



## Dynamic panelists planned for TML Annual Conference

Two dynamic panel presentations will be included in the many educational offerings planned for the TML Annual Conference in Memphis, June 22-25.

On Monday, June 24, members from the Memphis legal community will share lessons and tactics learned in the area of blight removal and neighborhood revitalization.

Blighted properties, in particular those that are vacant and abandoned, exact profoundly negative consequences on afflicted communities. Neglected properties decrease surrounding property values, undercut local housing markets, threaten safety and security, and reduce local tax revenue. They also correlate with poor health outcomes, high utility bills, evictions, and lower academic achievement for children. There is no single agency, foundation, department or firm that can alone fix the scourge of the problem. To the contrary, effective efforts to build a quality environment in communities require cross-sector coalition building that is comprehensive in its vision and practical in its focus. Panelists will include;

- Danny Schaffzin, director of Experiential Learning at Univ. of Memphis Law School
- Brittany Williams, staff attorney, former blight steering team manager
- Environmental Court Judge Patrick Dandridge, former blight prosecutor, former codes director,

- Moderated by Steve Barlow, director of Neighborhood Preservation and Memphis staff attorney.

Panelists will offer insight to city officials regarding best practices for fostering cooperative, comprehensive solutions to the complex problem of vacant and abandoned properties plaguing many towns and cities. Panelists will share lessons and tactics gleaned from years of legal, policy and community advocacy efforts to address the many complicated issues and challenges that lead to and stem from problem properties.

Other highlights include a panel presentation on *Open Records, Body Cameras, and Issues with Emerging Technology*.

All Tennessee cities fulfill Open Records requests from the public. As new technologies are emerging that can help simplify the process of retaining, reviewing, and redacting records, other new technologies like law enforcement body cameras are creating complicated records that demand a lot of consideration. In this workshop city officials will learn how current records practices intersect with available technology as well as how to prepare for the new records of tomorrow. Panelists will include;

- Deputy Chief Don Crowe, See CONFERENCE on Page 5

## Comptroller's office studies teacher salaries in Tennessee

The Tennessee Comptroller's Office has released a report examining how money intended to boost teacher salaries has been used by local school districts. More than \$300 million in new, recurring state dollars was appropriated by the General Assembly through the state's Basic Education Program (BEP) between fiscal years 2016 and 2018. The legislative intent for the increased state funding was to increase teacher salaries across Tennessee.

The Comptroller's Office of Research and Education Accountability (OREA) surveyed Tennessee's school districts, and the majority of respondents reported awarding salary increases to teachers for three consecutive years (fiscal years 2016, 2017, and 2018). Those pay raises resulted in an increase of Tennessee's average classroom teacher salary of 6.2 percent (just under \$3,000), making it the third fastest-growing state in the Southeast for teacher salaries during fiscal years 2015 through 2018. In addition to providing raises, districts also used increased state BEP instructional salaries funds to hire more instructional staff.

OREA found that while total local revenue budgeted for school districts increased at about the same rate as BEP state revenue, salary expenditures (whether for new hires or raises) could not be linked back to their revenue source, either state or local. District budgets do not identify what portion of expenditures are paid with state funds versus local funds.

The state's main lever for increasing state funding for salaries – the BEP formula's salary unit cost figure – is not directly linked to pay raises for every teacher. The increased funding generated through the salary unit cost is applied only to BEP-calculated positions; most districts fund additional positions. Because districts employ more staff than are covered by BEP funding, the available state and local dollars earmarked for salaries must stretch over more teachers than the staff positions generated by the BEP.

OREA examined district expenditures and found that, statewide, districts increased spending for instructional salaries and health insurance by about 9 percent while spending on retirement increased about 8 percent. At the individual district level, the growth in salary expenditures varied, from a decrease of 10 percent to an increase of over 26 percent.

The Comptroller's report includes policy considerations addressing how the state may wish to implement an in-depth salary survey of selected districts to periodically obtain a more complete picture of district salary trends, as well as develop a process to determine which districts are eligible for a separate state allocation of salary equity funding, intended to raise teacher salaries in select districts with lower-than-average salaries.

To read the Comptroller's report, please visit <https://www.comptroller.tn.gov/OREA/>

## Legislature passes \$38.6 B budget; first session of 111th adjourned

Tennessee lawmakers concluded their business of the first session of the 111th Tennessee General Assembly, adjourning May 2 until January 2020.

Among the actions taken was the approval of a \$38.5 billion state spending plan, which includes a \$222 million deposit into the Rainy Day Fund, elevating the state's reserves to more than \$1.1 billion.

Funding was also approved to provide \$71 million for teacher pay raises and \$39.4 million to fully fund the state's Basic Education Program (BEP).

One of the more controversial initiatives included legislation that

establishes a pilot Education Savings Account (ESA) program to serve low-income students zoned to public schools in Metro Nashville, Shelby County and the state's Achievement School District (ASD). The program, which would start in the 2021-22 school year, would provide about \$7,300 per student to attend a private school and include as many as 5,000 students the first year and increase to 15,000 by the fifth year.

Other noteworthy legislative initiatives include:

- eliminating the \$400 professional privilege tax levied on licensed individuals annually

- increasing penalties for trafficking in fentanyl;
- \$4 million investment in pre-release rehabilitation and education for incarcerated individuals;
- online sports gambling to begin July 1, and is expected to bring in as much as \$50 million per year to the state, with revenues going toward education, local government and gambling addiction treatment; and
- a ban on the use of handheld cellphones while driving, effective July 1.

## Federal court "chalking" ruling impacts Tennessee municipalities

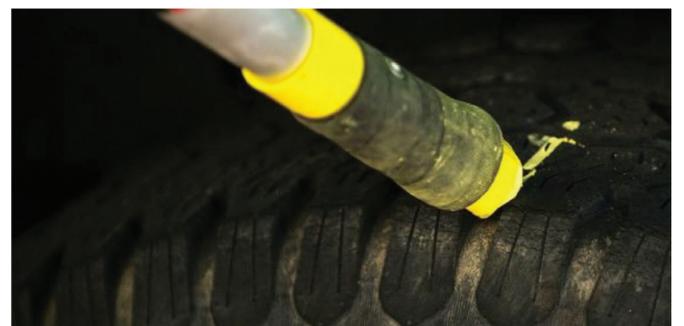
By ELISHA HODGE  
MTAS Legal Consultant

On April 22, 2019, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit issued an opinion that impacts municipalities in Tennessee.

In the opinion, *Taylor v. City of Saginaw, et al.*, No. 17-2126, 2019 WL 1757953 (6th Cir. April 22, 2019) the court opined that the practice of marking tires with chalk, in order to monitor how long a vehicle is parked in a parking space for the purpose of enforcing parking restrictions, is an unreasonable search in violation of the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

When analyzing whether the act of chalking constituted a search, the court relied upon the holding in *U.S. v. Jones*, 565 U.S. 400 (2012) and wrote:

In recent years, however, the Supreme Court revisited the seldom used "property-based" approach to the Fourth Amendment search inquiry in *U.S. v. Jones*, 565 U.S. 400 (2012). Under *Jones*, when governmental intrusions are accompanied by physical intrusions, a search occurs when the



A new ruling about the parking enforcement practice known as "chalking" applies to Tennessee cities.

government: (1) trespasses upon a constitutionally protected area, (2) to obtain information. *Id.* at 404-405. *Id.* at \*2

The court concluded that a search occurred when the chalk used by the parking enforcement official came in contact with the automobile owner's tires for the purpose of determining how long the automobile was parked in a specific location. *Id.* at \*3.

Additionally, because the city was unable to articulate to the court an applicable exception to the warrant requirement for this type of search, the court held

that the search was unreasonable and, therefore, violated the Fourth Amendment. *Id.* at \*4.

If you are in a city that currently chalks tires for purposes of parking enforcement, we suggest that you confer with your city attorney as soon as possible to determine how the city is going to enforce parking from this point forward. MTAS recommends cities explore the use of parking meters or parking ticket kiosks.

The opinion can be found at <http://www.open.ca6.uscourts.gov/opinions.pdf/19a0076p-06.pdf>.

## Memphis announces new autonomous vehicle program, smart routing for transit

BY KATE COIL  
TML Communications Specialist

Known as a transportation hub and the home of shipping giant FedEx, the city of Memphis is exploring new ways to use technology to seamlessly and efficiently deliver city services, people, and traffic throughout its sprawling 324 square miles.

Memphis has partnered with San Jose, Calif.-based technology company Extreme Networks, Inc., to roll out autonomous trucks and an intelligent routing system transporting both citizens and goods to enhance transit and the city's network infrastructure.

The autonomous vehicle roll-out is part of a larger partnership between the city and Extreme Networks to give Memphis a Smart City advantage.

The company will be providing the city with switching, management, and analytics technology as well as a simplified network management, meeting the city's growing bandwidth demands, and supporting new technologies as they come online.

Another one of the first projects between the city and the company will enable AI-powered IP cameras at 27 community centers to provide real-time detection.

Extreme Networks Vice President of Product Marketing Abby Strong said the partnership lays the foundation for Memphis to continue to develop as a Smart City.

"The city of Memphis is already making impressive strides in its smart city initiatives, deploying AI-powered IP cameras in dozens of community centers to improve safety and communications," she said. "But it's just the tip of the iceberg. With a secure, automated network at its core, Memphis has



Memphis has been working on several partnerships to boost its Smart City credentials. In addition to the recently announced partnership with Extreme Networks to bring autonomous vehicles and smart routing to the city's transit network, Memphis is one of the cities where FedEx will be piloting its same-day delivery robots. FedEx officials brought one of the delivery robots to a Memphis City Council meeting to explain the pilot program, which is partnering with several national retailers when it begins in the summer.

laid the fabric across the city to create new, tech-driven experiences and achieve greater efficiencies and quality of life for its citizens."

Memphis Chief Information Officer Michael Rodriguez said the goal of the partnership is for Memphis to use emerging technology to tackle the city's challenges and improve quality of life for its residents and city employees.

"The city's vision is to use technology to tackle some of our most difficult challenges, from pollution and traffic to health and public safety," he said. "As we move toward that future, we need a robust, secure, software-driven infrastructure that can interface with third-party solutions, and provide a path to automation. The solutions that Extreme provides will be instrumental in making our city one of the smartest in America."

The partnership between Memphis and Extreme Networks is just one of several partnerships rolled

out in recent years to give the city a technological edge.

Last year, FedEx partnered with the University of Memphis to launch a program offering FedEx employees tuition-free degrees as part of the Learning inspired by FedEx (LIFE) program. The fully-online degree program was launched last August through UofM Global.

In 2016, FedEx also offered research awards totaling \$182,000 for 13 innovative research proposals for projects dealing with drones, autonomous vehicles, and robotics at the university. FedEx announced earlier this year it was using Memphis as one of several cities to pilot same-day delivery robotics technology.

The company brought the robot to a city council meeting to discuss how they were partnering with retailers including Walmart, Walgreens, Target, Pizza Hut, Lowe's, and AutoZone as part of the program launching this summer.

## Infrastructure Week May 13 - 20

The average American spends 97 hours a year stuck in traffic - or 12+ vacation days.

#BuildForTomorrow

Now in its seventh year, Infrastructure Week, May 13-20, is a national week of education and advocacy that brings together American businesses, workers, elected leaders, and everyday citizens around one message: #BuildForTomorrow. For tips on how to celebrate the week in your community, go to <http://infrastructureweek.org/>

# NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



## ATHENS

The Appalachian Regional Commission has approved a \$37,500 grant to the city of Athens to provide free public wifi service to the city's historic commercial core. In addition to the \$37,500 in ARC funds, the city of Athens and the Athens Utilities Board will provide \$37,500, bringing the total project funding to \$75,000. The new service will make 100 megabytes of dedicated bandwidth available to residents and visitors as well as connect the 9,000 workers and visitors who use the 43 businesses in the region. City officials said the free wifi service is one of the ways they hope to help local businesses keep up the momentum of job creation and business expansion the city has seen in previous years. Last year alone, Athens saw local industries invest more than \$208 million in the community and create 441 new jobs. The wifi service will also be available at Market Park, which hosts numerous festivals and events throughout the year.

## CHATTANOOGA

Two companies will create around 220 jobs by redeveloping the 112-acre tract known as the former Alstom site on Chattanooga's waterfront. New Hampshire-based Micronics Engineered Filtration Group will employ 140 people at its new manufacturing facility on the river in 56,000-square-feet of office and manufacturing space at the facility. Incorporated in 1983, Micronics, Inc. is a global expert in liquid and solid separation and will require upgrades including sprinklers, conditioned shot space, and two new loading docks. Meanwhile Team Title Services, which provides support services for real estate buyers and sellers, will employ 80 people. The company was started last year by Web Raulston and plans to convert 20,000 square feet of space for its offices in a lease-to-own deal at the facility. Both new businesses are part of the overall redevelopment of the property, now dubbed West End, which developers are hoping could bring between \$2 and \$3 billion in investment and create more than 5,000 jobs in the area.

## EAST RIDGE

A new \$6 million soccer stadium will anchor a total of \$125 million in development in East Ridge. The Chattanooga Red Wolves Soccer Club will build a 5,500-seat stadium across from Camp Jordan in East Ridge with a multiuse complex being developed around the stadium that will offer shopping, eateries, sports bars, hotels, and condos as well as a 35,000-square-foot convention center and open green space. The second soccer-specific stadium announced in Tennessee after the complex in Nashville, the new East Ridge facility could be opened as soon as 2020. Founded last August, Chattanooga's new soccer club has been drawing more than 400,000 fans to Finley Stadium for games.

## FRANKLIN

The city of Franklin has broken ground on a \$6.6 million new fire station, situated next to a temporary station set up in a mobile quarters. Franklin Fire Station No. 7 will be located on the grounds of the Williamson County Ag Expo Park and will be similar in design to Franklin Fire Station No. 8 in the Westhaven area with the addition of an ambulance wing funded by Williamson County and staffed by Williamson Medical Center EMS personnel. The temporary station near the site

was established as an emergency measure after a fatal tanker explosion destroyed the nearby Goose Creek Bypass-Peytonsville Road bridge in 2014. Memphis-based Renaissance group was awarded the \$244,000 contract to provide engineering and design services for the station while Southland Constructors, Inc., was awarded the \$6.6 million station and a new road that will link the station to Brunacini Way. Construction on the station is expected to be complete within a year.

## GALLATIN

A New York-based technology startup plans to build a multi-million-dollar data center powered by renewable energy in Gallatin. Archer Datacenters will construct a 70,000-square-foot facility on 30 acres within the city's industrial park across from the Beretta USA firearms manufacturing plants. The facility will be the first for the two-year-old company, which plans to provide data space to the underserved market in the greater Nashville area. Construction of the facility is expected to be complete in the first half of 2020 and the company will also lease space to multiple tenants. Future tenants could invest as much as \$100 million locally, according to the Gallatin Economic Development Agency. As a result of the focus on more technology jobs, Volunteer State Community College and the Greater Nashville Technology Council plan to launch new technology apprenticeship programs later this year that will guarantee graduates a job upon certification.

## KINGSPORT

The city of Kingsport's Downtown Master Plan received the 2019 Vernon Deines Merit Award in the category of outstanding comprehensive plan or special project from the American Planning Association's Small Town and Rural Planning Division. The award was presented to Kingsport's Senior Planner Nathan Woods at the APA National Conference in San Francisco. The downtown master plan is the guiding document for Kingsport to create a vision that reinforces and magnifies downtown Kingsport's role as the economic and cultural heart of the community.

## LEXINGTON

Titan Medical Manufacturing LLC will expand its Tennessee presence and locate new operations in Lexington, investing \$7.5 million and creating 87 new jobs. The new operations in Lexington represent Titan Medical's second location in Tennessee, with another facility located in Bartlett. With this new facility, the company plans to add additional production capacity to keep up with its growing demand. Established in 2009, Titan Medical is a privately held company that specializes in the manufacture of high-quality, close-tolerance instrumentation and implants for the medical device industry. From single piece instruments to complex instrument assemblies, Titan Medical utilizes the latest in machining technology and processes to produce quality instrumentation for the medical device industry.

## MEMPHIS

The Memphis Botanic Garden has announced a new \$6 million initiative to upgrade the 95-acre facility in three years. Dubbed Nourish GreenPrint: 2021, the plan will be divided into two parts, one focusing on infrastructure elements like parking and the visitor's center and the other on increasing educational opportunities and access to Memphis youth. The garden also wants to offer an Urban Home Garden program which will teach residents how to create small but functional gardens in apartments or homes with limited green space. The initiative has already secured \$2.55 million in funding for the project from local donors.

## MORRISTOWN

McNeilus Steel, Inc., will establish a new facility in Morristown, investing \$18.8 million and creating 72 jobs in the next five years. The steel processor and distributor plans to build a 100,000-square-foot plant that is expected to open in the first quarter of 2020. The plant

will fabricate metal parts for the automotive industry and original equipment manufacturers across the Southeast. Headquartered in Dodge Center, Minn., McNeilus Steel is family owned and operated. The company supplies steel products and offers metal fabrication services to customers. It employs approximately 700 people in the U.S.

## NASHVILLE

The city of Nashville has retrofitted a former school bus to respond to mass casualty incidents like mass shootings or weather events. The "ambubus" was repainted and given an \$84,000 equipment overhaul through a federal grant. Cities including Clarksville, Dickson, and Murfreesboro have also received similar grants as cities across the country add similar vehicles to their emergency fleets to deal with the reality of mass casualty events. The bus can accommodate a dozen stretchers with room for medical equipment and several paramedics.

## OAK RIDGE

Legacy Parks Foundation is working with the city of Oak Ridge as well as Roane and Anderson counties to create a Natural Assets Plan for Oak Ridge and its surrounding area, providing information for recreational opportunities and enhancements of the area's natural beauty. The plan will enhance land and water resources in the area as well as identify natural resources that can be economic drivers for the area in terms of tourism and recreation. Legacy Parks will work alongside civic and community leaders to enhance recreation, conservation, greenways, and blueways around Oak Ridge. The plan will be worked out over four to six months and will use grants from UCOR, UT-Battelle, Consolidated Nuclear Security/Y-12, and Oak Ridge Associated Universities to Legacy Parks.

## SELMER

Quality Iron & Steel, LLC, will establish operations in Selmer, investing \$2.8 million and creating 32 jobs. A new steel fabrication business led by co-owners Craig Salabor and Sunny Hughes, alongside plant manager David Hughes, Quality Iron & Steel will locate its operations in a 54,000-square-foot facility at 335 Tennessee Ave. The company anticipates operations will begin in May 2019. Quality Iron & Steel will fabricate structural steel for commercial and industrial use, producing beams, columns, stairs, bridges and railings.

## TULLAHOMA

The Tullahoma Art Center is nearing completion on a \$5,000 remodeling project funded through the Bonnaroo Works Fund. The project has covered renovations of a painting studio and pottery room, creating waterproof floors in the painting room and replacing parts of a sink and pipework. The room has also been made ADA compliant. The Tullahoma Art Center was among several local nonprofits that received grants from the Bonnaroo Works Fund at the end of last year. The Tullahoma Parks and Recreation, Millennium Repertory Company and Highland Rim Habitat for Humanity also received Bonnaroo Works grant funds.

## WESTMORELAND

National homebuilder Clayton will invest \$14 million and create nearly 110 jobs in the next two years at a new supply facility in Westmoreland. Company officials plan for the Clayton Supply facility to begin operations in early 2020 and said the facility will be dedicated to the launch of a new division of pre-manufactured assemblies for on-site home builders. Clayton plans to manufacture wall panels and trusses for single and multifamily residential site-built homes. Headquartered in Maryville, Clayton is one of the largest homebuilders in the nation and offers traditional site-built homes and off-site built housing, including modular homes, manufactured homes, tiny homes, college dormitories, military barracks and apartments. Clayton is a subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway. The company presently employs 5,400 Tennesseans.

## Bolivar initiative aims to connect officers, youth



The Bolivar Police Department has created a new initiative titled Trunk Treasures to help build relationships with local children and the community at large. At no expense to taxpayers, officers have purchased toys, lollipops, cups, pencils, coloring books, colors, and bracelets to give away at public relations events as well as during routine traffic stops to help comfort children. The department also carries teddy bears to comfort children who have encountered trauma.

## Knoxville traffic box project displays local art, history



The city of Knoxville and the Knoxville History Project are bringing art and history to utility and traffic boxes around the city. This traffic box next to the Knox County Public Library's main branch – the Lawson McGhee Library – features a portrait of May Lawson McGhee who the branch was named after. The library was created in 1885 through a \$50,000 donation from her father, Knoxville businessman Charles McClung McGhee, who wanted to memorialize his daughter who died two years previously. The art wrap is one of 16 that have already been installed across the city and one of 40 that the Knoxville History Project plans to install.

## Millington flips the switch on state's largest solar array



Millington is now home to the largest solar facility in the state of Tennessee after the switch was flipped on the more than 525,000 solar modules that make up the Millington Solar Farm. The 53-megawatt array occupies approximately 390 acres of a 438-acre tract within the city limits. About 10 megawatts of energy from the array will be sent to Naval Support Activity Mid-South base nearby with the rest going into the TVA electric grid. Naval officials said the use of the array will help them support naval staff and perform essential defense function. The solar array cost some \$100 million to construct, will generate enough energy to power an estimated 7,500 homes each year.

## Dayton making improvements to city's Pendergrass Park



Dayton Maintenance Supervisor David King and members of the city's maintenance department work to install new equipment at the city's Pendergrass Park as part of ongoing upgrades to the facility. A group of volunteers are also applying for a Blue Cross Blue Shield grant to help finance a planned \$1.5 million remodel of the park, which will be submitted later this fall.

### TENNESSEE TOWN & CITY

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Community and Rural Development  
Best Practices Series

Downtown Development

## Pikeville uses grant money to develop downtown master plan, make streetscape and facade improvements

BY DR. BRIDGET JONES  
*jones-bridget consulting group*

The city of Pikeville is located in Bledsoe County in Southwest Tennessee's Sequatchie Valley. The city lies between South Pittsburg and Crossville and is only one hour away from Chattanooga and two hours from Nashville and Knoxville.

Pikeville's location in the valley provides sweeping vistas of the ridges to the northeast and southwest and allows for inter-city commerce through the railroad that follows the valley. Over the ridge to the west lies the Tennessee River, and Fall Creek Falls and Cumberland Mountain State Parks are also located nearby and serve as regional tourism assets.

In 2004, a bypass was constructed around the city. Prior to this, travelers passed through downtown Pikeville. Although rerouting US 127 decreased vehicle hazards and improved the aesthetics downtown, it resulted in a major decrease in customer traffic for Pikeville's downtown businesses. Since that time, city leaders have worked to revitalize their downtown district and create an attractive destination for Bledsoe County residents as well as tourists traveling through the region.

Supported by the staff of the Southeast Tennessee Development District, city leaders have utilized several phases of state and federal funding and technical assistance to implement their downtown development ideas. They have successfully leveraged internal and external funding to complete impressive infrastructure and property improvements.

Additionally, Pikeville leaders have engaged local and outside experts to assist their efforts. A local design firm based in downtown Pikeville provided important expertise in infrastructure and community design to the revitalization efforts. City leaders have also involved a group of diverse local stakeholders in these efforts. Central to the city's success has been the participation of these stakeholders in creating and adopting a downtown master plan.

### DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

In 2006 the city took the first step in downtown redevelopment by developing and adopting a master plan to serve as a guide for future development. Project components included in the master plan were identified through a public visioning session and design workshop.

These steps to engage and educate stakeholders created a shared community vision and support for the plan's adoption from downtown business and property owners, city officials, and citizens engaged in the plan's creation.

The city of Pikeville Redevelopment Master Plan was prepared by the Pikeville office of Farmer Morgan, LLC. This local expertise and the relationships that were in place were an important asset to the community. Funding for the study was provided by the city.

In 2012, the plan was updated. Both versions contained chapters including site analysis and context, illustrative concept plan, neighborhood vision, goals and objectives, transportation plan and street standards, regulating plan, open space and landscape standards, architectural standards, and signage standards.

Since its adoption of the plans, the community has followed recommendations contained in each section and utilized design and infrastructure elements to successfully apply for a series of state and federal grants that have supported implementation.

### STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS

In 2007, the city allocated local

funds and began to request financial assistance from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and USDA Rural Development to install streetscape improvements including sidewalks, lighting, landscaping, and stamped crosswalks identified in the first master plan. This multi-modal transportation infrastructure investment in Pikeville's initial revitalization efforts totaled \$886,669, including \$61,451 in local funds that set the stage for future downtown reinvestments.

### TENNESSEE DOWNTOWNS DESIGNATION

In 2012, Pikeville was selected to participate in the TNECD Tennessee Downtowns program. This coincided with adoption of the updated master plan and built upon the city's success in streetscape completion. As part of the selection process to become a Tennessee Downtowns community, the city formed a steering committee that continues to guide the community's redevelopment efforts today.

During the 18-month program, Pikeville leaders participated in training and technical assistance sessions and received a \$15,000 grant to construct an outdoor stage on Main Street. The inaugural event, a free concert by country-western musician Michael Martin Murphey, attracted more than 600 people to downtown.

### FACADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS

In 2013, the city utilized the master plan goals to apply for a TNECD Façade Improvement Grant (FIG) and was awarded \$25,000 to begin building improvements. The plan outlined specific exterior upgrades to enhance aesthetics in the downtown business district as one of its top priorities.

The city provided the required 25 percent match for participating property owners, which allowed 13 buildings to receive improvements at little cost to the owners. Since most of the downtown traffic was rerouted after the construction of the bypass, many businesses had closed and those that remained had limited resources. The project allowed business owners to focus their resources on other business growth priorities while making significant exterior improvements.

FIG projects were required to adhere to the master plan and incorporated unique attributes of each respective building or storefront's architecture. Proposals for new signs reflected the trade or business being advertised, while awnings varied in style and color. This attention to individual detail created an aesthetically diverse but cohesive downtown. The phase one FIG project had a tremendous impact on the character of Main Street. City leaders and the Pikeville Downtown Committee immediately decided to build on this success with a future phase two project.

In 2017, the city was awarded \$37,500 for phase two work that enabled its downtown committee to continue critical exterior property improvements. The city once again provided \$12,500 in matching funding to leverage the TNECD investment.

It is estimated that at least 13 properties will be improved through this grant; the city's contribution enabled the committee to award several additional grants that would not have been covered by the initial grant of \$37,500. The local match reinforced the commitment to implementing recommendations from the master plans and acted as a catalyst for new private investment in the community.

City leaders and the steering committee led the process to take applications and select FIG recipients. Project selections followed past FIG grantee application and approval processes.



Pikeville has been working to revitalize and develop its downtown community.

### ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

The overarching goal of all of Pikeville's downtown investments is to make Pikeville a destination that attracts residents, visitors, and tourists who will spend money at local businesses, restaurants, and hotels. This increased customer traffic would provide the greatest benefit to the small and local businesses who have sacrificed to remain open and be of service to the community.

The FIG-funded property improvements completed in the first project worked to transform existing downtown properties into community assets and signaled important progress toward revitalizing the community. As the streetscape pedestrian facilities and the stage were completed, one of the downtown's most important components, the remaining degraded storefronts continued to mar the community's image, but the improvements from the phase two FIG completed the city's facelift and helped to finalize Pikeville's rebranding efforts. As residents and visitors came to Pikeville for concerts, outdoor movies, and the Fall Harvest Festival, they noticed the change in character from the awnings and signage and saw the rural city on the road to economic recovery. Façade improvement project results include

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| <b>2013 Façade Improvement Grant Building Rehabilitations</b>   | <b>13</b>  |
| <b>2017 Façade Improvement Grant Building Rehabilitations</b>   | <b>13</b>  |
| <b>Publicly-Owned Improvement Projects</b>  | <b>1</b>   |
| (city hall, police department, city office, community center, chamber of commerce)  |            |
| <b>Downtown Businesses Created</b>  | <b>25</b>  |
| (restaurants, taxidermist, antique stores, barber shop, salon, markets, game room, performance venue, B&B, furniture store) |            |
| <b>Downtown Businesses Expanded</b>   | <b>4</b>   |
| <b>New Downtown Jobs Created</b>  | <b>125</b> |

### PROJECT FUNDING

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| <b>Pikeville Downtown Master Plan and Update</b>      | <b>\$30,000</b> |
| (2006 initial plan \$15,000 and 2012 update \$15,000) |                 |

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| <b>Total Façade Improvement Grants</b> | <b>\$81,250</b> |
| 2013 TNECD Façade Improvement Grant    | \$25,000        |
| 2013 City of Pikeville Match           | \$6,250         |
| 2017 TNECD Façade Improvement Grant    | \$37,500        |
| 2017 City of Pikeville Match           | \$12,500        |

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| <b>Streetscape Infrastructure Project</b>                           | <b>\$886,669</b> |
| City of Pikeville investment  | \$671,519        |
| (underground utilities, lighting, landscaping, benches, crosswalks) |                  |
| Appalachian Regional Commission grant                               | \$99,500         |
| (ornamental street lights, brick crosswalks)                        |                  |
| USDA Rural Development grant  | \$50,000         |
| (sidewalk improvements, pedestrian access, bicycle lanes)           |                  |
| Tennessee Department of Agriculture                                 | \$4,200          |
| (Division of Forestry Urban Forestry grant for trees)               |                  |
| City of Pikeville match   | \$61,450         |

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| <b>TOTAL DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT FUNDING</b> | <b>\$997,919</b> |
|---|------------------|

### PROJECT LEADERS AND PARTNERS

City of Pikeville  
Southeast Tennessee Development District – Regional Planner for Pikeville  
Appalachian Regional Commission  
USDA Rural Development – Tennessee Office  
Tennessee Department of Transportation  
Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development

For project information contact the City of Pikeville and SETDD.

### TNECD TENNESSEE DOWNTOWNS AND FACADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAMS

*Downtown revitalization is a critical component of rural economic and community development. TNECD encourages revitalization through programs that provide technical assistance and funding for improvements. Tennessee Main Street and Tennessee Downtowns program resources along with the CDBG Façade Improvement Program funding work together to help communities revitalize their downtown districts and create new businesses through the Governor's Rural Task Force and Tennessee Rural Economic Opportunity Acts. For more information visit TNECD Community and Rural Development.*

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# PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

**Tim Davis** has been selected as the new police chief for the town of Niota. A native of Athens, Davis has a 20-year law enforcement career and previously worked for the McMinn County Sheriff's Department before coming to the town, leading the sheriff department's SWAT team among other roles. Davis joined the Niota Police Department as a part-time patrolman last November and stepped into the role of interim chief after the previous chief resigned. Davis has also served in law enforcement roles for the municipalities of Calhoun, Etowah, and Englewood.



Tim Davis

Horton began his career as a firefighter after graduating from Franklin High School, joining the Williamson County Rescue Squad as a volunteer. The rescue squad had been founded by his father. In 1989, Horton was hired by the Franklin Fire Department and worked his way up through the ranks, serving as a firefighter, engineer, lieutenant, captain, assistant chief, deputy chief, and even acting chief.

**David H. Lillard Jr.**, state treasurer for Tennessee has been appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Financial Accounting Foundation. In the decade he has served as one of Tennessee's three constitutional officers, Treasurer Lillard has worked to advocate for Tennessee through his financial leadership roles in national organizations. He served as President of the National Executive Committee of the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers (NASACT) in 2016-2017, and was a recipient of the 2012 NASACT President's Award



David Lillard

recognizing outstanding service. In 2015, he served as the President of the National Association of State Treasurers (NAST). He has represented NAST on the Governmental Accounting Standards Advisory Council (GASAC). Treasurer Lillard's term will end on Dec. 31, 2023.

**Kenny Ray** has been selected as the new chief of the Ashland City Police Department following the retirement of long-time chief Marc Coulon. Ray has nearly 40 years of law enforcement experience and has served as the department's deputy chief since 2007. Ray first started his career with the Ashland City Police Department in 1980 as a police officer. The following year, he moved to the Cheatham County Sheriff's Office where he served as a deputy until he was promoted to chief deputy in 1990. He left law enforcement from 1993 to 1994 to deliver medical supplies before returning to the Ashland City Police Department in 1994. By 2003, he had risen to the rank of detective.



Kenny Ray

**Todd Horton**, chief deputy of the Franklin Fire Department, will retire from the department after 30 years to take a position as director of Williamson County Emergency Manage-



Todd Horton

## Powers takes Senate District 22 seat

Clarksville City Councilman Bill Powers will take the remainder of the term for Tennessee Senate District 22 seat vacated by the election of U.S. Rep. Mark Green to his federal post.

Powers, a Republican, took 53 percent of the vote to defeat Democratic nominee Juanita Charles and independent challengers Doyle Clark and David L. Cutting.

Powers is a retail automotive businessman who serves as a managing partner of Wyatt-Johnson Automotive Group. He also serves on the Clarksville City Council and as chairman of the city's Gas and water Committee. Powers is a graduate of the University of Tennessee.

In the interim, former state Sen.



Bill Powers

Rosalind Kurita was appointed in January by the Montgomery County Commission to hold the Senate District 22 seat until a special election could be held.

## City Manager Jeff Fleming to retire from Kingsport after more than 35 years on the job

After more than 35 years with the city, Kingsport City Manager Jeff Fleming has announced he intends to retire from his position as the city manager.

Fleming said his career with Kingsport began while he was still in college.

"I walked into city hall as an ETSU intern in 1984," he said. "The city's population was 32,027. I never dreamed I would meet and marry another intern and spend the next 35 plus years with this wonderful organization and certainly never dreamed that I would become city manager. It's been the honor of my life, especially to serve during the city's 2017 centennial year."

Over the years, Fleming said Kingsport's city hall has become a home away from home.

"If you know me at all, you know I love this town; the only thing I love more is my family," he said. "The council room has been so much more than a meeting room. It's where we celebrated our wedding shower, baby showers, and so many of life's milestones with co-workers and community. As much as I'm looking forward to the move to a new city hall in the prominent location it deserves, it seems fitting that I close this chapter in the only city hall I've ever known. I've worked for six mayors, six city managers, and more aldermen than I can enumerate."

During his career, Fleming said he has seen improvements like Kingsport's Academic Village that brings together higher education opportunities, the redevelopment of public housing and infrastructure projects, the development of a new convention center, and the securing of the Eastman Chemical Company headquarters.

Other city projects Fleming oversaw included growing the city's rainy day fund by 33 percent, in-



Jeff Fleming

creasing funding for paving projects by 400 percent, expanded the city's Greenbelt walking trails, remodeling Borden Park and Lynn View, expanding the city aquatic center and reinvesting in Bays Mountain Park.

"I've had the rare opportunity to live alongside the results of our collective labor and I'm proud of our body of work," Fleming said. "There's more on the horizon, but we have exceedingly capable people in place to get the job done."

Fleming said one of the things he's proudest of during his tenure with the city is the talent and strong relationships of city employees.

"Our award-winning employees excel in their chosen professions," he said. "Many have received the highest possible honors from their statewide organizations - and some at the national level. They've embraced technology, driven efficiencies, and successfully pivoted any time that economic conditions required. Many can work anywhere they desire, but they choose to work here. Let us never take them for granted. No person is an island. The people who did most of the heavy-lifting are still here. I hope the Kingsport community will afford them the same opportunities for advancement that I was afforded."

## Former DA Conference executive director Kirby dies

James Wallace "Wally" Kirby, a longtime member and former executive director of the Tennessee Attorneys General Conference, died April 22 at the age of 72.

A native of Macon County, Kirby earned his bachelor's degree from Middle Tennessee State University and his law degree from the Nashville School of Law, simultaneously serving as the administrator of the TBI Crime Lab while he obtained his law degree.

Upon graduation he went to work for W. B. Lockert, Jr., as an assistant district attorney for the 23rd Judicial District.

He became the senior district attorney in 1990, deputy district attorney in 1997 and remained until he was appointed as the executive director of the Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference in July 1999.

During his tenure with the District Attorneys General Conference



Wally Kirby

he served in various positions; member of Tennessee Judicial Council; member of Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Nominating Commission; vice president, National Association of Prosecutor Coordinators, 2006-2007; president, National Association of Prosecutor Coordinators, 2007-2008; and, board of directors, National District Attorneys Association.

In June 2010 he received recognition by the State House of Representative, Resolution 1402, for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee. He retired March 2015 after 45 years, eight months of service to the state of Tennessee.

The Tennessee Attorneys General Conference praised Kirby's service to Tennessee in a Facebook post commemorating his legacy.

"We were privileged to serve with him, and honored to have been served by him," the statement reads. "While we are saddened by his loss, we are thankful for Wally's friendship, his kind demeanor, and his steady hand during times of both great progress and great challenge. Wally always wanted the best for Tennessee's prosecutors, and now we wish, and pray, for peace and comfort for his wife, Martha, their children and all of Wally's family."



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# No loan is too large or too small



Livingston recently closed a \$1.8 million capital outlay note with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF) issued to finance waterline improvements. Livingston has used TMBF's various loan programs 11 times since 1996. Pictured are Phyllis Looper, city clerk; Mayor Curtis Hayes; and Linda Mooningham, TMBF marketing director.



White House recently closed a \$10 million fixed-rate loan with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund to finance the construction of a new community event center for the city, which will include an event center, senior center, and administrative offices. The loan will also be used to finance the cost of the demolition of the current facility and the renovation of the current gymnasium. Seated from left to right are Gerald Herman, city administrator; Mayor Michael Arnold; and Derek Waston, city recorder. Standing left to right are: Kevin Krushenski, TMBF marketing representative, and Linda Mooningham, TMBF marketing director.



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## STATE BRIEFS



**Habitat for Humanity generated more than \$107 million in economic activity statewide last year, creating the equivalent of 1,200 jobs.** The Business and Economic Research Center at MTSU's Jones College of Business conducted a study in partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Tennessee, the ministry's state organization. The study found that the state organization and its 45 local affiliates have built more than 4,600 homes since it was established in 1978 and has averaged building 145 homes and repairing 265 annually for the past four years. The organization typically serves families earning 60 percent or less of their area's median income, requiring participants to complete education classes and contribute "sweat equity" hours toward the residence's completion. The state ranks first nationally in new Habitat homes built per capita.

**Tennessee's statewide unemployment rate for March 2019 remains at the historic low of 3.2 percent** according to the latest statistics released by the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development (TDLWD). This is the second month in a row that the state's seasonally-adjusted

unemployment rate has been at an all-time low and a 0.4 percent decrease from the same time in 2018. The state's previous record low of 3.3 percent was set in October 2018 with unemployment remaining at that rate for four consecutive months. The state began tracking unemployment numbers in 1976.

**The Tennessee chapter of The Nature Conservancy has received its largest acquisition in its 41-year history with the donation of 100,000 acres of land along the Tennessee-Kentucky state line in the Cumberland Mountains.** The conservation group will use the land to protect wildlife habitats, secure clean water for the area, and open the property for public recreation. The tract covers 156 square miles in Tennessee's Claiborne and Campbell counties and Kentucky's Bell, Knox, and Leslie counties that will link Tennessee's North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area with Kentucky's Cumberland Gap National Historic Park and Kentucky Ridge State Forest. The Nature Conservancy said it plans to work with local communities on nature tourism and outdoor recreation opportunities on the site.

## TDEC lauds state parks for sustainability practices

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has recognized all 56 state parks for their efforts in environmental sustainability practices as part of the state's Go Green With Us program.

Burgess Falls State Park in White County led the way with platinum status performance. Nine parks achieved gold level status, with 24 parks at silver level, and

22 at bronze. The nine state parks recognized for reaching gold level in the program in 2018 are Bicentennial Capitol Mall, Cumberland Trail, Cummins Falls, Dunbar Cave, Johnsonville, Montgomery Bell, Radnor Lake, Roan Mountain, and Standing Stone.

A complete list of recognition levels for all state parks can be found at <https://tnstateparks.com/about/go-green-with-us>.

## TDEC partners with Google to protect water quality from unwanted pharmaceuticals

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has announced a partnership with Google Maps to help Tennessee citizens identify nearby locations to safely dispose of their unwanted pharmaceuticals.

TDEC has worked with various stakeholders to make available 334 permanent collection bins for expired, unused or unwanted household medications across all 95 counties in Tennessee. Using Google Maps, Tennesseans can now type "drug drop off near me" or "medication disposal near me" to see those locations on Google Maps.

Flushing medications or draining drugs down a sink allows chemicals to enter streams or groundwater where they can affect drinking water and stream ecosystems. Wastewater treatment plants are not designed to adequately remove chemicals found in drugs. "Google is honored to partner

with states including Tennessee to make it easier for Americans to safely dispose of unwanted medications, including those that are fueling the tragic opioid epidemic," said Google User Safety Initiative Senior Counsel Michael Trinh. "With just a single search on Google, Americans can quickly find convenient disposal locations open year-round, and do their part to reduce the harmful health and environmental impacts of excess medications."

The Drug Enforcement Agency and law enforcement agencies around the state of Tennessee recently participated in the National Drug Take Back event held on April 27.

Medications accepted in the bins include liquid prescriptions, ointments, pills, over-the-counter medications and pet medications. For a map of bin locations statewide, visit <http://tdeconline.tn.gov/rxtakeback/>

## TDOT releases \$2.1B, three-year plan

Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee and Tennessee Department of Transportation Commissioner Clay Bright have released TDOT's annual three-year transportation program, featuring approximately \$2.1 billion in infrastructure investments for 139 individual project phases.

The program provides support for Lee's first Executive Order by funding work on 86 highway and bridge projects in economically distressed and at-risk counties.

"Investing in infrastructure is an important part of driving economic opportunity throughout our state," Gov. Lee said. "This funding, particularly for rural Tennessee, will help to keep Tennesseans safe."

The program places a high emphasis on the repair and replacement of bridges, with activities beginning on 91 structures in 44 counties. Seventeen of those bridges are on the state highway system, with the other 74 on local roads. The comprehensive program also continues to build on the progress of the IMPROVE Act, which provides for infrastructure investments in all 95 counties. This year's program budgets dollars for 230 of the 962 projects listed as part of the 2017 legislation.

Construction will begin on several critical transportation proj-



ects across the state:

- Cocke County, Newport Bypass (SR 35/US 321)
- Davidson & Rutherford Counties, I-24 Smart Corridor Phase II
- Fayette County, Somerville Beltway (SR 460/US 64)
- Hamilton County, Apison Pike (SR 317)
- Madison County, I-40 from US 45 to US 70
- Maury County, I-65 Interchange at SR 99
- Obion County, I-69 from SR 3 to SR 21
- Rutherford County, Jefferson Pike (SR 266)

In addition to the 2020 budgeted program, partial plans for 2021 and 2022 are included, along with funding for 15 transportation programs including Rockfall Mitigation, Spot Safety Improvement, and the statewide HELPP Program. The program also provides funding for transit agencies in all 95 counties, as well as Metropolitan and Rural Planning Organizations.

To view a complete list of projects and programs funded through the 2020-2022 three-year multimodal program, visit <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tdot/documents/TransportationImprovementProgram2019.pdf>.

## State's March revenues \$28.6M more than budgeted, up \$53 million from previous year

Department of Finance and Administration Commissioner Stuart McWhorter announced that Tennessee tax revenues exceeded budgeted estimates in March. Overall March revenues totaled \$1.1 billion, which is \$52.8 million more than the state received in March 2018 and \$28.6 million more than the budgeted estimate for the month.

"Sales tax revenues continue to demonstrate the strength of the Tennessee consumer by outpacing last year's receipts and the state's budgeted estimate for the month," McWhorter said. "Franchise and excise taxes also showed growth compared to March 2018, but were less than the state's estimate. All other tax revenues combined exceeded the month's budgeted estimates."

"The state's year-to-date tax revenue growth indicates a promising finish to the 2018-2019 fiscal year. However, a fourth of the state's volatile corporate tax revenue collections typically occur within the next month. Therefore, we will continue to monitor our monthly tax receipts closely."

On an accrual basis, March is the eighth month in the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

General fund revenues were \$29 million more than the budgeted estimate while the four other funds that share in state tax revenues were \$400,000 less than the estimates.

Sales tax revenues were \$35 million more than the estimate for March and were 5.68 percent more than March 2018. For

eight months revenues are \$212.9 million more than estimated. The year-to-date growth rate for eight months was 5.78 percent.

Franchise and excise tax revenues combined were \$8.3 million less than the budgeted estimate in March, but the growth rate was 6.41 percent. For eight months revenues are \$13.3 million less than the estimate and the year-to-date growth rate is negative 0.18 percent. However, adjusting for the one-time payments received last fiscal year produces a year-to-date underlying growth rate of 4.22 percent.

Gasoline and motor fuel revenues for March increased by 0.51 percent compared to March 2018 and were \$5.1 million less than the budgeted estimate of \$83.7 million. For eight months revenues have exceeded estimates by \$1.3 million.

Motor vehicle registration revenues were \$600,000 more than the March estimate, and on a year-to-date basis they are \$20.6 million more than estimates.

Tobacco tax revenues were \$1.6 million more than the March budgeted estimate of \$19.8 million. For eight months revenues are \$5.6 million less than the year-to-date budgeted estimate.

Privilege tax revenues were \$2 million less than the March estimate. On a year-to-date basis, August through March, revenues are \$5.5 million more than the estimate.

Business tax revenues were \$1.9 million more than the March estimate. For eight months revenues

are \$13.5 million more than the budgeted estimate.

Hall income tax revenues for the month were \$3.6 million more than the budgeted estimate. For eight months revenues are \$1.9 million more than the budgeted estimate.

All other taxes were less than budgeted estimates by a net of \$1.3 million.

Year-to-date revenues, August through March, are \$251.5 million more than the budgeted estimate. The growth rate for eight months is 4.10 percent. General fund revenues are \$224.3 million more than the budgeted estimate and the four other funds are \$27.2 million more than estimated.

These estimates are available on the state's website at <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/finance/fa/fa-budget-information/fa-budget-rev.html>.



## TML Conference lineup features dynamic panels

CONFERENCE from Page 1

- Memphis Police Department, Information Technology
- David Moore, MTAS Police Management Consultant
- Elisha Hodges, MTAS Legal Consultant
- Joe Howland, Chief Information Security Office, VC3

Also scheduled is a keynote presentation on Sunday, June 23, on crisis leadership and real lessons in decision making, presented by Lt. Col. Robert Darling. On Sept. 11, 2001, he was working in the White House Military Office and witnessed firsthand the enormity of the crisis and the leadership decisions that were made that day on behalf of all Americans.

Other highlights include a keynote presentation from Mark Arend, editor in chief of *Site Selection* magazine. Arend's session will be held on Monday morning, June 24, and will discuss how the nation's leading site selectors evaluate potential locations and what it takes to land a project.

As part of the many conference offerings, several workshops sessions will be offered that meet the continuing education requirement for CMFOs and utility board members. Workshops will be held on Saturday afternoon, June 22, Sunday morning, June 23, and throughout the day on Monday, June 24.

The four-day conference will feature many top-notch speakers and workshop sessions, several special events, and ample time to network with your peers.

For more information about the conference and to register, go to [www.TML1.org](http://www.TML1.org).

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### ASSISTANT CITY RECORDER

MILLERSVILLE. The city of Millersville is accepting applications and resumes for assistant city recorder. This position will assist in the accounting, administrative and support services of the city including, but not limited to, accounts payable, purchasing, payroll, general accounting, cash management, risk and asset management, utility accounting and property taxes. Annual salary \$32,000-\$47,000 DOQ plus benefit package. Application and complete job description available on the city's website at [www.cityofmillersville.com](http://www.cityofmillersville.com) or apply at Millersville City Hall, 1246 Louisville Highway, Millersville, TN 37072, or email application/resume to [cityrecorder@cityofmillersville.com](mailto:cityrecorder@cityofmillersville.com). Position open until filled. EOE.

### BUILDING INSPECTOR ELECTRICAL

COLLIERVILLE. The town of Collierville has an immediate opening for an electrical building inspector. This position performs responsible enforcement of town codes and ordinances and investigative work in the inspection of all town commercial, industrial, and residential structures and properties. This position requires high school diploma or GED supplemented by technical or college level courses in building construction, electrical, mechanical, or structural engineering or related areas; and five years of experience in the building construction industry, skilled construction trades or in comparable code enforcement work, three of which must be in the assigned area of electrical trades; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Must obtain two certifications from the International Code Council as a residential and commercial inspector in the assigned area of responsibility within 12 months of employment and maintain certifications throughout employment. Must have valid motor vehicle operator's license at the time of hire. May require attending meetings after normal business hours. Candidate must be able to pass a work related physical and drug test. Salary is depending on qualifications, with excellent benefits package. To apply for this position, submit an original Town of Collierville application, available to download at [www.collierville.com](http://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.

### BUILDING INSPECTOR

HUMBOLDT. The city of Humboldt has an immediate opening for a state of Tennessee certified building inspector. The city desires the certified building inspector to also be a state of Tennessee certified electrical inspector. The employee will be responsible for technical work in the enforcement of building and zoning codes and city ordinances. Duties also include other support services under the general supervision of the Mayor. Minimum qualifications: High school diploma/equivalent and current certification as building inspector through the state of Tennessee. Applications may be obtained at the mayor's office located at 1201 Main Street, Humboldt, TN 38343, M-F, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Completed applications must be submitted either by mail or in person at the above address, fax (731-784-9072) or email ([mpatterson@clckl.net](mailto:mpatterson@clckl.net)), with Building Inspector Application in the subject line. EOE.

### CITY ADMINISTRATOR

SPARTA. Qualified applicants are being sought by the city of Sparta, with a seven-member council and a population of 5,071, for the position of city administrator. The city has an annual budget of \$20 million with approximately 80 full-time employees. The position oversees the day-to-day operations of the city and supervises all department heads, including police, fire, public works, water, sewer, and electric. The successful candidate must have a bachelor's degree in public/business management or related field and three years of government management experience or seven years of government experience. A master's degree and city management experience desired. Skills in budgeting, utility management, personnel issues, public safety, and long-range planning are essential. The successful candidate must have strong leadership, financial management, and interpersonal skills with experience in planning, land use, residential development, and infrastructure expansion. Salary: mid \$80s to high \$90s, DOQ. Resumes, along with a Cover Letter and three professional references must be received by April 29 at: The University of Tennessee, Municipal Technical Advisory Service, 120 Conference Center Building, Knoxville, TN 37996-4105, Attn: Warren Nevad. Electronic submissions shall be received at [armintha.lovevaid@tennessee.edu](mailto:armintha.lovevaid@tennessee.edu). Competitive salary and benefits package; including retirement, health and life insurance. Open until filled. EOE.

### DEPUTY ASSISTANT CITY RECORDER

FRANKLIN. The city of Franklin invites applications for the position of deputy assistant city recorder. Please see the full job announcement and submit an online application at [www.franklintn.gov/jobs](http://www.franklintn.gov/jobs). Deadline to apply: May 20. Salary: \$20.81 - \$29.38/HR. EOE/Drug-free workplace

### DIVISION MANAGER / WATER ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES WORKER I

GALLATIN. The city of Gallatin is currently accepting applications for an Environmental Services Worker I in the Public Works Department. This is a 40 hours per week, day shift position with some weekend work required. The starting rate is \$12.46+ excellent benefits. The following duties are normal for this position. These are duties to be construed as

exclusive or all-inclusive. Other duties may be required and assigned. Collects, pulls and dumps garbage and trash. Assists operator(s) and supervisor. Pulls refuse containers from houses or business establishments and dumps into trucks and operates packer equipment. Cleans area around refuse containers. Picks up limbs, brush, newspapers and other trash. Directs traffic and guides truck operator in congested areas. Assists driver in checking truck and packer for operation. Applicants must possess a combination of education and experience equivalent to completion of the eighth grade and have a valid driver's license. Interested persons should apply on-line at [www.gallatintn.gov](http://www.gallatintn.gov). Applications accepted until position is filled. EOE.

### EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

KNOXVILLE/KNOX COUNTY. The city of Knoxville and Knox County are currently accepting applications for E-911 executive director. This is a management and administrative position responsible for the complete administration of a large, highly technical, centralized dispatch/telecommunications emergency organization. This position requires executive level responsibility for a public safety administration that develops and directs all aspects of the Knox County Emergency Communications District. Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in, or related to, public safety and a minimum of 7 years of professional work experience and training inside a PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point) call center supporting police, fire, and medical services; or a master's degree from an accredited college or university in, or related to, public safety and a minimum of 5 years of professional work experience and training inside a PSAP call center supporting police, fire, and medical services; and a minimum of 3 years of experience in a management or command position within a single agency or system; and a minimum of 1 year of experience in a supervisory capacity. Salary range: \$120,000-\$150,000/annually (DOQ). To apply, send a cover letter, resume, and completed Training & Experience Questionnaire found at [www.knoxvilletn.gov/jobs](http://www.knoxvilletn.gov/jobs) to [mfoster@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:mfoster@knoxvilletn.gov), or by mail to Melissa Foster, Civil Service Office, City County Building, Suite 569, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, TN 37902. Deadline May 16. Background checks and psychological testing will be conducted. EOE / Drug free workplace.

### FACILITIES MAINTENANCE MECHANIC

GALLATIN. The Gallatin Public Works Department is currently accepting applications for facilities maintenance mechanic. The purpose of this position is to perform skilled work in general building and facilities maintenance, and in other areas owned or managed by the city. This is a 40 hrs per week, day shift position with some weekend work required. The starting rate is \$15.91 + excellent benefits. Position requires high school diploma/equivalent. Must have post high school education in maintenance or construction. Must have 2 years recent work experience in maintenance, construction, or building repair. Must possess a valid driver's license. To see the full job description and to apply, visit [www.gallatintn.gov](http://www.gallatintn.gov). Applications will be accepted until position is filled. Telephone 615-451-5890 (HR/Personnel). EOE.

### FINANCE DIRECTOR

HENDERSONVILLE. This position directs the activities of the finance department, including managing the city's financial activities and overseeing Human Resources and Risk Management functions. Assigns, directs, supervises, evaluates, and disciplines personnel; coordinates daily work activities. Plans, organizes, and manages the city's finances, including investments, cash management, revenues, disbursements, budget management, cost controls, general accounting, financial accounting and reporting, or other financial activities. Capable of completing Section 400 Codes and Policies Audit processes. Interprets, explains, applies, and ensures compliance with all federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations. Bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited college or university in accounting, finance, business administration, public administration, or a similar field. Must meet the state of Tennessee qualifications in Tennessee Code Annotated listed below: Must be a Certified Municipal Finance Officer (CMFO); or one of the following exempt designations and must comply with the continuing educational requirements of 6-56-404 and obtain approval by the Comptroller of the Treasury per § 6-56-405: an individual designated as a Certified Government Finance Manager (CGFM); an individual designated as a Certified Public Finance Officer (CPFO); an individual licensed as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and in active status who has a minimum of five years of primarily government experience with at least three of those years in the state of Tennessee. Ten years of progressively responsible experience in governmental accounting and finance, including at least five years supervisory experience in local government financial administration or similar operational department. Must have a valid driver's license. To apply for this position, please send resume to [marlene.guillen@odshr.com](mailto:marlene.guillen@odshr.com)

### FIRE CHIEF

COVINGTON. The city of Covington is accepting applications from qualified individuals for the position of fire chief. Covington, located in Tipton County in West Tennessee, covers 9.7 square miles and has a population of 9,038. The city has two stations with 20 firefighters working 24-hour shifts and responds to approximately 2,200 calls annually. The department also provides first responder emergency medical services. The ideal candidate will possess highly developed technical, presentation, and communication skills. The ideal candidate will have in-depth knowledge and experience in the management of municipal fire departments. The ideal candidate will have significant operational experience in the various ranks of a fire department as his/her career has progressed.

It is essential that the fire chief set high standards of professional excellence for the fire department, develop a superior training program for firefighters and staff, and establish a vision for the department. A minimum of seven years of progressively responsible supervisory and/or administrative experience in firefighting service. A bachelor's degree in fire science, public administration or a closely related field. State certification as a Firefighter II and Fire Officer III from the Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting. The candidate should have State of Tennessee certification as an Emergency Medical Technician or higher. Will be examined by city physician to determine if the candidate can perform all essential duties required of this position. Must be physically able to complete a job task related physical abilities test annually. Residency within the county is required within 90 days of employment. The full job description can be viewed at [www.covingtontn.com](http://www.covingtontn.com). Salary range: \$70,000 to \$75,000. In addition, Covington offers a progressive benefit package that includes paid vacation, paid sick days, and holidays, health, dental and vision insurance and retirement plan through TCRS. It is the policy of the City of Covington to promote, and ensure equal employment opportunity for all persons regardless of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, age, veteran's status, or disability. Qualified persons should submit an application, resume of experience and qualifications, letter of interest, salary history, and four professional references to: Tiny Rose, Director of HR, City of Covington, 100 W. Washington St, Covington, TN 38019. Applications may be found at [covingtontn.com](http://covingtontn.com) or the HR Department. Closing date for applications is May 31.

### FIRE CHIEF

FAYETTEVILLE. The city of Fayetteville is seeking an experienced, energetic, team builder with exceptional leadership skills to be their next fire chief. This is an exceptional opportunity to serve in a progressive organization with a superb staff. The fire chief's position requires an individual that has demonstrated sound judgment, human resources skills, organizational 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 self, the department, and the city in all situations. The city offers a competitive salary and benefits package to the successful candidate. The position profile is available for review at <http://www.fayettevilletn.com>. Mail or email cover letter, resumé, employment application, and evidence of all professional credentials to Fayetteville HR Coordinator, at 110 Elk Avenue South, Fayetteville TN, 37334 or [agay@fayettevilletn.com](mailto:agay@fayettevilletn.com). Application packets must be in the HR office no later than noon May 1 (CST).

### GAS SERVICE WORKER

GALLATIN. The city of Gallatin is currently accepting applications for gas service worker. The purpose of this position is to perform semi-skilled work assisting in the construction, repair and maintenance of gas utility lines and related fixtures involving the use of specialized tools. Some essential duties include responding to gas leaks, installation of gas utility lines, meters, regulators, and related facilities. This is a 40-hours-per-week, day-shift position with some weekend work required. The starting rate is \$15.91 + excellent benefits. The successful candidate should have knowledge of the maintenance, repair and manual tasks in gas utility work as well as knowledge of the safe use and operation and preventive maintenance of mechanical equipment required in the work. At a minimum, applicants must have a high school diploma/equivalent, with one year of recent work experience in equipment operation or utilities experience; or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Applicants must also have a valid, appropriate driver's license. Must successfully complete Operator Qualification training administered by the Gallatin Natural Gas Department within 6 months of hire/promotion into the class, and must retain qualification throughout employment in order to work on the city of Gallatin's natural gas system. This position is subject to DOT Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) drug and alcohol testing as outlined in 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 199. To see the full job description and apply, visit [www.gallatintn.gov](http://www.gallatintn.gov). Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. EOE.

### NATURAL GAS CONSTRUCTION COORDINATOR/INSPECTOR

GALLATIN. The city of Gallatin Public Utilities Department is currently accepting applications for a natural gas construction coordinator/li to perform technical and administrative work in the inspection, installation, construction, repair, and maintenance of natural gas lines and appurtenances. This is a 40-hours-per-week, day-shift position. Weekend work required. The starting rate is \$19.33 per hour + excellent benefits. High School Diploma/equivalent, with two to five years recent work experience in natural gas distribution operations or related field; or an equivalent combination of education, experience, and training. Must have a valid, appropriate driver's license. To see the full job description and apply, visit [www.gallatintn.gov](http://www.gallatintn.gov). Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. EOE.

### PLANNING, CODES DIRECTOR

WHITE HOUSE. The City of White House is currently accepting applications for planning and codes director. The position requires graduation from an accredited college or university with a four-year degree in planning, geography, geology, urban studies, public administration, or similar necessary to understand the principles and practices of municipal planning. At least four years of experience in a municipal, county, or state planning environment is required. Certification by American Institute of Certified Planners is highly desired. Applicants must hold current certification in Plans Review. Possession of a valid Tennessee Operator's License appropriate to the assignment is required. Starting salary is \$58,113.33 to \$69,078.48 annually DOE with an excellent benefits package. To apply for this position, you must submit a city of White House appli-

cation. Applications and additional details on how to apply are available on the city of White House's website at [www.cityofwhitehouse.com](http://www.cityofwhitehouse.com) or in person at the Human Resources Office at 105 College Street, White House, TN 37188. Position open until filled.

### POLICE CHIEF

SPARTA. The city of Sparta is seeking qualified applicants for the position of police chief. The successful candidate will oversee a total of 14 investigators and uniform officers. Directly supervises one secretary. Is responsible for the overall direction, coordination, and evaluation of the department. Carries out supervisory responsibilities in accordance with the organization's policies and applicable laws. The police chief is appointed by and works under the general supervision of the city administrator. Bachelor's degree in law enforcement, criminal science, or related field and eight to 10 years of law enforcement experience; or equivalent combination of education and experience required. Open until filled. A job description and additional application information is available by contacting the City of Sparta, P.O. Box 30, Sparta, TN 38583; by phone-931-836-3248; or by email [ljeffries@spartatn.gov](mailto:ljeffries@spartatn.gov).

### POLICE OFFICER

COLLIERVILLE. The town of Collierville has multiple openings for a police officer. This position involves the performance of responsible, general duty police work in protecting the life, persons, and property of the citizens of the town of Collierville through even-handed enforcement of laws and ordinances. Must have an associate degree (60+ semester hours) from an accredited college; or two years' previous experience as a full-time law enforcement officer; or two years of active duty military experience. A degree in criminal justice or a related field is preferred, however, majors with a concentration in management, technology, behavioral sciences, physical education or other related fields are acceptable; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Incumbents must be citizens of the U.S. Applicant must possess an honorable discharge and provide a DD214, if they have prior experience in the Armed Forces. Must possess upon hire or complete within six months of hire the State of Tennessee Police Officer P.O.S.T. Certification and maintain appropriate certification throughout employment. Must be in compliance with TCA 38-8-106. Applicants must have the ability to pass a work-related physical proficiency/agility test, a medical/physical examination, a psychological examination and background investigation. Must possess and maintain a valid driver's license. The work of this job requires sufficient physical strength, stamina, and ability to pass a work-related physical proficiency test and pre-employment examination. The work is physically demanding, may require lifting heavy objects, and may require working in inclement weather. All new hires must successfully complete a 365-day training and assessment period. Starting salary is \$36,000 annually (DOQ) with excellent benefits package. To apply for this position, submit an original Town of Collierville application, available to download at [www.collierville.com](http://www.collierville.com), or 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.

### POLICE OFFICER

WHITE HOUSE. The city of White House is currently accepting applications for Police Officer. Applicants must have a high school diploma or GED. They must possess an appropriate driver's license valid in the State of Tennessee. P.O.S.T. Certification must be obtained within six months of employment. Must meet Minimum Standards Law (TCA 38-8-106) requirements. Applicants must be a citizen of the United States, at least 21 years of age and meet the physical, psychological and criminal records and other standards for the assignment established by the White House Police Department. Starting salary is \$14.86 - \$17.66 hourly (\$35,233.06 - \$41,871.86 annually) DOE with an excellent benefits package. To apply for this position, you must submit a City of White House application. Applications and additional details on how to apply are available on the City of White House's website at [www.cityofwhitehouse.com](http://www.cityofwhitehouse.com) or in person at the Human Resources Office at 105 College Street, White House, TN 37188. Deadline May 23 at 5:15 pm.

### POLICE OFFICERS

ASHLAND CITY. The Ashland City Police Department is accepting application for police officer positions. Tennessee POST certification preferable. The following are requirements for employment as a police officer set by the state of Tennessee: be at least twenty-one (21) years of age; be a U.S. citizen; be a high school graduate or possess equivalence. No waivers will be granted for minimum education requirements; not have been convicted of or pleaded guilty to or entered a plea of nolo contendere to any felony, or to any violation of federal or state laws or city ordinances; not have been released or discharged under any other than honorable discharge from any of the armed forces of the U.S.; pass a physical examination by a license physician; and pass a psychological evaluation. An application can be picked up at City Hall or can be downloaded from the following address: [http://ashlandcitytn.gov/quick\\_links/employment/pdfs/employment\\_app.pdf](http://ashlandcitytn.gov/quick_links/employment/pdfs/employment_app.pdf). Applications will be accepted until May 17, 2019 and should be submitted to: Workforce Essentials, 384 South Main Street, Ashland City, TN 37015. EOE / drug-free workplace. Title VI Civil Rights Act 1964 (942 USC 2000d).

### POLICE OFFICER

HENDERSONVILLE. The city of Hendersonville is currently seeking applications for a police officer. Entry level base pay for an uncertified police officer will be \$40,000 annually. Pay is adjusted once officers become POST certified. Must be a US Citizen, H.S. or GED equivalent, be able

to qualify in accordance with the TN POST standards, have or be able to obtain a valid TN drivers' license, meet all physical and mental requirements, pass written exam and physical agility testing, and be able to pass a stringent background check. To apply and for all other information regarding the police officer recruitment: go to [www.hvilletn.org](http://www.hvilletn.org) and view the job openings page under the Human Resources Department or come by Hendersonville City Hall at 101 Maple Drive North, Hendersonville, TN 37075. Closing date, June 7 at 4 pm CST. Written exam will be June 14, at 9 am CST at the Hendersonville City Hall. EOE

### PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

HENDERSONVILLE. The city of Hendersonville is currently accepting applications for a public works director. This position directs all operations of the Public Works, Roads, and IT Departments. As of May 2019, this position ultimately has roughly 40 full-time employees under their supervision between the Public Works, Roads, and IT Departments. Bachelor's degree in a course of study related to the occupational field. Master's Degree preferred. 3-5+ years of related experience. Possession of or ability to readily obtain a valid driver's license issued by the State of Tennessee for the type of vehicle or equipment operated. Certification as a Professional Engineer required. Entry Level Salary: \$99,287 or higher (DOQ) To apply visit [www.hvilletn.org](http://www.hvilletn.org) and view the job openings page or visit the Personnel Department at Hendersonville City Hall located at 101 Maple Drive North in Hendersonville, TN Closing May 24 at 4 PM CST. EOE

### PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

SPRINGFIELD. The city of Springfield is currently seeking a new director for the public works department. The director plans, organizes, directs, controls and evaluates all activities of the department and oversees department personnel. The position is also responsible for administrative function such as budgeting as well as preparing cost estimates for construction projects. The director works under the general supervision of the city manager. Bachelors' degree from an accredited degree-granting, four year college or institution in management, public administration, business administration, construction trades, engineering, political science, or applicable area of study; prefer 10+ years of progressively responsible supervisory/management experience in street construction and maintenance, stormwater operation, drainage construction and maintenance, and management of employees—5 of which were in a mid-level or higher decision-making position; or a combination of experience and training equivalent to the required knowledge and abilities. Salary range: \$72,280-\$99,465 (DOQ). To apply for more information, visit our website at [springfield-tn.org](http://springfield-tn.org) or contact the Personnel Office at (615) 382-2200. Accepting applications until May 31. AA/EO Employer.

### TOWN CLERK

THOMPSON'S STATION. The town of Thompson's Station is accepting applications for the position of town clerk. The town clerk provides a broad range of administrative support activities for the town. Applicants should have a high school diploma or GED. Associate's degree in business management, accounting or closely related field preferred. At least three years experience in clerical work, accounts receivable and administrative support functions. Must have ability to be bonded. Salary DOQ. This position is open until filled. Applications are available at [www.thompsons-station.com](http://www.thompsons-station.com). Please send resumes and town application to Caryn Miller, assistant town administrator at [cmiller@thompsons-station.com](mailto:cmiller@thompsons-station.com). EOE.

### TRANSPORTATION/LONG RANGE PLANNER

CLEVELAND. The city of Cleveland is accepting applications for the position of transportation/long range planner. Qualified applicants will have graduated from an accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree in community planning, transportation planning, public administration, engineering, landscape architecture or other related field. A minimum 2-4 years of transportation planning related experience is desirable. A related master's degree and/or AICP certification are desired and may be considered as a partial substitute for experience. Experience with GIS is required and experience with TransCad transportation modeling software is desirable. Experience with website maintenance and social media communication is desirable. Experience in the collection and analysis of data relevant to issues in passenger and freight transportation issues is important, as is experience in multi-modal transportation planning issues. Understanding of the relationships between land use and economic development and transportation planning is important. Proof of education and experience is required. Valid Tennessee driver's license required. This position will have a role in the development and maintenance of the planning documents and processes for the MPO, including the Unified Planning and Work Program, the Transportation Improvement Program, and the Long-Range Transportation Plan. Work will include collecting and analyzing data and preparing maps, reports and other planning documents; for the purpose of making recommendations and providing information to the MPO coordinator and others for use in the MPO's transportation planning process. Will participate in transportation corridor studies and other duties as assigned. In addition to preparing written reports, the transportation/long range planner will be able to represent the MPO in meetings of technical staff, transportation officials, and others, and assist with the MPO's public participation efforts and performs other duties as assigned. Applicants should submit a resume with cover letter and three references to the City of Cleveland Human Resources Department Office, PO Box 1519, Cleveland, TN 37364-1519, or submit via email to [kspence@clevelandtn.gov](mailto:kspence@clevelandtn.gov) who may be contacted at (423)-472-4551 for questions. Starting salary range is \$45,024 to \$50,427. (DOQ). The city offers a competitive benefits package. The position will be open until filled.

**Tennessee Municipal League**  
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TN Urban Forestry Council

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## Additional clarity comes with second round of Opportunity Zone regulations

BY BRIAN EGAN  
*National League of Cities*

On April 17, the Department of the Treasury released its second "tranche" of regulations governing investments made in Qualified Opportunity Funds (QOFs) and Qualified Opportunity Zone Businesses.

The regulations are instrumental in providing guidance to investors hoping to invest in the more than 8,000 Opportunity Zones that were designated as a result of tax reform in 2017.

While the Treasury still seeks comments on a handful of issues, the newest iteration of rules answers many of the major outstanding questions from the first round and are expected to provide sufficient clarity for more investors to get involved in zones.

Most of the additions are technical in nature and directed to the investor community, but it is worth noting that the Treasury responded to stakeholder concerns, including those submitted by NLC, surrounding the administration of the 50 percent gross income limitation test.

The first round of rules required qualified opportunity zone businesses to derive 50 percent of their income from within a zone, which would have severely hampered funds' abilities to invest in scalable start-ups. The new rules provide for three safe harbors that allow

a qualified business to scale their sales and services beyond zones, while keeping with the spirit of the program.

Few issues have captured the attention of city leaders like "opportunity zones." But for many cities, towns and villages, there is more confusion than clarity. NLC is pursuing a new line of work to help cities understand and maximize the local impact of opportunity zones for all residents.

The opportunity zone program was created under the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act to provide local and national investors with a tax incentive for investments in economically distressed areas of the country. More than 8,700 opportunity zones have been designated across all 50 states for the next 10 years.

Also on April 17, NLC joined an Opportunity Now event hosted by the White House to educate state and local leaders on the new rules and share best practices. Secretary Carson and Secretary Mnuchin were among the speakers who shared updates on how the Administration is working to ensure the program is a success in our communities. President Trump welcomed the attendees and thanked state and local leaders for their shared commitment to community revitalization throughout the nation.

NLC has produced and compiled resources around Opportunity Zones. For more information, visit <https://www.nlc.org/program-initiative/opportunity-zones>

## NATIONAL BRIEFS



**The number of bike and scooter shares across the country more than doubled in 2018 thanks in part to the emergence of e-scooters.** The National Association of City Transportation Officials found that people took 36.5 million trips on shared bikes rented from docking stations and 38.5 million trips on electric scooters in 2018. An additional 6.5 million trips were taken on e-bikes, mostly in dockless arrangements, over traditional docked bikes. These "micro-mobility" options have been lauded as a way to make transit more feasible as well as decrease congestion in major cities. NATCO found that people seem to use scooters and bike share differently, with bike users

more likely to ride to get to work and scooting more tilted toward recreational activities. Scooter use climbed over the weekend, while people were more likely to hop in a bike share at rush hour, the report found.

**The U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) grew at a rate of 3.2 percent in the first quarter of 2019, well above expectations.** Economists had previously predicted the GDP would grow at a rate of 2.5 percent due to shaky financial markets, lagging retail sales, the mounting costs of trade battles, and weak job gains. However, increases in consumer spending, private inventory investment, nonresidential fixed investment, exports, and nonfederal government spending helped counterbalance those con-

cerns. A revised estimate for growth will be released later in May.

**The federal and state governments have lost up to \$37.8 billion in tax revenue due to opioid-related employment losses.** Researchers at Penn State estimated losses of \$11.8 billion to state governments and \$26 billion to the federal government in tax revenue due to reductions in the labor force. For state governments, this included lost sales tax and income tax revenue. Lost income tax revenue accounted for all the losses to the federal government. Researchers said instead of focusing on the cost of treating those with opioid addictions, governments should instead look to how much in potential income they are losing by not treating those with addiction issues.

## UT-MTAS APRIL MAP CLASSES

### 2019 TENNESSEE BUSINESS TAX ADMINISTRATION UPDATES

This class, conducted by the Tennessee Department of Revenue will address current business tax issues. Also, the facilitators will discuss new computer software updates that the Tennessee Department of Revenue has implemented and how this affects municipalities.

**Target Audience:**  
All Municipal Employees

Credits: 3 CPE

**Dates/Locations/Times:**

June 4 Johnson City  
8 – 11 a.m. EDT

June 5 Knoxville  
8 – 11 a.m. EDT

June 6 Collegedale  
8 – 11 a.m. EDT

June 11 Jackson  
8 - 11 a.m. CDT

June 12 Memphis area  
8 – 11 a.m. CDT

June 13 Goodlettsville  
8 – 11 a.m. CDT



To register for a course, go to [www.mtas.tennessee.edu](http://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.



## TENNESSEE FESTIVALS

**May 18-19: Maryville**  
*Smoky Mountain Scottish Festival and Games*

Originally founded in 1981 as the Gatlinburg Scottish Festival and Games, this is one of the oldest Scottish Festivals in the country. In 2010, the festival established a new home in the city of Maryville on the grounds of historic Maryville College, home of "The Scots." Folks don't have to be Scottish in order to enjoy this unique festival. For more info, visit <http://smokymountaingames.org>

**May 25-26: Brownsville**  
*Exit 56 Blues Fest*

Brownsville celebrates its Blues heritage with an annual festival on the grounds of the West Tennessee Delta Heritage Center. Concerts are held from the porch of Blues Pioneer Sleepy John Estes and includes local and regional performers. Other events during the festival include arts and crafts vendors, a Corvette Car Show, a classic car cruise-in, special exhibits and the famous Deep-Fried BBQ Eating Championship. Admission is free. For more info, visit <http://exit56blues.com/>.

**June 1: Coopertown**  
*Coopertown Barrell Festival*

Join thousands in celebrating the heritage of the barrelmaker in Coopertown, just 25 miles north of Nashville. Hundreds of vendors will showcase their wares along Old Coopertown Road in this free event. Enjoy live cooper demonstrations, a classic car show, antique tractors, music, food, shopping, history exhibits, a "Cooper of the Year" contest, kids zone, and more in this annual fundraiser. Festivities kick off at 7 a.m. and go until 4 p.m. Visit [www.barrelfestival.com](http://www.barrelfestival.com) for more information.

**June 1: Red Boiling Springs**  
*Folk Medicine Festival 2019*

Once again, biodynamic farmers, organic gardeners, healing arts, craftsmen of all kinds, singers, musicians, dancers, storytellers all come together on the banks of Salt Lick Creek to celebrate the restorative power of nature at this year's Folk Medicine Festival. There will be two entertainment stages, an arts and crafts market, quilt show, old skill demonstrations, Old Tyme photography, children's area and food court. Visit <https://vision2020inc.com/> for more info.

**June 1: Elkton**  
*Elkton Hey Day Fest*

Held at the Elkton City Park, come out for food trucks, trade and craft booths, corn hole tournament, basketball tournament, classic cars, and Battle of the Bands. Bring a lawn chair and plan to spend the day. No admission. Event begins at 10 a.m. For more info call Brandy Blade at 931-468-0727.

**June 13-16: Manchester**  
*Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival*

The seventeenth annual four-day music festival kicks off in Manchester on June 13, bringing together artists from diverse genres including country, rap, rock, pop, jazz, folk, gospel, ragga, and more. Visit [www.bonnaroo.com](http://www.bonnaroo.com) for more information.

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## Water and Wastewater Systems

# Chairman Susan Lynn draws on financial background in new role

BY KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

When State Rep. Susan Lynn, R-Mt. Juliet, was selected as the chair of the House Finance, Ways, and Means committee earlier this year, she was both stepping into big shoes and breaking new ground.

Lynn's predecessor in the role was the late State Rep. Charles Sargent, R-Franklin, who led the committee for eight years prior to his retirement in 2018. Lynn is also the first woman to head the 19-member committee in state history.

Tennessee House Speaker Glen Casada said he had no reservations about Lynn's ability to step up to the challenge.

"Representative Lynn is an incredibly talented legislator within our General Assembly, and I am grateful to her for her willingness to serve in this important leadership capacity," Speaker Casada said. "I believe her knowledge and experience will benefit the House Finance Committee and our entire legislative body."

In her new role, Lynn also becomes a member of the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, Council on Pensions and Insurance, and the Douglas Henry State Museum Commission.

Born in Philadelphia and raised in New York state, Lynn's interest in finance goes back to her childhood. She holds a bachelor's degree double majoring in economics and history and is working on a second one in accounting.

She also holds a certification in financial management, Six Sigma, continuous quality improvement, and LEAN. She presently works as a regulatory compliance manager for Simplicity Creative Group, but has also held roles as a financial analyst consultant, controller, and as a small business consultant.

A mother of two and grandmother of five, she and her husband Michael have been married for more than 35 years.

## TT&C: How did your early life shape you as a person?

**Susan Lynn:** I was born in Philadelphia then we moved to New York where my father was an investment banker in New York City. My father was a tremendous influence on me. I was very interested in business, so he would talk to me and teach me. We always had *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times* in our home, and lots and lots of reading material from different industries or science magazines.

I was always very curious, and he taught me so much about business, free enterprise, and capitalism. I always remember him telling me that the poor countries of the world are poor because of government corruption. They have resources and things that their people can do, but their government prevents capitalism and the market from operating. That stuck with me so much.

My mother was politically active. She always helped elect good people to public office. She always told me never stop paying attention. She said to always have a healthy skepticism for the people who represent them. By and large, we are the greatest country in the world because of our Constitution, because we follow the rule of law, and because we have our checks and balances in balance.

## TT&C: You have a strong background in economics, accounting, and finance. What shaped your career path?

**SL:** I wanted to be an architect. I liked to draw and I liked to paint, but my father really influenced me. He thought I could be a writer, but he also encouraged me to go in a financial direction. My father had an accounting degree, but he never worked as an accountant. I always felt accounting was a trade, and I didn't like that. I wanted something that involved real life as well science and theories that work, that focus on capitalism, and create a good economy.

## TT&C: What first brought you to Tennessee?

**SL:** My mother's family was from Nashville, so we used to go down to Nashville every Thanksgiving and Easter. I just loved Nashville because it was so different than New York.

## TT&C: How would you describe your district to someone who had never been there?

**SL:** I would say it's the most wonderful district in the world. My district is definitely suburban. We are a suburb of Nashville, but we are economically independent of Nashville. We enjoy a healthy, vibrant economy. Our people have such a great community spirit. I am very proud to have a lot of state employees in my district. They are so professional. They do such a great job, and I am proud of our state employees and what they do. I love it when constituents say to me that they called a state department, and they were so very caring.

## TT&C: How would you describe your relationship with the municipal officials in your district? What projects have you worked on with them?

**SL:** I have a great relationship with the city officials in my district. We are not just professional colleagues; we are actually social friends. We will sometimes go out to dinner together and talk about things that are going on. They have questions about the state that I might be able to help with. I might have questions about something that is going on locally, and I can get background information that fills in the blanks.

I am very cognizant and always tell my city officials that I am not over them; I am not their boss. They are not over me; they are not my boss. Cities are a body politic that is separate from state government, but they have to follow the laws and regulations of state government. Therefore, when we are voting on things, I do call my city officials and ask "hey, is this helpful?" Sometimes they refer me to city employees so I can get an idea of how a bill might affect something.

I remember a few years ago, one of my cities said that they had been applying for a trails grant for a few years, and they could not get a grant. They asked me what it took to get the grant. I suggested we call the department that gives the grant and ask them to take a look at the application, why they haven't been approved, what may be lacking, and what they can do to improve their application. They did that, saw how they could improve their application for the project, and after that they got one grant after another because they realized what the goal of the grant opportunity was. They just broke ground on a walking trail and are so happy to be working on it now.

## TT&C: What first prompted your interest in politics? Was there a particular issue or cause that drew you into the political arena?

**SL:** I never thought I would run for office, but I was involved with my local Republican Party. In early 2000, we had that big income tax fight. I lived in Mt. Juliet, and I always felt drawn to go down to the capitol whenever a vote on the income tax was going on so I could be one of the protesters outside. I always felt sort of burdened to do it because I was so close and I had to go for other people in Tennessee who couldn't go. I went almost every time.

When my predecessor decided to run for higher office, my friends in the Republican Party said "you should run." And I said, "Oh, no. I don't want to do that." Sure enough my husband



State Rep. Susan Lynn, R-Mt. Juliet, at work in the Legislature. Lynn was recently selected as the new chair of the House Finance, Ways, and Means Committee.



Musician Charlie Daniels, left, with Lynn and her husband Michael at a fundraiser for the Mt. Juliet Senior Center. Daniels is one of Lynn's many constituents.

pushed me that way. I don't know what they saw. We set up a campaign, and I got more than 103 volunteers in that first race. It was a four-way primary and we got more than 50 percent of the votes. I say "we" because the way I think of it, it's not you planning a campaign; it's your team. It's your team that does all that work and all that effort. It's the team winning not you. Yes, you're the lawmaker and the one who goes to Nashville, but it's very much a team victory.

## TT&C: Your predecessor as chair of the House Finance, Ways, and Means committee was Charles Sargent, a giant of the Legislature. What is it like stepping into this role knowing that you are also stepping into his shoes?

**SL:** I can't tell you how much I loved him. I just adored Charles Sargent. He had a lake home in my district, and he would tease me all the time that he was going to run against me. We would talk about Mt. Juliet and their place there. They enjoyed their time there. He was so generous and helpful. He taught me so much about being an effective legislator. He taught me through his words and through his questions, and I could just watch him and see what he did, how he handled the committee. If you had any question you wanted to ask Charles, he would take the time to answer it and even more. He was such a kind and generous person. I know he could get mad, but it was really righteous indignation. When Charles let off that thunder, it didn't mean he didn't care about you. Most of the time, it was because he cared about you. He was just a wonderful person.

## TT&C: You are also the first woman to be selected to lead the committee. How does it feel to know you are breaking ground for other women in Tennessee politics by taking on this role?

**SL:** I have to thank Speaker Casada, and I couldn't be more proud of Speaker Casada. He didn't bat an eye or think twice about putting a woman in this role. He had approached me a while back and said if all the stars align, here is what I have in mind for you.

That was an honor. He's a great leader. You watch what he does and how he handles people, he is a master. He is nice, he is polite, and he is a peacemaker among people. We have a really peaceful session going on because he is speaker. I am incredibly honored to have this position, succeeding Charles Sargent. I just don't want to mess things up. Charles put us in such great shape, and I just hope that we do half as well as he did.

I told the whole committee when I took over that we were a team. All of our members serve on other committees, so I gave them direction to see what happened with these bills in other committees then come to finance and share with us the testimony that they heard. We are not going to be able to fund everything; we just can't. We have to work as hard as we can to make the best decisions we can. I am really big on gathering thoughts and information and creating consensus. I know other members are here representing their districts, and that the people of Tennessee sent them because they feel their input is valuable. I feel their input is valuable. We want to be always mindful and always respectful that this is the people's money, so we have to look at what are their priorities. We have to bring all those priorities together into the finance committee to produce a budget that has the authority of the people of our state.

## TT&C: What do you think are the major priorities for this year's budget?

**SL:** Clearly, our new governor's agenda, which is extremely important to all of us. We really believe in it. I feel like Gov. Bill Haslam set our state up so well economically. The things he did were so wise. Gov. Bill Lee thinks very much the same way as Gov. Haslam, but he also has this additional part in him because of his experience for people who have been incarcerated and people with mental illness. He wants to focus on how we can make sure their lives are as full and rewarding as anyone else's and what we can do to make sure we are providing that.

Especially with people who are incarcerated, yes they have made a mistake in their life but they deserve a chance. Things like what we just passed on expungement is going to create a new life for so many people in Tennessee. My daughter works for an employment agency who has a pretty strict policy that if you haven't gotten that expungement it makes things so difficult. It's not that people don't deserve these expungements; it's that

they can't afford it, and they can't afford it because they can't get a job. It's a terrible cycle, and our new governor is going to stop that cycle. We have programs for people to get a certificate so they can work hard and provide for their families, and that's what we all want. I can't wait to be a few years down the road and see the results of all the seeds that have been planted.

## TT&C: What do you see as the more challenging or divisive issues that have come up in this budget?

**SL:** I think our committee chairmen have done a good job of only sending bills to the finance committee that are ready to go. I like most of the bills that have been sent to us. The Speaker gave them their role and their direction, and they only send us bills that are of great priority. Unfortunately, we always get more bills than we can fund. That's the challenge.

## TT&C: What do you think is the economic outlook for the state?

**SL:** I think our economic outlook will stay stable. We have certainly been in a growth pattern. I feel like the Trump Administration and the Fed are doing a good job at controlling inflation. We saw some for a little bit, but it's that inflation cycle and credit cycle that gets us in trouble. When credit is too free and available through no-interest loans or no income verification, that's where we really get in trouble. Unfortunately, people buy things they can't afford, and we have a collapse. You want people to be able to get loans and to get credit because they have to, but if you make it too available you get into that bust situation and the whole thing flops. It's important to keep the reins at the right balance. We just hope for stability and not a mad frenzy of spending that leads to a hangover when everything crashes. Our rainy day fund doesn't fund as much as it sounds like it might. It wouldn't last as long as we would like it too. We do have a goal of getting to the 8 percent statutory level. Gov. Lee is making a huge contribution to getting us to the goal. He is bringing us to 7.3 percent. Once we get to that 8 percent then we will have another conversation about how much we need to do beyond that. It is a goal that has a rationale behind it.

## TT&C: What do you think is the proper role between the state and federal government?

**SL:** I wish the federal government would listen to us more and watch how we do things more. I know that my congressman (U.S. Rep. John Rose, R-Tenn.) says he goes to Washington and brags on Tennessee and the Tennessee General Assembly all the time. I believe him because we have a lot to brag on here. Even when the economy was stagnant nationally, the things that Gov. Haslam and our General Assembly were doing helped spur our economy and caused things to grow. We were way outside of the norm, and most states were not having the success we had. As the economy started to turn around, the improving economies in the other states had a big effect on Tennessee. As far as a relationship goes, I wish the federal government would stop fighting. In Tennessee, I feel like we have good relationships with our colleagues on the other side of the aisle. We have friendly relationships. We don't always agree in committee, but we let it roll off our backs like a duck. Many times when you sit in sessions and listen in on those votes, you see most of the bills we agree on. A lot of times votes are 99-0. We don't have that many knock-down-drag-out-fights on issues, and even when we do, we are respectful.

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

**SL:** We try not to pass any pre-emptive measures. We try to support local control. However, there are some issues where a local ordinance is going to create an inequity across the state. That is something that is very different, and usually these are things that make it difficult for businesses to follow from town to town. Those are things that are better left to the state than hopscotching around from municipality to municipality. Sometimes, two ordinances that sound the same can actually function very differently when put into practice.

There are some things better left at the state level just like the federal government has their views that there are some things better left to the federal level. There are some federal laws we have to follow whether it's on employment regulation, Medicaid, or even road funding. You have to have that consistency from state to state to state. It's the same thing at the state level. There are some things where you just need consistent application of the law from town to town or from county to county. Yes, I have sponsored some bills that pre-empted local governments from doing things, but that was only because I was chair of a business committee where we could see that consistency was needed and required. Other than that, I do find myself chastising my colleagues about certain things. I think last year was a big year where local government was interfered with a lot. We sort of chastised each other and said "hey, we aren't going to do this anymore" and we've held ourselves to that.

As far as the budget, there are some things I have left behind the budget that affect local government revenue or expenses. I have kept those behind the budget because we want to take a cumulative total look at the effect of what we are doing before we move ahead on these bills. That is one of the policies I set up in the beginning of the committee. At the end, we are going to take a look and ask if we are overreaching or going too far. If we are, we are going to fix it or that bill won't happen.

## TT&C: Are there any bills or issues before the Legislature this session that are particularly close to your heart?

**SL:** This year because I am chair of finance, and it's a big role for me, I limited my role in sponsoring bills. I did have one bill drafted that deals with hearing aids. A friend of mine moved from here to California for his wife's job then his wife's job brought them back to Tennessee. While in California, he got a job selling hearing aids, and he enjoyed it very much. When he moved back to Tennessee, he found he couldn't sell hearing aids anymore because in order to sell hearing aids in Tennessee you have to have an associate's degree in something — anything, it doesn't matter.

He came to me and said when he got out of high school he went into the military and stayed in the army for many years. When he got out, he got a job in sales and that's what he's always done. I filed a capitol bill and the lobbyist for the association came to me and asked what the bill was about. When I told him he recognized that was a problem and he asked to talk to my constituent. I let them exchange phone numbers and before I knew it, he had brought me a piece of legislation that totally fixed the problem. It was wonderful. I didn't ask him to help. We ran it past the licensing board who saw it as an issue too that they just hadn't addressed it.

Now, it says you have to have an associate's degree or training from an association or national group on hearing aids. My constituent is already studying so that he can get the certification and get licensed in Tennessee. It's things like that through the state government and at the state level that mean a lot. You have a new law that solves a problem and helps people to work. That's what we all want: to have a job and be able to come home and take care of our families.