The Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury has released a report on the state of Tennessee's cities, which shows that while many cities havemade good on their promises to improve their financial stability, others have fallen short. The report highlights the importance of structurally balanced budgets, which allow cities to prepare for future obligations and make tough decisions necessary when revenues fall short. The report also emphasizes the need for continued collaboration between state and local governments to address the challenges facing Tennessee's cities. The full report can be found at www.tncot.cc/7keys.
include the addition of new play
vated on a button-timer system that
ously to approve a $280,590 bid
pany well over 4,000 employees.
the new hires will push the com
plant employs 3,800 workers and
roll out planned for 2022. At pres
plant is also preparing to build the
$800 million expansion to increase
as a register of expenditures by the
in conjunction with National Open
The city of Chattanooga is looking
fence and landscape the property
commercially. Brentwood would
into a conservation easement ensur
home built in 1825, private pond,
the property – including a historic
of the property into a passive city
owners of Windy Hill, located off
the newest municipal park. The
One of the last remaining farms in
average income being above the
2%. The town's strong job market,
received its ranking due to its 6.7%
website 24/7 Wall Street. The town
expressed by non League officials or staff
e-mail to dkluth@TML1.org. Opinions
19 times per year by Tennessee Municipal
www.TML1.org
TT&C: Editor:...
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The Hermitage in Nashville was the home of President Andrew Jackson. It brings together Nashville FD, the homes of Andrew Johnson and James K. Polk are just four hours away. It’s a way we can educate ourselves about both the lives of Andrew Johnson, who was President from 1865 until 1869, and the numerous political offices he held, including serving as an at-large Congressman, Senator, governor, and mayor of Greeneville. He is also known for his service as a judge and a write-in candidate for President in 1864. Johnson’s first political office was in Greeneville, Tennessee, where he served as an alderman and mayor of Greeneville. He was also a lawyer and a politician, serving as a member of the Tennessee House of Representatives and the Tennessee Senate. Johnson was a dedicated public servant and a key figure in the state’s history.

The trail was spearheaded by the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security. Members of one of the TN-HART teams after a training exercise. The TML awards CMFO scholarship funds to highlight our towns and our territories. Tennessee is surrounded by states, so geographically speaking we can do a lot of good with just our location alone for our national branding.

Homes of Tennessee’s three presidents are now part of the new Tennessee Presidential Trail, a new historic trail that highlights the lives and careers of the three men from Tennessee elected to the nation’s highest office. Top Left: The Hermitage in Nashville was the home of President Andrew Jackson from 1804 until his death in 1845. Bottom Left: The Andrew Johnson National Historic Site in Greeneville, Tennessee. Residents of Tennessee’s three presidents are now part of the new Tennessee Presidential Trail, a new historic trail that highlights the lives and careers of the three men from Tennessee elected to the nation’s highest office.

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The University of Tennessee's Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) is welcoming four new staff members to serve in a variety of positions aiding municipalities across Tennessee. Kathy Cunningham and Pete Voss have been hired as new human resource consultants. John Eskew has been selected as a new municipal court specialist. Yolanda Dillard will serve as a new training consultant.

Cunningham will be based out of the Knoxville office and will cover East Tennessee. She has served in management and leadership positions in human resources management in both the private and public sector, including working at the city of Akron and Blount County government. She also worked for Trinty Benefits Advisors, US Foods, and Massey Electric. Cunningham holds a bachelor’s degree in communications and public relations from the University of Tennessee – Knoxville.

Dillard will work out of the Memphis office and will serve municipalities across West Tennessee. Dillard most recently served as associate director of employer partnership for the University of Tennessee Memphis. At UT-Memphis, she was a key leader with the small minority and women-owned business incubator of the MMBIC Continuum. Dillard is retired from the U.S. Air Force and Tennessee Air National Guard where she served as a personnel officer, information systems officer, executive officer, and network engineer.

Eskew will be based at the Nashville office but will serve all municipal court clerks throughout the state of Tennessee. He comes to the position from the city of Clarksville where he served as a risk manager for the municipal human resources department as well as an attorney in the city’s attorney office. Eskew holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of Tennessee and earned his law degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law.

MTAS welcomes new staff

Betsy Cunningham

Yolanda Dillard

John Eskew

Peter Voss

qualities in West Tennessee. Voss comes to MTAS from the city of Hendersonville where he served as the human resources director. Before that, he served as the director of Personnel for the city of Ballard for 33 years.

He has also served as presid- ent, secretary, and treasurer of the Tennessee Personnel Management Association (TPMA). Voss has a bachelor’s degree in business administration with a focus in personnel administration from the University of Memphis.

No loan is too large or too small

East Ridge recently financed a $12,748 note with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF) to purchase police cars. The city has used TMBF programs six times since 1997. Seated L to R: Mayor Burke Garwood and City Manager Tina Tuggle. Standing L to R: Fin. Director Alison Bull, and Steve Queener, TMBF Marketing Representative.

Ed Carter, executive director for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, has announced that he will retire effective May 31. Carter took on his role as head of the TWRA in 2009, but began his career with the state in 1972. Over the years, he has held positions in TWRA’s divisions of law enforcement, information, and education as well as serving as TWRA Region II assistant manage- r and the organization’s first chief of the firearm division when it was formed in 1990. Carter is one of only two executive directors to hel- m TWRA since its creation in 1978.

Gary Edwards

Mary Beth Hilman

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Tennessee’s business filings in- creased by 49,200 jobs compared to December, representing an in average. Nonfarm employment Tennessee’s unemployment rate in 33 consecutive quarters. New business filings representing a 7.8% increase over the same period. Initial filings have now seen 5-TENNESSEE TOWN & CITY/MARCH 9

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) will host three workshops to assist communities interested in applying for the 2020 grant cycle. The workshops will be on August 28th, September 11th, and September 25th. The workshops will cover the application process for grants under the Recreational Trails Program, the Water Conservation Fund, and the Land and Water Development Fund. The workshops will take place at 10:00 AM and will last until 1:00 PM. The workshops are free to attend, and all information is located at Tennessee.gov.

The City of Memphis has announced that they will be hosting a series of community meetings to discuss the possibility of a new downtown park. The meetings will be held on the 1st of July at 6:00 PM, the 2nd of July at 7:00 PM, and the 3rd of July at 8:00 PM. The meetings will be held at the City Hall, located at 100 N Main St, Memphis, TN 38103.

The City of Memphis has announced the opening of a new trail system called the “Green Belt.” The trail system is located in the heart of the city and is open to the public for free. The trail system is 5 miles long and is open to foot traffic and bicycles. The trail system is designed to connect various neighborhoods in the city and is part of the city’s goal of creating a more active and healthy community.

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**The Shelbyville Human Resources office regarding the position will be accepted. Please apply in person, no phone calls will be accepted for full-time position. Employees of human resource director will report to the chief administrative officer. The position requires development and administration of various technical skills, including policy development and administration, recruitment; selection, and placement; position classification and payroll; employee relations or programs; performance management, employee development and evaluation; and providing advice to city management and personnel. The successful candidate will be a self-starter with a chemical engineering degree and knowledge of building and codes Department. Applicant must be at least 18 years of age and meet the physical, mental, and emotional requirements are available online.

**The city of Tullahoma is currently seeking qualified applicants for the position of planning director. This is a full-time position. The planning director is primarily responsible for overseeing and directing all planning and land use-related activities of the city. Duties include: advising and making recommendations to the city commission on matters affecting the city, including rezoning, approval, and implementation of regulations and development standards. This position reports to the city manager. The planning director requires a bachelor’s degree in planning or a related field. Five years of progressively responsible experience in the field of planning, and a master’s degree in planning or a related field is preferred. Starting salary is $34,632 DOE with an excellent benefit package. A complete description and applications available of www.shelbyvilletn.org.

**The city of Mt. Juliet is currently seeking qualified applicants for the position of Human Resources Manager. This position is responsible for the overall administration of Human Resources programs and processes. The HR Manager is accountable for the efficient and effective management of all HR programs and processes, including recruitment, selection, onboarding, training, performance management, compensation, benefits, and employee relations. Reporting to the city manager, the HR Manager oversees a team of HR professionals and is responsible for ensuring compliance with all local, state, and federal regulations. Starting salary is $60,000 with an excellent benefit package. A complete description and applications available of www.mtjuliet-tn.gov.
The city of Atlanta created the Innovative Future Fund (IFF) in partnership with the Arthur M. Blank Foundation in 2014 to serve as a laboratory for companies and philanthropic innovation supporting for improving the health, education and well-being of residents in the historic westside of Atlanta during the construction of the new football and soccer stadium. The IFF addresses equity and social justice issues associated with the development projects through job training for residents in construction and nonconstruction sectors in which the city and local governments contract for office operation and information technology, while also attracting diverse businesses to grow.

Help entrepreneurs in low-income neighborhoods grow their businesses. Cities can help residents in low-income neighborhoods start traditional capital and business services by helping them navigate through the technical aspects of launching or growing their businesses. To address inequity in business ownership within a city, strategies can include providing entrepreneurial assistance outreach efforts to distressed areas in the city and leveraging city funds to support small business loan programs that provide below-market rate capital to small businesses. The city of Rochester, NY, targets early stage entrepreneurs in low-income and underserved areas of the city, Kiva, and also offers a revolving loan fund program that provides capital to small businesses seeking to hire local city workers.

Support work-cooperative ventures. Work-cooperatives are growing in number and providing expertise to residents, developers and local workforce development agencies to design effective training strategies and address employment barriers for residents. This type of broad-based, inclusive strategy will ensure that residents, who have an employment and training opportunities for residents in traditional sectors are engaged with mainstreams, especially for people of color and immigrants.

America is a 3.3 million housing units short of what it needs to support its workforce growth according to a recent report by public government organizations such as Freddie Mac. New housing supply has not kept up with demand. As a result, the US is adding only 350,000 units each year. Oregon is in the state with the biggest need for homes in the country. Florida, Colorado, California, Minnesota, and Texas have more than half of all homes in the country. These homes are needed to address the needs of the new generation of more affluent residents. Older households are more likely to have investments in housing and the financial ability to buy new homes. The 2.1% growth will include 90% more homes than those built in the last 2.1% growth period. The forecasts show that the housing crash and financial crisis more than a decade ago completely wiped out, and immigrants that made up about a quarter of the construction workforce prior to the housing crash and financial crisis are now back in the workforce. The department has announced that the construction shortage is critical and the housing shortage actually worsens for these areas. 

On construction spending project in the US, rose in January, the strongest monthly increase in nearly two years. The report points to signs that the housing market is beginning to recover.

MTAS Continuing Classes

INTRODUCTION TO GRANT WRITING

This class is a broad overview of the grant writing process and focuses on how to find and write a proposal to get a grant award. 

Dates/Locations/Time
March 10 Jackson 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. 
March 17 Knoxville 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. 
March 30 Chattanooga 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m

Target Audience: All Municipal Personnel

CPE: 3

To register for a course go to the MTAS website at www.mtas.tennessee.edu and select training calendar. Click on the course you want to register with a credit card or request an invoice. 

Programs:
Sarah Curtis, (614) 253-6815 sarah.curtis@tennessee.edu
Doug Brown, (615) 974-9140 doug.brown@tennessee.edu
TNECD ASSET-BASED PLANNING PROGRAM

The Asset-Based Planning program was developed through the Rural Task Force to assist distressed counties with strategic planning and development of short-term goals that would address the causes of distress: unemployment rate, per capita income, and poverty rate. TNECD and the University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service worked with the communities to develop action-oriented goals based on the communities’ assets. Following that process, TNECD wanted to ensure that the communities had the resources to accomplish their goals and created the Asset Enhancement Grant provided through the Governor’s Rural Task Force and TNECD’s Rural Economic Opportunity department.

For more information visit TNECD Community and Rural Development, www.tn.gov/content/tnecd/

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

The economic impact of this project will be the increased availability of a trained workforce. Jackson County residents will be able to increase their potential earnings with the skills they obtain from locally available TCAT training programs. By empowering Jackson County residents with in-demand skills, the project is intended to lower the county’s 7.2% unemployment rate, increase per-capita income levels, and lower the poverty rate. Success will be measured by the completion and placement of individuals who receive the training provided during the facility year enrollment and completion projections include:

- Full 2018 High School Dual Enrollment (Information Technology Program) 18
- 2019 Full-time Adult Program Enrollment (Information Technology Program) 10
- 2019 Full-time Adult Program Enrollment (Information Technology and Powerline Construction/Maintenance Program) 30
- 2019 Certifications/Diplomas to be Awarded (Powerline Construction/Maintenance) 20
- 2019 Cooperative/Work-Based Learning Placements (Powerline Construction/Maintenance) 8
- 2019 Participating Employers (Powerline Construction/Maintenance) 4

TOTAL PROJECT FUNDING

$335,000
- $200,000 Jackson county School System Funding
- $80,000 TCAT Livingston Funding
- $5,000 instructional materials, classroom and lab equipment, facilities (Information Technology Program)
- $50,000 equipment purchase (Powerline Construction/Maintenance Program)

PROJECT LEADERS AND PARTNERS

Jackson county School System, Twin Lakes Telephone Cooperative, Tennessee Board of Regents, Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, AEG (powerline construction and maintenance equipment). For more project information visit TCAT Livingston, https://tcatlivingston.edu/

The top goal identified in Jackson County was to develop post-secondary educational and training programs locally to improve educational attainment and strengthen the workforce. In 2017, the Jackson County school system and county leaders purchased an available golf course property and club house located just behind the high school that was suitable to house the TCAT. Community leaders worked with TCAT Livingston administrators to determine the needed updates and worked with county leaders to apply for a TNECD Asset Enhancement Grant (AEG) to prepare the new facility. In the spring of 2018, the county received $50,000 for the project. As an additional benefit, most of the work could be completed by TCAT Livingston building trades students giving them real world experience.

New TCAT Livingston facility offers more training courses, dual enrollment to adults, high school students

TNECD Asset Enhancement Grant (AEG) is used to prepare the new facility.

Jackson County is located on the Cumberland Plateau, a welldefined, mountainous region. It is bordered by Carter, Clay, and Rhea counties to the north, Roane County to the east, Van Buren County to the south, and Sequatchie County to the west. Jackson County, with a population of approximately 30,000, is located 120 miles east of Nashville and 200 miles west of Knoxville. In 2017, Jackson County was characterized by a high unemployment rate, per capita income, and poverty rate. With a 7.2% unemployment rate, per capita income of $23,895, and a 25% poverty rate, Jackson County is defined as a distressed county. The Asset-Based Planning program was developed through the Rural Task Force to assist distressed counties with strategic planning and development of short-term goals that would address the causes of distress: unemployment rate, per capita income, and poverty rate. TNECD and the University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service worked with the communities to develop action-oriented goals based on the communities’ assets. Following that process, TNECD wanted to ensure that the communities had the resources to accomplish their goals and created the Asset Enhancement Grant provided through the Governor’s Rural Task Force and TNECD’s Rural Economic Opportunity department.

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JACKSON COUNTY

Jackson County is located in the southern part of Middle Tennessee and defined as a distressed county. It is bordered by Rhea County to the north, Van Buren County to the south, Sequatchie County to the east, and Carter, Clay, and Roane Counties to the west. With a population of approximately 20,000, Jackson County is located 130 miles east of Nashville and 220 miles west of Knoxville. In 2017, Jackson County was characterized by a high unemployment rate, per capita income, and poverty rate. With a 7.2% unemployment rate, per capita income of $23,895, and a 25% poverty rate, Jackson County is defined as a distressed county.

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