and experience. CMFO required, or must be willing to obtain CMFO certification within 18 months of hire. CPA preferred.Starting salary (minimum \$68,885) is dependent on qualifications. A complete job description and application are available on the town's website. https:// www.nolensvilletn.gov. To be considered for this opportunity, please submit a resume and cover letter to Montique Luster, Town Recorder, at mluster@nolensvilletn.gov. Position is open until filled.

PERMIT ASSOCIATE I CODES **DEPARTMENT**

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

PERMIT TECHNICIAN

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

PLANNING / ECONOMIC

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

POLICE CHIEF

HENRY. The city of Henry is accepting applications for the position of police chief. Candidates must be a high school graduate or GED equivalent. Candidates must currently be POST certified by the state of Tennessee. Candidates must pass a background check. This is a full-time position with benefits. Applications will be accepted until position is filled. A city application must accompany all resumes. http://www.cityofhenry. com/wp-content/uploads/forms/cityofhenryjobapp.pdf. EOE.

POLICE DISPATCHER

SHELBYVILLE. The Shelbyville Police Department will be accepting applications for full-time police dispatcher. Applicants must be 18 years of age and high school graduate or equivalent. Applications and a copy of job description may be picked up at city hall during normal business hours. Applications must be returned to City Hall Administration Office, 201 N. Spring Street, Shelbyville, TN, 37160, and will be accepted until position is filled. Applications and job descriptions can be picked up at city

hall or downloaded from the city website: www.shelbyvilletn.org. EOE/ drug free workplace. Successful applicants required to pass background check, physical, and drug screen.

PROJECT MANAGER / CIVIL PLANS REVIEWER

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

UTILITY OPERATOR

WARTRACE. The town of Wartrace is currently accepting applications for a utility operators Work includes any and all duties required to operate and maintain a municipal wastewater collection system, as well as water distribution, public works, and other general maintenance duties as assigned. This work is performed primarily outdoors and is subject to extreme weather conditions. Occasional work after hours and on-call hours required. Must be at least 18 years of age, High School Diploma/ GED, and Valid TN drivers license.

CDL License (or ability to obtain CDL within 6 months). Any and all water and wastewater licenses or certifications helpful and will be verified. Experience with operation of heavy equipment: backhoe, skid loader. Finalist must pass a background, drug & alcohol checks prior to employment Salary DOQ. This is a full-time position with benefits that include health, vision, and dental insurance, vacation, sick, and holiday leave. Applications should be mailed to the attention of Town Recorder at Wartrace Town Hall, P.O. Box 158, Wartrace, TN 37183. Deadline for submission is June 1, 2020 or until the position is filled.

LICENSED WATER PLANT **OPERATOR/DISTRIBUTION**

BLUFF CITY. The city is currently accepting applications for licensed water plant operator. Ability to immediately attend to issues on short notice day or night and work without supervision. Be a self-starter, good work ethics and well organized. Requirements: state of Tennessee Water Treatment 11 License and state of Tennessee Water Distribution 1 License. Computer skills - Word and Excel. Ability to troubleshoot mechanical, electrical and SCADA System associated with water treatment and distribution. Knowledge of sampling schedules. Good record keeping skills. Knowledge of laboratory procedures, water distribution system practices and procedures, and direct filtration Tonka plant with pressure clarifiers and filters. Parttime-no benefits. Full-time-benefits: health, dental and vision insurance, TCRS retirement plan, paid vacation, personal and sick days. Salary based on experience and education. Apply at Bluff City City Hall, 4391 Bluff City Highway, Bluff City, TN 37618 as soon as possible. Contact Irene Wells, mayor/city manager at 423-538-7144 or 423-612-0828, bemayor. citymanagerirenewells@gmail.com

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Preferred Technology Partner





Get **funding** to replace old diesel vehicles with cleaner, more cost-effective ones

Two diesel vehicle replacement funding opportunities will be available in the next six months, including funds from the VW Mitigation Trust. Need Information? We can help. We've helped fleets in Tennessee secure over \$5 million in grant funding since 2005.

Contact funding@etcleanfuels.org or 865-974-3625 to learn more.





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Stay-At-Home orders, massive unemployment claims deepen Tennessee's economic woes

ECONOMY from Page 1 of these online purchases would have otherwise been made in a brick-and-mortar store by a non-city resident were it not for COVID-19, then municipalities with physical storefronts will lose sales tax revenue.

Local governments should proceed very cautiously with FY21 local option sales tax (LOST) estimates due to purchase class migration and the potential for higher-than-normal internet/catalog sales moving revenues between tax jurisdictions, but total LOST revenues may not fall as much as the state during FY21.

Hotel-Motel Taxes

State collections attributed to hotel and lodging sales fell by almost \$14.2 million, or more than 50%, for the month of April (March activity). Thus, local governments lost local option sales tax revenues; however, many local governments levy a hotel-motel lodging tax on lodging stays.

According to a 2015 TACIR report, while state law allows for different rates most jurisdictions levy a 5% rate on lodging stays. Therefore, local governments not only lost sales tax revenues but also likely lost almost 50% of lodging tax revenues. The total loss for local governments exceeded \$15 million based on the state's sales tax loss and the 5% hotel-motel rate.

These estimates represent

approximately two weeks of business closures and stay-at-home orders. April will likely be much worse. In addition, anecdotal evidence and public statements suggest that lodging may not recover quickly. Local governments should anticipate little to no lodging revenues for the next quarter and dramatically lower-than-normal lodging revenues in subsequent quarters.

Liquor-by-the-Drink Tax

The liquor-by-the-drink (LBD) or mixed drink tax is an elective revenue source for local governments with 75% of revenues dedicated to education. The first half stays with the state and funds a portion of the Basic Education Program (BEP) Formula. The second half is returned to the situs of tax levy with half of that amount dedicated to local education funding, and the final amount for general government.

Bar and restaurant closures impacted local governments and education. April mixed drink tax collections were 60% under budget. The state estimated \$75 million this year for local governments so a one-month 60% reduction is equal to a 5% loss, or \$3.75 million. Local school systems lost one-half of this amount, or \$1.875 million, and the local government lost the balance. April collections will likely be much worse since bars and restaurants were closed for the entire month.

The LBD tax is a situs-based tax so some municipalities (and

thus either city or county school systems) will experience dramatic revenue shortfalls while other municipalities may not lose much revenue. Each municipality should lean on their local bar and restaurant understanding to determine potential revenue disruption.

Business & Income Taxes

April's business activity taxes fell dramatically year over year. Department of Finance and Administration Commissioner Butch Eley noted that the extended filing deadline for Business, Hall, and F&E taxes caused the under-collection. In general, local governments do not share in the F&E tax; however, local governments levy the business tax and receive a portion of what remains of the Hall Income tax.

The business tax replaced the Hall Income tax in aggregate importance to municipal budgets in recent years and is now potentially a top five revenue source for municipalities. The business tax is a gross receipts tax so as business revenues grow municipal revenues grow.

Under state law, the business tax is due the 15th day of the fourth month following the end of a business's fiscal year. For example, if a business operated on a calendar-fiscal year then they would complete their fiscal year on Dec. 31 and their business tax would be due by April 15. Many businesses operate on a calendar-fiscal year so April was generally the largest collection month.

In mid-March, the state extend-

that the prices consumers paid on

ed the business tax filing deadline to June 15. This extension delayed revenue collections for two months and the lack of current data impacted local government's ability to budget business tax revenues for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020.

As restrictions relax and businesses can re-open, municipalities should monitor their local businesses and account for potential permanent closures as they prepare business tax revenue estimates.

Macro-Economic Commentary

Earlier this month the U.S. House leadership introduced the HEROES Act. If passed, it would provide \$375 billion in direct local aid to be split 50/50 between cities and counties regardless of population.

Under the provisions of the bill as introduced, 70% of the municipal allocation will go to entitlement cities (>50k people) and the remaining 30% will be given to states to be distributed to non-entitlement cities. The prospects in the United States Senate appear uncertain at best. In addition, the state has not decided how it will distribute the majority of the \$2.4 billion from the CARES Act that is available for local governments, but additional guidance may be forthcoming.

The COVID disruption pushed the April consumer price index down by its largest amount since the 2008 Great Recession. In addition, month-over-month "core" prices fell by the largest amount on record. While the basket of goods proportioning that CPI is based upon is not reflective of last month's consumer activity so price increases or reductions in one industry may over-weigh the total, deflation became a concern because recent inflation levels were low.

The prospect of deflation may severely hamper the economy. Deflation occurs when prices fall. Initially, deflation sounds good for consumers; however, deflation is not as good for businesses because it reduces revenues. Revenue reductions impact the ability to make ongoing payments, particularly on debt service which is generally not as flexible as other payments such as to vendors or employees.

According to the St. Louis Federal Reserve, corporate debt is at historically high levels. Price reductions may reduce revenues and impact the ability for businesses to make their debt service payments. This may lead to corporate defaults or additional bankruptcies.

Nationally, job losses continued at extraordinarily high levels. The U.S Department of Labor reported another 3 million new weekly claims for the week ended May 9. The advance insured unemployment rate was 15.7% with the four-week average insured unemployment claims increasing by 2.7 million to 19.76 million. The new claims were lower than prior weeks; however, with nearly 37 million jobs lost over the last eight weeks nearly one-quarter of people employed in February have lost their jobs.

NATIONAL BRIEFS

Face masks are expected to become the new normal for airline travel with airports and airlines nationwide requiring both staff and travelers to wear them. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is currently considering a blanket requirement for face coverings for anyone who passes through a TSA checkpoint while airports and airlines themselves are already requiring such precautions. Denver was one the first to implement the new measures as part of a broader requirement that all citizens wear masks in public. JetBlue became the first airline to require all passengers cover their faces as "new flying etiquette." Similar announcements have since come from airlines including American, Delta, United, Southwest, Frontier, and Alaska Airlines.

Interest rates on new federal student lows are expected to drop to historic lows beginning July 1 as part of bipartisan legislation initiated in 2013. Senate Education Committee Chairman Lamar

Alexander said Congress began working with President Barack Obama to tie student loan rates into actual federal borrowing costs. The interest rate on undergraduate loans will be 2.75% for the 2020-2021 school year, down from 4.53% in the 2019-2020 school year. The interest rate on loans for graduate students will be 4.3% (down from 6.08%) and for PLUS loans for parents and graduates will be 5.3% (down from 7.08%). Under the Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act, student loan interest rates are tied to the government's 10-year borrowing cost—specifically the yield on the last auction of the U.S. Treasury 10-year Note held before June of each year. The rates for undergraduate loans are the 10-year Note plus 2.05 percentage points—an addition to cover costs of defaults, collections, deferments, forgiveness and delinquency. The legislation capped undergraduate rates at 8.25%, so students will never have to pay more than 8.25% interest on their loans.

The average price of groceries in the U.S. has seen its largest onemonth increase in 46 years. The U.S. Labor Department reported average for groceries increased by 2.6% in April, the biggest increase month-over-month since February 1974. The price of the meats, poultry, fish and eggs category rose 4.3%, fruits and vegetables climbed 1.5%, and cereals and bakery products advanced 2.9%. The grocery numbers stand in stark contrast to the broader trend in U.S. prices, which fell 0.8% in April and clinched their largest one-month decline since 2008. Costs were driven up by consumers flocking to stores ahead of quarantine.

Scratch-off lottery ticket sales are on the increase as quarantined Americans look for entertainment and financial windfalls. As people can't indulge in other forms of gambling like going to casinos, sports betting, or other forms of entertainment, scratch-off tickets have Many state budgets are reporting an increase in tax revenue from lottery sales while tax revenue from other sources has dropped. While lottery sales typically make up less than 2% of state budget revenue, any source of revenue is significant during the shortfall many states are experiencing.



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Ed Stewart, ChFC, CLU, CF Financial Advisor

Virtual events become new norm under social distancing

BY KATE COIL
TML Communications Specialist

To keep citizens and communities engaged and connected, many municipalities across the state of Tennessee are turning to virtual events.

Each year, the city of **Cookeville's** Department of Leisure Services hosts Dogapalooza Kids' Dog Show, allowing children and their best furry friends to show off.

This year, Dogapalooza went virtual with parents encouraged to take short videos of children and pets with a chance of winning from four categories: best dog trick, owner/dog lookalike contest, prettiest dog, and best all-around dog. Entries had to be submitted by 1 p.m. on Friday, May 15.

"I look forward to Dogapalooza each year, especially the Kids' Dog Show," Cara Sheets, Leisure Services recreation superintendent, said. "This year, when we realized it wasn't going to happen, changing Dogapalooza to a virtual event was a logical choice."

Sheets said participants are also encouraged to talk about how their dogs have made a difference during quarantine.

"It gives our community the opportunity to show off their dogs even in this time of social distancing because, after all, our dogs are social distancing with us," she said. "We want to know how your furry best friend has been there for you during this time of quarantine and social distancing. What funny things has he or she done to cheer you up?"

The city of **Clarksville's** Parks and Recreation Department held a Virtual 5K as part of efforts to ensure residents are still exercising as well as to encourage those who are aspiring runners to test their abilities. The event lasted from April 24 to May 24 with three categories targeting first-time runners, moderately-experienced runners, and expert runners.

Participants pay a fee to enter and then can download a participation bib. Runners can opt to complete their race in their neighborhood, city parks, on a treadmill, or just running around the house.

As part of National Police Week (May 10-16), the **Oak Ridge** Police Department hosted both a virtual Peace Officers Memorial Day Ceremony on May 15 as well as a virtual 5K race in honor of law enforcement.

Citizens were given the chance to complete the virtual Law Enforcement Memorial Run over the course of the week rather than on a single day with everyone running together. Participants could use apps like RunKeeper, Map My Run, Nike Run Club, Strava, FitBit and others to show they completed the race as well as send pictures of their race to the department. In turn, the Oak Ridge Police Department posted pictures and race completion times on its Facebook page.

The state of Tennessee also hosted a virtual 5K to raise awareness about honey bees and help fund the Tennessee Honey Project. The Honey Bee Virtual 5K is to be completed between May 17-23 in honor of World Bee Day on May 20. Participants in the virtual 5K are encouraged to walk or run close to home or even inside on their treadmills.

The city of **Franklin** also went virtual for its annual State of the City Address and for the first meeting of its new mental health initiative, Find Hope Franklin. The city's upcoming Memorial Day event will also be livestreamed.

Mayor Ken Moore's tenth State of the City Address was conducted virtually so residents could watch from the comfort of their own homes at any time. The address included information about the city's response to the pandemic, a discussion of the upcoming municipal budget, and other issues.

"The state of the city address is an important outreach to our residents and provides information on the city's accomplishments and challenges from the previous 12 months and what we see looking forward," Mayor Moore said. "I wanted to make sure we could still do the address even if it had to be in a new and different way."

City leaders are also partnering with



The Oak Ridge Police department livestreamed its annual Police Week Memorial Ceremony on the department's Facebook page rather than holding an in-person ceremony as in years past. Llkewise, the annual 5K race the department holds during the week was switched to a virtual 5K, allowing residents to use a variety of apps to complete the race at any time during the week. Many organizations are switching to virtual race events that can be done in a participant's neighborhood or even home, and some believe these virtual races are actually encouraging first-time runners to participate.



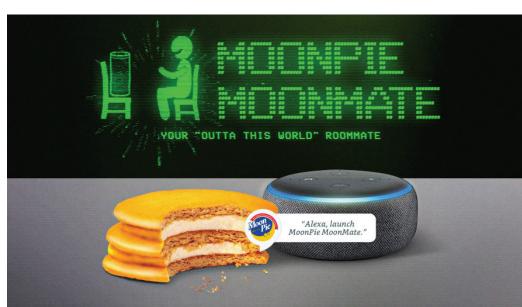
Bristol Birthplace of Country Music Museum Head Curator Dr. Rene Rodgers discusses the history of the harp guitar and its usage in country music in one of a series of online videos posted by the museum during the COVID-19 pandemic. As the pandemic closed the museum, officials use livestreamed videos to highlight both unique and often overlooked items in the museum collection as well as stream the weekly concerts usually hosted by the museum for the public. Closed to the public, many museums are offering virtual tours and videos highlighting museum offerings, especially rare and unique artifacts in museum collections that may be too fragile or delicate to frequently be put out on display.

Franklin Tomorrow and the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network to hold four online courses in suicide prevention training as part of the new city initative Find Hope Franklin.

"This training dovetails nicely with the mission of Find Hope Franklin as QPR training was identified as a specific need for our community," Franklin Mayor Ken Moore said. "Participants will come away with a better knowledge about what suicide is and what it is not. We want to answer questions, be a resource for those struggling, and in turn ensure individuals have support and resources to meet the needs of co-workers, friends, family members and even themselves."

During the COVID-19 outbreak, Franklin Police Department spokesperson Charles Warner also said the department saw an uptick in mental health calls. Other calls were down 35% citywide.

For those who want to show their love for



Parterning with Amazon Alexa, Chattanooga-based Moonpie created the Moonpie Mate, a virtual companion that acts like a roommate and gives Moonpie facts and recipes to users.



A favorite of both local residents and parks officials, Cookeville's annual Dogapalooza event went online this year, encouraging kids under 16 and their furry friends to showcase their skills via video. Participants could enter in a variety of categories including best trick, owner-dog look-a-like, prettiest dog, and best dog. Participants were also encouraged to discuss how their pets had provided support and comfort during quarantine.

various destinations in the state, Tennessee Tourism has also created a variety of backgrounds for virtual communication apps like Zoom. The state website is also encouraging virtual tourism, giving visitors access to online exhibits and experiences made available by tourist destinations.

Bristol's Birthplace of Country Music Museum has been offering behind-the-scenes looks into the museum as well as the virtual concert series, "The Bristol Quarantine Sessions." The Bristol Motor Speedway also made available several virtual tours of the speedway, including allowing users to take their own lap around the track

In **Chattanooga**, visitors can take part in Google Maps tours of the Bluff View Art District, livestreams from the Chattanooga Zoo and Tennessee Aquarium, and virtually tour sites like the Charles H. Coolidge National Medal of Honor Heritage Center, Ruby Falls, and Songbird Guitar Museum.

Chattanooga-based Moonpie is also offering a fun virtual solution to quarantine doldrums in the form of a new virtual pal. The Moonpie MoonMate is offered through Amazon Alexa to provide answers and conversations like that of a real-roommate. The Chattanooga Bakery Co., who produces Moonpie said the inspiration for using an Alexa-enabled voice for the brand came from a Mayo Clinic report on the body of research showing that laughter helps boost immunity and improve mental health.

"We know how hard being stuck inside and distant from loved ones has been for everyone," said Tory Johnston, vice president of sales and

marketing for MoonPie. "Our goal for Moon-Mate was to create conversations with a sense of empathy and understanding, all while staying

true to the brand."

Columbia's James K. Polk Home and Museum, Gatlinburg's SkyLift Park and SkyBridge, Greeneville's Andrew Johnson National Historic Site, the Lenoir City Museum, Memphis' Metal Museum, Elvis Presley's Graceland, and Pigeon Forge's Titanic Museum have all created online tours.

Knoxville's Historic Ramsey House, James White Fort, and the Knoxville Zoo are offering virtual tours while Knoxville's beloved Dogwood Arts Festival also went online this year, allowing users to virtually browse and support the 109 artists who were selected to participate in this year's show.

Concertgoers can also virtually attend events like **Hendersonville's** Stay-At-Home Jam, Memphis' Virtual Voices, and the Memphis Opera's 30 Days of Opera.

The International Storytelling Center and McKinney Center in **Jonesborough** have kept the art of storytelling alive by posting videos and podcasts.

McMinnville is also sharing local stories online through the Seed Stories series that delves into the history of local businesses while the Cookeville Museum and Department of Leisure Services have partnered to post online stories of famous Cookevillians as read by local volunteers. Historic Rugby launched a series of videos about local history, including the town's experiences in the 1881 typhoid epidemic.