Cities can help meet afterschool care needs

BY KATE COLE

Municipalities can play a vital role in ensuring that children’s needs are met. For too many low-income families who struggle to balance work and safe places for their kids, afterschool and summer programs are a must.

Many municipalities already partner with the Tennessee After School Network to help connect parents to children’s programs. Several municipalities, like the National League of Cities and Memphis’ annual “Lights on Afterschool” program, have advocated for these programs.

Mary Graham, lead staff member of TML’s Community Development Network and president of the United Way of Tennessee, said municipalities can be an invaluable partner in providing and encouraging afterschool and summer programs in their areas.

"It’s a great partner and a really great ally, letting the right people at the table to help with the funding and with grants and support to states, counties and communities are needed. By working with the state of Tennessee, we can help close the gaps and putting kids on a path to success."

A recent study conducted by Tennessee for Quality Education and the United Way of Tennessee found that the state loses some $1.34 billion in earnings and revenue per child. This includes a loss of $354 million to $408 million to the state’s economy each year, which is a 7.2% decrease in gross domestic product.

Afterschool programs have been proven to reduce juvenile crime as well as improve both educational and future economic outcomes for both students and communities.

The study found that children who attend afterschool programs are already working with their city mayors and city councils, but there is so much more room to sit down and really get to know the community and the gaps. If you sit down and get to know the community, you might find the solutions that fit. These solutions are going to vary by city. For some, transportation to the programs may be the big issue, while for others, it might be finding the right space for these programs. There are a lot of creative ways that can happen when people who know the community sit down with this data in hand." 

One of the biggest needs throughout the state are summer programs, Graham said.

"It is one thing to pay for a summer camp for school year but it’s another to coordinate childcare, enrichment and summer school care for your children when you are working."

She added that some children are in rural areas where there is a lot of time and energy at the beginning of the school year or a loss over the summer. For a lot of these children, after school programs are the only place to go. See CARB on Page 3

BY CAROLE GRAVES

The Tennessee After School Network, in conjunction with United Way of Middle Tennessee and the United Way of Greater Nashville, announced the current fiscal year and the next succeeding fiscal year to be presented to the Governor and the chairs of the Senate and House Finance, Ways and Means Committees. The Administrations state these projections to develop Gov. Bill Lee’s budget plan for the upcoming fiscal year.

Based on the numbers adopted by the State Funding Board, the state is expected to generate an additional $534 million in FY 2021 in new general fund revenues. Last spring, the Tennessee General Assembly approved a budget that represented a 1.1% increase ($424 million) over FY 2019. It included the largest one-time deposit ($224 million) to the state’s rainy day fund, bringing the balance to $1.1 billion, the highest in the state’s history.

Year-to-date revenues for the first three months of FY 2020 are already above projections of $217.4 million more than the budgeted estimates, and a growth rate of 7.86%.

As state revenues are also up, According the Tennessee Quarter- ly Budget Report, new business filings for even home-based childcare, “Lights on Afterschool” program – hosts a yearly event encouraging municipalities to obtain low-cost state revenue for the remainder of fiscal 2019.

Based on new information about revenue collections, the governor can amend his budget to reflect revised revenue numbers.

Struggle for adequate childcare can create burdens for TN working families, municipalities

While the benefits for quality afterschool and summer care are numerou...
BELL BUCKLE
The town of Bell Buckle has received $100,000 in honor of late Mayor Eugene F. "Gene" Strobel. Strobel was a long-time member of the town board, serving from the late 1970s and 1980s. He also served as a member of the city's park and board and was involved in several neighborhood beautification projects. He helped the town secure the city USA status in 1991 and was instrumental in the development of the town in the 1980s. Strobel also served on the town's finance committee. He was instrumental in the town's development and was a driving force behind the town's growth. He passed away in 2016 at the age of 88.

CLIFTON
The city of Clifton is among the first to receive new federal drinking water grant awarded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Assistance for Small and Disadvantaged Communities Drinking Water Grant from the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIFIN) Act provides funds to assist small, under-served, and disadvantaged communities meet Safe Drinking Water Act requirements. The city will receive $707,500 in total grant funding which includes both federal and state funds for improvements to the city's water treatment plant that will improve the city's ability to comply with new regulations (SDWA).

COLUMBIA
Mersen will invest up to $65 million to expand its Mersen North America Columbia, S.C., facility. Mersen, a global leader in the design and manufacture of specialty materials, will create approximately 320 new jobs. The expansion will include upgrading and renovating a former manufacturing facility in Columbia. Mersen anticipates the plant will be operational by the end of 2022. Headquartered in France, Mersen designs innovative solutions, often in partnership with customers, to optimize their manufacturing performance. It offers innovations in the energy, electronics, transportations, aerospace, chemical, pharmaceuticals, and process industries. Mersen has over 35,000 employees across 15 countries.

DANDRIDGE
The city of Dandridge has purchased new exercise equipment for the city’s Recreation Center. The exercise machines were purchased with a $20,000 grant from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program under the city of Dandridge. The Dandridge Recreation Center has two walk-in centers, group exercise programs, personal training, a walking track, and activity room.

ELIZABETHTON
The city of Elizabethton is working with the Carter County Parks and Recreation Department to steadily triple the length of the Hampton Way trails from 1.2 miles to 4.2 miles. The current trail runs from the Sneed school to the Broadway Trailhead. The city has received a $100,000 grant from the Tennessee Department of Parks. Elizabethton, the city has trained 15 volunteers to help with the trail construction and has expanded the number of trails in the next three years.

GERMANTOWN
The U.S. Department of Commerce announced the City of Germantown has earned a 2019 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. The city is one of only four local municipalities nationwide to have received the award. Germantown earned a net promoter score of 61 in customer engagement in 2018 and has consistently exceeded the industry benchmark of 50, which is considered excellent. Germantown is the city’s only provisional award for performance excellence, recognizing U.S. organizations and businesses that have shown an unceasing drive for innovative solutions to complex challenges, visionary leadership and operational excellence.

HUMBLER
The city of Humboldt has entered into a partnership with the University of Tennessee Memphis (UTM) in its new municipal complex.

JOHNSON CITY
The city of Johnson City has passed an ordinance restricting the sale of dogs at pet stores within the city. The ordinance was passed on Jan. 1, 2020, and prohibits dogs from being sold as part of a pet store or in an animal’s owner’s store for more than 12 consecutive hours. Any animals cannot be displayed or sold in a pet store that has not been serviced within 24 hours. The ordinance then bans the display of any dog in stores without supervision in 2021. After this transitional year, the ban will be taken to the animal shelter.

KIMBALL
Kimiib Water Projects will expand its presence in the state and locate new operations in the town of Kimbball, creating up to 524 jobs in the next five years. Mueller plans to establish a new, 325,000-square-foot facility in Kimbball. The facility will enable Mueller to drive additional efficiencies in the production of products and activities and further leveraging the company’s product offerings. The company is currently undergoing the planning, transmission, and distribution of water and wastewater systems across the state of Tennessee. The company’s new facility will be utilized in the city and other communities across the state of Tennessee. The facility will be planned for use in the state and will be an important investment in improving the city’s ability to comply with new regulations (SDWA).

KNOXVILLE
The city is turning a 6,033-square- foot building into a new maker space for small-scale manufacturing. Mueller Water Products is purchasing the currently vacant, city-owned building for $100,000 and turning it into 19 studios and co-working spaces. The business centers also call for a gallery, lounge, kitchen and restroom spaces, community, Deweese Partnerships is known for recognizing U.S. organizations and businesses that have shown an unceasing drive for innovative solutions to complex challenges, visionary leadership and operational excellence.

KNOXVILLE
The city of Knoxville has submitted a proposal to the Tennessee Department of Transportation for the State Route 2-TENNESSEE TOWN & CITY/DEC. 16, 2018

SOUTHWEST TENNESSEE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT recently received a 2019 Acohilt Whitaker Impact Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for the State Volunteer Transportation Network (STVN). The volunteer ride programs are for adults who are 60 years and older, who are ambulatory but need some “hands-on” assistance. Pictured, from left to right, are STVN Volunteer Vice-Chairman and Hardeman County Mayor Jimmy, STVN Executive Director Joe Barker, STVN Chairman and Hardeman County Mayor Davis, NADO President Scott Rollin and STVN Budget Committee Chairman, and STVN President Broyion King.

Crossville officials take ride on city’s new bus service

Crossville Mayor James Mayberry, U. S. Rep. John Hose, and Cumberland County Mayor Allen Foster kick off an ride on the new Go Upper Cumberland bus service. The service will operate two routes within the city. The new transportation service will offer a dedicated fixed public transportation route with scheduled pick-up and drop-off within and outside the city.

Morristown breaks ground on 52-acre Heritage Park

Officials with the city of Morristown along with alumni and faculty of Morristown College celebrate the grand opening of the city’s new Heritage Park, which sits at the corner of North Church Avenue and North Main Street.

Knoxville completes street and sidewalk improvements

The 600 block of Market Street in Knoxville has reopened following completion of an extensive street and sidewalk improvement project that began last May. The $450,915 upgrade included rebuilding approximately 300 linear feet of concrete street with new sidewalks, curbs, and gutter. Additionally, native shade trees will be planted beginning this winter.
Because of inadequate childcare, an overwhelming 98 percent of Tennesseans with a child under the age of 5 said that they would make some career sacrifice because of a lack of childcare, whether that was turning down a promotion, having their hours cut, losing a job, or being unable to be as productive as they would have liked.

The top two challenges for these parents were affordability of childcare (63%) and access to childcare that would accommodate their work schedule (69%).

“There has been some improvements on the child care reimbursement rate in Tennessee last year, but it’s not enough,” Collier said. “We have so many families who are one flat tire or medical bill away from being financially destitute. You also have to think about the fact that not everyone has regular hours. Trying to arrange for childcare and afterschool programs can be difficult. There are areas where there isn’t any programs, even if people have money.

While afterschool and summer care are often financially out of reach for Tennessee parents, the benefits of these programs can last well into adulthood for children.

Data from the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth’s annual Kids Count survey found that only one in five children in Tennessee currently involved in an afterschool program. This means there are two children in Tennessee who said they would enroll if a program were available to them.

By the time they are age 12, every $1 invested in these programs in Tennessee has translated into an estimated $3 back to the state’s economy.

Beyond that, after school programs can have a noticeable impact on the trajectory of students.

“Afterschool is really all about supporting working parents, but it also helps students reach their potential,” Graham said. “We know kids in good programs are less likely to abuse substances. They are more likely to advance to the next grade level, to graduate, and to earn higher grades and do better on standardized tests. These programs provide kids with healthy, nutritional snacks and physical activity. These pieces are all so important.”

The Kids Count survey found that children who attend afterschool programs have higher earning potential than those who don’t. They are more likely to attend school regularly, have better school performance, and aren’t at as high a risk of becoming juvenile offenders. Juvenile crime peaks in the heat of summer.

After school and summer programs also provide children with a chance for physical activity and healthy snacks. Because children may not receive at home, these physical and nutritional benefits can also improve health care system outcomes.

For older students, afterschool programs can also help develop skills for future employment, community service, and explore future careers.

If a closer look at afterschool and summer care needs in individual communities, visit afterschool.org/tennessee.

“Obviously, you are reducing juvenile crime, but you are also building the workforce of the future,” Graham said. “You are creating an environment where employers want to come and bring jobs. You are going to have a healthier, more financially stable economy.”

For more resources on current and establishing new afterschool and summer programs, visit www.tnafterschool.org.

Collierville Fire Department hosts first peer review, benchmarking training program in West Tennessee

BY JENNIFER CASEY

Collierville PIO

The Collierville Fire Department recently hosted the Tennes- see Commission on Firefighting Educational Incentive Pay Pro- gram Peer Review.

The peer review meetings are a positive way to allow neighboring fire departments to benchmark training topics and ideas for their own department. Peer review also serves as a valuable networking tool for firefighters train- ing professionals across the state.

The peer review held at the Collierville Fire Department Administration building was to approve each participating fire de- partments’ incentive pay training for 2020.

The Educational Incentive is a supplemental bonus paid to firefighters for completing a minimum of 40 hours of annual, commission-approved training. The training program is submitted to the commission for approval and is conducted by each local fire department.

Training officers and other chief representatives from 12 cities across West Tennessee attended the peer review and were able to utilize the Collierville Fire Department’s state-of-the-art facility and resources.

“Everyone was very im- pressed with our facilities, tech- nology, and our town’s hospitali- ty,” said Bobby Cannon, Collier- ville fire training officer.

The Collierville Fire Depart- ment teaches training classes on a regular basis, and makes an extra effort to help the town’s firefight- ers receive this training to improve quality training.

“We encourage all Collierville Fire Department personnel to seek training and educational opportunities, Collectively, we annually log thousands of these hours,” Collierville Fire Chief Buddy Billings said.
Former TML Executive Director Joe Sweat dies

The city of Collierville, where Sweat served as the city manager for 13 years and is currently employed by the town of Collier, named the park in honor of late Kingsport Public Works Director Roger Clark Award at the TCAPWA's (TCAPWA) Annual Conference and Exhibition in 2016.

The award was recently announced to the city's citizens, but very happy to help guide them into democracy. He was proud of his work there and very happy to help guide them into democracy.

Sweat retired from TML in 1998 and worked as a lobbyist for the ALCU of Tennessee. He even-

Not long is too large or too small

Paris recently closed a $1 million fixed-rate drawdown loan with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF) to fund improvements to the city's parks and related park facilities for the city. Paris has used TMBF loan programs 10 times, beginning in 1988, for a total of $22,955,000. Seated at the table and related park facilities for the city. Paris has used TMBF loan programs 10 times, beginning in 1988, for a total of $22,955,000.

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For the third year in a row, Ten- nessees have been named the top state in the nation against human trafficking. Shared Hope Interna-
tional’s “Protected Innocence Challenge” gave Tennessee the top grade of all states in its legal and legislative efforts to protect juvenile sex trafficking survivors and hold both buyers and traf-
fickers responsible. Tennessee has received the report’s highest grade in every year since 2017. Tennessee professionals praised the law for “continuing to extend civil statues of limitations and remove criminal limitations” to recognize their victimization before seeking justice in the court system. The Tennessee Department of Justice Investment said a child is bought or sold for sex in the U.S. every two minutes, and the crime of human trafficking is the second-fastest growing criminal industry behind drug trafficking.

An all-time high number of students in Tennessee have tak-
en the ACT with 99% of Ten-
nessee’s 2019 graduating class offering results in an average composite score of 23.

Education Commissioner Penny Schwinn announced that students earned a score of 21 or higher in English and the highest score on the HOPE Scholarship. The average ACT score for the public school 12th grade class of 2019 in each subject area was 19.6 in English, 0.1 point decrease from 2018, 19.4 in math, 0.1 point decrease from 2018, 20.5 in reading, 0.2 point decrease and 20.0 in science, 0.1 point decrease.

The Department of Justice has announced new funding to combat drug trafficking, violent crime reduction, op-
ioid use disorder, gun violence, child abuse, forklift safety, school security, victim services, transitional housing for survivors of violence, victim, law enforcement agriculture, and housing for survivors of juvenile and jeri.”

The Tennessean

The state had 393,136 uninsured residents. Before the ACA went into effect, they couldn’t afford insurance. The percentage of respondents without insurance fell to only 10.9% in 2017. The state saw an increase in new entity filings suggesting continued economic growth for Tennessee.

The Tennessee Quarterly Report released during the third quarter of 2019, representing a robust 12.7% increase over the same quarter last year. These four counties account-
for 59.2% of all new entity fil-
ings in the state. Davidson County recorded the largest number with 2,683, followed by Shelby with 2,440.

Initial filings grew for the 32nd consecutive quarter, signal-
ing that Tennessee’s economic expansion will continue through the next year,” Dr. William Fox said. For more information on the director of that Business for Economic Research at the University of Ten-
nessee, Knoxville.

The state reported a preterm birth rate of 11.1% higher than the national rate of 10.02%. The state also recorded a high preterm birth rate among black women with 14.5% more likely to have a premature birth than any other group of women. While the state’s infant mortality fell to only 3.8 deaths, Tennessee still has an infant mortality rate above the national average.

The number of unlicensed Ten-
nessee schools increased for the third year in a row, according to a new study published by the University of Tennessee’s Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research. The number of such schools increased in the state, from 10,249 residents without in-
surance in the year with a total of 48,096 Tennesseans having no insurance. The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth, which will then be awarded to rural and urban transit agencies to pur-
chase passenger and specialized vehicles to replace older vehicles or increase their service to underserved populations.

This action will ensure vehicles are in good working condi-
tions throughout the state. The state is committed to extend the state’s competitiveness and post-
secondary attainment goals.

The department also recorded 19,336 annual report filings by existing businesses in Tennessee in the third quarter of 2019 – an 18.3% decline from the second quarter of 2019. The state had 618,445 uninsured residents. An increase in new entity fil-
ings suggests continued economic growth for Tennessee.

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The Quarterly report is a product of the Secretary of State’s office and the Boyd Center for Business & Economic Research.

It is intended to provide a snapshot of the state’s economy based on a variety of information, including new business data from the Tennessee Division of Business Services.

Tennessean’s Mary McGaheys Magic Place All-Inclusive Playground was voted the 2019 Award for ‘Best New Facility Over $500,000,’ by Pikemart.com. The Magic Place Co-founder Rachel McAlley, Assistant Director Dallas Ling, and Special Event Coordinator Andrea Wisher.

The Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association (TRPA) recently presented its annual awards at the association’s 86th Annual Conference held in

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Since 1949, the National Civic League has designated 10 communities each year as All-American Cities for their outstanding civic accomplishments.

The National Civic League is now accepting applications for the 2020 All-American City Award, focused on enhancing health and well-being through civic engagement. We are looking for applicants with community-driven projects that reflect the concept that good health for the entire community requires a focus on mental, physical, spiritual, cultural and economic well-being.

Cities, counties, and towns invited to apply have until February 19, 2020, to submit their application.

Begin your community’s application today to become a 2020 All-American City!
The troubling decline in city revenue growth by

By KATHRYN ARTHUR and RICHARD GREENE

The most startling conclusion of The National League of Cities’ new fiscal conditions report was that revenue growth dropped below zero in 2019—after a trend that has continued—creating real problems for city budgets. This “same trend” that has shocked us so much because gross domestic product from coast to coast continues to grow. This is why economists from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, “Real gross domestic product increased at an annual rate of 2.1% in 2019, compared with an increase of 3.1% in 2018. The same trend has continued—creating real problems for city budgets.”

So, the question emerges: Why has the economy remained healthy, why are so many cities struggling, and why has growth stagnation or decline been common across all cities in the past decade?

The average life expectancy in the United States is now 78.9 years, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Women have a life expectancy of 81.2 years, while men have a life expectancy of 75.7 years. The rate of death from all causes has decreased over the past decade, but the rate of death from chronic diseases has increased.

This is likely due to the fact that many people are living longer, but their health is declining. As people live longer, they are more likely to develop chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, and diabetes.

One of the biggest sources of city revenue is property taxes. However, as property values decrease, the amount of money that cities receive from property taxes also decreases.

The city’s drops in property values have been historically low for the last few years. The city’s property values have not been able to keep up with the low rate of inflation.

Other cities have actually seen sales tax revenues decrease, due to the low rate of inflation.

While property taxes are a major source of revenue for many cities, they have largely stayed stable, with the exception of a few cities in the past few years.

Michael Pagano, co-author of the NLC report, is also dean of the School of Public and Urban Affairs at the University of Maryland. He has found that women are succumbing to the epidemic of drug overdoses. According to Pagano, "Women are more likely to die from drug overdoses than men, and their deaths are more likely to be linked to prescription opioids."

The epidemic of drug overdoses and the opioid crisis are causing significant problems for cities across the country. Cities are struggling to provide sufficient resources to address the crisis. Some of the solutions that cities are implementing include expanding access to treatment, increasing funding for prevention programs, and increasing support for community organizations.

The city’s sales tax revenues increased by 3.5% in 2019, but the city’s property tax revenues decreased by 2.5% in the same year.

The city’s sales tax revenues have been increasing for the past few years, while the city’s property tax revenues have been decreasing.

The city’s sales tax revenues have been increasing at a rate of 3% per year over the past five years, while the city’s property tax revenues have been decreasing at a rate of 2% per year over the same period.

In addition to property taxes, the city’s sales tax revenues have also been increasing. This is likely due to the city’s economic growth and increased consumer spending.

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Tennessee municipalities celebrate the season

COOKEVILLE: A Christmas ornament frames the city of Cookeville's Christmas tree, which stands along with other light displays at Dogwood Park. The displays are part of the city's annual Christmas in the Park Event.

FARRAGUT: Residents enjoy the sights of Farragut’s Light the Park event. The town’s public works department builds each tree of lights and the number grows every year.

KNOXVILLE: Downtown Knoxville’s Market Square is transformed into an ice rink for the annual Holidays on Ice Presented by Home Federal Bank. The rink is open until Jan. 5, 2020, and several theme nights and lessons will be offered throughout the season.

GREENEVILLE: Mayor W.T. Daniels flipped the switch Dec. 2 to light the Christmas tree on the town hall lawn, signaling the beginning of the city’s holiday season. The ceremony was attended by a crowd of elected officials and employees of the town of Greeneville who enjoyed finger foods and Christmas music in the town hall lobby.

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BOLIVAR: Market Street in Bolivar is decorated in holiday lights for the Bolivar Christmas parade.

ERWIN: The Budweiser Clydesdales and Beer Wagon made its first of three appearances in the Tri-Cities area in Erwin at the town’s Food City complex. The horses, drivers, and accompanying Dalmatian made stops in Erwin, at Holston Distributing Co. in Johnson City, and as part of the Bristol Christmas Parade.

GALLATIN: Girl Scouts dressed as polar bears wave from a float during the city of Gallatin’s annual Christmas Parade downtown.

SPRING HILL: Holiday decorations are displayed on utility poles lining Main Street in Spring Hill.

COLLIERVILLE: The entire Collierville Town Square is lit up during the town’s official tree lighting ceremony. (Photo Credit: Cindy Thymius / Tour Collierville.)

BRENTWOOD: Brentwood residents celebrate the lighting of the city’s Christmas tree, which includes special ornaments to mark the city’s 50th anniversary this year.

JOHNSON CITY: Celebrating both the holidays and the city’s 150th anniversary, this float in the Johnson City Christmas Parade commemorates the return of President Andrew Johnson to his hometown via train after his term ended 150 years ago.

LA VERGNE: La Vergne Mayor Jason Cole and his family visit with Santa Claus during the lead up to the city’s Parade of Lights. The event concluded with a fireworks display at La Vergne City Hall.

KINGSPORT: Residents gather downtown for the city of Kingsport’s official tree lighting following the city’s Christmas parade (Photo Credit: Payton Hammitt).

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