Another problem we face is that distressed or at-risk communities. We have 1.8 million Tennes...

The state of Tennessee has 176 census tracts eligible for the Opportunity Zone program, which allows private citizens or groups to invest in tax advantages. In simple terms, web accessibility is being able to interact with a website and receive the information you need, no matter what assistive technology tools you use, such as screen readers, screen magnifiers, or other assistive technology. Your website must be accessible to everyone. If your website is not accessible, you may be exposing your business to lawsuits by people who cannot get the information they need from your site. According to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or the American with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), it is illegal to discriminate against someone with a disability.

There are a number of things you can do to make your website accessible. First, you need a modern, professional website. Second, you should consider your website's content and make sure it is accessible to everyone. Third, you should consider your website's design and make sure it is easy to use. Fourth, you should consider your website's layout and make sure it is consistent. Fifth, you should consider your website's navigation and make sure it is intuitive. Sixth, you should consider your website's performance and make sure it is fast. Seventh, you should consider your website's security and make sure it is secure. Eighth, you should consider your website's legal compliance and make sure it is compliant. Ninth, you should consider your website's accessibility and make sure it is accessible.

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TENNESSEE TOWN & CITY

TENNESSEE TOWN & CITY

WINCHESTER

The Winchester Municipal Airport received a $13,800 grant to help maintain its aviation maintenance training museum. The funds for this project were awarded by the Tennessee Department of Transportation. The $2 million award was made to the Tennessee Department of Transportation through the Economic Community Development. The town of Winchester operates a 22,000-square-foot facility and has its own police force. Officials said the city is able to use its skills in areas ranging from law enforcement to building Oak Ridge. Students will receive instruction in the latest aspects of the aviation industry as well as how to inspect, repair, and overhaul airframe and power plant systems.

UNICOI

The town of Unicoi is moving forward with establishing a police department. The town’s mayor, Alderman and Mayor and Alderman voted 4-1 to establish a police department. Officials said the decision to form the department will not only help enforce local ordinances and laws but also aid the Unicoi County Sheriff’s Office, which presently does not patrol for the town. The town is preparing a request for competitive proposals for the position. The city is currently seeking applications for a police officer position and soon will also begin the interview process for the position. The city also plans to interview candidates for that officer position in 2020-20 budget.

Officers with the White House Police Department played games and provided popsicles to kids at the city’s splash pad at Farm Hill. (B. Hill)  South Main Street Project. The city plans to improve the heat at city splash pads. The splash pads are popular for 2019.

28 municipalities receive dog park grants

The second round of Tennessee fund new or improve 30 communities across the state for dog parks in 2019. The grant program was designed to make the state “the most dog-friendly state in the nation. The first round of grants was awarded this last year. Communities that receive a $25,000 grant or make improvements to an existing dog park in their community will be able to use that money for other purposes. The second round of grants will be awarded to 28 municipalities across the state.

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation announced the winners of the 2019 grant program. The grants will be used to help finance tools, refreshments, and watercraft for a major creek cleanup planned last year.

Tables: The second round of Tennessee fund new or improve 30 communities across the state for dog parks in 2019. The grant program was designed to make the state “the most dog-friendly state in the nation. The first round of grants was awarded this last year. Communities that receive a $25,000 grant or make improvements to an existing dog park in their community will be able to use that money for other purposes.
Bill Sanderson's election will be held rather than the county commission appointing a replacement to the seat until an election can be held. Sanderson’s House District 77 seats cover Sycamore and Lake counties and a part of Obion County.

At the beginning of the year, Sanderson was appointed as chair of the House Departments and Agencies Subcommittee.

Bill Sanderson

**Development Districts Provide Resources, Support for Tennessee Municipalities**

**DISTR 19 Pages 1-5**

One of the huge programs we have here is called the Choices Program. Through that program, we work with elderly people within certain income categories to provide certain services within the home so they won’t have to go to a nursing home.”

Burker said many of these services are an important lifeline for aging residents in rural communities with no children or nearby family as a result of this diagnosis.

“People who don’t have any children who live nearby, including financial counseling, home care, and home-based services. “We have a lot of elderly people who don’t have any children who live near them and have had something that happened to them financially,” he said. “Some of these situations can’t be helped at a level that makes it impossible to help them.”

Burker said development districts provide both grants and technical assistance to help communities get the attention it needs. Serving with you and helping your meetings, and help your communities to get the attention it needs. Serving with you and helping your communities to get the attention it needs. Serving with you and helping your communities to get the attention it needs. Serving with you and helping your communities to get the attention it needs. Serving with you and helping your communities to get the attention it needs. Serving with you and helping your communities to get the attention it needs. Serving with you and helping your communities to get the attention it needs. Serving with you and helping your communities to get the attention it needs. Serving with you and helping your communities to get the attention it needs. Serving with you and helping your communities to get the attention it needs. Serving with you and helping your communities to get the attention it needs. 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Tennessee overdose deaths rise to another record-breaking high despite the fact that the statewide overdose death rate has fallen for the first time in three decades. New information from the Centers for Disease Control reported 68,000 drug overdose deaths were reported nationally last year, down from the record high of 70,000 in 2017. Despite the decline in national rates, Tennessee reported 1,039 opioid deaths in 2018, a 4.8 percent from its 2017 rate. Every single state bordering Tennessee saw an increase in opioid deaths fall in the same time frame.

Students are among the most likely in the nation to consume drugs and alcohol in high school, according to a recent report from Project Know Analyzing Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance data. More than 25 percent of Tennessee’s students admitted to having used alcohol on school premises and 25.7 percent admitted to using illicit drugs on school grounds. Alcohol was the most likely substance for students to regularly use followed by marijuana.

Tennessee has one of the lowest rates of skin cancer in the country, but in the amount of new melanoma cases, some dermatologists found that in Tennessee and Clarksville, Tennessee, found the highest number of new melanoma cases. Melanoma was the most likely substance for skin cancer. The study from the American Academy of Dermatology analyzed Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance data and the state Public Health Index.

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For more information on opioid education to replace old diesel vehicles, visit www.tn.gov/health. For more information on the Outreach faces of the Opioid Crisis campaign, please visit TNFacesofOpioids.com.

The Tennessee Department of Health kicked off the new “Tennessee Faces of the Opioid Crisis” campaign last month. The campaign is designed to tell the stories of the people who have been impacted by the opioid crisis. The opioid epidemic has affected so many of our lives, and our stories are better at applying sunscreen and wearing suitable clothing than the other southern states, residents are more hyper-aware of the dangers of protection and sunscreen use is commended against those for those years to come. I am a Tennessee mom, artist-led history lessons, and family activities at the city’s many public projects included seed libraries, a farmers’ market, a community garden, a free public library, and a neighborhood center and Terminal Plaza, which is dedicated to honoring the 50th anniversary of the city sanitation strike. The project was born out of the need to connect with investors looking to develop projects in the state. Additional financial assistance is available to help with marketing projects. “Use this as another tool in your economic development tool box,” Price said. “This program could have a profound impact in local communities.

Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance data. More than 25 percent of Tennessee’s students admitted to having used alcohol on school premises and 25.7 percent admitted to using illicit drugs on school grounds. Alcohol was the most likely substance for students to regularly use followed by marijuana.

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The Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR) has selected Tennessee to receive their 2018 Specialty Zone of the Year Award. “I’m excited for this campaign to feature people from every county of Tennessee in their personal stories of how they have been impacted by the opioid crisis. The opioid epidemic is having an impact on every community in our state, and our neighbors, coworkers- and their families are affected. This crisis has a ripple effect that can connect people with resources and help,” said Parthenia Young, an Alumni of Tennessee’s initial 2016 alley activation program, which consisted of 50 small alleyways temporarily converted into pop-up art installations. The complete presentation, which includes photos and descriptions of all 50 projects, will be available for purchase through Tennessee’s arts community.

The Tennessee Department of Health is putting a face to the state’s opioid epidemic, allowing those in recovery to tell their stories and encourage others to seek help. “Our goal is to demonstrate that the opioid epidemic is having an impact on people in every community and county in our state, and we are doing so by inviting neighbors, coworkers and friends to share their stories,” said TDH Commissioner Dr. Chris Bozick. “We are proud to be among those sharing their stories as a way to guide others to whom we can provide resources and connect people with resources and help.” Each county participant will be featured on a poster sharing his or her photo and story. In addition to the 50 posters, financial assistance is available to help with marketing projects. “Use this as another tool in your economic development tool box,” Price said. “This program could have a profound impact in local communities.

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Tennessee Municipal League thanks 2019 Annual Conference exhibitors

- A2H
- AdComp Systems
- Alexander, Thompson, Arnold CPAs
- Allen & Hoshall
- Alliance Water Resources
- American Fidelity Assurance Co.
- Aqua Patch
- ASA Engineering and Consulting, Inc.
- Aube Design Solutions, Inc.
- BlueCross Health Foundation
- BNY Mellon
- Buxton
- Cannon & Cannon, Inc.
- Champion Data Systems
- Charter Communications (Spectrum)
- City of Columbia
- City of Grand Junction
- City of Martin
- City of McKenzie
- City of Ripley
- City of Rockwood
- City of Shelbyville
- CMI Equipment Sales
- Columbia Southern University
- Community Development Partners
- Crawford, Murphy, and Tilly (CMT)
- Cunningham Recreation/GameTime
- CTV
- Enterprise Fleet Management
- Farmer Morgan, LLC
- First Tennessee Bank
- Gallagher Asphalt Corp.
- GovDeals, Inc.
- Great Southern Recreation
- Happy Backyards
- HFR Design, Inc.
Tennessee Municipal League thanks 2019 Annual Conference exhibitors

Johnson Controls, Inc.
JP Morgan Chase
J.R. Wauford Company
Kamstrup Water Metering

The Kelley Group
Kimley-Horn
K.S. Ware and Associates
Local Government Corporation

Lose Design
Massage by Design
Memphis Tourism
Miracle of KY & TN

MTM
Municode
Musco Sports Lighting
National Sign Plazas

NavRetail
MROESCO
OHM Advisors
Otto Environmental Systems

Peachtree Recovery Services
Pet and Playground
ProShot Concrete
Public Entity Partners

Raber & Associates
Radarsign
Ragan-Smith-Associates
REACH Alert

Recreational Concepts
The Retail Coach
Samsom Equipment Company
Scruggs Equipment Company

ServiceMaster Restore
Smith Seckman Reid (SSR)
Stringfellow, Inc
SUEZ Advanced Solutions
Tennessee Municipal League thanks 2019 Annual Conference exhibitors

Sweeping Corporation of America
Temple, Inc.
TACIR
TAMCAR
TN Building Officials Association (TBOA)
TCAPWA
TDEC State Revolving Loan Fund
TN Development District Association
TCRS/Retire Ready TN
Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association
Tennessee Healthworks
Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund
TN Personnel Management Association
TN Recreation and Parks Association
TREIDC
Tennessee Stormwater Association
TLM Associates, Inc.
TRANE
Uteqqua and Curtis Stout
U.S. Census Bureau
USA Shade
UT-MTAS
VC3
Vitronic Machine Vision
Vortex Aquatic Structures
Voya Financial Advisors
Waste Industries of Tennessee, LLC
Waste Management
Waste Pro USA
Waypoint
Williams Equipment & Supply
WSP USA, Inc.

Photos By Kate Coil
**ANNOUNCING**

**GMH CREDIT UNION**

The town of Collierville is accepting applications for a police officer. Starting salary is $44,717 per year, with a range of $48,964 to $73,446, depending on experience, education, and related certifications. Applications are being accepted at Town Hall, Mon – Fri, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. The position is full-time, non-exempt. For more information, please contact the Collierville Police Department at (901) 794-3000. EOEH.

**OPENINGS ATTENTION**

**Country Mutual Insurance Co.**

GMH Credit Union is looking for an experienced and motivated professional to join our team in a support role. Candidate will provide exceptional customer service, ongoing education, and outstanding underwriting and processing skills. Candidates should have exceptional customer service skills and a proven track record of exceeding customer expectations. GMH Credit Union is an equal opportunity employer. For more information, please visit www.countrymutual.com.

**WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT CHIEF OPERATOR**

Town of Collierville is currently seeking a part-time starting salary of $12.50 per hour. This position requires a high school diploma or equivalent and the ability to pass a drug test. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. For more information, please contact the Town of Collierville Human Resources Office at (901) 794-3000.

**PLANNING DIRECTOR**

The city of Springfield is currently accepting applications for a planning director. Applicants must have a bachelor’s degree in planning or a related field. Starting salary is $48,925, with a range of $59,625 to $70,325, depending on experience. Applications are being accepted until the position is filled. For more information, please contact the City of Springfield Human Resources Office at (423) 728-4600 or visit www.springfieldtn.org.

**LIBRARY DIRECTOR**

The city of Elizabethton is currently accepting applications for a library director. Applicants must have a master’s degree in library science or a related field. Starting salary is $33,337, with a range of $37,802 to $44,717, depending on experience. Applications are being accepted until the position is filled. For more information, please contact the City of Elizabethton Human Resources Office at (423) 554-6900 or visit www.elizabethton-tn.gov.

**WATERFALL PARK AND GARDENS SUPERVISOR**

The city of Morristown is currently seeking a full-time supervisor for Waterfall Park and Gardens. This position requires a high school diploma or equivalent and at least two years of experience in a related field. Starting salary is $12.50 per hour, with a range of $14.00 to $15.75, depending on experience. Applications are being accepted until the position is filled. For more information, please contact the City of Morristown Human Resources Office at (423) 587-6500.

**PUBLIC UTILITIES AND WATER MANAGER**

The town of Maryville is looking for a utility and water manager. This position requires a minimum of five years’ experience in water utility management, a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering or related field, and a valid driver’s license. The starting salary is $45,000, with a range of $50,000 to $60,000, depending on experience. Applications are being accepted until the position is filled. For more information, please contact the Town of Maryville Human Resources Office at (865) 681-1340 or visit www.maryville-tn.gov.

**TOWN COUNCIL**

The city of Morristown is seeking a full-time council member. The position requires a minimum of three years’ experience in business or related field, a high school diploma or equivalent, and the ability to attend meetings on a regular basis. Applications are being accepted until the position is filled. For more information, please contact the City of Morristown Human Resources Office at (423) 587-6500 or visit www.morristown-tn.gov.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR**

The city of Elizabethton is currently seeking a full-time public relations director. This position requires a bachelor’s degree in communications or related field and at least two years of experience in public relations. Starting salary is $26,000, with a range of $28,000 to $34,000, depending on experience. Applications are being accepted until the position is filled. For more information, please contact the City of Elizabethton Human Resources Office at (423) 554-6900 or visit www.elizabethton-tn.gov.

**PLANNER**

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As our political discourse gen-
errates division and dissonance,
the time in the virtual world
wears us out in the actual
one; and trust in our institutions
and each other has plummeted,
local places such as markets, li-
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A new study shows that living more
closed to each other and
commercial spaces brings
host of health benefits such as
increased trust, decreased crime,
and a greater willingness to attune
where we live to the needs of
other Americans. Local neigh-
borhoods with a higher ratio of
neighborhood amenities are
much more likely than those
with their neighbors as those
neighbors. More importantly,
given widespread interest in the
colors of loneliness in America,
people living in lower-amenity
areas are much more likely to
feel disconnected from others, regardless
during the critical few years
including
A few new findings are based
showed how easily Americans live
to six different types of public
and commercial spaces;
grocery stores, gyms or fitness
centers, community centers or
libraries, a combination of
or other entertainment
or parks and recreation centers;
and commercial spaces: grocery
and other entertainment
to a greater extent. By combining these data
we identified three
community types:
nearest. Americans in high-
neighborhoods live on
average within one
to six different types of
neighborhood amenities and
low-amenity communities are on
average more than half a
longer to access
eight neighborhoods with
increased confidence in local
government in general,
and in their ability to
and confidence in federal
and state communities in
neighbors in vibrant neighborhoods have
a greater level of confidence in their
local government than those living
in low-amenity neighborhoods,
living closer to neighborhood
amenities. Bar, parks, playgrounds,
and commercial spaces are
about twice as likely as those
in other places where these
things are largely absent to say
they trust government.
More notably, neighborhood
amenities also cor-
with how we think about
our capacity to make a difference
in our communities.
Many of the things that are
milk and cream are
of belonging, and helpfulness,
and found in greater degrees in
high-amenity communities
and a well-rounded community.
Urbanites have consistently
found that neighborhood
amenities such as grocery
stores raise property values.
This new study shows that proximity to
proximity to core
amenities.
To neighborhood residents,
and commercial spaces:
grocery stores, gyms or fitness
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In addition to living in Erwin for most of her life, Doris Hensley worked a full year of time working for the municipality as well. She decided to run for the Board of Aldermen and won a seat on the board the following year. She's been a downtown resident for almost all of her life. She was elected mayor of her hometown. That realization was eye-opening for me. I used to live down the street from the old cattle market when the closure of the CSX Railway and the relocation of the major employers in the town led to the loss of nearly 500 jobs in the community.

Erwin’s response to the crisis under Mayor Hensley’s leadership was the revival of the downtown community, allowing Erwin to transition from a manufacturing town to a tourist town. The town has found new ways of branding itself through outdoors tourism, festivals, farmers’ markets, and outdoor events.

The town has seen the development of new downtown businesses and residences, the redevelopment of historic buildings into homes, more park facilities, the location of a new 49,000-square-foot county hospital for patients in the northern part of the state, the opening of a new outdoor tourism-based attraction, and the addition of more art collectibles to downtown, such as more murals and Pyramids.

It is truly a rise that has even caught national attention with the town’s success stories being profiled by Governing magazine and National Public Radio.

TT&C: You have held various positions with the town of Erwin in the past. What first brought you to work for the city? Doris Hensley: I grew up here in Erwin and have lived here for my last 30 years. My family has actually been in the town for the last 30 years. I was born across the mountain in North Carolina, and we moved to the downtown area when I was five. I went to school in Erwin and graduated from Erwin High School and started my career in banking. After two years working in banking, I was hired by the town of Erwin in April of 1989. I started as a tax collector, and the time I came into the local bank where I was working, I asked the teller if there was an administrative assistant to do bookkeeping. At the time, I was only working part time at the bank. On a whim, I put in an application and two months later the tax collector position was all mine. I was the first person tax collector I have been able to improve the quality of service with the town made me feel I was better suited for the mayor position. Hopefully as mayor, my background will give me a lot of insight into the quality of life that our citizens in Erwin now enjoy. I think having worked for the town gave me an advantage. I was the first person tax collector. I think it opened up many doors, and I think I had a better understanding of how the tax collector position works. I feel I knew what they deserved. With that, I came in as mayor and was able to incorporate what I had learned. It was my love of Erwin, and the people who lived in the downtown area that I would like to see for the town.

TT&C: The closing of CSS in 2015 and the closure of the CSX railyard in 2018 could have led to major economic and community challenges. How do you think it is working out here to see how it has affected the community?

D.H.: We unfortunately had two vacancies on our downtown board and we had decided to have a town meeting to get the word out. The state was great in stepping up. They were the ones that we were able to get together to know how they could help. Everyone was interested in working together to participate. The state was able to step in. We were able to get together, and we were able to survive. We are also in the middle of evolution right now. The stores were torn up and businesses were hurt badly. It has been a tough period of time, but the downtown merchants association, we made a plan to get people downtown. We did TV ads and specials. We did a contest to get people downtown.

TT&C: How did Erwin relate about?

D.H.: What has been the result of this initia

TT&C: How did this revitalization help?

D.H.: We are still in the process of doing that. Every discussion that we have, every inven

TT&C: How has this revitalization helped to make Erwin unique?

D.H.: We will not want to lose our downtown flavor. We want to keep our downtown unique to Erwin. We want to grow, but we don’t want to lose our downtown flavor. We want our downtown.

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TT&C: City officials have been willing to partner with groups ranging from concerned citizens to TSA and on variou

TT&C: How do you think these partnerships benefit the town?

D.H.: We used to help to organize our reviv

TT&C: How would you advise others who may want to get in touch with a city official?

D.H.: We will do the same thing on them. It is very refreshing to see the people downtown. We do it. It’s just one big happy family. I knew most of the people, and I lived downtown. I went to the bank, but after working with them as a tax collector, they became like family to me.

I served as the administrative assistant for the town for six years. I was the tax collector and served in that position for 11 years. I served as an administrative assistant to do bookkeeping. At the time, I was only working part time at the bank. On a whim, I put in an application and two months later the tax collector position was all mine.

I have worked for the town for 30 years. I retired after 30 years. After my retirement, I worked at the courthouse and served in that position for 11 years. I served as an administrative assistant to do bookkeeping. At the time, I was only working part time at the bank. On a whim, I put in an application and two months later the tax collector position was all mine.

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I have learned that people are eager to help, you just have to ask them. They like to see Erwin do well, and they like to see Erwin as more of a community. Listening to folks, just like any other thing. A lot of people may not have asked, so I would go and find out. Even now, I find that 99 percent of the complaints are just one person wanting to be listened to. If you can help them it’s great; if you can’t help them, I think it is great for people to understand. It helps everyone get along better.

The best part of my job is when I get to help people. I hear people all the time say “I couldn’t be a politician. Well, I don’t think of myself as a politician. I think of myself as an advocate.”

I am here for the people. One of the things that I say to myself every morning is that if I can make one person happy, I have a reason to be here. Whether it’s giving someone a hug or saying hello or making them smile, I think it improves someone’s day and that is my goal.

We are all part of this town and their properties. They keep their town and their properties. They keep their properties neat and clean. I think we are one of the neatest towns in Tennessee. You drive through town and just see how much pride people take in the area.

TT&C: What are your next steps forward for a community? What are your hopes for Erwin’s future?

D.H.: We will have a lot more renovations to do. We want to extend the work to the north and south ends of town. Right now the renov

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