



TML Legislative Conference March 26- 27 in Nashville

The Opioid Crisis, transportation funding, the governor's new TN H2O water plan, the state budget, and other funding issues are just a few of the hot topics to be discussed during TML's Annual Legislative Conference, slated for March 26-27 in Nashville.

A host of state officials are lined up to speak, including Lt. Gov. Randy McNally, House Speaker Beth Harwell, Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris, House Majority Leader Glen Casada, Senate Finance Chair Bo Watson, House Finance Chair Charles Sargent, Senate State and Local Chair Ken Yager, House Local Chair Tim Wirgau, Senate Transportation Chair Paul Bailey and House Transportation Chair Barry Doss and TDOT Commissioner John Schroer.

Conference registration opens at 11 a.m. on Monday, March 26, followed by a buffet lunch at noon. The conference will kick off at 1 p.m. and run through 4 p.m. on Monday afternoon.

On Tuesday, March 27, things will get underway at 7:30 a.m. with a breakfast served until 8 a.m. The conference program will begin at 7:45 a.m. and continue until 10 a.m.

The two-day conference provides an excellent forum to network with other municipal officials and interact with your legislators. Those in attendance are encouraged to attend legislative committee meetings while in Nashville.

Schedule At-A-Glance

Monday, March 26	
11:00 am	Registration
12:00 pm	Buffet Lunch
1:00 pm	Rep. Tim Wirgau
1:15 pm	Rep. Barry Doss
1:30 pm	Sen. Paul Bailey
1:45 pm	Sen. Ken Yager
2:00 pm	Sen. Mark Norris
2:30 pm	Sen. Bo Watson
2:45 pm	TML Staff Reports
4:00 pm	Senate Floor Session
5:00 pm	House Floor Session
Tuesday, March 21	
7:30 am	Breakfast
7:45 am	Speaker Beth Harwell
8:00 am	Lt. Gov. Randy McNally
8:15 am	Rep. Charles Sargent
8:45 am	Deputy ECD Commissioner Dr. Shari Meghreblian
9:00 am	TDOT Commissioner John Schroer
9:15 am	Rep. Glen Casada
9:30 am	Closing Remarks

The voice of Tennessee's municipal governments must be heard in the legislative process, and the TML Legislative Conference is a great opportunity to communicate that message. For information regarding registration and hotel reservations, visit www.TML1.org

Instability in grocery sector could have local economic impact

BY MICHAEL GRASS
Route Fifty

Here's a difficult question that local economic development and planning officials across the U.S. would probably rather not think about: If the grocery industry is disrupted in ways other parts of the retail sector have been upended by online shopping in recent years, what happens to the physical footprint of the traditional grocery store if brick-and-mortar locations aren't necessarily needed in the same way or same number?

It's an important question for communities across the nation, whether they're a struggling smaller city or an economically thriving urban area.

For decades, grocery stores have been fixtures in neighborhood commercial corridors and have anchored countless shopping centers in urban and suburban areas—usually accompanied by a large parking lot. In more recent years, the introduction of a new grocery store, like Whole Foods, has served as a catalyst for neighborhood redevelopment or an integral part of a mixed-use development. In food deserts, a new grocery store opening can be transformative for struggling communities. A store closure can be equally as devastating.

Supreme Court to hear Online Tax Case April 17

The U.S. Supreme Court will soon hear a long-simmering challenge about states' taxing authority over online retailers. And states should have the high court's answer by the start of summer.

The court announced Feb. 23 that it would hear oral arguments in the *South Dakota v. Wayfair* case April 17 at 10 a.m.

The case is a direct challenge to the 1992 ruling in *Quill Corp. v. North Dakota* that prohibits states from imposing sales and use tax collection obligations on vendors

lacking an in-state physical presence.

South Dakota's deadline for its brief on the merits is Feb. 26, and outside parties had until March 5 to file friend-of-the-court briefs in support of the state. Retailers in the case—Wayfair Inc., Newegg Inc., and Overstock.com Inc.—have until March 28 to file their brief on the merits, and supporters of the companies have until April 4 to file briefs in support.

State tax lawyers are confident justices will deliver a decision in the case by late June.

CDBG program has far-reaching impact on Tennessee municipalities

BY KATE COIL
TML Communications Specialist

For nearly 45 years, municipalities across the nation and the state of Tennessee have relied on Community Development Block Grant funding to help finance projects ranging from sewer and water line extensions to purchasing new fire trucks and ambulances to removing blight and renovating important local infrastructure.

Between 1975 and 2014, the program has provided more than \$139.9 trillion in funds in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. The program has also brought more than \$2.1 billion in funds to the state of Tennessee, including more than \$1.01 billion to small cities and towns.

One of the longest-running federal grant programs in existence, the CDBG was established in 1974 by President Gerald Ford through the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The first grants were awarded in 1975 with the goal of extinguishing poverty and urban blight.

When the program was reauthorized in 1978, a new measure required a "rural set-aside," which required 30 percent of all CDBG funds to serve projects in rural areas. To date, approximately 95 percent of CDBG funds benefit low-to-moderate income households.

One of the main differences between the CDBG and other federal grants is that CDBG funds are subject to less federal oversight and are often used at the discretion of state and local governments. In Tennessee, CDBG funds are split between the state's largest cities and the remaining cities, towns, and counties in the state.

Bristol, Chattanooga, Clarksville, Cleveland, Franklin, Hen-



In 2011, the town of Greeneville received a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to improve its municipal sewer plant. Originally constructed in 1984, the funds helped the town upgrade the aging facility. Greeneville again applied for a CDBG grant and received \$525,000 from the program in 2017. This new grant will help finance half of a \$1 million project to change the plant over from chlorine disinfection to ultra violet disinfection, which will treat more bacteria and be safer for consumers.

dersonville, Jackson, Johnson City, Kingsport, Knoxville, Knox County, Memphis, Metro Nashville, Morristown, Murfreesboro, Oak Ridge, and Shelby County are each given individual pots of funding to administer while projects conducted by other municipalities and counties in Tennessee are administered through the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (TECD).

Kent Archer, CDBG director for TECD's Community and Rural Development Division, helps oversee the distribution of funds to the remaining or non-entitlement

communities in the state.

"Our eligible entities are local governments – city and county – and our annual allocation is usually somewhere between \$24 and \$25 million," Archer said. "Our different sections include water systems, sewer systems, a housing rehabilitation component, and community livability. The community livability portion is really everything else. The intention with those funds is to improve health, safety, and quality of life through those grants. It can be anything from rehabilitation work to a hospital to financing fire

Lawmakers, advocates tout 'Safe at Home' program to protect domestic violence victims

BY KATE COIL

Domestic violence victims, advocates, lawmakers and Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett are teaming up to support legislation that would create a new program to help protect victims of abuse.

The "Safe at Home" program has already been implemented by 35 states across the country and aims to help survivors of domestic violence, rape, human trafficking, stalking, and other crimes who have relocated or are about to relocate, in their effort to keep their abusers from finding them. In doing so, the program will allow victims to take back their lives by preventing an abuser from locating them through public records searches and inflicting additional harm.

In 2016 alone, 78,100 domestic violence offenses were reported in Tennessee. In over 80 percent of these reported incidents, the primary victim was either a woman or a child. In over half of reported cases, the victim was physically injured. Victims may need to move to other towns, switch jobs, move their children to different schools, or even change their names just to escape their abusers. Even then, abusers may still easily find them by searching public records online.

Through SB 1935, sponsored by Sen. Brian Kelsey, R-Germantown, and companion bill HB 2025, sponsored by Rep. Andrew Farmer, R-Sevierville, the "Safe at Home" program would be implemented in Tennessee and help save the lives of domestic violence victims. The legislation also has the backing of Secretary of State Tre Hargett, whose office would facilitate the program.

"It is time for Tennessee to join the growing majority of states across the nation by enacting proactive legislation to provide greater



Secretary of State Tre Hargett



Sen. Brian Kelsey, R-Germantown



Rep. Andrew Farmer, R-Sevierville

protections for victims and taking positive action to shield all our citizens from the effects of domestic violence," Hargett said. "For these reasons, we look forward to serving our fellow Tennesseans through our assistance in preventing violence in our communities."

The Safe at Home program provides victims with a government-managed substitute address (such as a post office box), for both themselves and their children. This address can then be used to obtain a driver's license, register to vote, and complete most other government forms without disclosing the participant's home address.

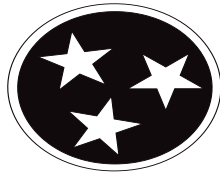
"Once enrolled, the participant can provide the substitute address to virtually all government entities in Tennessee. Participants may also request that other nongovernmental entities, such as their employers and other private businesses, use this address as well," Hargett said. "The Secretary of State's office will receive all mail sent to the substitute address and then forward that mail to the participant. Our department will keep the participant's actual residential address confidential and will only disclose it in narrow circumstances to authorized officials."

Kathy Walsh, executive di-

rector of the Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence, said her organization has been working with the Secretary of State and other lawmakers to support the measure.

"We think this is a great program, and we are anxious to work with the Secretary of State's office to implement it," Walsh said. "I have talked with other coalition leaders in other states that have implemented the program, and they say the program has been very valuable for victims. The thing we know is that the most

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



ASHLAND CITY

The Ashland City Council has unanimously approved the construction of a mobile fire training facility known as the Warehouse on Wheels. The mobile facility can be used for various training exercises and can be transported to various locations for training exercises. The city received a \$650,000 FEMA Department of Homeland Security grant, which will cover 90 percent of the \$649,350 project cost. The city will provide a 10 percent match for the structure, which will take 180 days to build. Other area fire departments will also have access to the structure.

ATHENS

Building permits issued in the past three years in Athens have totaled nearly \$100 million with the city approving more than \$200 million in construction projects in the past decade. The city issued \$30.4 million worth of building permits in 2017, including permits for a new downtown grocery store, major addition to the local university, and continuing development along Interstate 75's Exit 49. The most money brought in by city permits was in 2015 when 337 permits brought in \$43.1 million. That year, Denso Manufacturing began a \$38 million expansion at its Athens facility. By and large, the new permits in the past few years have been industrial and commercial though 15 new housing starts were reported in 2017.

ATHENS

DENSO will be expanding its operations in Athens, creating 320 jobs and investing \$190 million into its facility. The global automotive supplier presently employs around 1,375 people and is the largest employer in McMinn County. DENSO's investment will add four production lines in Athens, increasing the company's ability to produce and deliver key parts for automakers across North America. DENSO's Athens facility manufactures fuel injectors, fuel pumps, oxygen sensors, ignition coils, monolithic carriers, and spark plugs. The investment will create jobs across production, facility operations, engineering, and administration departments along with other skilled-trade positions. DENSO will introduce a new Gasoline Direct Injection (GDI) production line, one low-pressure fuel pump line and two high-pressure fuel pump lines. With its global headquarters in Japan, DENSO has had a presence in Tennessee for three decades. The company has three locations in the state – Maryville, Athens and Jackson – and employs roughly 4,500 people in Tennessee.

BRISTOL

The city of Bristol has posted more than 1,000 videos to its municipal YouTube site, which provides a variety of programming based around the city. The WatchBT-NTV channel is a production of the City of Bristol Tennessee's BTN-TV, a division of the Office of Community Relations. The channel has numerous and varied videos including Antiquities of Bristol episodes featuring Bristol Historian, the late Bud Phillips, and the exciting adventures of Naturalist Jeremy Stout in Steele Creek Explorer. A feature program of BTN-TV, Inside Bristol, the premier program that features biweekly shows highlighting the latest in city services, community happenings, and new city program

offerings, is also on the playlist. The historic pieces posted on the channel are some of the most interesting, detailed presentations, including the newest addition to the lineup, Forged in History, a piece exploring the Willie Boom neighborhood, which is getting lots of attention.

CHATTANOOGA

West Star Aviation is looking to expand its footprint and employment by redeveloping a former Air National Guard Site at the Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport. West Star is already undergoing an expansion to reach a goal of employing 225 workers by 2020 at the airport, and has recently received a \$4 million state grant to redevelop the vacant, 13-acre former Air National Guard site. Work on the property will include tearing down some existing buildings and preparing the area for new aircraft hangers. West Star came to the airport in 2015, and eventually wants to ramp up its Chattanooga operation to the size of a pair of similar facilities in Illinois and Colorado. The company expects the project will add between 50 and 75 more workers this year to the 68 people it already employs.

CLARKSVILLE

Google has broken ground on a new \$600 million data center in Clarksville, which is one of the biggest investments the company has made in the state. The massive data center will have advanced, 60-megawatt service capacity and is the 15th Google data site worldwide. The building will employ 1,000 people in construction and then 70 full-time, permanent data positions once construction is complete. Google cited the quality of Clarksville's workforce – particularly its veteran worker pool – and its access to clean energy as reasons for choosing the site.

DOVER

Nashville Display will expand its operations in Dover, creating 20 jobs and investing \$3 million in the area. The fabricated wire and metal display manufacturer designs, prototypes and manufactures both standard and custom retail displays and fixtures. The company works with major retail stores such as Cracker Barrel, Dollar General and Tractor Supply. Nashville Display plans to expand its operations by adding new equipment to keep up with growing demand. The company recently installed a new tube laser that provides more design capability and allows faster output of machined and cut tubing for display fixtures.

FRANKLIN

The Franklin Police Department will soon be equipping all police officers with body cameras as part of the standard uniform. The city received funding for the cameras in 2016, and the city spent several months in 2017 testing three different devices to find the best fit for the department as well as waiting for statewide guidelines on body camera usage to be issued. Cameras will routinely record 10 seconds of footage and then record action entirely once an officer's dash lights go on, a gun is taken out of a holster, or the officer manually hits the record button. Footage taken inside hospitals and mental health facilities as well as of minors or in homes where no crime has happened will be exempt from public records requests. All officers are expected to be equipped by July 1.

GALLATIN

The city of Gallatin has begun using CodeRED's highspeed notification system to alert residents of emergency situations and send out community messages. Employees of the city can also use the national Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) to alert residents if necessary. CodeRED allows residents and businesses to be notified by telephone, text message, email and social media of time-sensitive information, emergencies or other urgent notifications. Messages can range from missing persons cases to inclement weather advisories and evacuation notices. Registration to receive CodeRED notifications is free and can be done online.

GREENEVILLE

The town of Greeneville has begun forming a new municipal airport authority, a major step toward the town acquiring full ownership of the local airport. Greene County ended a 50-year partnership with the town that supported the airport and now the town of Greeneville is taking over the airport, which serves as a transportation hub for area industries, provides launch and landing pads for local air ambulance services, and provides space for private aircraft. One of the first tasks for the new municipal airport authority would be creating a charter that would allow the legal transfer of the airport's assets and deeds. The authority will also hire a new airport manager and oversee future airport projects.

JOHNSON CITY

Johnson City has been named a Hidden Heroes city, making the community part of a nationwide effort to support the caregivers of former military members. Created by former U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Dole, the Hidden Heroes program brings attention to untold stories of military caregivers and seeks solutions for the tremendous challenges and long-term needs they face. The organization works to inspire individuals, businesses, communities, and civic, faith, and government leaders to take action in supporting military. The program will create a network of caregivers in Johnson City, allowing them to have a better support system. Military caregivers can visit www.johnsoncitytn.org/hiddenheroes for more information.

KNOXVILLE

The city of Knoxville has moved forward with plans to restore Fountain City Lake with the introduction of two wetlands on the city-owned property. The \$750,000 lake restoration project began in 2014 and the wetlands are the latest in the restoration phase. Once the plantings are completed, the spring-fed lake will refill and saturate the new beds. The fast-growing plants – including cardinal flower, blue flag iris, button bush, soft rush and wintergreen – should fill out the new wetlands beds by this summer. For years, thick algae has overwhelmed the lake. The city's aim has been to repair the lake's infrastructure so that the ecosystem can regain its long-term balance. The city has been working with Ronald Franks Construction Company and Landscape Services Inc. on the project.

NEW TAZEVELL

England, Inc. will expand its operations in New Tazewell, investing \$31 million and creating 202 new jobs in the area. The furniture manufacturer will add 87,000 square feet to its manufacturing facility in New Tazewell and construct a new 23,000 square foot corporate office space with this expansion. The manufacturing facility is set to be operational by January 2019 and the corporate office space will be operational by the spring of 2019. England, Inc., an independent division of La-Z-Boy Incorporated, is a high-quality furniture manufacturer that has been located in New Tazewell since 1964. With more than 500 fabric and leather options, England offers a broad selection of furniture to create unique and custom furniture for its customers.

SPRING HILL

Plans for a new interchange on Interstate 65 near Spring Hill are moving forward. The proposal would extend Buckner Road to provide access to the northern area of the town. In a letter to the Tennessee Department of Transportation, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has given conceptual approval to TDOT's request for the interchange. The city plans to extend Buckner Road nearly a mile east to I-65. The city has eight years to begin construction on the interchange, and allows the project to proceed to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) phase, an environmental analysis of the project; subsequently, the project also will move into the design phase. The initial estimated cost for the overall project is roughly \$28 million.

Bristol Police Department acquires new utility vehicle



Bristol Police Officers Danny Eller, left, and Donnie Branson, right, go through a training course with the new utility terrain vehicle recently acquired by the department. The UTV was purchased by the city for \$10,899 from Bass Pro Shops at The Pinnacle and will be used to patrol the Pinnacle area, freeing up the city's other UTV to patrol downtown. Six officers are currently trained on using the vehicle, which is equipped with a first aid kit and tools for helping start vehicles and unlock car doors in emergencies.

Second phase of Dandridge water line replacement project underway



Construction crews get to work at the intersection of West Main and Gay streets in Dandridge as part of the second phase of \$1.65 million water line installation in the city. The project has been ongoing since January in conjunction with Greeneville-based Merkel Brothers to install new 10-inch lines along Highway 25/70 and around the county courthouse. Many of the lines being replaced were originally installed in the 1930s. The city has already completed the first \$217,000 phase of the project and is already looking toward the third phase of the project.

Construction continues on new Cleveland fire station



Construction crews lower roof supports into place at the future home of Fire Station No. 6 in Cleveland. The new fire station will allow the city fire department to better serve south Cleveland as well as the Spring Branch Industrial Park. The \$2.1 million facility will be located near the Interstate 75 Interchange at Exit 20 and is expected to be open in the late spring.

Remodeled Lebanon playground brings out citizens young and old



While a grand reopening ceremony is planned for later this spring, Lebanon residents have already begun taking advantage of the newly remodeled facilities at Don Fox Community Park. Older, aging playground equipment was replaced with newer, safer equipment that also included better access to the playground for children of all abilities. The new playground has slides, swings and paths for wheelchairs; accessible sets and gliders for special needs children; and a shaded area with sensory equipment like musical instruments.

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Green Steps volunteers clean up Sequatchie Mountain Road

BY CALEB POWELL
TDEC Office of Sustainable Practices

The area around Sequatchie Mountain Road has been used for dumping as long as there has been a road there.

Several organizations have stepped up to do something about it, such as the anti-littering, non-profit organization called Green Steps.

An initiative to clean up litter in Marion County has been underway in recent months, but the monumental task of cleaning up Sequatchie Mountain Road was still at hand.

In January, the Marion County Chamber of Commerce, Green Steps, and a host of volunteers held a massive cleanup on Sequatchie Mountain Road, fitting perfectly with the Chamber's anti-litter campaign to "Keep Marion County Beautiful. Love the Land. Lose the Litter."

To ensure a successful cleanup, there was a lot of collaboration that needed to take place. The cleanup consisted of trucks, machinery to lift out bulky items, dumpsters for litter and large item disposal, participants with rappelling skills and gear, and volunteers to serve as zone leaders to oversee each of the six cleanup areas.

The steep incline made it difficult to just simply pick up the trash and put it in a dumpster. A cable and pulley system had to be rigged together so the trash could be lifted up to the road and thrown away.

"This location was suggested to us because that stream runs into the Sequatchie Cave," said Alyssandra Grizenko, director of Green Steps. "We knew how imperative it was to do a cleanup there in hopes that it would put less stress on the species

living in that stream and cave. In all we collected and disposed of around 8,000 lbs. of litter and 300 or more tires. There were different types of plastics, pieces of furniture, broken toys, and basically every type of garbage that shouldn't be there, which the volunteers were tasked with cleaning up"

Green Steps started in July 2017 by Grizenko after she noticed a trend of litter in the county's recreation areas. Having a background in public health, she knew the hazards that were associated with litter and that something needed to be done.

Green Steps' mission is to educate, encourage and enable the community to come together and eradicate litter around popular trails, parks, open spaces, and city limits. They focus their efforts on community engagement and incentivizing the act of throwing away litter. In a sense, they give people prizes for picking up litter.

The approach Green Steps uses to decrease amounts of litter consists of monthly community clean-ups, trash stations, and educational outreach programs.

Through crowd sourcing and donations from local businesses, Green Steps was able to set up seven clean up stations in Hamilton and Marion Counties, each costing \$250: two on Suck Creek Road, one behind Earth Fare in Hixson, one at the end of Barker Camp Road in Soddy-Daisy, one at the rope swing site on Lake Resort Drive in Hixson, one in Marion County Park, and one at the Pot Point trailhead in the Tennessee River Gorge.

Green Steps uses a points and rewards system to activate these community focused projects. The goal of these programs is to educate and initiate involvement among



The Marion County Chamber of Commerce, Green Steps, and a host of volunteers held a massive cleanup on Sequatchie Mountain Road in January. In all, they collected and disposed of around 8,000 pounds of litter and 300 or more tires.

those who are not fully aware of the repercussions of littering, in addition to promoting a more sustainable and active way of life. The program is open to anyone who is looking to give back to their community and environment, all while engaging in a healthier lifestyle.

This cleanup made a substantial difference for the Sequatchie Mountain Road area. The project helped bring the community together to show that it is very easy to make a difference with some hard work and volunteer time.

The stream that runs next to the road and into Sequatchie Cave will now be much cleaner without the tires and thousands of pounds of trash that once littered it. Communities everywhere can learn from this cleanup and help to rid our environment of litter and pollution.



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Dandridge dock project bridges tourism, recreation, and revenue

The town of Dandridge is situated at the base of the Smoky Mountains along the shores of Douglas Lake, a mountain lake segment of the French Broad River.

The lake and the historic downtown serve as the primary amenities and economic engines for this community. As Tennessee's second oldest town and county seat of Jefferson County, Dandridge saw an opportunity with the construction of a new bridge across the lake to leverage its two most important assets.

Town leaders invested in the 2015 Dandridge Tennessee Waterfront Master Plan and created a new shared vision for the community's successful future growth and development. The focus of this plan was to prepare for new opportunities and development by reconnecting the lakefront and historic downtown business district and position the town to compete for new investment.

Dandridge leaders had successfully recruited professional fishing tournaments and saw the potential of creating new lakefront amenities for both their community and fishing tournament tourism markets. Town leaders built key partnerships with the Tennessee Department of Transportation, Tennessee Valley Authority, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, community leaders, and residents that created strong buy-in and commitment of resources for successful implementation.

The Dandridge dock was the first Waterfront Master Plan project constructed in 2016-2017. The first phase of the new public dock was 648 feet long, ADA compliant, accommodated up to 75 boats, and allowed the community to meet growing tournament capacity opportunities at summer pool depths.

In October of 2016, Dandridge won a TNECD Tourism Enhancement Grant of \$50,000 and added 20 more slips and electrical service designed to be in the water year round for dock usage during winter pool depths. This addition expanded Dandridge's ability to host tournaments throughout the year and not just in high water seasons.

The new Dandridge dock has increased the number and size of professional fishing tournaments and community events that show immediate positive economic impact. The combined projected revenue from the Dandridge dock and Douglas Lake between September of 2017 and September of



The new public-use dock created by the town of Dandridge allows both local residents and area visitors to enjoy the beauty of Douglas Lake as well as the recreational opportunities it offers. The project began in 2015 as part of the town's Waterfront Master Plan, which aimed to reconnect the lake and historic downtown Dandridge.



The town collaborated with Jefferson County, the Tennessee Department of Transportation, Tennessee Valley Authority, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, and earned a \$50,000 Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Tourism Enhancement grant to bring the dock project to fruition.

2018 is \$2,860,731 from fishing tournaments alone.

Through the dock project and future investments in their lakeshore and historic downtown assets, town leaders are capitalizing on new economic development through sales and occupancy tax revenues, while improving the quality of life for residents and sustaining Dandridge's unique sense of community.

The first year of the project resulted in \$2.86 million in projected revenue, from 12 total events, that brought in 3,210 event participants, and 129 event staffers. Funds generated included

\$952,556 in accommodation revenue, \$425,565 in food revenue, more than \$1.2 million in gas revenues, and \$243,180 in other revenues.

Dandridge leveraged local and state funding for construction of this project, including a new state approved 2 percent occupancy tax, local sources, and a \$50,000 TNECD Tourism Enhancement Grant to cover total project construction at no cost to local residents.

For more information on the project, visit the town of Dandridge website at www.townofdandridge.com.



Lawmakers and advocates tout 'Safe at Home' program

SAFE from Page 1

domestic violence is when they are in the process of leaving or have left the perpetrator. We often see homicides occur after the victim has left. Anything we can do to keep perpetrators from finding victims, like protecting identifying information and addresses, leads to protecting the safety of victims and their children."

In the Digital Age, Walsh said it can often be harder for survivors of domestic violence to protect themselves and loved ones because of the wide availability of information.

"We have had legislation for many years that allows governmental entities to protect their information," she said. "For example, if a victim provides information to a utility, you cannot just go down to that utility company and get the victim's address. It's the same way with court records. But the Digital Age makes it easier and easier for people to get access to that information. Making sure bills, mail, and anything delivered to that address is protected goes a long way to keeping victims safe. One of the biggest fears victims have when they separate from their abuser is that the perpetrator is going to find them. Legislation like this goes a long way to providing peace of mind for victims."

Kelsey said the bill would offer domestic violence victims something many of them desperately want: a fresh start.

"Domestic abuse is a horrible crime, and I am pleased to support victims of domestic abuse by sponsoring the Safe at Home Act," Kelsey said. "The Safe at Home program will offer victims of domestic abuse a path to escape their abusers and start a new life."

Farmer said it is the duty of the legislature to protect some of Tennessee's most vulnerable residents.

"As Republican leaders, I believe we must continue to strengthen protections for victims of these despicable crimes including do-

mestic abuse, stalking, human trafficking, and other sexual offenses," Farmer said. "I am honored to work with Secretary Hargett and to sponsor passage of HBI 2025 so that we can better protect victims while encouraging them to seek assistance so that they can begin the healing process."

Walsh said the Safe at Home program would be another tool in the tool box for hers and other organizations to help victims and their families. She said the legislature has been very supportive of efforts to protect survivors and curb domestic violence.

"Anything we can do to protect victims from their abusers is paramount," Walsh said. "Certainly, we hope that legislators will agree this is a good bill for victims. We have a very supportive legislature when it comes to issues of domestic and sexual violence. Tennessee has some of the best laws in the country because of this legislature. I feel certain this is going to be another initiative they will push through to help us."

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation reported in 2016 more than 78,000 domestic violence crimes, including stalking and rape, were reported to police. Additionally, 91 Tennesseans were murdered during a domestic violence situation. Domestic violence accounted for more than 51 percent of all crimes against individuals reported in the state in 2016. Females accounted for 71.5 percent of domestic violence victims and children for 9.6 percent of victims. Children also accounted for 58.6 percent of all domestic violence victims where the offender was a relative.

"These dramatic statistics demonstrate that this program is a critical step toward protecting victims of domestic abuse, stalking, human trafficking and similar crimes from any more trauma," Hargett said. "This program will also make our communities safer by reducing crime for all Tennesseans."



PEOPLE

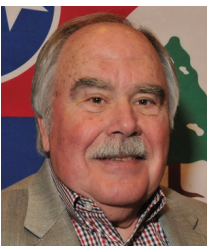
Jeff Broughton has been selected as the new executive director of the Tennessee City Managers' Association (TCMA),



Jeff Broughton

taking over from Michael Walker who will continue to work part-time with TCMA coordinating host committee activities for the 2019 ICMA Conference in Nashville. Broughton previously served as a municipal management consultant for the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) as well as spent nine years as city manager of Bristol. Prior to working with Bristol, Broughton was also employed as the city manager of Oak Ridge and Henderson, Ky. He holds a master's degree in public administration and a bachelor's degree in political science.

John Coombs, mayor of Goodlettsville, died on March 6 after a major stroke following heart surgery. He was 73. Coombs was first elected to the Goodlettsville Board of Commissioners in 2006, serving as vice mayor from 2010 to 2010 and then as mayor in 2012. Prior to serving on the Board of Commissioners, Coombs served on Goodlettsville's Planning and Zoning Board for more than 20 years, spending several as its chairman. A graduate of Goodlettsville High School, Coombs attended Tennessee Technological University and received a ROTC commission in the U.S. Army. He served until 1969, when he returned to Goodlettsville and began working for Essilor of America for 35 years.



John Coombs

Karl Turner has been selected as the new chief of the Johnson City Police Department. A 27-year veteran of the force, Turner earned his bachelor's degree from East Tennessee University before joining the JCPD in 1991 as a public safety officer. He was promoted to sergeant in 1997, serving as a first-line platoon supervisor and SWAT team leader. Six years later, he was promoted to lieutenant, assuming a number of new roles and responsibilities including special operations supervisor and operations manager. Turner then earned the rank of captain in 2007 and 2012, he was promoted to major, overseeing the operations side of the Police Department and serving an indispensable role in supporting the now retired Chief Mark Sirois.



Karl Turner

Jerry Hays, a longtime member of the Gatlinburg City Commission and former mayor and vice mayor of the city, died in Gatlinburg at the age of 82 on Feb. 19. Hays was elected to the Gatlinburg City Commission as a commissioner six times, beginning in 1985. In his more than 20 years of service to the community, he also served for eight years as the city's vice mayor and six years as its mayor. His accomplishments on the council included the construction of the Gatlinburg Convention Center, relocation of city hall, expansion of the Mills Conference Center, construction of Rocky Top Sports World and retaining the Arrowmont School of Arts in the city. In addition to his work in local government, Hays was a fixture in Gatlinburg's hospitality industry.



Jerry Hays

Rodney Joyner has been hired as the new planning and community development director for the city of Goodlettsville. Joyner will take over from Addam McCormick, who left the position to return to his hometown of White House. Joyner previously served as the director of planning for Sumner County for eight years. He holds a bachelor's degree in geography with an emphasis in regional and urban planning from the University of Alabama and a master's in business administration from Union University.

Jerome Kitchens, city manager for Elizabethton, has announced his intention to retire in April. Kitchens has served as city manager since the retirement of Fred Edens Jr. in 2013. Before that, Kitchens had served as Elizabethton's finance director and as city clerk. An Elizabethton native, Kitchens worked as finance director for Carter County and in the Carter County school system before coming to work for his hometown.



Rodney Joyner



Jerome Kitchens

Lawrenceburg mourns loss of firefighter

Jason Dickey, an engineer/EMR with the Lawrenceburg Fire Department, died in the line of duty on Feb. 12 at the age of 38.

Dickey was an 11-year veteran of the Lawrenceburg Fire Department, and was killed in a roof collapse during a house fire that also injured four other Lawrenceburg firefighters.

Lawrenceburg Fire Chief Jay Moore reflected on the deep loss the department felt at a press conference the morning after the fatal fire.

"He was like one of my own," Moore said. "These kids that I call kids, cause I'm the oldest one here, are my boys, the boys I never had. And I've lost one of my boys. This is hard on our community. This is hard on the fire department. It is hard on the family. He has a very caring family that we want to make sure we care for."

Dickey was the first Lawrenceburg firefighter to die in the line of duty since 1978 and only the



Jason Dickey

second to die in the line of duty in the department's history.

Firefighters from Chattanooga, Columbia, Franklin, La Vergne, Murfreesboro, Nashville, Signal Mountain, Spring Hill, and Rutherford County ran calls and provided support the week following Dickey's death so that the members of the Lawrenceburg Fire Department could mourn.

Dickey leaves behind a preg-

nant wife and their three children. A Go Fund Me account set up by the Lawrenceburg Fire Department on behalf of Dickey's family has since closed after making its fundraising goals. A Nashville steakhouse and Lawrenceburg sign shop also held fundraisers on behalf of Dickey and the fire department.

Lawrenceburg Mayor William K. Durham, city council members, and City Administrator Chris Shaffer released a letter on behalf of the city, thanking people for their support of the community.

"There are not enough words to describe how amazed and grateful we are for the dedication, compassion, and generosity, for all the help and support demonstrated by various persons and agencies during one of the most trying times the city of Lawrenceburg has ever experienced," the statement read. "While there is no doubt Engineer Jason Dickey is a hero, the same is true for each volunteer supporting our city."

Nolensville Police Department adds three new officers, one new staff member



From left, Office Nick Wolkonsky, Officer Ben Cunningham, Officer Chris Peercy, Administrative Assistant Juli Dickinson, and Chief Roddy Parker.

Nolensville Police Chief Roddy Parker announced new hires with the Nolensville Police Department.

Police Officer Chris Peercy previously spent nine years with the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department. For part of that time he was in the department's Mounted Patrol Unit.

Police Officer Ben Cunningham joins Nolensville from the Shelby County Sheriff's Office. Cunningham has a master's degree in psychology.

Police Officer Nick Wolkonsky will serve as a reserve volunteer officer with the department, providing security at certain town meetings

and special events. Wolkonsky has previous experience with the Millersville Police Department.

Juli Dickinson has been hired to fill the position of administrative assistant. Dickinson has previous experience with the Elmhurst Police Department in Elmhurst, Ill.

U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander drafts school safety bill

Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., as chairman of the Senate Education and Health Committee and sponsor of the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 and 21st Century Cures Act of 2016, has put together legislation, called the School Safety and Mental Health Services Improvement Act, to help improve student safety at our nation's schools.

"I have drafted legislation to help states and communities keep schools safe," Sen. Alexander said in a press release. "Safe schools are for the most part a local responsibility, but in this case, the federal government can and should help. One way to do this is to give states and local school boards the

authority to use federal dollars in different ways to make schools safer. For example, this bill would allow Tennessee to use federal dollars to upgrade school safety procedures, hire school counselors and develop mental health programs."

There are 100,000 public schools in the United States and most of the responsibility for making them safer for children lies with state and local governments that provide 90 percent of schools' funding.

But in passing this legislation, Alexander believes the federal government can help in the following ways:

- encouraging more school counselors

- encouraging school infrastructure upgrades
- encouraging the development of mental health programs for crisis intervention training and mental health assessments
- creating a presidential task force to increase interagency communication

The School Safety and Mental Health Services Improvement Act would expand the use of federal funding to improve school safety, ensure federal mental health funds are made available to children and youth, and create a presidential task force to better coordinate resources between the Departments of Educa-



Sen. Lamar Alexander

tion, Health and Human Services, Justice, Interior, and Homeland Security.

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STATE BRIEFS



Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam announced the application is open for adults to enroll tuition-free this fall at a community or technical college through Tennessee Reconnect. To be eligible for Tennessee Reconnect, a student must not already hold an associate or bachelor's degree, must be a Tennessee resident for at least one year, and be determined as an independent student. Complete the application at TNReconnect.gov. Tennessee Reconnect builds off the groundbreaking Tennessee Promise program, which provides high school graduates two years of tuition-free community or technical college, by establishing a last-dollar scholarship for adults to earn an associate degree or technical certificate free of tuition or mandatory fees.

The number of new businesses opening Tennessee continues to increase, according to a new report from the Secretary of State's office. The fourth quarter of 2017 reported 8,915 new entity filings, an 8.5 percent increase over the same time period in 2016. Initial filings have seen a positive year-over-year growth for 25 consecutive quarters with domestic limited liability corporations (LLCs) seeing the largest growth. LLC filings were up 13.1 percent over the fourth quarter of 2016 and count for more than half of all new entity findings. As of Jan. 1, 2018, there were 262,462 active entities in Tennessee representing a 5.1 percent increase compared to the same time last year.

Transportation costs cut the number of Tennessee communities with affordable housing in more than half, according to new research from the Tennessee

Housing Development Agency (THDA). Without factoring in transportation costs, seven out of every 10 census tracts in the state meet affordable housing guidelines, but when transportation costs are figured in, that number drops to two out of every 10 census tracts. The effect is most pronounced in rural areas and among low-to-moderate income households. The report also found that median commuting times in the state have increased by 1.2 minutes over the past six years, translating into a loss of 15 million hours of productivity a year. The THDA has created a new definition of a "cost-burdened household" that includes transportation costs as well as housing costs. Under this model, households are considered "cost burdened" if they spend more than 45 percent of household income on housing and transportation costs.

The state of Tennessee is on pace to sink into last place among Southeastern states for solar energy use, according to a new study by the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy. At present, Tennessee is second from the bottom with only Alabama ranking below it, but this is expected to change soon. By 2021, Tennessee is projected to sink to the bottom of its seven-state region in terms of solar use, even as solar use has doubled in the Southeast every year since 2012. The study said policies adopted by the Tennessee Valley Authority are primarily to blame for Tennessee's lag in solar usage. TVA is at the lower end of utilities that provide solar power with only 82 solar watts generated per customer. By 2021, TVA is only predicted to be generating about 125 watts per customer.

Nominations open for TCED's 2018 Sustainable Transportation Awards

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) invites nominations for the fourth annual Tennessee Sustainable Transportation Awards. Winners will be announced at the Tennessee Sustainable Transportation Awards and Forum, which will take place on Sept. 17-18 in Knoxville.

The awards recognize outstanding initiatives to improve the efficiency, accessibility, affordability and sustainability of transportation systems in Tennessee.

"We are looking for projects that are consistent with ongoing efforts to improve the health and well-being of Tennesseans, provide for a strong economy and protect our state's natural resources," said TDEC Commissioner Bob Martineau.

A panel of judges representing an array of interests will select award winners based on the following criteria:

- Innovation – how the project utilized new thinking or creative approaches to meet a particular transportation challenge;
- Best Practices and Replicabil-

ity – how the project demonstrates a transferable solution, such that others could adopt or implement similar programs or initiatives;

- Changes in Transportation Behavior – how a project worked to encourage or achieve changes in transportation behavior in order to make a transportation system more efficient;

- Improvements to Public Health and Safety – how a project creates improvements to public health, well-being, or safety in a given community.

Eligible applicants include federal, state, and local governments; commercial, nonprofit, and industrial organizations; public and private institutions of higher education; and utilities. Entities must be located in Tennessee, and the project must have been completed in the last five years. All nominees must be in environmental compliance with TDEC. Self-nominations are encouraged. Nominations will be accepted until May 31.

More information, including the application, is at <https://www.tn.gov/environment/TSTA>.

Municipalities receive recycling grants

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has awarded 14 municipalities a share in more than \$6 million in grants aimed at supporting community recycling efforts as part of statewide efforts to reduce landfill waste.

"TDEC is committed to increasing the diversion and beneficial use of materials that would otherwise end up in landfills or contaminating our waters," said TDEC Commissioner Bob Martineau. "These grants will help local communities meet the ever-growing challenge of finding ways to reuse materials that would otherwise be discarded to benefit our economy and protect our environment."

Awarded projects fall into one of five categories: recycling hub and spoke, recycling equipment, recycling rebate, used oil and convenience centers. Five of the 14 cities – Chattanooga, Germantown, Memphis, Nashville, and Tullahoma – received two grants through the program.

Other grant funds went to county governments and private sector recycling firms.

Recycling Equipment Grants were authorized by the Solid Waste Management Act of 1991 and are supported by the Tennessee Solid Waste Management Fund, which is administered by TDEC. The fund receives revenues from a state surcharge on each ton of solid waste disposed in landfills and from a fee on new tires sold in the state. Used Oil Grants are authorized under the Used Oil Collection Act of 1993 and are funded by the Used Oil Collection Fund.

For more information visit <https://www.tn.gov/environment/sw-mm-materials-management-program.html>.

Municipality	Grant	Purpose
Bartlett	\$10,685	Recycling bins
Chattanooga	\$32,211	Marketing; Orange Grove personnel; 96-gallon curbside carts
Chattanooga	\$28,916	Recycling campaign materials
Collierville	\$8,913	96-gallon curbside recycling carts
Dandridge	\$12,100	Used oil heater; used oil filter crusher
East Ridge	\$3,878	96-gallon curbside recycling carts
Etowah	\$9,500	Used oil heater
Gallatin	\$12,500	Vertical baler; maintenance plan
Germantown	\$19,304	Recycling campaign materials
Germantown	\$7,158	Amnesty Day promotional materials; electronics recycling
Knoxville	\$33,798	Downtown trash and recycling corrals; cardboard containers; outreach materials; recycling truck
Memphis	\$143,722	96-gallon curbside recycling carts; outreach materials
Memphis	\$27,250	Materials for the Dare 2 Recycling campaign
Nashville	\$124,841	96-gallon curbside recycling carts
Nashville	\$50,000	Recycling resource educational program materials
Norris	\$34,050	Used oil transport trailer; oil collection tank; antifreeze collection tank; canopy; pad; used oil heater; oil pump; oil filter crusher
Oliver Springs	\$22,050	Used oil collection tank; canopy; pad; oil filter crusher; used oil heater; oil pump; antifreeze storage tank
Tullahoma	\$14,050	Education and outreach materials; used oil collection tanks; canopy; pad; oil filter crusher; oil pump
Tullahoma	\$13,826	18-gallon recycling carts; roll-off containers; kennels for cardboard collection

Eight municipalities share in \$34.9M in water and wastewater construction loans

Eight municipalities have received 11 loans as part of more than \$34.9 million in low-interest loan for water and wastewater infrastructure improvements recently announced by the state for municipalities, county governments, and water authorities.

"The State Revolving Fund Loan Program provides support for infrastructure needs in communities across the state, which leads to cleaner water and a better quality of life," said Gov. Bill Haslam.

Earlier this month Haslam announced the formation of a steering committee to develop a statewide plan for future water availability. Known as TN H2O, the plan will include an assessment of the state's current water resources and recommendations to help ensure Tennessee has an abundance of water resources to support future population and economic growth.

"This fund provides an opportunity for TDEC to help local communities provide clean drinking water for their residents," Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) Commissioner Bob Martineau said. "Financial support is one tool the state can use to help ensure Tennessee's water resources are preserved for future generations."

Wastewater loans were awarded to Chattanooga, Fayetteville, and Lenoir City.

Chattanooga will receive \$1 million for improvements to the Moccasin Bend Wastewater Treatment Plant, funded with a 20-year, \$900,000 loan with an interest rate of 1.53 percent and \$100,000 in principal forgiveness that will not have to be repaid.

Fayetteville will receive \$1 million for a citywide correction project, funded with a 20-year, \$900,000 loan with an interest rate of 1.31 percent and \$100,000 in principal forgiveness that will not have to be repaid.

Lenoir City will receive \$1.3 million for a correction and collection system rehabilitation project, funded with a 20-year, \$1.105 million loan with an interest rate of 1.24 percent and \$195,000 in principal forgiveness that will not have to be repaid.

Traditional wastewater loans were awarded to Chattanooga, Fayetteville, Humboldt, Oliver Springs, and Westmoreland.

Chattanooga will also receive 20-year, \$17.1 million loan at an interest rate of 1.53 percent for the Moccasin Bend Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements project.

Fayetteville will receive a

20-year, \$3 million loan at a 1.31 percent interest rates for a citywide correction project.

Humboldt will receive five-year, \$540,000 loan at a 0.29 percent interest rate to fund wastewater treatment plant renovations, improvements, planning, and design.

Oliver Springs will receive a 20-year, \$185,000 loan at an interest rate of 0.51 percent to fund wastewater treatment plant improvements.

Westmoreland will receive a 5-year, \$210,000 loan with an interest rate of 0.11 percent for planning and design relative to wastewater treatment plant improvements.

The Hamilton County Water and Wastewater Treatment Authority received two loans that will benefit the municipalities of **East Ridge, Lookout Mountain, Red Bank, and Signal Mountain.**

The Hamilton County WWA received a \$7.31 million loan for the East Ridge Sewer Basin Correction Project and a \$1.56 million planning and design loan for sanitary sewer evaluation surveys and correction in Signal Mountain, Red Bank, Lookout Mountain, East Ridge, and unincorporated Hamilton County areas.

Brighton was awarded a drinking water loan while Cleveland and Parsons were awarded traditional drinking water loans.

Brighton will receive \$698,400 for water main replacement project. The project will be funded with a 20-year, \$558,720 loan with an interest rate of 0.39 percent and \$139,680 in principal forgiveness that will not have to be repaid.

Cleveland will receive a 20-year, \$430,000 loan at an interest rate of 1.31 percent for a water distribution system improvements project, including a drinking water storage tank and pump station.

Parsons will receive a 20-year, \$587,000 loan at a 0.82 percent interest rate for water treatment plant improvements, including additional flocculation and sedimentation basins as well as modifications to the disinfection treatment processes.

Any local government interested in the SRF Loans, should contact the State Revolving Fund Loan Program, Tennessee Tower, 12th Floor, 312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, Nashville, TN 37243, or call (615) 532-0445. Additional information about the SRF Loan Program may be found online at <https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/wr-water-resources/water-quality/state-revolving-fund-program.html>.

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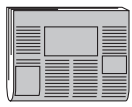
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ANIMAL SHELTER MANAGER

COLLIERVILLE. The Town of Collierville has an immediate opening for the position of animal shelter manager. The purpose of this position is to oversee and manage the day to day operations of the town's animal shelter. Requires a bachelor's degree in animal sciences, business, agribusiness, or a related field; supplemented by three years supervisory experience in an animal shelter; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Requires a valid motor vehicle operator's license at time of hire. Must obtain National Animal Control Association (NACA) Level 1 and Level 2 certifications no later than 36 months from date of hire. Must be flexible with week-day and weekend working hours. Must be available after hours for call out and have good animal handling skills. Tasks require the regular and sustained performance of moderately physically demanding work typically involving some combination of climbing and balancing, stooping, kneeling, crouching, and crawling. Selection process may include: examinations, interviews, assessment centers, practical skills, etc. Must be able to pass a work-related physical and drug test. Salary is \$32,425 - \$55,584 annually (DOQ) with excellent benefits package. To apply for this position, you must submit an original Town of Collierville application. Applications are available to download at www.collierville.com, or you may obtain one from our Human Resources Office located at 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN, 38017, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Completed applications must be submitted either by mail or in person to the above address. We are unable to accept faxed or emailed applications.

ASSISTANT TOWN ENGINEER

FARRAGUT. The town of Farragut is seeking applicants for an assistant town engineer, whose essential responsibilities include: technical and administrative work for supervision of construction and contract management for the town's capital projects, including construction of roadways, greenways, parks and other public facilities. Inspection of public works and public utilities projects. Supervision, preparation and maintenance of engineering records. Provides technical assistance to engineers, contractors, surveyors, architects, developers and citizens on matters related to residential and commercial development. Performs civil engineering work in the field and in the office relating to municipal public works, capital improvements, drainage and other related "in-house" designs for projects constructed by the town's public works department. Works closely with our citizens, as well as other members of the town's staff. Work is performed under the general direction of the town engineer. Applicants with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, or related field and considerable experience with civil design, roadway construction, project management, municipal engineering, or equivalent combination of education and experience are encouraged to apply. An EIT or PE certification are preferred. Benefits include a competitive salary, medical, dental, life, LTD, and a matching 401(k) retirement plan. Applications and a job description may be obtained at the Farragut Town Hall, 11408 Municipal Center Drive, Farragut, TN, 37934, or www.townoffarragut.org/jobs. Applicants must submit a completed Town of Farragut application with an attached resume. Open until filled. EOE

BOOKKEEPER/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

MASON. Responsible for bookkeeping and support services under the general supervision of the office manager/human resources manager. Instructions to the employee are general and the employee must routinely use independent judgement when performing tasks. The employee must occasionally consider a different course of action. The uniform accounting code and accounting system must be followed in order to complete tasks. Graduation from an accredited high school or possess equivalency, and supplemental course work in bookkeeping principles and practices. Experience in clerical accounting work. Responsible for all bookkeeping and financial records of all funds including reconciling bank statements and invoices, bond payments, drafting checks, accounts payable, etc.; balances all receipts and tax collections monthly; prepares all deposits and withdrawals; prepares all bookkeeping reports; prepares all payroll; prepares Social Security and tax withholding reports; prepares quarterly unemployment reports; reviews recorder reports before being submitted to state; maintains general records of account according to established accounting classifications, including various ledgers, registers, and journals; posts entries to books and computer from supporting records, makes adjustments and prepares financial statements; and deposit city receipts at bank. SALARY: \$14.00 Hourly. Please apply at the Town of Mason; Mason City Hall; 12157 Main Street. Position open until filled. EOE.

CITY MANAGER

SAVANNAH. The city of Savannah, Tennessee, bordered by the beautiful Tennessee River, is home to 7,030 residents and is a progressive and growing city which provides an excellent community in which to live. Savannah is seeking an experienced city manager due to the approaching retirement of the current city manager. Three years of as a city manager, assistant city manager, or related experience is required. Experience is needed with municipal regulations and

grants. The successful candidate should possess a bachelor's degree in public administration or a closely related field. Savannah has 85 employees, a general fund budget in excess of 10 million dollars and a utility department providing water, sewer and natural gas. The city manager is expected to live or relocate within the city limits of Savannah. The city manager position is an exempt, at-will employee working under the general direction of a five member city commission. Savannah operates under a private act city charter, which designates a manager/commission form of operational structure, with duties outlined in the Charter and Municipal Code. The salary is DOQ; plus a comprehensive benefits package. EOE. Resumes will be accepted until March 20. All interested applicants must submit a resume, cover letter, and salary history along with three personal and five professional references to: City of Savannah, Attn: Mayor, 140 Main Street, Savannah, Tennessee 38372

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES/PLANNING DIRECTOR

JOHNSON CITY. The city of Johnson City is seeking a director of development services/planning. This is a high-level, visible management position reporting directly to the city manager. The director will oversee the operations of the planning, building inspection, permitting, code compliance division, and the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization. Will work closely with community stakeholders and the economic development council to attract new and diverse businesses. Must be a service-oriented leader who works collaboratively with staff as well as with other city departments, city commission, neighborhood groups, public or private agencies to seek resolutions that are in the best interest of all parties. Will oversee the work of all departmental personnel; establish departmental policies, procedures and regulations and ensure proper enforcement. Prepare and administer the departmental annual \$1.6M budget and monitor expenditures during the year and make recommendations for budget modifications or additional funds. Ensure compliance with city policies, procedures, and regulations. Present information and recommendations to various boards, commissions and committees. Research and prepare ordinances and ordinance revisions related to development, permitting and code enforcement. Work with the public and developers in answering questions and providing information regarding land use, the development process, building projects, building and housing regulations and code enforcement. Serve as technical advisor to the planning commission, city manager, board of commissioners, and department heads on planning and zoning issues. Establish and maintain a policy of downtown improvement and coordinates that policy with other urban growth policies and zoning policies etc. Make frequent presentations to the city boards and commissions. Manage multiple projects in a fast-paced environment with strong prioritization and organizational skills. A bachelor's degree in public administration, planning, or a related field and five years of progressive experience is required. AICP certification and master's degree is preferred. Must have knowledge of urban planning and zoning principles, land use and development laws, federal, state, and municipal building codes, GIS, and current and long range planning methods. Must be a city resident or secure residence within the city limits within 12 months of employment. Applications will be received on-line at www.johnsoncitytn.org until the position is filled. Salary range \$72,070 - \$116,810. EOE.

FINANCE DIRECTOR.

GERMANTOWN. The city of Germantown is seeking a qualified individual to serve as finance director. Under broad direction of the city administrator, the finance director is responsible for the overall administration and management of the city's Financial Services Department. Financial Services includes three areas: accounting, treasury and city court. Responsibilities include directing the accounting, cash management and fund investment activities to ensure financial security of the city government. The finance director is also responsible for ensuring legal and regulatory compliance for all accounting and financial reporting functions. The finance director exercises supervision over general accounting, accounts receivables/collection, payroll, and utility billing system, business licensing, fund investments, debt management, and municipal court activities. The minimum requirements for this opportunity include: bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, business or public administration and seven years of experience managing accounting and cash management operations, including two years professional experience in governmental accounting; or any combination of education, training, and experience providing the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to perform essential job functions. All qualified applicants must have local government experience. A master's degree is preferred. Certification as CPA strongly preferred. For more details and applications, please visit <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/germantown>. The application process will remain open until the position is filled. EOE

FIRE CHIEF

FAYETTEVILLE. The city of Fayetteville is seeking an experienced, energetic, team builder with exceptional leader skills to be their next fire chief. This is an exceptional opportunity to serve in a top-notch organization with a superb staff of high-quality leaders and managers. The fire chief's position requires an individual with sound judgment, human resources skills, organization development expertise, and a can-do work ethic. The fire chief is a highly

visible city department head that is expected to project a professional image of the city and fire department in all situations. The city of Fayetteville will offer a competitive salary and benefits package to the successful candidate. The position profile is available for review at www.fayettevilletn.com. Send cover letter and resumé to Fayetteville HR Director, at 110 Elk Ave S, Fayetteville TN, 37334 or email cover letter and resumé to: agay@fayettevilletn.com or apply online at http://www.fayettevilletn.com/resident/career_and_employment_opportunities/index.php no later than March 15, 2018.

HUMAN RESOURCES/RISK MANAGEMENT

SHELBYVILLE. The city of Shelbyville is accepting applications for the full-time position human resources generalist/risk management/ADA & Title VI coordinator. The position will be responsible for daily operations in human resources as they relate to benefits administration, new hire advertising, job descriptions, onboarding, and employee training. Duties also include administration of the city's risk management policy and procedures. The ideal candidate will have graduated from an accredited four-year college or university with major course work in human resources, organizational development, public administration, business, political science or a related field. Equivalent knowledge and experience will be considered. Salary based on qualifications and experience. Applications and a copy of job description may be picked up at city hall during normal business hours. Applications must be returned to City Hall Administration Office, 201 N. Spring Street no later than 4 p.m. on March 15. EOE/ drug free workplace. Successful applicants required to pass background check, physical and drug screen. For more information, please visit our website: www.shelbyvilletn.org

MANAGER/GRAPHIC DESIGNER/ ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT II

GALLATIN. The city of Gallatin Economic Development Agency (EDA) is seeking qualified applicants for the position of existing industries manager/graphic designer/administrative assistant II. This position works with existing industry on personnel recruitment and problem-solving, creating promotional materials for the EDA, along with assisting with day-to-day operations of the office. This is a 40-hours per week, day shift position. Starting rate is \$20.11 per hour + excellent benefits. The successful applicant should have experience in event organization, including arranging venues, catering and audio/visual needs; strong organizational and multi-tasking skills in a fast paced environment; advanced computer skills with a thorough knowledge of Adobe Creative Suites, Microsoft Office, and Excel. Essential duties include working with the executive director to gain a general understanding of all initiatives within the economic development agency, representing the agency, and city when appropriate, at job fairs, completing diverse administrative tasks including: appointment management, meeting and presentation preparation and database management, while maintaining strict confidentiality, and arranging travel needs (including but not limited to hotel, air and registrations) for the agency. Qualified applicants must possess an associate's degree. Bachelor's degree is preferred. Must have at least five years recent work experience in a related capacity, preferably working directly with executive level positions. For a full description and to apply, visit the city's website at www.gallatintn.gov. Open until filled. EOE.

FIREFIGHTER-FIRST RESPONDER CANDIDATE TESTING

GALLATIN. The Gallatin Fire Department is accepting applications for firefighter candidates testing. The test will be held on March 24. Testing of firefighter candidates does not necessarily indicate available openings. An eligibility list will be created as a result of this test and utilized to fill future openings in addition to current openings. Aptitude and physical agility tests will be administered to final candidates as part of the selection process. Firefighters average 56 hours per week. The schedule is a rotating shift with weekend work required. Starting rate is \$11.70 + excellent benefits. Minimum qualifications: high school diploma/GED. Must be able to respond to the assigned fire station within 45 minutes in case of call back for emergency service. Must complete FEMA online courses IS-100 and IS-700 within six months of employment. Must have valid driver's license. Must meet physical standards established by the Gallatin Fire Department. The following skills are preferred: commissioned firefighters from state of Tennessee, firefighting certifications from accredited fire school, certified as first responders or EMTs. All non-Tennessee certifications must meet reciprocity standards established by the state of Tennessee. Persons wishing to test must apply online at www.gallatintn.gov. All completed applications must be received no later than March 13. Testing invitations will be emailed out to eligible candidates after the closing date. EOE.

POLICE OFFICER

COOKEVILLE. The Cookeville Police Department, an internationally and state accredited agency, is now seeking qualified women and men for the position of certified police officer, offering superior fringe benefits and pension plan. Applicant must meet Minimum Standards Law (TCA 38-8-106), possess a valid TN driver's license and be 21 years of age. High school education or equivalent is required. Sixty semester hours in criminal justice, police science, sociology or other law enforcement related subjects preferred. Pay range commensurate with experience and qualifications. Applications/resumes must include a full mailing address, and will be accepted until position is filled. Send to: City of Cookeville, HR Department, PO Box 998, Cookeville, TN 38503-0998 or email jobs@cookeville-tn.org. EOE

POLICE OFFICER

CLEVELAND. The city of Cleveland is accepting applications for police officer. Qualified applicants will have a high school education or state recognized equivalent, will be 21 years of age, will have a valid Tennessee driver's license, will be required to undergo post-offer medical and psychological exams including drug screen, and will conform to other standards as set forth in T.C.A. 38-8-106. Applicants will progress through pre-employment testing procedures and successful candidates will be selected as positions become available. Pre-employment procedures consist of: 1) written exam measuring basic skills in reading comprehension, math, grammar, punctuation, spelling, report writing; 2) physical readiness exam consisting of a 1.5 mile run, 300 yard run, one rep free weight bench press, pushups, agility course, and vertical jump; 3) ride-along with certified officer and written assessment of events observed during the ride-along; 4) structured oral interview process; 5) background investigation. Applicants who have obtained an associate's degree or higher from a Department of Education recognized regionally accredited college or university, or those that are currently POST certified will have the written exam waived. Entry level annual salary of \$35,892 and competitive benefits package provided including fully employer paid retirement plan with Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System. Applications may be obtained by contacting the city of Cleveland Human Resources Office at 160 2nd Street NE or by phone at 423-559-3313. Applications are also available at the city's website www.clevelandtn.gov. Applications should be submitted to the City Human Resources Office at the above address or by mail to City of Cleveland, P.O. Box 1519, Cleveland, TN 37364-1519, ATTN: Human Resources Department. Please contact the Human Resources Office at 423-559-3313 if you have questions or would like additional information. EOE.

POLICE OFFICERS

JACKSON. The city of Jackson is accepting applications from qualified individuals to become police officers. Eligible applicants must meet the following minimum requirements: pass a written exam, physical agility test, oral interview board, and thorough background investigation. There is no residency requirement. Applicants must be at least 21 years of age or be a sworn police officer with a minimum of one full year experience. Jackson is looking for officers with no experience or officers with POST Certification. Starting salary from \$34,112-\$43,305/year depending on experience. Benefits include paid vacation, sick leave, holidays, bonus leave, TCRS retirement system, education reimbursement, and specialized units. Applications are being accepted until Feb. 28 for the test date of March 24. POST Certified officers can receive a sign on bonus and up to 4 years of service credit depending on experience and qualifications. Apply online at www.cityofjackson.net.

POLICE OFFICER

PORTLAND. The Portland Police Department is accepting applications for full-time, certified police officers and non-certified officer trainees to develop a hiring eligibility list for the department. Applicants will successfully complete the physical tests and the written test for inclusion on the candidate list for vacancies that may occur during the next 6-month period. Applications will be accepted through close of business, March 16. Applicants for non-certified officer trainee positions will enroll in the Police Academy via the provisions of the city's Educational Assistance Program. Starting pay for the non-exempt, trainee position is \$16.64/hr. Certified Police Officers must have current P.O.S.T. certification. Starting pay, with 3 years of certified experience is \$18.97/hr. Both positions will be full time, with full benefit package available including vacation, sick days, paid holidays; health, dental, vision, life/AD&D, TCRS retirement and supplemental voluntary benefits. This classification provides protection of life and property, enforcement of federal, state and local laws and ordinances, responds to emergency/non-emergency situations, investigates criminal activity, and performs specialized duties within an assigned division/unit. Work is performed under regular supervision; officer reports directly to the shift supervisor. Apply online at www.cityofportlandtn.gov or obtain an application from the receptionist at Portland City Hall Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Completed applications must be returned by 4:30 p.m. on March 16, to Human Resources, Attn: Jo Ella Goad, HR Director, jgoad@cityofportlandtn.gov. Confidential FAX 615-325-1481, 100 South Russell Street, Portland, TN. 37148. Post-offer, pre-employment background check, drug screen and physical required. EOE/ Drug Free Workplace.

TML Board to meet March 26

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Municipal League will meet in regular public session on Monday, March 26, 2018, at 10 a.m. in the Nashville Meeting Room of the Doubletree Hotel, 315 4th Avenue North, Nashville, for the purpose of considering and transacting all business that may properly come before said board. If reasonably possible, an agenda will be available on Friday, March 23, at the offices of the Tennessee Municipal League, 226 Capitol Blvd., Suite 710, Nashville. Additional information may be obtained from Jackie Gupton, 615-255-6416.

Bond Fund Board to meet March 26

Notice is hereby given that the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund Board of Directors will meet in regular public session on Monday, March 26, 2018, at 8:30 a.m., local time, in the Vanderbilt Room on the lobby level of the Doubletree Hotel at 315 Fourth Avenue North, Nashville, for the purpose of considering and transacting all business that may properly come before said board. Some members of the board may participate in such meeting by telephonic means, which will be audible to any member of the public attending such meeting. If reasonably possible, an agenda will be available on Friday, March 23, at the offices of TMBF, 226 Capitol Boulevard, Suite 502, in Nashville. Additional information may be obtained at 615-255-1561.

PUBLIC WORKS/SEWER OPERATOR

MT. JULIET. The city of Mt. Juliet is seeking candidates for a public works sewer operator (certified/ or uncertified) Uncertified salary starts at \$14.92 after 6 months, \$16.72 and annual increase for three years until topping out at \$21.00. Certified salary starting at \$15.98 after 6 months \$18.28 and annual increase for three years topping out at \$23.65. Benefits, paid holidays. Selected candidates will be required to complete pre-employment testing as deemed necessary for position. You will need to hold a valid TN driver license. Detailed job description and requirements are available online. Applications must be filed electronically and are available online at the city's website, www.mtjuliet-tn.gov. We will accept electronic applications until filled. The city of Mt. Juliet reserves the right to stop accepting applications at any time. For questions, please call (615) 754-2552. EOE/Drug-free Workplace.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND SAFETY PROGRAM COORDINATOR

COLLIERVILLE. The town of Collierville has an immediate opening for a risk management and safety program coordinator. The purpose of this classification is to perform responsible administrative work in planning, developing, coordinating and administering the town's comprehensive risk management and safety program functions. Requires an associate's degree with course concentration in business administration, finance, public administration or a related field; supplemented by three years of experience in a safety-related position; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Must possess and maintain a valid driver's license. Excellent MS Word and Excel skills strongly preferred. This is an entry level position. A cover letter and resume must be submitted with the application to be considered. Salary is \$35,475 - \$42,397 annually (DOQ) with excellent benefits package. To apply for this position, you must submit an original Town of Collierville application. Applications are available to download at www.collierville.com or you may obtain one from our Human Resources Office located at 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN, 38017, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. EOE.

TOWN MANAGER

SMYRNA. The town of Smyrna is recruiting for the position of town manager. The town operates under a town manager form of government, with a seven-member council comprised of a part-time mayor (four year term) and six council members (four year term). The town manager is responsible for planning, directing and managing the activities of all town operations and functions, and recommending and implementing policies established by the council. The manager oversees a budget of over \$90 million, and 25 departments with 409 full-time and over 100 part-time/seasonal employees. The successful city manager candidate will have a strong background in finance and economic development, excellent interpersonal and communication skills, a proven track record of success, be able to manage multiple projects simultaneously, and be able to build on the strengths that a diverse community such as Smyrna offers. Minimum requirements include a bachelor's degree (master's preferred) in management, public administration, business administration or a related field, with several years of increasingly responsible management experience, including at least five years of leadership experience in local government. Applicants may apply and submit resumes online at <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/townofsmyrna>. Deadline to apply is March 28.

TRAFFIC OPERATIONS MANAGER

MARYVILLE. The city of Maryville is accepting applications for a full-time traffic operations manager. This is skilled technical work managing the operations of the traffic control infrastructures for the cities of Maryville and Alcoa, directing maintenance and repairs, and analyzing and maintaining traffic related data. A complete job description and required application is on our website www.maryvillegov.com. Requirements: bachelor's degree without coursework in civil engineering, or related field and considerable experience in traffic engineering, traffic operations, including some supervisory experience, or equivalent combination of education and experience. International Municipal Signal Association Level I certification must be obtained within one year of hire. Hiring range: \$50,855- \$60,451 DOE. Excellent employee benefit package. Nepotism policy prohibits hiring relatives of city employees. Applications are available on the city website and in the City of Maryville Human Resources Department, 400 W. Broadway Ave., Maryville, TN 37801. Deadline to apply is March 31, 2018.

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TML AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

(Ex-Officio Directors)
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 Tennessee Building Officials Assn.
 Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police
 TN Assn. Municipal Clerks & Records
 TN Government Finance Officers Assn.
 Tennessee Fire Chiefs Assn.
 Tennessee Fire Safety Inspectors
 Tennessee Association of Floodplain Management
 Tenn. Assn. Housing & Redevel. Auth.
 Tennessee Municipal Attorneys Assn.
 Tennessee Municipal Judges Conference
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 Tennessee Chapter, American Planning
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Online grocery sales could have negative local economic impact

GROCERY from Page 1

than half of Rite Aid's 2,569 locations, the *Los Angeles Times* reported.

Where does all of this retail instability and consolidation lead to? It doesn't look like a pleasant place for traditional brick and mortar grocers, according to Quartz:

"A bloodbath is imminent. Grocery stores have notoriously slim margins—earning a dollar or two, maybe three on every \$100 shoppers spend—and Amazon could bleed even those profits dry."

While city halls and local economic development offices don't necessarily need to worry about the nuts and bolts of grocery economics the same way large national chains like Albertsons and Kroger do, they need to be very mindful about sales tax revenue.

Empty stories don't generate

revenue local governments need to provide services. And empty stores can depress sales at adjacent businesses.

In Longmont, Col., a Front Range city north of Denver, vacant anchor stores in shopping centers, including a shuttered Safeway grocery location, has driven down business. Teresa MacPhail, the owner of Mac's Place diner at the Fox Creek Marketplace in Longmont, told the *Times Call* at a recent local business advisory committee meeting:

"We have 12 other businesses in our shopping center that are losing between 10 and 30 percent," she said. "It's a huge concern to anyone attached [to a shopping center] where a large store decided to pull up its anchor and leave."

It's a likely scenario that awaits many other grocery-anchored shopping centers around the nation, adding to the commercial real estate challenges that have accompanied

the closure of department stores like Macy's, J.C. Penney, and Sears and other national Big Box retailers.

The parent company of Winn-Dixie, which operates grocery stores in the Southeast U.S., is undergoing a strategic review as it looks at a possible bankruptcy and the prospect of closing 200 stores, according to the *Orlando Sentinel*. That's news that any local economic development official with a Winn-Dixie in their community should be tracking and prompting difficult questions of what could follow.

While there are many interesting case studies of successful redevelopment of vacant stores, there are plenty of examples of shuttered retailers dragging down communities they leave.

In so many places, local officials and economic development champions will have a lot of difficult work ahead to adapt to the nation's changing retail landscape.



TENNESSEE FESTIVALS

March 21-24: Pigeon Forge
24th Annual Mountain Quiltfest
 Quilters will be able to attend classes based on skill level and technique. Vendors will showcase a variety of quilts. Hours: Wed.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Pigeon Forge LeConte Center. Visit: www.mypigeonforge.com/events/quiltfest/

March 24: Cleveland
BBQ Blues & Bluegrass Festival
 Come out and enjoy a fun-filled family experience including food, music, vendors, games, and much more. Hours: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Greenway Park, 755 Raider Drive Cleveland, TN. Visit: www.bbqbluesandbluegrass.com

April 2-8: Columbia
Mule Day
 What began in 1840 as a meeting for mule breeders known as "Breeders' Day," Mule Day now attracts more than 200,000 people. In addition to mules, traditional Appalachian food, music, dancing, and crafts are featured at the four-day event. For more information, visit: <http://muleday.org>.

April 6-8: Knoxville
Rhythm N' Blooms
 A top notch music festival that celebrates the crossroads of the city's varied music history. Held in the Historic Old City, the festival showcases nationally known artists as well as local favorites. Visit www.rhythmnbloomsfest.com

April 11-13
TCMA Spring Conference
 Murfreesboro Embassy Suites
 This conference provides an excellent opportunity to enhance knowledge and skills for successful municipal management, while providing a setting to network with other managers, administrators, and assistants from across the state. For more information, visit <https://tcma32.wildapricot.org/event-2823610>

April 18-19
Rural Development Conference
 Murfreesboro Embassy Suites
 Hosted by TVA, USDA Rural Development, and Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, the conference will bring together local leaders from across rural Tennessee to encourage, inspire, and learn from each other. Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/23rd-annual-rural-development-conference-tickets-41891464498>.

NATIONAL BRIEFS



In recent years, **hospitals in parts of Appalachia have seen surges in the number of babies born to mothers who used opioid-related drugs during their pregnancies.** That includes hospitals Chattanooga, Knoxville, and Nashville in Tennessee, and Asheville and Greensboro in North Carolina. Nationwide, an estimated 21,700 babies in 2012 were born with neonatal abstinence syndrome, often caused by a mother's use of opioids during pregnancy. The number represents a fivefold increase since 2000, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, a branch of the National Institutes of Health.

The number of hate groups in America increased for the third year in a row, according to a recently released report by the Southern Poverty Law Center

(SPLC). The SPLC's Year in Hate and Extremism report identifies 954 hate groups – an increase of 4 percent from 2016. Of the groups, some 600 were identified as groups holding white supremacist ideology. Within the white supremacist movement, neo-Nazi groups saw the greatest growth – from 99 groups to 121. Anti-Muslim groups rose for a third straight year. They increased from 101 chapters to 114 in 2017 – growth that comes after the groups tripled in number a year earlier. Ku Klux Klan groups, meanwhile, fell from 130 groups to 72. Not surprisingly, the ranks of black nationalist hate groups – groups that have always been a reaction to white racism – expanded to 233 chapters in 2017, from 193 the previous year. One place hate activity increased in particular was on college campuses. The SPLC documented some 300 incidents

of racist flyers being distributed on more than 200 campuses.

Inflation in the U.S. is getting a boost from increased consumer prices and a tightening labor market, according to data from the U.S. Commerce Department. A robust labor market and rising inflation could force the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates a bit more aggressively this year than currently anticipated to prevent the economy from overheating. The Fed has forecast three rate hikes in 2018. Inflation has already cut into consumer spending in January. Consumer spending accounts for more than two-thirds of U.S. economic activity. Industrial production, home sales and core capital goods orders fell in January, indicating the economic growth the U.S. has seen since the Great Recession is beginning to slow.

UT-MTAS FEBRUARY MAP CLASSES

LEADING BY LEARNING Pt. 1: SOMEWHERE TO BEGIN

The first in a series of three, *Leading By Learning: Somewhere to Begin* is designed to assist participants in developing effective leadership skills. Highlights include the building blocks of leadership and determining your leadership style.

Target Audience:
 All Municipal Employees

Dates/Locations/Times:
April 24 Jackson
 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT
April 25 Nashville
 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT
April 26 Knoxville
 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EDT

Credits: 4 CPE

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.solutionpoint.tennessee.edu/MTAS> or by invoice. For registration assistance, call 865-974-0413. For more information, contact Kurt Frederick, training consultant, at 615-253-6385.



No loan is too large or too small



The city of East Ridge closed a \$4.9 million fixed-rate loan with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund to finance interchange improvements. Pictured from left to right: J. Scott Miller, city manager; Mayor Brent Lambert; and Diane Qualls, finance director. Standing are Steve Queener and Linda Mooningham, TMBF representatives.



The town of Signal Mountain closed a \$3 million fixed-rate loan to finance the construction and equipping of a new fire station. Pictured are Mayor Chris J. Howley and Carol White, finance director; and TMBF representatives Steve Queener and Linda Mooningham.



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

CDBG program has far-reaching impact on Tennessee municipalities

CDBG from Page 1

trucks and ambulances or blight eradication type projects. We also put in a few drainage mitigation projects in there as well.”

The majority of Tennessee’s CDBG projects are related to water and sewer infrastructure with roughly a third of the projects – 37.6 percent – going for water system-related projects and another third – 37.9 percent – for sewer or wastewater-related projects. The third highest type of projects awarded grants in the state were related to fire and emergency service programs with 15.9 percent of funding in the state going to projects like new fire halls, turnout gear, fire trucks, emergency sirens, and ambulance services.

Projects that dealt with neighborhood and housing rehabilitation – like façade grants and blight removal – accounted for 5.5 percent of the projects awarded in Tennessee between 2011 and 2016. The remaining 2.9 percent of projects covered new building and infrastructure projects of non-residential structures including drainage construction, new street construction, and construction to community facilities.

While other projects are admissible under CDBG guidelines, Archer said Tennessee allows funding only for projects that fall into the most competitive categories.

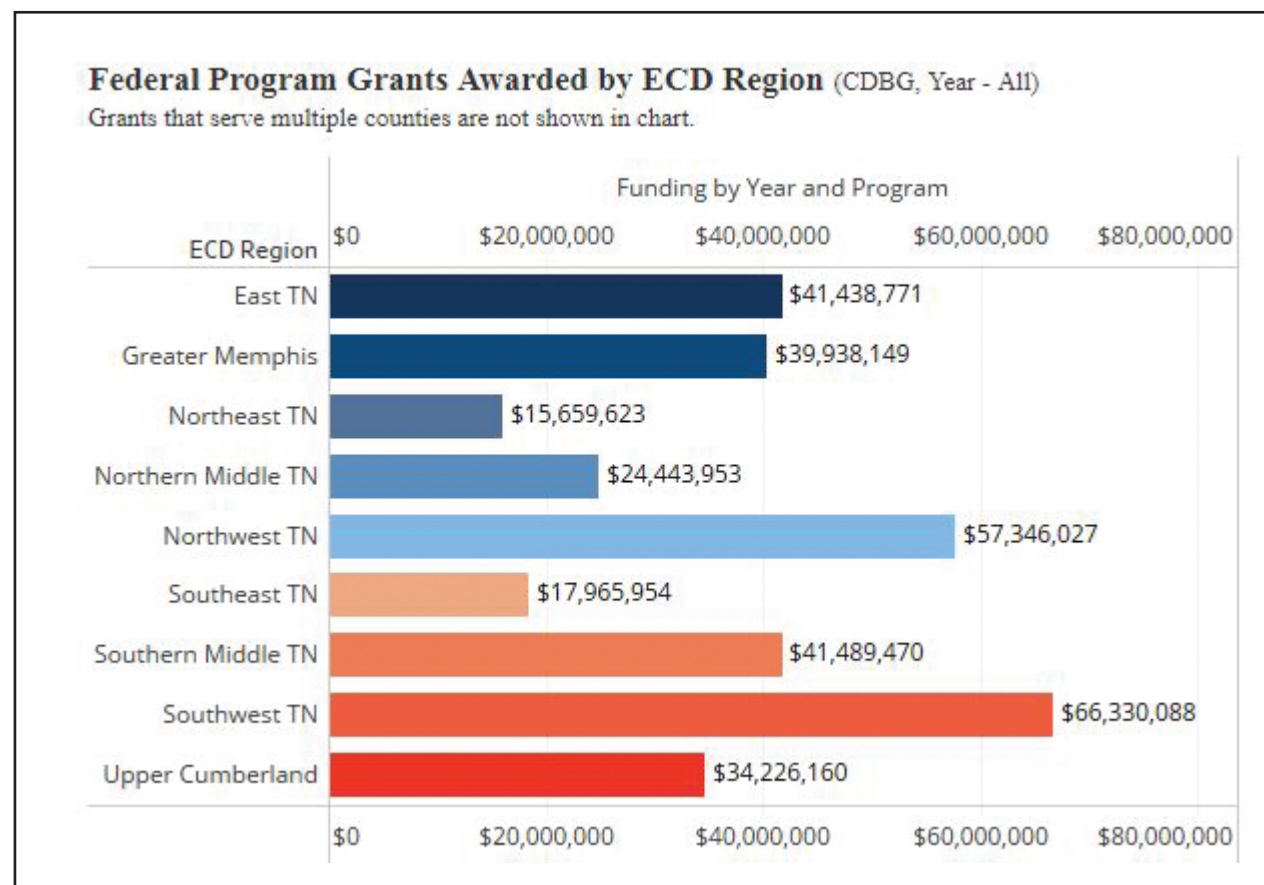
“CDBG can be used for a plethora of different things, but not all of those are allowed under our program for various reasons,” Archer said. “One of those things is park improvements, but when you are weighing park improvements against the need for a new fire truck or ambulance, we know it’s not going to score out. The grants get more and more competitive every year, and so we’ve put some restrictions on some items to not waste the applicants’ time, especially if there are other grant programs for those projects. Infrastructure needs and community needs have historically been so important, so we target our grants that way.”

The amount of funding awarded to a community for a project largely relies on how much money a community can afford to match and, in some cases, funding amounts that will make their application more competitive.

“Applicants can apply for up to \$500,000 with water, sewer, and housing projects or \$300,000 with community livability. For other projects, it is up to \$100,000,” he said. “Applicants typically get whatever amount they ask for, and part of that is because we don’t want to get into the negotiation of what is important and what is not. These grants also require a match, and the entity usually knows better how much they can afford to match. We have seen in recent years that a number of those request amounts have lessened to be more competitive. Our communities are thinking more strategically, and in other cases, it is because you have a very small community. One of our grantees this year was McMoresville, and their grant amount was right around \$80,000 due to the match they would have to put up.”

While the three different grant categories have some specific scoring guidelines, Archer said that community need and project impact are both largely based on population, income and unemployment.

“The community need score is based on the most recent American Community Survey (ACS) per capita income and the target area per capita income, which may differ,” he said. “We also look at short-term



Left: The amount of Community Development Block Grant funds awarded by economic development region in the state of Tennessee since 2011. Of the 637 grants awarded in the state during this time period, 449 were regular CDBG grants, 178 grants were from the CDBG disaster relief programs, and the remaining 10 were from other CDBG sources. Since 2011, the state has received 637 grants, 179 in distressed counties. TECD administers the “Small Cities” CDBG program, which all communities are eligible for except those in entitlement communities which are communities which receive CDBG funds directly from HUD

“[Without CDBG funding] we would see some communities getting out of water and wastewater business. We would see more people purchasing water than we do right now from other sources. It would be harder for fire departments or ambulance services that make good use out of the equipment the grant has provided. If we didn’t have this program, a lot of communities would have to face some really tough decisions on where they go from here.”

— Kent Archer,
Tennessee Department of Economic Development
Community and Rural Development Division
CDBG Director

and long-term unemployment. Short-term is 12-month unemployment while long-term is 10-year unemployment. Communities typically don’t have control over these numbers year-to-year, especially if they are a smaller community in a larger county. We also have project impact scores, which is based on the cost per person and the low to moderate income (LMI) cost per capita. The lower the cost per person, the better score you get, and the LMI cost is taking the low to moderate income percentage and multiplying that.”

As grants become more and more competitive, Archer said documentation to support a project can be one of the things that puts an application over the top.

“We want the narrative to be tightly wound around that documentation. We want our applicants to prove and explain these things to us,” he said. “As competitive as it is, we try to approach things from a very objective standpoint. Don’t assume we know anything about your project. Each application is reviewed by multiple people, so it doesn’t only see one set of eyes. We have a system in place so if someone ranks one project one way and another ranks it another

way, we have a conversation about our points of view and find where that score needs to fall. Most of the time, the projects really do speak for themselves. We also like to look at the budget for multiple previous years to see why you might not be able to afford a project. If you show us this budget without much explanation or justification, it is hard for us to say that one project is more important or needed than the other.”

After being awarded a grant, a city will have to conduct an environmental study, submit plan specifications or architectural reports, and in some cases conduct preliminary engineering and land acquisition under federal guidelines. The state does the contracting and bidding process for the project.

“At the point that 50 percent of the construction is complete, we do a monitoring visit to verify that federal requirements are met, all the necessary documents are on site, payroll is meeting federal wage rates, and to make sure everything is being followed,” he said. “Assuming everything comes out positive, we let the project finish and then they move into the closeout phase. You cannot have an open grant to apply for another one.”

At present, the amount of funds allocated to the state are at one of the lowest points in the program’s history, according to federal data. Tennessee received more than \$34.8 million in the first year of CDBG grants and averaged about \$53.3 million year throughout the 1980s. The first major cut to the program came in 1986 when the state went from an average of \$57.3 million a year to one of \$46.86 million a year – both statewide and individual city and county funding included.

Funding amounts began rebounding in 1991 with Tennessee receiving its highest-ever CDBG allocation of \$65.2 million in 1994. Funding allocations began to decline again in 2001 with the last major reduction to CDBG funding coming in 2006. That year, funds dropped by nearly \$5 million across the state.

Like other states, Tennessee saw an increase in funding in 2009 and 2010 on the heels of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA), but since then, funds have stayed at the same rate as they were in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Despite funding amounts staying the same in the past decade, the amount of applicants continues to increase. Between 2011 and 2016, a total of 377 Community Development Block Grants were awarded to local governments in Tennessee and 267 of those 377 projects were applied for and received by municipalities.

“We receive about eight to 10 additional applications each year,” Archer said. “Part of that is because more people are seeking applications and part of it is because our communities are getting better at closing out projects more quickly, which means they can reapply sooner. There is a lot of need and support for the program. We have seen some change in relation to the competitiveness of the application.”

Archer said the state arm of the CDBG holds two major meetings each year. The first is in August or September and seeks input on new avenues for use of grant funds. The second is an application workshop held sometime between late October and early December.

“Communities can also work with their grand administrators, their local development district, and us on their applications,” Archer said. “We are always available for anyone who has questions. We are happy to run numbers for people to show them how they might stack up in a previous year or just have a conversation about how we think you would fare.”

As grants get more competitive, Archer said the state is looking for ways to help smaller municipalities stay in the game.

“One of the things we saw from last year is that smaller service populations have a more difficult time getting funded,” he said. “Part of that is because it is hard for a smaller city application to compete with a county-wide application. We are breaking things up into a small service area pool and a large service area pool in our community livability area. We are trying to break it between service populations that are above and below 5,000.”

Archer said these funds can make or break for the communities they serve.

“Sometimes we get applications where a community is under some sort of enforcement action, and this money can help them get out of it,” he said. “Other times, a community is putting in everything they can but there is an emergency need or something is getting closer to failure. Sometimes, it can take a community several projects over several years before they eradicate an issue. Sometimes this grant is the money that puts them over the top.”

Without CDBG funds, Archer said many local governments across the state would begin to experience financial strain.

“We would see some communities getting out of water and wastewater business,” he said. “We would see more people purchasing water than we do right now from other sources. It would be harder for fire departments or ambulance services that make good use out of the equipment the grant has provided. If we didn’t have this program, a lot of communities would have to face some really tough decisions on where they go from here.”



Above: The town of Graysville received a \$250,000 Community Development Block Grant in 2014 that allowed for the construction of a new fire hall. The Graysville Fire Department officially settled into their new home in 2016. The new fire hall not only provides space for engines and equipment but also room for firefighters to relax between calls and host events like a yearly toy drive for the community at Christmas. Fire and emergency services projects are some of the most common “community livability” projects financed through the CDBG program.

Left: Officials with the city of Crab Orchard receive a ceremonial check from Gov. Bill Haslam, far right, for a housing rehabilitation project in 2016. The \$525,000 in funding helped renovate and build homes on Lawton Brown Road. The funds helped finance repairs to six homes as well as build four more for low-income residents who otherwise might not be able to afford them. Renovating aging homes and downtown facades is a small but growing part of the CDBG program, often helping low-income and elderly residents afford needed repairs.