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# Partnering for Success webinars continue thru Oct.

TML and Public Entity Partners Partnering for Success webinar series will continue throughout October.

All sessions are free to our members and most sessions will qualify for continuing education units for the CMFO program and the required utility board training. You can find a schedule of the series with each topic on both our websites,<u>www.TML1.org</u>, or <u>www.pepartners.org</u>

Event reminders with links to each online presentation will be sent out in advance of each webinar. So be sure to reserve your Wednesday afternoons and tune into our "Partnering for Success," webinar series.



## Govlaunch provides innovation resources for local governments

## By KATE COIL TML Communications Specialist

A new website is highlighting government innovation and encouraging government officials to share resources and ideas to provide better and smarter services.

Govlaunch is a free, wiki-style website where government entities can showcase their own projects and stories as well as see how other governments are tackling their own issues through technology and innovation. Lindsay Pica-Alfano, co-founder of Govlaunch, said the original idea for the site was to provide a technology product director for local governments.

"We quickly expanded the focus of the platform after conversations with local government innovators uncovered that they not only wanted to learn more about innovative tools, but also innovative practices," Pica-Alfano said. "Once we understood what our target audience needed to better meet the needs of their citizen base, we went to work and built the first-ofits-kind wiki for local government innovation — a platform that connects the governments, people, projects, and technology driving innovation in cities and towns of all sizes." to the site to share what worked (and what didn't) so content remains recent and relevant. As we continue to build the largest resource for local government innovation globally, it is our mission to ensure all local governments have easy access to the innovative practices and tools being implemented by their peers so they no longer have to 'reinvent the wheel.'"

Users can find a variety of topics on the site relating to different aspects of government.

"We have tools that curate content based off interests," Pica-Alfano said. "We've also recently expanded our content reach through the Govlaunch Podcast, where we invite innovators who have shared on Govlanch to talk more about their work. Our goal is to expand this to incorporate meetups with participants across multiple cities and towns to chat about the important work being done to innovate and improve quality of services for the communities they serve."

Governments can add their own projects to the database as

# UT economist Matt Murray provides economic outlook to city officials

**BY CAROLE GRAVES** *TML Communications Director* 

As part of the ongoing webinar series offered by TML and Public Entity Partners, Dr Matt Murray, director of the Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy and associate director of the Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research at UT-Knoxville, provided an economic update on how Covid-19 is affecting the economy.

"I think the worst is behind us," Murray said. "March, April, and May looked like the beginning of a recession. But we've seen some fairly decent economic growth this summer."

July taxable sales increased by a robust 6.4 percent after falling steeply the previous three months. Ninety-three of Tennessee's counties saw sales taxes rise in July.

"The second quarter was the worst," Murray said. "The gross domestic product (GDP) fell 32.9 %—the largest decline we've seen in modern day history."

To put that in context, the sharpest quarterly contraction in the GDP during the Great Recession in 2008 was 8.2 percent.

Overall, the biggest hits on the local and state economy have been declines in the hospitality and tourism industry. However, consumer spending on household items, home improvements, building supplies and internet sales are all strong.

"From March to June, internet sales have been significant," he said. "Office supply sales are up 58%; hardware stores saw an increase of 42%; sporting goods up 40%; *See* **ECONOMY** *on Page* 7



Dr. Matt Murray



Household spending on groceries and home improvement items helped prop up the economy during the worst second quarter in modern day history.

## How has COVID impacted state-shared revenues?

## **BY BRAD HARRIS**

MTAS Finance Consultant

Cities in Tennessee receive state-shared revenues from several sources each year. When comparing numbers across years, often they do not change significantly as most are based on population.

The 2019-20 fiscal year was particularly unpredictable due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the uncertainty surrounding an economic downturn, decreased spending, and less travel. When it became apparent that numbers may fall short of our original estimate, MTAS revised and published new numbers based on what we were seeing at the time. State sales tax ended FY 2020 ahead of FY 2019 based on very strong numbers through March. Gas and motor fuel taxes finished ahead of 2019, due primarily to the final year of increase from the State's IMPROVE Act.

	Updated Estimate 2019-2020	Initial Estimate 2020- 2021
General Fund	Per Capita Amount	Per Capita Amount
State Sales Tax	\$90.00	\$86.00
State Beer Tax	.48	.48
Special Petroleum Products Tax (City Streets and Transporta- tion Revenue)	1.99	1.99
Gross Receipts Tax (TVA in lieu of taxes)	12.00	12.00
Total General Fund Revenue	\$104.47	\$100.47

Pica-Alfano said the goal of the site is to be a one-stop-shop for resources and innovation for local governments.

"We hope that local governments — no matter their size or budget come to Govlaunch first when looking for inspiration," she said. "We also hope that governments continue to contribute their innovation projects well. Presently, Memphis has submitted information on its project to develope 3-D interior maps for first-responder. Chattanooga has showcased information on its Open Data Day. And Nashville also used the site to demonstrate its notification system that tailors emergency alerts to users' needs.

"Projects are added to the wiki by enthusiastic evangelists from Govlaunch's user base," she said. "More than 2,700 local government innovation projects have been add-*See* GOVLAUNCH *on Page3*  • TVA In-lieu-of tax also finished ahead of the prior year.

The Tennessee Department of Revenue makes payments of stateshared revenues to all Tennessee municipalities based on population. MTAS tracks the monthly revenues reported by the Department of Re-

State Street Aid Funds		
Gasoline and Motor Fuel Taxes	\$35.00	\$35.00
Total Per Capita (General and State Street Aid Funds)	\$139.47	\$135.47

Above is a list of the state shared revenues showing the per capita original estimate and a revised estimate for both 2019-20 fy.

venue and uses those along with estimates to forecast what cities may expect to receive in the coming fiscal year.

The estimates shown include actual numbers through May of 2020. The effects of the COVID-19 virus on the economy are not fully known at this time, so the city officials should use sound judgement and caution when budgeting for 2020-21. State and federal grants will help offset the effect of CO-VID-19 but will be restricted in use. The first column in the chart

See **REVENUES** on Page 6

## Franklin earns All-American City designation

## **By DOUG LINKHART** National Civic League President

Two of the most important characteristics of an All-America City are equity and inclusion, qualities that are embodied in one of this year's winners, Franklin.

The 2020 All-America Cities were announced in late August, and Franklin became one of this year's 10 designated communities by showing that it is engaging residents to improve health and well-being, with a strong dose of equity and inclusion.

While racial equity is in the headlines this year, some communities have been working to improve racial equity for years. Equity, to be clear, is not the same as equality, though equality can often be an outcome. Equity means that every community member has what they need to thrive. Importantly, equity cannot be defined by professionals, but rather depends on input from those served, because only they can define their particular needs and interests.

This is why inclusion is important. By engaging all parts of a community in decision-making, a community can better design services to work for everyone. And since so many outcomes, like health and safety, depend on resident engagement, inclusive civic engagement is key to civic success. In winning the All-America City designation, the city of Franklin presented three projects that used inclusion and equity to improve health and well-being.

The first of these projects is Franklin Tomorrow, an organization designed to engage residents, foster collaboration, and advocate for a shared vision for the city. Beginning in 2018 the organization has held an annual *On The Table* event in which residents host community conversations in their homes once each year to discuss ways for improving the community.

For the second project, the city featured the *Fuller Story*, an effort in which several local leaders worked closely with the city to develop an initiative to deal with Franklin's past, including a controversial Civil War statue in the city's public square. After much public discussion the city retained the statue but added several plaques and a statue recognizing the city's history of involvement with slavery and slaves who died during the Civil War.

The third project focused on physical and mental health, including *Get Fit Franklin*, a community partnership in which governmental, health, and interested organizations and individuals have created a variety of activities related to healthy eating, reducing tobacco use, and increased physical activity. Also, a Blue Ribbon Panel of local agencies and subject matter experts is working to identify root causes and develop strategies to address the city's mental health, with a particular focus on suicide prevention.

These three projects demonstrate Franklin's approach to equity and inclusion, which are two of the seven qualities of an All-America City. Other qualities are authentic communication, shared vision and values, a culture of engagement, community leadership and collaborative institutions. Together these components create civic capital, which is the capacity of a community to solve problems and thrive.

Franklin Mayor Dr. Ken Moore said the designation is due to efforts put forth by the entire community.

"Being named an All-American City is a great honor. This truly was a community effort," Moore said. "Our work with the *Fuller Story* initiative was instrumental. Also, our partnership with of Franklin Tomorrow with *Get Fit Franklin* and *On the Table* played a big part in winning this award. Unite Williamson is also a big contributor. I founded this effort with all different religious faiths in our community. The goal is to gather and learn about each other and unite our community."

Franklin City Administrator Eric Stuckey said working toward



Residents and city officials gather outside Franklin City Hall for a Walk with the Mayor, one of the programs from the Get Fit Franklin initative. Get Fit Franklin is one of the programs that helped the city earn an All-American City designation from the Natiional Civic League.

the designation brought the community closer together.

"This is a wonderful honor for our community and the community-building work of our city team was outstanding," Stuckey said. "Franklin has reckoned with its past while preparing for a healthy future. Instead of tearing down monuments, we decided to tell the fuller story by adding plaques about the city's African-American history to the town square and soon a bronze statue of a U.S. Colored Troop will stand in front of our historic courthouse. Franklin Tomorrow led the charge in applying for the award, and our partnerships with them assisted in the All-America City designation."

Congratulations to Franklin and the other All-America Cities that are leading the way by engaging their whole community to create equitable, thriving communities. The application for All-America Cities in 2021 is now available on our website, <u>www.</u> <u>ncl.org</u>. One by one, communities across the country are working together to build a better America for all.

## NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE

## ASHLAND CITY

What began as a quarantine project has morphed into a new brewery with plans to open in Ashland City by the end of the year. Chris Morris, a brewer with 15 years of experience, plans to open Marrowbone Creek Brewing Company by the end of the year with his wife Julie and family friend Ryan Jensen. The trio have leased the building at 240 South Main Street in the city and received a new business permit from the city's beer board. The company plans to produce a combination of year-round and seasonal options on tap with the front half of the building serving as a taproom and store with the backhalf being used as a gathering space for events.

## CHATTANOOGA

A nine-acre historic property that dates back to before the founding of Chattanooga has been preserved. The American Battlefield Trust has purchased the historic property known as Brown's Tavern that is located near Brown's Ferry. The site figured prominently both in the Trail of Tears, which saw thousands of Native Americans removed from Tennessee, as well as the Civil War Battle of Brown's Ferry in 1863. The site was purchased by See Rock City Chairman Bill Chapin after earlier efforts to preserve the site fell through due to a lack of funding. The American Battlefield Trust was then able to purchase the property through fundraising and matching grants from the American Battlefield Protection Program and Tennessee Historical Commission's Civil War Sites Preservation Fund. The nineacre property along with two other properties at Brown's Ferry will be transferred to National Park Partners, who support Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. Constructed in 1803, the log Brown's Tavern is one of few two-story buildings surviving from that area and was operated along with the ferry by Cherokee businessman John Brown until 1819. Brown's family were forced to leave Tennessee in 1838.

## **COLUMBIA**

The Columbia Fire Department's has opened its new Fire Station No. 3, which is expected to improve fire and rescue services on the city's north and east side. The new station is located on Bear Creek Pike and its location will improve response times to Interstate 65. The station is also posed to serve an area of the city that is expected to see massive residential and commercial growth in the next decade. The \$3.2 million station is located near Randolph Howell Elementary and Cox Middle schools. The city saved closed to \$1 million on the property through a land exchange with Maury County. In exchange for the 40-acre station property, the city agreed to install a traffic light, maintain athletic fields, and develop a nature trail and nature center on the site. Much of the work has been done by municipal employees to save money. The new Fire Station No. 3 replaces a previous station that had to be demolished because of structural issues.



packaging, cold chain storage, and 3PL distribution services. Aphena Pharma Solutions is a leading pharma service provider specializing in contract packaging and manufacturing for the pharmaceutical, over-the-counter, and medical device industries. Headquartered in Cookeville since 2002, Aphena employs more than 400 people. The company also has facilities in Maryland.

## DAYTON

Master Manufacturing Group (MMG) will relocate its headquarters and manufacturing operations to Dayton from Rancho Cordova, Calif., creating 72 new jobs in the next three years. The company will invest \$3.9 million to renovate and upgrade an existing manufacturing facility in Dayton as well as undertake extensive retrofitting in order to install holding tanks, electrical and hydraulic infrastructure, and create adequate ventilation for welding and painting operations. MMG utilizes multiple manufacturing processes including CNC machining, mandrel bending and forming. Processes such as robotic, semi-robotic, manual welding as well as high pressure and high purity welding will be performed in-house at the Dayton facility. Founded in 1956, Master Manufacturing Group, formerly known as Woodmack Products, Inc., provides custom tube and pipe manufacturing services, specializing in the gas appliance industry. The company offers aluminum, stainless steel and steel tubing components in various shapes, sizes and forms.

### HENDERSONVILLE

Five fallen Hendersonville police officers will be honored with the naming of future streets. Hendersonville Mayor Jamie Clary said that the city has arranged with Sumner County 911 Communications to submit the names of fallen officers for future area streets when they are built. The city will also work with developers to utilize the names. The streets will honor Master Patrol Officer Spencer Bristol, Officer Daniel MacClary, Sgt. Jody Sadek, Sgt. Richard Band, and Officer James Gammons. Bristol is the most recent officer to die in the line of duty while serving with the Hendersonville Police Department, being struck by a vehicle during a foot pursuit. MacClary was a motorcycle officer killed in 2000 when he was struck by a vehicle while engaging in a traffic pursuit. Sadek was killed in 1988 when he was struck by a vehicle while managing traffic enforcement on a motorcycle. Bandy was killed in 1980 when he was struck while working a roadblock. Gammons, a reserve officer, died in 1974 when he had a heart attack during a foot pursuit.

#### **LEBANON**

The Lebanon Police Department has moved into its new headquarters after two years of construction. The \$6.225 million, 28,000-squarefoot facility is located on Sparta Pike near the Wilson County Fairgrounds and doubled the space of a 14,000-square-foot building originally used by Middle Tennessee Electric and the city of Lebanon. The facility was built to FEMA standards meaning that it should be able to withstand natural disasters like earthquakes, tornados, and floods. The facility also features a theater-style briefing room and large conference room.

### MANCHESTER

The Manchester Board of Mayor and Aldermen has approved accepting a \$125,000 Community-Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant from the U.S. Department of Justice. The grant will partially fund an additional officer for the Manchester Police Department. The city will be required to match \$57,377 to the grant and maintain the position with the department for four years. The city will increase its contribution to the officer's salary and benefits each year for three years and will fully take on the cost of the position in four years.

## MANCHESTER

The city of Manchester recently unveiled its new Fitcore Extreme Obstacle Course at the city's Riverview Park. The new equipment is the first step in the development of the grounds of the former Riverview School along the Little Duck River Greenway. The obstacle course was modeled after obstacles on the show "American Ninja Warrior" and is open from dusk until dawn. The \$200,000 cost of the course was fully funded through a Diabetes Initiative Grant from the Tennessee Department of Health. While most of the obstacles are designed for youth and adults over the age of 13, younger ages can enjoy some of the smaller obstacles.

## **MOUNTAIN CITY**

The town of Mountain City will receive \$1.5 million in federal funds to upgrade water lines and wastewater collection system infrastructure. The federal grant is part of \$4.4 million from the U.S. Economic Development Agency's Assistance to Coal Communities (ACC) allocated to the state of Tennessee to build critical infrastructure projects and support business growth. The project will also support the ongoing operations and future expansion of existing businesses in the area. An additional \$375,600 in local funds and \$240,000 in private investment will go toward the project. Mountain City's project was made possible by the regional planning efforts led by First Tennessee Development District, which EDA funds to bring together the public and private sectors to create an economic development roadmap to strengthen the regional economy, support private capital investment, and create jobs.

## Scouts revamp Signal Mountain fire hydrants



James Wakim and his fellow members of Boy Scout Troop 60 worked to repaint more than 60 fire hydrants across the town of Signal Mountain as part of Wakim's Eagle Scout project. The group used different colors to show the gallons per minute of water available to firefighters from each hydrant, updating several hydrants whose pressure has changed in the past years. As a result, firefighters with the Signal Mountain Fire Department will have a more up-to-date guide when facing emergency situations throughout the community.

## Greeneville honors mayor with new park



Officials with the town of Greeneville cut the ribbon on the new W.T. Daniels Park on Aug. 29, surprising longtime town mayor with a park named in his honor. W.T. Daniels has served as the town's mayor for the past 10 years and as an alderman for the city for 20 years. The new park bearing his name features a three-acre dog park with spaces for large and small dogs, an 18-hole disc golf course, a pavilion, restrooms, and a walking trail. The park was constructed by employees of the Greeneville Parks and Recreation Department with funds for the dog park coming from a grant the town received from the Boyd Foundation's Dog Park Dash grant program.

## COOKEVILLE

Aphena Pharma Solutions, LLC, will expand its Cookeville operating, investing \$21 million and creating 160 new jobs in the next five years. The company will renovate and retrofit an existing 500,000-square-foot facility in Cookeville that will allow the company to consolidate two of its three locations while accommodating future growth areas in biologic

**TENNESSEE TOWN & CITY** 

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### KINGSPORT

Kingsport will see new greenspace as Domtar performs a \$300 million renovation and conversion project to its downtown papermill facility. The plan calls for the relocation of the city's Cloud Park to the Kingsport Landing area as well as a new and expanded Scott Adams Memorial Skate Park at Brickyard Park with Domtar contributing \$500,000 toward the construction of both projects. Additionally, the city will receive the 40-acre parcel known as Cement Hill behind the old city train station that will be developed into a passive park for hiking and biking. Domtar will also provide trees for the city to plant at Cement Hill. The former Cloud Park site will then be incorporated into the new Domtar facility.

## **LEBANON**

Construction will begin this fall on a new 16-acre public park in Lebanon. The Cairo Bend Park will be located on the city's western side on land being donated by developer Goodall Homes next to a new subdivision featuring approximately 1,200 homes. The new park will be the first new park in the city's Ward 6, which officials said shows how the area of the city has begun to develop. The city has appropriated \$1 million toward developing the public park with Goodall Homes donating architectural, design, and construction costs to the city as part of a private-public partnership.

## **MT JULIET**

The city of Mt. Juliet has broken ground on a new fire station on the city's northside. The new station will be built on two acres of land across North Greenhill Road from Green Hill High School. The city purchased the fire station property from Wilson County Schools for \$200,000 and invited both Wilson County Schools Director Donna Wright and Green Hill High School Principal Kevin Dawson to the groundbreaking. The \$3 million fire station will be 11,500 square feet with plans to purchase a small fire engine through a grant for the station. The city also plans to house a ladder truck at the station as well. A completion date for the fire hall is still tentative.

# Kingsportlibrary, parks partner for Story Walk



The Kingsport Public Library has installed a new Story Walk in the city's Glen Bruce Park to encourage families to both read and walk together. The first featured story on the walk is "We're Going on a Bear Hunt" by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury. The library plans to update books on the story walk quarterly and is encouraging patrons to engage with the Story Walk project on social media.



The Tennessee Drug Card is a way to provide FREE prescription benefits to residents of your city. Contact Natalie Meyer if your community would like to have FREE customized cards for your residents and employees. Phone: (888) 987-0688, or email: natalie@tennesseedrugcard.com; www.tennesseedrugcard.com

## Virtual City Hall: How to Digitize Your Paper Forms in 5 Steps

## **BY JOHN HEY** VC3

What if you could improve your residents' experience while reducing your costs?

In this time of social distancing, everyone is rethinking how to provide services. Digitizing forms, online permitting, and paperless licenses aren't new. For years, cities and towns of all sizes have been investigating and investing in online forms to streamline operations and improve service. With the pandemic forcing everyone to reflect, it's a great time to explore the benefits your city or town could gain from moving more services online.

But how do you start? It may seem overwhelming at first, but there's a simple way to try it without major investment. Pick one area or department to start with and follow this 5-step process.

## Step One – Identify Paper Form **Opportunities**

Not every form is an ideal choice for your first exercise in digitizing the process. To identify a strong opportunity, you need to balance ease of change with impact.

Start by compiling a list of your current forms. If that's too broad, pick one department or area and create a comprehensive list within that smaller team. Then ask these questions:

- Is it highly used daily, monthly, annually?
- Does it require payment?
- Once submitted, how many steps and people are involved in the process to finalize it?
- Does the form contain sensitive information that requires special data security?

If you can find a highly used form that doesn't require payment and has only a few steps and/or people involved in the process to finalize it, you've identified a prime candidate.

## **Step Two – Explore Options**

It may be tempting to dive into using an online form builder you already have or quickly add one to your website. However, this is a really important step to ensure the long-term success of this digitizing forms initiative.

Work with your IT department or partner to vet out some options and focus on these attributes:

- Is the form builder easy for a non-technical person to use?
- Is it ADA compliant?

identifying an easier form to create, so we'll keep it simple in step three too. You'll want to meet with the person or team who uses the form or is most affected by it. Whoever is receiving the form, approving the form, or storing the form should be in the room. You'll walk through the process flow together, map out what steps are required, and what action needs to be done at each step.

You are then ready to build the simplest form to achieve those requirements. Keep in mind that you are always able to add to and improve upon the form later.

Then test it. Have staff members not involved in the process fill it out, have IT double check that the data is flowing through appropriately, and maybe even ask your neighbor to give it a try.

## Step Four-Publish and Publicize

Sometimes, teams think they're done after the build phase. But it's vitally important that you alert the audience who regularly uses the form that a new, better way is available! Share this on your website, social media, newsletter, and any other communications that will reach your intended audience.

Make it easy to find this new, better digital form and highlight its value to your audience. Here are a few good examples of cities and towns that make it easy to find ways to engage with city hall online:

• www.boston.gov/pay-and-apply www.cityofamericancanyon.org/ government/virtual-city-hall

 www.wakeforestnc.gov/customer-service-central

#### Step Five – Analyze and Make Adjustments

You've told people to use it, but are they? What do they think about the form? You must continue to monitor the form to see if it's being used at the rate you think is appropriate. It's also likely you'll identify outlier bugs and issues as real people begin using the form in different ways.

Appointing someone to be the owner of the form is a good idea. Charge that individual with regular monitoring of the form to ensure its most effective use. Understanding how the first exercise in digitizing your forms goes will be invaluable as you look to tackle your next project!

#### A Real-Life Case Study

Decatur, Ga., is just outside of Atlanta and has a population of 23,000 residents. They've been investing in digitizing services for several years primarily because of the efficiency gains. However, it's naturally played a positive role in the city's ability to respond to the COVID-19 crisis.



inesses in its community as they struggled with COVID-19, Decatur quickly set up a temporary loan program to offer access to muchneeded funds. They turned to VC3 to help put together a secure digital application process.

With the opportunity identified and a pre-existing tool in place, we began building the form. The requirements included the ability to upload documents, a defined internal user group, strict data security, and the ability to close off access to the form once the program ended.

The approval process for the form was fairly complicated with multiple people and several steps. VC3 automated the notifications and worked with Decatur to ensure the appropriate people were notified. Finally, the workflow also needed to be contactless internally as many of Decatur's employees were working from home.

The result was an online form quickly created to support the business community in a time of crisis. Many businesses applied and took advantage of this needed support. Alcoholic Beverage License

In 2018, Decatur engaged VC3 to streamline its paper alcoholic beverage license by making it digital. The process was fairly complicated with multiple steps, multiple people, and the need to track renewals.

We went through the process with them to identify the requirements for the form fields, the workflow, data security, and renewal notifications. Everything was built on Cognito Forms and now the process is automated to move from person to person for approval.

## **Govlaunch provides innovation** resources for local governments



Website Govlaunch hopes to be a one-stop-shop for officials to showcase and be inspired by government innovation.

## **GOVLAUNCH** from Page 1

ed to the wiki to date, and this number is growing around 80 projects per week. We welcome anyone in local government working on something innovative or curious about innovation to sign up at Govlaunch. com. Once they join, we verify their connection to a local government through LinkedIn. After verification, which typically takes only a few minutes, users can share projects and search the full directory of projects, products, as well as connect with others in local government.

Pica-Alfano said Govlaunch is ger to hear from local governments IoT, and security to senior services. In fact, innovators from Tennessee have already added some exciting projects."

There are also options for governments to provide some publicly accessible data on their projects while still maintaining a private community.

"While Govlaunch remains a private community for local government innovators, transparency is becoming increasingly important in the public sector," Pica-Alfano said.

"With Public Sharing, innovators can activate a publicly viewable version of the Government Profile page and select what they would like to display. By granting public access it is easier for residents to have a better understanding of what projects their government is working on (or has completed), technologies their government is using and the people driving innovation in their community." Govlaunch is currently available in the U.S., UK, Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand and South Africa with plans for further expansion as soon as 2021. The Govlaunch podcast shares the stories of local government innovators.

- Does the form builder offer sufficient field flexibility?
- Are other municipalities using it?
- Does the software easily support payment processing?
- Does the form software integrate well with other applications?

There are several good options to choose from, so sometimes it's about what fits your city or town the best. Cognito Forms is an example of one that we use regularly and is widely used by municipalities.

**Step Three – Build the Form** You kept it simple in step one by

Andrea Arnold, Decatur's city manager said, "The ability to automate multiple steps that would normally involve moving paper through the physical environment has been a tremendous time-saver and has allowed us to quickly shift to remote work during the COVID-19 pandemic."

## **Small Business Loan Program**

In order to support small bus-

The result is a totally online alcoholic beverage license that saves hundreds of hours of time for businesses and internal staff.

## It's Your Turn to Go Paperless

Digitizing forms helps you streamline services, keep up with resident expectations, and improve operations. In some instances, it can be done fairly easily with the right tools. In other cases, it requires a highly-skilled technology team to create the desired results.

"We want to hear about any project that a local government is working on — whether it is currently in process or completed, worked or didn't," she said. "We know local government folks are busy so we've made the process of submitting a project to Govlaunch easy and painless. All that needs to be added is a title, short summary of the project, topic category, and any relevant links. Our most engaging projects are focused on design updates, process improvements, and in-house development made open source to help deliver a better citizen experience. You can find projects on more than 200 topics ranging from open data,

For more info, visit https://govlaunch.com.

## No loan is too large or too small



The Town of Livingston recently closed on a \$1.8 million capital outlay note with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund TMBF) issued to finance waterline improvements. The Town has used TMBF's various loan programs 12 times since 1996. Seated L to R: Linda Mooningham, TMBF Marketing Director and Legal Coordinator; Livingston Mayor Curtis Hayes; and Livingston Town Clerk Phyllis Looper.

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



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





Joey Edwards has been selected as the new deputy chief for the Mt. Juliet Fire Department. Prior to coming to the



city, Edwards has served in a variety of municipal, state, and federal roles with 20 years of experience in firefighting and administration. He began his career as a line firefighter in Shelbyville before moving into a civilian position as a firefighter with the Department of Defense. He served as a lead instructor and later campus supervisor with the Tennessee State Fire Academy and was instrumental in the recreation of the recruit program and the implementation of online learning.

Janice Harris has been selected as the new personnel director for the city of Oak Ridge. Harris is a retired U.S. Air Force master



**Janice Harris** 

sergeant and has lived in the city since 2018. Before moving to Oak Ridge, she spent 16 years working her way through the Air Force ranks and four years with the Washington State Department of Health Services. In 2019, she took a position as a records coordinator with TFE where she oversaw digitization of the Department of Energy's decommissioned nuclear facility records based on federal record-keeping guidelines.

L.Z. Johnson has been appointed to fill a vacancy on the Winchester City Council left by the departure of Councilwoman

Cile Alexander who resigned due to personal issues keeping her out of state for prolonged periods of time. Johnson has served as chair of the city's industrial development board, a position he resigned in order to take the council seat. Johnson has also served on the city's economic development com-

L.Z. Johnson

ning immediately and ending in June 30, 2023. Lay's appointment to the Emergency Communications Board came about after Lay inquired about the funding and management structure of the E911 system in Lawrence County and across the state. As a result, multiple state officials, including Speaker Sexton, Sen. Joey Hensley, R-Hohenwald, and State Rep. Clay Doggett, R-Pulaski, recognized long-standing funding inequities with E911 spanning the state. The Tennessee Emergency Communications Board is a self-funded, nine-member board located within the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance. The Board was created to establish emergency communications for citizens across the state and assist emergency communications districts (ECDs) in the



areas of management, operations

and accountability.

be taking

Keith Malone

over the position from Steve Flynn who will now serve as the city's water and sewer construction manager. Before coming to the city of Sevierville, Malone was employed as the public works director for the town of Pendleton, S.C. Prior to that, he was employed as the operations superintendent for the Millcreek Township Water Authority based in Erie, Pa. Malone holds a bachelor's degree in industrial technology from Purdue University and a master's of business administration from Penn State University.



plications

Ron Palewski

compounded by a massive heart attack. Palewski has served as mayor of Townsend since 2018 and before that served for 15 years as a commissioner and vice mayor with the city. Originally from the greater Chicago area, Palewski retired to Townsend following 42 years of work with Western Electric - later known as AT&T and Lucent Technologies - in 1998.

and a doctorate in education from Memphis State. In addition to serving as a teacher, counselor, principal, and school psychologist with Dyersburg City Schools, he and his wife Pat also founded Break-Thru Educational Service that provided tutoring for students and the Parnell Educational Publishing company.

Curtis Person, Shelby County Juvenile Court Judge and a former Tennessee State Senator and State Representative,



Curtis Person

died Sept. 4, 2020, at the age of 85. Person earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Memphis and his law degree from the University of Mississippi. He was first elected to the Tennessee House of Representatives from 1966 until 1968 as a Democrat and then served in the State Senate as a Republican from 1968 until 2006. During this time, he served as chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee and as a member on the Ethics Committee and the General Welfare, Health and Human Resources Committee. He also served as Tennessee Senate Republican Whip, Assistant Senate Republican Leader, and chairman of the Tennessee Republican Caucus. Person had served with the Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County since 1995.

Mike Walker, police chief of the city of La-Vergne, has retired after nearly a decade of service. Walker became po-



Mike Walker

lice chief for the city in August 2011. Previously, Walker was employed with the Tennessee Highway Patrol after 33 years and obtained the rank of colonel. Walker was also employed as a police officer with the town of Signal Mountain for more than a year and chief of the Dunlap Volunteer Fire Department for three years. Walker holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and is a graduate of

## **Former Association of County Mayors director Congdon dies**

Fred E. Congdon, former executive director of the Association of County Mayors of Tennessee, died Sept. 9, 2020, at the age of 71.

Born in Erwin, Congdon graduated from Unicoi County High School in 1966 and earned a bachelor's degree from East Tennessee State University.

Beginning in 1978, he served in a variety of roles with Unicoi County government including as county clerk, probate judge, and county executive before becoming executive director of the Association of County Mayors from 1990 until 2015.

A lifelong musician and performer, Congdon was the co-owner of Rich-R-Tone Records, one of the country's oldest bluegrass labels, and co-wrote "The Pride of Tennessee," which became one of the state's official songs in 1996. He also performed in several soul, rock, and bluegrass bands.



Fred Congdon

also employed as the executive vice president of Atlanta-based Latimer Lighting, a manufacturer of energy efficient lights for both commercial and residential uses.

Congdon is survived by his wife of 44 years, Ernie, their two sons Ehren and Emil, and eight grandchildren.

Beginning in 2010, he was

## First commissioners elected under new Nolensville charter

Voters with the town of Nolensville went to the polls on Sept. 15 to elect a new five-member commission following the approval of a charter referendum in August.

Incumbents Derek Adams and Wendy Cook-Mucci will be joined by newcomers including: Halie Gallik, director of communications and research for Public Entity Partners; Joel Miller, partner at Broom/ Malkin Real Estate Consulting; and Lisa Lenahan Garramone, a business systems support manager with Caterpillar Financial Services.

Candidates including incumbent Vice Mayor Tommy Dugger, Nolensville Volunteer Fire Department President Tom Seyfried, Williamson County Republican Party Treasurer Rob Verell, and Michael Edwards, works in hotel finance for Castlerock Asset Management, did not garner enough votes to gain one of the five open seats on the commission.

ern College-now Rhodes College. She started her teaching career at Messick High School in 1956 and earned a master's in counseling from Memphis State University - now the University of Memphis followed by a doctorate in school administration from Duke University. She served as a vice principal of Craigmont High School in 1974 and was promoted to principal in 1979, making her only the second woman to serve as a high school principal in Memphis. After serving as state education commissioner, she led the nonprofit Partners in Public Education until 2003 and became the founding principal of Grizzlies Academy until 2009.

in 2010, decided not to run for a seat on the new commission. Russell Gill, who was appointed to fill the remainder of the term vacated by the death of longtime alderman Larry Felts, also did not run for office. The referendum changed the

Jimmy Alexander, who was

first elected mayor of Nolensville

town's charter from a mayor-aldermanic general law charter to a city manager-commission charter, necessitating the re-election of all board members. Nolensville had held its mayor-aldermanic charter since 1996.

Rather than electing a mayor and four aldermen, the citizens now elect five commissioners who then appoint a mayor who acts in a more ceremonial position. The town administrator, a role presently held by former town planner Donald Anthony since June, will run the day-to-day business.

take over the position left vacant after the death of previous municinal indge



mittee. A retired U.S. Army colonel who served in the special forces, Johnson led the development of the Center for Domestic Preparedness within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and trained emergency response professionals in weapons-of-mass-destruction response. He moved to Winchester in 2006. He presently serves as pastor at Cowan First Baptist Church.

Blake Lay, mayor of Lawrenceburg, has been appointed to serve on the state Emergency Communications



Board by Speaker of the House Cameron Sexton. Lay will represent all city governments across the state with his service beginThomas Parnell, former mayor of Newbern, died Sept. 3, 2020, at the age of 86. Born in Booneville,

**Thomas Parnell** 

nell graduated from Trimble High School in 1953 and then entered the U.S. Air Force, obtaining the rank of Airman First Class. After his military service, Parnell earned a bachelor's degree from Memphis State University - now the University of Memphis, a master's degree from the University of Alabama,

both the Northwestern University Traffic Institute's Police Administration Training Program and the FBI National Executive Institute.

Jane Walters, who became both the first woman and the first former principal to serve as Tennessee

Commis-



Jane Walters

sioner of Education, died on Aug. 19, 2020, after a long illness at the age of 85. Walters served as commissioner of education for the state from 1994 through 1999, championing the use of internet in public schools and making Tennessee a pioneer in online learning. Walters graduated from Memphis' Central High School before receiving her bachelor's degree from SouthwestBrittany Vick has been selected as the new municipal judge for the city of Newport. Vick will

Vida Bell. A Newport native and

**Brittany Vick** 

graduate of Cocke County High School, Vick earned her bachelor's degree at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and then her law degree at the Nashville School of Law. She began her legal practice in Newport in 2014 and served for a short period of time as county attorney for Cocke County. She also serves as vice president of the Cocke County Bar Association and is a member of the Tennessee Bar Association

## TML needs city contact information

We need help maintaining our database with the most up-to-date city information. Whenever we have a wrong address, the U.S. Postal Service charges TML for returned mail. But more importantly, when the Legislature is in session, you could miss out on vital information. That is why it is so important that TML has the most up-to-date city information. Please send your updates to Jackie Gupton at jgupton@TML1.org, or Debbie Kluth at dkluth@TML1.org, by phone at 615-255-6416.



Miss., Par-

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## STATE BRIEFS

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved the state of Tennessee's grant application to receive funding to pay the Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) unemployment benefit, in addition to current benefits. In conjunction with guidance from the U.S. Department of Labor concerning program administration, the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development (TDLWD), and its unemployment computer system vendor, are currently building the new program that will pay the LWA benefit. At present, the state's maximum unemployment benefit is \$275. Combined with the \$300 offered through the federal program, the state will be able to offer \$575 before federal withholding taxes. The grant requires claimants to receive at least \$100 in state or federal unemployment benefits each week to be eligible for the new LWA payment.

Tourism in Tennessee again saw growth in 2019, placing it above the national average, according to recently released information from the U.S. Travel Association. Tennessee saw a 5.7% increase in domestic person stays in 2019 with 126 million stays reported. The state also outpaced the national average in tax revenue, expenditures, payroll, and employment related to travel. Tourists spent an estimated \$64 million per day in the state with tourism generating \$75 million in new state and local tax dollars, half of which go toward education. The state's tourism industry also generated 195,000 jobs and \$1.92 billion in state and local tax revenue. While the state was on track to again exceed these

numbers in 2020, tourism officials have warned that next year's tourism report will probably see the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on travel.

Memphis and the state of Tennessee will share in more than \$1.2 billion in airport safety and infrastructure grants from the **Federal Aviation Administration** (FAA). The state of Tennessee received \$166,666 for a state block grant program designed to fund non-primary, general aviation airports in the state. The Memphis International Airport will receive \$64,638,327 to improve the terminal building and construct a deicing pad with associated facilities. The Memphis airport and the state fund are among 405 airports and entities in 50 states and six U.S. territories who will share in the grant funds designed to fund infrastructure projects.

A new four-state study has found that between 5,500 and 6,000 black bears call East Tennessee home. The Tennessee Wildlife resources Agency said the numbers are lower than expected outside the Great Smoky Mountains National Park with estimates encompassing an area stretching from Mountain City to east of Chattanooga, including the national park. Set up in 2017 and 2018, the Southern Appalachian Cooperative Bear Study collected samples in Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia to try and determine the population in a 14-million-acre section of the country. The data collected by the study will be used by TWRA and the U.S. Forest Service to determine management plans, strategies, and policies regarding black bears.

# August revenues \$22M more than 2019, \$115.1M more than budgeted

Grocery, furniture sales up; retail and restaurant sales down

Tennessee revenues were more than the budgeted estimates for the first month of the state's fiscal year. Finance and Administration Commissioner Butch Eley reported that August revenues were \$1.2 billion, which is \$22 million more than August 2019, and \$115.1 million more than the budgeted estimates. The growth rate for all taxes in August economic activity and revenue trends to ensure fiscal stability,"said Eley.

On an accrual basis, August is the first month in the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

General fund revenues were \$108.6 million more than the August estimate. The four other funds that share in state tax revenues were \$6.5 million more than the estimates.

## State announces 48 cities to receive CBDG funds

Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee and Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner Bob Rolfe recently approved more than \$27.6 million in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), which will assist communities with infrastructure improvements, housing rehabilitations, and health and safety initiatives.

A total of 66 local governments received funds with 48 municipalities sharing in the grants.

"These funds play an important role in helping communities across Tennessee prepare for future economic development opportunities and continued growth," Lee said. "I applaud each community for investing in themselves and taking the necessary steps to improve their assets, infrastructure and safety initiatives."

"Community Development Block Grants are an enormous asset to communities across the state and Tennessee as a whole," Rolfe said. "The 66 communities receiving CDBG funding will be better prepared for economic growth, which will in turn help Tennessee continue to succeed. I look forward to the future success each community will see in the years to come."

The allocation of CDBG funds is based on priorities set through the public meeting process at the local community level. The CDBG program is funded through HUD and administered in Tennessee by the Department of Economic and Community Development. Funds are available for water and sewer improvements and new extensions, housing rehabilitation and health and safety projects.

In addition to the grants awarded to municipalities, funds were also granted to Anderson, Bedford, Bledsoe, Crockett, DeKalb, Fayette, Hamblen, Hancock, Haywood, Henry, Humprheys, Jackson, McMinn, McNairy, Rhea, Union, Wayne, and Weakley counties for various projects.

Each application was supported by the community's senator and representatives in the Tennessee General Assembly.

More information on the Community Development Block Grant program, including on how to apply for grants, can be found at <u>https://www.tn.gov/ecd/community-development-block-grant/</u> <u>cdbg.html.</u>

Municipality	Amount	Purposo
		Purpose
Alamo	\$464,335	Sewer System Improvements
Ardmore	\$318,980	Sewer System Improvements
Athens	\$630,000	Sewer System Improvements
Atwood	\$248,110	Sewer System Improvements
Baileyton	\$170,000	Fire Protection Improvements
Baxter	\$628,896	Sewer System Improvements
Bells	\$541,268	Sewer System Improvements
Benton	\$630,000	Sewer System Improvements
Big Sandy	\$279,930	Sewer System Improvements
Blaine	\$335,496	Sewer Line Extension
Camden	\$420,000	Fire Protection Improvements
Clifton	\$208,980	Water System Improvements
Collinwood	\$261,000	Water System Improvements
Crossville	\$525,060	Sewer System Improvements
Deacturville	\$101,545	Weather Alert Siren System
Gainesboro	\$630,000	Sewer System Improvements
Greeneville	\$349,013	EMS Improvements
Greenfield	\$362,017	Sewer System Improvements
Gruetli-Lager	\$414,880	Housing Rehabilitation
Hollow Rock	\$102,388	FIre Protection Improvements
Huntingdon	\$526,435	Sewer System Improvements
Kenton	\$310,881	Sewer System Improvements
LaFollette	\$630,000	Sewer System Improvements
Livingston	\$630,000	Water System Improvements
Loretto	\$426,677	Water System Improvements
Maury City	\$289,968	Fire Protection Improvements
Maynardville	\$289,968	Water Line Extension
McEwen	\$490,001	Sewer System Improvements
McMinnville	\$630,000	Sewer System Improvements
New Tazewell	\$419,980	Fire Protection Improvements
Niota	\$630,000	Sewer System Improvements
Obion	\$334,475	Sewer System Improvements
Oneida	\$630,000	Water System Improvements
Parrottsville	\$177,320	Fire Protection Improvements
Parsons	\$442,002	Water System Improvements
Ripley	\$317,860	Fire Protection Improvements
Rutledge	\$468,006	Sewer System Improvements
Samburg	\$525,000	Housing Rehabilitation
Shelbyville	\$500,000	Sewer System Improvements
Somerville	\$420,000	New Fire Station Construction
South Fulton	\$608,400	Sewer System Improvements
Sunbright	\$291,280	Fire Service Improvements
Trenton	\$397,385	Fire Protection Improvements
Troy	\$331,470	Fire Protection Improvements
Vonore	\$341,100	Sewer System Improvements
Wartrace	\$625,000	Water Line Extension
White Pine	\$416,337	Water Line Extension
Whiteville	\$630,000	Sewer System Improvements
	1,	/ / /

was 1.94%.

"Tennessee revenues exceeded expectations for the month and exhibited modest gains compared to August 2019," Eley said. "Consumer activity for the month of July, reflected in August's sales tax receipts, continued to outperform expectations as federal stimulus resources remained a large part of the state's strong performance. While tax receipts from building material suppliers, food stores, furniture and home appliance retailers have increased significantly compared to last year; apparel stores, many small retailers, restaurants and bars continue to experience losses due to decreased sales activity.

State corporate taxes, which are the franchise and excise taxes, decreased compared to last year; however, they exceeded estimates for the month. All other taxes were closely aligned with our August estimates.

"While we are pleased with the positive start to the 2020-2021 fiscal year, we will remain cautiously optimistic and continue to monitor Sales tax revenues were \$103 million more than the estimate for August. The August growth rate was 3.83%.

Franchise and excise taxes combined were \$11.5 million more than the budgeted estimate of \$31 million, but growth was negative 3.75% compared to August 2019.

Gasoline and motor fuel revenues decreased by 7.75% from August of 2019 and were \$2.3 million less than the budgeted estimate of \$103.4 million.

Business tax revenues were \$1 million less than the August estimate of \$9 million.

Tobacco tax revenues for the month were less than budgeted estimates by \$1 million.

Privilege tax revenues for August were \$2 million more than the estimate.

Motor vehicle registration revenues were \$4 million more than the August estimate of \$26.4 million.

All other tax revenues were less than budgeted estimates by a net of \$1.1 million.

# Has COVID-19 impacted state-shared revenues?

**REVENUES** *from Page 1* above shows an updated estimate for the 2019-20 fiscal year (\$139.47).

The second column takes what is estimated through June, uses available market data for 2020-21 and makes a conservative estimate of state-shared revenues for the 2020-21 fiscal year (\$135.47). This estimate is preliminary, especially since the economic impact of CO-VID-19 is not fully known. This is to be used as a tool in estimating projected revenue for the 2020-21 fiscal year. It is but one tool, and a multi-year trend analysis should also be prepared to assist in determining the appropriate estimate for the FY 2020-21 budget.

MTAS will continue to monitor state collections and update this

publication regularly. Most economic experts expect a significant drop in revenues for the majority of calendar year of 2020, with revenue growth in the first half of the 2020-21 calendar year.

NOTE\*\* The IMPROVE Act of 2017 provided for additional gas and motor taxes. For FY 2019-20 the Act provided for an additional 1 cent of gas tax and 3 cents of diesel tax. Through March 2020 state sales tax shows a statewide increase of 5.41% over the prior year. State beer tax, the special petroleum tax and the TVA in-lieu-of tax remain essentially unchanged. Gasoline and motor fuel taxes have increased 6.53% over the prior year due to the IMPROVE Act. MTAS will review monthly actual revenue and will update the estimate if it changes.

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## ACCOUNTANT

GREENEVILLE. The Town of Greeneville is seeking a professional Accountant with a CPA or a CMFO (Certified Municipal Financial Officer) or achievement of such certification within two years. Municipal government finance accounting experience preferred. Bachelor's degree required. Salary DOE. Applications and resumes can be emailed to human resourcess taff@ greenevilletn.gov or mailed to Human Resource Director, 200 N. College Street, Greeneville, TN 37745. A completed application is required for consideration. To download an application, please visit www.greenevilletn.gov and click Public Services>Human Resources>Forms & Downloads.Open until filled. EOE/Drug Free Workplace

#### **BUILDING INSPECTOR**

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

city engineer in the Public Works and Engineering Department in a variety of functions related to development services, general engineering, construction plans review, and the publication of manuals, specifications, etc. for the city of Mt. Juliet. Selected candidates will be required to complete pre-employment testing as deemed necessary by each specific position. Applicants will need to hold a valid TN driver 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.

#### CITY MANAGER

OAK HILL. The city of Oak Hill (Pop 4700) 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 five member board comprised of commissioners popularly elected at-large to staggered, four-year terms of office. The city has a \$2.1M 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 October. Position opened until filled. For additional information please contact: Jeff Clawson (jeff.clawson@oakhilltn.us) and/or Gary Jaeckel (gary.jaeckel@tennessee.edu)

#### **CITY MANAGER**

SHELBYVILLE. The city of Shelbyville (pop. 20,335) is seeking a city management professional to be their next city manager. The city manager is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the city council. The city has a \$23.3M budget with 175 full-time employees. Candidates should possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in public administration, business administration, or a field closely related to municipal

\$159 million annual operating budget. Key responsibilities include but are not limited to the following: Serves as chief financial advisor to the city manager; forecasts and compiles financial data for the city's annual budget; continuously monitors revenues and expenditures to ensure the fiscal well-being of the city; prepares financial reports in compliance GAAP and for submission for GFOA's Certificate of Excellence Award; provides oversight responsibility for the annual audit process; establishes and maintains internal control procedures in accordance with state and national standards; serves as the city recorder (city clerk); supervises the collection of utility payments, taxes, fees, and other receipts in accordance with laws and regulations; oversees the investment of city funds; directs the preparation of state and Federal reports, including tax reports; develops finance-related ordinances and resolutions. Applicants must be a proven leader who demonstrates professionalism and support to staff. Must possess superior management skills and the ability to make sound decisions pertaining to assigned staff and financial matters. In addition, the ideal candidate will have considerable experience and knowledge in the following areas: modern governmental accounting theory, principles, and practices; public finance and fiscal planning; accounting related functions; budgetary, accounting and reporting systems, GAAFR, GAAP and GASB; ability to prepare and analyze complex financial reports; ability to maintain efficient and effective financial systems and procedures. Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in accounting or finance preferred. Closely related fields in business or public administration will be considered. Five years of progressively responsible municipal finance work along with experience in a management level position. Must be bondable. Must possess a Certified Municipal Finance Officer (CMFO) certification or equivalent exemption. Certified Public Accountant (CPA) preferred. To obtain additional information and an online application on the city website-www.cityofalcoa-tn.gov. EOE. Please no phone calls.

#### ENGINEER

JACKSON. The person employed in this position will plan, organize, and direct all activities of the engineering department. Specific job duties include: Must be able to exercise sound judgment and make independent decisions regarding engineering activities; assist in project management for the construction of the municipal public works projects. Oversee assigned projects to ensure contractor compliance with time and budget parameters for the project; review all contracts for projects covering streets or bridges; work closely with the planning department in reviewing subdivision plats and zoning requests; prepare estimates for project costs to correct drainage problems; follow-up on complaints regarding drainage and street flooding; prepare and submit budget for the, engineering department and control the expenditures; evaluate the work of subordinates and departmental working conditions; formulate and prescribe work methods, policies and procedures; maintain regular contact with consulting engineers, construction project engineers, county, state and federal agencies, professional and technical groups and the general public regarding engineering activities and services. Bachelor's degree from an accredited college in the area of construction architectural systems, civil engineering or a related field, and least 10 years of experience or equivalent as an architect, engineer, inspector, contractor, superintendent of construction or any combination of these (five years of which shall have been in responsible charge of work, plus five years' experience as supervisor/manager in city/ county government. P.E. or eligible for P. E. licensing in the state of Tennessee, Generous benefit package; hourly rate \$44.98; EOE/M/F/V/D. Minorities are encouraged to apply. Apply on line at www.jacksontn.gov or contact the City of Jackson Human Resources Department, 127 E. Main Street, Suite 303, Jackson, TN 38301: Phone: (731) 425-8252: Fax: (731) 425-8673.

combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Must have a bachelor's degree in emergency management, fire science, management, public administration, or closely related field. Preference may be given to candidates who are graduates of the Executive Fire Officer (EFO) program from the National Fire Academy and/or possessing personal accreditation as a Chief Fire Officer (CFO) from the Center for Public Safety Excellence. Required certifications from the Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Standards and Certification include: Fire Fighter-I; Fire Fighter-II; Fire Instructor-I; Fire Officer-I; Fire Officer-II; Ability to obtain Fire Officer-III and Fire Office-IV within first 24 months of employment; Tennessee certification as a Fire Code Inspector. For additional details, please see full job ad at www. nolensvilletn.gov

#### FIRE CHIEF

UNION CITY. The city of Union City is accepting applications for Fire Chief now through the close of business on Sept. 30, 2020. Applications will not be accepted after Sept. 30, 2020. Testing and interviews will be conducted Oct. 15-16, 2020 in Union City. Details will be sent to applicants selected to interview. Minimum requirements include: High school diploma or GED; seven years full-time experience as a captain or a chief officer in the fire service; possession of an appropriate driver's license; possession of TN Firefighter I & II, Fire Instructor I, Fire Officer I Certification, and CCIO courses from the NFA; possession of a valid CPR Certificate. All interested applicants should apply here: www.unioncitytn.gov.

#### INTERNAL AUDITOR

JACKSON. The city of Jackson has an opening for an internal auditor. The person employed in this capacity will perform his/her duties under the direction of the mayor. This person will conduct protective and constructive audits to review the accuracy and effectiveness of financial controls, records, and operations; will perform a range of auditing and compliance duties using a systematic, disciplined approach. Will also provide staff services, including financial planning, payroll, human resources, purchasing, information technology, risk management, public safety etc. Specific job duties include: responsible for studying and evaluating internal accounting controls related to the various accounting systems determining the adequacy of controls and operating procedures; assist all departments and/or divisions in setting up bookkeeping systems to monitor expenditures; review, discuss and make recommendations for improvements to departmental systems of record- keeping in order to ensure good, sound financial reporting and accountability; make on-site visits to conduct audits and/or inventory checks at all city-owned departments; review and discuss changes necessary for compliance; ensure compliance with regulations and controls by examining and analyzing records, reports, operating practices, and documentation; recommending opportunities to strengthen the internal control structure. Bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, business or public administration, or a closely related field, and five years of progressively responsible municipal finance work. Master's Degree preferred and CPA certification desired. Must be bondable. Generous benefit package; hourly rate is \$34.13. EOE/M/F/V/D. Minorities are encouraged to apply. Apply on-line at www. cityofjacksontn.gov or contact the City of Jackson Human Resources Department, 127 E. Main Street, Suite 303, Jackson, TN 38301: phone (731) 425-8252: Fax: (731) 425-8673.

or a related field required and extensive experience in professional planning preferably in municipal government or equivalent combination of education and experience. AICP certification preferred. The position is open until filled. Applications are available at the city of Maryville Municipal Center, Human Resources, 400 W. Broadway and on our website www.maryvillegov.com . Nepotism policy prohibits hiring relatives of city employees. EOE. In addition to a city of Maryville employment application, applicants should submit a cover letter, resume, and writing sample. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Please direct inquiries to human resources@maryville-tn.gov.

#### LONG RANGE/SPECIAL PROJECTS PLANNER CLARKSVILLE. The Clarks-

ville-Montgomery County Regional Planning Commission (RPC) has an opening for a Long Range/Special Projects Planner. Located just 40 miles northwest of Nashville, Clarksville's affordability is hard to beat. Clarksville was named Best Place to Live by Money Magazine in 2019, one of the Top 10 Cities Where Millennials are Moving, and the best place to live on \$50,000 in Tennessee. This position requires a working knowledge of land use planning and how policy, the economy, and laws affect the built environment. The LR Planner must be a proficient reader, writer, and researcher. Must be knowledgeable in conducting surveys and analysis. Must possess knowledge of the capabilities of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) as it relates to planning and demographics. Experience in implementing infill development projects or policy is a plus. Minimum of a bachelor's degree in city, urban, or regional planning, public administration, landscape architecture, civil engineering, or related field is desirable with a minimum 2 years' experience in the areas of long-range planning, zoning, and/or public policy; preferably in government or consulting with the public sector. Membership(s) in the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), Urban Land Institute (ULI), and/or Congress for New Urbanism (CNU) is desired but not required. The RPC offers a comprehensive benefits package including medical, dental, and vision insurance, paid time off, flexible spending account access, and TCRS package. Pay Range \$44,304 - \$55,848, DOE. This position will remain open until filled. A complete copy of the job description is available and Applications/ resumes must be submitted online at https://www.cityofclarksville.com/EOE

#### PLANNING DIRECTOR

CLEVELAND. The city of Cleveland (pop. approx. 50,000) seeks an experienced planning director to coordinate its overall land use and development programs for both current and long-range planning activities. Home to a mid-sized university, strong industrial footprint, substantial residential and commercial development pressure, and redevelopment opportunities. Duties include reviews and coordination of small area plans, site plans, subdivisions, rezoning requests; preparing and presenting reports to the City Council, Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals and other community groups; assisting in ordinance and policy creation and amendments; and issuing commercial and residential permits. Graduation from an accredited university with 6 years community planning, or comparable work, and possession of AICP certification is required. Master's degree preferred. Strong writing and presentation skills required with working knowledge of technology, Excel and GIS software required. Salary DOE plus strong benefits and retirement packages. Submit resume and cover letter to Kim Miller (Human Resources) at kimmiller@clevelandtn. gov. Position open until filled. First review of applications will begin on Nov. 6, 2020. EOE.

## CHIEF BUILDING INSPECTOR

PIPERTON. The city of Piperton has an opening for a full-time chief building inspector. Duties will include residential and commercial construction inspections (building, plumbing, and mechanical), plan review, responding to public requests for service and resident's concerns, enforcing city ordinances, and assisting the building official as necessary. At least one ICC commercial certification is required. Remaining ICC commercial certifications must be obtained and maintained within one year (building, plumbing, and mechanical inspector) of hire. Must have five years code enforcement/inspection experience, including two years supervisory experience. Valid driver's license is required. Background check will be conducted. Salary is commensurate with experience. Medical and retirement benefit package is provided. Applications may be obtained at the Piperton Administrative Office at 3725 Hwy 196 Suite B, or at www.pipertontn.com/ jobs. Return application and resume to tjohnson@pipertontn.com. EOE.

## CIVIL ENGINEER/INSPECTOR

COOKEVILLE. The Public Works Department is now accepting applications for a Civil Engineer/Inspector. Work in roadway design, inspections and assisting with design and surveys, and responsible for project layout in the field. Provides technical assistance in roadway, drainage and other construction projects. Verifies GIS data, visually inspects roadway and subdivision construction; acts as liaison with contractors; keeps inspection records. Degree in civil engineering and a valid TN driver's license are required. Two to five years experience and professional engineer license preferred. Must possess Local Government Guideline Manual, Right-of-Way Training Certificate, TDOT certification for purchase of right-of-way, or obtain all within one year of hire date. Pay range \$52,312 -\$78,478, DOE. This position will remain open until filled. Applications/resumes must be submitted online at https://www. cookeville-tn.gov/ EOE.

#### **CIVIL PLANS REVIEWER**

MT. JULIET. The city of Mt. Juliet is seeking a candidate for the following position: Full-time civil plans reviewer to assist the director, deputy director and

management and a minimum of eight years of progressively increasing city management experience, or any combination of education and municipal experience that demonstrates proficiency in managing a complex municipal corporation. Residency within the city limits will be a requirement. Salary range \$90,000 - \$145,000, depending on experience & qualifications. A position profile is available at www. shelbyvilletn.org. Send cover letter and resume immediately by electronic mail to the University of Tennessee 's Municipal Technical Advisory Service, attention Gary Jaeckel, at gary.jaeckel@tennessee.edu. Initial review of applications will occur Oct. 12, 2020. Please direct questions to Gary Jaeckel at the same email address.

#### CITY MANAGER

WATAUGA. The city of Watauga, (population 458) is seeking a city manager under the General Law Manager-Commission Charter. The position is part time, working 8-12 Monday through Friday. Pay is \$15 - \$20 per hour DOQ, plus benefits and a small 401k contribution. Manager is not required to live in the city. Position answers to a five-member commission. Must be a dependable manager with good communication skills. At least two to five years' experience and/or training in public administration or a bachelor's degree (preferred); or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Application is a public record. Job description can be viewed at https://www.mtas.tennessee.edu/job/ city-manager-0.Send resume by Sept. 30, 2020, to P.O. Box 68, Watauga, TN 37694 or email resume to: cityofwatauga@gmail.com.

## DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

ALCOA. The city of Alcoa is seeking highly qualified candidates for the position of director of finance. Under the appointment and general direction of the city manager, the director of finance serves as a member of the senior management team. The director of finance provides day to day supervision over approximately 33 direct / indirect reports in the areas of accounting, revenue collection, customer service, utility meter services, and city recorder functions. This position is responsible for the coordination and preparation of the City's

#### FIRE CHIEF

NOLENSVILLE. The town of Nolensville is seeking a qualified and innovative individual for an exciting opportunity to become the town's first fire chief. The ideal candidate will have a strong background in, and knowledge of, fire administration services and programs, be resourceful, and have a professional interest in influencing strategies for a rapidly growing community that is establishing a fire department. The chief will supervise, regulate, and manage the department and maintain control of all personnel and activities including fire safety education, fire protection, fire extinguishment, emergency medical service, and administration. Minimum qualifications include: 10 years previous experience in firefighting operations; and five years previous experience in firefighting operations as a paid Battalion Chief Officer or higher and training that includes progressively responsible emergency management operations, emergency/disaster planning, public safety, hazardous materials regulations, program/personnel management, and public relations; or any equivalent

### LAND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATOR/SENIOR PLANNER

MARYVILLE. The city of Maryville is seeking to fill one open position in the planning division of the development services department as either a senior planner or land development administrator. The position will be filled based on departmental needs and the candidate's experience and qualifications. Applicants seeking the land development administrator position will: perform intermediate skilled technical work administering and enforcing the city's zoning ordinance and subdivision regulations; serve as staff support to various boards and commissions; prepare and present reports; maintain files and records; and prepare related work as apparent or assigned. Work is performed under the limited supervision of the deputy development services director. Bachelor's degree with coursework in urban planning, public administration, geography or related field and considerable experience in professional planning preferably in municipal government, or equivalent combination of education and experience. Applicants for the senior planner position will be responsible for: professional and technical work in the city's planning program including review of land use applications' staffing of city boards, preparing reports plans and planning related regulations. Provides information to the public regarding land development regulations and processes. Reports to the deputy development services director. Master's degree in urban planning, public administration

#### SENIOR PLANNER

TULLAHOMA. The city of Tullahoma is seeking applicants for a senior planner in the Community Development Department. Tullahoma has a population of 20,000 and is a progressive community located in southern middle Tennessee close to Nashville, Chattanooga and Huntsville, AL. The city has numer-ous parks and greenways, nearby lake access and a top rated school system making it an ideal place to live. The senior planner is responsible for all aspects of municipal planning including zoning, cur-rent and long-range planning, site planning and special projects. The senior planner provides infor-mation and technical services to various boards and committees. This position requires someone who is professional, has strong analytical and problem-solving skills and is able to build effective working relationships. Bachelor's degree from an accredited undergraduate program in planning, or other related field is required. Five (5) years of related planning experience in state or local gov-ernment and AICP certification preferred. Salary range is \$55,000 - \$62,000, DOQ. Tullahoma of-fers an excellent benefits package and participates in TCRS. Please send resume with cover letter to: City of Tullahoma, Attn: Human Resources, P.O. Box 807, Tullahoma, TN 37388 or send e-mail to: cbrice@tullahomatn.gov. Open until filled. Drug Free Workplace/EOE

7-TENNESSEE TOWN & CITY/SEPT. 21, 2020

TENNESSEE

FESTIVALS

TN River BBQ Battle & Music Fest

Savannah's Green Acres RV Park

will again host the Kansas City

Barbeque Society sanctioned

cook-off that brings the best teams

from the country together to com-

pete for cash prizes. Teams can

compete for a grand cash prize of

\$10,000 as well as in categories

including people's choice, chicken,

pork, ribs, and brisket. Organizers

have said that contact will be at

a minimum at this year's festival

to protect both participants and

judges. For more info, visit tnriv-

The Little River Railroad and

Lumber Company Museum in

Townsend will host its annual

Train Days, celebrating the railroad

and logging industry's history in

Townsend and the Great Smoky

Mountains. Visitors can enjoy

a model train display and other

events. For more info, visit https://

Sept. 25-27, 2020: Covington

25th Annual Heritage Festival

Covington and the Tipton County

Chamber of Commerce sponsor

this event featuring three days of

food, shopping, and fun on the

historic Covington square. Live

music, games, and more than 140

juried craft booths will be on dis-

play. For more info, visit https://

www.covington-tiptoncochamber.

com/events/details/25th-annu-

COMING

UP

al-heritage-festival-225

littleriverrailroad.org

Sept. 25-26, 2020: Townsend

erbbqbattle.com.

Train Days

Sept. 25-26: Savannah

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TN Personnel Management Assn.

## Murray provides economic outlook

**ECONOMY** from Page 1

electronics up 37%; housewares up 34%; and food and beverage sales are up 29%." Other sectors that hel-

ped boost sales tax revenues include businesses that received stimulus money from the federal CARES Act, as well as the unemployed who received federally-supplemented weekly benefits.

Murray said that the U.S. and state economy are fundamentally sound mostly due to the 80 percent of the workforce who are still working and still spending. Other bright spots include a strong housing market with a stable local property base and a booming stock market.

However, he said it will be a slow climb to a full recovery with many bumps along the way. Going forward, sales tax revenues will most likely be flat and business investments will be weak.

"We could see a dip in the third quarter because of the federal stimulus money that helped prop up the economy during the second quarter is now waning," he said. "There is also the threat of a second wave of infection with the return of schools and colder weather."

Murray said the path to a full recovery hinges significantly on whether or not the U.S. has an effective vaccine. "If we have a vaccine

and sufficient enough people take it, then the economy will rebound."

He is forecasting that the GDP for the entire year will contract by 4.8%, but we will see an accelerated 3.1% growth for next year. However, the economy won't be fully restored until 2022 and any growth above pre-Covid numbers will not be realized until 2023-24.

The U.S. added 1.4 million

jobs in August with the fed-

eral unemployment rate

declining to 8.4% from

10.2%. The U.S. Labor

Department reported that

NATIONAL BRIEFS

From a personal standpoint, how concerned are you about the: □Spread of COVID-19 □Impact of COVID-19 on the US □ Visitors coming to your community



Tennesseans concerns about the spread of the virus and its impact on their own health, family health and financial wellbeing ticked up in Wave 4 (July 17 - 26) but started to stabilize in Wave 5 (Aug. 17-25). To learn more about the Tennessee Pulse Survey findings go to: http://core19.utk.edu/tn-pulse-timeseries.

Murray said that one area that will be slow to recover is the labor market, which was already tight in January and February with a 3.5% unemployment rate in Tennessee and a 4.7% unemployment rate nationwide.

"We have fewer job openings than we have people looking for jobs. Twenty million people - one-fifth of our labor force – don't have a job. Some of those jobs aren't coming back. It will be 2023-24 before we see job growth that significantly pushes us above where we were in the first quarter of 2020."

Murray also shared some interesting survey findings collected through his work with Gov. Lee's Economic Recovery Group and their collaboration with the Tennessee Pulse Survey. The survey has completed its 5th Wave, and provides a time series analysis that measures the attitudes and behaviors that Tennesseans have toward COVID-19, the reopening of the economy, and how concerns and attitudes evolve over time.

Survey results helped gage attitudes on a wide variety of topics such as mask-wearing, mask-wearing mandates, types of activities people are willing to engage in like dine-in visits to restaurants or attending inperson church services, as well as

benefits expire. According to U.S.

Census data, 12.1% of adults said

their household didn't have enough

to eat at some point in the previ-

ous week, up from 9.8% in early

their general concern for their health and well-being.

Murray said that survey results revealed that a significant number of people are not going to re-engage in the economy until a vaccine is developed. Public policy is not what is keeping people at home, he said, it's fear of Covid, and in some cases, it's due to their financial situation.

"That's not driven by policy it's driven by human behavior," said Murray. "Businesses and houscholds are going to be very cautious because of either the direct risk of getting Covid or giving the disease to someone else with life-threatening consequences."

Other noteworthy findings include that 68% say they wear a mask in public and 80% said they practice social distancing. For the 65 and over crowd that number jumps to 83% are wearing masks and 93% are practicing social distancing. And of those surveyed, 75% say they would support a local mask mandate.

To learn more about the Tennessee Pulse Survey and review more indepth findings go to: http://core19. utk.edu/tn-pulse-timeseries.

To view the entire webinar, go to https://play.champds.com/tml/ event/13.



While U.S. manufacturing in-

creased for a fourth straight

month in August, economists say

the economic recovery is show-

ing signs of strain with business





## October 27–29

NRPA Annual Conference: A Virtual Experience https://www.nrpa.org/conference

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August's federal unemployment was below 10% for the first time since March. The labor force participation rate increased by 0.3% in August. August is the fourth consecutive month of job gains and declining unemployment since more than 20 million Americans lost their jobs in April, pushing the nation into its highest unemployment rate since the Great Depression.

The number of Americans who cannot afford food is growing and expected to increase as government May. Almost 20% or one-fourth of Americans with children in their household said they couldn't afford to give their families enough food, up from 17% in early June. Food banks have also seen a surge in need in the past few months with the number of people receiving benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) rising to almost 16% between March and April of this year. At the height of the Great Recession, the biggest one-month increase in SNAP assistance was only 7.3%. Experts said the country's current food problem is higher than it was at the peak of the Great Recession and is likely to get worse as federal benefits, like increased unemployment payments, expire.

investment expected to be down through the remainder of the year. A report issued by the U.S. Federal Reserve indicated there is a stall in overall economic activity because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and fading federal fiscal stimulus. While manufacturing rose 1% in August, the Fed said that most manufacturing gains have slowed since June. While there have been some increases in manufacturing for machinery, furniture, computer and electronic equipment, apparel, and plastics, production is down for the automotive industry, mining, and oil and gas. At least 29.6 million Americans remained on unemployment at the end of August.

November 3-5, 2020 TCMA Fall Conference Franklin https://www.tncma.org/fall\_conference.htm

November 18-21, 2020 NLC City Virtual Summit https://citysummit.nlc.org/

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## New development to bring city square to Spring Hill

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

A major mixed-use development is promising to bring something new to Spring Hill: a city square.

While many communities have grown up around downtowns and courthouse squares, the city of Spring Hill developed in a different way. Founded in 1808, the community lost much of its "old town" area due to the Civil War and natural disasters, eventually becoming a smaller agricultural community.

The city dramatically changed shape in the 1980s when the location of the Saturn automotive plant – now General Motors – quickly transformed the city from a small town into a booming city. Spring Hill's population went from a little under 1,000 in 1980 to nearly 45,000 today. In fact, Spring Hill was ranked earlier this year as the second-fastest growing city in the state.

As a result of this boom in industry and residents, Spring Hill City Administrator Victor Lay said the city presently doesn't have a traditional town square like many of its neighboring communities.

"So much of the area was destroyed by natural circumstances," Lay said. "There have been one or two fires that came through the town in the early 20th Century and wiped out a good portion of the downtown area. There has been at least one tornado that hit the same area. There are not very many historical buildings left. We have a few antebellum houses, but not a lot of historical commercial buildings. It really wiped the slate clean. The city sort of developed as a strip with residential homes behind it and lost a lot of that character where the old city used to be."

However, the idea of creating a square to serve as a focal point for commercial and civic activity has long been discussed by city leaders. The project really began to get off the ground when local officials and developers learned that a local landmark was being put up for sale.

"It so happened the Tennessee Children's Home was looking for a new campus and was debating whether to build on the campus at their present location in the center of town or buy new property and move off that campus," Lay said. "They ultimately made the arrangement to acquire some property on the western side of the city limits and decided to move their campus to a brand-new location. That decision served as a catalyst for our project. People saw it as a great place to create the square we don't have." The new Kedron Square development will be centered around the former Tennessee Children's Home campus in Spring Hill. Incorporated in 1909, the residential care facility and former orphanage moved into the historic Ferguson Hall, an antebellum mansion constructed in 1853, after purchasing the property in 1935. The organization then sold the 120-acre site to the city of Spring Hill in 2019 as the organization began its transition into a new campus, which will be complete by the end of 2021. Lay said city officials, members of the community, and developers have been looking at various options to create a square that best benefits all involved at the site. "It's been through a couple of iterations in trying to figure out what will work," he said. "We are looking at a mixture of residential and commercial space as well as public space, green space, and have even looked at moving city hall over there. Ultimately, the financial limitations didn't work for that. The current plan is the third iteration of our plans with a third developer who has put together a plan that doesn't rely as much on the government moving in and building things in the area, as it does the private sector and retail with public space, green space, and civic space. We want it to have a commercial space but more of a square type feel." Developer Catalyst Design Group has released plans for commercial, restaurant, office, hotel, and residential development throughout the area as well as an 8-acre public park and historical markers highlighting the history of the site.



**Top photo**: The Tennessee Children's Home Society campus and Ferguson Hall as it stands today near the city center of Spring Hill. The mansion was constructed in 1853 and became the base of the Tennessee Children's Home Society in 1935. The organization sold the property to the city of Spring Hill and will move into a new property on the city's western side. The property has provided an ideal location for the development of a town square and gathering center for the community. **Above**: Developer plans show how Ferguson Hall will be incorproated into a hotel as part of development plans for Kedron Square. Private developer Catalyst Design Group will oversee the construction of a mixed-use development with residential, commercial, office, hotel, civic, and park space.

homes or single-family detached. They had to have a financial mod-

The group is working to make



Developer plans showcase both commercial and residential development planned for the Kedron Square project. By building a mix of residential properties and creating a walkable area, developers are hoping to build-in a customer base for the commercial properties to be located at the development.

the entire development walkable with the hopes of using the residential sections of the development as a built-in customer-base for the commercial areas. The historic Ferguson Hall will also be preserved and incorporated into a hotel.

Lay said one of the requirements from the city is that businesses located in the commercial district cannot have more than 15 franchises located anywhere in the state, encouraging more small businesses to locate in the area.

"Basically, you ask what you want to exist in a town square, what are the things that make it a viable place that makes people want to go there," he said. "You have to ask if that is commercial areas and what kind of commercial areas those are. It's typically not a big chain store but more mom-and-pop, single-store owner type businesses." Since Kedron Square is being constructed by a private company, Lay said the project has to be financially viable for developers.

"They have to invest all this money and build this infrastructure, but also recoup their money by making the commercial section successful," Lay said. "They have divided the area up into different intensity of commercial and different intensities of residential. They have to look at whether they want apartments or condos, multi-family el that supported the square area. The city's input gets to be in the planning process, but everyone's interests have to be addressed for the project to be successful. There has to be a balance between the cost of all the infrastructure versus the payback to the developer."

After installing basic infrastructure like water, sewer, and roadways, Lay said one of the first phases of the project will be the construction of 81 single family homes and a community park open to the public.

Overall, the construction of the entire project will be done in phases over a period of 10 years and is expected to generate roughly \$100 million for the city in a 20year period.

"The commercial area is what excites us the most," Lay said. "The development of the front lawn of the Ferguson Hall and the hotel as well as the square and commercial area in behind that excite us because it gives us something that we currently don't have. It gives us a style of development we don't have and a since of place that we don't have. That is what those working on the development get really excited about. We think it will be a great addition and focal point to the community. It will also preserve one of the historic homes and make it an integral part of this development."

