



## Make plans to attend TML Annual Conference in Knoxville, June 9-12

Registration now open

Elaine Weiss, an award-winning journalist and writer whose work has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *Harper's*, *The New York Times*, and *The Christian Science Monitor*, will serve as the keynote speaker at the TML 79th Annual Conference in Knoxville, June 9-12.

In her recently released book, *The Woman's Hour*, Weiss tells the story of nail-biting climax of one of the greatest political battles in American history — the fight to ratify the constitutional amendment that gave women the right to vote.

In the summer of 1920, 35 states had ratified the 19th Amendment, 12 had rejected it or refused to vote, and one last state was needed or the amendment might die. After a seven-decade crusade, it all came down to Tennessee; it was the moment of truth for the suffragists, and also for their antagonists, the "Antis." The political freedom of half of the nation was at stake.

Weiss will be featured on Monday, June 11, from 10 to 11 a.m. and will be one of many conference highlights planned for this year.

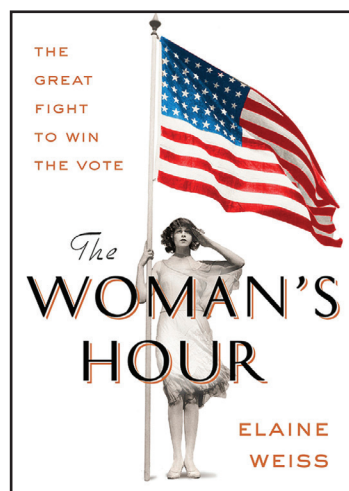
Dynamic conference sessions will focus on two central themes — big challenges and big ideas. Some of the topics scheduled to be addressed include TIFs, Pilot programs and tax incentives; cyber security; preemption laws; age-friendly communities; downtown success strategies; social media; new small cells legislation; plus much more.

Other highlights include gubernatorial candidates invited to speak during the Opening General Session on Sunday, June 10.

In addition, the Municipal Technical Advisory Service will



Elaine Weiss



offer several sessions that will provide CPEs for CMFO graduates.

The conference kicks off on Saturday, June 9, with afternoon workshops and a welcome reception that evening. The conference concludes on Tuesday, June 12, with the annual awards breakfast.

The conference provides an excellent opportunity to enhance your knowledge while networking with other city officials from across the state.

You can register for the TML Annual Conference online at [www.TML1.org](http://www.TML1.org). For assistance, contact Sylvia Harris at (615) 425-3903 or by email at [sharris@tml1.org](mailto:sharris@tml1.org).

## City priorities funded in FY18 Omnibus spending bill

Last month, the House and Senate reached a deal on the omnibus appropriations bill (H.R. 1625), a \$1.3 trillion spending proposal that maintains or increases funding for key programs that cities use to fund infrastructure, economic development and public safety, among others.

The bill comes after more than 1,000 city leaders lobbied Congress over the past year to save Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), TIGER grants, workforce development and education programs, and energy efficiency and renewable energy programs.

"The spending bill shows that our federal partners have heard the thousands of city leaders urging them to reject the severe budget cuts proposed by the administration and that were required under sequestration," said National League of Cities President Mark Stodola, mayor of Little Rock, Ark. "This bill makes clear that city leaders are part of the solution to our country's greatest challenges. It's a victory not only for America's 19,000 cities, towns and villages, but for the more than 250 million residents that rely on safe and reliable infrastructure and strong local economies that contribute 91 percent of the nation's GDP."

The bill also includes additional funding for water infrastructure through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, including for lead testing and lead reduction in schools, which NLC has been calling for in its Rebuild With Us infrastructure campaign. NLC also supports the bill's reauthorization of the brownfields redevelopment program, which helps cities clean

up contaminated properties, the expansion of Low-Income Housing Tax Credits to make up for losses in affordable housing stemming from tax reform, and the extension of the National Flood Insurance Program until July 31, 2018.

FY18 Budget. Selected provisions from the bill include:

- CDBG: First meaningful increase since 2010, from \$3 billion to \$3.3 billion
  - Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER): Increased by \$1 billion
  - Airport Discretionary Grants Targeting Small and Rural Airports: Increased by \$1 billion
  - Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Funds: Increased by \$300 million each
  - Transit Infrastructure Grants: Increased by \$834 million (including \$400 million to help communities modernize their bus systems and \$400 million for capital assistance to transit systems)
  - Rural Broadband Infrastructure: \$600 million in new funds
  - State and Local Law Enforcement Grants: Increased by \$1.2 billion for a total of \$2.9 billion in 2018. This includes a total of \$446.5 million, an increase of \$299.5 million more than fiscal year 2017, in DOJ grant funding to help State and local communities respond to the opioid crisis.
  - State Opioid Response Grants: \$1 billion in new funding for grants to states to address the opioid crisis (this funding is in addition to the \$500 million provided in the 21st Century Cures Act)
  - National Pre-disaster Mitigation Fund: Pre-disaster mitigation
- See **FUNDING** on Page 5

## CDBG funds aid rural municipalities in providing quality emergency services

By KATE COIL  
TML Communications Specialist

In the past 20 years, tornadoes have increasingly become a fact of life for residents of the city of Loretto.

Data from natural disaster and weather experts rank Loretto above the state and national levels for tornado risk with the southern area of Lawrence County experiencing an average of two tornadic events per year since recordkeeping began in the state in 1916. In the past 30 years alone, at least 15 major tornadic events have occurred in the area near Loretto, some of them deadly. On May 18, 1995, a tornado that struck Lawrence County killed three and injured 32. The following year, two tornadoes that hit the area injured 12 people. In 1998, the first F-5 tornado ever recorded in Tennessee also struck the area.

Loretto City Administrator Keith Smith said the city had an alarm warning system several years ago in the event of tornadoes, but the city had to set it off manually whenever there was an issue. When that system was no longer in use, Smith said many residents became concerned about safety.

"We are in an area where there are a lot of tornadoes, and we didn't have any sort of warning system in place," he said. "Our citizens were concerned, so we



The city of Loretto used funds from the CDBG program to replace a 32-year-old fire truck with this newer model in 2016. City Administrator Kevin Smith said the city couldn't have afforded the new truck on its own, and Loretto's ISO rating might have suffered if the city had to retire the old truck without replacing it.

decided to start seeking grant money for new sirens."

The city applied for and received a \$133,455 Community Development Block Grant in 2013 to purchase an early warning siren system.

"We were able to install three sirens through the program," Smith said. "The first siren is near our elementary and high schools. The second is in our industrial park, and the third is in our city park. These sirens cover

everything in our city limits, and actually a lot of people who live outside the city limits can hear them as well. These sirens can be a life saver, and we are very appreciative that we were able to use this grant for this program. We wouldn't have been able to do this on our own."

The sirens are set up so that the National Weather Service triggers an alarm whenever tornadic activity is detected within a mile

See **CDBG** on Page 10

## LED projects light up city of Paris

BY KATE COIL

The city of Paris now has one more thing in common with its French namesake: both can be thought of as the City of Lights.

Paris City Manager Kim Foster said lighting up the city's own Eiffel Tower was suggested as a way to bring more tourists to the area, especially after the sun has begun to set.

"Our economic development director took it on as a project, raised the funds, and we all thought it would be a great addition to the tower," she said. "It's amazing how many people have come out to see it in the first year alone. I have gone by the park, even at 10:30 at night, and there is always someone there looking at it or taking pictures with it. At nighttime, the Eiffel Tower can be just as big a draw for the community as during the day. It has been super successful."

The lights are controlled remotely and have the ability to change color and move to music if desired. In addition to saving money over compact fluorescent bulbs, the LED lights installed at the tower can produce an unlimited number of colors and color options that can be changed to celebrate any holidays, special occasions, or specific needs. The project was paid for by the city of Paris, Paris Board of Public Utilities, Henry County Tourism Authority, Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce, and multiple individual and corporate donors.

"If it's not a special event, the Tower changes colors on its own," Foster said. "We can light it up for different holidays. Groups will ask



New LED lights allow the city of Paris to light up its Eiffel Tower a variety of different colors to celebrate holidays or bring awareness to important causes. LED fixtures have also been installed across Paris as part of a citywide energy-savings project.

us to light it up different colors for their events. The state has even asked us to light it up different colors in recognition of events, such as Mental Health Awareness. We try to respond to those as best we can, and it stays on that color for three days." Mayor Carlton Gerrell said the

project was one way of highlighting one of the city's most important landmarks.

"The Eiffel Tower brings in countless number of visitors to our community each year, lighting it for nighttime viewing helps increase

See **LIGHTING** on Page 3

## GASB establishes new guidance on debt disclosures, addresses direct borrowings

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) recently released guidance designed to enhance debt-related disclosures in notes to financial statements, including those addressing direct borrowings and direct placements.

Statement No. 88, *Certain Disclosures Related to Debt, including Direct Borrowings and Direct Placements*, clarifies which liabilities governments should include in their note disclosures related to debt.

This statement requires that

all debt disclosures present direct borrowings and direct placements of debt separately from other types of debt. Direct borrowings and direct placements may expose a government to risks that are different from or additional to risks related to other types of debt.

Statement 88 also requires the disclosure of additional essential debt-related information for all types of debt, including:

- Amounts of unused lines of credit,
- Assets pledged as collateral for

debt, and

- Terms specified in debt agreements related to significant (1) events of default with finance-related consequences, (2) termination events with finance-related consequences, and (3) subjective acceleration clauses.

The full text of Statement 88 and a high-level overview featured in the current issue of *GASB Outlook* are available on the GASB website [www.gasb.org](http://www.gasb.org).

# NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



## CHATTANOOGA

Volkswagen officials announced they will invest \$340 million in their Chattanooga facility to bring a new five-seat sport utility vehicle to the American market. A concept version of the vehicle was unveiled at the New York International Auto Show in March, and the vehicle is a variant of the existing seven-seat Atlas SUV already assembled at VW's Chattanooga plant. The production is expected to support the 3,450 positions which already exist at the VW Chattanooga plant.

## CHATTANOOGA

A demolition project has yielded some documentation dating back to the early days of Chattanooga. A demolition project at the former Elks Building at Walnut and Seventh streets uncovered an old vault that contained documents relating to some of the first businesses in Chattanooga. Many of the documents are dated prior to the Civil War and even as far back as 1839, the year the city was incorporated. Several of the items were related to the family of Samuel Williams, a Chattanooga pioneer who lived near the present site of Baylor School. Other documents were signed by H.C. Beck, the co-founder of Title Guaranty and Trust.

## COLLIERVILLE

The town of Collierville is giving Washington Street a makeover to help it better reflect the historic nature of the area and its connection to Main Street and Town Square. Working with John Green & Company Realtors and several small businesses in the area, the town has proposed repaving and restriping the Washington Street parking lot, expanding sidewalks to better define pedestrian areas and parking spaces, building an outdoor dining area for Mensi's Dairy Bar, and cosmetic touch-ups to other buildings. Future capital improvement projects proposed for the area include adding curbs and gutters, sidewalks, lighting, landscaping, and signage.

## CROSSVILLE

The Crossville City Council has agreed to purchase new playground and splash pad equipment as part of improvements to Garrison Park. The city approved a bid from Recreational Concepts to purchase the equipment for \$327,005 with the additional option of purchasing a UV filtration system for \$16,206. The equipment will then be installed by Delano, Minn.-based Landscape Structures, Inc., for a cost of \$114,173. Half of the project is being funded through a Local Parks and Recreation Fund (LPRF) grant from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation with the city financing the remaining portion of the project.

## GATLINBURG

Gatlinburg will be the new location of a new bar and restaurant operated by Nashville-based Ryman Hospitality Properties and country star Blake Shelton. Ole Red Gatlinburg will open in 2019 in a 16,000-square-foot space that represents a \$16 million investment. The restaurant represents the third such partnership with the first Ole Red restaurant opening in Shelton's hometown of Tishomingo, Okla., in September and Ole Red Nashville opening later this spring.

## JONESBOROUGH

The town of Jonesborough is working with the Tennessee Department of Transportation for a creek restoration project as part of

a larger project to turn the current town garage into a park. A sliver of Little Limestone Creek runs through the 19-acre property on Old State Route 34 near where the park will go. When the town approached TDOT concerning the project, state officials suggested an environmental mitigation project might help restore the creek. The project will include restoring natural foliage and preserving natural wetlands that could be impacted by the project.

## JOHNSON CITY

A crime prevention program implemented by the Johnson City Police Department could soon be the model for similar programs worldwide. International nonprofit Nations in Action has asked to collaborate with the city on using some of the programs implemented in Johnson City in communities across the world. The organization focuses on creating partnerships, empowering individuals and identify and promoting policy changes. Some of the crime prevention projects in Johnson City the organization was most interested in include crime reduction in metal theft, crime prevention seminars on DUI prevention, and safe driving. In turn, NIA will provide Johnson City with tools that can benefit efforts to change the community by reducing crime.

## KINGSPORT

The city of Kingsport has earned bronze status from the Governor's Foundation for Health and Wellness, the first to achieve the designation under the new Healthier Tennessee guidelines. The city has already achieved consecutive years of being a Healthier Tennessee city, first earning the honor in 2016. Designation requires cities and counties to implement programs and activities that support physical activity, healthy eating and tobacco abstinence. The data of participants is then tracked and reported back to the state for evaluation, according to guidelines. The group said Kingsport focused specifically on implementing wellness initiatives in places of work and worship, focusing on health in early childhood, and was able to have at least 10 percent community participation.

## KNOXVILLE

Scapa Tapes North America, LLC, will expand its Knoxville operations, investing \$40 million and creating more than 85 new jobs in the area. Scapa Tapes plans to consolidate its three buildings in Knoxville into a single location. The company will construct a more than 150,000-square-foot facility in the Knoxville area to expand operations and keep up with growing demand. Scapa Tapes is a global supplier of bonding solutions and a manufacturer of adhesive-based products for the healthcare and industrial markets. The company has a global footprint with production sites in Asia, Europe and the U.S.

## MURFREESBORO

The Murfreesboro City Council has authorized the sale of between 11 and 14 acres of city-owned real estate in the Gateway to Vanderbilt University Medical Center. The first phase of the VUMC facility will include construction of a single story, 37,500-square-foot pediatric clinic and ambulatory surgery center as well as 190 ground level parking lot. Construction on the \$21 million investment, including land and equipment, is anticipated to begin 10 to 12 months from acquisition of the property. VUMC would initially employ 14 medical doctors and nurse practitioners and staff of between 40 and 50 people with a payroll of approximately \$8 million. The second phase of development will expand the building to 100,000 square feet, add between 120 and 150 jobs with an estimated annual payroll of \$24 million, and a total capital investment of \$51.5 million.

## PORTLAND

Dorman Products will invest more than \$55 million with its capital partner to expand its operations in Portland. The automotive parts manufacturer Products plans to establish a new production and distribution facility in the Tennessee-Kentucky Industrial Park in the city. The aftermarket parts supplier will create approximately 215

jobs. Dorman Products will build an 815,000-square-foot facility in Portland. Construction of the new facility will begin in the first quarter of 2018. The new building is tentatively scheduled to be operational in the first quarter of 2019. Once construction is complete, Dorman Products will relocate its existing Portland operations to the new facility. Dorman Products employs 380 people in Portland, where it has operated since 2006. The new Portland facility will primarily serve customers in North America. Dorman sells its products to aftermarket retailers and warehouse distributors as well as to manufacturers for resale under private labels. Dorman's brands include AutoGrade, FirstStop and OE Solutions.

## ROCKWOOD

The Rockwood City Council has accepted a \$489,000 grant that will finance repairs to the Rockwood Municipal Airport. The grant requires a 5 percent match and will be used for general maintenance and upkeep. Projects to be completed include coating and sealing cracks on the pavement. Bids will be taken on the project and monitored by Atkins Engineering. Some of the cost will also cover the removal of trees whose growth has impeded the airport as well as renovations to the 22-year-old corporate hanger. Leaks to the building's roof and skylights, insulation, and flooring issues will need to be remedied. Other funds will repaint the rotating beacon tower.

## SMYRNA

Officers with Smyrna Police Department will soon be carrying Naxlone, better known by the brand name Narcan, to help combat opioid overdoses. The Smyrna Town Council voted to allow officers to administer the prescription, which will be funded through a grant. The nasal spray is not only available for saving lives of citizens in emergency situations but can also be administered to officers who may come into contact with substances such as fentanyl, which has been known to trigger an overdose or cardiac arrest when simply coming into contact with the skin. Officials with the Smyrna Police Department said the prescription is to be used for medical situations, and officers will also help victims and their families find resources to help overcome their addiction.

## TOWNSEND

Two areas of the city of Townsend have earned Firewise USATM recognition from the National Fire Protection Association based on their efforts to reduce the vulnerability of homes and landscapes to wildfire. The Laurel Valley and Little Round Top neighborhoods of Townsend are now among only 18 areas of Tennessee that have earned this recognition since the program began in 2002. The Tennessee Department of Agriculture Division of Forestry presented the communities with a commemorative plaque and Firewise USA street signs at a ceremony honoring community leaders, homeowners, representatives from the Townsend Volunteer Fire Department, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and Division of Forestry officials will attend.

## TULLAHOMA

Construction will soon begin on the new Tullahoma Animal Care and Control Facility, an animal shelter that has long been planned by officials with the city of Tullahoma. Brindley and Sons Construction, Inc., of Tullahoma will construct the facility behind the Tullahoma Recycling Center at 942 Maplewood Avenue. Total costs for the project are estimated at \$529,550, which comes in under the city's \$600,000 budget. The plans for the new shelter include a 2,736-square-foot building with 36 separate dog kennels. The accepted additions include 36 exterior dog runs, which are kennel additions to elongate the area where dogs may move, exterior fencing around the dog run area and some exterior concrete slabs within the fenced-in dog run area. The shelter is one of several projects the city is financing through at \$7.5 million loan from the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF), which was approved in October.

## Ashland City firefighters use warm weather to hone skills



Taking advantage of the warm weather, Ashland City firefighters took time out to train on a forced entry apparatus as part of ongoing professional development. Forcible entry training, ladder training, and brush fire training were among skills members of the Ashland City Fire Department practiced.

## White House mayor reads with elementary students



White House Mayor Michael Arnold was among the city officials who went to H.B. Williams Elementary to read to students as part of Read Across America Day, which is also the birthday of children's author Dr. Seuss. Arnold read "The Cat in the Hat" to a group of second and third graders.

## City of Linden, Gov. Haslam honor late Mayor Jim Azbill



Gov. Bill Haslam unveils the plaque dedicating the Mayor Jim Azbill Center in honor of the late mayor of Linden. The unveiling and dedication of the community center kicked off the city's annual Blooming Arts Festival and honored Azbill, who was known for his friendly demeanor and the numerous infrastructure projects, businesses and industries he brought to the city. Linden Mayor Wes Ward also read a proclamation at the event, declaring March 23 as Mayor Jim Azbill Day in Linden. Azbill died unexpectedly in 2016 following a fall.

## Tennessee cities running for title of America's Main Street

Seven Tennessee cities are in the running for the title of "America's Main Street" and a \$25,000 prize.

Bristol, Collierville, Cookeville, Covington, Eagleville, Manchester, and Lawrenceburg have all been nominated for the America's Main Street contest, hosted by power tool company Stihl and their "United We Stand" initiative that aims to promote local businesses. The seven cities are competing against dozens of communities across the nation for the top prize.

The goal of the America's Main Streets contest is to help promote the importance and strong economic benefits of Main Streets and the small businesses that help

them thrive. The winning Main Street will receive \$25,000 in cash and related prizes to help revitalize the area.

Organizations that qualify for the contest include downtown improvement districts, business improvement districts, independent business districts, independent business associations, local first groups and formal Main Street organizations.

Nominations and quarterfinalist voting lasts until April 22 with semifinalist voting from April 30 through May 27. The contest winner will be announced on June 4. To learn more about the contest or support a local Main Street, visit [www.mainstreetcontest.com](http://www.mainstreetcontest.com).

### TENNESSEE TOWN & CITY

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# City officials featured in state tourism marketing campaign

The Tennessee Department of Tourist Development teamed up with Gov. Bill Haslam's office to launch a social media campaign called Real Tennessee Stories, a collaborative effort extending across state government. The campaign showcases the real relationships citizens build with state employees in providing services for the citizens of the state.

Among the Tourist Development nominees are Gatlinburg Mayor Mike Werner and Gatlinburg City Manager Cindy Cameron Ogle; Jenny Hunt, mayor of Bell Buckle; and Allan Sterbinsky, mayor of Stanton,

The department nominated Gatlinburg Mayor Werner and City Manager Cindy Cameron Ogle for their tireless efforts to bring their town back after wildfires ravaged the area in November 2016.

"It has been a privilege to serve with Gatlinburg Mayor Werner and City Manager Cindy Cameron Ogle through these trying times," said Mark Adams, president and CEO of Gatlinburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. "Their tenured leadership has been tested and proven over the past year as they have skillfully guided Gatlinburg through the aftermath of the wildfires. They have set aside their personal losses out of concern for our citizens' recovery and the rebuilding of the economy of our premier resort destination."

The Tourist Development Department also nominated Jenny Hunt, mayor of Bell Buckle, for the campaign.

Walking through Bell Buckle is like taking a step back to a simpler time and Mayor Hunt fights to keep it that way. Mayor Hunt ferociously protects the area's historic character and small town charm. She spear-

heads passion projects like the Bell Buckle Park, encouraging tourism while controlling growth. Tennessee Tourism helps with the town's famous RC MoonPie Festival and provided a grant to Bell Buckle for television ads to attract visitors from Tennessee and Alabama.

"I could have looked the world over and never found a better place for my family and me," said Mayor Hunt. "Bell Buckle is a special place with special people that love it enough to do whatever it takes to preserve the town and its historic character."

The Department of Tourism also nominated Mayor Allan Sterbinsky of the town of Stanton in Haywood County.

Mayor Sterbinsky's perseverance and dedication to keep the Stanton Cannery open for people to can goods for winter and to serve as a watering hole for the area helps the community thrive and provides a sense of place. While serving as mayor, he planted the Stanton Orchard and Walking Trail where citizens can pick fruit for free.

He also led the city to receive grant funding for new housing for low-income residents and to reduce flooding in town. Sterbinsky also subsidizes the Stanton Clinic, where low-income residents from surrounding counties can receive quality healthcare at low cost.

Tennessee Tourism is committed to partnering with passionate leaders like him and equipping them with the resources necessary to support their communities.

The Tennessee Department of Tourist Development nominated six community leaders to be featured as one of the Real Tennessee Stories. They are all shining examples of

what compassion, perseverance and dedication to serving can do for a community. The department is proud to feature their stories on [tn.gov/tourism](http://tn.gov/tourism) and the department's industry Facebook page.

Real TN Stories is a social media campaign focused on telling the true stories of Tennesseans who provide critical, often overlooked, public services to their fellow citizens. By uniting the diverse work of Tennessee State Government under a common theme, Real TN Stories shines a light on how state government positively impacts the average Tennessean in both ordinary and extraordinary ways every single day.

At right: Gatlinburg Mayor Mike Werner is recognized for his tireless efforts to bring their town back after wildfires ravaged the area in November 2016.



Gatlinburg City Manager Cindy Cameron Ogle, far right, with members of the Gatlinburg Fire Department.



Above: Bell Buckle Mayor Jenny Hunt fights to protect the historic character and small town charm of her community.

At right: Allan Sterbinsky, mayor of Stanton, (center) planted the Stanton Orchard and Walking Trail, where citizens can pick fruit for free. Sterbinsky also subsidizes the Stanton Clinic, where low-income residents from surrounding counties can receive quality healthcare at low cost.



# Paris LED lighting projects light up city, save money



Non-profit groups will ask the city to light up the Eiffel Tower different colors for their events, such as pink for Breast Cancer Awareness.

## LIGHTING from Page 1

the opportunities for people to visit our community," Gerrell said. "Besides Kentucky Lake, it is our No. 1 tourist attraction."

Adding LED lights to the city's Eiffel Tower was just the first major lighting project Paris undertook. In 2017, the city began a switchover to LED lights in all of its public streetlights.

The Paris LED Streetlight Project has worked to replace 2,527 "cobra head" streetlights, changing over from the high-pressure sodium style bulbs to more energy efficient light-emitting diodes (LED) bulbs.

"We are almost to the end of our energy efficiency project," Foster said. "Among other things, we have changed over all of our street lighting in the city to LED lighting. We partnered with Trane for a performance-based contract where the savings we reap in energy costs will cover the bond issue. We were able to apply for a qualified energy conservation (QEC) bond. It basically subsidizes the bond costs. In essence, we lowered our interest rates on our bonds to less 1 percent."

The new LED bulbs have a longer lifespan; produce a better, clearer color; and operate at a cooler temperature than the original bulbs. Additionally, the project reduced the city's energy consumption resulting in energy savings, reduced maintenance costs on street lights, and made the city more visible at night.

"It is amazing the difference in energy savings," Foster said. "I didn't even realize how much difference there would be. We are paying less than a dollar a month per light on LED, which was a huge savings. We have 2,600 lights city-wide, which is a big difference. It is also pretty. The lights are crisp and clean. We have gotten a lot of positive feedback from the com-



The Paris LED Streetlight Project has worked to replace 2,527 "cobra head" streetlights, with more energy efficient light-emitting diodes (LED) bulbs.

munity." The city's new streetlights and the Eiffel Tower will be on display at the upcoming 2018 World's Biggest Fish Fry from April 21 through April 28.



## PEOPLE

**Reynard Buchanan** has been selected as the new chief of police for the city of Humboldt. Buchanan served as assistant chief under Chief Rob Ellis, who retires from the position on April 20. Buchanan has nearly 20 years of experience in law enforcement. He began his career with the Humboldt Police Department in 1988 as a police officer. He was promoted to criminal investigator in 2006 and then to assistant chief of police in 2014.



Reynard Buchanan

**Kristen Corn** has been selected as the new city attorney for the city of Brentwood, taking over from Roger Horner who retired after 33 years with the city. Corn is a Brentwood native who graduated from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville with her bachelor's degree and earned a law degree from the Nashville School of Law. Corn previously worked for the city of Franklin since 2007 as a paralegal, staff attorney, and then assistant city attorney. Corn is also currently the president of the Williamson County Bar Association involved with the Tennessee Bar Association.



Kristen Corn

**Bill Cusson** has been selected as the new chief of police for the city of Trenton. Cusson currently serves as a patrolman with the department and has worked in Trenton for 18 months, but has 23 years of law enforcement experience total. Cusson spent most of his career in Arizona, including a year-long period as interim police chief for the city of Goodyear, Ariz. Cusson succeeds Chief Will Sanders, who retired in January after 41 years of service to the Trenton Police Department, including 18 years as its chief.



Bill Cusson

**Adam Dickson** has been selected as the newest member of the Jonesborough Board of Mayor and Alderman. Dickson was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Alderman Jerome Fitzgerald, who resigned on Feb. 29 to run for the Washington County Commission. Dickson lost the 2016 election to Fitzgerald by 26 votes. Dickson holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Carson-Newman College, and earned a master of public administration degree from East Tennessee State University.



Adam Dickson

**Paul Harper**, Nashville businessman and husband of longtime state Sen. Thelma Harper, died March 24 at the age of 79.



Paul Harper

A native of Hartsville, Harper operated the famed Nashville restaurant Harpers as well as several other area businesses. He began his career as a service attendant at I.T. Creswell's on Jefferson Street in Nashville, working his way up to a business manager and franchisee over several Exxon, Gulf and Phillips 66 stations. He later gained a reputation as a promoter of and advocate for minority-owned businesses in Nashville.

**Jason Head** has been selected as the new chief of the Springfield Police Department. A 12-year veteran of the department, Head will take over from Interim



Jason Head

Chief Danny Johnson who stepped into the role in January after former Chief David Thompson's retirement. Head earned a bachelor's and master's degree in criminal justice administration from Bethel University. He served with the Clarksville Police Department from 1998 to 2003 and then with the United Nations from 2003 to 2006, at which time he joined the Springfield Police Department.

**G. Thomas Love**, the former mayor of Greeneville, died March 29 at the age of 93. The longest-serving mayor in the city's history, Love served 33 years on the Greeneville Board of Mayor and Alderman, including 28 years as Greeneville's mayor. He was first elected to public office in 1967 as the city of Greeneville's First Ward alderman. He served in the position until 1972, when he was appointed to fill the unexpired term of incumbent Mayor James N. Hardin, who had been killed in a car accident. Love was elected mayor in 1974 and served in the position until 1980. He was then re-elected mayor in 1982 and served again until 2002. Love served as the president of the Tennessee Municipal League and was selected as TML's "Mayor of the Year" in 1997.



Tom Love

**David Massey** will retire as Knoxville's Neighborhood Coordinator in June. Massey has held the position since 2008 and will be succeeded by Assistant Neighborhood Coordinator Debbie Sharp. A longtime Knoxville resident, Massey is a 1970 graduate of Emory University and he also did graduate work at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. He began his career as an editor and reporter for various publications before serving as executive director of DiscoverET.org, formerly known as KORRnet, from 2000 to 2007. He was also a member of the city's Better Building Board from 2005 to 2007. He was selected as the city's second-ever neighborhood coordinator by then-Knoxville Mayor Bill Haslam in 2008.



David Massey

**Tim Ware**, fire chief for the city of Dyersburg, has retired after 24 years of service. Ware first began his career as a firefighter with the city in 1994. He was promoted to driver after eight years of service and then lieutenant in 2010. He was appointed as Dyersburg's fire chief in 2013. As chief, he led the department to an improved ISO rating of 3, the reintroduction of state training programs in 2014, and the upgrading of all three city fire stations. Ware continues to serve as a member of the E-911 Board.



Tim Ware

## Harper announces retirement from Senate

After 35 years in public service and 27 in the Tennessee Senate, pioneering lawmaker Sen. Thelma Harper, D-Nashville, has announced her retirement from office.

Harper's career with the legislature has included several notable firsts. She was the first African-American woman to serve in the Tennessee Senate, the first woman to preside over the state Senate, and represented the state at six Democratic National Conventions, including addressing the convention in 2000.

Her announcement of her intention to retire came on the heels of the death of her husband, longtime Nashville businessman Paul Harper.

"Even though there is no greater honor than being able to serve and be your voice on the Hill, I truly feel the time is right for me to pass the baton to the next generation of future leaders," Harper said in a statement. "Even though I will no longer be an elected public servant, I will continue to serve and work in the community to help those in



Sen. Thelma Harper, D-Nashville

need. I am especially proud to have been a voice to our most vulnerable and being able to pass meaningful legislation regarding women, children, and the elderly. All of this fueled my dedication to politics and public service."

Born in Brentwood, Harper entered the political arena in 1980 when she was selected as executive committeewoman and the co-chairwoman of the Davidson County Democratic Women's Club. She was then elected to the Metro Nashville City Council in

1983, serving until 1991.

Harper's announcement drew praise for her career in the public sector from both sides of the aisle.

"Tennessee is losing one of its most experienced and likable public servants with the retirement of Senator Harper," Gov. Bill Haslam said. "I will miss her friendship, her insight and her wonderful sense of humor."

Lt. Gov. Randy McNally said Harper is a trailblazer and has left an important legacy in the Senate.

"She has been a credit to Nashville and a most distinguished member of the Senate," he said. "She has truly left Tennessee and the Senate better than she found it. While we will miss her in the Senate, her retirement is well-deserved."

Senate Democratic Caucus Chairman Jeff Yarbrow, D-Nashville, thanked Harper for her service and called her "a stalwart member of the Senate."

Rep. Harold Love, D-Nashville, praised Harper as "a great champion for children and young adults in Tennessee."

## Two new consultants join MTAS staff

Emily Godwin is the newest MTAS finance and accounting consultant. She will work from the Jackson office and cover the West Tennessee communities.

Prior to joining MTAS, Emily was a legislative auditor for five years with the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury. She has also worked at CPA firms in audit and tax.

Godwin graduated Summa Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of North Alabama and received an academic fellowship to the University of Mississippi where she earned a master's of accountancy, taxation.

Angie Carrier joined MTAS in January 2018 as a municipal management consultant.

Prior to joining MTAS, Angie served Johnson City as the development services director for six years.



Emily Godwin



Angie Carrier

She has more than 15 years of local government experience. Carrier served as the city administrator for White House and town administrator in Dandridge. Her career in city management began in Maryville in 1999, where she worked on special projects.

She earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Tennessee, and her master's degree in city management from East Tennessee State University.

She will work out of the Knoxville office and cover parts of East and Southeast Tennessee.

## Mt. Juliet welcomes seven new firefighters



The Mt. Juliet Fire Department has welcomed seven new firefighters into its ranks after they completed recruit firefighter training. Shaun Tucker, Michael Tuck, Zach Smith, Jason Pawlick, Callie Minton, Chris Manlove, and Neil Howard all completed their training. Assistant Chief Shawn Donavan and volunteer Lt. Ryan Benson, Lt. Davis Combs, Lt. Brian Diehl, and Lt. Marshal McGough led the class and served as instructors.

# WAUFORD

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

**Home Office:**  
2835 Lebanon Pike  
P.O. Box 140350  
Nashville, TN 37214  
615/883-3243

**Branch Office (West):**  
Jackson  
529 Old Hickory Blvd, Ste. A  
Jackson, TN 38305  
731/668-1953

**Branch Office (East):**  
Maryville  
908 W Broadway Ave.  
Maryville, TN 37801  
865/984-9638

www.jrwauford.com

## Water and Wastewater Systems

## STATE BRIEFS



**Tennessee communities of all sizes can now apply for grants to build or improve dog parks in their areas.** The Boyd Foundation is taking applications for a Dog Park Dash Grant of up to \$25,000 to build or improve dog parks in their community. One community will win \$100,000 for being the most actively engaged in making Tennessee the most pet-friendly state. Over the next three years, the foundation will award \$3 million in total grants for the building and enhancement of dog parks. The deadline for this year's application is June 20. Communities can apply at [dogparkdash.com/apply](http://dogparkdash.com/apply).

**Unemployment rates are down for the majority of the state,** according to information recently released by the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development. February 2018 unemployment rates showed 69 of the state's 95 counties had a lower unemployment rate when compared to the previous month. Rates remained the same in 21 counties and increased in five counties. Tennessee's statewide seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February 2018 was 3.4 percent, a 0.1 of a percentage point increase from the revised January rate of 3.3 percent. The national unemployment rate for the month held steady at 4.1 percent.

**Sightings of alligators, armadillos, and cougars are increasing in Tennessee,** according to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. A viral video taken by TWRA employee of an alligator spotted in West Tennessee prompted the agency to address the increase in non-native species in the state. In addition to alligators, non-native armadillos and a subspecies of

cougar typically only found in the western U.S. have also been confirmed in the state in recent years. While it isn't uncommon for alligators and even manatees to occasionally accidentally make their way up to Tennessee from Mississippi, TWRA officials said these animals are not considered permanent residents. However, a permanent population of armadillos has been steadily moving eastward across the state while the 10 confirmed sightings of cougars in West and Middle Tennessee are possibly related to the reintroduction of elk in those areas.

Despite low rankings in making solar power available to citizens, **Tennessee's solar industry has added jobs at one of the fastest rates in the country.** Solar employment in the state grew by 24 percent – approximately 863 jobs – during 2017. The increase in solar jobs was driven by growth in the solar manufacturing sector. Tennessee is home to major polysilicon and other solar-related equipment makers such as Wacker Chemical in Charleston and Shoals Technologies Group in Portland. The Solar Foundation estimates solar employment at 250,271 across the country in 2017, which is double that of the coal industry, five times as big as the nuclear power industry, and nearly as big as the natural gas industry. Despite job growth in the industry, Tennessee has still earned an "F" from the Solar Energy Industries Association for its net metering and interconnection policies and Tennessee is yet to adopt any renewable portfolio standard or support for community solar projects. The lack of state incentives and utility investments could possibly cause growth in the industry to falter in the future.

## State awards \$9.6M in site development grants

The state of Tennessee has given \$9.6 million in grants for industrial site preparation with 14 municipalities sharing in the 25 projects that earned funding.

The funds were distributed through the state's Site Development Grant program, which is part of the larger Rural Economic Opportunity Act passed in 2016 and updated in 2017.

"By making our rural communities ready for investment and economic success, we help them attract jobs and more opportunities for citizens," Gov. Bill Haslam said. "I congratulate the Site Development Grant program recipients and look forward to watching as they thrive and bring new businesses to our state."

The grants are intended to help rural communities overcome barriers to site certification and prepare them to receive an economic development project that creates jobs in their community. These funds assist communities in finalizing infrastructure and engineering improvements for project-ready certified sites.

"We want to help these rural communities up their game and increase their close rate by making our rural county site inventory among the most attractive and project-ready in the world," Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner Bob Rolfe said. "We are proud to see these 25 communities taking the initiative to invest in themselves and look forward to seeing their future success."

The Site Development Grant program works in cooperation with the department's Select Tennessee Site Certification program.

"Through its Site Development Grant program, TNECD has awarded \$21.6 million over three years to communities throughout Tennessee," TNECD Site Development Director Leanne Cox said. "These grants are a valuable resource for local economic development projects, demonstrating Tennessee's proactive approach to industrial development and support for further growth and job creation."

Applications were reviewed by an advisory committee made up of the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, Austin Consulting, Tennessee Valley Authority, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Tennessee

Department of Transportation, and the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development.

"Each of the recipients is taking a major step to enhance their community and with the assistance of the site development grants, they are given the opportunity to compete for jobs and business," TNECD Assistant Commissioner for Community and Rural Development Amy New said. "The Site Development program shows great return on investment, and I am thankful that the investment from the Rural Economic Opportunity Act will continue to help many more communities in the years to

## Five Tennessee landmarks earn spots on National Register of Historic Places

Five properties located across the state of Tennessee have earned designations on the National Register of Historic Places, according to the Tennessee Historical Commission.

"These additions to the National Register of Historic Places are a testament to Tennessee's diverse heritage," said Executive Director and State Historic Preservation Officer Patrick McIntyre. "The historic properties are part of our unique past and are worthy of being recognized on this prestigious list."

The Sanda Hoisery Mills in **Cleveland** was once one of the city's largest employers with a history in the city dating back to 1926. Operated under the Humpty Dumpty and later Cherokee Knitting Mills brands, the mills were operated under the building that earned designation on the National Register from 1950 until 2002.

**Morristown's** Bethel Methodist Church served as a cornerstone of social and religious activity for the city's African-American community as well as the students of Morristown College dating back to 1907. The church is still in operation today and expanded its premises in 1951.

Oaklawn Garden was constructed as a nursery in 1923 in **Germantown** by Mamie and Harry L. Cloves but is operated today as a city park. The 6.46-acre park contains a house that dates back to 1875, a 1923 daffodil bed, natural greenhouse, and certified arboretum. A collection of historical artifacts from Germantown's history also reside in the gardens museum and a 1944 Norfolk & Western caboose is also located on the property.

The Sterick North Garage and Hotel in **Memphis** were constructed in 1963 and were originally part



Built around 1907, Morristown's Bethel Methodist Church is still a pillar of the local community. It joins Cleveland's Sanda Hoisery Mill, Germantown's Oaklawn Garden, Memphis' Sterick North Garage and Hotel, and Mason's Bozo's Hot Pit Bar-B-Que as a new addition to the National Register of Historic Places.

of the Holiday Inn chain, added as part of the adjacent 1929 Sterick Building. It is believed to be one of the first such hotel-garage combos in the nation.

Bozo's Hot Pit Bar-B-Que in **Mason** was constructed in 1950 on the historic highway known as the Broadway of America and the Memphis to Bristol Highway. The restaurant's history dates back to 1923, and the current location was opened following a fire in 1950.

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. It is part of a nationwide program that coordinates and supports efforts to identify, evaluate and protect historic resources.

The Tennessee Historical Commission, as the State Historic Preservation Office, administers the program in Tennessee. For more information, visit <http://tn-historicalcommission.org>.

## State to undertake first ever security assessment of all Tennessee schools

**\$30M budgeted to address immediate security needs**

Gov. Bill Haslam announced his approval of recommendations submitted by the school safety working group he appointed last month to make immediate enhancements to school safety. The working group identified three immediate priorities:

1. A review and risk assessment of all school facilities to identify vulnerabilities;
2. An increase in available resources to help secure school resource officers (SROs); and
3. A statewide technology application for anonymous reporting of security threats.

Haslam has directed the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security (TN DOS), in conjunction with the Tennessee Department of Education (TN DOE) and local officials, to immediately begin development and implementation of a statewide assessment of every public elementary and secondary school in the state to identify areas of risk. While all school districts currently have safety plans, this will be the first time that the state has led a comprehensive effort to determine the security needs at each individual school.

The risk assessment will be based on model security standards identified by TN DOS, with assessment training provided by state homeland security officials to local school district personnel and first responders. As this is the first priority identified by the working group, Haslam has asked the state agencies to ensure completion of the assessments before students return to school for the 2018-19 school year.

Following the school security assessments, and on an annual basis thereafter, each school's emergency operations plan (EOP) must ensure specific facility risks are identified and updated and that state school safety resources, including the additional \$30 million proposed in the governor's Fiscal Year 2019 Budget, are utilized to address the identified risks.

One such area of risk, and the second priority identified by the working group, is the availability of

trained school safety personnel or SROs. For the schools in the state that do not have SROs on-site, lack of funding is often cited as a primary reason. The governor's proposed budget and school safety plan doubles the amount of recurring school safety grant funding for schools, which can be used toward SROs or other facility security measures.

And, to address immediate needs while further state, local and federal conversations around school security and budgeting take place, total state school safety grant funding would increase by more than 500 percent for the upcoming fiscal year.

"All children in Tennessee deserve to learn in a safe and secure environment, and I appreciate the efficient and thorough work of the school safety working group," said Haslam. "The recommendations of the working group, coupled with increased investment, provide a path to making immediate, impactful and unprecedented security improvements in our schools and also lay the groundwork for longer term actions around training, drills and mental health support."

The third immediate priority of the working group, also adopted by Haslam, is for the state to provide a statewide technology application for the anonymous reporting of threats or suspicious activity by students, faculty, staff and others.

The concept, which Haslam is also pushing for a 2018-19 school year implementation, would provide for direct communication among and between the individual reporting the threat or activity and the state, local law enforcement officials and local school districts.

The working group also recommended the promotion of positive behavioral health for all students. Haslam has directed the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to work in conjunction with the TN DOE to expand training areas, including training on strategies to increase awareness and responsiveness to signs and symptoms of student behavioral health and mental health needs.

## City priorities funded in FY18 Omnibus Spending Bill

**FUNDING from Page 1**  
funding increased from \$149 million to \$249 million to build infrastructure that prevents loss of life and mitigates risks, reduces damage from future disasters, and lowers flood insurance premiums.

- HUD-VA Supportive Housing

(HUD-VASH) Vouchers: Increase funding of \$40 million for new vouchers, while also protecting VA resources providing case management for homeless veterans.

For specific funding level changes, go to <https://www.nlc.org/>



# Transportation funding, local control discussed



Paris City Manager Kim Foster, Pulaski City Administrator Terry Harrison, Pulaski Mayor Pat Ford, and Rep. Barry Doss.



Morristown Councilman Tommy Pedigo, Sparta Alderman Hoyt Jones, Sen. Paul Bailey, and Cookeville City Manager Mike Davidson.



Dyersburg Mayor John Holden, McKenzie Mayor Jill Holland, and Rep. Tim Wirtgau.



Southwest Development District Executive Director Joe Barker, Bolivar City Administrator Shelia Dellinger, and Bolivar Mayor Julian McTizic.



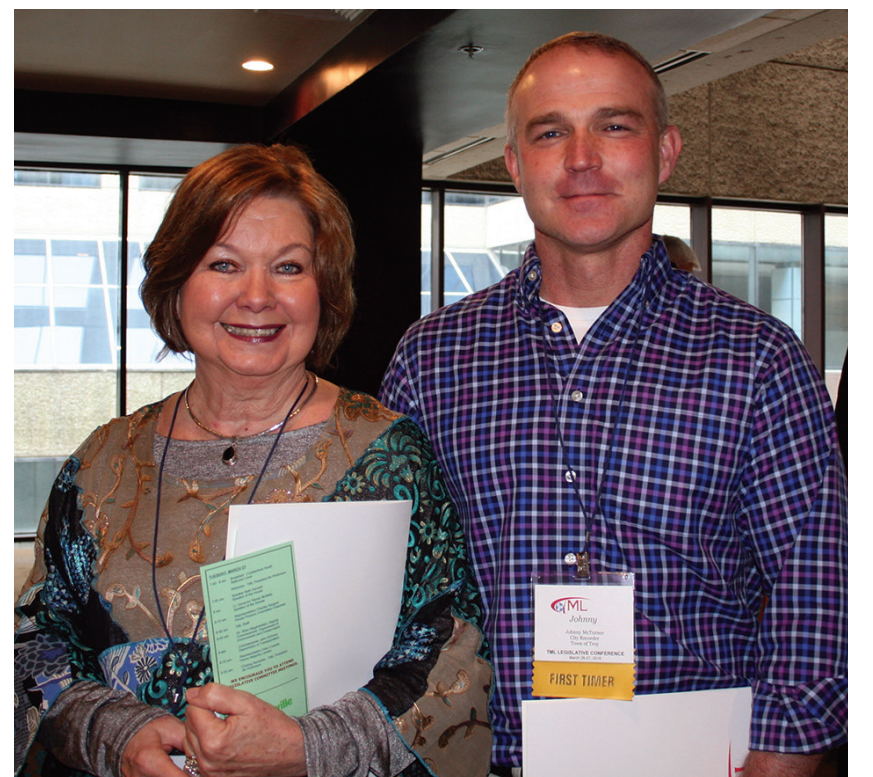
Collegedale Communications Strategist Bridgett Raper, Mayor Katie Lamb, and Commissioner Debbie Baker.



Columbia Mayor Dean Dickey and City Manager Tony Massey.



Gatlinburg City Commissioner Hannah Helton, City Manager Cindy Cameron Ogle, and Vice Mayor Mark McCown.



Above: Troy Mayor Deanna Chappell and City Recorder Johnny McTurner.



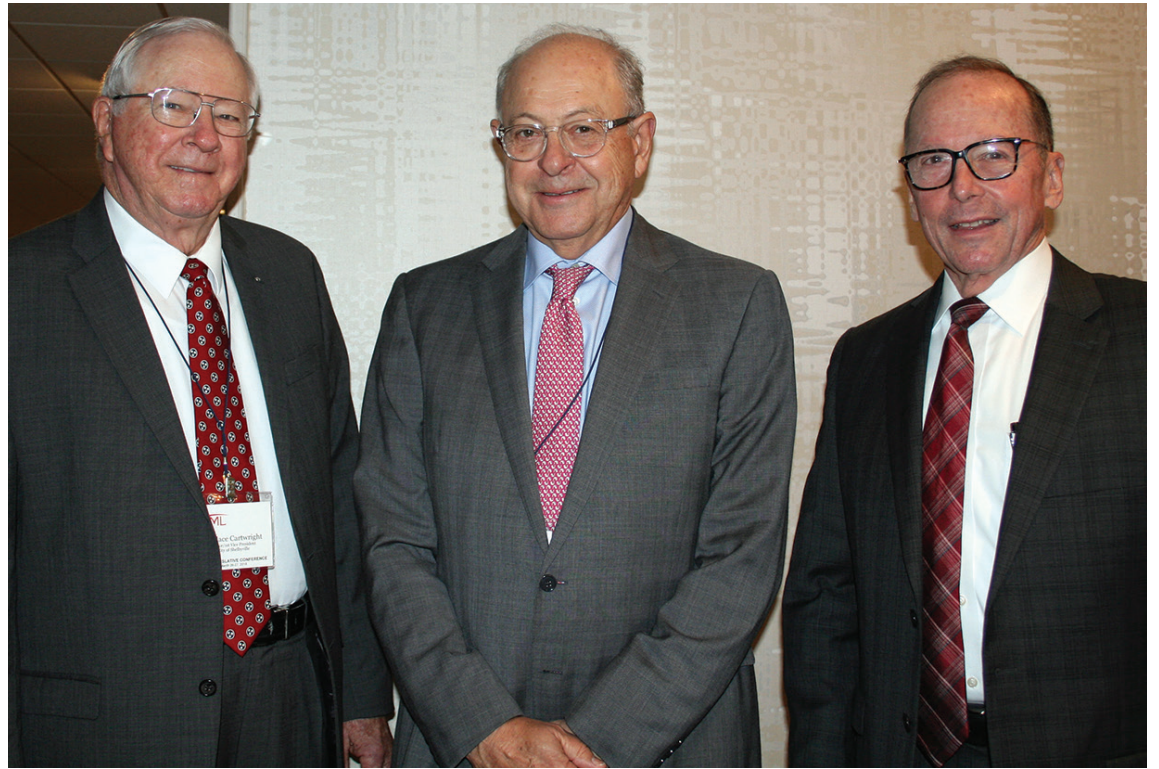
At left: Samburg Mayor John Glessner, South Fulton Mayor David Lamb, and Kingston Councilmember Don White.

Photos by: Kate Coil

# 2018 Tennessee Municipal League Legislative Conference



Smyrna Mayor Mary Esther Reed, Councilmember Lori North, and Vice Mayor Marc Adkins.



Shelbyville Mayor Wallace Cartwright, Franklin Mayor Ken Moore, and TDOT Commissioner John Schroer.



Crossville Councilmember J.H. Graham and Livingston Mayor Curtis Hayes.



Soddy-Daisy Mayor Robert Cothran, East Ridge Councilwoman Esther Helton, and Soddy-Daisy Commissioner Rick Nunley.



Sparta Mayor Jeff Young and City Administrator Chris Dorsey.



Kingsport Vice Mayor Mike McIntire, Assistant City Manager Chris McCart, and Mayor John Clark.



Milan Alderwoman Tammy Wade and Smyrna Councilwoman Lori North.



Memphis Councilmember Edmund Ford Jr., Bartlett Mayor Keith McDonald, Bartlett Alderman Bobby Simmons, Arlington Vice Mayor Harry McKee, Bartlett CAO Mark Brown, and Bartlett Alderman David Parsons.



Gallatin Mayor Paige Brown and White House City Administrator Gerald Herman.



Shelbyville Councilmember Thomas Landers, City Manager Shanna Boyette, Councilmember Sam Meek, and Councilmember Mark Clanton.



## CLASSIFIED ADS

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

**ANIMAL SHELTER MANAGER**  
COLLIERVILLE. The town of Collierville has an immediate opening for the position of animal shelter manager. The purpose of this position is to oversee and manage the day to day operations of the town's animal shelter. Requires a bachelor's degree in animal sciences, business, agribusiness, or a related field; supplemented by three years supervisory experience in an animal shelter; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Requires a valid motor vehicle operator's license at time of hire. Must obtain National Animal Control Association (NACA) Level 1 and Level 2 certifications no later than 36 months from date of hire. Must be flexible with weekday and weekend working hours. Must be available after hours for call out and have good animal handling skills. Tasks require the regular and sustained performance of moderately physically demanding work typically involving some combination of climbing and balancing, stooping, kneeling, crouching, and crawling. Selection process may include: examinations, interviews, assessment centers, practical skills, etc. Must be able to pass a work-related physical and drug test. Salary is \$32,425 - \$55,584 annually (DOQ) with excellent benefits package. To apply for this position, you must submit an original town of Collierville application. Applications are available to download at [www.collierville.com](http://www.collierville.com), or you may obtain one from our Human Resources Office located at 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN, 38017, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Completed applications must be submitted either by mail or in person to the above address. We are unable to accept faxed or emailed applications.

**BOOKKEEPER / ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**  
MASON. Responsible for bookkeeping and support services under the general supervision of the office manager/human resources manager. Instructions to the employee are general and the employee must routinely use independent judgment when performing tasks. The employee must occasionally consider a different course of action. The uniform accounting code and accounting system must be followed in order to complete tasks. Graduation from an accredited high school or possess equivalency, and supplemental course work in bookkeeping principles and practices. Experience in clerical accounting work. Responsible for all bookkeeping and financial records of all funds including reconciling bank statements and invoices, bond payments, drafting checks, accounts payable, etc.; balances all receipts and tax collections monthly; prepares all deposits and withdrawals; prepares all bookkeeping reports; prepares all payroll; prepares Social Security and tax withholding reports; prepares quarterly unemployment reports; reviews recorder reports before being submitted to state; maintains general records of account according to established accounting classifications, including various ledgers, registers, and journals; posts entries to books and computer from supporting records, makes adjustments and prepares financial statements; and deposit city receipts at bank. Salary: \$14.00 Hourly. Please apply at the Town of Mason; Mason City Hall; 12157 Main Street. Position open until filled. EOE.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR**  
TULLAHOMA. The city of Tullahoma is seeking applicants for the position of city administrator who works under the general direction of the board of mayor and alderman. The city administrator oversees city operations with a \$26 million general fund budget and 150 full-time employees in administration, police, fire, public works, finance, parks and recreation, human resources and planning and codes departments. The minimum requirement for this opportunity is a bachelor's degree with a master's degree preferred in public administration, management, business administration or closely related field and a minimum of five years of municipal leadership experience as a city administrator or manager of a public agency or department with related duties. Salary is DOQ and the city offers a comprehensive benefits package. Interested applicants must submit a resume, cover letter and professional references to City of Tullahoma, Attn: Human Resources Director, PO Box 807, Tullahoma, TN 37388, or by email to [cbrice@tullahomatin.gov](mailto:cbrice@tullahomatin.gov). Resumes will be accepted until May 1. Applications are subject to public disclosure. EOE / TN Drug Free Workplace.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**  
BRISTOL. The city of Bristol is accepting applications for the following full-time position director of community development. Salary range \$65,927 - \$102,186 DOQ. Under executive direction of the city manager, the purpose of this position is to plan, organize, direct and integrate the city's planning and code enforcement programs and services, and the Community Development

Block Grant and Home programs and services. This position is responsible for policy development, program planning, budget management, administration and operational direction of the Community Development Department functions. Has responsibility for accomplishing department objectives and goals within the guidelines established by the city manager and performs related work as assigned. This position interprets the department's codes, regulations, plans, policies and functions for elected and appointed boards, citizens, the business community and the public. Plans, organizes, controls, integrates and evaluates the work of the community development department; with staff, develops, implements and monitors long-term plans, goals and objectives focused on achieving the city's mission and council priorities; directs the development of and monitors performance against the annual department budget and the city's capital improvement plan budget; manages and directs the development, implementation and evaluation of plans, policies, systems and procedures to achieve annual goals, objectives and work standards that support the city's mission and values. Master's degree in planning, public administration, or related field required, with six years increasing responsible experience in municipal planning, zoning, permitting, enforcement and consultation, two of which are supervisory in nature; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this position. Must possess excellent knowledge in the field of municipal planning, state planning legislation, and land use regulations. Must possess knowledge and proficiency in the operation of personal computers and be knowledgeable in the field of Geographic Information Systems with some knowledge of ArcView preferred. To be considered, candidates must complete an application and upload a resume at: <http://bristoltn.org/jobs.aspx>. EOE

**FINANCE DIRECTOR.**  
FAYETTEVILLE. The city of Fayetteville (population 7,000) is seeking an experienced, qualified, energetic, team builder with exceptional leadership skills to be their next finance director. This is an exceptional opportunity to serve in a top-notch organization with a dedicated staff of high-quality leaders and managers. The finance director's position requires an individual with extensive recent and progressively responsible finance administration experience. Other attributes include sound judgment, human resources skills, organization development expertise, and a can-do work ethic. The finance director is a highly visible city department head that is expected to project a professional image of the city and finance department in all situations. The city of Fayetteville will offer a competitive salary and benefits package to the successful candidate. The position profile is available for review at [www.fayettevilletn.com](http://www.fayettevilletn.com). Send cover letter and résumé to Fayetteville HR Director, at 110 Elk Ave S, Fayetteville TN, 37334 or email cover letter and résumé to: [agay@fayettevilletn.com](mailto:agay@fayettevilletn.com) or apply online at [www.fayettevilletn.com/resident/career\\_and\\_employment\\_opportunities/index.php](http://www.fayettevilletn.com/resident/career_and_employment_opportunities/index.php) no later than April 25. EOE.

**FINANCE DIRECTOR.**  
GERMANTOWN. The city of Germantown is seeking a qualified individual to serve as finance director. Under broad direction of the city administrator, the finance director is responsible for the overall administration and management of the city's Financial Services Department. Financial services includes three areas: accounting, treasury and city court. Responsibilities include directing the accounting, cash management and fund investment activities to ensure financial security of the city government. The finance director is also responsible for ensuring legal and regulatory compliance for all accounting and financial reporting functions. The finance director exercises supervision over general accounting, accounts receivables/collection, payroll, and utility billing system, business licensing, fund investments, debt management, and municipal court activities. The minimum requirements for this opportunity include: bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, business or public administration and seven years of experience managing accounting and cash management operations, including two years professional experience in governmental accounting; or any combination of education, training, and experience providing the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to perform essential job functions. All qualified applicants must have local government experience. A master's degree is preferred. Certification as CPA strongly preferred. For more details and applications, please visit <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/germantown>. The application process will remain open until the position is filled. EOE

**GRANT WRITING CONSULTANT**  
MCMINNVILLE. The city of McMinnville is seeking proposals from qualified firms or individuals for grant writing consultant(s). Copies of the request for proposal, and any related documents are available on the city of McMinnville website: [http://mcminnvilletn.com/city\\_government/bid\\_notices.php](http://mcminnvilletn.com/city_government/bid_notices.php). The deadline for receipt of sealed proposals is

## UT-MTAS APRIL MAP CLASSES

### LEADING BY LEARNING Pt. 1: SOMEWHERE TO BEGIN

The first in a series of three, *Leading By Learning: Somewhere to Begin* is designed to assist participants in developing effective leadership skills. Highlights include the building blocks of leadership and determining your leadership style.

**Target Audience:**  
All Municipal Employees

**Credits:** 4 CPE



### Dates/Locations/Times:

**April 24 Jackson**  
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. CDT  
**April 25 Nashville**  
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. CDT  
**April 26 Knoxville**  
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. EDT

To register for a course, go to [www.mtas.tennessee.edu](http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu), or fax to 865-974-0423. Credit card payments must register online with the Solution Point System: <http://www.solutionpoint.tennessee.edu/MTAS> or by invoice. For registration assistance, call 865-974-0413. For more information, contact Kurt Frederick, training consultant, at 615-253-6385.

## EPA announces new funding for water infrastructure projects

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced the availability of funding that could provide as much as \$5.5 billion in loans, which could leverage over \$11 billion in water infrastructure projects through the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program.

Prospective borrowers seeking WIFIA credit assistance must submit a letter of interest (LOI) by July 6, 2018.

The WIFIA program received \$63 million in funding in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018, which was signed into law by President Donald Trump on March 23, 2018. This more than doubles the program's funding from 2017. Leveraging private capital and other funding sources, these projects could support \$11 billion in water infrastructure investment and create more than 170,000 jobs. This year's Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) highlights the importance of protecting public health including reducing exposure to lead and other contaminants in drinking water systems and updating the nation's aging infrastructure.

The WIFIA program will play an important part in making vital improvements to the nation's water infrastructure and implementing the President's Infrastructure Plan, which calls for increasing the pro-

gram's funding authorization and expanding project eligibility.

### Background

Established by the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014, the WIFIA program is a federal loan and guarantee program at EPA that aims to accelerate investment in the nation's water infrastructure by providing long-term, low-cost supplemental loans for regionally and nationally significant projects.

WIFIA credit assistance can be used for a wide range of projects, including:

- drinking water treatment and distribution projects
- wastewater conveyance and treatment projects
- enhanced energy efficiency projects at drinking water and wastewater facilities
- desalination, aquifer recharge, alternative water supply, and water recycling project
- drought prevention, reduction, or mitigation projects

EPA will evaluate proposed projects described in the LOIs using WIFIA's statutory and regulatory criteria as described in the NOFA. Through this competitive process, EPA will select projects that it intends to fund and invite them to continue to the application process.

In 2017, for WIFIA's inaugural round, EPA invited 12 projects in 9 states to apply for more than \$2 billion in WIFIA loans.

## Water You Waiting For?

Nominate your local government water project to share your success stories with local leaders around the world!

ELGL (Engaging Local Government Leaders) is passionate about the free and open exchange of ideas where local governments can learn from one another to be most successful. When local leaders share their success stories, everybody wins.

This is especially true on expensive and complex public works projects, and so ELGL is partnering with The Atlas Marketplace to collect and share details about the best water projects in the nation.

The Atlas is an online community where public officials learn from one another as they are upgrading infrastructure systems—including water—to be stronger,

smarter, and more sustainable.

This contest is free to enter and the winning projects will be selected by popular vote. Entering the contest will feature your project on the ELGL and Atlas websites, both for information and for voting.

- Nominations open: April 5
- Nominations due: April 18
- Voting begins: April 19
- Voting ends: April 26
- Announcement of finalists: May 1
- Award: May 18, at ELGL Annual Conference in Golden, CO

Learn more and add your project online at <http://elgl.org/2018/04/04/water-you-waiting-for-elgls-best-water-projects/>

April 17 at 10:00 AM. Sealed proposals must be received by this deadline at the following location: Human Resources Office, 101 East Main Street, 3rd Floor, McMinnville, TN 37110. Any proposal received after the date and time listed above will not be considered. Questions pertaining to this Request for Proposal (RFP) must be communicated in writing and be received via email by April 16 at 3:00 PM. Questions must be sent to the email address below, and any question(s) should include a reference to the appropriate page and section number of the RFP. Jennifer Riggsby, Human Resources Administrator; [jriggsby@mcminnvilletn.gov](mailto:jriggsby@mcminnvilletn.gov)

**ZONING ADMINISTRATOR**  
BRISTOL. The city of Bristol is accepting applications for the following full-time position of zoning administrator. Salary Range \$44,311 - \$68,682 DOQ. Under the direction of the community development director, the position is to perform professional, technical, managerial, and administrative work within

the Planning and Zoning Division. Job functions include, but not limited to: administration of zoning activities, interpretation and application of Tennessee state statute, Sullivan County and Bristol City codes, ordinances and regulations, communication with other departments, public agencies and the general public, initiation of actions necessary to correct deficiencies or violations of regulations, extensive research for city projects, and development of strategies to promote efficient land use consistent with community goals and objectives. Excellent oral communication and interpersonal skills to present research findings to various boards and committees. Prefer master's degree in planning or a related field with 3 years of experience in the planning profession or bachelor's degree in planning or related field and 5 years of professional planning experience. American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) Certification is desirable. To be considered, candidates must complete an application and upload a resume at: <http://bristoltn.org/jobs.aspx>. EOE



## TENNESSEE FESTIVALS

### Now - April 15: Lookout Mtn.

*Rock City's Fairytale Nights*  
Adventure awaits at Rock City's newest spring event, Fairytale Nights—where dreams come to life. Join us on a spectacular journey as we travel to a faraway kingdom where magic is around every turn. Fly to Neverland with Peter Pan, waltz with Beauty and the Beast, enjoy the radiant gardens with Cinderella, and learn to sword fight like a knight. Don't miss this chance to make magical memories at Rock City's Fairytale Nights. Evenings from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. Visit [www.seerockcity.com/events/entry/fairytale-nights](http://www.seerockcity.com/events/entry/fairytale-nights)

### April 13 - 14: Savannah

*TN River BBQ Battle & Music Fest*  
The Kansas City Barbeque Society sanctioned cook-off will be held at Green Acres RV Park in Savannah. Professional cooking teams from across the country will be competing for cash prizes. Friday night activities include live music and Saturday brings a Kids Que and more live music, games and food. Attendees will have the opportunity to taste BBQ cooked by the professional cooks and vote for their favorite. The cook with the most votes will win a special prize at the awards ceremony. Admittance to the festival is free. Visit [www.trnriverbbqbattle.com](http://www.trnriverbbqbattle.com) or call Mary Beth Hopper at 731-616-7474.

### April 14: Knoxville

*Italian Street Fair*  
A free, one-day celebration of the performing arts (including Italian opera, culture, and cuisine) featuring all-day entertainment, handmade arts and crafts, children's activities, and a variety of foods and beverages - many having an Italian or Mediterranean flavor. Hours: 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Visit [www.knoxvilleopera.com/rossini-festival-3/](http://www.knoxvilleopera.com/rossini-festival-3/)

### April 21: Fayetteville

*Slawburger Festival*  
It includes pancake breakfast, 5k run, arts and crafts vendors, food vendors, scavenger hunt, and slaw contest. Kid's area will feature bounce house, games, music, balloon activities, and more. Free admission. Hours: 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Visit [www.slawburgerfestival.com/](http://www.slawburgerfestival.com/)

### April 21: Nashville

*Earth Day Festival*  
Held in Centennial Park, the event will feature exhibits and hands-on activities about protecting environment and living green. There will be more than 100 family-friendly booths, hosted by community groups, environmental organizations and government agencies. It will also include live music, green market, beer garden, recycling and disposal drop-off opportunities, children educational activities and much more. Free admission. Hours: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Visit [www.nashvilleearthday.org/](http://www.nashvilleearthday.org/)

### April 21-28: Paris

*World's Biggest Fish Fry*  
The premier event for Paris—Henry County and West Tennessee, the festival revolves around the "Fish Tent" where by last account over 12,500 pounds of catfish is served with all the trimmings. In addition to all you can eat catfish, you will find parades, carnival, rodeos, catfish races, dances, arts and crafts to name a few. Visit <http://paristnchamber.com/fish-fry-information/>

### April 27-29: South Pittsburg

*National Cornbread Festival*  
The festival will feature cornbread cook-off, entertainment, food, arts and crafts, street dance, carnival, fireworks, and much more. The kid's corner will feature games, face painting, rides and inflatables. Hours: Fri. 6 p.m.-close; Sat.-Sun. 10 a.m.-close. Visit <http://national-cornbread.com/>

### April 28-29: Franklin

*Main Street Festival*  
A fun-filled weekend of music, arts and crafts, food and children's activities. There will be a kid's area with a variety of carnival games, food, pony rides, and a petting zoo. Shop about 150 artisans and crafters displaying and selling handmade wares. Free admission. Hours: Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Visit <http://downtownfranklintn.com/festivals/>



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# What your city residents need to know about the municipal infrastructure deficit

The people who live in our cities need to understand what is at stake. Local officials need to do a better job of communicating that.

BY GORD HUME  
*Governing Magazine*

Few would disagree that infrastructure is the platform for how municipalities improve the lives of their citizens. Across North America, smart infrastructure investments enhance connectivity, both physically and electronically. Infrastructure is the foundation for building smart, modern economies.

The disagreement, of course, is over how we should pay for renewing our infrastructure.

The hard numbers are depressingly familiar: the American Society of Civil Engineers' D+ rating for U.S. Infrastructure, with estimates for 'fixing' it ranging into the trillions of dollars.

So are the political realities, including the continued lack of serious leadership on this issue from the White House and the deep partisan chasms that divide Congress.

As Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn noted plaintively in an interview for *Getting Cities Right*, a book I authored last year, "To think that we can't even get a Surface Transportation Act passed. ... When did building roads and rail become a partisan issue?"

But – and this is an important but – local-government officials are equally to blame. Generally speaking, mayors and council members have done a poor job of educating their constituents about the size, scope and urgency of this problem – our municipal infrastructure deficit.

Few people give thought to

the sewers beneath their streets, until the morning they can't flush; then the sewer system shoots to the top of their priority list. They grumble about potholes and crumbling bridges. They mutter to their friends at the coffee shop about flooding problems after a big rain. They complain about poor bus service or the state of public housing.

What they don't understand is the larger picture. Infrastructure is the glue that holds together the economic, cultural, environmental and social structures that create more civilized communities. These investments are what drive a thriving city in this era of global competition for investments, talent, entrepreneurs and young families.

Municipal officials need to step up with information, ideas and leadership. But before we can begin to have a meaningful conversation with the public about the municipal infrastructure deficit, we need to be clear among ourselves about the elements that make up the infrastructure that our prosperity depends on.

These can be summarized in five categories:

**1. Horizontal:** The hard services for which a municipality is traditionally responsible: streets, bridges, sewers, water pipes, treatment plants, transit systems, and so on.

**2. Technology:** No city can survive or attract investment and talent without a reliable electricity grid, high-speed broadband and cellular service. And of increasing importance are the "smart city" technologies that link the components of our infrastructure together through networks of sensors that provide

data on everything from traffic flow to maintenance needs.

**3. Creative:** This encompasses all the elements that combine to provide the quality of life that residents want from their communities, such as libraries, parks, trees, a vibrant downtown, and affordable housing.

**4. The "MUSH" sector:** The investments that municipalities, universities and colleges, schools (elementary and secondary) and hospitals and other health-care facilities make to ensure that residents can receive the services, care and opportunities they need for a healthy, productive life.

**5. Federal and state:** The infrastructure obligations of other levels of government that directly impact local prosperity, such as harbors, regional public transportation and interstate highways.

Local governments have neither the resources nor the financial capacity to pay for all of their badly-needed infrastructure improvements. Without state, federal and private-sector dollars – in the billions – the U.S. infrastructure problems can't be fixed. Where is that money coming from? That is the challenge facing all elected officials, but again, there has been little thoughtful discussion between and among the various levels of government.

After any waste and fat have been cut from civic budgets, the hard truth is that it may take raising some taxes. In a political time when tax-cutting is fashionable, that will be a difficult position for local policymakers.

Successful cities around the world typically get large financial

support from their central governments, or the local government is granted significant tax authority. Cities need sustainable, reliable new sources of revenue if they are going to provide the infrastructure that their residents need and demand.

There needs to be a much greater understanding of the immediate and serious infrastructure problems facing municipalities and the need to develop new and innovative methods of financing the needs of our cities. Creating that understanding is a job for the public officials whose governments are closest to the people.



April 11-13

**TCMA Spring Conference**

Murfreesboro Embassy Suites  
 This conference provides an excellent opportunity to enhance knowledge and skills for successful municipal management, while providing a setting to network with other managers, administrators, and assistants from across the state. For more information, visit <https://tcma32.wildapricot.org/event-2823610>

April 17 - 18

**TAMCAR Spring Conference**

Franklin Marriott Cool Springs  
 TAMCAR is a professional organization dedicated to the advancement of the municipal clerk. TAMCAR encourages clerks to continue their professional growth and development through continuing educational opportunities. Visit <https://tamcar.wildapricot.org/>

April 18-19

**Rural Development Conference**

Murfreesboro Embassy Suites  
 Hosted by TVA, USDA Rural Development, and Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, the conference will bring together local leaders from across rural Tennessee to encourage, inspire, and learn from each other. Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/23rd-annual-rural-development-conference-tickets-41891464498>.

June 9 - 12

**TML Annual Conference**

Knoxville Convention Center  
 Three days of educational workshops and networking opportunities. To register for the TML Annual Conference, go to [www.tml1.org](http://www.tml1.org). For assistance, contact Sylvia Harris at (615) 425-3903 or by email at [sharris@tml1.org](mailto:sharris@tml1.org).

## NATIONAL BRIEFS



**Distracted driving is the danger most concerning drivers**, according to a new survey from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. The annual Traffic Safety Culture Index shows that 88 percent of drivers believe distracted driving is on the rise. Distracting driving now tops concerns like aggressive driving, drivers using drugs, or drivers who are under the influence of alcohol. The proportion of drivers who report talking on a cell phone regularly when behind the wheel jumped 46 percent since 2013. Nearly half of drivers report talking on a hand-held phone while driving and nearly 35 percent have sent a text or email. Despite this, nearly 58 percent of drivers say talking on a cellphone behind the wheel is a very serious threat to their

personal safety while 78 percent believe that texting is a significant danger.

**The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) may be severely underestimating the number of homes in or near federally recognized floodplains**, according to a new study. The scientific journal *Environmental Research Letters* recently published an article that estimated 41 million homes are at risk for serious flooding issues. FEMA flood maps only estimated 13 million homes meet this criteria. Over the past 30 years, freshwater flooding has led to an average of \$8.2 billion in damage each year. FEMA produces maps that show current coastal flood hazard areas in the U.S., but

those maps are of varying age and quality, researchers note.

**The Fed has lifted its benchmark interest rate by a quarter-point to a range of 1.5 percent to 1.75 percent**, the sixth such increase since December 2015. The hike is the first under new Fed Chairman Jerome Powell, who replaced Janet Yellen last month. The Fed anticipates three hikes this year, consistent with a forecast made last December. However, some economists expect a fourth hike this year. Policymakers now expect the unemployment rate to drop to 3.6 percent by the end of next year, and for the economy to grow more quickly, expanding 2.7 percent this year. As a result, core inflation is expected to rise 2.1 percent in 2019 and 2020.

## No loan is too large or too small



The city of Clinton closed a \$550,000 capital outlay note with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund to purchase a new fire truck for the city. Front row from left to right: Gina Ridenour, city recorder; Mayor Scott Burton; and Gail Cook, finance director. Standing from left to right: Roger Houck city manager; Archie Brummitt, fire chief; and Steve Queener, TMBF marketing representative.



The town of Arlington closed a \$6 million fixed-rate PBA loan with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund to finance various capital improvement projects at the town's Forrest Street Campus. The money will also be used to construct and equip a new town hall. Pictured from left to right are: Gerald D. Lawson Jr., town attorney; Mayor Mike Wissman; and Brittney Owens, recorder/treasurer. Standing: Tommy Green, TMBF marketing representative.



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# CDBG funds aid rural cities in providing quality emergency services

*CDBG from Page 1*  
radius of the city.

"We could have set it up so they went off every time there was a tornado reported in Lawrence County, but we were afraid that would make people complacent and they would ignore the sirens when they went off," he said. "We chose to set it within that mile-radius, because we want people to know this is a real emergency."

It wouldn't be the last time the city used the program for emergency management projects. In 2016, the city of Loretto also received \$315,000 from the CDBG program to purchase a new fire truck.

"One of our fire trucks was made in 1974, another in 1992, and the third a 1997," he said. "We realized we had to put the '74 truck out of commission. We were able to use the grant for a new truck, which is tremendous for our citizens. It helped us keep our ISO rating up and maintain our level of service. Our city's budget is around \$80,000 and that new truck cost more than \$300,000, so we needed that grant."

Smith said the funds Loretto has received through the CDBG program are essential to his and other smaller municipalities.

"Losing this program would be devastating to us," Smith said. "We have used it several times over the years. Small communities like us would suffer without this, because we don't have the funds to do these projects. We would either have to raise taxes or just tell people we can't do this project."

Kent Archer, CDBG director for TECD's Community and Rural Development Division, said the grants are useful for communities that want to upgrade their available emergency services.

"If you have a piece of equipment that no longer meets new compliance or rating standards or is requiring a lot of maintenance, it can be useful to have that documentation that shows you are having to take this ambulance into the shop every so many thousand miles," he said. "Or perhaps you have a rural hospital that closed a few years ago and you need better ambulance service because that closest hospital is now 30 or 40 miles away. We see a lot of reasons why cities need these grants."

Archer said grants that go for fire and EMS projects often have the most instantaneous effect on a community.

"We have heard stories about how a house that burned down because the fire truck broke down on its way there," he said. "Just by having that new truck, the reliability for that community has increased. For a lot of these communities, they have had equipment for years and years, gotten really great life and use out of it, and maintained it as well as they can. It just gets to the point they can't maintain it anymore, and if your population isn't growing, you need to find the funds elsewhere. A lot of times, our matching funds for fire and EMS projects come from pancake breakfasts, fill-the-boot fundraisers, and community donations."

As police departments typically can apply for federal grants through the U.S. Department of

Justice, the CDBG program focuses more on fire departments and emergency management projects, like ambulances. Additionally, many of these grants go toward smaller or rural communities that might not otherwise be able to afford expensive equipment.

Also separate from fire and EMS grants are disaster relief grants given through the CDBG program. CDBG Disaster Recovery Program funds are only eligible to areas that have been declared major disaster areas by the president and are geared more toward disaster relief and recovery than improving emergency services.

For the city of Graysville, a \$250,000 grant awarded from the program in 2013 helped finance the construction of a new fire hall at the city's new municipal campus. Graysville Mayor Jimmy Massengale said all of the city offices, including the fire department, had been operating out of the same building, but when a new elementary school opened in the city, the vacant former school building presented the city with an opportunity to meet growing needs.

"We refurbished the old school that was downtown into the city hall," he said. "We also used a CDBG water grant to move our water downtown as well. When that was completed, we applied for a CDBG grant to build a new fire hall on the city hall property."

With city hall taking up the former elementary school building, the city decided to build a new fire hall where the school's playground had once been located. The new fire hall also presented Graysville with an opportunity to help provide better ambulance services to the city and southern Rhea County.

"Our ambulance service is under the county service, and they wanted to put a medical unit in the southern end of the county," Massengale said. "They asked if we could house their ambulance. So, we built a bay for the fire department and one for the ambulance service. The county is also paying us so much a month to house their services there, which will help us. Without a local ambulance service, it took 10 or 11 minutes for the county ambulance service to get here. With a service located in the city, it only takes one or two minutes."

While interior work is still ongoing, Massengale said the building has great potential for the entire community. Future plans for the site also call for a helipad for emergency medical flights on the site of the former school playground, an area for community events, and solar panels for the roofs of the fire hall, city water plant, and city hall.

"The firemen are excited that they get to have a nice fire hall," he said. "Our citizens are looking forward to this, and they are really appreciative of this project. The ability to get that grant is greatly appreciated," Massengale said. "This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Graysville. Without this, our city hall would probably be under its old roof, which was leaking and right next to the railroad tracks. It might have been years before we could afford to build a nice facility. Rural areas are very limited on their finances.



Members of the Graysville Fire Department break ground on the future site of their fire station. The fire hall had previously been operated out of Graysville City Hall, but when the city moved its municipal operations into a building that had formerly held an elementary school, the fire department needed a new home. Through the CDBG program, the city is constructing a new fire hall on what was originally the school's playground and create an area of the fire hall that will provide ambulance service to both the city and surrounding areas. As a result, the city can provide residents with better emergency response times without having to increase taxes for citizens, many of whom are elderly or on fixed incomes.

We might have been able to raise enough funding to house just a fire truck but not an ambulance. This allowed us to build something that a much bigger city would be able to build. With our size and our revenue, we couldn't have even done half of this. A lot of our community is elderly and they are on fixed incomes. They can't afford for us to raise taxes or increase fire rates to do certain projects."

In West Tennessee, the town of Halls took a \$242,659 grant from the CDBG program and used it to not only increase fire protection but also reduce costs for citizens. Before receiving the grant, Halls Fire Chief Donald Gooch said the city was operating one vehicle for first responders with the department and a second vehicle that served as a brush truck. The grant allowed the city to purchase a single vehicle to do both jobs.

"This truck gives us the ability to fight structure and brush fires; perform extrication calls, first responder calls, and medical calls; provide mobile support with lighting; and deal with emergency situations," Gooch said. "There is also room for those who have been displaced by a fire to sit while we deal with the situation. By having only one vehicle, we cut costs in terms of maintenance since we don't have to maintain both vehicles. We don't have to choose which vehicle we bring to a scene. We have saved the taxpayers money and cut our own insurance costs in half."

With the acquisition of the new vehicle, Gooch said the town was able to sell one of the original vehicles to another department in North Carolina and is interested in selling the second. The proceeds of these sales will help with some funds for the department.

"This has allowed us to better serve our community and have



With tornadic activity an increasing threat to the area, the city of Loretto used CDBG money to finance the construction of three new early warning sirens that let residents know when to seek shelter. The new sirens replace an older, manual system and are immediately and remotely triggered by the National Weather Service if the threat of a tornado comes within a mile of the city limits.

safer equipment," Gooch said. "We also have more efficient equipment. Our department was ecstatic about it, and they are still ecstatic about it. They want to serve their community, and this helps them do it. The public and the taxpayers are the ones who are really reaping the benefit, though. They received better response times, better equip-

ment to serve them, and saved them money."

Gooch said without the grant, Halls would never have been able to purchase the new truck.

"I can't speak for big cities, for rural cities it is almost impossible to make these kinds of purchases," he said. "We need programs like these."

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