

Registration Now Open



Legislative Conference set for March 16-17

Join us March 16-17, at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Nashville for TML's Legislative Conference.

The two-day event is a chance to hear state leaders address the municipal issues being debated in the General Assembly. The conference provides an excellent forum to interact with legislators as well as other municipal officials.

The voice of Tennessee's municipal governments must be heard in the legislative process, and the TML Legislative Conference is a key opportunity to communicate that message.

TML has moved to an online registration process. The form can be used to register all city officials, <https://www.cognitofirms.com/TML1/2020TMLLegislativeConference>. A second form is available to register guests and spouses.

Access to TML's group rate at the DoubleTree is only available after a paid registration form has been submitted. The form will redirect to the hotel registration page after submission, and a copy of the link to the hotel group will also be included in the confirmation email.

The TML special room rate will be available until Feb. 14, or until the group block is sold out, whichever comes first.

Contact Sylvia Harris at sharris@tml1.org with any additional questions.

TML President meets with top Washington Cabinet members, discusses municipal priorities



Municipal leaders from across the country participate in Women Leaders Conference at the White House.

Jill Holland, McKenzie mayor and TML president, was recently invited to participate in the Municipal Women Leaders Conference at the White House.

On Dec. 12, 2019, 75 women from across the nation met to hear briefings and participate in discussions with Vice President Mike Pence and senior administration officials, including Education Secretary Betsy DeVos; Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao; U.S. Treasurer Jovita Carranza; Export-Import Bank of the U.S. Chairman Kim Reed; Doug Hoelscher, deputy assistant to the President and director of Office of Intergovernmental Affairs; Kristan Nevins, assistant to the President and cabinet secretary; Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Daren Dunn Kelley, and Scott Turner, executive director, White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council.

Leaders discussed issues impacting respective communities and on shared Federal-State-local priorities, such as infrastructure, rural prosperity, energy development, opportunity zones, regulatory reform, and combatting the opioid crisis.

The Department of Intergovernmental Affairs is committed to fostering and building relationships with state and local leaders around the country.

Attendees were encouraged to reach out to the Intergovernmental Affairs Team to continue to share information on challenges and opportunities and how their communities are proactively advancing opportunity zones, affordable housing challenges, combatting the

drug/opioid crisis, and developing workforce and economic development initiatives.

Each attendee received a contact list of key personnel for each department available to aid and assist the communities in their various challenges.

111th General Assembly reconvenes



Photos by The Tennessean

Lt. Gov. Randy McNally gavels in the Senate.

Both chambers were gavelled back into session Jan. 14, with the House under the new leadership of Speaker Cameron Sexton.

The second session of the the 111th Tennessee General Assembly will take up a variety of issues including criminal justice reform, school funding and teacher pay, and a paid family and medical leave policy.



The House reconvenes under the new leadership of Speaker Cameron Sexton.

Some of the more controversial issues include medical marijuana, refugee resettlement, Medicaid block grants, and school vouchers.

With record savings in the state's rainy-day fund amid budget surpluses over the past several years, many legislators are considering another tax cut this year. Among those discussed include implementing a second sales tax

holiday, reductions to the corporate franchise and excise tax, and eliminating the state's professional privilege tax.

Gov. Bill Lee is set to present his legislative agenda and proposed budget during the State of the State Address on Feb. 3.

Legislative action is expected to proceed at a rapid pace, with an eye on an early adjournment, perhaps by mid-April.

Manchester, Tullahoma mobility plan to provide increased connectivity between both cities

BY KATE COIL
TML Communications Specialist

The cities of Manchester and Tullahoma have teamed up for a regional mobility plan that will increase alternative access in both communities, promote healthy lifestyles, encourage use of local parks, and create safe routes to schools.

The beginning of the mobility plan comes from a countywide bike and pedestrian plan developed to increase opportunities for safe exercise throughout the area. Representatives from both Manchester and Tullahoma sat on the council, including Manchester Parks and Recreation Director Bonnie Gamble.

Gamble said by working together with Tullahoma officials on the country bike and pedestrian plan, officials from both cities realized they had a lot of similar transportation challenges but also a lot of ways in which both municipalities could work together to better link the 10 miles between their city limits.

Tullahoma Planning and Codes Director Lee Lawson said the project seemed a natural move for both cities.

"Bonnie Gamble approached us about doing it as a joint project because it was already regional in the scope of the project," Lawson said. "Whenever you apply for a



Manchester and Tullahoma have partnered on a regional mobility plan financed through a TDOT Community Transportation Planning grant. The goal of the plan is to provide more opportunities for pedestrian and cyclist traffic within and between both communities.

planning grant from TDOT, you have to apply though the regional development district. The joint application is already stronger. We are both in the same rural planning organization, so we already take a regional approach to long-range transportation plans."

Together, the cities applied for and received a Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) Community Transportation Planning Grant worth \$89,809. Each city provided \$4,989 in matching funds for the grant to finance the Tullahoma-Manchester Community Mobility Plan.

Working together, officials from both cities identified several major corridors they wanted to develop as part of the mobility plan:

- State Highway 55 between Manchester and Tullahoma,
- U.S. Highway 41 from Manchester City limits in the north end of the city through town to the AEDC interchange,
- Old Manchester/Old Tullahoma Highway from the Manchester City Limits to the Tullahoma City Limits,
- U.S. Highway 41A through Tullahoma from the Moore County Line south to the Franklin County line,
- The area where the corridors of Carroll Street (State Highway 55) and East Lincoln Street run parallel west from the eastern city limits of Tullahoma to U.S. Highway 41A, and
- Wilson Avenue (State Highway 55) from U.S. Highway 41A west to the Moore County line.

Jamie Sain, codes director of the city of Manchester, said the routes were selected because of their status as major thoroughfares or connectors.

"The planning grant is really supposed to focus on the state highway corridors we were concerned

with," Sain said. "We included both the current highways and the old highways that run adjacent to the current highways. We wanted all of our major corridors running through both cities as well as the corridors that connect both cities to be included in the project."

Manchester Parks and Recreation Director Bonnie Gamble said the plan is useful for both state and local purposes.

"This plan gives TDOT a heads up as to what residents want in terms of pedestrian and bike lanes," Gamble said. "When they do planning on the state roads, they know to include these now because there is a demand. TDOT plans out so far ahead that you need to have a community plan to show them what you need. This plan helps prioritize for both communities where sidewalk projects are most immediately needed, which is important for future development."

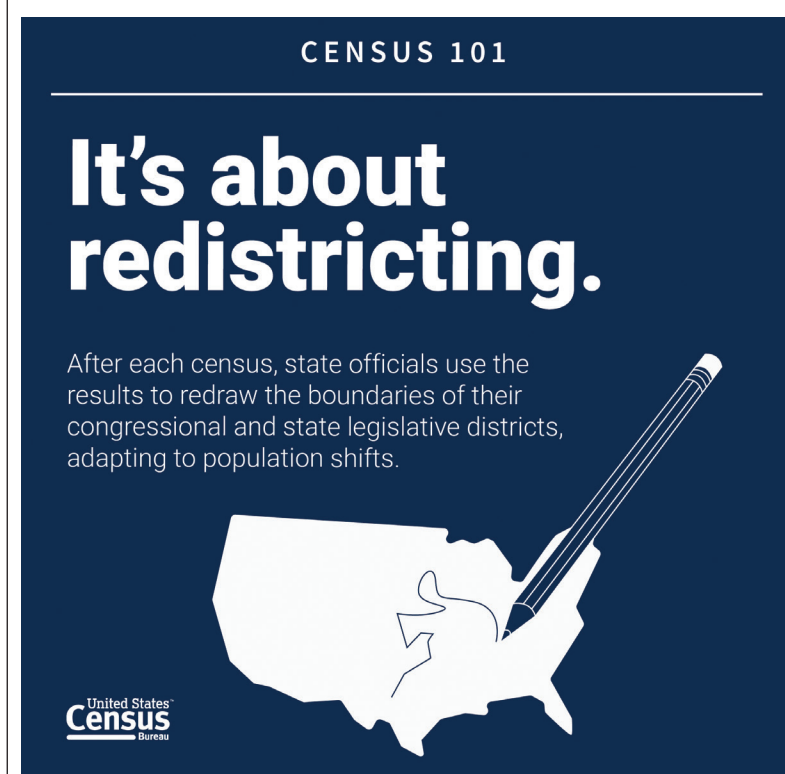
When selecting the corridors for the plan, both cities looked at a variety of community needs. Tullahoma City Manager Jennifer Moody said improving both access to local parks and health alternatives were important priorities. Both local parks and state parks like the Short Springs Natural Area and Old Stone State Park are considerable attractions.

"We are between two major recreational lakes," Moody said. "Manchester's greenway connects into Old Stone State Park, which is both along a state highway and very close to their downtown. Both of our communities are building out our greenway systems together. This plan allows us to connect our two greenway systems."

Gamble says both communities serve as gateways to local tourism opportunities.

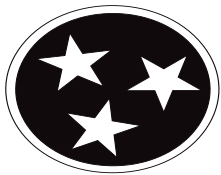
"Tourism, economic, and community development are very important," she said. "One of the See **MOBILITY** on Page 3

Census 2020 is closer than you think!



The results determine how many seats in Congress each state gets. The U.S. Constitution requires that electoral districts be periodically adjusted or redrawn to account for population shifts. Each decade, the census reveals where populations have risen or fallen. State legislatures or independent bipartisan commissions handle the process of redrawing congressional district lines. The U.S. Census Bureau provides population counts to the states for this purpose. To learn how you can help, go to www.census.gov/partners

NEWS
ACROSS
TENNESSEE



BRISTOL

The city of Bristol has outlined more than \$100 million in commercial and residential construction projects, representing a \$42 million percent increase in building activity since early summer 2019. The building permits issued by the city ranges from minor roof repairs and window replacements to the \$31.6 million Vance Middle School project. The most recent report includes 346 total projects worth \$104.3 million. Other major projects in the area include the \$18 million Tenneva Hotel on Shelby Street, the \$7.2 million Friendship Ford Dealership, the \$7.9 million Friendship Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram Dealership, an \$8.2 million multi-family residential development on Stafford Street, a \$2.7 million Best Buy retail building at the Pinnacle, the \$2.3 million Weigel’s Convenience Store, and a \$2.7 million medical office building on Steeles Road.

CHATTANOOGA

Volkswagen is adding 380 production team member positions to its Chattanooga plant, which will put the number of plant employees at more than 4,000. The company said the positions are in production, manufacturing, machine operation, warehouse, and logistics and will last for a contract period of up to a year. The employees will be working on production of the new Volkswagen Atlas Cross Sport as well as the Passat and Atlas models. Tennessee is Volkswagen’s headquarters and base for its North American production of electric vehicles and recently broken ground on a \$800 million expansion at the Chattanooga plants.

COLLIERVILLE

The town of Collierville has kicked off a campaign to celebrate its 150th anniversary this year. The town aims to “Shine a Light” on the area’s history, beginning with an anniversary celebration on Feb. 17 in the Historic Town Square. The town has also launched the website collierville150.com to inform residents about local history. Though first incorporated in 1850 as a railroad community, the town lost its charter after it was burned to the ground during the Civil War as part of Sherman’s famed March to the Sea. After several years of rebuilding and reaquiring former town land, he town was reincorporated on Feb. 17, 1870.

DUNLAP

Mann + Hummel USA will invest \$15 million and create up to 50 jobs at its facility in Dunlap in the next five years. The German-owned manufacturer currently employs 300 at the Dunlap facility, which it opened in 2011. Once complete, the capital investment will allow the company to meet growing demand from automotive OEMs as well as manufacturers of commercial and industrial vehicles. The company anticipates the majority of the new jobs will be in production. Mann + Hummel will invest in new equipment and building improvements to the plant, which produces air intake manifolds and filtration systems for automotive OEMs. Mann + Hummel currently employs nearly 300 Tennesseans at its Dunlap facility. Headquartered in Ludwigsburg, Germany, Mann + Hummel and its subsidiaries employ more than 21,000 people at more than 80 locations worldwide. Within the U.S., Mann + Hummel has operations in Cali-

fornia, Illinois, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.

FARRAGUT

The town of Farragut recently cut the ribbon on a new community center located at the former Faith Lutheran Church. The town purchased the site in 2018 through a partnership with Knox County. In lieu of a 20-year lease on the property, the county paid the majority of the renovation costs for the 40-year-old building in exchange for usage of the bottom floor of the structure as the new West Knox County Senior Center. In addition to the county senior center, city residents will have access to an upstairs gymnasium, a smaller gym with stage, an assembly hall and rental space created from the church’s former sanctuary, catering kitchen, and two classrooms. The Farragut Parks and Recreation Department will be hosting volleyball, pickleball, and basketball in the larger gym as well as a toddler play period in the smaller gym. While those using the facility do not have to be Farragut residents, they are required to have a free membership card offered through the city in order to use the free gym and other facilities.

FAYETTEVILLE

JCF Housements will invest \$10 million and create 250 jobs in the next year and a half after purchasing an 80,000-square-foot speculative building located in Fayetteville. JCF Housements specializes in manufactured homes and company officials said the Fayetteville location is ideal for reaching markets in Nashville, Chattanooga, and Huntsville, Ala., as well as the southeastern region at large. JCF Housements is a division of Spring Hill-based JCF Residences, which was founded in 1993 as JCF Real Estate. Many of the homes manufactured by the company are made for the rental market.

GALLATIN

The Gallatin Parks Department and Gallatin Chamber of Commerce hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Miracle Park located at Triple Creek Park. The all-inclusive facility will be accessible to both children and adults featuring three separate attractions: a wheelchair accessible baseball field, a pedal park for teaching bicycle safety, and a fully-inclusive playground. The playground will allow both children with disabilities and those who are able-bodied to play together.

GERMANTOWN

Construction has begun on a more-than-\$2.4 million new greenway trailhead and greenway extension that will add an additional 1.5 miles to the Germantown Greenway. The trailhead will be located at Wolf River and Farmington Boulevard and will create additional parking spaces at the trailhead. The project is expected to be completed in the fall and has been funded through state and federal funding granted to the city in 2016. The first segment of the project will connect the 0.4 miles between Neshoba Park and the trailhead by the Stern Cardiovascular Center. The second segment will connect the greenway 0.75 miles from the Cameron Brown Park to the new trailhead.

HENDERSON

Arvin Sango, Inc., will expand its existing manufacturing facility in Henderson, creating 153 new jobs in the next five years. The automotive parts manufacturer has expanded its Henderson location three times since 2008 to keep up with growing demand. Arvin Sango is a wholly owned subsidiary of Sango Co., Ltd. and a world leader in manufacturing automotive emissions systems. It supplies stamped auto body parts and door safety parts for the automotive industry. The company’s customers include major brands such as Toyota and Nissan. Sango Co. is headquartered in Japan, and Arvin Sango is headquartered in Indiana.

KNOXVILLE

The city of Knoxville has been named one of the top 2020 travel destinations by magazine *Conde*

Nast Traveler. The city was listed as one of the top five U.S. travel destinations based on web searches for hotels and social media feeds. Destinations like the University of Tennessee, nearby mountain trails, and the city’s collections of museums and galleries are among the destinations the magazine said travelers have been looking into. Other locations on the list included Big Island, Hawaii; Key West, Fla.; Detroit, Mich.; and Austin, Texas.

MANCHESTER

Several new upgrades are coming to the Manchester Soccer Complex. The Manchester Board of Mayor and Aldermen recently approved a \$172,000 contract for the installation of new, ADA-compliant restrooms and water fountains at the site. The city is also installing new LED lights at the complex, which will make it the first soccer complex in the county with LED lighting. Both projects will total about \$672,000 with half the cost being funded through a Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) grant. Additional grant funds will be used for playground renovations at the soccer complex.

MEMPHIS

Hyosung Heavy Industries (HICO) will locate its first U.S. production operations in Memphis, investing \$86.9 million and creating 410 jobs in the city in the next seven years. HICO will update an existing Memphis facility to increase production capacity and keep up with growing demand. The company will produce technologically advanced state-of-the-art power transformers at its new manufacturing facility in Memphis and plans to start production by the first half of 2020. Headquartered in Seoul, South Korea, HICO specializes in manufacturing electrical power equipment such as transformers, switchgear, flexible AC transmission systems and energy storage solutions. The company exports its products to customers around the globe and has established itself as one of the leading manufacturers in the power transformer business for the last 50 years.

MONTEREY

Volunteers, contract workers, and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency are among those working on improvements to Monterey’s Meadow Creek Park. The Upper Cumberland chapter of the Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association (SORBA) volunteered to help build trails around the 288-acre park’s lake. Volunteers from a local rock climbing association also recently contributed to work in another area of a park, constructing a natural stone staircase and wooden ladder along with the majority of a trail to the cliffs at the park. Contractors are working on the park entrance, funding through a grant from Perdue. The town will also soon bid out a trail extension and connector from the park to Burks Elementary School, being funded through a \$256,000 Project Diabetes Grant from the Tennessee Department of Health. The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency has also stocked trout in Meadow Creek Lake and will be stocking the pond again in coming months.

SPRING HILL

The city of Spring Hill has received a \$3,000 grant from the Governor’s Foundation for Health and Wellness (GFHW) to install signage near the city’s gateway entrances, as well as a flag designating Spring Hill’s health achievements. The grant comes as part of the kickoff of the 2020 Spring Hill Mayor’s Fitness Challenger and after the city was designated a Healthier Tennessee gold member in December by the GFHW. The annual Mayor’s Challenge was created to promote better health and wellness in the city. Maury Regional Medical Center as well as local schools, businesses and public/private partnerships also participate. Presented by Healthier Spring Hill and Spring Hill Parks and Recreation, the Mayor’s Challenge is an extension of the broader Healthier Tennessee initiative, created by former Gov. Bill Haslam.

Greeneville accepts funds
for inclusive playground



Two local organizations recently made a \$7,573 donation to the town to help fund an all-inclusive playground being planned for the town’s Hardin Park. The GWFC Greeneville Woman’s Club donated \$5,073 from their Taste of Greeneville fundraiser. A matching grant of \$2,500 was also provided by Modern Woodmen. Left to right: GFWC Greeneville Woman’s Club President Kathy Bird, Modern Woodmen Chapter Activity Coordinator Vera Ann Myers, Town of Greeneville Parks and Recreation Athletic Director Tim Bowman, and Modern Woodmen Financial Representative Jake Ottinger.

Donated ambulance to help
Fayetteville PD special ops



From left to right, Fayetteville Police Department Commander Jesse Casias and Chief Richard Howell accept the keys to a decommissioned ambulance from Lincoln Health System and Lincoln Medical Center Director of Ambulance Service Richard Wright and LHS Interim Chief Executive Russ Spray. The ambulance will be used by FPD’s Special Operations Response Team (SORT). The ambulance unit is no longer able to be used by the Lincoln Health System and Lincoln Medical Center Ambulance Service due to a recent change in a federal regulation that altered the requirement for the necessary headroom in the patient compartment.

Bolivar Police Department officers
receive safety awards from state



Bolivar Officer Chris Wilkerson, left, and Officer Nelly Munzo, right, were recently honored by the Tennessee Highway Safety Office (THSO) at the West Tennessee Highway Safety Awards. Munoz received the Seatbelt Enforcement Award while Wilkerson was presented with the Child Passenger Safety Award.

Niota celebrates suffrage legacy



This miniature version of Knoxville’s statue of Febb and Harry T. Burn has been on display at the Niota Train Depot and will be part of the town’s celebration of its role in the passage of the 19th Amendment. Harry T. Burn was the state representative from Niota when he cast the vote that ratified women’s suffrage in Tennessee and thereby the rest of the nation. On Jan. 31, the town will unveil a mural dedicated to this moment in history and the town will hold events on Feb. 1 including a play, re-enactments, and display historic artifacts regarding the suffrage movement.

TENNESSEE TOWN & CITY
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New Chattanooga program seeks to curb non-emergency 911 calls, related costs

As part of efforts to increase efficiency and effectiveness, the Chattanooga Fire Department has recently implemented a program that is easing the strain on emergency services and getting citizens who routinely call 911 the help they need in other ways.

CFD Connect was established in partnership with the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga’s (UTC) Social Work Program. The program places two social work master’s level interns with firefighters.

The goal of the program is to address high users of non-emergency calls, like medical assists and lift assist calls, that can otherwise compete with true emergency calls. CFD Connect works to ensure there are services in place for those particular individuals who make frequent calls in order to decrease their dependence on the 911 system.

“We have seen a dramatic increase in these calls in recent years, and we want to address the problem and find a solution rather than put a Band-Aid on it,” Fire Chief Phil Hyman said. “This program has tremendous promise. It’s a proactive approach. We’re going above and beyond for our community,”

Officials with the Chattanooga Fire Department recently presented early statistics from the program before the Chattanooga City Council. The total cost of non-emergency 911 calls has added up for the city over the years.

In 2018, there were 144 calls for one person alone, with an estimated price tag of \$18,720 for the responding crew and fire truck. If the pace continued with no intervention the associated cost for the city for just that one call could be \$85,020 in 2019. The department responded to 1,468 such calls in Fiscal Year 2019 alone.

While there are no official statistics on the number of 911



Chattanooga Fire Department EMS Coordinator Captain Skyler Phillips, left, University of Tennessee Social Work Clinical Instructor April Wilson, center, and Fire Chief Phil Hyman, right, discuss the fire department’s outreach program for frequent 911 callers and its results at the Chattanooga Fire and Police Training Center. The new CFD Connect program is largely aimed at those who repeatedly call 911 for non-emergency situations, providing them with resources that more accurately meet their needs. In addition to lessening the amount of non-emergency calls coming into the system, the program is also saving money for the city.

calls nationally that turn out to be non-emergencies, there are more than 240 million calls made to 911 in the U.S. each year. Of those, experts suggest that anywhere between 15 and 20% - roughly 36 million to 48 million - 911 calls are non-emergencies.

While many states, counties, and cities make it a crime to call 911 for non-emergency purposes, these cases are rarely prosecuted. As a result, the cost of these non-emergency calls are often paid by the cities and taxpayers.

Searching for a solution to the city’s overtaxed 911 system, EMS Coordinator Cpt. Skyler Phillips reached out to multiple fire departments across the U.S. and created a Chattanooga model for addressing the issue in coordination with a number of community partners, including the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

UTC students intern at CFD and they each work 16 hours a week

with Phillips. The students go out on home visits based on call data and firefighter concerns. For the citizens who are frequent users of 911, the interns conduct a needs assessment and connect them to the proper resources, like their insurance companies and other case managers.

Since the program began, there has been a 63% decrease in non-emergency calls associated with the 13 clients CFD Connect has worked with, saving the city thousands of dollars.

CFD Connect has cost the city no money up until this point, but with funding, the program can continue to have a greater impact in the community. The Chattanooga Fire Department is looking into ways of expanding the program, including hiring an additional position to do EMS work and increase the number of UTC interns working with the program.

Brentwood launches campaign to reduce plastic bottle waste

The Brentwood Environmental Board (EAB) launched its first major environmental campaign on Jan. 9, aimed at reducing plastic pollution.

The campaign is called “Refill Reduce Brentwood” and the idea, sparked by the volunteer board, aims to reduce the number of plastic bottles being used in our city.

More than 60 million plastic bottles end up in landfills and incinerators every day – a total of about 22 billion last year.

The EAB is encouraging all residents and businesses to get on board by carrying their favorite refillable container whenever possible and helping to spread the word by placing a “Refill Reduce Brentwood” sticker on that container.

“As a society, we have put a lot of emphasis on recycling, but reducing consumption by utilizing reusable containers is essential for effective environmental conservation,” said EAB Chairman David Carden. “Using a refillable container helps to keep our community cleaner, avoids the need for recycling trucks on our roads, and saves the materials used in plastic bottles for more important uses.”

Several Brentwood businesses have jumped on board and have signs and stickers in place this month to remind customers to reduce and refill.

“As one of the largest recreational facilities in Brentwood,



Brentwood residents can show their support for the campaign and their commitment to reducing plastic waste by putting a sticker on their reusable drinking containers.

we recognize our role in the community to help the environment,” said Maryland Farms YMCA Executive Director Jodi Schroer. “You will be able to pick up a Refill Reduce Brentwood sticker at the front desk the next time you visit.”

In addition to the Maryland Farms YMCA, stickers can also be picked up at REI, The Cycle Bar, the John P. Holt Brentwood Library, and Brentwood City Hall.

“While many people already make occasional use of these containers as a matter of convenience, we’re hoping it will become a conscious effort for the sake of the environment,” said Assistant City Manager Jay Evans.

The city of Brentwood invites other interested businesses, schools, and sports organizations to come on board by making the stickers available.

Manchester, Tullahoma mobility plan to provide increased connectivity

MOBILITY from Page 1

big draws in our area is the Jack Daniels Distillery. The majority of people who come to visit Jack Daniels get off the interstate exit at Manchester and are going to travel down Highway 55 through Tullahoma. We have a lot of natural areas and state parks in the area, so we wanted to promote people to come to those as tourists.”

These major routes also serve numerous industrial needs for both communities.

“We also have three industrial parks and Tullahoma has one as well that connect on these highways,” Gamble said. “The highway also leads to Motlow Community College. We also have a joint industrial park that sits between Manchester and Tullahoma on Highway 55, so we wanted to look at what things we needed to consider as far as that area’s future growth.

Lawson said safety for students walking to school was also a community priority as lot of the accidents recorded on these routes in Tullahoma happen near schools.

“We don’t have a bus system with our city school system, and we go all the way up to high school,” Lawson said. “That was one of the big draws for us to do this plan. We have had a lot of issues with pedestrians crossing the road near

the high school. The plan addresses conflict between the different modes of transportation.”

Moody said sidewalks are a major priority in the community.

“If there is one thing in our community that people are united on, it is that we need more sidewalks,” she said. “We see it as part of our economic development strategy to recruit families to Tullahoma. They want to be in places where they can be active and enjoy the outdoors. Greenways and sidewalks connect them to those recreational opportunities. They also want their kids to be able to walk or bike to school safely.”

Manchester Mayor Lonnie Norman said it is important for the two communities to come together on such a plan because they both rely on each other so much already.

“It’s a good project for both cities to work on, and both cities work really well together,” he said. “What’s good for Manchester is good for Tullahoma, and what is good for Tullahoma is good for Manchester.”

Lawson said the plan is a good investment for residents of Tullahoma and Manchester as well as those who live between the two city limits.

“Citizens from both towns benefit from a well-planned, safe,



Old Stone Fort State Archaeological Park is located along Highway 41 close to downtown Manchester. The mobility plan will help connect this and other municipal and state parks to local greenways and sidewalks, providing better access for both tourists and locals.

and extensive pedestrian and multi-modal transportation options,” Lawson said. “It’s what

works best for both cities. It also helps those who live in the county between both cities, giving them

access to safe transportation both between the cities and throughout the cities.”



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In preparation of the upcoming legislative session, mayors from the “Big 4” cities met with Lt. Gov. Randy McNally. Lt. Gov. McNally described the meeting on his Facebook post as a great meeting. “We don’t agree on every issue facing the legislature but I always appreciate the opportunity to sit down and share ideas. Cities are key drivers of Tennessee’s economy. I value their partnership in keeping our citizens working and our economy growing.” Pictured are Knoxville’s new Mayor Indya Kincannon, Metro Nashville Mayor John Cooper, Lt. Gov. McNally, Chattanooga Mayor Andy Berke, and Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland. The mayors also met with Gov. Bill Lee and House Speaker Cameron Sexton during their visit to Nashville.



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Ernie Allen has been sworn in to represent the city of Columbia’s Fifth Ward on its city council to fulfill the unexpired term of outgoing Councilman Mark King, who is moving out of the city limits. Allen works as a financial advisor with Raymond James Financial Services in Columbia and has served with the company since 2002. Allen attended both Martin Methodist College and Lambuth University before earning a degree in political science from Middle Tennessee State University.



Ernie Allen

retired after a 30-year career. A Dickson native, Jennings followed his father and grandfather into the fire service after he graduated high school. He served with the Dickson Fire Department for five years before being hired by the Franklin Fire Department in 1994. He spent the next 25 years with the Franklin Fire Department, rising from the ranks from firefighter to engineer, lieutenant, captain, and battalion chief of training. His response to the May 2010 floods earned him two medals of valor and a meritorious service award. Additionally, Jennings received a Phoenix Award in 2009 for saving the life of a patient who was in cardiac arrest. Jennings, who is a fire investigator, is involved with the International Association of Arson Investigators, where he presently serves as the first vice president of the Tennessee chapter. He is also a past president of the Tennessee Advisory Committee on Arson and a member of the National Association of Fire Investigators.



Jimmy Jennings

new wastewater treatment plant, development of the work order management system, the creation of a new leaf mulching site and program, and the establishment of solid waste service. Prior to his work with Collierville, Kilp worked for 16 years in the public works and utilities industry with the city of Bartlett, and 10 years as an engineering consultant in the private sector.

Robert “Bobby” Lanier, a former Germantown alderman, Shelby County mayor’s aide, and namesake of Germantown’s 10-acre farm park, died on Dec. 28, 2019, at the age of 90. Born in Collierville in 1929, Lanier attended school in Germantown before beginning a 30-year career with Memphis Light, Gas, and Water. He served as Germantown’s volunteer fire chief starting in 1951, and in 1973 was appointed to the Germantown Board of Mayor and Aldermen to fill a vacancy. He was elected to the seat in 1974 and served until 1977 when he was selected by Shelby County Mayor Bill Morris to serve as an aide. Lanier would go on to work in numerous county government roles under the administrations of Jim Rout and A.C. Wharton Jr. over the next two and a half decades. Lanier was also instrumental in the creation of the Germantown farm park, a city park that also serves as a working farm.



Bobby Lanier

Deanna Britton, director of the Collierville Burch Library, has retired from her position. Britton was named the director of the library in 2005. After graduating college, Britton taught in a rural elementary school in Illinois before returning to the University of Tennessee to get her master’s in library science. She then took a position with the University of Georgia as an education bibliographer. She was employed by the university for 18 years before coming to Collierville. During her tenure in Collierville, Britton was named the American Library Association’s Library Systems and Services LLC Employee of the Year. Britton also contributed to the building of the library’s collection, particularly the adult nonfiction book collection and DVD collection as well as the first digital magazine collection in the state.



Deanna Britton

Joshua Jennings, an alderman and well-known business and civic leader in Jasper, died on Nov. 25, 2019, after a brief illness. Jennings was 36 years old. Born in Chattanooga, Jennings moved to Jasper when he was in middle school. After graduating from the John A. Gupton College of Mortuary Science, he began his career at Chattanooga Funeral Home before becoming manager of the Tate Funeral Home in Jasper. He developed the Hamilton Funeral Home with partners in 2011 and ran operations in both Jasper and South Pittsburg. Jennings also became the youngest person to ever be selected Marion County Democratic Party Chair. He was elected to serve as an alderman in Jasper in 2016.



Joshua Jennings

Bill R. Phillips has been appointed as deputy mayor and chief of staff for Metro Nashville Mayor John Cooper. Phillips served as a presidential appointee in various capacities during the executive administrations of Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush, and as deputy governor to Nevada Gov. Robert List. He served as chief of staff of the Republican National Committee and manager of the 1988 Republican Convention, as well as chief of staff of the U.S. Department of Education. In 1992, Phillips was assistant campaign manager for operations of the Bush-Quayle Committee. In 1994, Phillips became associate vice chancellor for University Relations at Vanderbilt University after concluding a yearlong fellowship at Vanderbilt’s First Amendment Center. He served for more than seven years as deputy mayor of Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell. Phillips was a principal in Windrow Phillips Group before retiring in June 2019.



Bill Phillips

Rodney Deel, sanitation supervisor with the city of Kingsport Public Works Department, has received the National APWA’s Charles Walter Nicholas Award. The award recognizes outstanding and meritorious achievements in the public works field. The field of activity for this award is sanitation in the broadest sense: street sanitation, refuse collection and disposal, sewers, sewage treatment, and water supply and treatment. A 19-year veteran of the city, Deel started out as a maintenance helper in sanitation and worked his way up to sanitation supervisor, a position he has held for the past nine years.



Rodney Deel

Bill Kilp, public services director for the town of Collierville, has retired after two decades of service to the community. Kilp was hired in 1999, right as the town was building a new public services complex to meet the demands of its growing populations. Over his career, Kilp oversaw the building of a



Bill Kilp

U.S. Rep. Phil Roe to retire

U.S. Rep. Phil Roe announced he will be retiring from Congress at the end of the current session after 11 years serving the state’s House District 1. A retired OB/GYN, Roe was born in Clarksville and earned a bachelor’s degree from Austin Peay State University before earning his medical degree from the University of Tennessee College of Medicine in 1972. After medical school, he served in Korea with the U.S. Army Medical Corps and was discharged at the rank of major in 1974. Roe spent 31 years practicing medicine in Johnson City. He also served as the city’s vice mayor from 2003 to 2007 and as its mayor from 2007 to 2009 before being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2009. During his time in the U.S. House, Roe has served as the chair of the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee and as part of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. “Serving East Tennesseans these past 11 years has been the honor of my life, and I will be forever grateful for the trust my friends and neighbors put in me to represent them,” Roe said in a statement after announcing his retirement. “As someone who



U.S. Rep. Phil Roe

practiced medicine for over 30 years, I said I would serve five or six terms because I never intended this job to be a second career. I will always cherish the friends I’ve made and people I’ve met. I could not be more grateful to my family, my staff, the volunteers, the veterans, and the numerous East Tennesseans who have made this job so rewarding.” “Phil Roe has been a champion for veterans, for students and for common sense in government, said U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander. His background as a practicing physician has been crucial to our work to lower health care costs. I value his friendship and will miss his leadership in the Congress.” Roe will continue to serve until a new U.S. Congress convenes in 2021.

MTAS Consultant Richard Stokes retires after 33 years

Longtime Human Resources Consultant Richard Stokes has retired after 33 years of service with the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service. Stokes first joined MTAS in 1986. He officially retired Dec. 31. Customers and staff, along with family and friends, helped celebrate his long and impactful career with a reception prior to his departure. For most of Stoke’s service to MTAS, he was the only human resources consultant on staff. He covered the entire state to ensure that Tennessee municipalities were up on the latest federal regulations. He assisted with hundreds of personnel manuals, collected and provided access to salary and benefits data, and so much more in the ever-changing and complex world of local government employment. Always professionally active, Stokes faithfully served the Tennessee Personnel Management Association (TPMA) for years as executive director and then in 2015 was elected as president of the International Personnel Management Association (IPMA-HR), a true testament to his commitment to the HR profession and its practitioners. “Richard is a consummate HR professional,” said Peter Voss, Hendersonville HR director. “His expertise is paramount. He is always willing to help. Whenever I had a question, I could count on



Richard Stokes

his expert advice. It’s going to be difficult to replace him.” Longtime colleague and MTAS technical consulting program manager Sharon Rollins said, “I have been privileged to have a front row seat as Richard methodically, persistently built relationships with his internal and external customers and built his reputation for providing accurate, timely human resource expertise. That reputation didn’t end at the TN state boundary, but spread nationwide and even internationally through his work with TPMA and IPMA. All who have been associated with Richard know that he is unfailingly courteous and considerate. He’s a stickler for details and gets it right. He’s a hard worker and goes the extra mile. He cares about others.” He will be greatly missed as a colleague, HR professional, steady resource for all cities in Tennessee in the thorny world of human resources.

Former TML assistant director Ed Young dies

Former TML assistant director Ed M. Young died Dec. 7, 2019, at the age of 79. An Arkansas native, Young moved to Washington, D.C., in 1960 when he was offered a job in the U.S. House of Representatives. During this time, he took night classes at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Affairs and met Martha, his wife of 56 years. While in graduate school, Young also worked with the U.S. Department of State, the National Academy of Sciences, and the National League of Cities. He earned his master’s degree from Georgetown University in 1968 followed by a doctorate from American University in 1974. That same year, Young moved his family to Nashville where he would spend



Ed Young

the next 24 years as a lobbyist and policy analyst for the Tennessee Municipal League. After retiring, he continued to represent municipal school systems, organized the Office of Business and Economic Research at Tennessee State University, and conducted research studies for the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations. Young was a life member of the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association and an honorary life member of the Tennessee City Management Association. In the 1980s, he served a five-year term as member and chair of the Metro Board of Zoning Appeals under Mayor Richard Fulton. An avid canoeist, he went on trips throughout the U.S. and Canada, including following the original path of Lewis and Clark. Young leaves behind his wife, two children, and many friends.

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STATE BRIEFS

Tennessee has the fifth largest number of rural students in the country with one in three students attending rural schools. However, the state is also the seventh-lowest in terms for funding school instruction in the nation, according to a recent report on the country’s rural schools by the nonpartisan Rural School and Community Trust. Tennessee’s rural students are more likely to face extreme poverty and frequently move residences than rural students in other states. The amount spent on instruction and teacher salaries in Tennessee is also low compared to other states. Reports have also highlighted challenges for rural schools, including under-staffing, fewer resources, limited access to broadband and less opportunity for students to take advanced courses.

For the seventh consecutive year, workers compensation insurance rates for most Tennessee employers will decline next year. The Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance said premium rates for workers comp will drop next March, reflecting another 7.1 loss cost estimate by insurance regulators. The cut will bring the loss cost reductions to less than half of what they were in 2014 when Tennessee revamped its worker compensation rules at the urging of then Gov. Bill Haslam. The new filing reflects a continuing trend of reduced workers’ compensation costs for employers since the Tennessee General Assembly changed the state’s workers’ comp rules and moved to an administrative, rather than a judicial, process of paying claims for workers who are injured on the job.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced Tennessee is one of 10 states to receive the Maternal Opioid Misuse (MOM) Model grant. The grant amount is approximately \$5.3 million for a five-year performance period beginning January 2020. TennCare will partner with Vanderbilt University Medical Center as part of the MOM program focusing on 26 rural and urban counties to improve the outcomes for women with opioid use disorder and their infants beginning in pregnancy and extending to one year postpartum.

The number of traffic-related

State announces ten site development grants

Gov. Bill Lee and Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner Bob Rolfe announced 10 communities will collectively receive more than \$3.8 million in Site Development Grant funding. The Site Development Grant program is part of the Rural Economic Opportunity Act supported by the Tennessee General Assembly for the last three years. The city of Cleveland and Bradley County will share in a \$1 million grant to grade and prepare a site at the Spring Branch Industrial Park. The city of Covington received a \$420,000 grant for a water line replacement at the Rialto Industrial Park. Cumberland, Morgan, and Roane counties will share in a \$1 million grant for a water line extension at the Plateau Partnership Park near Rockwood. Fayetteville and Lincoln

fatalities in 2019 was the state’s highest in more than a decade. The Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security reported 1,129 people had died in traffic-related incidents in 2019, the highest number since 1,211 was reported in 2007. The death toll in 2019 represents a 8.66% increase in the previous year.

A recent study has found that more than half of moves reported in the state of Tennessee are residents coming into the state. The study by moving company United Van Lines found that 56.1% of moves in Tennessee in 2019 were residents coming into the state or from across the state while 43.9% of moves were those leaving the state. A new job was the most common reason for why residents were both moving into and out of Tennessee followed by family reasons and retirement. Residents aged 65 or older were the largest age group moving into the state as well as the largest age group moving out of the state. Residents 55 to 64 made up the second largest age group moving into the state while those 54 to 65 made the largest group leaving Tennessee.

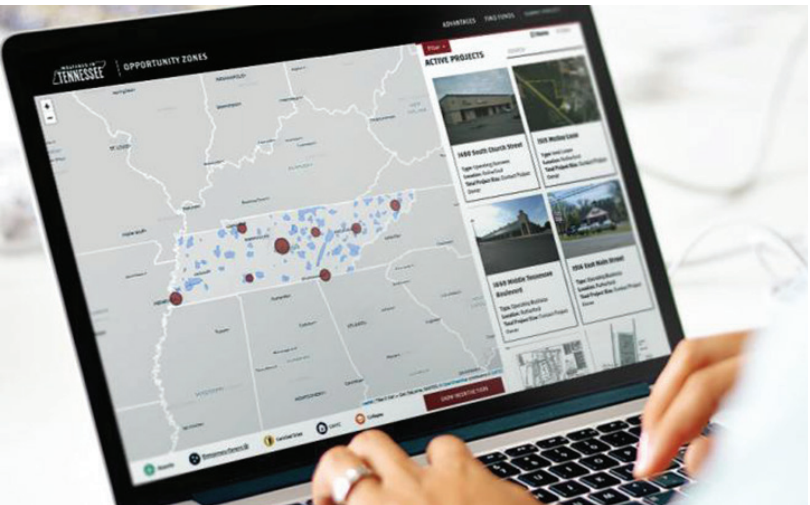
Tennessee is on track to see one of the worst flu seasons in recent memory with two child deaths related to the disease already reported. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said the nation should brace for one of the worst flu seasons in a decade with more than 2,900 having died from the disease nationwide already and 6.5 million cases reported by the end of 2019. At least 38 of the state’s 95 counties have reported one case of flu-related illnesses. The number of flu cases typically peaks in the state in January and February.

Gov. Bill Lee announced Tennessee will provide paid family leave for state employees. The governor signed an executive order directing the Tennessee Department of Human Resources to issue the new policy effective March 1. While 69% of full-time working Americans believe that receiving paid parental leave is important when looking for a job, only 17% of employees across the U.S. have access to it. One additional month of paid family leave is associated with a 13% drop in infant mortality.

County will share in a \$500,000 grant to grade and prepare a site at the Runway Center Industrial Park. Gallatin received a \$96,310 grant for the installation of a detention pond at the Gallatin Industrial Park. Lexington received a \$495,000 grant for the development of an industrial road at the Reeves Property. Marion County received a \$66,047 grant to conduct due diligence studies at the Nickajack Industrial Site and Port in the town of New Hope. The Paris and Henry County Industrial Committee received a \$100,000 grant to conduct due diligence studies at the American Colloid Site. Washington County received \$94,500 to conduct due diligence studies at the Washington County Industrial Park. The city of Waynesboro received \$92,491 in grant money to

TnECD adds live directory to promote Opportunity Zones

Tennessee’s Opportunity Zones directory is live. The new tool makes it easy for communities to connect with developers and opportunity funds. Visitors can search the interactive directory to find funds and projects across Tennessee. Throughout Tennessee, there are 176 tracts of qualified Opportunity Zones. Not only do these areas offer ideal opportunities for funds, community leaders and real estate developers, but they also encourage investment in low-income communities that may benefit the most from capital investment. To learn more go to: <https://oz.tnecd.com>.



Do you have a potential project or fund that you want to feature? Submit it now at [OZ.TNECD.com](https://oz.tnecd.com)

Eight TN sites added to National Register

Eight new sites have been added to the National Register of Historic Places in Tennessee. The Tennessee Historical Commission (THC), the state agency that is designated as the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), announced the addition of the new properties.

Bank of Loretto - Loretto
The Bank of Loretto was chartered in 1910, and after the original bank building burned circa 1924, the current building was constructed. C.K Colley and Company Architects from Nashville were the architects of the building. Local lumber company Augustin Lumber, established in 1900, built the new bank building. The building is now used as a restaurant.

Barksdale Mounted Police Station - Memphis
Located adjacent to the National Register listed Central Gardens Historic District, the Barksdale Mounted Police Station is a unique example of a municipal police station where both police and horses were accommodated. E.H. Crump was elected mayor in 1910 after campaigning to improve the city’s police and fire department. The Classical Revival style station opened in 1911, with 16 mounted policemen patrolling the area – 10 at night and six during the day. Situated near Crump’s house, it was the first suburban police station in Memphis. The station was closed for a short time in 1918 and the horses were auctioned off. Later, bicycles and cars were used for patrols until the station closed in 1958.

conduct due diligence studies at Waynesboro Industrial Park. “I am excited to announce 10 Site Development Grant recipients, and I’m especially pleased that each recipient is a rural site,” Gov. Lee said. “The site development grant program is part of the Rural Economic Opportunity Act, which focuses on promoting economic growth in rural Tennessee. I look forward to seeing what success the future holds for these communities with the assistance of these grants.” The grants are designed to help communities achieve Select Tennessee site certification and prepare industrial sites for economic development projects. The funding helps communities invest in infrastructure and engineering improvements on project-ready sites. The Site Development Grant program works in tandem with TN-ECD’s Select Tennessee program.



Built in 1911, the Barksdale Mounted Police Station once served as the headquarters for mounted police services in Memphis.

Charles L. Lawhon Cottage - Knoxville
Charles L. Lawhon was a revered marble stone mason in New Orleans and Knoxville. Known for his monuments and decorative stonework, circa 1922-24, he designed his own home in the Morningside area of Knoxville. The two-story stucco house in Knoxville is the only house he is known to have designed. Lawhon died in 1926 and the family owned the house until the 1940s. The current owner is rehabilitating the house.

Frierson Chapel - Coopertown
The Frierson Chapel property is composed of a 1946 church building, the remains of a school, a privy and a cemetery that was established circa 1880. The congregation was formed as the New Bethel (CME) Church in 1870. It was not until the extant church building was constructed that it became known as Frierson Chapel, named after Rev. R.D. Frierson, who became the pastor in 1946. The historic church served the African-American community in Coopertown until 1992. The school was open until 1949 when it was consolidated with the larger African-American Bransford School in nearby Springfield.

Hardwick Farm - Cleveland
A 1932-33 Spanish Revival style house is the centerpiece of 758-acre Hardwick Farms. Agricultural out-buildings, a garage and servant’s house, and landscaped grounds are a few of the other features that make this property a good example of a model farm from the 1930s. The house was designed by the Knoxville architectural firm of Barber and McMurray and the grounds were designed by Knoxville’s Charles F. Lester. Hardwick was a well-known businessman, operating the Hardwick Clothes Company, Hardwick Woolen Mills, and the Hardwick Stove Company.

Jonesborough Historic District - Jonesborough
The Jonesboro Historic District was first listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1969. It was one of the state’s first nominations for the town that is considered the oldest town in Tennessee. Jonesborough received a matching grant from the SHPO to update and revise the original nomination so that 20th century property could be included in the district and the history could be expanded to include 20th century events.

Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. - Lewisburg
Better known today as the Water Street Abbey, the historic church building was constructed in 1910 for the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. The first services in the new sanctuary were held in 1911. Situated at the corner of Water Street and 3rd Avenue in Lewisburg, it is a prominent example of the Late Gothic Revival style. When the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., disbanded in 1939, the building was purchased by the Water Street Church of Christ, who held services there until 1967.

Wooten Fallout Shelter - Memphis
Hoyt Wooten, engineer and radio/television station owner, built his house on 27 acres in the Whitehaven community, south of Memphis, around 1938. At the height of the Cold War, Wooten built a fallout shelter in his backyard. Completed 1961-1963, the 5,600-square-foot fallout shelter was designed to hold 65 people for a month if a nuclear bomb was dropped near Memphis. Rooms in the shelter included a fully-equipped kitchen, male and female dormitories, recreation room, bathrooms, radio communication room, and a morgue. The shelter is now part of a gated community and for many years was used as their community center.



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CLASSIFIED ADS

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

ACCOUNTANT / ASSISTANT FINANCE DIRECTOR
GREENEVILLE. The town of Greeneville is seeking a professional with a CPA, CMFO, or achievement of such certification within two years. Municipal government finance accounting experience preferred. This is a career track to the finance director position. Bachelor's degree required. Salary DOE. Resumes will be accepted by email to pfuller@greenevilletn.gov or mail to Attention: Human Resource Director, 200 N. College Street, Greeneville, TN 37745. An application will be required for full consideration. Click "Forms and Downloads" for the application. Opened until filled. EOE/ Drug Free Workplace

AIRPORT MANAGER
GREENEVILLE. The airport manager will serve as operations manager at the Greeneville Municipal Airport. Experience in budgets, planning, staffing, and economic development/improvements. Requires initiative, problem solving, positive customer service. Bachelor's degree in aviation or management with 5 yrs. of experience. Licensed pilot preferred. Application and job description available at the town website www.greenevilletn.gov mail to ATTN: Human Resources, 200 N. College Street, Greeneville, TN 37745, or email to pfuller@greenevilletn.gov EOE / Drug Free Open until filled.

ASSISTANT FINANCE DIRECTOR
COLUMBIA. The city of Columbia is seeking talented, qualified candidates to apply for the assistant finance director position. This position reports to the assistant city manager/finance director/city recorder, and interacts with elected officials, citizens and other staff members. The city operates on an annual budget of more than \$64 million, including an enterprise and internal services fund. This position will include tasks related to accounting, financial planning and analysis, financial reporting, controls over financial reporting, debt management, cash management, grant compliance and billing, investments, accounts payable, payroll, purchasing card program, revenues, and budget management. The ideal candidate will meet the following education, experience and minimum qualifications: Graduation from an accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree in accounting or a related field. A minimum of three years full-time professional employment in accounting, auditing, budgeting, or closely related financial activity. Other combinations of experience and education, which meet the minimum requirements, may be substituted. Licensed as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) with experience working with Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) principles and/or Certified Municipal Finance Officer (CMFO) is preferred. Experience in supervision of paraprofessional and/or clerical staff. Qualified applicants should submit applications and resumes online by visiting the city's website at www.columbiatn.com. Position open until filled. EOE.

ASSISTANT FINANCE DIRECTOR/CITY TREASURER
BRENTWOOD The city of Brentwood is currently seeking an experienced professional to serve as assistance finance director/city treasurer. The purpose of this job is to assist the finance director by performing managerial/financial activities associated with cash management, budgeting, and financial accounting/reporting for the city. Duties and responsibilities include: supervising department staff, directing accounting activities; managing receipt of revenues; approving disbursements; coordinating investment activities; implementing and maintaining cost controls; and assisting with budget development and related activities. The position requires a bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, or closely related area, with prior experience in local governmental accounting activities, auditing, or related areas. Working knowledge of GAAP standards. Experience with governmental budgeting; analysis and reporting financial data. CPA or CMFO designation or ability to obtain within a

reasonable time preferred. Prior supervisory/management experience required, preferably in a local government or related environment. Requires professional use of MS Office Suite with specific emphasis in MS Excel a must, and the efficient use of 10 key calculator and other modern office equipment. Interested parties can review a complete job description and apply for this position by visiting the city of Brentwood website at <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/brentwoodtn>. Deadline for accepting applications is Jan. 31.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR
HENDERSONVILLE. The city of Hendersonville is currently accepting applications for a city administrator. This position is responsible for the day to day operations of the city government. The employee is under the general supervision of the board of mayor and alderman (BOMA) and serves at the will and pleasure of BOMA. Instructions to the employee are general and the employee must routinely use independent judgment when completing tasks. The work requires frequent contact with the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, committees, all department heads, employees and the general public. A master's degree from an accredited college or university with major course work in public administration or business administration. Ten years of progressively responsible experience in municipal government including five years of administrative and supervisory responsibility in a local government setting. A member in good standing of ICMA. An ICMA credentialed manager or must receive ICMA credential within two years of employment. Ability to be bonded. Possession of appropriate, valid driver's license. Salary Range: \$130,000 - \$150,000. To apply, go to www.hvilletn.org or come by Hendersonville City Hall at 101 Maple Drive North, Hendersonville, TN 37075. Closing date for acceptance of application materials is Jan. 31 at 4 p.m. (CST). EOE.

CITY MANAGER
MAYNARDVILLE. The city of Maynardville, a general law manager commission city located just 15 miles north of downtown Knoxville, is currently accepting applications for a city manager. The position is appointed by, and responsible to a five-member board of commissioners. The city manager is responsible for oversight of a budget of approximately \$3.3M and 19 FTE employees, including water and sewer utilities. Maynardville is a friendly town with an eye on the future. The next city manager must have highly developed problem solving, technical, project management, presentation, and public relations skills. For more information, visit www.mtas.tennessee.edu/sites/default/files/Jobs/City%20Manager_Maynardville.pdf

GRANT WRITER
LAVERGNE. The city of La Vergne is currently accepting applications for a grant writer. Responsibilities include: researching various sources and seeking external funding for existing and proposed programs and/or services; coordinating and overseeing the grant application and management process including: identification of potential new funding sources, writing grants, development of funding resources, collaborating on grant applications with various city departments and community organizations, and processing, monitoring and coordinating required report evaluations on existing grants. Additionally, the grant writer will provide support to the city administration and assist other departments as needed. Bachelor's degree in education, public administration, public relations, human services or related; 2 years' experience in grant seeking, grant writing, and grant administration or acceptable combination of relevant education and experience. Annual salary for this position will be \$35,384-\$41,001. Open until filled. To apply visit <https://www.lavergnetn.gov/190/Job-Opportunities>. EOE.

PARKS AND RECREATION ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
WHITE HOUSE. The city of White House is currently accepting applications for parks and recreation assistant director. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in recreation administration or other acceptable field and

moderate leisure service experience. Some experience in the management of a parks and recreational program/division, ideally in a county, municipal or state setting is highly desired. CPRP is also highly desired. Starting salary is \$51,701.00 - \$61,456.25 annually DOE with an excellent benefits package. To apply for this position, you must submit a city of White House application. Applications and additional details on how to apply are available on the city's website at www.cityofwhitehouse.com or in person at the Human Resources Office at 105 College Street, White House, TN 37188. This position is open until filled.

POLICE OFFICER
WHITE HOUSE. The city of White House is currently accepting applications for police officer. Applicants must have a high school diploma or GED. They must possess an appropriate driver's license valid in the state of Tennessee. P.O.S.T. Certification must be obtained within six months of employment. Must meet Minimum Standards Law (TCA 38-8-106) requirements. Applicants must be a citizen of the United States, at least 21 years of age and meet the physical, psychological, and criminal records and other standards for the assignment established by the White House Police Department. Starting salary is \$14.86 - \$17.66 hourly (\$35,233.06 - \$41,871.86 annually) DOE with an excellent benefits package. To apply for this position, you must submit a city of White House application. Applications and additional details on how to apply are available on the city's website at www.cityofwhitehouse.com or in person at the Human Resources Office at 105 College Street, White House, TN 37188. This position is open until filled.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
MOUNT PLEASANT. The city of Mount Pleasant (estimated pop. 5,093) in Maury County is seeking a well-rounded individual with proven leadership skills to serve as the city's next public works director. Strong interpersonal, organizational, supervisory, and decision-making skills required; ability to interact and communicate effectively with local, state and local officials and the public is required. Must be a team player who can work well with other city departments, the city manager, the commission, and outside agencies. An associate's degree is preferred or commensurate experience. At least five years in the profession with management and command experience. Send resume and cover letter to: HR Director Sonya Pinkard, 100 Public Square, P.O. Box 426, Mount Pleasant, TN 38474, until filled. Or email to spinkard@mountpleasanttn.org. The position profile can be found at www.mountpleasanttn.org. All candidates must successfully complete a thorough background investigation, physical examination and drug screening. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex or national origin. EOE.

WASTEWATER PLANT MANAGER
MOUNTAIN CITY. The town of Mountain City is currently accepting applications for the position of wastewater treatment plant manager. This is a full time position with good benefits. Salary will be based on education and experience. The wastewater treatment plant manager is responsible for the day to day operations of the Wastewater Plant and the supervision of all department employees. The wastewater treatment plant manager is an at-will employee and takes direction from the board of mayor and aldermen. Applicant must have knowledge in sewer maintenance, construction, and safety precautions. They must also be able to maintain records and reports and manage a departmental budget. The wastewater treatment plant manager must, on occasion, perform additional or emergency duties after normal work hours. Applicant must possess a high school diploma or GED equivalent. Some college is preferred, however, not required. Applicant must hold a state of Tennessee Grade IV Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Certification. Applicant must also hold a valid Tennessee driver's license. A pre-employment physical and drug screen are also required. Applications are available at city hall, by calling 423-727-8005 or by email at city_hall@mountaincitytn.org. Qualified applicants should submit applications and/or resumes to: Sheila Shaw, City Recorder, Town of Mountain City, 210 South Church Street, Mountain City, TN 37683. Drug Free/EOE Workplace. Applications accepted until Feb. 7, 2020.

Grants Training in Nashville Feb. 18-19

The state of Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development Center for Economic Research in Tennessee and Grant Writing USA will present a two-day grants workshop in Nashville on Feb. 18-19, 2020.

This training is for grant seekers across all disciplines. Attend this class and you'll learn how to find grants and write winning grant proposals.

Beginning and experienced grant writers from city, county, and state agencies as well as nonprofits, K-12, colleges, and universities are encouraged to attend.

Tennessee Municipal League members and their staff will receive a special tuition rate of \$425 which includes everything: two days of instruction, workbook, and access to our Alumni Forum that's packed full of tools, helpful discussions and more than 200 sample grant proposals. Please use discount code "ASSN" to receive this \$30 discount off full price at registration. Multi-enrollment discounts and discounts for Grant Writing USA returning alumni are also available. Tuition payment is not required at the time of enrollment.

Complete event details including learning objectives, class location, graduate testimonials and online registration are available here, http://grantwritingusa.com/grants-training/grant-writing-workshops/nashville-tennessee-february-2020.html?utm_source=janet&utm_medium=email&utm_content=tml1&utm_campaign=nashville-tennessee-february-2020.

For more information contact: Janet Darling, Grant Writing USA at 888.290.6237, janet@grantwritingusa.com; or Jeremy Stiles, TnECD 615.979.5838, jeremy.stiles@tn.gov

TN City Attorneys to meet Feb. 27-28

The Tennessee Municipal Attorneys Association will hold an Environmental Law Seminar and its regular Winter Seminar on Feb. 27 - 28, in Brentwood. The meeting will be at the Four Points by Sheraton at 760 Old Hickory Boulevard. All city attorneys, assistant city attorneys, and other municipal practitioners are invited to attend.

Registration forms and agendas for the meetings, along with a link to the hotel for hotel registration at the TMAA group rate, are available at the TMAA website, www.tmaa.us.

Bill Penny, who is widely known and respected as an expert on environmental issues affecting cities, will be the presenter for the Thursday morning Feb. 27 Environmental Law Seminar. Mr. Penny formerly worked for the state dealing with environmental issues and is now a partner and chair of the Environmental Practice Group at Burr & Forman in Nashville. This seminar will provide up to three hours CLE for attendees.

The TMAA regular Winter Seminar will start on the afternoon of Feb. 27 and run until noon on Friday, Feb. 28. This seminar will provide up to 6.5 CLE hours, including 1.5 ethics hours. Topics for this seminar are, in addition to ethics, drug testing of employees, appellate practice, bond finance, police liability, and a case law update. This seminar offers something for all city attorneys, new and veteran alike, presented by leading experts, including the police chief of LaGrange, Ga.

At the business meeting of the association, which takes place at lunch on Thursday, the Executive Committee will announce the recipient of the TMAA Distinguished Municipal Attorney Award. This award recognizes a municipal attorney of particular merit who has attained the pinnacle of the municipal practice. The award is designed to be a true honor and it is not necessarily given each year but is reserved for those loyal TMAA members who display exemplary professionalism and ethics.

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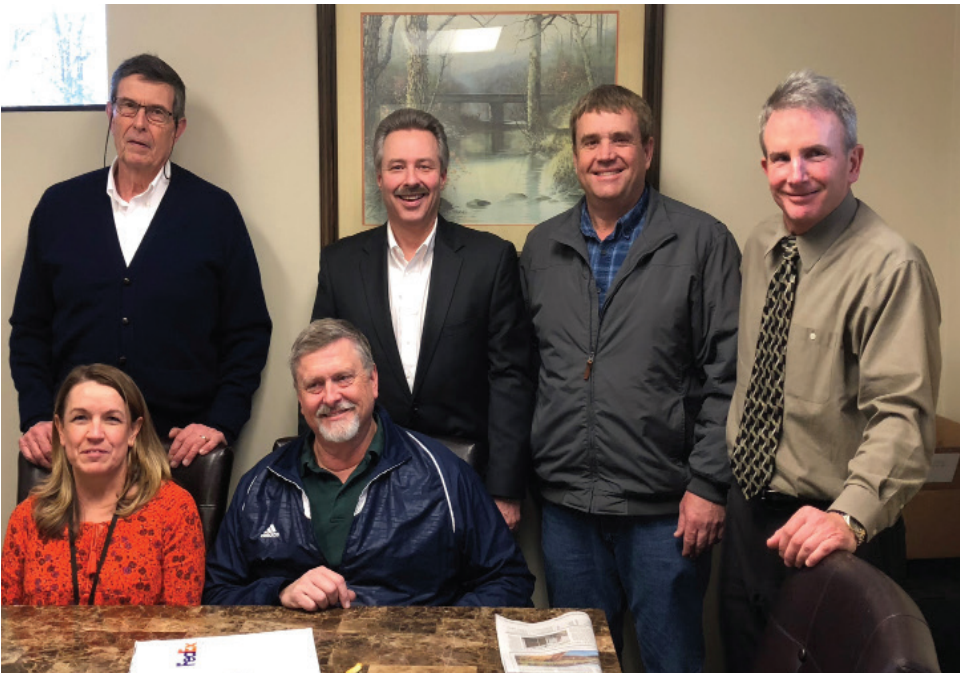
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Paris recently closed a \$1 million fixed-rate drawdown loan with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF) to finance a portion of a splash pad and related park facilities for the city. Paris has used TMBF loan programs 10 times, beginning in 1988, for a total of \$22,955,000. Seated L to R: Traci Shannon, finance director; Mayor Carlton Gerrell; and Linda Mooringham, TMBF marketing director and legal coordinator. Standing: Tommy Green, TMBF marketing representative, and Kim Foster, city manager.



Red Bank recently closed a \$1.9 million loan with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF) to finance building renovations for a new city hall and street and road improvements. The city has used TMBF programs 16 times since 1997. Seated L to R: Ruth Rohen, city recorder, and Mayor Eddie Pierce. Standing L to R: Arnold Stulce, city attorney; Steve Queener, TMBF marketing representative; Tim Thornbury, city manager; and John Alexander, finance director.

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Significant homeless decision stands; not unlawful to sleep outside in public

BY LISA SORONEN
State & Local Legal Center

The Supreme Court refuses to review thousands of lower court decisions every year. Its decision to not review *Martin v. City of Boise* isn't entirely surprising.

The Supreme Court generally only agrees to hear cases where there is a circuit split—that is the lower courts have disagreed on how the law applies to a particular issue. *Martin v. City of Boise* raised no circuit split.

In *Martin v. City of Boise* the Ninth Circuit held that if a homeless person has no option of sleeping indoors a city cannot cite him or her for violating an ordinance disallowing sleeping outside in a public space. This significant holding is now final.

Boise adopted a camping ordinance and a disorderly conduct ordinance which made it a misdemeanor to camp or sleep on the streets, sidewalks, parks, or public places.

Boise has a significant homeless population and three homeless shelters run by private, nonprofit organizations. While one of the shelters never turns people away for lack of space it does refuse to shelter homeless people who exhaust the number of days allotted by the facilities.

One of the plaintiffs in this case was cited after he reached the shelter's 17-day limit for male guests. To continue staying he would have had to have joined the Discipleship Program which he declined to do because of his religious beliefs.

Plaintiffs argued, and the Ninth Circuit agreed, that enforcing a statute prohibiting sleeping outside against homeless individuals with no access to alternative shelter violates Eighth Amendment's prohibition against cruel and unusual punishments.

In *Robinson v. California* (1962) the Supreme Court struck down a California statute criminalizing narcotic addiction because it made a disease a criminal offense. In a later decision five justices gleaned from *Robinson* the principle that "that the Eighth Amendment prohibits the state from punishing an involuntary act or condition if it is the unavoidable consequence of one's status or being."

According to the Ninth Circuit, "[t]his principle compels the conclusion that the Eighth Amendment prohibits the imposition of criminal penalties for sitting, sleeping, or lying outside on public property for homeless individuals who cannot obtain shelter."

In other words, just as a city may not criminalize being homeless in a public place it also may not "criminalize conduct that is an unavoidable consequence of being

homeless — namely sitting, lying, or sleeping on the streets."

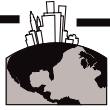
A dissenting opinion to the entire Ninth Circuit's decision to refuse to rehear the case pointed out some practical problems for local governments with the Ninth Circuit's decision:

"The number of homeless individuals within a municipality on any given night is not automatically reported and updated in real time. Instead, volunteers or government employees must painstakingly tally the number of homeless individuals block by block, alley by alley, doorway by doorway. Given the daily fluctuations in the homeless population, the panel's opinion would require this labor-intensive task be done every single day. Yet in massive cities such as Los Angeles, that is simply impossible."

This case generated an unusually high number of amicus brief asking the Supreme Court to review the Ninth Circuit's decision including a brief by the International Municipal Lawyers Association, National League of Cities, National Association of Counties, and the International City/County Management Associations. The court didn't immediately reject the petition meaning at least one justice may have been interested in taking the case.

Martin v. City of Boise is only binding in states in the Ninth Circuit: Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho, Nevada, California, Arizona, and Hawaii.

NATIONAL BRIEFS



American troops will see a 3% increase in pay as part of a new bill recently signed by President Donald Trump. U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., was one of the sponsors of the Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act, which includes \$738 billion for the U.S. Department of Defense and U.S. Department of Energy. A portion of these funds will be used to increase pay for military members, increase employment opportunities for military spouses, and reform the military housing program to provide

better access to safe and affordable housing for military families.

At least a quarter of Americans say they have put off seeking medical attention because of healthcare costs. A poll conducted by Gallup in December 2019 found 25% of Americans said they or a family member had delayed seeking medical treatment for a serious illness because the cost of care was unaffordable. A study conducted by the American Cancer Society in May 2019 found 56% of adults in America report having at least one medical financial hardship, and

researchers warned the problem is likely to worsen unless action is taken. While the U.S. still spends the most on healthcare of any developed nation, the country is seeing declining health outcomes and fewer people with insurance. A recent global study found the U.S. had a higher rate of preventable death, more hospital admissions for preventable diseases, and slower access to medical professionals than other wealthy nations. In 2017, healthcare in the U.S. was ranked 24th globally. Healthcare costs in the U.S. are also expected to grow by 5.5% in the next decade.

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Jan. 24-Jan. 26: Townsend
Winter Heritage Festival
The Great Smoky Mountain Heritage Center in Townsend will partner with the Cades Cove Preservation Society to host the 2020 Winter Heritage Festival. The three-day event will feature historians and former Cades Cove residents discussing the area's history and culture as well as food and music. For more information, visit www.gsmheritagecenter.org.

Jan. 24-Jan. 26: Knoxville
East Tennessee Chinese New Year Festival
Celebrate the Year of the Rat with an afternoon of singing, dance, martial arts, and other performances. Special guests this year include the Shanxi Changzhi Acrobatics Troupe from China. For more information or to purchase tickets in advance, visit <http://knoxville-chineseculture.org/FESTIVALS/cny.html>.

Jan. 31-Feb. 2: Tiptonville
15th Annual Reelfoot Lake Eagle Festival
Enjoy a great family weekend at Reelfoot Lake learning about this amazing birds of prey. Festival includes eagle nesting tours, bird of prey shows, art and photography contests, photography tours, vendors, wildlife education, and children's activities. For more info, visit <http://reelfoottourism.com/reelfootlake/>

Feb. 1: Clarksville
A Chocolate Affair
More than 15 local and national businesses have come together to showcase sweet and savory treats. Two events will be held at the Wilma Rudolph Event Center, the first causal and kid-friendly and the second an adult soiree. For more info, visit <https://www.cityofclarksville.com/383/Chocolate-Affair>

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March 16-17, 2020
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DoubleTree Hotel, Nashville

April 1-3, 2020
TCMA 2020 Spring Conference
Franklin, TN

June 27 - 30, 2020
TML Annual Conference
Chattanooga Convention Center

New House Speaker Cameron Sexton highlights upcoming agenda

BY KATE COIL
TML Communications Specialist

When Tennessee’s General Assembly returned to session on Jan. 14, East Tennessee native Cameron Sexton picked up the gavel as the 83rd Speaker of the House.

The Crossville-based Republican is the son of two teachers and grew up in Knoxville, Kingston, and Oak Ridge, where he played on the Oak Ridge High School basketball team and graduated in 1989.

Sexton attended the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, graduating in 1994. That same year he got his first taste of politics, working on the State Senate campaign for Lt. Gov. Randy McNally. The two have maintained a close friendship ever since and now will be working side-by-side in the Legislature.

“I have known Cameron Sexton for many years,” McNally said upon Sexton’s selection as Speaker of the House. “I have observed him serve our state with great distinction. Cameron has the experience, the temperament, and the ability to lead the Tennessee House of Representatives to new heights.”

After working on McNally’s campaign, Sexton took a position working for the state in Memphis. In 1998, he made the move to Crossville to work for then U.S. Rep. Van Hilleary. He has lived in Crossville ever since.

In 2010, he was elected to represent State House District 25, representing Cumberland and Van Buren Counties as well as the city of Monterey in Putnam County.

During his tenure in the House, Sexton has held several leadership roles including House Majority Whip and Majority Caucus Chairman. Former Speaker of the House Beth Harwell also appointed him chair of the House Health Committee and as chairman of the Three-Star Healthy Taskforce, which worked to find innovative approaches to covering healthcare while still being cost-efficient.

Sexton’s wife Lacey is a pharmacist, and they have three children – Greer, Olivia, and Nathaniel – who are known to occasionally come to work at the State Capitol with their father.

TT&C: Who would you say are your biggest influences?

Cameron Sexton: I have to go with my family, my parents and my brother obviously. I still get a lot of advice from my older brother who is an attorney in Knoxville. When I was in college, I worked for a pharmacist named John Karnes who had a big influence on me early on. He provided a lot of great advice about responsibility and accountability. I worked at his drug store all through college.

After working on Randy McNally’s campaign in 1994, I worked on Van Hilleary’s campaign. Van Hilleary taught me a lot about constituents and constituent services and campaigning. Randy McNally has also been a consistent figure in my life from high school up until now. He’s probably the only person I work with who has known me consistently for three decades.

I have learned a lot from a lot of people. I’m more of a listener than a talker, so I try to listen. I’ve had a lot of managers and bosses over the years that I’ve listened to and learned a lot from.

TT&C: What first sparked your interest in politics?

CS: When I graduated from the University of Tennessee, I was trying to find a job. I had gone to Oak Ridge High School, and during that time I knew then-State. Sen. Randy McNally. That year Randy was starting to run his campaign, and he was up for re-election in 1994. I met with him, and he was looking to hire someone. He hired me, and that was my entry into campaigns.

I had played sports throughout my life, and am a competitive person. The campaign was a lot like sports and encompassed a little bit of everything I had learned in college. You learn a lot about wordsmithing, about advertising and marketing, about sign locations, and issues. You get to meet people. I remember every Friday night I would go to the high school football game and hand out Randy McNally cards to everyone walking in.

TT&C: What is it like working with him now as Speaker? Has he given you any advice on stepping into your new role?

CS: When I was elected back in November 2010, I had the opportunity



House Speaker Cameron Sexton on Wall Street during the state’s recent bond hearing.



Sexton, left, and Dyersburg Mayor and TML Past-President John Holden at an event in Dyersburg.

to serve with Randy– which I would have never thought was possible because I never thought I would run for office. It was great being able to serve with him in the Legislature, and it’s even better to be able to work alongside him as Speaker of the House. Randy has been a great mentor, and he has a lot of experience and knowledge. Ever since I began in the General Assembly we have been very close and worked with one another on very complicated issues. We communicate very effectively with one another.

TT&C: What do you feel are the important characteristics of a good leader?

CS: I think a good leader has vision. They see where things need to go potentially in the future, but they also work with people to come up with that vision. A good leader is not only effective in today’s work but also leading us into tomorrow’s. Being a good communicator – which I think involves listening not just talking – is important. A good leader is one who doesn’t always have to get the credit. As Speaker, my role is not to outshine the members but to let the members shine – to let them be as successful as they can, and to let them take the credit for the great things we are doing.

TT&C: Politics on both the state and national level seem to be more divisive than ever. How do you bring lawmakers from both sides of the aisle together in the House?

CS: One of the things I learned when I was running for Speaker was that even people I had known for seven or eight years while I was in the General Assembly I didn’t really know. We were always talking about policy or the state of Tennessee and the General Assembly.

I think part of the problem with Washington politics and politics in general sometimes, is that when you have disagreements it can be a different disagreement if you don’t know the person. You can hold that grudge a whole lot longer than if you had a relationship with them that was more like that of a friend, even if you disagree ideologically.

One of the things that we have done is try to do service projects as a body outside of Nashville, to give back to the community. The goal is to try to get the body outside of Nashville working together. For one, it shows that we are public servants, and we are there working for the best interest of Tennessee. It also helps us build relationships with one another and learn more about one another than what we know in Nashville.

TT&C: What is your stance on pre-emption and local control?

CS: I know we have had some issues in the past. What I will say is the state constitution allows the state government to have oversight over local governments. A lot of it is sitting down together and working through things together. I understand that sometimes constituents will reach out or there will be issues that pop up

that may require pre-emption or not.

For the most part, it isn’t a vast majority of municipalities but rather a few that there are issues with. We have state laws that if the majority vote on it and it passes that is because their constituents want it. It would be nice to work with all forms of government in the state of Tennessee to make sure we are all on the same page, but sometimes we do pass things in the General Assembly that people aren’t happy with.

Whether I agree with a federal law, a state law, or a local ordinance, I don’t get to pick and choose which ones I follow or don’t follow based on whether or not I like them. Part of the pre-emption problems over the years have been sometimes not liking a certain state law or trying to overturn a state law. Those have been issues, and hopefully if those issues come up we can sit down and have a conversation and not get to the escalation we have had in the past.

TT&C: What is your relationship like with the municipal officials in your district? What are some of the ways you have worked with them in the past on either state or local issues?

CS: I think the relationship is good, and I have always worked well with the city mayors and county mayors. I see my role for them as an additional hand. I don’t try to interject myself into their issues unless they ask me to come help. I think that Sen. [Paul] Bailey, [R-Sparta], and I work very well in our district. We both approach it in the same way, so we have a good relationship.

TT&C: What are some of your priorities as Speaker and for the legislative session?

CS: In August, we reassigned the committees. I wanted to make sure that members with different assets and skill sets were on committees where they can be successful which will help make better policy. I think every single member of the General Assembly serves on four committees now. In the past it was only two or three. By serving on four committees they have a broader overview, which helps us with institutional knowledge.

Looking at legislation coming up, I think there is a lot we can do in terms of healthcare. Criminal justice reform is coming. The governor has proposed some changes, and we have started talking with our chairs and stakeholders about ideas we would like to see. We will see if those mirror with the administration’s proposals. There is also a lot of legislation that focuses on education and vocational education that is moving forward.

When we went to New York recently and participated in the bond rating hearing, the state is in a very good financial place. We need to make sure that our budget continues to be fiscally sound and we continue to make wise decisions that will keep us on that path.

TT&C: How do we keep up the state’s positive momentum in ed-



Sexton, left, and Lt. Gov. Randy McNally, right, root for the Vols. Sexton’s interest in politics began while working on McNally’s Senate campaign in 1994. The two have remained close friends since then.



Sexton works to install a fire alarm as part of a Cumberland County fire safety project.

ucation? What education issues does the state still face and how can we address them?

CS: We have done a lot of great things on accountability and putting a lot more resources into K-12 education. The GIVE Act this year which gives \$25 million to vocational education is a great start. When you travel around the state and visit the TCATS, what they are doing is amazing.

For a lot of years, a lot of people have felt you have to go to a four-year college to be successful in life, but that isn’t always the case. You can get a certificate in plumbing, electrical line work, or diesel mechanics and make very good money straight out of high school and live a good life.

I think one of the biggest things we need to focus on is our grade-level reading efficiency. I have been visiting cities and counties throughout the state over the past months, and our efficiency is nowhere near where it needs to be. If you can’t read, it’s hard to do math and really hard to do anything. One of the things I want to work on with the committee chairs is having a plan for where we want to be in five years based on what works and what hasn’t worked.

TT&C: Gov. Bill Lee has put an emphasis on rural economic and community development. How is the legislature working to help with this, particularly for the state’s most distressed areas?

CS: In my area of the Cumberland Plateau, you have counties and local chambers of commerce forming alliances. You have the Highland Initiative on the Upper Cumberland area. These groups are working together for the benefit of all communities, because if something comes in to one community it’s a benefit for them all.

As far as the state, one of the things I will say is one of the biggest drivers – whether you’re in a rural area of Tennessee, an Appalachian area of Tennessee, or even an inner-city metropolitan area – is how much poverty plays into distressed areas and how many different areas poverty touches like criminal justice reform, education, healthcare, and opioids and drug abuse. I think we need to do a better job of moving people out of poverty and giving them opportunities to be successful.

TT&C: Especially with the recent closures of rural hospitals across the state, many Tennesseans are concerned about healthcare and the ability to access it close to home. In what ways do you plan to address these issues?

CS: The No. 1 issue for hospitals in Tennessee is the Medicare Wage Index. We are disproportionately reimbursed when compared to high-cost states. That’s one of the things that needs to be fixed in Washington.

As far as access in different parts of Tennessee and rural areas, we need to look at laws that require government approval for people who want to put healthcare services in certain parts of our state. We need to look to see if there are reforms that

need to be in place that would open up these areas.

The second thing is telemedicine and telehealth. We need to figure out how to make reimbursement a priority or how to ease up requirements for those who want to do it, and change some of the definitions that are limiting the use of telemedicine. In a rural area, if you don’t have the same access to healthcare you have to take a full day off work to go to and from the doctor. We need to keep in mind that there are indirect costs not only to the consumer but also to the employer.

The third thing I will say – because I could go on for a longtime on healthcare – is to try and give consumers transparency on cost. It is very hard to control cost or have a competitive marketplace if very few people know what things cost. We are trying to work on a small-payer’s claim database, which will help consumers research and be able to see what an average cost would be for various procedures they may have based on where they live, the insurance they have, and a lot of factors.

TT&C: How will the legislature continue to address the opioid crisis and what results have been seen from recent legislation like TN Together?

CS: If you look at the overdose deaths, the number of prescription opioid overdose deaths have decreased. The number of prescriptions for morphine and opioids has decreased anywhere from 35 to 50% in the past 12 months. The issue in Tennessee isn’t so much prescription opioids now as much as it is fentanyl. You have marijuana laced with fentanyl or maybe cocaine laced with fentanyl, and fentanyl is so strong that even a little can kill you.

Sheriffs and police officers 20 years ago were focused on meth and labs where it was produced. It moved into prescription opioids and now it’s moving into heroin. We can always make reforms based on what drug is being used at the time, but you have to understand all they are going to do is change drugs. A lot of people think the problem is the drug, but if you ask me, the problem is the people.

What we need to do is put more money into behavioral health and mental health for substance abuse. We need to attack this on the front end, and realize that people don’t need to be treated for these addictions for 60 days. They need treatment for two years. If we don’t do it on the front end, we are going to be paying for it on the backend like we are now.

TT&C: What are the pieces of legislation you have worked on that have meant the most to you and why?

CS: About half of my legislation comes from my district. People at home always have great ideas and issues that they come across. All of those pieces have been wonderful. I did the ridesharing bill a few years ago that was an interesting piece of legislation. Lt. Gov. McNally and I did some legislation on opioids and pain clinics over the course of our time together, which I think has helped as well.

TT&C: You often bring your kids to the state house and have encouraged other lawmakers to bring their children as well. Why do you feel this is important for both lawmakers and children?

CS: I think it is important for us to understand there is life outside of politics. I also want people to feel like the Capitol is a place they can bring their kids and families. As far as the historical value and as far as civics go, it’s very beneficial for everyone. I hope that more members will do it. You see more and more kids coming down, and I think it’s great that when the kids visit, they develop friendships with each other and in turn legislators develop friendships. You move away from being cohorts to being friends.

TT&C: If, years from now, one of your children came to you and said they wanted to run for office, what advice would you give them?

CS: It’s all about timing. I would ask if this was the right time in their life or if this is the right opportunity. I would ask if they are committed to doing it, and why they wanted to run. It may seem like a simple question, but it’s actually very complex. I think everyone who has a desire to run for public office should run. I would never tell anybody not to run for office, but I would want to make sure it is the right time in their life for them.