



## Tennessee cities lead by example to encourage economic investment

### Policy process underway

The TML policy process is open and proposed legislative initiatives for the final session of the 110th General Assembly are being accepted through Sept. 1.

Member-municipalities are encouraged to submit any initiative(s) of interest that benefit municipalities. Municipalities are reminded that only fully completed submissions will be considered.

A proposed initiative will be considered "fully completed" only when the following four requirements have been satisfied:

1. The proposed initiative must be submitted on a Proposed Legislative Initiative Form
2. All sections of the Proposed Legislative Initiative Form must be completed, including: summary of the problem, description of the proposed remedy, and a statement of the anticipated benefits to municipalities. In addition, municipalities are encouraged to submit, either by reference or by separate copy, background or supplemental information in support of their submission. A member-municipality may submit more than one proposed initiative; however, a separate form must be completed for each submission.
3. The Proposed Legislative Initiative Form must be signed by at least three eligible local officials of the sponsoring municipality. However, if the municipality's governing body is comprised of four or fewer members, then only two signatures are required. An "eligible local official" means any member of the governing body of the sponsoring city and the city/town manager or administrator.

4. A completed and signed Proposed Legislative Initiative Form must be received by TML no later than 6 p.m. CST on Sept. 1. Forms may be submitted by the following methods: by email to [jgupton@tml1.org](mailto:jgupton@tml1.org); by fax to (615) 255-4752; or, mailed to 226 Capitol Boulevard, Suite 710, Nashville, TN 37219.

Any municipality submitting a proposed legislative initiative must attend the meeting and present its initiative to the TML Policy Committee. The TML Policy Committee will meet Oct. 4 to consider and rank all of the qualifying proposed initiatives. The committee's final ranking of proposed initiatives will be submitted to the TML Legislative Committee for consideration.

BY KATE COIL  
TML Communications Specialist

When the Goodyear plant in Union City announced it was closing its doors in 2011, city officials not only had to face the loss of their community's biggest employer but also the tax revenue brought in by the company.

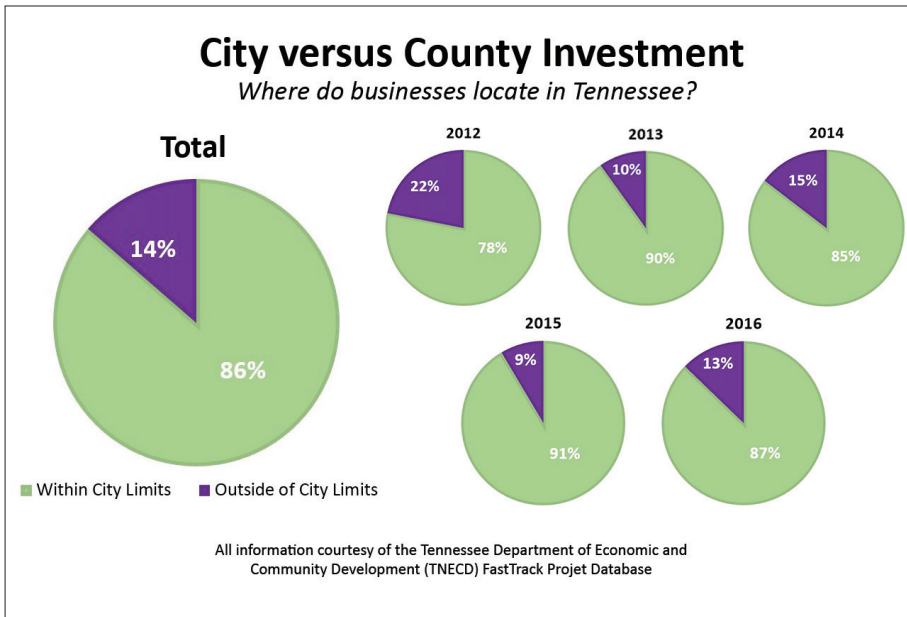
Leaving approximately 1,900 people out of work, city and economic development officials realized they had to find something to fill the gap and create new industrial investment in their city. Lindsay Frilling, who serves as economic development director for the area's joint economic development council and chief executive officer of the Obion County Chamber, said the plant closure changed the way Union City looked at encouraging investment in the city.

"The Goodyear closure was a lesson for us that we need to try our best to diversify our business base," Frilling said. "Two of our largest employers now are in food processing. We have heavy manufacturing, we have light manufacturing and distribution. We have worked to try to diversify our businesses so if a specific industry is hit, we don't feel it as much."

To rebuild their local economy, Frilling said Union City had to start thinking about encouraging investment in a completely different way.

"We could have given up right then, but instead we all pulled together," she said. "We pulled in the state of Tennessee, TVA and our local economic development folks to take steps toward recovery. We really stepped up our efforts and focused on educating elected officials and citizens about economic development. Taking small steps and making people understand what we need to do to get prepared for that next business was invaluable. Once we got that first business to move in, it started a snowball effect and we started to get more wins."

Allen Borden, Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development deputy commissioner of Business, Community and Rural Development,



Officials with Union City accept a site development grant from the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development for their Northwest Tennessee Industrial Park. After losing the largest employer in the area, the industrial park was one of many ways Union City brought in new, more diverse investment.

said the game of investment has changed dramatically in the past few decades alone.

"The main thing that has changed the entire game is globalization," he said. "Nowadays, if you are not in the international game of economic development you're not in the game at all. What we are trying to do is bring companies from around the world to Tennessee. Our cities are really competing within other communities within the Southeastern U.S."

Like Union City, municipalities across Tennessee are rethinking ways to bring investment to their area and the state of Tennessee.

#### READY SITES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

In the past five years, the corporate limits of cities across the state of Tennessee have welcomed

481 new businesses that participated in the state's FastTrack grant program, approximately 86 percent of the total amount of businesses who participated in the program. Between 2012 and 2016, cities saw the smallest number of FastTrack investments in 2012 with 78 percent and the highest in 2015 with 91 percent.

Borden said municipalities that have successfully encouraged investment in their community have two major ingredients: a trained workforce and developed sites. Greenfield, brownfield redeveloped sites and existing buildings that fit a company's criteria are often essential to recruitment.

"The fact of the matter is we don't drive the projects; the projects drive us based on their criteria," he said. "The more inventory of sites See INVESTMENT on Page 8

## TN Comptroller's office creates IMPROVE Act project maps for Tennessee's General Assembly

The Comptroller's Office of Research and Education Accountability (OREA) has released individualized maps illustrating where road and bridge projects identified in the Improving, Manufacturing, Public Roads and Opportunities for a Vibrant Economy Act (IMPROVE) will take place across each legislator's district.

The IMPROVE Act is a very large and complicated piece of legislation for funding Tennessee's infrastructure and other transportation projects. The legislation enhances taxes on several revenue streams, including the gas and diesel tax, while cutting the state's sales tax on groceries, the Hall income tax, and franchise and excise taxes.

The legislation also identifies 962 road and bridge projects in Tennessee to be constructed

by the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), totaling 1,300 miles with an estimated cost of \$10.5 billion. TDOT estimates it will take about 14 years to have all 962 projects under contract. Of the 962 total projects, 526 are local bridge projects and 163 are state bridge projects.

The maps are designed to supplement the IMPROVE Act report released by the Comptroller's Office of Research and Education Accountability on July 10, 2017, which provides more information about the various aspects of the new law.

To view the IMPROVE Act report and maps, click here, [www.comptroller.tn.gov/OREA/PublicationDetails?ReportKey=-379ca2e3-d842-4fb4-b57d-bc-0e1bed39a](http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/OREA/PublicationDetails?ReportKey=-379ca2e3-d842-4fb4-b57d-bc-0e1bed39a)

### FY 2018 federal budget update

## City leaders support proposed Senate FY18 budget, oppose House FY18 spending plan

BY MICHAEL WALLACE  
National League of Cities

Congress has not approved a federal budget for FY 2018 or delivered any of the 12 annual appropriations bills to the president. Now is the time for city leaders to weigh in before any spending bill reaches the President's desk.

Throughout the August recess, NLC will be telling members of the House and Senate that city leaders support the Senate FY18 Budget and oppose the House FY18 Budget, because the Senate preserves funding for the majority of city priorities.

#### Process Overview

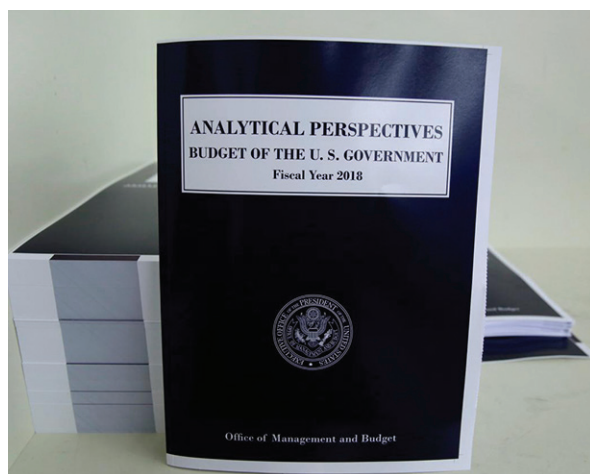
For Congress, federal funding is typically a two-step process that starts with the budget and ends with appropriations. The budget sets the overall amount of federal funding available to federal agencies, and appropriations allocates the budgeted funds to specific federal programs within the agencies. The normal deadlines for Congress to meet its obligations are April 15 to finalize the federal budget and Sept. 31 to finalize all 12 annual appropriations bills. Appropriations bills should reach the president in time for enactment on Oct. 1, the first day of the fiscal

year.

This year, Congress is not following the standard procedure outlined above. Rather, budget and appropriations are being negotiated at the same time. Neither the House or Senate has approved a federal budget for Fiscal Year 2018. Instead, the House and Senate are working off a different set of assumptions, with the Senate assuming a higher level of overall funding than the House. Negotiations between members of the House and Senate on a common set of budget figures will be ongoing through the August recess.

Four appropriations bills have been approved by the House, and zero have been approved by the Senate. In the House, the eight remaining appropriations bills have advanced through Committee consideration. In the Senate, six of the 12 appropriations bills have advanced through Committee.

When Congress reconvenes in September, they will have one



month to complete negotiations on a common budget and approve all 12 spending bills. If consensus cannot be reached by the Sept. 31 deadline, Congress must begin passing Continuing Resolutions to keep the federal government funded and operating or the federal government will shut down.

The August recess presents a critical opportunity for city leaders to weigh in on the importance of federal programs like CDBG, so that city priorities remain high priorities for members of Congress returning to complete work on budget and appropriations in September. See BUDGET on Page 5

## Cities hold elections

Seven municipalities in Tennessee held municipal elections on Aug. 3 to fill vacant seats and new terms on boards and councils.

Franklin County saw elections in Cowan, Decherd, Estill Springs, Huntland, Tullahoma, and Winchester. Tullahoma is also located in Coffee and Moore counties. Greenville also held a municipal election.

#### COWAN

Incumbent Joyce Brown was re-elected mayor of Cowan after facing off against two challengers: current councilman Ben Merrill and challenger Billy G. Denby.

The three open seats on the Cowan City Council went to Charles "Chuck" Stines, Kim Shelton, and Anthony Wayne Ingle. Eight new candidates competed for the three available seats.

#### DECHERD

Tammy Holt and Pam Arnold secured the two open seats on the Decherd Board of Mayor and Aldermen, beating incumbents Jimmy Wayne Sanders and A.J. Ladd.

#### ESTILL SPRINGS

Incumbents J.D. Sons and Dereck Tucker were re-elected to their seats on the Estill Springs Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

#### GREENEVILLE



Incumbents Buddy Hawk and Keith W. Paxton were elected to the two open positions on the Greeneville Board of Mayor and Aldermen, representing the city's 1st Ward.

#### HUNTLAND

Dolton Steele Jr., a former public works manager, ousted incumbent Pat Matthews for the Huntland mayoral seat.

Incumbent aldermen Ken Pendleton and Ellis Counts along with challenger Troy Gamble were elected to the three open seats on the Huntland City Council. Vice-Mayor Carla Howard lost her re-election bid.

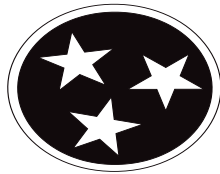
#### TULLAHOMA

Mayor Lane Curlee was re-elected to his post in Tullahoma after an uncontested election. Incumbent Jerry Mathis and newcomer Robin Dunn were elected to the two open seats on the Tullahoma City Council, beating challengers Paige Lashlee and Stephen Landers.

#### WINCHESTER

Incumbents Bruce Spencer, Gene F. Snead Jr., and William "Willie" Womack were all re-elected to the Winchester City Council. Three challengers also ran in the election.

# NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



## BRENTWOOD

The city of Brentwood is launching a 2018 Special Census due to recent growth of the population since the 2015 Special Census. The goal is to determine how many residents now live in the city and bring in more state-shared revenue, distributed to local governments based on population. Census cards and an instructional letter will be mailed to 14,300 residential addresses within the city limits of Brentwood in Williamson County. Current projections suggest that Brentwood's population has increased since the 2015 Special Census, when the population was 40,401. Without a locally conducted special census, the state of Tennessee only recognizes the last certified population number.

## CLARKSVILLE

Clarksville's Burt-Cobb Community Center has opened a new fitness center featuring new ellipticals, four-way, free weights, treadmills and a precor rally bike. The public was able to test out the new machines at a free recreation open house on Aug. 12. The Burt-Cobb Community center is one of three recreation centers located within the city and also features a full-sized gymnasium, game room, and rental space. The community center is named for the Burt High School and Bailey Cobb Elementary School, two historically all-black schools that were closed in the 1970s after integration.

## COLLEGE DALE

The Collegedale Police Department is partnering with online neighborhood social networking site Nextdoor to work with residents on building stronger, safer communities. The integration with Nextdoor will enable the Collegedale Police Department to communicate online with Collegedale neighborhoods. Residents and police officers will be able to work together to increase safety and strengthen efforts as a virtual neighborhood watch. Residents can sign up for free accounts at [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com) with each neighborhood having its own private group. The site allows residents to share information, including neighborhood public safety issues, community events and activities, local services, and even lost pets. The police department can also share information such as important crime alerts, emergency notifications, safety precautions and tips, details for events and crime watch meetings, and updates on activities affecting Collegedale. Several police departments across the state of Tennessee have already adopted NextDoor as a way to work with their local residents to make their communities safer places.

## CROSSVILLE

The city of Crossville has renamed its dog park after a K-9 officer who recently died in the line of duty. Crossville Police Department K-9 Officer Cain was stabbed to death on Aug. 2 while defending his handler Lt. Bart Riden during a police pursuit. The Crossville City Council unanimously approved renaming the city's dog park as the K-9 Cain Memorial Dog Park with a memorial to be placed in Cain's honor at the park at a later date. Cain, a Belgian Malinois, had been with the Crossville Police Department for three years, serving as a drug enforcement and explosives detection officer. Memorial services for Cain were held on Aug. 10.

## KINGSPORT

The Kingsport Public Library has made downloading and reading its digital collection even easier with their new application called 'Libby.' The free app and is available for Android, iOS (iPhone/iPad/iPod touch) and Windows 10 devices. Users can simply install the 'Libby' app from their device's app store. Visitors with valid cards from the Kingsport Public Library can browse the library's collection of more than 81,000 eBooks, digital audiobooks and streaming videos. The library's digital collection is available 24/7 and there are no late fees – because all titles automatically expire at the end of the lending period.

## KNOXVILLE

A community art project featuring stepping stones completed by interns with Knoxville's "Summer in the City" program will honor the legacy of late University of Tennessee basketball coach Pat Summitt. The 11 stones will spell out "Pat Summitt" each represent the coach's legacy and will be used to raise awareness about Alzheimer's disease. The stepping stones will soon be on display at the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame. Patrick Wade, executive director of the Pat Summitt Foundation, Dana Hart, president of the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, and Vicki Hatfield, the city's director of civil service, helped Mayor Madeline Rogero unveil the stepping stones before posing with the interns and the art project.

## NASHVILLE

Nashville International Airport will begin offering nonstop flights to London via British Airways in May 2018. Flights will run five times weekly between Nashville and London, the first time the city has had direct flights to London in nearly 30 years. Nashville was one of five finalists for a nonstop flight on British Airways. As part of the planned \$1.2 billion expansion at the airport dubbed BNA Vision, construction is underway for an interim international arrivals building. BNA has seen a record number of visitors with more than 13.5 million travelers for the 2016-17 fiscal year, a 1 million passenger increase over the previous fiscal year.

## NASHVILLE

Officers with the Metro Nashville Police Department will begin carrying prescription Naloxone to administer to victims of opioid overdose, potentially saving lives. The department has received 790 Naloxone kits ordered at \$60,000 with each kit containing two doses of the nasal spray. At least 87 deaths due to opioid overdoses have already been reported in Nashville since the beginning of 2017. In addition to citizens, the medication can also protect police personnel who are accidentally exposed to dangerous substances. The kits will be carried by Specialized Investigations Division narcotics detectives, precinct-based undercover detectives, Flex officers from all eight precincts, and patrol sergeants in all eight precincts.

## PORTLAND

U.S. Tsubaki Automotive, LLC will invest approximately \$35.8 million and create 70 new jobs over the next five years in Portland. U.S. Tsubaki, which manufactures drive trains and other automotive parts, plans to construct a 250,000-square-foot-facility in Portland. Once complete in late 2018, U.S. Tsubaki plans to move its existing Portland operations into the new facility. U.S. Tsubaki supplies major automotive original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) in North America such as General Motors, Ford, Toyota, Nissan and others. The auto supplier located in Portland in 1987 and underwent an expansion there in 2012.

## SELMER

Monogram Refrigeration, LLC will expand its manufacturing facility in Selmer, investing \$9.3 million and creating approximately 210 new jobs. A leading manufacturer of upscale refrigerators, freezers and other refrigeration products, Monogram's manufacturing facility has been located in Selmer since 1986. Monogram

is a subsidiary of GE Appliances (GEA), a Haier company, a leading U.S. manufacturer of household appliances. With this expansion, Monogram will be adding 120,000 square feet to its existing building in Selmer. In addition to a new line of column-style refrigerators and freezers, Monogram will begin manufacturing packaged terminal air conditioners (PTACs), a line of commercial heating and cooling products sold under the Zonline® brand. Production of the new refrigeration products will begin later this year and production of the new Zonline air conditioning units will begin in early 2018.

## SEVIERVILLE

Tennessee Clean Fuels certified the city of Sevierville as a one-star Tennessee Green Fleet at their third annual Sustainable Transportation Awards and Forum in Nashville. Sevierville operates more than 250 pieces of equipment and vehicles from fire trucks to back hoes and all of them are fueled by B-20 bio-diesel or E-10 ethanol. Sevierville was one of six government fleets to be certified in 2017 and only three other cities use B-20. The Tennessee Green Fleets Certification Program was developed by the East and Middle-West Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalitions to utilize performance-based metrics to analyze fleets' vehicle and fuel-use data and to compare reductions achieved in gasoline-use and carbon emissions, and increases in the number of alternative fuel vehicles or advanced technology vehicles in the fleet to previous years. Fleets are awarded points based on their achievement in these categories.

## SPRINGFIELD

Plans are underway for a new dog park in the city of Springfield. The proposed park would be located on a 1.4-acre property at Garner Street near the Springfield Greenway with current plans calling for work to begin in February 2018. Additional property may also be acquired to help expand the park. Proposals for the park include fences, benches for owners, and a water station for dogs. The cost of the park is estimated at \$15,000 presently with the city putting aside \$10,000 to finance the project. Local fundraisers are hoping to raise the additional \$5,000 as well as an estimated \$10,000 in additional money to help finance obstacle course-type features in the park like a ramp, tunnel and jumping bar. City officials said the park could open as early as spring of 2018 if construction goes according to plan.

## UNION CITY

Tyson Foods, Inc., will be expanding its operations in Union City, investing approximately \$80 million and creating 300 new jobs. Tyson, one of the world's largest food companies, plans to add 25,000 square feet and new production lines to its Union City plant, effectively doubling its output capabilities at the facility. Construction is scheduled to begin this fall. The expansion is expected to be operational by mid-2019. The food processing company has been located in Union City for 20 years. Tyson's Union City complex supplies chicken for a national foodservice customer. The company also operates facilities in Goodlettsville, Newbern and Shelbyville, employing about 5,000 in Tennessee.

## WHITE HOUSE

Gateway Packaging will expand its manufacturing operations and locate its official headquarters in White House, investing \$13.2 million and creating 50 new jobs as well as retaining 100 jobs from a recently acquired local company. The packaging manufacturer will be taking over an existing facility in White House to make room for new equipment and will make this the location for its headquarters. With this expansion, the company will be better equipped to serve its U.S. customers. Gateway Packaging Company manufactures flexible paper and plastic packaging products focused on pet food and treats as well as the specialty human food market. The company works with the largest manufacturers in these growing markets to solve their flexible packaging problems.

## Springfield installs outdoor exercise equipment at park



Springfield Mayor Ann Schneider and Robertson County Mayor Howard Bradley test out the new outdoor fitness equipment at Springfield's J. Travis Price Park. The equipment was funded through a Rural Access to Health and Healthy Active Built Environment grant funded from the Tennessee Department of Health and includes a recumbent cycle and a cardio walker, located near the park's playground and duck pond. J. Travis Price Park also includes athletic fields, a historic cabin, picnic shelters, the Post 48 Community Building, and access to the Springfield Greenway.

## Hendersonville receives THDA home repair grant



Hendersonville was recently awarded a THDA \$500,000 home repair grant. The grant will fund a home repair program for elderly, disabled and low-income homeowners in the city who cannot afford to bring their residences up to code. The grant program will be administered through the city. Pictured during the presentation is Alderman Jim Waters, Sen. Ferrell Haile, Rep. Courtney Rogers, Deputy Fire Chief Mike Holt, THDA Middle Tennessee Liaison Denise McBride, THDA Housing Coordinator Roni Hagy, Mayor Jamie Clary, GNRC Grant Administrator Cindy Raymond and Codes Director Steve Mills.

## Elephant sculpture 'retires' to downtown Hohenwald



A public art project recently unveiled in downtown Hohenwald is designed to promote the nearby Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee while also bringing a unique piece of public art to the area. The 8-foot-tall statue of an Asian elephant was created by Nashville-based artist Alex Lockwood using recycled tires donated from people in the community. The sculpture sits outside the Elephant Discovery Center at 27 East Main Street in Hohenwald and was unveiled on Aug. 12 as part of World Elephant Day. Officials with the Elephant Sanctuary said they hope the statue will convey a double meaning the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling to protect the environment for all species as well as promote the sanctuary's mission to provide a home to elephants that have "retired" from exhibitions or performances.

## Construction of Johnson City's new King Commons nears completion



Construction is underway for the second phase of Johnson City's floodwater mitigation park project. Located in downtown Johnson City, the new King Commons Park is expected to be finished by the end of August. The \$1.3 million park will include glowing walking paths, a plaza, and a mural on a three-acre plot as well as additional parking on King and Commerce Streets. King Commons is the second park the city has created as part of flood mitigation plans with Founders Park being the first.

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# Manchester experiments with wastewater and wetlands

BY KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

A Tennessee city is conducting a unique experiment in hopes of finding a more natural, cost-effective solution to reduce certain elements in their water and wastewater.

The Manchester Water and Sewer Department has constructed a small wetland area near its water plant site in the hopes of reducing nitrogen and phosphorus levels.

Wetlands often serve as natural water recycling centers, often found in low-lying areas prone to runoff and overflow from local water sources. Many of the plants and animals that live in wetlands also have natural abilities to break down pollutants.

With permits coming up for renewal soon, Manchester Water and Sewer Department Director Brian Pennington said he anticipates the federal and state governments may impose more stringent limitations on nitrogen and phosphorous, a trend being seen in other areas of the country.

Pennington contacted Bill Griggs, vice president of Murfreesboro-based engineering and environmental consulting firm Griggs and Maloney, to see what the city could do to make the plant ready in case there are new requirements.

Griggs said the most common way to reduce these levels is through a chemical addition followed by a filter, which can cause both high costs and a sludge that must be disposed of properly, but Griggs said water department officials wanted a better solution.

"There is a lot of land adjacent to the water plant, and our company has worked a lot with wetlands in several areas," Griggs said. "Wetlands remove nitrogen and phosphorous, but we couldn't find any equations. As engineer, I like equations and if I don't have any, I can't recommend the city go to this model on a full scale."

The result was the creation of a small test wetland to determine if it could reduce levels in the city's wastewater. Pennington said the model wetland is a shallow pond on about a tenth of an acre that holds about 500 to 1,000 gallons of water a day. The water is approximately six to eight inches deep in

most places and though it appears stagnant, Pennington said it runs slowly over an overflow pipe.

Griggs said the water has already been treated by the plant before it goes into the wetland. The water coming out of the wetland is self-containing, coming from the wastewater plant and flowing back into it rather than be discharged.

"It has no chemicals, no electricity, no equipment and no moving parts," Griggs said. "It's all natural."

Instead of purchasing wetland plants, the city has opted to use "volunteer plants" that just show up on their own because these plants are attracted to the area naturally. This also guarantees most of the plants are native to the region, not exotics. Frogs have already started to make their home in the wetland.

Pennington said measurements taken in July indicate a plant flow of 1.92 million gallons per day and a wetland flow of 2,870 gallons per day. Water coming out of the wetland has also seen an 80 percent reduction in total nitrogen, a 100 percent decrease in nitrate-nitrite, and a 66 percent reduction in total phosphorous.

Griggs said the plant is measuring the flow rate going through the wetlands as well as the nitrogen and phosphorous levels both before and after they enter the wetland.

"We took a sample recently, and we are getting a very good reduction," Griggs said. "The plan is to run this at least 12 months so we can see what this does in the summer time and see what it does in the winter time. We have to meet the permit every day not the days we choose."

The city has reached out to researchers and graduate students at universities across the state to see if any would be open to helping conduct research with the project.

If the wetland turns out to be a viable, long-term project, the city



The wetlands constructed outside the city's water plant facility is on about a tenth of an acre. Plants, algae and animals came to the area naturally. Water department officials are hoping that using the man-made wetland as a natural filtration system will give them a cost-effective way of reducing certain chemicals that may come under stricter federal regulations.



may also open up the wetland for other educational projects with local schools.

Left: Animals, such as these frogs, are already beginning to congregate in the man-made wetland area. Right: The Manchester Public Works department dug two channels that were then filled with water that is pumped from the city's wastewater facility and then back into the facility once it had been through the wetland. The city measures levels and chemicals in the water before it goes into the wetland and again once it comes out.



# Tullahoma Fire Department improves ISO classification

By STEVE CROSS

MTAS Fire Management Consultant

The Tullahoma Fire Department, led by Fire Chief Richard Shasteen, has earned an Insurance Service Office (ISO) Public Protection Classification of 2. The department's new ISO classification becomes effective in September 2017.

Chief Richard Shasteen said he is very proud of the members of the department for their dedication of public service and public safety excellence. Chief Shasteen has been a resident of Tullahoma for his entire life. He became a member of the fire department in 1986 as a volunteer firefighter. Most recently, he has served as the fire chief for the past 10 years.

He emphasized that he is proud of and wants to honor the department's history and heritage, but he is also always challenging his staff to identify future needs so they can prepare for the future.

By earning the ISO 2 Public Protection Classification rating, the Tullahoma Fire Department is in a very exclusive group of fire departments across the state of Tennessee and the nation. In Tennessee, there are only 23 ISO class 2 departments of the more than 900 communities rated and only four departments rated higher with an ISO class 1.

In addition, across the United States, there are just more than 1,300 ISO class 2 departments of the more than 46,000 communities rated.

What does this mean to the citizens of Tullahoma? First, the community has been graded by a third-party impartial evaluator as a top performing community as it relates to fire suppression and community risk reduction.

Secondly, this type of rating helps Tullahoma recruit industry and commercial enterprise to locate their businesses throughout the jurisdiction.

Thirdly, the University of



The Tullahoma Fire Department holds its history in high regard but is always preparing for the future needs of the city. The department recently gained an ISO ranking of 2, making it one of only 23 departments in the state of Tennessee with a 2 rating and one of only around 1,300 in the country.

Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (UT-MTAS) estimates that this ISO improvement could result in an economic impact of more than \$144,000 annually saved on insurance premiums paid for one and two family residential dwellings throughout the community.

This estimate does not take into consideration the premiums potentially saved in the commercial and industrial occupancies in the jurisdiction.

The Tullahoma Fire Department is an "all hazards" fire department serving its approximately 19,000 residents as well as many visitors each day. The term "all hazards" means that the department responds to and mitigates a wide variety of emergency calls-for-service within the community; not just fire incidents.

The department was staffed with 45 all paid members at the time of the ISO evaluation. Since the evaluation, the department has been approved to hire an additional eight members bringing its total force to 53 members. The depart-

ment is funded by an annual budget allocation from the city's general fund; fiscal 2016-2017 funding is \$2.36 million.

Chief Shasteen acknowledges that the Tullahoma Fire Department's continued and long-term success is largely dependent on its partnership and collaboration with other key stakeholders such as the mayor, board of aldermen, city administrator, the Tullahoma Utility Authority, and the Coffee County 911 Communications Office. Each stakeholder plays a vital and intricate role in earning such high marks on the evaluation.

The ISO focuses on and comprehensively evaluates a community's capabilities to prevent and suppress structure fires within its jurisdiction. Chief Shasteen noted that the department's primary challenge is to ensure its members complete their required levels of specialized training while meeting all their other responsibilities.

In today's all-hazards fire department, there is an enormous amount of equipment that must be maintained daily to ensure it is

kept in a constant state of readiness to respond to incidents.

Additionally, firefighters maintain pre-incident plans, fire safety inspections, fire hydrants, fire apparatus, and fire stations.

The ISO collects data from not just the fire department but these other agencies. The data is analyzed using ISO's Fire Suppression Rating Schedule to assign the community's Public Protection Classification. The Public Protection Classification rating is assigned based on a scale from 1 through 10; 1 being the best or highest rating.

The ISO Fire Suppression Rating Schedule has 105.5 points available

that can be earned during a community's evaluation. In the case of Tullahoma's evaluation, the fire department, water department and 911 center all performed very well. The fire department earned 40.91 points of the 55.5 points available; the water utility earned 34.56 points of the 40 points available; and the 911 center earned 8.50 points of the 10 points available.

The Coffee County 911 Director Diane Argraves credits the 911 Center's high marks to its commitment in selecting the very best candidates to serve in the agency, along with comprehensive 911 telecommunicator training and its recent investment to construct a new modern communications/911 facility equipped with the latest technology.

The Tullahoma Fire Department was also awarded ISO credit for its proactive approach to community risk reduction. The department actively promotes the free smoke alarms and installation to its residents through a partnership with the Tennessee State Fire Marshal's Office's "Get Alarmed" program.

The department actively partners with the local school system to continually educate students on fire prevention and fire survival throughout the school year.

In addition to the efforts to meet ISO standards, the Tullahoma Fire Department also focuses considerable attention on the safety and long-term survival of its members.

Nationally, the occurrence of cancer in members of the fire service is much greater than that of members of the general public. The department proactively combats these risks by issuing each firefighter two complete sets of personal protective equipment and requiring firefighters to rotate clean gear into service while their contaminated gear is cleaned.

This practice greatly reduces the contaminants firefighters are long-term exposed to thus reducing the risks associated with long-term chemical exposures.

For general member safety, each member completes a medical physical examination annually, each fire crew has a minimum staffing level of four firefighters, and each firefighter is equipped with their own portable radio equipment.

The department operates on emergency scenes, utilizing the National Incident Management System and provides for accountability for each member on scene through electronic tracking and documentation of incident activities using tablet computers assigned to each fire apparatus.

City Administrator Jody Baltz said that "he was proud of the department, its members, and their accomplishments."

During the interview, it was further noted that Baltz also comes from a fire service background. He is very proud of his dad's fire service accomplishments rising to the rank of fire chief as a member of a private fire department turned municipal fire department in a Middle Tennessee community near Nashville.



## PEOPLE

**Ray Albright**, a former Republican state senator and representative, died on July 31 at the age of 83. A 26-year veteran of the legislature, Albright had announced in November he had mesothelioma, a lung cancer caused by asbestos. He said he was exposed to it in the 1950s and 1960s while working at Combustion Engineering. He ran for and won a seat in the Tennessee House in 1968 on a promise to battle pollution. Elected to the Senate in 1970, he sponsored the bill that made Chattanooga State a technical community college. The first building on the Chattanooga State campus, the administration building, was renamed the Albright Omnplex in his honor. After leaving the Legislature in 1994, Albright was a lobbyist for BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee and for the Small Schools Systems Association.



Ray Albright

lice Conference for his outstanding military and law enforcement service. Coulon served with the 101st and 82nd Airborne Divisions from 1965 to 1969, serving in Vietnam for a year. He left at a rank of staff sergeant. In 1970, he began a 20-year career as a deputy and criminal investigator with the Cheatham County Sheriff's Department before coming to the town of Ashland City in 1991. He became the city's police chief in 2006.

**Keith L. Free**, AICP, has been selected to succeed Fred Rogers as the director of the Hendersonville Planning Department. Free has been serving as the city's senior planner since July 2016 and has more than 28 years of extensive experience in urban planning, community development, historic preservation, code enforcement and project management. Prior to working for the city of Hendersonville, he served as development director for Cohen-Esrey; community development director for Owensboro, Ky.; director of projects and planning for Owensboro Regional Hospital; and planning director for Radcliff, Ky. He is a graduate of Western Kentucky University with degrees in cartography, city planning and public administration.



Keith Free

**Reen Baskin** has been selected as the new communications director for Gov. Bill Haslam and his administration. Before joining the administration as its top communications official, Baskin worked as the director of alternative workspace solutions for the state, the deputy director of customer focused government, and served for five years as the deputy director and chief operating officer of the department of general services. Baskin earned her bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Tennessee, her master's in organizational leadership from Vanderbilt University and her juris doctorate from the Nashville School of Law.



Reen Baskin

**Tommy Hemphill**, former chief of the Columbia fire department, died on Aug. 10 at the age of 58 after a long battle with a brain tumor. A native of Maury County, Hemphill graduated from Columbia Central High School in 1977 and soon began working with the Columbia Fire Department. Hemphill was diagnosed two months after he was promoted to chief of Fire Station No. 1 in Columbia on March 2015. He retired on June 30, 2017, after 30 years of service to the department.



Tommy Hemphill

**Randy Brundige**, mayor of Martin, has been selected to serve on the American Public Gas Association's Public Gas Policy Council. The purpose of the Public Gas Policy Council is to assist in the APGA in moving forward legislation that is important to members, opposing harmful legislation, and provide advice on related issues. Brundige has served as mayor of the city of Martin since 2002 and holds a degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin.



Randy Brundige

**Jill Holland**, mayor of McKenzie, has been appointed to the Tennessee Emergency Communication Board. Tennessee House Speaker Beth Harwell appointed Holland to the board, which works to ensure all areas of the state have access to emergency communication services like 911. Holland has been the city's mayor since 2010, and served on the city council from 2004-10. She also has served on the McKenzie Special School District board. She serves on the West Tennessee Mayors Association and currently serves as third vice president of the TML Board of Directors.



Jill Holland

**Ashland City Police Chief Marc Coulon** was honored at the 2017 Annual Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Po-



Marc Coulon

## Gary West, TDCI honored with national award



Deputy Commissioner Gary West and TDCI's Fire Prevention Division were honored with the 2017 Olin Greene Outstanding Fire Prevention Service Award.

The National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) awarded Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance (TDCI) Deputy Commissioner Gary L. West and TDCI's Fire Prevention Division with the 2017 Olin Greene Outstanding Fire Prevention Service Award at the NASFM Annual Conference held in Charleston, S.C., in July.

The Olin Greene Outstanding Fire Prevention Service Award, named in honor of former U.S. Fire Administrator and NASFM founder Olin Greene, is a lifetime achievement award established in 2008. It is awarded to those who have dedicated their career to fire prevention and public safety, and have achieved substantial accomplishments while doing it.

"We chose to recognize Deputy Commissioner West and his staff with this award because of the tremendous life safety accomplishments they have made in Tennessee," said NASFM Executive Director Jim Narva. "The passion, progress, and commitment they have for increasing fire and life safety in the Volunteer State embodies what the Olin Greene Outstanding Service Award is all about."

West, who was appointed by TDCI Commissioner Julie Mix McPeak to lead the fire prevention division in March 2011, has been active in emergency services for nearly 40 years. He was named as NASFM's secretary-treasurer in 2016.

"I'm honored to be chosen, along with my team, as a recipient of this prestigious fire prevention award," West said. "I'm proud of the progress we, under the leadership of Commissioner McPeak and with the partnership of local fire departments, have made to address the fire mortality problem in Tennessee. We know we have more work to do, but I have no doubt our staff and our state will continue to rise to the challenge of preventing as many residential fire deaths as possible."

The State Fire Marshal's Office has focused on lowering Tennessee's fire fatality rate by strengthening partnerships with local fire departments, fine-tuning community risk reduction processes, and increasing availability of fire safety education and working smoke

alarms for Tennessee residents. Once one of the top 10 states for fire fatalities, Tennessee has now moved outside the top 10 according to new calculations from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

The State Fire Marshal's Office and its fire service partners have documented 190 saved lives from potential fire danger since 2012 through the "Get Alarmed, Tennessee!" smoke-alarm installation program. More than 150,000 free smoke alarms have been distributed by the SFMO and its partners across Tennessee through this program.

Prior to being appointed to the State Fire Marshal's Office, West served as a fire and emergency services management consultant with the University of Tennessee's

Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) and helped develop a statewide mutual aid system for deploying fire resources to disasters. His career experience also includes serving as fire chief of the Gatlinburg Fire and Rescue Department. West received his bachelor's degree in organizational management from Tusculum College and a master's degree in business administration from Lincoln Memorial University. In 2015 he was awarded the prestigious H.D. Crossline Award by the Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs.

West currently volunteers as a firefighter with the Ashland City Fire Department where he lives with his wife Suzie.

## Steve Queener joins TMBF

Steve Queener is the new East Tennessee marketing representative for the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF), working with cities across the eastern region to provide loan programs for important municipal projects.

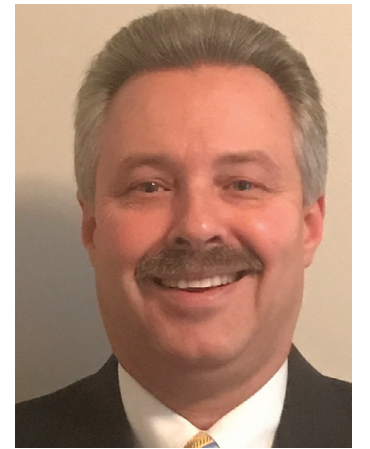
A lifelong resident of Clinton, Queener attended Cumberland College in Williamsburg, Ky., before working at Third National Bank beginning in 1980. He worked at the bank for four years as a branch manager and in commercial and personal lending before going to work for the city of Clinton in 1984.

Queener worked in a variety of capacities for the city of Clinton between 1984 and 1998, serving as the city's recreation director, director of operations, assistant city manager and finally city manager before leaving to serve as the clerk and master of Anderson County from 1998 to 2016.

He began working with the TMBF earlier this year.

"I am excited to be working with Mr. Seivers, president of TMBF, and the entire staff," Queener said. "I am looking forward to working with East Tennessee cities and counties and am grateful for this opportunity. I hope that my previous experience with city and county government will be an asset to TMBF."

TMBF President and CEO Charles "Bones" Seivers said the bond fund is lucky to have Queener



Steve Queener

on its team.

"Steve is well-known across the state, and is a great person to work with," Seivers said. "A lot of people know him because he has called basketball games throughout the state. He is very well-liked by the people he works with and the people he serves. And he knows East Tennessee like the palm of his hand. We are very lucky to have him on our team."

Created in 1985, TMBF, began making loans in 1986. Since inception, programs administered by TMBF have resulted in total borrowings by local governments in Tennessee in excess of \$4.35 billion. Loan sizes range from \$21,000 to \$103 million. More than 160 local governments have utilized the services of TMBF resulting in tremendous cost savings for borrowers.

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## STATE BRIEFS



A new public-private partnership is aiming to grow as many as 1 million pine seedlings on at least 400 acres in the greater Tennessee Valley and Cumberland Plateau. The Department of Agriculture Division of Forestry and Huber Engineered Woods LLC (HEW) are teaming up to initiate the Trees for Tennessee Seedling Program with a goal of planting 232,000 loblolly pine seedlings in the eastern half of the state. HEW is purchasing the seedlings from the Division of Forestry's East Tennessee Nursery in Delano, Tenn., as a cost-share incentive to provide the seedlings to qualified Tennessee landowners at no additional cost. Interested landowners must meet certain requirements to qualify for the program and work with their local area forester to develop a tree planting prescription plan. The planting area must be at least 20 acres and the timber must be managed. Contact your local Division of Forestry office and visit [www.PlantTNTrees.org](http://www.PlantTNTrees.org) for more information.

Electric car company Tesla will be locating supercharger stations in communities across the state including Cookeville, Crossville, Dickson, Gatlinburg, Jackson, Pigeon Forge, and Westmoreland. Tesla representatives said the company is building these stations to double their charging network in anticipation of the release of the more affordable Model 3 cars. A high-energy vehicle charger, the

## New census data shows state's aging population

Tennessee, like much of the country, has an aging population.

Since the last census was taken in 2010, annual surveys have been taken to chart trends in the state's population. The data release includes national, state and county population estimates for 2016 by age, sex, race and Hispanic origin.

Tennessee's 2016 median age was 38.7 years, slightly older than the national median age of 37.9. While the 65-to-69 age range had the highest growth rates in Tennessee, the 25-to-29 range had the largest number of people in 2016.

The Tennessee baby boomer (ages 52 to 70 in 2016) and Generation X (ages 36 to 51 in 2016) populations accounted for a higher share of the total Tennessee population in 2016 than of the national averages. The state's share of the millennial generation (ages 19 to 35 in 2016) was lower than the national average.

The majority of the state's counties also had higher median ages over the previous year with mainly rural counties seeing older residents and younger residents in more urban counties. Cumberland (50.5), Pickett (48.9), Loudon (47.5), Jackson (46.7), and Clay (47.2) counties had the highest median ages of all counties while Montgomery (30.5), Rutherford, Davidson (33.4), Shelby (35.3), and Putnam (36.2) had the youngest median ages.

stations are strategically placed to minimize stops and are often located near restaurants, shops and WiFi hotspots for convenience. Chargers have already been located in the state's major metro areas and the city of Franklin.

The number of Tennessee senior citizens being hospitalized due to opioids has more than tripled in the past decade, according to new data from the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality data. Tennessee ranks sixth in the nation for the rates of opioid-related hospital admissions among senior citizens. In 2005, 467 out of every 100,000 people aged 65 and older spent time in the hospital for opioid-related use. In 2015, that rate shot up to 1,505. Opioids can be particularly dangerous for senior citizens who are more likely to be victims of unintentional overdoses or having interactions with other medications. Opioids can also weaken kidney or liver functions in aging bodies, which do not metabolize the drugs in the same way as younger people. One-third of seniors enrolled in Medicare Part D prescription coverage filled at least one prescription for an opioid last year — about 14.4 million people, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. More than half a million of those beneficiaries received higher-than-average opioid dosages for at least three months.

The report also issued population growth estimates for the top 10 census regions in the state. The Metro Nashville-Murfreesboro-Franklin region had an estimated population of 1,865,298, surpassing Memphis as the most populous region of the state. Memphis had an estimated 1,342,842 population followed by Knoxville with an estimated 868,546 residents and Chattanooga with an estimated 551,632 population.

The Tri-Cities area had an estimated population of 306,334 residents followed by Clarksville with an estimated 282,349 residents, Johnson City with 201,661, Jackson with 129,527, Cleveland with an estimated population of 129,527 and Morristown with 117,320 residents

Williamson (3.5 percent), Rutherford (3.2 percent), Wilson (3 percent), Trousdale (2.8 percent), and Maury (2.5 percent) counties experienced the most population growth out of the state's counties in 2016 while Johnson (-0.4 percent), Grundy (-0.4 percent), Shelby (-0.4 percent), Overton (-0.4 percent), and Hardin (-0.3 percent) experienced the least.

The information was released jointly by the U.S. Census Bureau and the Tennessee Data Center with the Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research in UT's Haslam College of Business.

## Eight municipalities receive TDEC Clean Tennessee Energy grants

Eight municipalities are among the recipients of \$1.9 million in grants for clean energy projects recently awarded by the state.

Gov. Bill Haslam and Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) Commissioner Bob Martineau announced the grants to 24 entities to benefit economic distressed areas of the state.

"Clean Tennessee Energy Grants help our communities reduce costs, increase savings, waste less energy and promote clean air," Haslam said. "I appreciate the efforts of these grant recipients whose work will continue to make Tennessee a great place to live, work and raise a family."

The Clean Tennessee Energy Grant (CTEG) program provides financial assistance to municipal governments, county governments, utility districts and other entities created by statute.

Awarded projects have demonstrated a plan to reduce air emissions, improve energy efficiency and create cost savings.

"We were pleased to offer this round of grant funding to communities that have not received support before or are identified as distressed by the Department of Economic and Community Development," Martineau said. "From more cost-effective lighting systems to efficient heating and air units, these awards will enhance service to customers while minimizing operating costs for these entities, saving taxpayer dollars."

Projects receiving awards focused on cleaner alternative energy, such as biomass, geothermal, solar, or wind, and energy conservation of lighting, HVAC systems, fuel efficiency, insulation and idling minimization. The selected projects will help improve air quality by reducing sulfur dioxide, volatile organic compounds, oxides of nitrogen, hazardous air pollutants, and greenhouse gases.

Funding preference was given to areas in economically distressed counties identified by the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development and counties that have not previously received CTEG funding. Additionally, awarded projects must have a simple payback of less than 10 years. Funding comes from a 2011 Clean Air Act settlement with the Tennessee Valley Authority. Under the Consent Decree, Tennessee received \$26.4 million to fund clean air programs in the state.

### Clean Tennessee Energy Grant Recipients

Municipality	Amount	Project Details
Erin	\$65,000	Installation of variable frequency drives and adding LED lights to water plant, reducing 303 metric tons of carbon dioxide and 431,534 kilowatt hours (kWh)
Jellico	\$20,000	Replacing city hall lights with LED fixtures, reducing an estimated 66 percent in energy use. The project will save \$6,945 and 66,146 kWh annually with a 5.7-year payback period.
Lafayette	\$10,208.50	Upgrade performance and efficiency of police station by retrofitting lights, saving 63,352 kWh and \$8,138 annually
LaFollette (Parks and Recreation Department)	\$100,000	Repairs to 24 A/C units in a community building, saving \$22,000 annually with a reduction of 155 metric tons of carbon dioxide with an estimated payback of nine years.
Maynardville	\$22,600	Replace city hall lighting with LED light fixtures as well as two independent HVAC systems. The LED replacement will result in an estimated savings of 15,132 kWh annually, a 60 percent reduction with a 6.3-year payback. The HVAC project has an estimated savings of 5,647 kWh and 759 gallons of propane annually, with a 8.33 year payback.
Memphis	\$16,650	Retrofit key lighting in all public buildings at the Lichterman Nature Campus, a total of 460 bulbs for an annual savings of 68,959 kWh, 48.5 metric tons of 116,000 pounds carbon dioxide and \$21,525 annually.
New Johnsonville	\$62,500	Replace existing aerators at the wastewater treatment plant with high-efficiency aerators, resulting in estimated savings of 17,582 kWh, 82.6 metric tons of carbon dioxide and \$14,110 annually.
Tennessee Ridge	\$58,900	Replacement of existing pump, motor and started assemblies at wastewater lift station as well as improvements to reduce energy consumption at water treatment plant. Projected annual savings of \$12,000, 76,000 kWh, and reduction of 116,000 pounds of carbon dioxide.
Morristown Housing Authority	\$78,012	Remove electric furnaces to be replaced with electric Energy Star heat pump systems, including all ducts, grills, thermostats and accessories in 25 dwellings. Duct blaster tests will also reduce duct air loss. A total savings is estimated at \$347,540 as well as reduction of 3,756,780 kWh over 30 years.

## Fiscal Year 2018 federal budget update

**BUDGET** from Page 1  
**Status**

The House Budget has been approved by the House Budget Committee and is scheduled for a final House vote in September. The bill would raise the defense discretionary spending level to \$621.5 billion, and lower the nondefense discretionary limit to \$511 billion. As a result, House appropriations bills for FY18 will have less funding available for domestic programs, and cuts to city priorities will be an unavoidable consequence.

The Senate Budget has not been introduced. Rather, the Senate Appropriations Committee has bypassed the Senate Budget by maintaining spending levels generally equal to those in FY 2017.

The Senate approach makes more funding available for city priorities, and as a consequence, the majority of programs important to cities would not be cut.

House Appropriations are ahead of the Senate. Each of the 12 appropriations bills has been approved by the House Appropriations Committee; and the full House has completed work and advanced a

security-themed "minibus" appropriations package.

The Security Minibus is comprised of four bills approved by the House Appropriations Committee. The package includes the Defense (H.R. 3219), Energy-Water (H.R. 3266), Legislative Branch (H.R. 3162) and Military Construction-VA (H.R. 2998) measures, which together represent more than 60 percent of discretionary spending. Funding for city priorities is generally reduced in the House Appropriations bills.

Senate Appropriations bills that have been unveiled are generally more favorable to cities. To date, six appropriations bills have been approved by the full Appropriations Committee: the Agriculture and Rural Development bill; the Energy and Water bill; the Commerce, Justice and Science bill; the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development bill; the Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs bill; and the Legislative Branch bill.

In many instances, programs slated for elimination in the House bills, like the TIGER program, are funded in the Senate bills.

Crucially, the Senate bills are passing committees with bipartisan support, which may give the Senate additional leverage to maintain the higher overall funding levels compared to the House proposal.

For an overview of each bill and funding levels by program compared to last year, go to <http://www.nlc.org/federal-budget-fy18-tracker-state-of-play-for-cities>.

NLC is ready to help your city #FightTheCuts.

As a city leader, your voice is critical to protecting your cities federal funding in the FY18 budget.

Visit NLC's Fight the Cuts toolkit for resources and information on how your city can advocate for a federal budget that supports cities. Go to <http://www.nlc.org/FightTheCuts>

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## Water and Wastewater Systems



## CLASSIFIED ADS

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

### AIRPORT DIRECTOR

**SHELBYVILLE.** The city of Shelbyville is accepting applications for the full-time position of municipal airport director. The airport director will be responsible for the management of all airport operations, facilities, and airport properties owned and operated by the city. Duties also include long-term planning for airport improvements. The ideal candidate will have graduated from an accredited four year college or university with a degree in aviation, political science, business, or related field. Equivalent knowledge and experience will be considered. Salary based on qualifications and experience (anticipated range \$51,848 - \$64,530). Applications and a copy of job description may be picked up at city hall during normal business hours. Applications must be returned to City Hall Administration Office, 201 N. Spring Street no later than 4 p.m. on Sept 6, 2017. For more information, please visit the city website: [www.shelbyvilletn.org](http://www.shelbyvilletn.org). EOE/ Drug-free workplace. Successful applicants required to pass background check, physical and drug screen

### ASSISTANT PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR – UTILITIES

**GERMANTOWN.** The city of Germantown is seeking a qualified individual to serve as assistant public works director of utilities. Under general direction plan, organize and direct the daily operations of public works utilities division, including water production and distribution, water meter reading and customer service, and sewer maintenance to provide adequate, safe and efficient water supply and wastewater services compliant with state, local and federal regulations. Manage and coordinate contracts, plans, schedules and work involved in utility construction projects. The minimum requirements include: bachelor's degree in civil or environmental engineering, construction management, or related field and five to seven years of progressively responsible experience in public utilities including at least 3 years in a supervisory capacity, or any combination of education, training, and experience providing the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to perform essential job functions. For more details and applications, please visit [www.germantownjobs.com/careers/germantown](http://www.germantownjobs.com/careers/germantown). The application process will close Sept. 15, at 12pm. EOE

### CITY ENGINEER

**DICKSON.** The city of Dickson is accepting resumes/applications for the position of city engineer. The city engineer provides technical support and assistance in the development, reviewing and processing of various city engineering plans, permits and specifications; ensures completeness and accuracy of documents prior to issuance; generates computer-aided design drawings for capital projects including data entry, revision and correction of existing drawings, maps and records; performs a variety of technical tasks relative to assigned areas of responsibility. The position requires a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and appropriate licensure through the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance. Two to four years of post-college design experience is preferred, but not required. Salary range is \$56,911 to \$85,518 depending on experience with benefits including health, dental and vision insurance, paid vacation, sick leave and TCRS participation. Applicants may obtain a job description and/or application at Dickson City Hall, 600 East Walnut Street, Dickson, TN 37055, between the hours of 8 am and 4 pm Monday through Friday; by email to [administrator@cityofdickson.com](mailto:administrator@cityofdickson.com); or by calling 615-441-9508 extension 508 during normal business hours. Completed applications, resumes and cover letters should be submitted to Engineer Position, attn. City Administrator, 600 East Walnut Street, Dickson, Tennessee 37055, or by email to [administrator@cityofdickson.com](mailto:administrator@cityofdickson.com) with subject "engineer position." EOE/ Drug-free workplace.

### CITY RECORDER

**BELLE MEADE.** The city of Belle Meade is seeking qualified candidates for the position of city recorder. Primary job duties include attendance at all monthly board meetings; preparation of all board meeting minutes (Zoning Appeals, Bldg. Code Appeals, Municipal Planning and Commissioner); processing billing and collection of property taxes and storm-water fees; maintaining official city records and answering public records requests; maintaining citizen mailing list and mailing welcome packets to new residents; serving as office receptionist and responding to questions from the public; receipting payments and posting daily receipts; providing assistance to other staff and commissioners. Graduation from an accredited high school and minimum of two years administrative and/or accounting experience preferred. The successful candidate must have excellent verbal and written communication skills, be highly organized and able to meet deadlines and multitask. He/she should be able to work independently as well as effectively operate in a team environment. Proficiency in Microsoft Office software is required. Beginning salary range \$39,600-\$46,600, depending on qualifications and experience. The City of Belle Meade is an EEO, ADA, Title VI employer. Please send application, resume, and cover letter to Beth Reardon, City Manager, 4705 Harding Road, Nashville, 37205 or email to [breardon@citybellemeade.org](mailto:breardon@citybellemeade.org). An application and job description are available on the city website, [www.citybellemeade.org](http://www.citybellemeade.org), by clicking on the menu option "City Hall, Employment Opportunities."

### CODES INSPECTOR II

**GALLATIN.** The Gallatin Building

Codes Department is currently accepting applications for codes inspector II. The purpose of this position is to perform intermediate technical work in the inspection of residential, commercial, industrial, and public facilities for compliance with mechanical codes, and other ordinances. This is a 40 hours per week, day shift position. The starting rate is \$21.11 per hour + excellent benefits. The successful applicant will have knowledge of building construction materials, methods, and stages of construction when possible violations and defects may be most easily observed and corrected, as well as the ability to read and interpret plans, specifications and blueprints accurately and to compare them with construction in process. Minimum Qualifications: Applicants must have a high school diploma/ equivalent. Must have 5 years recent construction related experience. As well as possess a valid driver's license. Must have four or more I.C.C. certifications as identified by and beneficial to the city. For a more detailed description and to apply, please visit our website at <http://cogselfserve.gallatin-tn.gov/MSS/employmentopportunities/default.aspx>. Open until filled. EOE.

### CODES INSPECTOR III

**GALLATIN.** The Gallatin Building Codes Department is currently accepting applications for codes inspector III. This position performs intermediate technical work in the inspection of residential, commercial, industrial, and public facilities for compliance with mechanical codes, and other ordinances. May be assigned specific inspection areas, and other duties per position. This is a 40 hours per week, day shift position. The hourly rate is \$24.44 + excellent benefits. The successful applicant will have general knowledge of state and city building codes, laws and ordinances as well as have the ability to: work accurately with attention to detail. Contact building owners, contractors and the public and establish satisfactory working relationships. Understand and effectively carry out verbal and written instructions. Applicants must have a high school diploma/equivalent. Must have 5 years recent construction related experience, as well as possess a valid driver's license. Must have six or more I.C.C. certifications as identified by and beneficial to the city. Must meet TN requirements for plumbing, mechanical, and/or building and/or plan review certification. For a more detailed description and to apply, please visit our website at <http://cogselfserve.gallatin-tn.gov/MSS/employmentopportunities/default.aspx>. Open until filled. EOE.

### FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING CONSULTANT

**JACKSON.** The University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) is accepting applications for a finance and accounting consultant in its Jackson office. The finance and accounting consultant provides professional advice and technical assistance in the area of municipal financial management to cities, regardless of size, on a broad range of issues and problems. In addition to providing direct client assistance, this position researches, develops, and maintains timely technical reports and publications on critical financial issues. This position develops and teaches multiple municipal training courses within the context of a well-defined training curriculum, and assists others in the agency in the performance of individual and team projects. Requires a bachelor's degree in business administration, accounting or finance, a related field, or equivalent with at least eight years of finance related work experience. Prefer a master's degree in business administration, accounting, finance or related field with at least five years of finance related work experience. Requires at time of employment or within 18 months of employment, one of the following: Certified Government Finance Manager by the Association of Government Accountants, or Certified Public Finance Officer by the Government Finance Officers Association, or Certified Certified Public Accountant by a state board of accountancy and in active status with a minimum of five years of primarily governmental experience. Requires experience in a finance related position in state or local government. Prefer CPA certification, and Tennessee government specific experience. Salary is based on a combination of professional experience and qualifications. Applicants must apply electronically to <http://humanresources.tennessee.edu/recruitment> and at the time of applying should submit a cover letter, resume with the contact details of three references. Open until filled. EEO

### HUMAN RESOURCES TECHNICIAN

**COLLIERVILLE.** This is specialized and complex office work assisting employees and the professional staff in the human resources department. Salary range: \$27,848 - \$33,282 (DOQ) with excellent benefits package. Requires an associate degree in business administration, public administration, human resources or a related field; supplemented by two years previous experience in employee program administration, which may include benefit administration or related areas, or any equivalent combination of education, training and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Bachelor's degree in business administration, public administration or human resources preferred. Must have excellent computer skills using word-processing and spreadsheet software. Two years' experience in working with personnel/benefits with special emphasis on insurance (i.e. claims, filing, benefit's coordination/administration) and experience with workers' compensation and/or safety issues highly desired. Valid driver's license required at time of hire. Selection process may include examinations, interviews, assessment centers, practical skills, etc. Drug testing may be required. Submit an application to the following address: Human

Resources, 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN 38017. Applications are available at [www.collierville.com](http://www.collierville.com) under Employment Opportunities, or you may obtain one from our Human Resources Office. Applications must be submitted either by mail or in person to the above address. The Human Resources Office is open Monday - Friday, from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. If you have a disability and require special accommodations during the selection process, please notify the human resources office at (901) 457-2290. EOE / drug free work place.

### MUNICIPAL MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT

**KNOXVILLE.** The University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) is accepting applications for a management consultant in its Knoxville office. The position provides professional advice and assistance in the area of municipal management primarily to an assigned set of cities in Tennessee, regardless of size, on a broad range of issues and problems. In addition to providing direct client assistance, the management consultant researches, develops and maintains timely reports on critical issues; teaches municipal training courses within the context of a well-defined training curriculum; and assists other consultants in the agency in the performance of individual and team projects. This position performs other special project work as assigned. Requires a master's degree or equivalent in public administration. Requires at least five years employment in local government, including three years as a city manager or six years as an assistant city manager. Preference is given to experience as a city manager or assistant city manager in a city with a minimum 10,000 in population. Extra consideration will be given for additional experience city management or Tennessee specific experience. Requires knowledge and understanding of the problems faced by city officials. Also, requires independent planning and processing of projects, questions, training, etc. The work is performed in both in the field and the office and as such, requires constant scheduling and updating of work activities. The consultant must provide advice and assistance to city officials in the operation of their respective offices. The consultant must also possess the following skills: managerial, analytical, conceptual, and interpersonal. These skills are used on a daily basis in identifying a specific city's problem and providing the advice and assistance to solve the problem. A high level of cognitive or intuitive skills are necessary to fully understand, design, and implement successful solutions to municipal problems. Each employee that drives a vehicle for work related business must have and maintain a valid driver license and insurance. This position requires extensive travel. Applicants are encouraged to review all job requirements prior to applying. Salary is based on a combination of professional experience and qualifications. Applicants must apply electronically to <http://humanresources.tennessee.edu/recruitment> and at the time of applying must submit a cover letter, resume with the contact details of three references. Open until filled. The University of Tennessee is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA institution.

### PLANNER II

**GALLATIN.** The city of Gallatin is seeking qualified applicants for the position of planner II in the planning division. This position performs intermediate professional work in the handling of a variety of assignments in the planning office; does related work as required. Work is performed under general supervision. This is a 40 hours per week, day shift position. The starting rate is \$24.44 + excellent benefits. Essential duties include assists with the development of current, long-range and/or other planning activities. Reviews and analyzes plans submitted for zoning changes, subdivisions, variances, site plans, building permits, Certificates of Appropriateness, and conditional use permits. Inspects sites for compliance with approved plans. Performs statistical analysis using socio demographic data, or survey data. The successful applicant will have knowledge of the practices of city planning as well as have the ability to analyze and systematically compile technical information for preparing technical reports. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree in planning or closely related field with four years work experience in progressively responsible professional planning field. For a more detailed description and to apply, please visit our website at <http://cogselfserve.gallatin-tn.gov/MSS/employmentopportunities/default.aspx>. Deadline: Sept. 1. EOE.

### POLICE OFFICER

**WESTMORELAND.** The Westmoreland Police Department is currently accepting applications for a POST certified police officer. Must be able to meet the Minimum Standard Law Requirements (TCA 38-8-106). Be at least 18 years of age. Be a citizen of the United States. Be a high school graduate or possess equivalence. No waivers will be granted for minimum education requirements. Must not have been convicted of or pleaded guilty to or entered a plea of nolo contendere to any felony charge or to any violation of any federal or state laws or city ordinances relating to force, violence, theft, dishonesty, gambling, liquor and other alcoholic beverages or controlled substances. Must not have been discharged from the military under other than honorable discharge. Meet the physical, psychological, criminal records requirements, and other standards for the assignment established by the Westmoreland Police Department. Have an excellent work and attendance record. Possess a valid Tennessee driver's license. Must be POST certified or have completed a POST recognized law enforcement academy and be able to become POST certified. Must be willing to work nights, weekends, and holidays. Applicants must complete an application and submit it to: City of Westmoreland, P.O. Box 8, 1001 Park Street, Westmoreland, TN 37186. EOE.

### PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT

**TULLAHOMA.** The city of Tullahoma is accepting resumes for the public works superintendent. This position plans and directs the daily functions of the street, sanitation and city shop divisions. Responsibilities include supervising and scheduling personnel on drainage projects, street repair, garbage collection, recycling, fleet maintenance and sign maintenance.

The successful candidate must be able to plan and implement various department projects including estimation of required material, equipment and manpower including costs for construction, paving and maintenance. Position consults with engineers, contractors, design professionals and other agencies regarding public works matters. A college degree is preferred or a comparable combination of experience and training. Candidates should have five years of progressively responsible experience in construction, planning, public administration or building inspection. Supervision experience is required and stormwater experience is preferred. Salary range is \$58,579 - \$64,052, DOQ. Submit a resume to City of Tullahoma, Attn: Human Resources, P.O. Box 807, Tullahoma, TN 37388, or email a resume to [cbrice@tullahomatin.gov](mailto:cbrice@tullahomatin.gov). A job description is available at the above email or by contacting Human Resources at 931-455-2648. EOE

### TRAFFIC OPERATIONS MANAGER

**MARYVILLE.** The city of Maryville is accepting applications for a full-time traffic operations manager. This is skilled technical work managing the operations of the traffic control infrastructures for the cities of Maryville and Alcoa, directing maintenance and repairs, and analyzing and maintaining traffic related data. A complete job description is on our website [www.maryvillegov.com](http://www.maryvillegov.com). Requires bachelor's degree with coursework in civil engineering, or related field and considerable experience in traffic engineering, traffic operations, including some supervisory experience, or equivalent combination of education and experience. International Municipal Signal Association Level I certification must be obtained within one year of hire. Hiring range: \$50,855-\$53,430 DOE, plus excellent employee benefit package. Nepotism policy prohibits hiring relatives of city employees. Applications are available on our website and in the City of Maryville Human Resources Department, 400 W. Broadway Ave. Deadline to apply is Sept. 30, 2017.

### WATER TREATMENT PLANT CHIEF OPERATOR

**SPRINGFIELD.** The city of Springfield is accepting applications for the chief operator position at the Springfield Water Treatment Plant. The chief operator is responsible for supervising the operations of the water treatment plant and is supervised by the director of the Springfield Water and Wastewater Department. Instructions to the chief operator are general and the chief operator must routinely use independent judgement when performing tasks. The chief operator supervises a staff of six operators and one mechanic. The chief operator must be able to conduct laboratory testing equipment as well as being knowledgeable about operating pumps, motors, feeders, etc. The water plant utilizes a SCADA system that monitors the operations of the system's water tanks and pump stations. The chief operator will work both indoors and outdoors and will sit, stand, walk, and lift heavy objects (more than 25 pounds) and will include working in inclement weather. Must be knowledgeable of applicable state and federal drinking water regulations. Any applicant must have graduated from a standard high school and, preferably, should have a collegiate bachelor of science degree in chemistry or biology or in a field that is related to water treatment. The applicant should have at least three years of experience in the operation of a mixed-media water filtration plant or a combination of education and experience equivalent to the required knowledge and abilities. Any applicant for this position must have a current Grade IV certificate issued by the state of Tennessee and must have (or be able to obtain) a valid state of Tennessee driver license. For full job classification specifications, call the Springfield Human Resources Department at 615-382-2200. The starting salary range is \$62,504-\$71,676 annually DOQ, with excellent benefits. Resumes should be submitted by mail to: City of Springfield Department of Human Resources, 405 N. Main Street, Springfield, TN 37172. Alternatively, resumes can be submitted by fax to 615-382-1612 or online at [www.springfield-tn.org](http://www.springfield-tn.org). Deadline: Sept. 1. EOE/Drug-Free Workplace.

### WATER PLANT OPERATOR II

**GALLATIN.** The city of Gallatin is currently accepting applications for a water plant operator II in the public utilities department. The purpose of this position is to perform intermediate technical work in the operation and maintenance of the water treatment plant or the wastewater treatment plant; does related work as required. Work is performed under regular supervision. Limited supervision may be exercised over subordinate plant personnel. This is a 40 hours per week position. The shift could be 1st or 2nd, depending on the needs of the department. The salary range is \$41,828 - \$63,003 + excellent benefits. Required duties include: oversees proper functioning of water pumps, motors, chlorinators, filters and chemical feeders making adjustments as necessary to maintain proper flow of water. Performs manual cleaning or preventive maintenance duties as assigned. Records readings from meters and instruments. Replenishes treatment equipment with chemicals. Qualified applicants must have a high school diploma/equivalent with two years recent experience in maintenance work involving plumbing, mechanical and electrical repair and installation. Must have a valid, appropriate driver's license. Interested persons should apply on-line at <http://cogselfserve.gallatin-tn.gov/MSS/employmentopportunities/default.aspx>. Open until position is filled. EOE.

### TML RISK MANAGEMENT POOL BOARD TO MEET SEPT. 8

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the TML Risk Management Pool will meet in regular session on Friday, September 8, 2017 at 10 a.m. local time at The Pool's office in Brentwood, for the purpose of considering and transacting all business which may properly come before the Board. Additional information concerning the meeting may be obtained by calling The Pool's office at 800-624-9698.

## TENNESSEE FESTIVALS



### Sept. 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29: Paris

*Noon on the Square*  
Free live music held Fridays in September from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the courthouse square. Bring a lawn chair, and buy lunch from vendors. For more information call (731) 653-7274, or go to [www.visitdowntownparis.com](http://www.visitdowntownparis.com).

### Sept 2: Maynardville

*Thunder in the Park*  
Held from 5-10 p.m., this event features food vendors, activities for children, an antique/classic car show and a 9 p.m. pyro fireworks show. For more information, call (865) 992-3061.

### Sept 2: Morristown

*3rd Annual Latin Food Festival*  
Held at Rose Center, this festival is a feast for senses incorporating traditional Latino and Hispanic customs, food, and entertainment. For more information call (423) 586-3083.

### Sept 2 - 3: Dunlap

*TMAT Intertribal Powwow*  
This cultural event intends to teach people of all races about Native Americans, their traditions, food, music, and arts and crafts. For more information, call (423) 618-2708.

### Sept 2 - 10: Martin

*Tennessee Soybean Festival*  
The award winning festival is a 24-year tradition celebrating the soybean and soybean farmers of Tennessee and the heartland. Beginning the first week of September, the festival draws a large crowd of 40,000 attendees from both in and out of the state. For more information and a schedule of events, go to [www.tnsoybeanfestival.org](http://www.tnsoybeanfestival.org)

### Sept. 9: Centerville

*25th Annual Grinders Switch Music & Arts Festival.*  
Located on the historic Centerville Square and includes arts and craft vendors, delicious foods, shopping at the various merchants on the square and live music all day long. Lots of great activities for the kids too. Free admission. 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, go to <http://www.hickmancounty-chamber.org/>

### Sept. 9: Somerville

*18th Annual Fayette County Cotton Festival*  
Join us on the historic Somerville Square as the Fayette County Chamber hosts the 18th Annual Cotton Festival. More than 2,000 people turned out last year to enjoy a day filled with music, arts and crafts vendors and some great festival food. Also featuring the Cotton Festival Car and Truck Show as old and new classic cars and trucks line the highway for your enjoyment. For more information go to <http://cottonfestivaltn.com/> or call 901-465-8690.

### Sept. 15-17: Cowan

*Fall Heritage Festival*  
A celebration of life in the foothills of the Cumberland Plateau, the festival will include food, music, entertainment, juried arts and crafts, living history, classic and antique cruise-in, beauty pageant, cornbread contest and activities for children of all ages. For more information go to [www.fallheritagefestival.info](http://www.fallheritagefestival.info) or [www.facebook.com/FallHeritageFestival](http://www.facebook.com/FallHeritageFestival).

### Sept. 15-17: Bristol

*Rhythm & Roots Reunion*  
State Street in historic downtown Bristol is amped for a three-day music experience. It all happens in the heart of the birthplace of country music—home to the legendary 1927 Bristol Sessions recordings. For more information go to: <http://www.birthplaceofcountrymusic.org/festival/>

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**TML AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS**

(Ex-Officio Directors)

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Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police

TN Assn. Municipal Clerks & Records

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## Sen. Ken Yager hosts grant workshop Sept. 20 at Roane State in Harriman

Registration is now open for State Senator Ken Yager's fifth annual Grants Conference.

The purpose of the conference is to improve opportunities for local citizens, organizations and governments to find and tap into a wide variety of state and federal grant funds available to them.

Experts presenting at this conference will help maximize the potential to identify and receive grants.

Speakers will include

professionals from various fields, including the Tennessee Arts Commission, the Tennessee Department of Transportation, the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, and the Alliance for Better Nonprofits. East Tennessee Development District Executive Director Terry Bobrowski, United States Department of Agriculture & Rural Development Knoxville Area Director Joe Woody, and Tennessee's 3rd Congressional District Field Representatives Cindy Boshears and Tammy Merritt

will be among the distinguished presenters.

The conference will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 20 at Roane State Community College, 276 Patton Lane, Harriman, Tn., in the O'Brien Theatre from 8:30 am until 2:00 pm EST. Check-in for the event begins at 8:00 am EST.

The conference is free of charge but attendees are required to R.S.V.P. at [www.KenYager.com](http://www.KenYager.com) by Friday, Sept. 15.

Those with questions may also call (615) 741-1449.

**Sept. 5-6****Grant Writing Workshop**

TN Dept. of Economic and Community Development, Research and Planning Division hosts Grant Writing USA's two-day grant writing workshop. Attend this proven class and you'll learn how to find grants and write winning grant proposals. Beginning and experienced government and nonprofit personnel are welcome to attend. Tuition is \$455 and includes all materials. William R. Snodgrass Tennessee Tower, 3rd Floor, Media Room, Nashville. To register, go to <http://grantwritingusa.com/grants-training/grant-writing-workshops/nashville-tennessee-september-2017>. For more information, contact Janet Darling at Grant Writing USA, 888-290-6237 toll free or email: [janet@grantwritingusa.com](mailto:janet@grantwritingusa.com)

**Sept. 20 - 22****TCMA Fall Conference**

**Gatlinburg Convention Center**  
 Two and one-half days of educational programs and social/networking activities. For information on the conference, go to <https://tcma32.wildapricot.org>

**Sept. 20 - 22****TAMCAR Fall Conference**

**Embassy Suites Murfreesboro**  
 For information on the conference program, go to <https://tamcar.wildapricot.org/>

**Oct 5 - 6****Urban Forestry Conference**

**Knoxville UT Conference Center**  
 Learn innovative techniques, discover best practices from the experts and share successes with peers. Workshops on tree boards and tree selection/pollination, and a keynote on the future of urban forestry from Paul Ries, director of the Graduate Certificate in Urban Forestry program at Oregon State University. For more information go to: [www.tufc.com/conference/conference\\_2017/schedule\\_2017.html](http://www.tufc.com/conference/conference_2017/schedule_2017.html)

**Oct. 26 - 27****Governor's Conference 2017**

**Gatlinburg Convention Center**  
 Come learn more about Tennessee's strides in recruiting jobs and the programs helping to build strong local communities. To register or for more information, visit: <http://govcon.tnecd.com/>

**Nov. 15-18****2017 NLC City Summit**

**Charlotte, N.C.**  
 Four days of networking, knowledge sharing, and working to make cities and towns even better places to live, work, and play. For more information or to register, go to: <http://citysummit.nlc.org/>



### NOTES FROM OUR AFFILIATES



#### The Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association

The Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association (TFCA) is the premier fire service leadership organization in Tennessee, representing more than 700 fire chiefs throughout the state. The association's stated mission is to provide leadership to career and volunteer fire chiefs, chief officers, and managers of emergency service organizations throughout Tennessee through vision, information, education, service, and representation to enhance their professionalism and capabilities.

Founded in 1969 as a non-profit organization to improve the fire service in Tennessee, the Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association has provided leadership on many issues across Tennessee that have led to many successful laws and initiatives including mandatory minimum firefighter training requirements, mandatory minimum training for fire chiefs, mandatory fire sprinklers in nursing homes, mandatory smoke alarms in rental property, the Tennessee Fire Mortality



Study and statewide smoke alarm programs, the TN Fire and Codes Academy, and the statewide Fire Department Mutual Aid System.

The association's latest initiative is the Volunteer Workforce Solutions (VWS) program. The association received a FEMA grant to assist Tennessee fire departments in the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters. Eighty percent of all fire personnel in Tennessee are volunteer firefighters, and the majority of departments are experiencing a shortage of volunteers.

Nineteen Tennessee fire department groups, consisting of 64 fire departments from across

the state, are participating in the two-year program, to increase the number of volunteer firefighters in Tennessee. The program will generate free recruitment materials that any fire department can access and use. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer firefighter and joining a local volunteer fire department should visit [www.VolunteerFireTN.org](http://www.VolunteerFireTN.org), or call 1-844-VOL-TENN (1-844-865-8366).

The association meets four times per year, once in each grand division, with the annual conference being held in Middle Tennessee. Training classes are offered at each meeting. The first year's membership in the association is free for newly appointed fire chiefs.

Upcoming events include the Fall Meeting on Oct. 17 at Maxwell House in Nashville and the Firehouse Expo from Oct. 18-21.

Persons interested in joining the association should visit <https://www.tnfirechiefs.com/membership> for more information and to download an application.

## UT-MTAS SEPTEMBER MAP CLASSES

### LEADERSHIP IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

This class is based on the principles of leadership as found in Max Dupree's best-seller *Leadership is an Art* and in Bolman and Deal's seminal textbook *Reframing Organizations: Artistry, Choice and Leadership*. Discussion will focus on the stewardship responsibilities of supervisors and influencers within your local government.

**Dates/Locations/Times**

Sept. 6	Memphis	8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT
Sept 7	Jackson	8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT
Sept. 8	Nashville	8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT
Sept.12	Knoxville	8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EDT
Sept. 13	Collegedale	8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EDT

Credits: 4 CPE/CMFO  
 (Other) (LM)

**MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICE**

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. Or for more information, contact Kurt Frederick, training consultant, at 615-253-6385.

## No loan is too large or too small



The town of Dover recently closed on general obligation refunding bond, a refunding capital outlay note issue, and a \$550,000 note issue for paving. The town has used the TMBF program since 2012. Pictured are Town Administrator Kim Wallace, TMBF representative Linda Mooningham. Seated are Mayor Lease Fitzhugh and Town Clerk/CMFO Carla Anderson.



TENNESSEE MUNICIPAL BOND FUND



The city of Three Way recently closed a \$2 million fixed rate loan with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund to finance various projects, including a new city hall, street and road improvements, and equipment. Pictured are Mayor Larry Sanders and City Recorder Susan Rogers.

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

# Tennessee cities lead by example to encourage investment

**INVESTMENT** *from Page 1*  
or buildings or both a community has, the bigger their chances are of landing a project. You have to invest in your inventory. The state can't do it all, but we have programs that help communities like site development grants to develop the infrastructure and the property. The communities we see that are most successful have invested in their communities for a long time in terms of inventory and in terms of workforce."

Frilling said one of the things Union City did after the loss of Goodyear was invest in a 548-acre industrial park known as the Northwest Tennessee Industrial Park. The city put millions into the park to bring a return on their investment.

"One of the things we've done is participate in the state of Tennessee's site certification process. We were originally certified in 2013, which got us in that upper echelon in sites in the state," she said. "The site is city-owned and had all of its phase I environmental and geotechnical studies done, which makes it ready for someone who wants to come in and build an industry. The site has water, wastewater, natural gas, and electricity that is ready to go."

Spec buildings on the site brought in two new companies to the area, Frilling said.

"They built a building that sold in 2013 to MIA Seating," she said. "A second spec building was constructed around 2016, which was sold to Greenfield Products. Building spec buildings and selling them as well as going through site certification has put the city in a good place for marketing. The city has put a lot of money and time into this park."

Across the state in Bristol, ready sites have also proven to be a useful tool in encouraging investment and expansions. Tom Anderson, director of economic development for Bristol, said companies are looking for sites that already have amenities like water, sewer, electric, and even fiber optic internet service as well as state certification.

"Companies want to go from spending money to making money, and most municipalities are not in the real estate business, so if they buy a property they want it to develop it," he said. "Anything you can do as a community to expedite that really works. You can't just take someone out to a field that is for sale anymore. Just to be competitive you have to have a fully infrastructure site. We are creating a 36-acre PAD on a 50-acre site that can hold a 428,000-square-foot building in a publicly controlled industrial park."

Zoning and building infrastructure can also help a city navigate what type of business will locate to the site, whether they want an area to develop industrially or as more of a retail center. Anderson said the Tennessee State Code provides a lot

Being ready to invest in multiple sites can also reap rewards.

"The places that are most successful will get a project and celebrate that," Borden said. "Then the next week they are calling us up to come look at a new site they want to develop. A lot of this development is done through things like property tax increases or out of the general budgets of communities. The communities who can successfully handle the politics and have been educating their elected officials and residents tend to be successful."

## INCENTIVES

In recent years, incentives have also begun to play a bigger role in why businesses chose a city for their operations. Between 2011 and 2016, the state FastTrack grant programs invested \$11.5 billion in businesses that located to or expanded within the corporate limits of cities. 2013 saw the largest amount of FastTrack investment in properties or companies located within city limits with more than \$3.68 billion in investment.

Borden said the state provides three different types of Fast Track grants. The first is a grant for employee training while the second is an infrastructure grant. The third grant is the broadest of all the grants, which can help purchase land, construction buildings, retrofit buildings, finish spec buildings out, relocate equipment. Rather than distributed to the companies themselves, most of these grants flow through municipalities or their economic development and industrial development boards.

Borden said the state incentive packages are based on four criteria: the net number of new jobs the project is going to bring, the projected annual wage of those jobs versus the median wage rates of the municipalities and counties where the project will be located, the capital investment the company is going to make, and the location of the project. Businesses located in lower tier or more economically distressed counties may qualify for larger incentive packages than those in Tier 1 counties.

In addition to state grants, he said the state works with locals on incentives like payment-in-lieu-of-taxes or PILOT programs

"These programs are certainly very important to the company, and local communities are a great help to us in closing the deal," Borden said. "It is typically up to the community if they offer one of these programs and how much they offer. A community may not be in the position to offer a 100 percent PILOT for 20 years, which is the maximum you can do. Not too many communities do that as most communities have to get some tax revenue to effectively deliver services. Communities, no matter how small they are, can offer a PILOT as a good investment. It is something that can close the deal, and if you are

"They make the bottom line look a little nicer," he said. "All things being equal, they can tip the scale in favor of your community. You are gaining something from these programs, and if you do nothing, nothing will happen. You have to look at it as just deferring your investment. We are still getting the full amount in 10 or 15 years, which is a blink of an eye for a city. You also have to consider that during this process you are seeing new employment, construction jobs, water being purchased, sewer systems being supported, and electrical being used. There is a ripple effect of an asset locating in a community."

Anderson said he approaches a PILOT program as a negotiation rather than a blank check. Setting milestones for a company to complete as part of these grants can help better ensure a community's return on investment.

"You have to do what's best for your city, but at the same time you have to set the stage for development to happen and remove as many barriers as you can," he said. "You don't want to be irresponsible with taxpayer money, so you do the studies and have certain milestones that have to be hit."

Frilling said her advice is never to bring up grants on the first meeting of a prospective company, rather focusing on community assets to make



Another Select Tennessee Certified Site, the Bristol Business Park is an 82-acre public site with 75 developable acres with underground utilities including electric, water, and wastewater. Bristol Economic Development Director Tom Anderson said the city has taken advantage of laws in the Tennessee State Code that help foster economic development, such as zoning, tourism, and development programs. Having an expedited, online permitting process and sticking to long term planning have also helped Bristol not only encourage both industrial and retail commercial investment in their community but also to guide and shape where that development takes place.



This 3-D rendering of a spec building in Union City's Northwest Industrial Park allows prospective companies to take an online tour of the actual structure before ever setting foot in the area. The visual tour is just one of the ways Union City has used to show companies what they have to offer.

sure the company is a right fit first.

"You don't want those programs and incentives to be the reason they choose your community, but they are a big part of the site selection process," she said. "Most companies need that tax abatement on their real estate or personal property, especially in the first five years. Those are the years they are building their facility or getting equipment and building up their workforce. It helps them get to a positive return on investment quicker."

## COOPERATION

Having city officials and a community that is open to development as well as willing to work with prospective companies is another reason why Tennessee cities have been successful with bringing new and expanding existing businesses in Tennessee.

Borden said most companies are looking for areas where city officials get along with each other and officials in neighboring communities and counties.

For Frilling, having everyone work together not only builds bonds on the local level but also shows companies that a municipality is ready to pull together and work with them.

"It always comes back to your people," she said. "You built your relationships and you build your team. When you get your team in place, everything else falls into place. It really is a team environment, pulling together your water, wastewater, gas, electric, public works, and fire protection to get these sites certified. It's a long, arduous process to get a site certified."

Educating local officials and stakeholders is one way to promote that cooperation.

"I can't speak highly enough about our city manager, Bill Sorah, who supports these efforts and works with the city staff and talking to the city council to make sure they understand and are well versed in these investments," Anderson said. "They understand the big picture and that they are doing things for the greater good. It enables us to compete. You have to step up your game just to be competitive."

Bristol works with organizations like the local electric utility, neighboring municipalities and regional development groups like Network Sullivan to be more competitive.

"We have a wonderful working relationship, especially with King-sport," he said. "We work well with Bristol, Va., as well. We partner

*"The communities we see that are most successful have invested in their communities for a long time in terms of inventory and in terms of workforce."*

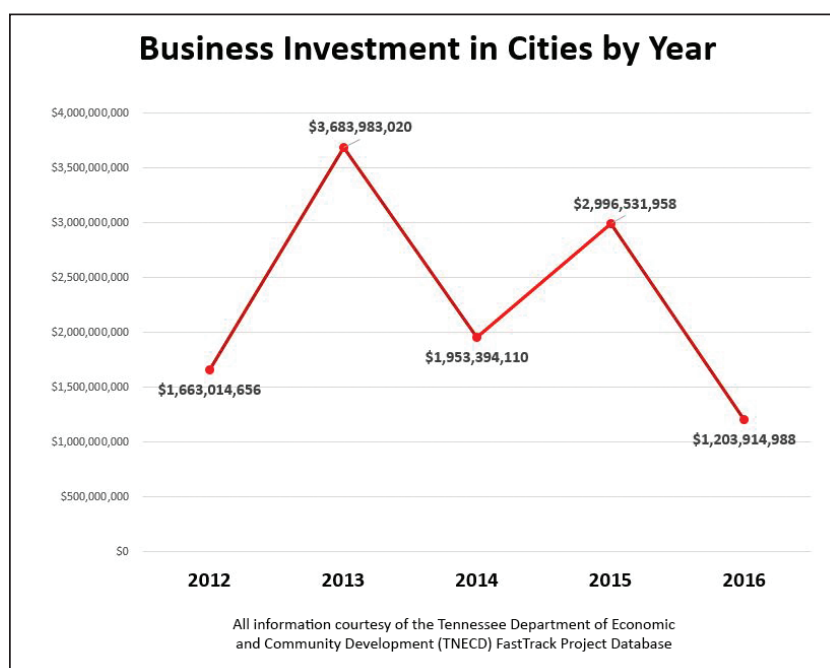
– Allen Borden, Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development deputy commissioner of Business, Community and Rural Development.

*"Companies are looking for sites that already have amenities like water, sewer, electric, and even fiber optic internet service as well as state certification. Anything you can do as a community to expedite that really works. You can't just take someone out to a field that is for sale anymore."*

– Tom Anderson, director of economic development for the city of Bristol

*"If you don't invest in yourself, why would someone else want to invest in your community? Union City, the city council and the citizens of Union City see that. They are very proactive and very open to business. You have to want business and want to grow."*

– Lindsay Frilling, economic development director, Union City / Obion County Joint Economic Development Council



The amount of money business participating in the state's Fast Track program have pledged to invest in Tennessee municipalities in the past five years.

of tools Bristol has used to help guide its development.

We have legislation for retail and tourism development, which we took full advantage of to build the Pinnacle," Anderson said. "That area is still out there and growing. We have an industrial development board that allows us to use PILOT programs. We work with housing and redevelopment authority to create redevelopment districts. We are progressive on our planning and zoning. Our permitting process is expedited through electronic filing. We basically are just working on previous comprehensive plans and our code efficacy is something we have developed over time. If you have a long term plan, you just have to stick to it and be committed to making it better.

getting any tax revenue at all from these projects, it is tax revenue you wouldn't have had."

Borden said the importance of grants, both state and local, depends on the project.

"Certain projects are very competitive, and these are companies that are looking to locate perhaps a project not only in Tennessee but may also be looking in some of our competition states," he said. "In order to land these projects, you have to put together a competitive package. With that being said, we do not think that is the first or foremost thing we need when we are selling Tennessee. We sell Tennessee from a strategic standpoint first."

Anderson said he thinks of grant programs as deal sweeteners rather than something that drives a project.

with our other municipalities for our regional airport. We have worked in other aspects for our Tri-County Industrial Park that is now full. You build these relations and you trust each other. You have to shoot straight with each other and deliver on your promises."

Building a relationship with the state can also be important.

"We get a lot of our prospects through the state of Tennessee," Frilling said. "We slowly built up our relationship and reputation with the state so when they do bring prospects to us we can put on a nice visit. One of the companies that decided to come here and invest told us we really know how to recruit business, and they meant it in a sense of the team environment we have."

## LIFESTYLE

Additionally, a community's amenities can help push a project into a community's favor.

"A big advantage we have in Tennessee are our lifestyles," Borden said. "Anything a community can do to make their town look better or more livable like programs for kids and families when they aren't working are great assets. Lifestyles and livability can sometimes sway a deal in a community's direction."

Both Anderson and Frilling said advantages their cities use include the availability of a good education both for K-12 and secondary education,

local medical facilities, and being in a position to ship products out in a timely manner.

"If you don't invest in yourself, why would someone else want to invest in your community?" Frilling said. "Union City, the city council and the citizens of Union City see that. They are very proactive and very open to business. You have to want business and want to grow. We really have great people with the vision to see we aren't spending this time and money in vain. We are getting ourselves prepared. Those of us in the rural areas have to fight harder and be more prepared because of where we are."

Additionally, knowing a community's strengths and being able to play those strengths to a company's needs is an important skill.

"Being able to listen to the needs of the client or prospective industry and tailor our offer or work toward them, to help overcome any obstacles they might have in coming to our area is essential," Frilling said. "We've gone out and helped at job fairs or blind job fairs for potential companies. Workforce is the number one issue these days. Listening to their needs and trying to fulfill those needs is important. We sell ourselves regionally, especially being on the Kentucky border. We don't have a big population like Memphis or Jackson, but we do have a good workforce that is willing to drive for a good job."