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New process for obtaining situs information for state, and local levied taxes

Tenn. Code Ann. 67-1-1704(d) permits the Department of Revenue to provide local governments with tax information for specific purposes, subject to certain limitations.

Pursuant to this law, the Department of Revenue may, upon written request, provide duly authorized officials of a local government with tax information "to the extent necessary to ascertain whether allocations from state levied taxes are being distributed to the correct unit of local government."

Consistent with this legislative change initiated by the Tennessee Municipal League, which was adopted by the Tennessee General Assembly, and conversations with the Department of Revenue, the Department of Revenue will generally provide a local government with situs information for taxpayers in a zip code located either entirely or partially within the boundaries of the local government. In addition, the Department will also generally provide a local government with the situs information for taxpayers in a zip code that is adjacent to the local government's corporate limits.

The information provided is subject to limits and may not include taxpayer's returns, receipts, income, tax liability, tax payments, or other financial information; rather the information provided will be limited to only that necessary to determine whether allocations of state levied taxes are being distributed correctly.

Seeking Situs Information for Zip Codes Entirely or Par-

tially Within or Adjacent to the City Limits

To obtain such situs information for a zip code entirely or partially within or adjacent to the municipality's corporate limits, a duly authorized official of the local government must submit the request in writing to the Department of Revenue.

Such a request should include a description of the situs information that the local government wishes to obtain, including listing of zip codes seeking, and an explanation of how the information is necessary to ascertain whether allocations from state and local levied taxes are being distributed to the correct unit of local government. It is sufficient to state that such information is being sought for audit purposes.

Seeking Situs Information for Zip Codes that are Neither Within nor Adjacent to City Limits

To obtain taxpayer situs information for zip codes that are neither within nor adjacent to city limits, the local government must provide a detailed, written explanation as to why the information is necessary. The Department will evaluate such requests on a case-by-case basis.

Request for Situs Information must be sent via U.S. Mail to: Tennessee Department of Revenue ATTN: Rachel Hall

Financial Control Division P.O. Box 190615, Nashville, TN 37219

OR email the request to Rachel Hall at Rachel.Hall@tn.gov

Anderson County incident provides case study in sovereign citizens' movement

BY KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

Fraudulent liens taken out against public officials — an act known as "paper terrorism" — has increasingly become an issue for government employees in Tennessee and across the country.

Secretary of State Tre Hargett, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) Louis Kukyendall, and Anderson County District Attorney General Dave Clark have all dealt with fraudulent liens through their work and in Clark's case personally when fraudulent liens were filed against him and several of his fellow local officials, law enforcement officers, and public employees in Anderson County.

The three recently served on a panel at the TML Annual Conference in Murfreesboro to enlighten city officials about the sovereign citizen movement and the recent activity in East Tennessee that lead to the arrests of 10 people and 320 indictments.

ASAC Kukyendall said the sovereign citizen movement grew out of three major movements. The first is the Posse Comitatus movement of the late 1960s and early 1970s, a faction of largely white supremacist survivalists who believed the Federal Reserve and IRS were undermining the rights of white citizens and that no legitimate form of government existed above the county level.

"This group had a violent element that would abduct people and then use their paperwork to file false

liens and conduct other scams," he said. "However, this group started coming apart at the seams and devolved into just a general anti-tax movement during the 1980s."

The second group was the militia movement that arose in the 1980s and gained more momentum after government standoffs in the 1990s. Kukyendall said that movement began to decline following Timothy McVeigh's bombing of the Oklahoma Federal Building. The third major contributor to the sovereign citizen movement was the advent of the internet, which allowed believers to anonymously spout their political beliefs or conduct scams.

In his experience, General Clark said the first time government officials come into contact with sovereign citizens often when police execute a traffic stop, when a tax



Dave Clark
Anderson County
District Attorney General

issue with a citizen arises, or through zoning and codes enforcement.

"Our zoning officials encountered these people early on," Clark said. "One was attempting to invent a car that didn't run on gasoline and had it up on blocks in his front yard. It became a zoning issue, and because of a citation from the officer, he became involved in the movement. Another individual became active in the movement not because he owed child support but because the clerk and master had the temerity to issue him a bill for his court costs. It can be any number of things that set these people off."

While Kukyendall said sovereign citizens aren't technically a "gang" in the traditional sense, their groups and gangs do have some elements in common. He said sovereign citizens have their own jargon and lingo that may seem confusing to those not familiar with the movement.

"They use English words but



Tre Hargett
TN Secretary of State



Louis Kukyendall TBI Assistant Special Agent in Charge

put them together in ways that don't make sense," Kukyendall said. "It is part of the smokescreen that they

Kukyendall said sovereign citizens will try to get documents in their jargon stamped by notary publics or the Secretary of State's Office to make them "official" despite not having any legal meaning. These documents and letters are then often sent to government officials as a precursor to a fraudulent lien being taken out in their name.

While these documents are often the first sign of an issue, Clark said there is nothing that can be done legally at this point. He said Anderson County officials had been receiving such documentation for several years before sovereign citizens began showing up at city hall or at an official's office trying to serve them papers.

"These documents would purport to be state or federal lawsuits, but See LIEN on Page 4

Conference panel discusses opioid crisis

BY KATE COIL

Reducing stigma, normalizing treatment, and community-driven efforts are three major ways experts believe the state of Tennessee and its leadership can work to address the opioid abuse epidemic.

A four-member panel comprised of law enforcement, medical experts, and volunteer advocates discussed the various ways the opioid epidemic is affecting the state of Tennessee during TML's Annual Conference in Murfreesbare

Knoxville Police Chief David Rausch facilitated the panel with Dr. Stephen Lloyd, director of Substance Abuse Services for the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services; Dr. Mitchell Mutter, medical director of the Tennessee Department of Health; and Karen Pershing, executive director of the Metro Knoxville Drug Coalition.

Rausch said while America only has 5 percent of the world's population it consumes 80 percent of the world's prescription opioids, including 99 percent of the world's hydrocodone. There are more prescriptions for opioids than there are adults in the U.S. with opioid sales exceeding \$10 billion each year.

"That gives us a pretty good idea of why this problem exists; it's because of the money," Rausch said. "And it's because of the money that we are losing lives every day. In Knoxville, every other day we are seeing an overdose death and the vast majority of those are from opioids. We have seen a movement where it is not prescribed medication but rather illicit medication. It is mostly fentanyl and its many derivatives."

Pershing said her organization mainly focuses on prevention by assessing issues within the local community and finding ways to address those issues. She said the organization's planning is data-driven and said it is easy to get "paralysis by analysis" by looking at the federal, state and local data on opioid abuse and deaths.

"I had never seen the steep upward curves like I had seen with the opioid epidemic. It was hard to figure out where to start because it



Knoxville Police Chief David Rausch facilitated the panel with Dr. Stephen Lloyd, director of Substance Abuse Services for the state Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.



Dr. Mitchell Mutter, TN Department of Health Medical Director

is such a complex issue. This issue is in the mainstream medical community. We had to figure out who we needed to get to the table that we weren't already working with. We started a prescription drug task force to bring all those multiple stakeholders together," she said.

Pershing said one of the ongoing issues is that when opioid supplies are cut off in a community, the addicts created by opioid abuse sometimes turn to harder drugs like heroin. Often times, it is those harder drugs that cause overdose



Karen Pershing, Metro Knoxville Drug Coalition Executive Director

"We are starting to see some positive indicators, but at the same time, it's like a balloon when someone squeezes one end the air pops out the other," she said.

Dr. Lloyd has personally dealt with opioid addiction, both as a physician in East Tennessee and as an addict himself for 13 years.

"I was one of these patients," Lloyd said. "I doctor shopped and I stole medicine out of people's medicine cabinets. Half the time I went to bed at night and prayed I wouldn't die in my sleep. Other

See **OPIOID** on Page 4

FY18 Federal budget: What's at stake for cities

BY ANGELINA PANETTIERI
National League of Cities

In its Fiscal Year 2018 budget plan, the administration proposed an unprecedented \$54 billion in cuts to federal funding for domestic programs important to cities and towns. Since then, members of the House Appropriations Committee have met to debate funding levels for agencies and specific programs, with some important

changes. As of July 17, the Committee has finished work on half of the twelve appropriations bills needed to fully fund the federal government: the Agriculture and Rural Development bill, the Commerce, Science, and Justice bill, the Defense bill, the Energy and Water bill, the Financial Services bill, the Legislative Branch bill, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs bill, and the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development bill. The committee has yet to mark up the Homeland Security bill, the Interior and Environment bill, the Labor, Health and Human Services bill, and the State bill, but are expected to do so before the start of their August recess. In ad-

dition to this appropriations work,

the House Budget Committee must set top-level spending numbers for each of these appropriations bills, and the House bills must be reconciled with Senate versions, all before the start of the new fiscal year on Oct. 1.

NLC has been monitoring the House Appropriation Committee's markups, and contacting subcommittees directly in response to approved spending bills. The Federal Advocacy team sent letters early this week to the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development and Related Agencies, the Subcommittee on the Interior and the Environment, the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, the Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and the Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development.

To learn more on each spending bill, the NLC's FY18 Budget Tracker takes a detailed look at some of the most important federal programs to cities, and the current state of play for their funding. View it online at: http://www.nlc.org/federal-budget-fy18-tracker-state-of-play-for-cities

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



BARTLETT, COLLIERVILLE and MURFREESBORO

Bartlett, Collierville and Murfreesboro have all received certificates of achievement for excellence in financial reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA). The certificate is awarded to each city for their comprehensive annual financial report and is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. The GFOA is a professional organization of public officials who are committed to holding government financial officers accountable to high standards of professional conduct in managing their communities' resources.

CLEVELAND

Cleveland reported the lowest fuel costs of any city in the country during the highly-traveled Fourth of July holiday weekend. According to online gas reporting service GasBuddy.com, the average retail price of regular gas in Cleveland fell 1.3 cents per gallon to \$1.80 per gallon before the weekend with gas selling as low as \$1.67 at several Cleveland stations. Dalton, Ga., had the 18 lowest price of any U.S. metro area at just under \$1.88 per gallon, while Chattanooga ranked 20th lowest with an average price of \$1.88. The drop in prices came despite a 4 cents per gallon increase in Tennessee's state gas tax, which went into effect on July 1.

DICKSON

Mohawk Industries will be expanding its operations in Dickson, adding a second facility and creating around 245 jobs in the area. One of the world's leading flooring manufacturers, Mohawk opened a new customer experience center within its state-of-the-art ceramic tile manufacturing plant in Dickson earlier in this year. The second plant in Dickson is scheduled to begin operations in late 2018 with construction on the new facility starting this summer. The plant will be operated by Mohawk's Dal-Tile division, the largest manufacturer of ceramic tile in North America. Dal-Tile offers products under the best-known brand names in the industry: Daltile, Marazzi, American Olean, Ragno and Mohawk Ceramic Tile. Dal-Tile sells through a network of more than 300 company-owned sales service centers. slab centers, design galleries and studios, as well as through independent distributors and leading home center retailers nationwide.

GALLATIN

The city of Gallatin won second place for a municipal branding/ rebranding campaign in a national competition held by the National Association of Government Communicators (NAGC). The branding and marketing package was the result of a collaboration between North Star, the city and the Gallatin Area Chamber of Commerce. Since its debut at the end of 2016, the branding campaign has been used in social media, signage, advertising and the city's new website (gallatintn.gov) launched earlier this month. Federal, state, and local agencies from across the nation competing in the category of "branding/rebranding campaign" were challenged to demonstrate an agency-wide look and feel in the creation of a brand encompassing all print, electronic, Web-based and audiovisual media. In the same category, first place was taken by Memphis International Airport and third place was awarded to the U.S. Social Security Administration.

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KNOXVILLE

The city of Knoxville will be retrofitting nearly 30,000 streetlights with light-emitting diodes (LEDs), a plan that could save the city \$2 million a year while greatly reducing carbon emissions. The Knoxville Office of Sustainability, working with KUB, developed the plan to cut in half the approximately \$4 million the City currently spends each year to operate and maintain the streetlight system. The city council approved a \$9,548,215 contract with Siemens to perform turn-key design and installation services for the new LED lights, beginning with an extensive design phase that includes test/demo installations of new lights for evaluation by the city and public stakeholders. Once the design phase is complete, Siemens expects to begin installation of new lights across the city in late 2017 or early 2018. According to the contract terms, all work is expected to be complete by June 30, 2019. Siemens was selected to provide the turn-key design and installation services for the Streetlight Replacement Project through a competitive procurement process that began in fall 2016.

LA VERGNE

HYLA, Inc. will open a new facility in La Vergne, investing more than \$1 million and creating approximately 225 new jobs. The specialized mobile device reverse logistics technology and services provider works closely with Fortune 100 companies, including the largest mobile service providers, mobile device manufacturers and technology retailers. HYLA provides technology and expertise that powers the collection, processing, renewal and distribution of previously owned mobile devices. HYLA's customized software solutions and pricing expertise drive the collection of mobile devices at thousands of customer locations throughout the U.S. and Canada. Upon receipt of mobile devices, HYLA's La Vergne facility will assess the condition of each device. remove all customer data, conduct repairs as needed and resell the devices into secondary markets throughout the U.S. and around the world. HYLA also offers software solutions including Analytics and Omni-Channel Device Collections for its customers. To date, HYLA has collected and repurposed over 43 million devices, diverted over 9,500 tons of e-waste away from landfills, and avoided 51.5 billion gallons of ground water pollution.

LEBANON

Pennant Moldings Inc. is investing \$8.6 million to establish new operations in Lebanon, creating approximately 60 new jobs in the next five years. The metal stamping manufacturer will build a 60,000-square-foot facility, with construction slated for completion in the fourth quarter of 2017. Founded in 1969, Pennant Moldings is based in Sabina, Ohio. The company produces metal stamping, fabrications and roll formed parts, ranging from small electrical components to large decorative stainless steel doors. Pennant Moldings' new facility will predominantly serve the automotive and appliance industry in the Southeast. Construction on the new plant is underway.

LEWISBURG

Minth Group Ltd. is investing \$13.2 million in the next five years to establish a manufacturing facility in Lewisburg, creating approximately 200 new jobs. The automotive supplier hopes to expand its presence in the U.S. and support its growth with the new facility. Minth will renovate an existing 125,000-square-foot facility at 1801 Childress Road in Lewisburg. The company's plant in Lewisburg will have full manufacturing capabilities and also act as a distribution warehouse for parts manufactured at Minth facilities abroad. Based in China, Minth is a leading designer and manufacturer of structural body, trim and decorative parts for the automotive industry. Worldwide, Minth has 40 production plants that support automotive markets in 29 different countries. Minth serves almost all major automotive OEMs and its customer base represents 80

percent of the global auto market. Minth employs more than 13,000 people worldwide.

LOUDON

Protomet Corp. will be bringing jobs back to its Maremont muffler plant in Loudon, which closed in 2013, as part of a planned expansion. The former muffler factory includes about 350,000 square feet of warehouse space, about 160,000 square feet of factory floor, and about 17,000 square feet of office space. Loading docks and smaller features fill out the total of roughly 605,000 square feet. The site has access to the Norfolk Southern rail line and Interstate 75. Protomet will acquire the building in 2018 with renovation starting immediately. The company is spending \$4 million on renovations of the building and \$26 million on new equipment. The start-up at the new facility will require hiring 20 to 25 more workers with operations beginning sometime in the first half of 2018.

MCKENZIE

Campbell Arms Manufacturing, LLC, will invest \$1.1 million and create 50 new jobs at a new facility in McKenzie. Campbell Arms Manufacturing is a veteran-owned business built around specialists with experience in U.S. Army testing labs, military agencies and police departments. Campbell Arms Manufacturing plans to upgrade an existing 20,000-square-foot facility in McKenzie. The company will manufacture firearms components at the McKenzie plant predominantly for military agencies and police departments.

MEMPHIS

The city of Memphis has begun a program that will help municipal employees repay their student loans. Beginning July 1, the new program provides eligible city workers with a monthly \$50 contribution toward the repayment of their student loan principal. Qualifying employees must be active, full-time employees who have worked with the city for at least 12 months. The program is being administered by Tuition.io, a platform for employee student loan contributions.

NASHVILLE

PathGroup is undertaking a major expansion in the Nashville area, creating more than 200 jobs and investing approximately \$18 million in a consolidated lab and corporate back office. PathGroup, one of the largest private providers of pathology and clinical lab services in the U.S., was founded in 1965 and led by physicians. The pathology and clinical laboratory services company has more than 80 in-house pathology experts and more than 1,100 employees dedicated to improving patient outcomes through high-quality service and direct physician contact. Headquartered in Brentwood, PathGroup currently operates three labs in the Nashville area that will now be located in the new lab facility at 1000 Airpark Center Drive. PathGroup, a Pritzker Group company, currently works with more than 70 hospitals and thousands of group practices across the U.S. to deliver quality lab test and diagnostic results with unmatched responsiveness.

SMYRNA Valeo North America will expand

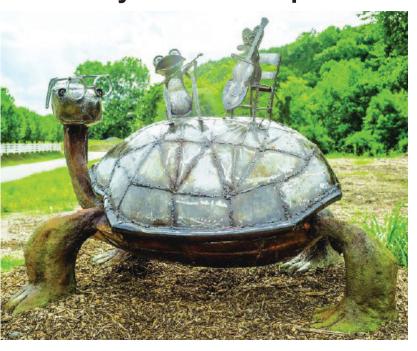
its operations in Smyrna, investing \$25 million and creating 80 new jobs. The company will expand its current facility in Smyrna by 130,000 square feet to provide new space for equipment, increase the volume of existing product offerings, and add new product lines. Manufacturing at this location will include front-end modules, active grill shutters, and in the future, HVAC products. The automotive supplier and partner to automakers worldwide is a largely technology-based company that proposes innovative products and systems that contribute to the reduction of CO2 emissions and to the development of intuitive driving. Valeo has 166 plants, 20 research centers, 38 development centers, 15 distribution platforms, and employs 100,900 people in 32 countries. Valeo is listed on the Paris stock exchange and is a member of the CAC 40 index.

Madisonville officials tour city's new sewer plant



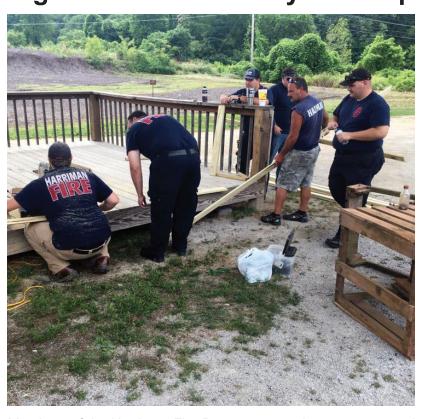
The Board of Madisonville Mayor and Aldermen recently took a tour of the new sewer plant. The plant was 20 years in the making and now serves the entire town. From left: Plant Operator John Moates, Sewer Department Director Charlie Atkins, Aldermen Gus Davis, James Bledsoe, Susan Saunders, Linda Hensley, City Recorder Sherri McCrary, Mayor Glenn Moser and Alderman Fred Cagle.

Woodbury unveils new public art



The city of Woodbury has unveiled its newest public sculpture, titled "In Time Piece," funded partially through a Tennessee Arts Commission (TAC) Creative Placemaking Grant the Arts Center of Cannon County applied for in 2016. The steel and concrete turtle, frog and mouse are located along the East Fork of the Stones River at the corner of Doolittle and West Water streets in Woodbury and were designed by area sculptor Bret MacFayden.

Harriman citizens, officials come together for community clean-up



Members of the Harriman Fire Department work to construct and replace containers for trash cans, make renovations on the play-ground, and build a new Farmer's Market Pavilion as part of a community-wide clean-up day held at David Webb Riverfront Park. City employees, residents and other volunteers came out on June 27 to clean up the park and local area.

Dandridge hosts jubilee crowd



Residents and visitors enjoy the 2017 June Jubilee in Dandridge. The annual summer street fair brings guests to downtown Dandridge for music, food, arts, crafts, a car show and an annual dog show. Tennessee's second oldest town holds the festival each year in Dandridge's historic town square.

Lighting up the night sky; synchronization of fireflies

BY KELSEY DAVISTDEC Sustainable Practices

Every year near the Elkmont Campground in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, tens of thousands of a species of firefly, known as *Photinus carolinus* put on quite a show lighting up the

on quite a show, lighting up the entire forest in a brilliant twinkling display. This year's viewing dates were announced for May 30

through June 6.

The Smoky Mountains has the largest population of synchronous fireflies in the Western Hemisphere. There are a number of different firefly species in the park; however, this particular species is the only one capable of synchronizing their illumination patterns. Lightning bugs are a type of beetle. And like all beetles, they start out as larva.

They will spend the first year or two of their lives as larva underground feeding until maturity. Once mature, they emerge as lightning bugs ready to mate. This is the two week, spectacular viewing period that thousands of people come to see. The remarkable synchronized blinking is actually the males working very hard to attract a female.

The male fireflies hover two to seven feet above the ground while the females stay on the ground. A courageous male will begin flashing around 9:30 p.m., right at dusk, and after a few minutes the rest will coordinate their luminescent lanterns. The males flash for a period of two to four seconds, and then pause for an eight second break in which the females will respond with a quick double-flash. This synchronized biological light show will continue until midnight or later.

If one has never actually witnessed the event, sometimes upon envisioning the phenomenon, individuals will portray a pulsing glow of light that blinks on and off together at once. This, however, is not the case. Even though the males are flashing in the same time pattern, they are not all flashing together.

It is more similar to a spectacular Christmas light display of rapidly twinkling lights and then a sudden period of complete darkness, as if someone pulled the plug. Scientists speculate that the reason the males create a synchronized dark period is so that they can search for a willing mate without being distracted by other flashing males.

This amazing nature spectacle started becoming highly popular in 2005, and in 2006 through a partnership with the city of Gatlinburg. Shuttles were provided for the park to use during the eight-day viewing period.

Guests park at the Sugarlands Visitor Center and then take a short shuttle bus ride to the trailhead. The shuttle reduces traffic and congestion and also helps to protect the fireflies and reduce disturbance during the critical mating period.

Originally, the viewing period was first-come, first-serve, but because masses of people would stand in line for hours and hours, they changed to an online reservation system. The website system was not much better though, because it would crash due to the enormous surge of users and all the passes would be sold out in roughly 30 seconds after opening.

In 2016, they went to a lottery system on the National Park Service site. People have four days to apply at their leisure, and the winners are selected at random. This year out of the 18,486 applications for a one night lottery pass, only 1,800 were accepted.

Luckily, even though this is such a high-demand event, it is very affordable to attend. It only costs \$2.75 per pass, and you are only charged if you are successful in receiving a pass. Likewise, the shuttle is only \$1 per person to ride.

This may seem like only a select few get to see the fireflies. However, roughly 12,000 people get to witness the breeding show each year. Each lottery pass is awarded per vehicle, not per person. This includes 1,768 parking passes for standard sized vehicles with up to six passengers, and 32 large vehicle passes are permitted as well allowing a maximum of 24 occupants each.

Visitors can also come from the nearby Elkmont Campground,



The Smoky Mountains has the largest population of synchronous fireflies in the Western Hemisphere.

which has 220 camp-

"Roughly 7,000 visitors come from the trolleys and about 5,000 from the campground. People migrate from all over the country to witness this once in a lifetime event," said Dana Soehn from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, "Last year, 42 different states were represented."

You might be tempted to begin planning a viewing trip for next year, but you must plan carefully. The synchronized showing may happen each year, but the dates always vary. The fireflies may

emerge any time between mid-May to mid-June and be gone in two weeks.

The dates of the firefly lottery



year, some 12,000 people from 42 different states got to witness the breeding show.

are usually released sometime in late April. Scientists at the park predict the exact dates each year based on various factors including air temperature and soil temperature. However, this amazing sight is something that should be on everyone's bucket list.

Sales tax revenues were \$24.4 million more than the estimate for June

Total tax revenues for June were above budgeted expectations. Finance and Administration Commissioner Larry Martin announced that overall Tennessee tax revenues in June, led by strong growth in franchise and excise (F&E) taxes, were \$1.4 billion, which is \$112.1 million more than the state budgeted.

"While we are encouraged by the positive revenue numbers, we need to be mindful of two important points," Martin said. "First, the Funding Board in November 2016 revised upward for the fiscal year 2017 budget the anticipated positive variance for overall Tennessee taxes. As a result, \$663.3 million of the fiscal year 2017 unaudited year to date positive variance of \$731.3 million general fund revenue is already included in the fiscal year 2018 budget. Secondly, F&E tax payments by businesses are estimates of their tax liability and are subject to change."

On an accrual basis, June is the eleventh month in the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

General fund revenues ex-

ceeded the budgeted estimate in the amount of \$109.3 million. The four other funds that share in state tax revenues were also in excess of budgeted expectations by \$2.8 million.

Sales tax revenues were \$24.4 million more than the estimate for June. The June growth rate was positive 6.7 percent. For 11 months revenues have exceeded the original budgeted estimate by \$273.3 million. The year-to-date growth rate for 11 months was positive 3.64 percent.

Franchise and excise taxes combined were \$100.4 million above the budgeted estimate of \$356.1 million. The growth rate for June was positive 14.6 percent. For 11 months revenues are \$477.4 million above the budget estimate. The year-to-date growth rate was positive 13.87 percent, however, adjusting for two very large one-time payments received in the current year the underlying growth rate is positive 5.54 percent.

Privilege tax revenues were \$15.2 million below the June esti-

mate. For 11 months revenues are \$5.9 million above the budgeted estimate.

Business tax revenues were \$1.1 million more than the June estimate. Year-to-date revenues for eleven months are \$17.3 million above the budgeted estimate.

Inheritance and estate tax revenues were \$900,000 below the June estimate. For eleven months revenues are \$500,000 above the budgeted estimate.

Hall income tax revenues for June were \$1.6 million less than the budgeted estimate. For 11 months revenues are \$45.5 million below the budgeted estimate.

Tobacco tax revenues were \$900,000 above the budgeted estimate of \$22.4 million. For 11 months revenues are \$2.1mllion less than the year-to-date estimate.

Motor vehicle registration revenues were \$2.9 million above the June estimate, and on a year-to-date basis they are \$13.5 million above estimates.

Gasoline and motor fuel revenues for June were \$400,000 less

than the budgeted estimates. For eleven months revenues exceed budgeted estimates by \$43.9 million

All other taxes for June were above budgeted estimates by a net of \$500,000.

Year-to-date revenues for eleven months were \$789.6 million more than the budgeted estimate. The general fund recorded revenues in the amount of \$731.3 million above the budgeted estimates, and the four other funds \$58.3 million above.

The budgeted revenue estimates for 2016-2017 are based on the State Funding Board's consensus recommendation of Nov. 23, 2015, and adopted by the second session of the 109th General Assembly in April 2016. Also incorporated in the estimates are any changes in revenue enacted during the 2016 session of the General Assembly. These estimates are available on the state's website at http://www.tn.gov/finance/article/fa-budget-rev.

On Nov. 17, 2016, the Funding Board met to hear updated revenue

projections from the state's various economists. Meeting again on Nov. 29, 2016, the board adopted revised recurring revenue growth ranges for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. The current fiscal year's revised ranges recognize growth in total taxes from a low of 2.5 percent to a high of 3 percent and a general fund growth from a low of 2.75 percent to a high of 3.25 percent.

On May 8, 2017, in the first session of the 110th General Assembly, the legislature passed the 2017-2018 budget, which included the Funding Board's current year revised ranges and also the administration's amendment to the proposed budget. The governor signed the budget bill on May 25, 2017.

With passage of the appropriations act, P.C. 460, the General Assembly recognized in the current fiscal year an additional \$751.9 million in total tax revenue of which \$623.7 is recurring and a corresponding increase in general fund revenue in the amount of \$663.3 million of which \$481.1 million is recurring.



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- ► Site Development/Planning
- Parks and Recreation
- Municipal Utilities
- Municipal Solid Waste



Experts say reducing stigma, normalizing treatment, and community efforts key factors in combating opioid crisis

OPIOID from Page 1

half I prayed that I would. I was desperate. I was a trained physician, and I knew physically what was happening to me. The weird thing is I had no idea there were people out there willing to help me, and I didn't know people could get better."

In his experience, Lloyd said the stigma associated with drug abuse is one of the reasons why patients don't seek help or aren't informed of the resources available to help them.

"Stigma is the biggest problem I see on a day-to-day basis," he said. "I can't overstate how important it is to shed the stigma associated with this disease. We can have everything working in our favor, but if we can't convince people its O.K. to step out and ask for help, we will continue to have the 14,051 overdose deaths per year like in 2015. That number will increase for 2016 and in 2017. As long as we keep our current thought process that addiction is a moral failure and people can't or don't deserve to get better, it doesn't matter what any of us does."

Making recovery from drug addiction more visible and more accepted is one way Lloyd said people can work to reduce stigma.

"I've met moms who have lost their children to overdose death, and some of these moms live in the tough side of town and some live in Green Hills or Belle Meade. It doesn't matter who you are; this issue touches everyone," Lloyd said. "People need to see folks get better. It helps people see that they can get better. I would just ask people to keep an open mind when it comes to treatment. There are 10,000 different ways to do recovery. We just have to find the one that is right for the particular person in front of us."

Mutter, who helped write the state of Tennessee's chronic pain prescription guidelines, said prescription drugs are in some ways the new gateway drug.

"If you look at the statistics, 80 percent of the people who use illicit drugs started abusing prescription drugs," he said. "Approximately 44 percent of people who died in overdose deaths in 2015 had at some point abused prescription drugs. We are at a tipping point where it is getting harder and harder for people to get these prescription drugs so they get desperate and turn to the streets."

To help combat the epidemic, Mutter said the state holds symposia around Tennessee that educates citizens, doctors, and pharmacists about opioid issues. State regulations also help combat the epidem-

"We are in a crisis," Mutter said. "I am a state's rights, anti-regulatory person but I don't think we would have seen the successes we see today if our legislators had not stepped up and passed some laws and regulations. I believe we need a nationalized database for opioid addiction. People are going across state lines to get these drugs, so we need a national database available to prescribers, pharmacists, regulators and law enforcement. We also need a medical examiner system to help figure out what is going on with these overdose deaths. We are just now analyzing 2015 data, which is far different from what is happening today.'

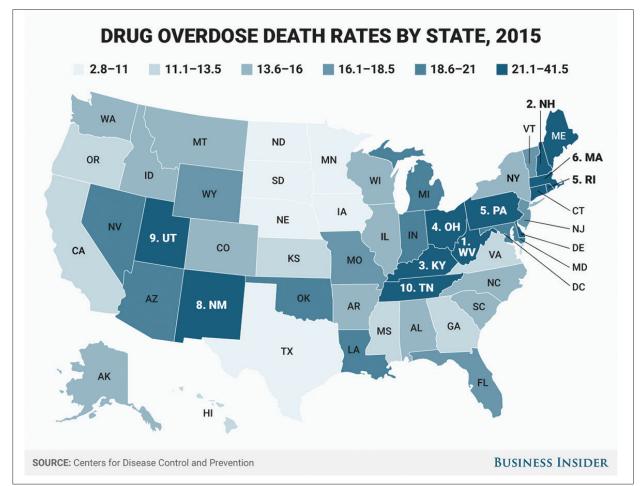
Lloyd said meaningful legislation and funding are one of the reasons why Tennessee has become a leader in fighting the opioid epidemic. He said one of the best weapons Tennessee has against opioid addiction are faith-based initiatives.

"Guys, I love our faith-based initiatives," Lloyd said. "They are the biggest resource we have. About 75 percent of all Tennesseans identify with some sort of faith-based organization. We have to utilize that army. We are doing that right now in our department. We have to build recovery-friendly congregations that celebrate sobriety. If we give people a chance to not hang around the dope dealers and instead hang around people who are giving them a chance and giving them a leg up, we will turn the tide."

Pershing said the state's 52 local anti-drug coalitions are a great resource for the state as well.

"Our partnership and our ability to work with multiple stakeholders helps move things forward. We do a lot of education in our community, especially with our young people," Pershing said. "We also tapped into our media in our community because we are trying to reach the masses with the importance of these issues we see in the community. Our media becomes a huge partner in getting the word out."

She said one of the issues her coalition is working to educate the public on is neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS), a condition when a baby is born addicted to prescription pills because the mother either



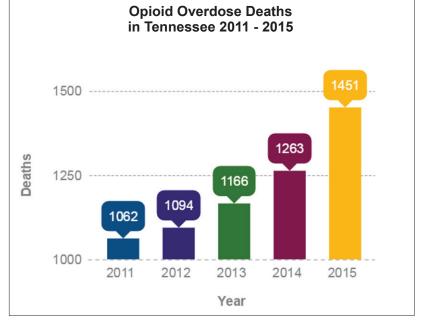
In 2015, Tennessee was tenth in the nation for drug overdose deaths with 1,451 deaths reported.

abused opioids during pregnancy or used them without realizing she was pregnant.

"These numbers are leveling off statewide," she said. "I don't want to see any baby go through withdrawal after being exposed to these medications. It is an issue I use to wake the rest of the community. A lot of people when you talk about addiction say 'it's just those people and I don't care about those people.' But we all care about babies. This epidemic is impacting our next generation of citizens, so this is everyone's problem."

From a law enforcement side of things, Rausch said officers are working to stop pill mills and the doctors who operate them. All officers in Knoxville also have been trained on how to use naloxone to stop overdoses and carry it with them in nasal form. Since full deployment in 2016, he said officers have saved 87 lives in their community.

"Some people ask 'why would you save those people'?" Rausch said. "The answer is because those people are our children, our moms and dads, aunts or uncles, grandmas and grandpas. Those people are our residents and their lives are worth something. The stigma that 'those people' shouldn't be saved



is absolutely ridiculous. Addiction is a brain disease, a documented disease. When we get beyond the stigma of it being some kind of underbelly issue, then we can move forward."

An overdose death task force has also been commissioned in Knoxville to figure out how overdose deaths occur and who can be held accountable. Rausch said the city is finding doctors who prescribed these drugs and pros-

ecuting them on second-degree homicide charges.

"There are people who sit in their homes and don't have a second thought about dealing death to other people," he said. "That is where we can make a huge impact on this problem, by holding those who are dealing death accountable. This is not something we've done before on a large scale, but we are seeing results."

Sovereign citizens indicted in file fraudulent liens scheme against government officials in Tennessee, new state law offers remedy

LIEN from Page 1

were generally handwritten and had not been prepared by a lawyer," Clark said. "You would call the court clerk and find out no lawsuit had actually been filed. Typically there is nothing you can do about that. But what I have found to be the hallmark of impending trouble is them filing something often referred to as a 'notice of claim' or a 'conditional offer."

These documents often offer a pseudo-legal threat against the government official, asking for whatever issue the person is facing to be dropped.

"What they will do is offer to allow you to drop whatever claim or issue they are facing – if you drop this zoning issue or do not require me to pay my taxes – and they will not pursue things any further," Clark said. "But if you do not drop this claim you have against them within a certain period of time, you have accepted their offer of taking out a lien against your property. If you do nothing, you are telling them you agree to have a lien taken out against you – which makes no sense whatsoever. That document is often the harbinger that something bad is going to happen."

Secretary of State Tre Hargett said his office handles 160,000 Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) filings a year, or roughly 800 a day online, in person and through the mail. If fees are paid and documentation is filled out correctly, most of these documents are approved though Hargett said his office is working to weed out potentially fraudulent liens.

"We can tell sometimes that this document isn't on the up-and-up and

we reject it," Hargett said. "These documents range from opening a business to filing a trademark to a notice that they've taken out a loan to pay for a piece of equipment so they cannot turn back around and borrow against that piece of equipment. However, it is a class E felony to prepare, sign or deliver to our office a lien that has no probable basis or legal cause, but that doesn't stop these people from abusing the system."

Hargett said fraudulent liens are a way to harass or seek revenge against public officials and are often taken out in exorbitant terms, often in millions of dollars. A recent investigation revealed 10 individuals had taken out liens against 60 government officials totaling \$2.1 billion taken out against them by sovereign citizens. He said these sovereign citizens often take out liens counting on the fact that government officials will not realize they have a lien taken out against them until they go to make an important financial transaction, such as applying for a loan to buy a house or a vehicle.

Clark said that in Anderson County, the city mayor, the county mayor, most county courthouse employees, several police officers, every police chief and he himself had fraudulent liens filed against them by a group of sovereign citizens working collaboratively at a local coffee shop. The liens were filed through the Secretary of State's office, which involved the Secretary of State and the Davidson County District Attorney's Office. The FBI and TBI became involved because fraudulent liens are considered a form of terrorism.

The fraudulent liens against the officials in Anderson County might have gone unnoticed if an assistant in Clark's office hadn't tried to purchase a home and found there was a substantial lien against her. When she reported the fraudulent lien, other officials in the county checked into their own credit reports and found they were also victims of similar liens.

Clark said not all liens are filed with the Secretary of State's Office. Some may be filed at local city and county clerk's offices while others may be filed at credit unions. Once liens have been uncovered, Clark said the best course of action is to report the issue local law enforcement, the local district attorney's

office and the Secretary of State's Office if the lien was filed on the state level.

Hargett said the state is developing ways to fight against fraudulent liens, such as the recently passed Senate Bill 726, which allows officials to remove fraudulent liens from the filing record. Hargett said he and former attorney general Judge Paul Summers worked with organizations like the Tennessee Bar Association, the Attorney General's Office and various law enforcement groups to develop a process to better notify public officials if a lien has been filed against them.

Government officials can then contest the loan, which then allows the Secretary of State's Office to

inform the filer the loan has been removed for being invalid. If the person who filed the lien wants to protest the lien being declared invalid, they have to pay court costs and other fees to contest it in court.

"If anyone believes they have had one of these liens filed against them, please call my office," Hargett said. "We will help you get in contact with the proper authorities and see what we can do to help you under the old laws and under the new laws as well. We want our system to continue to help people do legitimate business without there being a fear from public officials that these liens are going to ruin their lives."

SOVEREIGN CITIZEN JARGON

- Referring to themselves as a traveler, freeman, or a member of a non-existent nation (Moorish Nation, Washita Nation, Republic of North Carolina)
- ish Nation, Washita Nation, Republic of North Carolina)
 Spelling their name is all capital letters (ex. JOHN SMITH)
- Odd spellings or hyphenations of their name (ex. JOHN, FAMILY OF SMITH; JOHN-SMITH)

 Talking a base to be "through" (ex. JOHN SMITH).

 The second of th
- Talking about the "trust" (ex. JOHN SMITH OR THE TRUST OF JOHN SMITH)
- Giving their last name as EL, particularly if African-American (ex. JOHN EL)
 Documents that use terms such as "conditional offer" or "notice of claim"
- Referring to non-sovereigns as 14th Amendment citizens
- Signing documents in red ink
 Using "truth language," a complex and bizarre set of language rules designed to mimic the secret language of the law. All sentences must start with the preposition "for," have a minimum of 13 words, and use more nouns than verbs with similarly complex punctuation rules
- References to UCC-1 Statements or Form 1099-OID
 Belief that the U.S. has been under admiralty law rather than common law since the U.S. went off the gold standard in 1933. As a result, some believe the government had no right to impose laws on people without their consent after 1933 and believe that fringe used on state and national flags something that often indicates a military purpose for the flag further cements the belief that the country is operating under admiralty or commercial law.
- References to common-law courts, pseudo-legal courts set up to hear matters concerning sovereign citizens. These "courts" have been used to put public officials on trial for such offenses as treason, rule on matters of interest to sovereigns and, frequently, to formalize citizens' declarations of sovereignty, a process often known as asseverati



PEOPLE



Eric Cole has been appointed as the city of Nashville's first ever chief resilience officer (CRO) by Mayor Me-



Eric Cole

gan Barry. Cole's position and the Office of Resilience was created to lead city-wide efforts to help Nashville prepare for, withstand, and bounce back from catastrophic events like floods, tornadoes, and fires, as well as slow-moving disasters like unemployment, affordable housing, and poverty and inequality. A former Metro Councilmember and veteran of Metro government, he has served as the director of the Office of Economic Opportunity and Empowerment (OEOE) since October 2015. The position will be funded by The 100 Resilient Cities (100RC) network and is part of a \$164M commitment by The Rockefeller Foundation to build urban resilience.

Christine Fitzgerald has been selected as the new director of employee benefits and risk management for the city of Knoxville.



Christine Fitzgerald

Fitzgerald has served with the city since October 2011, first as a benefits coordinator and then as a benefits manager in 2013. She will take over the position as director of the department from Gary Eastes, who is retiring. Fitzgerald graduated with a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Tennessee. Before coming to work with the city of Knoxville, she was employed as a client manager for Willis of Tennessee, Inc. from 2001 until 2011.

Jonathan Fulmer, fire marshal for the Johnson City Fire Department, has been certified by the U.S. Fire Administration's



(USFA) National Fire Academy's managing officer program. The program is designed to provide company level fire and emergency medical service officers with better tools for management, leadership and administration. Goals of the program include enhancing professional growth and leadership, promoting education and networking, and providing instruction on community risk reduction, community safety, contemporary training issues, and analytic tools. The two-year program is comprised of four unique courses and a capstone project that directly benefits the fire officer's department and community. Fulmer has been with the Johnson City Fire Department for 13 years and has served as the fire marshal for the past five years.

and former state commissioner

James H. "Jim" Fyke, the long-time parks and recreation department director for the city of

Nashville



Jim Fyke

of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, died on June 20 at the age of 78. A staunch advocate of providing recreation and outdoors opportunities to Tennesseans, Fyke spent 39 years with the Metro Parks and Recreation Department, including 25 as its director. He is credited with spearheading the \$18 million face-lift for the Parthenon in 2001, orchestrating the land swap with HCA that made the Centennial Sportsplex possible, and overseeing the single largest donation of land to Metro from the Al Beaman family. He served under multiple mayors including Richard Fulton, Bill Boner, Phil Bredesen, Bill Purcell and Karl Dean. He was also selected as Gov. Phil Bredesen's the commissioner of state parks. During Fyke's tenure, the city of Nashville saw its parks department increase from 57 to 100 parks with overall park acreage nearly doubling as well. A native of Old Hickory, Fyke attended DuPont High School and graduated from the Peabody College of Vanderbilt. The James H. Fyke Administrative Complex at Centennial Park was dedicated in his honor in 2015.

Lola Jeanette Heap has been sworn in as the new member of the Pleasant Hill Town Council, filling the term left vacant



Lola Jeanette Heap

following the death of council member Peggy Muenstermann. Heap is presently serving as the manager of CVS Pharmacy in Crossville and will soon graduate with a bachelor's degree in human resource management from Western Governors University.

Josh Hyde has been selected as the new police chief for the town of Niota. A native of McMinn County, Hyde previ-



Josh Hyde

ously worked as a deputy with the McMinn County Sheriff's Department before accepting the position with the town. He replaces Chief June Parham, who retired on June 30. Hyde began working for the McMinn County Sheriff's Department in 2006, serving as a corrections officer at the county jail from 2006 until 2013, and then as a patrol deputy for the past three years. Before coming to the McMinn County Sheriff's Department, he worked as a corrections officer for the Meigs County Sheriff's Department.

Dale Sims has retired as the vice chancellor for business and finance for the Tennessee Board of Regents. Sims'



Dale Sims

final day on the job was June 30, bringing to a close nearly 38 years of service to the state of Tennessee. Sims began his career in 1980 as a legislative program evaluator in the office of the Comptroller of the Treasurer, joining the treasury department as a staff member two years later. In 1987, he became executive assistant to the treasurer and was elected Tennessee treasurer in 2003. He was appointed to the board of regents in 2009 by then Gov. Phil Bredesen.. Danny Gibbs, vice president of Roane State Community College, will take over following Sims' retire-

Jim Stables has been selected as the new chief of the Johnson City Fire Department and will begin his tenure there on



Jim Stables

Sept. 5. Stables has served the fire department for the city of Palm Bay, Fla., working as the department's chief since 2011. He also serves as the city's emergency manager. With more than 33 years of experience in fire service, Stables earned a bachelor's degree in public administration from Barry University. He also holds a Chief Fire Officer designation from the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) in addition to numerous fire certifications through the state of Florida. He is an active community member, serving as a Hospital Advisory Board member for Palm Bay Community Hospital and a senior board mentor/assessor for West Shore High School in Melbourne, Fla.

Jonas Whitwell, a 10year veteran of the Columbia Fire Fighter, died July 3 at the age of 42. Whitwell served as a



Jonas Whitwell

firefighter and EMT with the Department, serving at Columbia's Fire Station No. 2 on Lion Parkway throughout his career. Whitwell was elected as the Station 2 Steward for the International Association of Fire Fighters in December of 2016 and served as the captain and driver of the station. A Spring Hill High School graduate, Whitwell is survived by his three children.

Jonesborough retires K-9 Gregor



After eight years on the force, K-9 Officer Gregor has retired from the Jonesborough Police Department. Handler Sqt. Mike McPeak said Gregor was retired due to health reasons after being diagnosed with degenerative myelopathy. The 10-year-old Czech Shepard has been adopted by McPeak and his family. During his tenure with the force, Gregor netted 150 drug-related arrests and served alongside the Washington County Sheriff's Office, the VA, and the FBI.

Leader Mark Norris selected for federal judge nomination

Tennessee Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris has been nominated by President Donald Trump to serve as a federal judge for the U.S. District Court of Western Tennessee.

"I am honored by the nomination and appreciate the president's confidence in me," Norris said. "This is just the first step under the Constitution, and I look forward to the Senate confirmation process. In the meantime, I will continue to serve the citizens of the 32nd District who elected me to the Senate and my Senate colleagues who elected me as their leader.'

If confirmed, Norris would either fill one of the vacancies left by the departures of Judge Hardy Mays, who took senior status in 2015, and Judge Daniel Breen, who took senior status earlier this year. Both Mays and Breen had been appointed to the bench by then-President



Sen. Mark Norris

George W. Bush.

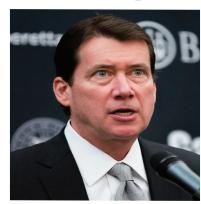
Norris was nominated alongside three other attorneys for open federal judgeships in Tennessee: Thomas L. Parker for the Western District, and Chip Campbell Jr. and Eli J. Richardson for the Middle District. All four nominees must be confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

Hagerty confirmed amabassador to Japan

Nashville businessman Bill Hagerty has been confirmed as the next U.S. Ambassador to Japan.

In an 86-12 vote, the U.S. Senate confirmed the nomination of the former Haslam administration commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Economic Development. Hagerty was nominated by President Donald Trump for the position.

A Tennessee native, Hagerty graduated from Vanderbilt University where he served as associate editor of the law review. He worked for the Boston Consulting Group, living in Tokyo for three years and serving as the senior executive managing clients in Asia.



Bill Hagerty

He served as a White House Fellow during the administration of George Bush, reporting mainly to Vice President Dan Quayle, and then went to work for Trident Capital in Silicon Valley. He then founded the private equity and advisory firm Hagerty Peterson and Company.

From 2011 to 2015, he was the commissioner of economic and community development for Tennessee, working under Gov. Bill Haslam. In that role, Hagerty, secured \$15 billion in investments and 90,000 jobs.

U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tennessee, voiced his support for Hagerty during the confirmation hearing.

"Bill Hagerty is headed to Japan not only able to speak the language, but having lived and worked there, and understanding how close ties between Japan and the United States can create bigger paychecks for Americans as well as for the Japanese," Alexander said.

He was also selected as a member of Trump's transition team as director of presidential appointments.

Hagerty succeeds Caroline Kennedy, an attorney and daughter of the late President John F. Kennedy. Hagerty is not the first Tennessean to hold the position of U.S. Ambassador to Japan. Former Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker held the position from 2001 until 2005.

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Water and Wastewater Systems



Five of the best cities for those making \$100,000 a year are located in the state of Tennessee, according to a new survey by Magnify Money. Johnson City, Morristown, Cleveland, Jackson, and Chattanooga all placed in the list of top ten cities for those with six-figure incomes. Magnify Money based its findings on impact of taxes, food, child care, housing, transportation, student loan payments, entertainment and personal savings. The calculations are based upon estimated costs for a family of two adults and one child. Magnify Money compared all 381 metropolitan cities in the United States to see where a family earning \$100,000 has the most wiggle room in their budgets.

The Tennessee Whiskey Trail is officially open. The 25-stop whiskey distillery tour was launched by the Tennessee Distillers Guild and lists a variety of whiskey distilleries from boutique-sized to large, internationally-recognized operations. On the trail, visitors can learn about the art of distilling and about the history and the culture of whiskey-making that is legendary in the state. To embark on the Trail, visitors can get their free passport booklet on tnwhiskeytrail.com or pick them up at select distillery locations and collect stamps at each distillery en route. Those who collect all 25 stamps will receive a commemorative gift to mark their achievement, as well as have their name listed on tnwhiskeytrail.com.

Two Tennessee cities have been selected as part of the U.S. Department of Justice's new National Public Safety Partnership. Memphis and Jackson were among the 12 cities selected to participate in the program, which is aimed at

helping local law enforcement officials and prosecutors study crime patterns and create customized plans to reduce gang and gun violence. Federal authorities will help the partner cities use "data-driven, evidence-based strategies" that can be measured over time. The Justice Department agencies involved in PSP are the United States Attorneys' Offices, Office of Justice Programs; the FBI; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; the U.S. Marshals Service; the Drug Enforcement Administration; the Office on Violence Against Women; and the Office of Community Oriented Policing.

Tennessee is on pace to break a record for the amount of employer tax credits issued in the state in 2017. The Workforce Services Division of the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development (TDLWD) marked a milestone in June after issuing more than \$215 million of Work Opportunity Tax Credits (WOTC) to employers across the state. During the first six months of 2017, TDLWD received 162,795 WOTC applications and approved 83,385 of them, totaling \$215,445,800 in tax credits for employers. The number of eligible applications approved by TDLWD between January and June of this year is just over 2,000 fewer applications then the total of all approved applications in 2016. Just six months into 2017, the TDLWD has already awarded \$5 million more in tax credits than the 12-month total for 2016. The WOTC provides federal tax credit incentives to employers who hire eligible individuals. A company can receive a tax credit that ranges from \$1,500-\$9,600 per approved employee.

TACIR report projects state needs \$43.4 B in public infrastructure improvements

Tennessee needs at least \$43.4 billion of public infrastructure improvements during the five-year period of July 2015 to June 2020 ,according to a new report by the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR).

The need for public infrastructure improvements as reported by state and local officials is up \$3 billion (7.4 percent) compared with the year before. Improvements needed for Transportation and Utilities, Education, and Health, Safety, and Welfare types of infrastructure continue to account for most of the inventory, with Education and Health, Safety, and Welfare infrastructure needs responsible for most of the reported increase this year. As in last year's inventory, nearly two-thirds of the estimated cost of needed infrastructure improvements reported in this year's inventory is not funded.

Costs for current infrastructure needs fall into six general categories:

- Transportation and Utilities: \$24.8 billion
- Education: \$9.6 billion
- Health, Safety, and Welfare: \$6.2 billion
- Recreation and Culture: \$1.8 billion
- General Government: \$722 million
- Economic Development: \$417 million

Transportation and Utilities has always been the single largest category and remains so despite a small increase of \$130 million (0.5 percent) from last year to a current total of \$24.8 billion. The net increase in the total estimated cost of transportation infrastructure needs is only \$27 million (0.1 percent) in this year's inventory. The estimated cost for needed infrastructure

improvements for other utilities increased by \$103 million (48 percent) and now totals \$316 million. Most of this increase is attributable to the addition of a \$69 million electrical grid modernization project by the Knoxville Utilities Board.

Many Tennesseans are aware that the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) reports:

(TDOT) reports an approximately \$10.5 billion backlog of projects, but this includes only the total estimated cost of remaining phases of work for projects already approved by the Tennessee General Assembly and currently under development. The inventory's much larger estimate of \$24.4 billion for transportation (not including the category's other \$316 million for other utilities) includes all transportation improvements identified by state and local officials as needed, whether or not any funding has been approved or is even likely to be forthcoming. Comprising 56.3 percent of estimated costs for all infrastructure improvements, transportation alone dwarfs all other types of infrastruc-

ture needs. Education is the second largest category and increased \$1.2 billion (13.9 percent) to \$9.6 billion because of increases to the total estimated cost of all five types of infrastructure in this category. The \$488 million (34.5 percent) increase in the need for new schools was the main reason the total estimated cost for education infrastructure increased. This year, local officials reported they need \$1.9 billion to build new schools, of which \$639 million is for school projects reported for the first time by 14 school systems. The total estimated cost for school additions increased \$148 million (38.8 percent) and now totals \$529 million, while the cost for improvements to existing space increased \$256 million (13 percent) and totals \$2.2 billion. Some of the additions and improvements to existing space were caused by the condition of the school. Although their local school officials rated just over 8.1 percent of public schools (142) in Tennessee in fair or poor condition, 135 of those schools need improvements to existing space and account for just under a third of



total estimated cost for improving existing space.

Officials are confident in obtaining funding for only \$12.5 billion of the \$33.9 billion needed to meet infrastructure improvement needs. These figures do not include improvements for which funding information is not collected, such as improvements at existing schools or those in state agencies' capital budget requests. Most of this funding, \$12.0 billion is for improvements that are fully funded; another \$492 million is for improvements that are partially funded. That leaves another \$21.4 billion of improvements for which funding is not yet available.

This year's report is organized differently than in previous years. A single statewide overview chapter provides information by type of infrastructure, the condition and needs of our public school facilities, the availability of funding to meet reported needs, and a comparison of county-area needs. Following that section, one-page summaries for each county-area lists the estimated cost for all types of infrastructure by stage of development. The summaries also highlight the top three types of infrastructure improvements needed in each county based on total estimated cost and provide comparisons of the infrastructure needed at public school systems to student enrollment. Further detailed county-area information about each type of infrastructure in the inventory, along with relevant legislation, inventory forms, and a glossary of terms, can be found in the appendixes to the report.

The full report is available on TACIR's web site at http://www.tn.gov/tacir/article/tacir-in-fra-2015-2020. For more information, contact Dave Keiser, Project Manager, at david.keiser@tn.gov or 615.253.4237.

Tennessee's nonprofit Arts organizations generates \$1.17 B, supports 38,482 jobs

Tennessee's nonprofit arts and culture industry generates \$1.17 billion in annual economic activity—supporting 38,482 full-time equivalent jobs, and generating \$837.8 million in household income and \$135.9 million in local and state government revenues, according to the Arts & Economic Prosperity 5 (AEP5) national economic impact study.

"Tennessee has music, culture and arts unlike any other place in the world, and this report shows that they not only enhance the quality of life here but also contribute significantly to the health of Tennessee's economy," Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam said.

The Tennessee Arts Commission, the state's arts agency, commissioned the statewide study, joining 19 other states and 341 communities and regions across the country. AEP5 is the most comprehensive economic impact study of the nonprofit arts and culture industry ever conducted in the United States and represents all 50 states.

Senator Doug Overbey, Chair

of the Tennessee General Assembly Arts Caucus stated, "The Arts Caucus members understand that arts and culture impact our communities in many positive ways. This study validates that the nonprofit creative economy is an engine for growth and development across Tennessee."

Nonprofit arts and culture organizations spent \$470.8 million during fiscal year 2015. This spending is far-reaching: organizations pay employees, purchase supplies, contract for services and acquire assets within their community. Further, the study shows a total of 48,961 volunteers donated 2.5 million hours to their communities through the nonprofit arts and culture sector generating an estimated value of \$57.9 million.

In addition to spending by organizations, the nonprofit arts and culture industry generates \$698 million in event-related spending by its audiences. As a result of attending a cultural event, attendees often eat dinner in local restaurants, pay for parking, and buy gifts and souvenirs. Attendees from out of town spend an average of \$73.95

per person—often staying overnight in a local hotel.

The Tennessee Arts Commission worked with 25 local partners and nine development districts to produce a statewide report and customized city, county and regional reports. Data was collected from 642 participating nonprofit organizations across the state and included 14,915 audience participation surveys. The study does not include numbers from individual artists or for-profit arts, music and culture businesses.

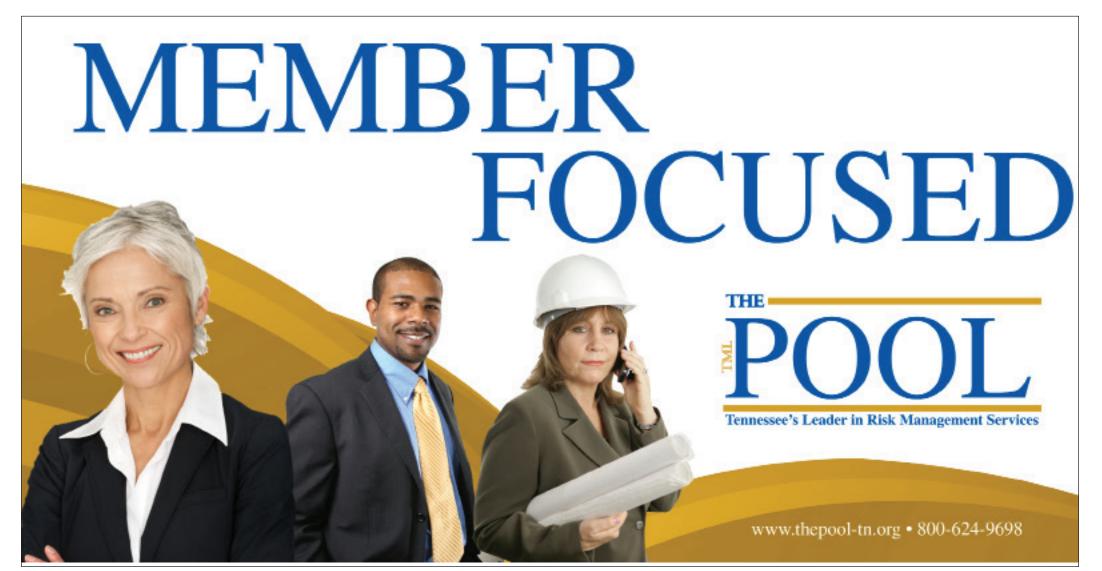
"This study demonstrates that nonprofit arts and culture is a significant industry in Tennessee—a driver of employment and vibrant communities that helps make Tennessee an attractive place to visit, work and live," said Anne B. Pope, Executive Director of the Tennessee Arts Commission.

Nationwide, the AEP5 reveals that the nonprofit arts and culture industry produces \$166.3 billion in economic activity every year. In addition, it supports 4.6 million full-time equivalent jobs and generates \$96.07 billion in household income.



The Tennessee Tax Free Weekend 2017 starts at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, July 28, and ends Sunday, July 30, at 11:59 p.m.

For a list of tax-free items and their limits, go to: http://www.tn.gov/revenue/article/sales-tax-holiday





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CITY COURT CLERK

LA VERGNE. The city of La Vergne Human Resources Department is accepting employment applications for a city court clerk. Responsible for the overall operation of the La Vergne City Court, including data collection and interpretation, case flow management, records management, clerical and administrative support services. Performs the duties of clerk of the court in compliance with state regulations as directed by the city administrator/city recorder. Must have a minimum of two years experience in a court situation, such as court clerk, bailiff, legal secretary, or court reporter, and have experience with office procedures. Must have or quickly acquire an understanding and application of court procedures, functions, and purpose. Must acquire and maintain professional knowledge relating to the legal environment and operations of the Municipal Court. Please visit www.lavergnetn.gov to review the job posting and complete an online employment application for consideration for this position. Rate of Pay: \$17.01 hourly. Open until filled. EEO/Drug Free Workplace.

CITY RECORDER/PARALEGAL BRENTWOOD. The city of Brentwood is currently accepting applications for the position of city recorder/ paralegal. The primary purposes of this job are to prepare and review agenda documents, ordinances, resolutions, and public notices; maintain official public records and coordinate responses to requests for public records as required by law; and provide general administrative support to the city manager, city commission, staff and city boards. This position also provides legal and administrative support to the city attorney's office. Qualifications: college graduate plus paralegal certification or equivalent preferred, with three to five years of paralegal experience and/or office administration experience at an executive level, preferably within a local government (or agency which provides public service); or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. City Recorder Certification by the state of Tennessee is required to be obtained within four years from the date of hire. Certification from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (or completion of a minimum of 100 credit hours of applicable education) is preferred. If not IIMC certified, must be willing to complete certification as directed by city manager. Extensive computer and technology skills, including experience with Microsoft Office Suite is required Qualified candidates are invited to apply on-line by August 4, 2017 at: http://www.brentwoodtn.gov/. EOE. Deadline for applications is Aug. 4,

CIVIL ENGINEER/INSPECTOR

COOKEVILLE. The Public Works Department is now accepting applications for a Civil Engineer/Inspector. Work in roadway design, inspections and assisting with design and surveys, and responsible for project layout in the field. Provides technical assistance in roadway, drainage and other construction projects. Verifies GIS data, visually inspects roadway and subdivision construction; Acts as liaison with contractors; keeps inspection records. Degree in civil engineering and a valid TN driver's license are required. Two to five yrs. exp. and professional engineer license preferred. Must possess Local Government Guideline Manual, Right-of-Way Training Certificate, TDOT certification for purchase of right-of-way, or obtain all within one year of hire date. Pay range \$51,292 - \$76,918, DOE. Applications/resumes must be received by 4:30 pm August 11, 2017. Send to: City of Cookeville, HR Department, PO Box 998, Cookeville, TN 38503-0998 or email jobs@cookeville-tn.org. EOE

FIRE CHIEF

ARLINGTON. The town of Arlington is seeking a motivated and committed fire professional to serve as the town's fire chief. Under the direction and supervision of the town administrator, the chief plans, directs, coordinates, and evaluates the firefighting, prevention, safety, EMS, inspection, and fire service activities for the town of Arlington. Must have the ability to supervise, manage, direct, coordinate and affect confidence in fire department personnel. The chief will also support community education efforts and represent the department on a local and regional basis. The Arlington Fire Department provides fire suppression, rescue, EMS, prevention, and inspections; is staffed with 16 full-time employees and a volunteer program, responding from one station. The department currently holds a Class 3 ISO rating. Requirements include four years of college with course concentration in fire science, public administration, business management, or closely related field; Certification as an Emergency Medical Technician or higher, and Executive Fire Officer (EFO) graduate from the National Fire Academy, preferred; 15 years of fire service experience with eight years of progressively responsible administration and supervisory experience in fire service, EMS and life safety emergency response work, Community Risk Reduction, or equivalent experience. A complete job description and application can be found at www.townofarlington.org. Applications will be received in the office of the Town Recorder at Bowens@townofarlington.org or Town of Arlington P.O. Box 507, 5854 Airline Road, Arlington, TN 38002, until the position is filled. Salary range begins at \$60,000 and tops at \$90,000. EEO/ Drug Free Workplace.

HUMAN RESOURCES TECHNICIAN

COLLIERVILLE. This is specialized and complex office work assisting employees and the professional staff in the Human Resources Department. Salary ranges is \$27,848 - \$33,282 (DOQ) with excellent benefits package. Open Until Filled. Requires an associate degree in business administration, public administration, human resources or a related field; supplemented by two years previous experience in employee program administration, which may include benefit administration or related areas, or any equivalent combination of education, training and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Bachelor's degree in business administration, public administration or human resources preferred. Must have excellent computer skills using word-processing and spreadsheet software. Two years' experience in working with personnel/benefits with special emphasis on insurance (i.e. claims, filing, benefit's coordination/administration) and experience with workers' compensation and/or safety issues highly desired. Valid driver's license required at time of hire. Selection process may include: examinations, interviews, assessment centers, practical skills, etc. Drug testing may be required. Submit an original Town of Collierville application to the following address: Human Resources, 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN 38017. Applications are available to download at www.collierville.com under Employment Opportunities, or you may obtain one from our Human Resources Office. Applications must be submitted either by mail or in person to the above address. The Human Resources Office is open Monday Friday, from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. We are unable to accept faxed or emailed applications. Please submit a new application each time you apply for a Town job. Pursuant to Tennessee open records law, applications and resumes are subject to disclosure. If you have a disability and require special accommodations during the selection process, please notify the human resources office at (901) 457-2290. The Town of Collierville is a EOE / drug free work place.

MECHANIC

LA VERGNE. The city of La Vergne is accepting employment applications for a mechanic in the public works department. Performs semi-skilled, skilled, and administrative work in maintaining the vehicles and mechanical equipment of the department. Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Certification is a plus. Works under the direction and close supervision of the public works manager. Job qualifications include: graduation from high school diploma or GED equivalent is required; specialized training in mechanics, maintenance management, or a closely related field required; three years of related experience required; current/valid Tennessee Driver's License; safe driving record required; current/valid CDL is preferred. Please visit our website, www.lavergnetn.gov, to review the job posting and complete an online employment application for consideration for this position. Rate of Pay: \$21.34 hourly Open Until: Filled. EOE / DRUG FREE WORK PLACE.

PARK & RECREATION DIREC-

ELIZABETHTON. The city of Elizabethton is seeking a Park & Recreation director to manage the city's recreation department and park facilities by providing recreational services and programs to the community. Bachelor's degree in recreation management or related field and three years supervisory experience or equivalent combination of education and experience. Excellent public relations, organizational and computer skills are required. Salary range is DOQ with an excellent benefits package. You may apply on line at elizabethton.org or at Human Resources – 136 S. Sycamore Street, Elizabethton, TN 37643. Applications must be completed and will be accepted until position is filled. EOE

UT-MTAS AUGUST MAP CLASSES

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION AND LEGISLATIVE TRAINING

This free, 4-hour training session will provide a detailed overview of FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and review administering this program at the local level.

THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE

MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL
ADVISORY SERVICE

Dates/Locations/Times:

August 1 Kingsport 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EDT August 2 Knoxville 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. EDT August 3 Knoxville 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. EDT Collegedale August 8 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EDT Cookeville August 9 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT August 10 Nashville 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. CDT

August 15 Trenton 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT August 16 Memphis 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT 4 CPE/CMFO (Other) (PA)

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

MYERS-BRIGGS TYPE INDICATOR

This type indicator profile is a highly respected and well known instrument that reveals what your preferences are when interacting with others. Participants will learn how they can more effectively work with others.



Dates/Locations/Times:
August 8 Knoxville
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EDT
August 9 Kingsport
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EDT
August 15 Jackson
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT
August 16 Nashville

4 CPE/CMFO (Other) (LM)

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. CDT

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

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR

MUNFORD. The city of Munford is seeking applications for director of Parks and Recreation. Responsibilities include but are not limited to: creating, scheduling, marketing and supervision of sports and other programs, activities and events for all ages, supervision and management of all parks property and facilities, financial oversight and management of the department's budget and assets, and provide leadership to a community oriented Parks and Recreation department that operates seven days a week. Qualified candidates should have at least three years' experience in recreation program delivery and facility management, two years' experience in management and supervision of personnel, a degree from an accredited four-year college or university and studies in parks, recreation or related fields are a plus. The ideal candidate possesses excellent writing and verbal communication skills, problem solving abilities, the ability to work collaboratively, an understanding of the unique role that parks and recreation plays to a diverse population and is a self-starter. A detailed description of the position is available at www.munford.com. Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest and resume to mpinner@ munford.com. No phone calls please.

PRINCIPAL PLANNER

MARYVILLE. The city of Maryville is seeking an experienced principal planner to be responsible for managing the city's planning program. Reports to the director of development services. Requirements include a master's degree in urban planning, project management and supervisory experience; or equivalent combination of education and experience. Hiring range is \$66,726 -\$87,551 DOE, plus an excellent benefits package. Applications are available at the City of Maryville Municipal Center, Human Resources, 400 W. Broadway or on our website, www.maryvillegov. com. Nepotism policy prohibits hiring relatives of city employees. Deadline to apply: August 18, 2017. EOE.

PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT

TULLAHOMA. The city of Tullahoma is accepting resumes for the Public Works Superintendent position which plans and directs the daily functions of the street, sanitation and city shop divisions. Responsibilities include supervising and scheduling personnel on drainage projects, street repair, garbage collection, recycling, fleet maintenance and sign maintenance. The successful candidate must be able to plan and implement various department projects including estimation of required material, equipment and manpower including costs for construction, paving and maintenance. The public works superintendent consults with engineers, contractors, design professionals and other agencies regarding public works matters. A college degree is preferred or a comparable combination of experience and training. Candidates should have five years of progressively responsible experience in construction, planning, public administration or building inspection. Supervision experience is required and storm water experience is preferred. The salary range is \$58,579 - \$64.052, DOQ. Interested candidates should submit a resume to City of Tullahoma, Attn: Human Resources, P.O. Box 807, Tullahoma, TN 37388, or email a resume to cbrice@tullahomatn.gov. A job description is available

upon request to the above email or by contacting Human Resources at 931-455-2648. EOE

PUBLIC WORKS/UTILITIES DIRECTOR

ASHLAND CITY. The town of Ashland City is currently accepting applications for public works/utilities director. Job description located on our website at www.ashlandcitytn.gov. An application can be obtained on our website or at City Hall located at 101 Court Street; Ashland City, TN 37015. Applications can be returned to city hall, faxed to (615)792-3501, or emailed to recorder@ashlandcitytn.gov. The Town of Ashland City is an Equal Opportunity Employer and a drug-free workplace. Title VI Civil Rights Act 1964 (942 USC 2000d).

STREET DEPARTMENT MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT

ASHLAND CITY. The town of Ashland City is currently accepting applications for Street Department Maintenance Assistant. Job description located on our website at www. ashlandcitytn.gov. An application can be obtained by our website or at City Hall located at 101 Court Street; Ashland City, TN 37015. Applications can be returned to City Hall, faxed to (615)792-3501, or emailed to recorder@ashlandcitytn.gov. The Town of Ashland City is an Equal Opportunity Employer and a drug-free workplace. Title VI Civil Rights Act 1964 (942 USC 2000d).

TRAFFIC ENGINEERSEVIERVILLE. The city of Sevierville

is hiring a full-time, traffic engineer. The salary range is \$54,009 to \$75,977 plus excellent benefits. Reporting to the public works director, the traffic engineer will administer the city of Sevierville traffic engineering program, interact with public to resolve issues/ complaints, and be responsible for all activities of traffic engineering, signal maintenance, signal construction, sign and pavement marking and parking facilities. Position informs the public and other city departments of traffic engineering matters; develops, justifies and administers the traffic control division operating and capital improvement project budgets; performs investigations for and serves as expert witness for the city in relevant traffic engineering legal matters; manages complex transportation and traffic engineering projects, such as a proposed traffic responsive/adaptive control signal system funded by the CMAQ program; independently evaluates, selects and applies standard techniques in preparing traffic engineering reports. such as signal warrant studies or other road safety type reports; and reviews site development plans and driveway connections. Bachelor's degree in civil engineering, traffic and/or transportation engineering, or equivalent from a college or university accredited by the Accrediting Board for Engineering and Technology. Must have a valid TN driver's license; possession of an active Professional Engineer License issued by the TN State Board of Architects and Engineering Examiners is preferred, but may consider candidates that are on the career path for such license. Two to four years of related experience preferred, but an advanced degree may be taken into consideration for experience. Supervisory experience is also preferred. Applications can be completed on-line at www.seviervil-<u>letn.org.</u> Resumes may be sent by fax to 865-453-5518 or e-mailed to kward@seviervilletn.org.

WATER DISTRIBUTION/WASTE-WATER COLLECTION ASSIST.

ASHLAND CITY. The town of Ashland City is currently accepting applications for water distribution/ wastewater collection assistant. Please read the job description located on our website at www.ashlandcitytn. gov. An application can be obtained by our website or at City Hall located at 101 Court Street; Ashland City, TN 37015. Applications can be returned to city hall, faxed to (615)792-3501, or emailed to recorder@ashlandcitytn. gov. The Town of Ashland City is an Equal Opportunity Employer and a drug-free workplace. Title VI Civil Rights Act 1964 (942 USC 2000d).

WATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATIONS ASSISTANT

ASHLAND CITY. The Town of Ashland City is currently accepting applications for water treatment plant operations assistant. Job description located on our website at www.ashlandcitytn. gov. An application can be obtained by our website or at City Hall located at 101 Court Street; Ashland City, TN 37015. Applications can be returned to City Hall, faxed to (615)792-3501, or emailed to recorder@ashlandcitytn. gov. The Town of Ashland City is an Equal Opportunity Employer and a drug-free workplace. Title VI Civil Rights Act 1964 (942 USC 2000d

WATER TREATMENT MANAGER COLLIERVILLE. This position in-

volves highly responsible managerial work in the operation, maintenance, and development of the town's water treatment plant facilities and in the maintenance, repair, installation, operation and minor construction of the municipal water production system and related facilities. Requires a high school diploma or GED; supplemented by five years' experience in the operation and maintenance of a water treatment plant; at least one year of which must have been at a Grade III Water Plant; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience, which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Must be in compliance with TDEC Rule 0400-49-01 and remain in compliance throughout employment. Must possess and maintain a valid driver's license. This is a Grade III Water Treatment Facility. The work of this job requires sufficient physical strength, stamina, and ability to pass a work related physical proficiency test and pre-employment examination. The work is physically demanding, may require lifting heavy objects, and may require working in inclement weather. Work environment at times could involve toxic or caustic chemicals, risk of electrical shock or work around moving parts. For full job description call (901) 457-2296. SALARY: \$46,845 - \$84,347 (DOQ) annually with excellent benefits package. Open until filled. Submit an original Collierville application to the following address: Human Resources, 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN 38017 Applications are available to download at www.collierville.com under Employment Opportunities, or you may obtain one from our Human Resources Office. Applications must be submitted either by mail or in person to the above address. The Human Resources Office is open Monday -Friday, from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. EOE / DRUG FREE WORK PLACE.

TENNESSEE

FESTIVALS

4th Annual Train Heritage Day

At this family friendly annual event,

view model train displays, see in-

side historic train cars, and learn

about other area railroad groups.

This year's event will extend to

Collierville's Visitor Center on

Town Square, located inside the

Train Depot. Enjoy music, food,

and crafts. 10 am - 4 pm. Admis-

25th Annual Grinders Switch Music

Join us for the 25th Annual Grinders

Switch Music & Arts Festival on

the Historic Centerville Square.

Arts and craft vendors, delicious

foods, shop with merchants on the

square and enjoy live music all

day long. Musical line up includes

Jesse Black, the Grinders Switch

Ensemble, Doug Briney and Tim

Atwood. Also have lot of great

activities for the kids. For more

information, please email: hick-

mancountychamber@gmail.com

Aug 12: Collierville

sion is free.

Sept. 9: Centerville

& Arts Festival

Tennessee Municipal League 2017-2018 Officers and Directors

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Tenn. Assn. Housing & Redevel. Auth.
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Tennessee Chapter, American Planning
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Fight for independence has always been local

BYCHRISTIANAMCFARLAND NLC Research Director

A fact well-known by residents of Charlotte, N.C., is that the first Declaration of Independence was not the famous document adopted on July 4, 1776, but the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence signed in that city in 1775. "Meck Dec," as it's called by the locals, was a resolution declaring Mecklenburg county's (not country's) separation from Great Britain. Although the details of the declaration are disputed, it signifies the first exertion by Americans to formalize the value of self-governance. This act was wholly local and indicative of deep community-based roots of our nation's progressive leadership.

Even today, the pragmatic, responsive nature of those leading closest to the people is born out of a local view of how government affects the lives of people. For example, when immigration is perceived at the local scale, the debate becomes less about who has a visa and more about the ability of cities to prevent and solve crimes by building trust between police and immigrant communities.

With a local lens on climate change, the debate becomes less about the validity of science, and more about preventing pervasive water crises, saving neighborhoods, and protecting food supplies. This local perspective on a whole range of national issues mandates solutions that make people's lives better.

For this reason, leadership in cities tends not to get bogged down in partisan politics. Mayors do not

play games of political advantage, but instead focus on solving problems and responding to the unique needs of their communities.

South Bend, Ind, Mayor Pete Buttigieg put it best when recently describing the role of city leaders saying: "A mayor worries less about credit and blame, more about results. A mayor picks up the trash, plows the snow, fills holes in the road... A mayor cannot dismiss or ignore the press, because the press is made of people who live in the same community."

Simply put, a mayor's actions are driven by problem solving, and their standard of accountability is direct and immediate.

Despite differences in perspective about how government can or should affect the lives of people, each level of government plays an important role in the everyday lives of Americans. After all, our society and nation depends not only on the economic prowess of our urban areas, but also the diversity of ideas and values found throughout our country.

However, strong political and policy divides between city governments and their state legislatures are emerging in new ways. The use of state law to negate local ordinances is known as preemption, and we're seeing conflicts increasingly play out across the country. From the Missouri legislature working to overrule wage increases in St. Louis to statehouses in Florida, Pennsylvania and Tennessee attempting to blanketly preempt cities from regulating businesses, pragmatic local solutions are being challenged.

On the other hand, when cities are empowered to expand

rights, build stronger economies and respond to the needs of their citizens, local policy innovations often percolate up to states. California and New York had cities that implemented minimum wage and paid leave policies locally before they were adopted statewide. On plastic bag bans, 150 California cities had passed ordinances before Prop 67 passed in November.

But even in the face of preemption challenges, mayors are not sitting idly by. For example, with dwindling funding and programming support from state and federal governments, cities are rethinking their role in the social safety net. Despite being preempted, cities like Madison and Charlotte are leveraging their status as an employer to set the bar and model best practice for private sector. From livable wages to banning the box, this is a powerful strategy given that local government employment is a large source of middle income work in cities across the country.

All in all, ensuring that policies are aligned with the core wants and needs of citizens is of utmost importance to ensure progress. When we fast forward 242 years from the signing of Meck Dec, we find Charlotte once again at the epicenter of the fight to defend local control. This time, fighting state preemptive measures on bathroom rights of transgender individuals and minimum wage.

Although much has changed since the founding of our nation, pursuing action that responds to community needs and values is—and has always been—at the heart of local leadership.



or call 931-729-5300

Aug 2-5 TACP Annual Conference Embassy Suites Murfreesboro

This year's theme is "Leading from the Heart." For more information or to register, go to http://www.tacp.org/Events/Annual_Conference/#Conference_Information. Contact the TACP Office at 615-726-8227 or admin@tacp.org

Sept. 20 - 22 TCMA Fall Conference Gatlinburg Convention Center

Beginning Wednesday morning and ending by noon on Friday, there will be two and one-half days of educational programs and social/networking activities. The conference hotel is the new Courtyard by Marriott, located across the street from the conference center. Hotel rooms will cost \$149 - \$159 (plus tax). Included is a complimentary breakfast and free parking. Limited number of hotel rooms available at group rate. Deadline is Aug. 19. For information on the conference, go to https://tcma32.wildapricot.org

Sept 20 - 22
TAMCAR Fall Conference
Embassy Suites Murfreesboro
For information on the conference
program, go to https://tamcar.wildapricot.org/

NATIONAL BRIEFS

The Bloomberg Foundation is providing more than \$17 million in grant funds as part of a new contest that encourages the nation's mayors to address critical issues themselves. Through the program, 35 cities will ultimately win \$100,000, while four more receive \$1 million and one grand prize winner gets \$5 million. There is no limit to the focus of the projects, but some are expected to address Bloomberg priorities such as climate change, the opioid epidemic, illegal guns and obesity. The new contest is part of a larger \$200 million initiative aimed at helping America's cities announced at the U.S. Conference of Mayors in Miami. All American cities with at least 30,000 residents are eligible to apply. Applications are due in October with the winners to be announced in October 2018.

Nearly half of Americans say they are spending the same amount or more than their income, according to a new study from the Center for Financial Services Innovation. Those aged 18 to 25 have the least financial cushion, with 54 percent reporting they spend equal to or more than their income on a monthly basis. A fourth of Americans overall blame too much debt on why their expenses exceed their income. The study said much of the issue is that the cost of housing and transportation are increasing while wages remain stagnant. Irregular income is another leading cause of financial woes with 40 percent of survey respondents reporting the amount of income they receive often varies from month to month or week to week.

Private employers hired fewer workers than expected in June as applications for unemployment benefits are on the increase. The ADP National Employment Report said the loss of momentum in job growth could be explained by the labor market nearing full employment. Private sector payrolls increased by 158,000 jobs last month, stepping down from the 230,000 positions created in May and below economists' expectations for a gain of 185,000. In a separate report, the Labor Department said initial claims for state unemployment benefits increased 4,000 to a seasonally adjusted 248,000 for the week ended July 1. It was the third straight weekly increase in claims, the longest such stretch since 1970, when the labor market was smaller. The labor market is near full employment, with the jobless rate at a 16-year low.

No loan is too large or too small



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



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



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

Tennessee Municipal League thanks 2017 annual conference exhibitors



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Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon



BioPet Labs



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Every Watt matters



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Kingsport mayor talks municipal growth in the 21st Century

BY LINDA BRYANT

Mayor John Clark of Kingsport decided to pursue public service in 2012 after realizing that he needed more in his life than the stressfilled life of a corporate executive.

"Icame home after an exhausting day, and my wife looked at me and said, 'You look worn out.' I answered back, "I need more balance in my life — something outside of my work in the medical manufacturing device industry."

Clark's wife, Etta, supported that notion and suggested an introduction to the then-mayor, thinking her husband's business background might help with the city's economic development. As it turns out, there was an opening on the city's board of mayor and aldermen, and Clark was asked to fill the position.

The Pennsylvania native decided to run for his first two-year term as mayor in 2015 and was reelected in early July 2017. Clark, who has lived in Kingsport for more than 20 years, is now officially retired after 37 years in the medical manufacturing device industry. Although he approaches his mayorship as a full-time job, his \$3,000-a-year compensation doesn't reflect it.

But that doesn't bother Clark, who says he's delighted to work for the city of 53,000 in Northeast Tennessee.

"Ibacked off from my real income earning to spend more time with this community service opportunity," Clark said. "It has been very gratifying. This has been the best job I have ever had, and I'm happy to do it."

Clark gives credit to his background as a chess player for helping him succeed as mayor.

"Being a chess player has helped because your mind is trained to do several things," he said. "You have to see the big board, and you have to anticipate your opponent's moves. You have to take in several moves ahead. All those attributes have truly helped me when I'm out there recruiting and promoting our city."

TT&C: Tell me about your background.

JC: I grew up outside of Philadelphia, Pa., but I went to school and graduated from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. I also met my wife there. She is a Tennessean — born and raised on a dairy farm in Rogersville. After college graduation, she went on to law school at UT. While she was doing that, I was hired by Dupont, a corporation based in Wilmington, Del. We got married after my wife graduated from law school, and DuPont moved us to Northern California to start my career with them. Seven years later, we moved back to Delaware.

We ended up in Kingsport in 1995. At the time, the reason why my company transferred me down here was because I had been asked to manage a sales organization in the Southeast. I had to live near an airport because I would be traveling a great deal Monday through Friday. It took me to Kingsport. We haven't relocated again and have called Kingsport home for the last 22 years. I have two grown daughters. We moved here when they were in preschool. They went through our school systems here in Northeast Tennessee and had a wonderful experience.

TT&C: How does the structure of the government work in Kingsport?

JC: In Kingsport, we have a council-manager form of government. The council consists of seven citizens elected at-large — and on a nonpartisan basis — for four-year staggered terms. The mayor's position is a two-year term. The management side of the government is a professional organization that includes a city

manager, who is like the CEO of a business.

That position has a management team as well, and then there's an organization of more than 800 employees. Most of them work within four or five different departments — police, fire, public works, and parks and recreation. The administration and management team are responsible for the performance of those individuals. There is continuity in our form of government. The city management organization [remains stable], while there's variability when it comes to the seven citizens that are elected by the public.

Many smaller cities like Kingsport have a council-manager form of government. In larger cities the mayor and the city manager are the same. Under that model a strong mayor brings in his or her team of people to manage the city departments. This can work well, but I prefer the council-manager form of government.

TT&C: As a former alderman — and now a mayor — can you name accomplishments you're particularly proud of?

JC: I believe the role of city government is to create a great environment that allows the private sector to flourish. There are four 'customers' I feel are part of the private sector — residents, businesses, developers and visitors. The city's role is to set an environment that allows the city to be successful within those key customer areas. It is also the city's role to provide the highest quality of life possible for constituents.

The last two years we have tried really hard to achieve the philosophy of maintaining our small town feel and values. We're a place where everybody knows your name, but at the same time we offer our residents big city opportunities. This is a hard thing to do, but I think it's what makes Kingsport unique in terms of a place to live, work and raise a family. One of the key components of making this happen is bringing the community together to embrace the challenges moving forward. We focus on

several improvement areas we can all get behind.

We did that about 20 months ago, and it was called the OneKingsport Summit. The event was a gathering that brought together two attributes that we have in this town. One is what we call the 'Kingsport spirit," the coming together of a community for a common good and the good of everyone. The second attribute is the "aim high mindset," which speaks to the fact that whatever we want to do as a city we will do it to the best of our ability.

The OneKingsport Summit was a key accomplishment, and it was one of the things I ran on. When I campaigned, I felt that we needed to focus on the future direction of Kingsport, especially as we move into our second century. The OneKingsport Summit was one accomplishment that helped us achieve that goal, and it still carries over to what we are doing today as I move into my second term.

TT&C: Are there unique challenges to being in East Tennessee opposed to larger locales?

JC: Many people feel that East Tennessee stops in Knoxville. We in the Tri-Cities region, which includes three cities Kingsport, Johnson City, Bristol and several counties, have to work very hard at marketing and promoting the region. We have a high quality of life here and a low cost of living. We are a very proactive and progressive city.

For the first time ever in Kingsport, we have hired our own marketing team. Now we can get the word out about our quality of life and really reach out to our key customers. We recognize that we have a great product to sell and story to tell, and we realize that we need to be more visible as a region because of where we are within the state. Our region really is a beautiful place and we are trying to capitalize on that.

People in the region still see Kingsport as an industrial town, but for the last 30 to 50 years we have really tried to improve the livability of our town. We're not just an industrial place with great jobs. We don't want to be just an 8-to-5 commuter town, we want to be a vibrant 24/7 city where people don't just work here but live, have fun and raise a family here.

TT&C: What do you emphasize when you're promoting the city?

JC: We have unique leadership assets in our city that benefit the entire region but are based in Kingsport. What we offer is really phenomenal for a city our size. As I mentioned before, the two important attributes we focus on are our Kingsport spirit and our aim high mindset. When we bring these two attributes together, we always produce great results. Our public school education system is a great example. It's one of the best public school systems in the region, state and even across the country. Our high school ranks in the top 2 percent of all public high schools in the country. That's the top 500 of 24,500 public high schools.

A second example is our very unique high school to job workforce development program. We have the Kingsport Academic Village, which serves as a feeder into our two main industries — manufacturing and healthcare. It is a Harvard-recognized, award-winning higher education system with four learning centers [that combine the resources of King University, Lincoln Memorial University, Milligan College, Northeast State Community College and East Tennessee State University] all under one roof. Students are able to earn selected two-year, four-year and graduate degrees from participating colleges and universities.

We are a safe city. Kingsport is lucky to have nationally-accredited police and fire departments, which is rare. Most cities would love to have just one, but both of our departments have Safe Communities accreditations.

We are also really focused on improving the health and wellness of our citizens, and we take a leadership position across our state when it comes to encouraging health with our Healthy Kingsport program. [Healthy Kingsport aims to solve complex, pressing social and health issues such as obesity, Type 2 diabetes, heart disease and cancer by improving quality of life and focusing on healthy habits such as exercise, tobacco cessation and nutrition.]

TT&C: Kingsport is very scenic and commonly included in what is known as the Mountain Empire, which spans a portion of Southwest Virginia and the mountainous counties in eastern Tennessee. How does this work to your advantage?

JC: We have what I call "quality-of-life access." For example, we have a mountain in our city — Bays Mountain — that has a 3,500 acre city park, planetarium, nature reserve and observatory all in one. Another example



Kingsport Mayor John Clark



Clark speaks at the OneKingsport Summit. The event had more than 150 attendees who worked with city officials to focus on the city's future and set goals for what residents, businessowners and other stakeholders want the community to accomplish.

is Marriott's MeadowView Conference Resort and Convention Center, a fantastic hotel and conference center with a golf course and winery. We have a great new aquatic center - the best in the region —with an outdoor water park that is adjacent to one of the top five YMCAs in the country. Our YMCA is a beautiful place with 18,000 members. We also have top notch football fields and soccer fields, and we have a Greenbelt which is nine miles long. It's unique as opposed to other cities in the state because it's paved. The Greenbelt has activity stations, equipment and water filling stations across the nine miles. It's also beautiful because it's parallel to the Holston River. The riverfront area is now starting to be cultivated by private investment with restaurants and businesses along the river.

We also have a first-class farmers market, and within the farmer's market we have a carousel. Very few cities have a carousel, and ours — a five-year labor of love — is hand carved with hand painted animals. It speaks to the history of our city. We are also very big on the arts here. We are a city of 53,000 people, and we have a symphony and a ballet company. Both are phenomenal.

TT&C: What are some of your biggest challenges as a city?

JC: Our biggest challenge as an industrial city is to maintain and grow our population in a manageable and affordable way. We recognize, for example, that people now are very mobile. They don't have to live where they work, and most people don't want to leave their industry. We haven't experienced organic growth in 30 years.

Our No.1 growth tool has been annexation by city ordinance, but that is no longer available. Last but not least, our death rates are exceeding our birth rates. So our challenge is this: How do we market and promote our unique quality of life here so that we can maintain and attract residents, businesses, developers and visitors? To reach this goal requires an ongoing process.

Since I've lived here, everyone has tried to move the city forward. I am just a continuation of that process. The only thing I have injected is that I believe I've brought people together. The last OneKingsport Summit we had [before the one in 2015] was back in 1999. The city has been thriving for the past 15 to 16 years, and we have done a great job and accomplished a lot. I felt we needed to have another great summit grouping, another meeting of the minds. Now we are embarking on amazing plans that continue to differentiate our city and put in our portfolio unique aspects of Kingsport that we can market and promote. Kingsport has to compete, and the only way you can do that is to leverage our unique quality of life.

TT&C: How do you work on economic development issues? What kinds of businesses are you attracting?

JC: Kingsport is known as an industrial city. There are manufacturing businesses next to each other, or within a mile of each other. That's great because manufacturing and healthcare are the two highest paying businesses in the world. One of the business manufacturing companies is one of the top 300 in the Fortune 500 corporation — Eastman Chemical. They are a global corporation with their headquarters here in Kingsport along with their main manufacturing facility. It is the second largest chemical plant in the United States. So, we have all of this as a nucleus, and because we have so much manufacturing and healthcare, we have a very strong presence of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

We constantly recruit in Kingsport from both Sullivan and Hawkins counties. We work very well together in recruiting big and medium-sized businesses. Those four customers that I mentioned before — residents, businesses, developers, and visitors — we are constantly recruiting to them. We are trying to create an environment where our current businesses succeed, grow and expand. We also have a major push with job creation here by leveraging the science, technology engineering and mathematics. The Holston Business Development Center, a small business incubator and accelerator, and our Chamber of Commerce activities are all designed for economic development.

TT&C: Gov. Bill Haslam recently appointed you to the State Workforce Development board. Can you speak about what this appointment means to you?

JC: I am very honored to be selected and to participate on the board. Through their many travels to Northeast Tennessee, I think Gov. Haslam and [government officials from] Nashville have seen what Kingsport has contributed from the workforce development perspective. We have the Kingsport Academic Village, which I mentioned before, and we have great partnerships between our educational, industrial and city organizations and private partners that I think have caught the attention of our governor. Being on the board is a great opportunity to share our story and to help as many counties and cities across our state as I can.

TT&C: How do you feel that local government operates best with state or federal government? How do you see that relationship?

JC: During my first term as mayor I wanted to help the city operate more like a business. For instance, there are a lot of similarities between government and business, although in government it's not about profitability but breaking even and balancing budgets. Cities in the past have not been very good at marketing themselves. I think having the city operate more like a business really promotes efficiencies and satisfies the needs of our customers. Our emphasis on marketing and promoting Kingsport is, I believe, a business trait. I also emphasize having a great return on investments and focus on the retention and attraction of our four key customers.

My philosophy, whether it's for local, city, state or federal government, has a strong emphasis on operating like a business. And bear in mind that the whole purpose for government is to create a great environment for the private sector to flourish. We have tried to take that to a higher level here in Kingsport. One of the things that's frustrating for me is that a lot of people take their views about our national political scene and apply those same views to our business case here in the city of Kingsport. They take how the government is working —or not working nationally — and apply that same philosophy to Kingsport. The reality is that we are very different, and they are two different distinct business cases.

TT&C: You were recently elected to a term as an at-large member of TML's board of directors. How do you see your work with TML?

JC: First of all, I'm honored to be selected to the board. I see this as an opportunity for me to represent the very high-quality of life that we offer our citizens here in Kingsport. I believe the cities across Tennessee are really the economic engines for our state. So, I am honored to participate on a board with other city mayors and city officials to share ideas and to learn about new ideas from other towns and cities. It's all about improving the state of Tennessee.

City officials [who participate in TML] end up learning a lot from each other because each city has its own business case. I was on a panel [at the recent TML conference] in Murfreesboro with other city mayors. We were asked the same questions, but we all gave different answers because each of the cities has different environments. That's the beauty of our state; we have such diverse and unique cities with all different types of quality of life. But at the same time, we are all part of the same state, and we are all trying to work together to achieve similar goals.

TT&C: Is there anything else you'd like to

JC: I'd just like to say that I am fortunate to live in such a special place with special people, doing special things. Improving the quality of life for everyone in our city —and in the region—keeps me here in Kingsport. My wife and I both agree that this is the place for us. I never thought I would be mayor. It has been such an amazing experience. Working with so many people across many fronts is a true joy.