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Save the Dates **TML District Meetings**

Thursday, Nov. 29	District 4	Crossville
Friday, Nov. 30	District 3	Collegedale
Tuesday, Dec. 4	District 5	Gallatin
Wednesday, Dec. 5	District 2	Morristown
Thursday, Dec. 6	District 1	Greeneville
Monday, Dec. 10	District 7	Henderson
Tuesday, Dec. 11	District 8	Millington
Friday, Dec 14	District 6	Columbia

Mark your calendars. More information about time and location coming soon.

Congress passes third bill to address opioid crisis

BY STEPHANIE MARTINEZ-RUCKMAN and YUCEL ORS National League of Cities

On Oct. 3, the Senate approved, by a 98-1 vote, a broad package of opioid legislation that looks to provide a comprehensive approach to addressing the opioid crisis. The House cleared the package on Sept. 28 before recessing until after the elections.

The bill, SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (H.R. 6), now goes to the White House which has signaled its strong support for this effort, making it likely that President Donald Trump will sign the package into law.

This bill is an important step in fighting the opioid epidemic, but it

falls short in many areas including ensuring sustained, systemic investments to local efforts to combat substance abuse disorders. The National League of Cities (NLC) is concerned that while Congress has provided a considerable amount of federal dollars toward the opioid crisis, this money is still not getting down to fund local prevention, treatment and recovery programs.

The bill authorizes an additional \$500 million per year from the 21st Century Cures Act for the State Targeted Opioid Response (STOR) Grants program to provide funding to tribes and give states additional flexibility for using the grants. The STOR program is designed to increase access to treat-See **OPIOIDS** on Page 7

Tullahoma adopts storm ravaged communities

Amid legal wrangling, scooter shares are coming to cities big and small

BY KATE COIL *TML Communications Specialist*

Zipping and zooming across cities throughout the country, electric scooters have become the latest craze in the emerging sharing economy – though this innovative business model is stirring up about as much controversy as it is profit.

Lawsuits over public safety issues, the definition of a motorized vehicle, and company operations have ensued almost immediately after the scooter-sharing system was rolled out in some cities.

While these issues may seem like the domain of the major metropolis, kick scooter sharing services have already been unveiled in midsized and smaller cities like Golden Valley, Minn. (pop. 21,376), Winthrop, Mass. (pop. 18,190), Clayton, Mo. (pop. 15,939), Key Biscayne, Fla. (pop. 13,182) and Keyport, N.J. (pop. 7,085).

Dubbed the next Uber or Lyft, the goal of these scooters is to provide an alternative method of transportation to cars at an affordable rate that will encourage lower-income residents to use them. Unlike the toys popular with kids, these "kick scooters" run on electric or gas motors - which has raised some questions as to whether these devices are street legal as they cannot be tagged, titled, or insured but are still considered different from larger motorized scooter models like Vespa or Lambretta products.

Rex Barton, a police management consultant with the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS), said many cities faced similar issues when Segways were introduced.

"Back when Segways first came out, the company behind them went to every state and they were successful in Tennessee in getting legislation passed preventing local governments from regulating Segways," Barton said. "If this is the latest, greatest trend in public transportation it's very hard to regulate. These scooters are starting to crop up in major cities where tourism is big, and people want to use these scooters because it's quicker." These electric scooters are in some ways similar to the bicycle-sharing services already operating in cities across Tennessee, such as B-Cycle, Pace Knoxville, Bike



Memphis City Council Chairman Berlin Boyd, left, and Council Member Kemp Conrad, right, test ride a couple of Bird scooters. While the city of Memphis worked with kick scooter share services prior to their roll out in the city, not all municipalities have been able to do so. Even cities with scooter policies are tackling new concerns as this newest ride-share service gains popularity nationwide for its affordability and green credentials.

Photo courtesy of Kemp Conrad

Chattanooga, and Explore Bike in Te Share. Patrons can rent scooters that run on electric motors for a short period of time either paying a small fee for a single ride or for weekly, monthly, and annual memberships.

If patrons use the scooters over the amount of time they have paid for, usage fees may also apply. Theresa Costonis, assistant attorney with Metro Nashville, said city officials didn't have much

said city officials didn't have much time to prepare for the launch of the service. "There was maybe an email

from the company that arrived bare-

in Tennessee as well.

"Because of the regulations introduced by Segway - which regards motorized vehicles operated on sidewalks - these scooters may be precluded from helmet requirements," Barton said. "You also run into the issue of crowded downtown areas where pedestrians are getting knocked down by scooters. Gatlinburg has had similar problems with Segway rentals because the people riding them don't know how to use them and bang into other people. You can tell the company they can't let people abandon their scooters in certain places, but the company can't control that. When people leave it there anyway, who do you charge?" The return policy many kick scooter companies have for their products is what is causing most of the trouble for the industry. Unlike most bicycle-sharing services that require bikes to be "docked" in See **SCOOTERS** on Page 3



Photo by Erin McCullough, The Tullahoma News

Janie Mirtes, left, and Marie Guilliams have already begun collecting items for the people of Blountstown, Fla., which was devastated by Hurricane Michael earlier this month. Tullahoma previously helped the city of Swansboro, N.C., with hurricane relief efforts. Mayor Lane Curlee said the effots show the generous spirit of Tullahoma residents as well as the power of a single person to make a big difference.

BY KATE COIL

The city of Tullahoma has taken the Volunteer State spirit a step further by adopting two outof-state communities affected by hurricanes in recent months.

The initiative began when Tullahoma citizen Marie Guilliams asked Cedar Lane Church of Christ Minister Steven Hovater if there was something that could be done to help the town of Swansboro, a North Carolina community of about 2,600 near Jackson. Guilliams said she had seen a news report that 11 of the town's 13 firefighters had suffered damage to their homes during the storm. She also knew that, being a smaller town, Swansboro wouldn't be high on the priority list when it came to removing debris, restoring power, or providing other services.

The town itself received 34 inches of rain, breaking the state record for the most rain in a single period and flooding much of the area. Swansboro Mayor John Davis said the town's historic district was deeply hit with tin roofs peeled *See* **DONATIONS** *on Page 4*

ly before or precisely when they launched the scooters; they just kind of showed up," she said.

While kick scooter companies ask users to avoid using sidewalks unless allowed, to wear helmets, and follow rules of the road, this can't always be guaranteed. Barton said the same legislation introduced for Segways may have an impact on how kick scooters can operate

THRIVE Regional Partnerships optimizes community development opportunities, inspires growth from within, enhances regional connectivity in Southeast TN area

BY HONNA ROGERS *MTAS Management Consultant*

Recently the Tennessee southeast region has seen tremendous growth in population and industry. It was during this time that THRIVE 2055 was born in an effort to grow in a smart way.

From 2012 to 2015, community volunteers created a 40-year regional plan for 16 counties in Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee. I served on the coordinating committee, which was the governing body made up of 30 community, business, and nonprofit leaders.

We held citizen input meetings and consultants compiled data on a 16-county tri-state scale for the very first time. The group identified a shared regional vision ("educated people with good jobs living in a great place") and established a strategic plan of action.

Four key priority initiatives were determined as the primary forces driving the future prosperity of the region: regional transportation, regional economic development, natural treasures, and education and workforce training. The overall process resulted in 37 key goals for the next 40 years. Once this part of the process was completed in 2015, the Thrive



Whitwell, home to the Children's Holocaust Memorial, is one of four communities that have completed the 2018 Thriving Communities program of Thrive Regional Partnership. They are now eligible to apply for a \$20,000 seed grant from the Lyndhurst Foundation to kickstart their incubated strategies for local, asset-based community vibrancy and growth.

Regional Partnership was formed in order to carry on the regional vision.

There have been great things happening in all areas of Thrive's focus, but one great example of the work of Thrive is the Thriving Communities program. Thrive Regional Partnership adopts an understanding that driving forces such as economic development, education and workforce pre-See **THRIVE** on Page 3







BRENTWOOD

The city of Brentwood is moving forward with plans for the city's fifth fire station to serve the southeastern portion of the city. The purchase of a property along Split Log Road for \$685,000 was recently approved by the Brentwood City Commission to house a station that would house a single response unit and one crew. The station would dramatically improve response times to the southeastern area of the city, which includes the Split Log Corridor, Ravenwood High School, Smith Park, and the new Jordan Elementary School.

BRUCETON

ZLINE Kitchen and Bath officials will locate its new distribution headquarters in Bruceton, creating 74 new jobs and investing \$3 million in the area. The kitchen range and hood manufacturer and distributor was founded by Andy Zuro and is a family-owned company with its corporate headquarters locations in Nevada and Ohio. The company is investing in a 205,000-square-foot facility in the area, which will serve as its Southeast distribution hub and will be the company's distribution headquarters.

CHATTANOOGA

FreightWaves any will expand its operations in Chattanooga, investing \$3.9 million and creating 260 new jobs. The transportation and logistics data and content provider presently employs 50 people at its Chattanooga facility. Freight-Waves delivers data analytics, news and commentary, innovation engagement and risk management tools to the transportation and logistics industry. FreightWaves helps participants navigate freight markets through FreightWaves. com, ranked by Amazon Alexa as the No. 1 logistics news site globally. FreightWaves plans on expanding its current operations in Chattanooga to keep up with the growing demand for its products and services. The company plans on adding nearly 22,000-squarefeet to its facility.

CHATTANOOGA

The Electric Power Board of Chattanooga (EPB) has topped 100,000 paying subscribers to its fiber optic network after only 18 months of operation, well-surpassing its initial goal of 30,000 customers in five years needed to break even. The Internet, video, and phone services have attracted triple the subscribers with EPB providing telecommunications connections to more than 60 percent of all the homes and businesses in its service territory. As a result, the initial telecom investment will be paid back years ahead of its original forecast date and \$42 million a year will be put back into the local electric system. EPB helped Chattanooga become the first U.S. city to have 1-gigabit-per-second internet speeds available throughout the entire city. To celebrate its 100,000 customers, the EPB sponsored the EPB Big Gig event in Miller Park.

tie Lamb and City Manager Ted Rogers were among those on hand to usher in the city's 50th year at a celebration held Oct. 21 at Southern Adventist University's Founders Hall. The school also unveiled a mural honoring the city's anniversary as well as the connection between the school and Collegedale.

FRANKLIN

The city of Franklin has become the first city in the state of Tennessee to achieve LEED Silver Certification. LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, was created by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and is the world's most widely used green building rating program. The city has worked throughout the past nine months to engage local stakeholders, community leaders, and city employees on ways to make the community more sustainable. Projects undertaken by the city include LED parking garage and street lighting retrofits, 1.2 Megawatts of installed solar at the wastewater plant, a residential curbside recycling program, significant bicycle and pedestrian improvements, and the implementation of a long-term integrated water resources plan.

HENDERSONVILLE

The city of Hendersonville has erected a "chair of honor" behind home plate at one of its baseball fields at Drakes Creek Park. Many professional and college stadiums have also erected their own chairs of honor, which serve as memorials to honor those who are Prisoners of War or Missing in Action. Hendersonville Parks Director Andy Gilley said he and other baseball coaches came up with the idea this spring, while Gilley was coaching at Hendersonville High School. The chair was dedicated and installed during National POW/MIA Week at a ceremony attended by local VFW post, JROTC members, and the Hendersonville High School baseball team. A local trophy store created the plaque that accompanies the empty chair, which reminds visitors of those who have not yet made it home from the warfront.

JOHNSON CITY

Johnson City has been selected as

Ground broken at Tri-Cities Aerospace Park



Officials from Bristol, Kingsport, Johnson City, Northeast State Community College, Sullivan and Washington Counties gathered together to break ground on the 160-acre site that will become the Tri-Cities Airport's Aerospace Park. Located adjacent to the regional airport in Blountville, site preparation work has begun on 73 acres of the park, which is designed to attract aviation-related industries to the area. The park already has 32 acres of developed land.

west Greenway Connector. This project includes construction of a greenway beginning at a new trailhead at Middlebrook Pike (State Route169) and Third Creek Road and ending at the SR-62 Western Avenue Pedestrian Bridge. The project also includes landscaping, a retaining wall, ADA upgrades, and fencing. The transportation alternative grant is made possible through a federally-funded program formerly known as transportation enhancement, and is administered by the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

MEMPHIS

Memphis has ranked among the top ten metro areas for jobs in 2018, according to employment website Glassdoor. Memphis was ranked seventh of the top metro areas due to low unemployment rates, record-high job openings, and increased opportunities for workers. The city of Memphis was ranked 23rd for job satisfaction and reported median base salaries of \$43,900 and median home values of \$133,100. Glassdoor said the arts-and-entertainment industry were among the top industries for job seekers with product manager, account executive, and restaurant manager being among the most in-demand jobs in the city. Glassdoor said the goal of the survey was to find a more holistic approach to statistics surrounding employment by also weighing in factors such as cost of living.

OAK RIDGE

Hendersonville's new park mosaics are city's largest public art display



The city of Hendersonville has unveiled the Memorial Park Mosaics, the city's newest and largest public art installations. Throughout the past year, local artists Yvette Renée and Mark Cowden of Diamond Studio have created 24 large mosaic designs on the walls at Memorial Park with the help of organizations, schools and residents. The installation consists of 1,270 square feet of stained glass and mixed media mosaic designs and is estimated to be the largest public art project of its kind in Middle Tennessee.

Bristol earns award for community relations



COLLEGEDALE

The city of Collegedale has celebrated its 50th years as an incorporated city. The city grew around Southern Adventist University, which was established in the area in 1916. Collegedale officially incorporated in 1968 with Fred Fuller elected the first mayor and J.M. Ackerman hired as the first city manager. Present Mayor Ka-

TENNESSEE TOWN & CITY

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the Top Adventure Town by Blue Ridge Outdoors magazine. The city beat out 55 other adventure hubs across the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic to win the medium-sized category. The city and what makes it a top adventure destination will be featured in the October issue of Blue Ridge Outdoors. This is the eighth year the magazine has held the contest and Johnson City received more than 50,000 votes in a six-week period to take the top spot. The magazine has previously profiled Johnson City, touting destinations such as Buffalo Mountain, fishing the Holston River, the Tweetsie Trail, and local restaurants and shopping destinations.

LAWRENCEBURG

Craig Manufacturing Ltd., will establish its first U.S. manufacturing facility in Lawrenceburg, investing nearly \$64 million and creating approximately 80 jobs in the next five years. A third-generation, family-owned business, the company will locate operations in the 60,000-square-foot spec building in Team Lawrence Commerce Park, a Select Tennessee Certified Site. The company will add approximately 7,500 square feet of office space for its U.S. corporate offices. Craig Manufacturing anticipates its Lawrence County facility will be fully operational in the second quarter of 2019. Founded in 1946, Craig Manufacturing produces steel attachments for heavy construction, forestry, mining, energy and utility equipment. Headquartered in New Brunswick, Canada, Craig Manufacturing also has operations in Alberta and Ontario. The company supplies directly to original equipment manufacturers and their regional dealer networks.

KNOXVILLE

The city of Knoxville has received a Transportation Alternative Grant of approximately \$1.86 million for the second phase of its North-

The entire Oak Ridge reservation, including ORNL, the Y-12 National Security Complex and the East Tennessee Technology Park, will receive more than \$4.5 billion in the new federal spending package – up from the annual \$3 billion the area normally receives. U.S. Rep. Chuck Fleischmann says Oak Ridge National Laboratory and nearby federal facilities will receive the highest dollar amount ever from new legislation that also aids Chattanooga. The legislation was recently signed into law and includes \$117.7 million for continued construction of the new Chickamauga Lock in Chattanooga, Fleischmann said. The spending package includes \$703 million for ongoing construction of the Uranium Processing Facility (UPF) in Oak Ridge and \$200 million for the Oak Ridge Leadership Computing Facility, an increase of \$37.5 million above last year. UPF will employ more than 2,000 workers on site when construction peaks in a few years to build a more modern location to enrich materials used in America's nuclear arsenal.

TOWNSEND

The Townsend City Commission has awarded the contract for construction of a long-anticipated new city hall and community center complex. Sevierville-based Custom Crafted Construction received the winning bid of \$820,255. The company also recently completed construction of a city maintenance building that came in some \$160,000 lower than other contractors' bids. The new facility will be approximately 4,500 square feet, housing city offices, a meeting room, police facilities, a 100-seat auditorium, and community spaces on a property adjacent to an existing community center. The city purchased the 2.37-acre property on Tiger Drive between the current municipal center and Lamar Alexander Parkway in 2003.

The Bristol Office of Community Relations was honored by the City-County Communications and Marketing Association with the Silver Circle Award, the second highest honor possible, in the One-Time Special Event category for cities with populations under 100,000. The award recognized the efforts of Community Relations staff in debuting the City's new brand platform in June of 2017 with a full day of events culminating in Bristol's Biggest Block Party.

Manchester unveils new murals at greenway, parks



New murals are coming to the Little Duck River Greenway in Manchester, including these recently unveiled works under the North Woodland Street Bridge heading into Rotary Park. The mural depicts an American eel winding itself through the cement supports of the bridge and was painted by Miami-based artist Ivan Roque at no cost to the city. Other murals added to the city include a dragonfly painted by a local Central High School graduate and a lamppost base to be painted by a 14-year-old script artist.

Amid legal wrangling, scooter-shares are coming to cities big and small

SCOOTERS *from Page 1* various locations, these scooters are typically "dockless," meaning they can be picked up and dropped off from arbitrary locations in the service area. Users find a scooter using smart phone apps and then use the same app to notify the company when they are finished using the scooter.

The scooters are then picked up by "chargers" who are paid by the company to recharge the scooters and return them. This has led to many cities citing scooter-share companies for health and safety violations as scooters are often left on sidewalks, rights-of-way, and other unsafe places by users.

Costonis said Nashville found itself in a similar situation.

"We negotiated with them for a month, had the scooters impounded by Public Works, and then ultimately we filed a lawsuit," she said. "Eventually, they did agree to voluntarily remove the scooters from the streets in exchange for promises we would work on a regulatory scheme or ordinance to allow them to operate."

Like Nashville, other cities have taken to impounding scooters or temporarily banning them. Some have filed criminal complaints and civil lawsuits against companies providing the service, citing both municipal and state laws.

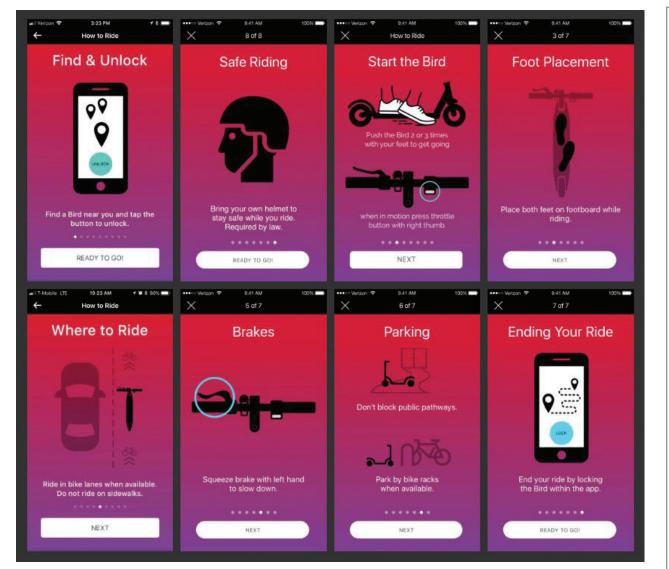
Officials in several municipalities have expressed frustrations at being behind the eight-ball in knowing how to legislate and regulate the emerging kick scooter industry as well as what they feel is a lack of communication and partnership with some kick scooter companies.

Personal injury lawyers are already getting in on the game, advertising that they handle scooter-related claims both for users who have crashed due to malfunctioning scooters and pedestrians that have tripped over scooters left abandoned on sidewalks.

However, proponents of these scooters have fired back alleging it's not the scooters themselves that are the problem but that cities aren't providing enough space for pedestrians, bicycles, and other types of alternative transportation.

They also cite the desire to decrease congestion as well as the fact that many scooter companies provide resources for low-income residents who might not otherwise be able to afford transportation as reasons why the scooters should be permitted.

Costonis said that Metro had to balance the public safety issues raised by kick scooters and the desire for tourists and locals to use the service. She said city officials consulted with the state before crafting an ordinance.



Scooter sharing services like Bird and Lime are app based and allow users to pick up and drop off scooters wherever they are when they need to use them. Other users can make money by charging the scooters for future use. However, much of what makes the service convenient for users can cause a headache for city leaders.

"There was some involvement from the state, but it was more guidance than anything legally binding. Two Nashville city councilmembers communicated with state officials at the Department of Safety," she said. "The Department of Safety had an interpretation of a much older ordinance that related to horses not being able to cross sidewalks in certain areas. Based on that, the state's opinion was that these vehicles couldn't be on the sidewalk. TDOT came to a different conclusion because there have been subsequent state laws enacted that allowed vehicles on sidewalks. After talking to the Department of Safety, TDOT felt it was at the local government level to determine if these vehicles can operate on the sidewalk or not."

Meetings were held with city officials, community stakeholders, company officials, and members of alternative transportation groups like Walk Bike Nashville to craft the legislation surrounding kick scooters ultimately passed by the advocates felt that would discourage use of the scooters, ultimately discouraging people from using alternative transportation. Scooter users must be 18 or older and have a valid driver's license.

"We said the scooters must be operated off the sidewalk in business districts, and we used the TCA definition of business districts," Costonis said. "Most of downtown Nashville meets that definition. We also put a lot of generic failsafe language in our ordinance to help us address anything that might turn out to be a problem."

The ordinance also restricts the parking of the scooters on certain areas of sidewalks, bus shelters, public benches, bike lines, bus lanes, loading zones, entryways, driveways, and several other locations.

"We put the burden on the scooter companies that they have to educate their patrons on where they can and cannot ride," she said. "We also put the burden on the companies. Not everybody is compliant, however. If the violations continue, the company's permit is subject to revocation. If the police want to cite riders for violating general traffic laws, they can. Parking violations are assessed to the company. In addition to that, police can take enforcement action against anyone violating a rule of the road. Police and public works crews have the ability to remove any scooters they think are a safety impediment. We also said that if the company releases the users from liability they needed to release the city from liability as well."

Costonis said two of the biggest issues with the company ended up being over how many scooters could be operating in the city at one time and permitting for scooters. Companies were permitted to operate 500 vehicles in their first month in the city and 1,000 afterwards.

If the company wants to operate more vehicles, they have to contact city officials and prove there are enough users to justify the need as well as prove they are operating in good standing. Companies also have to renew operating permits yearly.

Despite the rocky start, there is hope the services will have a posi-

Jefferson City sees start of scooter craze

Bigger cities like Nashville, Knoxville, and Memphis aren't the only ones having to contend with the arrival of kick scooters.

Kick scooter company Bird partnered with Carson Newman University to ask the Jefferson City Commission to vote in favor of a hiatus on the town's motorized scooter ban so a pilot program could be launched for the scooters on the campus of Carson-Newman University.

John B. Johnson, city manager with Jefferson City, said the scooters would only operate on the college's campus - which includes a few city-owned streets - for a pilot period of the remainder of this semester and the spring semester. The university would also receive some proceeds from Bird.

"The university says their portion of revenues will be between \$30,000 and \$36,000, and will be used to upgrade sidewalks, crosswalks, and walkways on the campus," he said. "They anticipate putting about 75 units on campus."

Johnson said city officials are "cautiously optimistic" about the program and have begun drafting an ordinance regarding the program to be voted on at a later date.

With a population of around 8,335, Jefferson City wouldn't be the smallest city in the country to have kick scooter companies operating within its limits, but it would be the smallest in the state so far.

Kick scooter companies often turn to smaller communities with colleges or big tourist populations to begin introducing their scooters after launching in larger cities.

when and where people are using these types of vehicles. There is also the alternative transportation aspect."

Scooter-sharing services are continuing to rollout in cities across Tennessee. Kick scooters launched in Memphis in June after much conversation with city officials. The city of Memphis passed legislation regarding the scooters around the same time, entering into an interim operating agreement with the company. Knoxville city officials have put a moratorium on the use of the scooters until February so regulations and policies can be developed.

Nashville City Council in August.

Nashville officials ultimately decided not to require helmets because helmets were not required for bicycles and transportation tive impact.

"I know that our planning people were excited about the data-sharing aspect of the service," she said. "It gives them data about

THRIVE Regional Partnerships optimize community development opportunities, inspires growth from within, enhances regional connectivity

Four cities successfully complete 2018 community accelerator program - Athens, Decatur, Whitwell, and Fort Oglethorpe, Ga.

THRIVE from Page 1

paredness, community culture (the arts), and natural resources are symbiotic. In the perfect world we strive for, they all exist together and mutually benefit each other. After all, businesses are attracted to places that will offer their employees and families recreational space outside of the office, and cultural assets that they can take pride in. That often-remarked "sense of place" is becoming increasingly more important for businesses as they continue to attract talent of emerging generations.

With that matrix in mind, the Thriving Communities program equips active, imaginative citizens with the professional development and community coaching they need to catalyze a strategy in creative placemaking, ultimately nurturing a community model which generates "growth from within."

By turning a vacant lot in a downtown setting to a concert venue, for example, a town can create a third place, a "living room" where residents and visitors can gather in the spirit of community. It is assets such as this that not only attract businesses, and relocating families, but, ideally, the children who grow up in these communities who may ultimately want to return and contribute to their home base.

The Thriving Communities program excels in its emphasis on experimental testing of placemaking strategies, which allows the teams to "fail early to succeed sooner." The participants are able to galvanize supporters and key partners early in the process, and test low-budget versions of their strategy three times to see what works and what could be improved.

After nine months, they have a veritable strategy in place, with real evaluative data and feedback from their communities, to pitch to prospective funders. Even if they do not receive funding, Thrive has made a major investment in their professional development skills and community vibrancy strategy that is something that they can finetune and iterate for future sponsor opportunities. Rob Bradham, president and CEO of the Greater Dalton Chamber of Commerce, described the Thriving Communities program as having "changed the psychology" of Dalton, Ga.

At the end of the program, each participant has experienced a thought-shift that opens a whole new set of values, ideas, and goals for their community. They become visionaries.

According to Susan Jarrett from Whitwell, "The Thriving Communities process has been about finding an identity. It was always there, but we needed to make the intangible tangible. We needed to find our voice, and Thrive has given us the platform to stand up and say, 'This is who we are. This is where we want to go next.""

This program has graduated 12 communities in the past two years. The four 2018 Thriving Communi-

ties engaged more than 200 volunteers, worked with 75 partners, and generated \$101,255 in monetary and in-kind contributions.

In addition, there has been a total of \$82,000 granted to the first round of communities from the Lyndhurst Foundation through an application process. The round two applicants are now eligible to apply for and potentially receive a grant up to \$20,000. I'm not sure about your community, but most communities would love to have a group of citizens working toward creating creative placemaking spaces and have some seed money given toward the space.

So, what are you doing in your community to improve it? Do you have citizens with different talents who could step up and gift their ideas to you? Have you asked? Perhaps you could see great changes in your community if you do, and especially if you work together with other communities to set a vision and work together. Who would want to have educated people with good jobs living in a great place?

I firmly believe that the best communities start with planning and that planning starts with listening to your residents. I hope you will consider how you can benefit your citizens most by working with communities around you. After all, we need each other to succeed.

To learn more about the Thrive Regional Partnerhisp, go to <u>www.</u> <u>thriveregionalpartnership.org/</u>



Thriving Communities is a 10-month community accelerator program designed to support cities to "grow from within." The program engages local citizens and provides them with leadership coaching, tools, and inspiration to leverage cultural assets that enhance economic vibrancy and growth in their cities and towns across the tri-state, 16-county Chattanooga region.





PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Tony Peek

will be leav-

ing his post

as the di-

rector of the

Cookeville

Electric De-

partment af-

ter 44 years

with the city.

Tony Peek

Cookeville announced he intends

to retire from the department in

February 2019, at which time he

will have worked for the city for

45 years. Peek began working for

the department on the line crew

when he was 22 years old. He was

drafted in the U.S. Army in 1972

and served at Fort Bliss in El Paso,

Texas, before returning back to the

area in 1974. He rejoined the city

electric department again on the

line crew before he began moving

up the ranks. Eventually, he served

with the engineering department,

as the engineering department

director, and was selected as the

director of the entire electric de-

for the department, Smith has been

partment in 1988.

Robin

Smith has

been select-

ed as the

new chief

of police for

the city of

Oak Ridge.

Formerly

deputy chief

Katie Ashley, director oflegislation for Gov. Bill Haslam, has announced she will leave the administration on Nov. 9 to



return to the private sector. Ashley will be taking a position as a senior advisor for government affairs and economic development at the Nashville offices of Alabama-based law firm Bradley Arant Boult Cummings. Ashley began working on Haslam's 2010 gubernatorial campaign and has been part of the governor's legislative team for eight years, rising through the ranks to the position of chief legislative advisor in 2017. Prior to her work with Halsam, Ashley was a constituent relations manager for Sen. Lamar Alexander. She is a graduate of the University of Tennessee - Martin with a bachelor's degree in university studies emphasizing political science.

Tim Beavers has been selected as the new director of the Bristol Department of Development Ser-

vices after



Tim Beavers

the city of Bristol restructured its public works and community development departments into a single department. Beavers had been serving as the interim community development director. In his new role, he will lead the planning, engineering, codes enforcement and building inspection, public services, utilities, and the metropolitan planning organization departments for the city. Beavers has been employed with the city of Bristol for 27 years, beginning as a civil engineer and serving as the city's public works director from 2013 until earlier this year. He holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Virginia Tech.

Ruby Luckev Fielden, the first female mayor of Kingston and a

died Sept. 24

at the age of



in 1991, she remarried Gordon Fielden in 1997. Fielden also went on to earn degrees from Roane State Community College and UT-Knoxville.

Carl Haney

has been selected as the new director of the Cookeville Electric Department, and will take over the po-



Carl Haney

sition after the retirement of current director Tony Peek retires in February. Haney will be only the fifth person to help the city's electric department, which was founded in 1903. Presently, he is employed with the department as an operation superintendent, a position he has held for nine years. He began his career with the Cookeville Electric Department in 1994.

Shane Horn

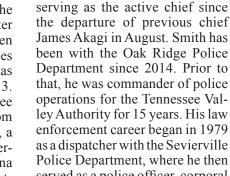


city administrator for Adrian, Mich., for more than four years. Horn began his career with the city of Adrian in 1997 as a water plant superintendent and was then promoted to director of utilities in 2007 before being selected as the city administrator in 2013. He holds an associate's degree in water quality technology from Lake Superior State University, a bachelor's degree in public service administration from Siena Heights University, and is currently pursuing a master's of public administration from Villanova University.

Angie Marshall, city clerk for the city of Kingsport, has been se-

lected as the new president of the Angie Marshall

Tennessee Association of Municipal Clerks and Recorders (TAMCAR). She was secretary of the organization in 2010, the same year she came to work for the city of Kingsport. Marshall began her career as a records clerk for the Johnson City Police Department in 1996, moving into the role of public safety officer in 1998. She also served as a police officer and dispatcher for the Oak Ridge Police Department for a year and a half beginning in 2005. She then became a records specialist and crime analyst for the department in 2006. Marshall holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and corrections and a master's in public administration, both from East Tennessee State University.



Collaborative on Reforming



Robin Smith

Jamie Woodson

Education (SCORE), has been appointed by Gov. Bill Haslam to serve on the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees. SCORE is a nonprofit organization focused on improving student success in K-12 education throughout Tennessee. Before coming to work with SCORE, Woodson was elected to the Tennessee General Assembly representing House District 17 from 1998 to 2004 and then Senate District 6 from 2004 until 2011. During her time with the General Assembly, Woodson served as chair of the Senate Education Committee, secretary of the Senate Republican Caucus, as well as speaker pro tempore. She holds a bachelor's degree and law degree from the University of Tennessee Knoxville.

Norris confirmed as federal district judge

Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris has been confirmed as the U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee.

Norris has been a member of Nashville-based Adams and Reese LLP since 2006 and has served as the Senate Majority Leader since 2007, the longest-serving senate majority leader in state history. Norris was elected to represent the state's 32nd Senate District in 2000. Prior to that, he served for six years as a Shelby County Commissioner.

"I am honored to receive the U.S. Senate's confirmation to continue my public service as a federal judge," Norris said. "While I will miss working with my clients and colleagues at Adams and Reese and in the Tennessee Senate, I look forward to this next chapter to serve our nation and the legal profession. I thank President Trump, Sens. Alexander and Corker, my fellow state senators, and my friends in the legal community for their support. Most of all, I would like to thank the citizens of the 32nd District for the exceptional privilege of serving as their senator for almost 20 years."

Norris holds a bachelor's degree in political science from



Mark Norris

Colorado College and earned his law degree from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law in 1980.

In addition to Norris, the Senate also confirmed Eli J. Richardson to serve as the U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee.

A former U.S. Attorney and FBI agent, Richardson's most recently position is with Nashville firm Bass, Berry & Sims. He graduated from Vanderbilt Law School in 1992 and was admitted to the Tennessee Bar in 2004.

Tullahomaadoptsstorm ravaged communities

DONATIONS on Page 4

off like the top of soda cans.

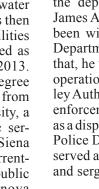
Problems didn't cease following the end of the storm. Much of the floodwaters in the area were polluted due to a lack of regulations regarding animal waste disposal and more than 42,000 gallons of wastewater spilling into the local river as a result of the hurricane. The stagnant waters after flooding attracted mosquitos. Many homes and businesses were devastated with millions of dollars in damage to local schools, many of which remained closed well into October. Even Swansboro's town hall wasn't spared from the storm.

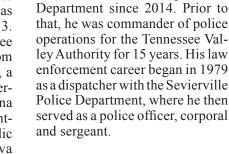
"We had major water penetration through the roof," Town Manager Scott Chase told the Jacksonville Daily News. "We're working aggressively to start fixing things, but we're open for business.'

After hearing about the devastation, Hovater called Tullahoma C.D. Stamps Community Center to be collected and then sent to Swansboro.

"I know for a fact the people of Tullahoma are very generous and willing to help others in need," Curlee said. "This goes to show the power of one person taking the initiative and doing something. I appreciate Ms. Guilliams' suggestion we help this small community.'

When Hurricane Michael ripped through Florida not even a month later, residents of Tullahoma also answered the call to help the small city of Blountstown. With a population of around 2,500, much of Blountstown was completely destroyed by the hurricane but didn't start receiving any sort of federal aid until a week after the storms hit. Some 150 locals rode out the storm and its aftermath in a local library where local librarians provided food and a generator. Downed electric and cell towers meant residents could not contact anyone outside of the town for days. The Tullahoma Utilities Authority has already sent three linemen down to the town to help with repairs and get the community's electrical system back online. The community is also again collecting supplies to be sent to residents of Blountstown. "I am confident the citizens of Tullahoma will respond just as enthusiastically to help Blountstown as we did Swansboro last month," Curlee said. "It would be great if Tullahoma earned the reputation of always helping communities in need."







Fielden

Ruby Luckey

94 in Nashville. A native of Trenton, Fielden moved to Kingston with her first husband, Bob Luckey, after he was assigned to work at the Kingston TVA steam plant. An office worker at local high schools, she ran for the Kingston City Council and eventually served as the city's first female mayor in the 1980s. During her tenure, she advocated civic projects like senior housing, building new walking trails, and organizing committees for the 1982 World's Fair. After her husband Bob died

Mayor Lane Curlee to see if there was something the city could do. Curlee, in turn, called Mayor Davis in Swansboro.

"When I called Mayor Davis he answered his cell phone on the first ring and sounded very tired and overwhelmed," Curlee said. "When I told him the people of Tullahoma wanted to 'adopt' Swansboro, he was very appreciative. He said he had received only one other call offering help and was working on a list of items his citizens would need once the electricity comes back on. Within the hour he texted me his list of needs."

Tullahoma citizens were encouraged to drop off donated items at Tullahoma fire stations, the D.W. Wilson Community Center, or



STATE BRIEFS

Enrollment in Tennessee's community colleges has increased this fall. Preliminary data presented to the Tennessee Board of Regents shows enrollment in the state's 13 community colleges is up 1.3 percent compared with the official fall 2017 enrollment count. Total enrollment for the fall semester is about 88,300 students. Enrollment in community colleges has increased nearly 17 percent in the last 25 years. The board has attributed this most recent enrollment increase to the new Tennessee Reconnect program.

Tennessee's graduation rate held steady year-over-year at 89.1 percent. More than 56 percent of school districts in the state saw their high school graduation rates improve compared to last year's data. Tennessee calculates graduation rates by the number of students

September revenues exceeds estimates

Tennessee revenues exceeded budgeted estimates for September, which is the second month of the state's fiscal year. Finance and Administration Commissioner Larry Martin reported that overall September revenues were \$1.4 billion, which is \$63.4 million more than September of last year and \$53.3 million more than the budgeted estimate. The growth rate for September was 4.66 percent.

On an accrual basis, September is the second month in the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

For September, general fund revenues exceeded the budgeted estimates in the amount of \$64.2 million and the four other funds that share in state tax revenues were less than the budgeted estimate by \$10.9 million.

Sales tax revenues were \$40.4 million more than the estimate for September. The September growth rate was positive 7.23 percent. Year-to-date revenues are 6.67 percent more than this time last year.

Franchise and excise taxes combined were \$2.9 million more than the September budgeted estimate of \$397.8 million. The September growth rate was negative 0.49 percent, and on a year-to-date basis 0.01 percent.

Gasoline and motor fuel revenues for September increased by 3.09 percent and were \$1.9 million more than the budgeted estimate of \$101.7 million. Motor Vehicle Registration revenues were \$1.5 million more than the September estimate, and on a year-to-date basis exceed estimates by \$13.3 million. Tobacco tax revenues for the month were \$600,000 less than the budgeted estimate of \$21.5 million. The growth rate for September was negative 1.01 percent. Privilege tax revenues were \$4.1 million more than the budgeted estimate of \$27.3 million. Business Tax receipts were \$2.1 million more than the budgeted estimate for September.Hall income tax revenues for September were \$1.2 million less than the budgeted estimate. For two months revenues are \$1.1 million less than the budgeted estimate. Gross receipts, excluding TVA tax payments, were \$1.3 million more than the budgeted estimate of \$200,000 for September.

who graduate in four years plus a summer semester. The state put higher graduation rate standards into practice in 2011. Graduation rates have slowly risen since then with 89.1 percent being the highest on record in both 2017 and 2018.

Tennessee State Parks and Tennessee Brew Works have raised more than \$7,000 for the Tennessee State Parks Conservancy in the first year of the State Park Blonde Ale partnership. Tennessee Brew Works has dedicated 50 cents to the Tennessee State Parks Conservancy for every case of State Park Blonde Ale sold. Funds also come from pledges by participating distributors including: DET Distributing in Nashville and Jackson; Eagle Distributing in Knoxville; AS Barboro Distributing in Memphis; Ajax Distributing in Clarksville; and L&H Distributing in Tullahoma. An effort is underway to increase the number of participating Tennessee distributors in 2019. The Tennessee State Parks Conservancy will use the funds to support the preservation and protection of natural resources within Tennessee's 56 state parks system. The signature State Park Blonde Ale label features Tennessee State Parks' Randy Hedgepath, who's been the state naturalist for more than 30 years. The beer is sold with the support of many major retailers, restaurants and bars throughout the state.

National Park Service, Southeast Development District to develop Sequatchie River walk trail



A National Park Service program will help officials develop ideas and plans for a water trail on the Sequatchie River. The 116-mile-long river bisects its pastoral namesake, the Sequatchie Valley, between Brady Mountain in Cumberland County southward to the Tennessee River near Jasper. Popular with canoeing and kayaking enthusiasts already, the river largely runs through private or inaccessible lands. The National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program will now be assisting the Southeast Tennessee Development District, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, and local governments near the river to introduce a blueway or water trail to promote both outdoor activity in the river and the economic opportunities outdoor recreation can bring. The project will try to identify potential water access sites, promote water recreation, develop marketing strategies, and showcase the communities of the Sequatchie Valley.

TRPA announces 2018 annual award winners

The Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association (TRPA) has announced the recipients of the association's 2018 Awards Program.

The outstanding achievements of these individuals, communities, and organizations were acknowledged during the association's 67th Annual Conference in Knoxville.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

The Distinguished Young Professional Award was presented to Lauren Cox of Farragut Parks and Leisure Services for her outstanding service to the Parks and Recreation profession and her community.

The Fellow Award is the highest award the association can confer on an individual and recognizes professional members who have made outstanding contributions to the recreation field throughout their career. This year's recipient is Marlane Sewell of Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation. The Longfellow Award is presented by the Programming and Recreation Branch each year to an individual for outstanding programming or accomplishments in Aquatics. The recipient is Sheila Rico of Tullahoma Parks and **Recreation.** The Wellness Award is presented by the Programming & Recreation Branch each year to an individual who focuses on physical activity, fitness and wellness programs, policies, and activities. The recipient is Jacob Cave of Pigeon Forge Parks and Recreation. The Dennis Rainier Award is presented by the Athletics Branch each year to an individual to recognize personnel who have demonstrated excellence in athletic planning and programming. The recipient is Mike Philpott of Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation.

The Wayne Hansard Award is presented by the Municipal County Interest Section and recognizes the personnel who have demonstrated excellence in the maintenance of parks, facilities, and/or grounds. The recipient is Jason Waller of Manchester Parks and Recreation

The Robert Horsley Award is presented by the Municipal County Interest Section and recognizes community center personnel, who have planned, conducted or was responsible for the most outstanding community center program during the year. The recipient is Lindsey Magness of Metro Nashville **Parks and Recreation**

The Maynard Glenn Award is presented by the Municipal County Section and recognizes personnel or specialists who have planned, conducted or were responsible for the most outstanding recreation program of the year. The recipient is Pam Williams of Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation. Award of Excellence is presented by the Facilities and Parks Branch to one individual that has demonstrated outstanding achievement in the field of resource management. The recipient is J.P. Kraft of Tullahoma Parks and **Recreation.** The Arts Award is presented by the Programming and Recreation Branch to an individual that has demonstrated innovation and creativity and to inspire others to develop similar programs. The recipient is Lyle Russell of Tullahoma Parks and Recreation. The Marketing Award is presented by the Programming and Recreation Branch to an individual



that has demonstrated innovation and creativity and to inspire others to develop similar programs. The recipient is Dave Anderson of

partment of Community Relations took home the public relations award for The Nature Center at Steele Creek Park's "Steele Creek Explorer." Metro Nashville Parks and Recreation took home the award for a renovated facility with a budget of \$500,000 or less for the Fannie Mae Dees "Dragon" Park. Collierville Parks, Recreation, and Community Services took home the renovated facility with a budget more than \$500,000 award for the Linda Kerley Recreation Center. Knoxville Parks and Recreation took home the award for a new facility with a budget of \$500,000 or less for the Mary Vestal Greenway Extension. Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation took home the new facility award for projects with a budget of more than \$500,000 for its Miracle Field. President's Cup recognizes agencies that have provided exemplary service to TRPA through attendance at state conferences, workshops, membership, staff writing for publications or serving on boards and committees. Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation took home the Category I award for population 100,000 and over, Farragut Parks and Leisure Services for the Category IV for population of 10,000 to 19,999, and Pigeon Forge Parks and Recreation took the award for Category V awards for population 5,000 to 9,999. The Donald H Stanton Award is presented by the Ethnic Minority Interest Section to the community center determined to have the best overall programs. The recipient is Lester Community Center of Memphis Parks and Neighborhoods.

Pigeon Forge Parks and Recreation.

The Special Events Award is presented by the Programming & Recreation Branch to an individual that has demonstrated innovation and creativity and to inspire others to develop similar programs. The recipient is Vonchelle Stembridge of Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

The Four Star Awards recognize excellence and community impact by agencies. These categories include innovative programs, public relations, renovated facilities, and new facilities.

Metro Nashville Parks and Recreation took home the innovative program award for CRAFT Basketball and Enrichment.

The city Bristol Parks and Recreation Department and De-

> Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association is the leading nonprofit organization for parks and recreation in Tennessee with more than 1,400 members united to strengthen those committed to the benefits of parks and recreation by supporting highly effective professionals to achieve healthy, livable communities.



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BUILDING INSPECTOR -ELECTRICAL.

COLLIERVILLE. The town of Collierville has an immediate opening for building inspector (electrical). 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 DOO with excellent benefits package. To apply for this position, you must submit an original town of Collierville application. Applications are available to download at www.collierville.com, or you may obtain one from our Human Resources Office located at 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN, 38017, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Completed applications must be submitted either by mail or in person to the above address.

CITY CLERK.

BROWNSVILLE. The city of Brownsville is seeking applications for a city clerk. The position is responsible for the financial activities of the city related to budgeting, accounting, purchasing, tax collections, etc. They are also responsible for a broad range of administrative and support-related functions such as human resources management. The city clerk must be able to record minutes and maintain records of the proceedings of the governing body and other meetings. They also need extensive education or background in accounting, budgeting, and reconciliation of bank statements; must be knowledgeable in preparing and overseeing annual budgets. The city clerk is responsible for issuance of licenses and maintaining records related to such; must have extensive knowledge of the principles and practices of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and modern municipal accounting, budgeting and finance; a bachelor of business administration in accounting, finance, or closely related field required; a master's degree is a plus, but not required: a CPA and/or Certified Municipal Finance Officer designation is highly preferred. Experience must include five to seven years of progressively responsible managerial positions in accounting and financial management along with prior municipal experience and a letter of recommendation from a reputable CPA/auditing firm is a plus. The city clerk must operate an office computer and a variety of word processing and other software applications; operate a variety of records management systems, including Local Government Corporation Software. The salary is a minimum of \$55,000 per year depending on professional experience and qualifications with a benefits package. Interested applicants should email a cover letter and résumé (showing years and months of current and prior employment dates) and six work-related references to: contact us@brownsvilletn.gov by Nov. 28. For additional information, visit www. brownsvilletn.gov. EOE.

responsibilities include planning, coordinating and directing all aspects of department operations; responding to and directing major emergencies; developing departmental budget and controlling expenditures; and supervising assigned employees. Job qualifications include a high school diploma; associates degree in fire science or related field is preferred. Must be at least 21 years of age. Must have 10 years of experience of a wide and progressively responsible nature in Emergency Services; must have four years of experience in fire operations, administration and supervision at a command level. Must be knowledgeable of federal, state and local laws, codes and regulations including the International Fire Code and ISO requirements. Experience to include knowledge of incident command theory. Must possess a working knowledge of Fire CAD/RMS and P25 Communications operations and standards. Must have Tennessee State Fire Officer II Certification or equivalent, as well as Tennessee State EMT Certification. Must possess a driver license valid in the state of Tennessee and maintenance of the same as a condition of continued employment. Visit the city's website, www.lavergnetn. gov, to review the job posting and complete an online employment application for consideration for this position. EOE / drug-free workplace. All candidates must pass a physical exam and a drug screen before starting the job.

FIREFIGHTER

COLLIERVILLE. The town of Collierville has an opening for a firefighter. This position is to perform entry level firefighting and basic level emergency medical assistance work in combating, extinguishing, and preventing fires, and in responding to medical emergencies that is designed to help the town's fire department respond effectively to fires, medical emergencies, natural disasters, and man-made emergency situations. Must possess High School diploma or GED with course concentration in the physical sciences or industrial arts; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience, which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Must possess and maintain Firefighter I Certification as issued by the Tennessee Commission on Firefighter Standards and Education; Firefighter II Certification preferred. Must possess and maintain advanced EMT license as issued by the Tennessee Department of Health and Environment. Must possess and maintain valid driver's license with appropriate endorsements as issued by the state of residency. Must successfully pass the town of Collierville pre-employment verification and the state of Tennessee advanced emergency medical technician requirements. Must not have been convicted of a felony. Must not have been convicted of a Class A or Class B misdemeanor within 36 months of hire. Veterans must possess an 'honorable' discharge from any military service. Must establish and maintain their actual bona fide residence east of the Mississippi River within a distance no greater than 30 miles from the town's corporate limits. Town of Collierville employees must not be on any departmental disciplinary probation. Must be 21 years of age at time of hire. Must attach copies of current certifications and licenses with your application. Applicants must meet 'minimum entry requirements' that are listed separately in each application packet. Valid motor vehicle operator's license (to drive fire apparatus) at the time of hire. Salary is \$36,374 annually with excellent benefits package. To apply, you must submit a special firefighter application. Firefighter applications are available to download at www.collierville.com or you may obtain one from our Human Resources Office located at 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN, 38017, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Completed applications must be submitted either by mail or in person to the above address. EOE. **FIREFIGHTER/ PARAMEDIC** COLLIERVILLE. The town of Collierville has an opening for a firefighter/paramedic. The purpose of this classification is to perform entry level firefighting and advanced level pre-hospital emergency medical assistance work in combating, extinguishing, and preventing fires, and in responding to medical emergencies that is designed to help the town's fire department respond effectively to fires, medical emergencies, natural disasters, and man-made emergency situations. Any equivalent combination of the following which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. High school diploma or GED with course concentration in the physical sciences or industrial arts. Possess and maintain FFI, FFII preferred, as issued by the Tennessee Commission on Firefighter Standards and Education. Must successfully pass the town of Collierville pre-employment verification and the state of Tennessee paramedic requirements. Must not have been convicted of a felony. Must not have been convicted of a Class A or Class B misdemeanor within 36 months of hire. Veterans must possess an 'honorable' discharge from any military service. Must establish and maintain their actual bona fide residence east of the Mississippi River within a distance no greater than 30 miles from the town's corporate limits. Collierville employees must not be on any departmental disciplinary probation. Must be 21 years of age at time of hire. Possess and maintain valid driver's license with appropriate endorsements as issued by the state of residency. Must possess and maintain paramedic license as issued by the Tennessee Department of Health and Environment. Salary is \$42,911 annually with excellent benefits package. To apply for this position, you must submit a special firefighter application, which are available to download at www.collierville.com, or you may obtain one from our Human Resources Office located at 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN, 38017, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Completed applications must be submitted either by mail or in person to the above address.

firefighters, eight part-time associate firefighters and a various number of volunteers. Candidates must have strong leadership and managerial skills combined with excellent interpersonal and communication skills. A proven successful record of experience in supervisory, administrative and command assignments is required. Minimum qualifications and experience include a high school education and at least five years' experience in a senior position in fire prevention, suppression, investigation or related area with administrative experience. Preference will be given to candidates with a college degree in fire science, emergency management or related field. Combinations of education and experience will be considered. Candidates must have demonstrated experience and skills within the following critical areas: Operational management, emergency management, incident command, budgeting, team building, interagency support, interpersonal skills, and specifically, a desire and duty to ethically serve the residents, businesses and visitors of the city of Savannah. Interested applicants should submit a resume and completed job application, which may be obtained from the city website, www. cityofsavannah.com, to Bobbie Matlock/ Human Resources at City of Savannah. 140 Main Street, Savannah, TN 38372 or e-mail at bmat lock@cityofsavannah.org . Applications will be accepted until Nov. 15. EOE.

HEAVY EOUIPMENT OPERATOR

COLLIERVILLE. The town of Collierville has an immediate opening for a heavy equipment operator. This position involves operating track or rubber-tired construction equipment with specialized functions related to maintenance and construction activities where the operation of complex mechanisms requires the highest degree of skill, dexterity, and finesse, and where work is performed to exacting tolerances. Operation of included equipment is the primary function of the job. Must possess High school diploma or GED; supplemented by vocational/technical training in heavy equipment operation, vehicle operation, and work in area of assignment; supplemented by three years' previous experience and/or training involving heavy equipment operation, vehicle operation, and work in area of assignment; or an equivalent combination of training or experience. Must possess a valid commercial driver's license, Class A or B. Salary is \$30,899 - \$36,928, depending on qualifications, with excellent benefits package. To apply for this position, you must submit an original town of Collierville application. Applications are available to download at www.collierville.com or you may obtain one from our Human Resources Office located at 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN, 38017, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Completed applications must be submitted either by mail or in person to the above address. EOE

INFRASTRUCTURE DIRECTOR

SPRING HILL. The city of Spring Hill is seeking a new infrastructure director. to plan, organize, direct the water and wastewater treatment plants; water distribution, sewer collection, MS4/stormwater, and streets/maintenance divisions Conducts studies, makes reports; prepares, presents and administers annual fiscal budget items related to above listed departments. Prepares/implements capital improvements program. Bachelor's degree in engineering required; TN PE licensure required. TNDL required. 10+ years' experience water or wastewater system maintenance or construction, hydraulic engineering, civil engineering or municipal engineering, of which some experience having been in an increasingly responsible administrative or supervisory capacity preferred, but not required. 80K-95K DOE. Applications/ resumes must be submitted online at: www. springhilltn.org/Jobs.aspx. Questions to staylor@springhilltn.org. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE. Applications will be considered on basis of qualifications, experience, and suitability for position without regards to race, color, religion, sex or national origin. The city of Spring Hill is an EEO/AA/Title VI Employer.

any equivalent combination of education,

training, and experience which provides the

requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for

this job. Must possess a valid Commercial

Driver's License (CDL) with class A or B

endorsement at the time of hire or within

six months of hire date. Salary is \$24,960

(DOQ) with excellent benefits package. You

must submit an original town of Collierville

application. Applications are available to

download at www.collierville.com, or you

may obtain one from our Human Resources

Office located at 500 Poplar View Parkway,

Collierville, TN, 38017, Monday-Friday, 8

a.m. - 5 p.m. Completed applications must

be submitted either by mail or in person to

the above address. We are unable to accept

LAKELAND. The city of Lakeland is

seeking qualified applicants for the posi-

tion of planning director. This employee

is responsible for a broad range of admin-

istrative and support services under the

general supervision of the city manager. The

planning director is primarily responsible

for planning, organizing and directing all

planning and land development for the city of

Lakeland. Duties include: advising and mak-

ing staff recommendations to city boards,

commissions and departments on planning

and land development issues including in-

terpretation, revision, implementation and

enforcement of regulations and ordinances

and the creation and implementation of

development and growth plans; directs

implementation of sign ordinance, zoning

ordinance, subdivision regulations, design

guidelines, comprehensive plan and related

plans and policies; provides strategic direc-

tion in short and long-range planning and

growth management; researches, prepares

and implements technical and operational

studies, reports and projects; supervises staff

with responsibility for employment-related

decisions or recommendations that include

hiring, disciplining, training, and evaluating

performance; develops and implements the

departmental operating budget and monitors

costs to maintain budget integrity; evaluates

and revises tracking procedures for devel-

opment projects; makes presentations to

boards, commissions, volunteers and other

community groups. Successful applicants

will possess the proven ability to maintain

effective working relationships with the

public, city officials, and other employees

and the ability to prepare and present

accurate reports to the governing body;

five to seven years of progressive planning

experience and a bachelor's degree with a

focus in Planning and American Institute

of Certified Planners (AICP) certification

required. Competitive salary and benefits

offered. For a complete job description,

COLLIERVILLE. The Town of Collierville

has an immediate opening for a plans exam-

iner. This position requires the performance

of highly professional, technical work

involving the examination of construction

documents for compliance with statutes.

codes, and ordinances. This position requires

an associate's degree with major course

work in building, engineering, architecture,

building construction or a related field;

and five years' experience in the building

construction industry or a related field: or

any equivalent combination of education,

training, and experience which provides the

requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for

this job. Must obtain plans review examiner

certification from the International Code

Council and the building inspector certifica-

tion issued by the State of Tennessee within

12 months of employment and maintain

please visit www.lakelandtn.gov/jobs

PLANS EXAMINER.

faxed or emailed applications. EOE.

PLANNING DIRECTOR

POLICE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT

JACKSON. The University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) seeks applications for a police management consultant. The position is located in the Jackson, Memphis, or Nashville office. The police management consultant provides professional advice, technical assistance and information on a wide range of police management issues to Tennessee municipal officials and their staffs. Examples include: consulting; facilitating strategic planning sessions; conducting staffing and organizational studies; making personnel recruitment and selection recommendations; and developing and instructing technical classes. Requires a bachelor's degree in criminal justice or in a related field. A master's degree in criminal justice or related field of study is preferred. Requires at least five years employment in state or local law enforcement as a police chief or senior administrative officer. Prefer experience in training needs analysis, lesson plan development, and presentation. Tennessee experience preferred. This position requires: practical knowledge of the problems faced by city officials; knowledge of state laws and accepted best practices in police procedures; ability to independently plan and process projects, questions, training; use of managerial, analytical, conceptual, and interpersonal skills on a daily basis in identifying a specific city's problem and providing the advice and assistance to solve the problem; ability to multi-task and prioritize when reacting to numerous and competing requests for assistance from agency customers; ability to work with very little direct supervision; and strong written and oral communications skills. This position reguires extensive travel with overnight stays to municipalities across the state to deliver on-site consultation and training. Salary is based on a combination of professional experience and qualifications. Applicants must apply electronically and attach a cover letter, resume and three references with contact information. To apply, go to https://ut.taleo.net/careersection/ut_system/jobdetail. ftl?job=18000001EI&tz=GMT-04%3A00. The University of Tennessee is an EEO/ AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ ADEA institution.

PUBLIC UTILITIES MANAGER

COLLIERVILLE. This position is highly responsible for administrative, and professional work in the direction, organization, and management of the town of Collierville's Public Utilities. Requires a bachelor's degree with major course work in civil engineering, environmental engineering or a closely related field; supplemented by six years progressively responsible experience in public utilities administrative functions, of which at least two must have been in a supervisory capacity; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Wastewater treatment, water treatment, water distribution and wastewater collection licenses as issued by the state of Tennessee are beneficial. Must possess and maintain a valid motor vehicle operator's license. Must be able to pass a work-related physical and drug test. Salary is DOQ with excellent benefits package. Must submit an official town of Collierville application, which are available to download at www.collierville.com or you may obtain one from our Human Resources Office located at 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN, 38017, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Completed applications must be submitted either by mail or in person to the above address. EOE.

FINANCE AND HUMAN **RESOURCES DIRECTOR**

LAKELAND. The city of Lakeland is seeking qualified applicants for the position of finance and human resources director. This employee is responsible for a broad range of administrative and support services -under the general supervision of the city manager. The finance and human resources director is primarily responsible for all financial, accounting and human resources operations for the city of Lakeland. Duties include: planning, organizing, and directing fiscal affairs including but not limited to the areas of accounting, operational and capital budgeting, financial reporting, revenue collection, and other financial activities; preparing and reviewing financial statements; reconciliation of accounts; preparation of annual state and federal reports; administering grant-funded programs; assisting with annual audit; administering insurance benefits; assisting in recruitment and training of employees; developing and maintaining personnel rules and regulations, personnel records and other personnel related duties. This employee is also responsible for the supervision and oversight of the centralized purchasing system, accounts payable, asset management, and payroll. Successful applicants will possess the proven ability to maintain effective working relationships with the public, city officials, and other employees and the ability to prepare and present accurate reports to the governing body; five to seven years of progressive experience in accounting, finance, and/ or human resources management; and a bachelor's degree with a focus in accounting or finance and/or CMFO designation (CPA preferred). Competitive salary and benefits offered. For more information and for a complete job description, please visit www. lakelandtn.gov/jobs

FIRE CHIEF

LA VERGNE. The city of La Vergne is accepting employment applications for a fire chief. Salary range is \$78,222.00 -\$90,639.00 annually. The purpose of this job is to perform administrative, managerial, technical and operational functions associated with overseeing activities of the Fire & Rescue Department. Duties and

FIRE CHIEF

SAVANNAH. The city of Savannah is seeking qualified candidates to fill the position of fire chief. The position will be responsible for leading a combination department comprised of six full-time

JAILER

 $COLLIERVILLE. \,The \,town \,of \,Collierville$ has an immediate opening for a jailer. This position performs a variety of routine and specialized public safety work in the care and custody of prisoners to maintain an order and discipline among the prisoners. High school diploma or GED; Incumbent must be a citizen of the United States of America. Incumbent must successfully complete basic jail training within six months of hire and successfully complete an in-service training program each year as prescribed by the Board of Control for the Tennessee Correctional Institute. Incumbent will be required to read, evaluate and classify fingerprints after having received an appropriate course of study in this field; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and/or experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Incumbent must have fingerprints on file with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, have passed a physical examination as performed by a licensed physician, have a good moral character as determined by investigation, be free from apparent mental disorders and certified by a qualified professional in the psychiatric or psychological field. Must be in compliance with TCA 41-4-144. Must possess a valid Motor Vehicle Operator's License at the time of hire.Salary is \$27,000 - \$45,125 (DOQ), with excellent benefits package. Must submit an original town of Collierville application, which are available to download at www.collierville.com, or you may obtain one from our Human Resources Office located at 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN, 38017, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Completed applications must be submitted either by mail or in person to the above address.

MAINTENANCE WORKER, SENIOR

COLLIERVILLE. The town of Collierville has an immediate opening for a senior maintenance worker. This is semi-skilled and unskilled manual work as part of a public works/utilities crew performing routine maintenance and construction tasks for various public works/utilities projects. This position requires a High school diploma or GED; supplemented by six months previous experience and/or training involving construction or maintenance work in area of assignment; or certification throughout employment. Must possess and maintain a valid motor vehicle operator's license. Must be able to pass a work related drug test. Salary is \$37,001 - \$44,220 annually (DOQ) with excellent benefits package. To apply for this position, you must submit an original town of Collierville application. Applications are available to download at www.collierville.com, or you may obtain one from our Human Resources Office located at 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN, 38017, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Completed applications must be submitted either by mail or in person to the above address. Position will remain open until filled. EOE.

POLICE CHIEF

RIPLEY. The city of Ripley (est. population 8,500) is seeking resumes for the position of chief of police. Under the general direction of the mayor and city governing body, the chief of police is responsible for planning. directing, implementing and evaluating the activities of the Police Department. Responsibilities include, but not limited to, recruitment and selection of personnel, succession planning, formulation of policies and procedures, and preparation of an annual budget. The ideal candidate must be P.O.S.T. certified and preferably, a graduate from a college or university with major course experience in police administration or related field: candidate must have five years of experience in law enforcement administration. Any equivalent combination of education and experience which provides the person with the knowledge and abilities required to perform the job may substitute for the above, at the discretion of the city. Consideration will be given for FBI National Academy and/or Southern Police Institutes and FBI Leeds graduate. Salary will be \$57,491, plus a comprehensive benefit package. Other requirements include: must possess a valid Tennessee driver's license: must reside within Lauderdale County, or move into Lauderdale County within 90 days of employment; must meet annual P.O.S.T. in-service requirements; must have completed P.O.S.T. Law Enforcement Management and Administration training: evidence of continuing professional development; must have good moral character as determined by a thorough background investigation; must be able to meet the physical standards of law enforcement personnel, as determined by a city designated physician; must be able to pass a post-offer physical fitness testing assessment, as determined by a city designated provider; and must be able to pass a psychological exam, as determined by a city designated psychologist. A complete iob description is available upon request. Resume and cover letter to be returned to the address below. Resumes will be accepted until 4 p.m., Oct. 31. Ripley City Hall, 110 S Washington Street, Ripley, TN 38063 Monday thru Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. EOE

WATER PLANT OPERATOR

COLLIERVILLE. The town of Collierville has an immediate opening for a water plant operator. The position performs skilled trades work in the installation, operation, maintenance, and repair of town water system facilities including wells, pump stations, water towers, the distribution system, water hydrants, and water meters. Must have a high school diploma or GED with concentration in a vocational program; supplemented by three years' previous experience and/or training involving water system maintenance, at least one year of which must have been operating experience in a Grade II Water Treatment Plant; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Must be in compliance with TDEC Rule 0400-49-01 and remain in compliance throughout employment. Must possess and maintain a valid driver's license. This is a Grade II Water Treatment Facility. The work of this job requires sufficient physical strength, stamina, and ability to pass a work related physical proficiency test and pre-employment examination. The work is physically demanding, may require lifting heavy objects, and may require working in inclement weather. Work environment at times could involve toxic or caustic chemicals, risk of electrical shock or work around moving parts.Salary is \$32,425 -\$55,584 annually (DOQ) with excellent benefits package. You must submit an original town of Collierville application, which are available to download at www. collierville.com, or you may obtain one from our Human Resources Office located at 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN, 38017, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Completed applications must be submitted either by mail or in person to the above address. Position will remain open until filled. EOE.

WATER TREATMENT PLANT **OPERATOR I**

SAVANNAH. The city of Savannah is now accepting applications for the position of water treatment plant operation I. This is a full-time position working various shifts, including weekends. Uncertified pay is \$10.58 per hour, certified pay will be depending on qualifications. Job requirements include duties listed on the Job Description and Essential Functions Form, which will be distributed with each "application for employment." These forms are available at City Hall Human Resources, 140 Main Street, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, or on the city's website at www. cityofsavannah.org. Applications may be submitted via email to bmatlock@cityofsavannah.org or returned to city hall. Deadline for submitting an application is 5 p.m., Nov. 7, 2018. The city of Savannah is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

7-TENNESSEE TOWN & CITY/OCT. 29, 2018

Tennessee Municipal League 2018-2019 Officers and Directors PRESIDENT Wallace Cartwright Mayor, Shelbyville **VICE PRESIDENTS** Jill Holland Mayor, McKenzie **Mike Werner** Mayor, Gatlinburg Ken Moore Mayor, Franklin DIRECTORS Jimmy Alexander Mayor, Nolensville Andy Berke Mayor, Chattanooga **David Briley** Mayor, Metro Nashville **Tony Cox** City Administrator, Morristown (District 2) John Clark Mayor, Kingsport Vance Coleman Mayor, Medina **Richard Driver** Mayor, Lafayette (District 5) Edmund Ford, Jr. City Council, Memphis (District 8) Mike French Alderman, Somerville (District 7) **Bill Graham** Councilman, Dayton (District 3) J.H. Graham Mayor Pro Tem, Crossville (District 4) John Hickman City Manager, Waynesboro (District 6) Avery Johnson Vice Mayor, Cleveland **Bobby King** Mayor, Henderson **Christa Martin** Vice Mayor, Columbia Lonnie Norman Mayor, Manchester Madeline Rogero Mayor, Knoxville **Charles "Bones" Seivers** President-CEO, TN Municipal Bond Fund **Todd Smith** City Manager, Greeneville (District 1) Jim Strickland Mayor, Memphis **Mary Ann Tremblay** Vice Mayor, Three Way PAST PRESIDENTS

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TMLAFFILIATEDORGANIZATIONS (Ex-Officio Directors) TN Assn. of Air Carrier Airports TN Building Officials Assn. TN Assn. of Chiefs of Police TN Assn. Municipal Clerks & Recorders TN Government Finance Officers Assn. TN Fire Chiefs Assn. TN Fire Safety Inspectors TN Assn. of Floodplain Management TN Assn. Housing & Redevel. Auth. TN Municipal Attorneys Assn.

Congress passes third bill to address opioid crisis

OPIOIDS from Page 1

ment, reduce unmet treatment need, and reduce opioid overdose-related deaths through the provision of prevention, treatment and recovery activities for opioid use disorder (OUD) (including prescription opioids as well as illicit drugs such as heroin).

In Fiscal Years (FY) 2017 and 2018, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) awarded more than \$1 billion in grants to states and territories to help combat the opioid epidemic through the STOR program. Lack of clarity from Congress and the administration on how states should use this money has left millions of dollars in federal spending on the table.

As such, at their Summer Board and Leadership Meeting, NLC's Board of Directors passed a resolution allowing NLC staff to actively push for

changes to the STOR program over the last three months. These proposed changes would have required the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), an agency within HHS, to either set aside up to 20 percent of the grants for competitive local grants or to require the states to pass through 80 percent of the STOR grants to local substance abuse, treatment, prevention and recovery programs. While these changes did not make it into the final bill, NLC will continue to fight for additional changes to the various opioid grant programs to ensure the money is getting down to the local level.

NLC was successful in getting language added to the final bill that requires Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to provide a detailed report on how states are using the federal funding to support prevention, treatment, and recovery activities.

Justice Department awards \$320M to combat opioid crisis

The Department of Justice's (DOJ) Office of Justice Programs (OJP) is awarding \$320 million to help communities impacted by the deadliest drug crisis in American history, including crime victims, children, families, and first responders. The following is a breakdown of the grant funding: Innovative Prosecution Solutions for Combating Violent Crime and Opioid Abuse (\$2.8 million). Help prosecutors develop strategies to address violent crime caused by illegal opioid distribution and abuse.

• Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-based Program (\$162 million). Help jurisdictions plan and implement programs aimed at reducing opioid abuse and mitigating its impact on crime victims, including training and technical assistance

Justice and Mental Health

NATIONAL BRIEFS

U.S. jobless claims are on the rise despite jobless benefits being at their lowest point in 45 years. The U.S. Labor Department said claims for state unemployment benefits increased from 5,000 to 215,000 toward the end of October despite having fallen to 202,000 in September, the lowest rate since November 1969. While the number of jobless claims has seen a slight increase, the number of Americans actually receiving benefits remains at a 45-year low, pointing to a tightening labor market. Economists said one reason for the rise in jobless claims may be Hurricanes Florence and Michael's impact on the labor market.

The economic gap between

urban and rural areas has grown following the Great Recession, according to research from a Washington-based think tank. Following the recession, the Economic Innovation Group said there was a "reshuffling" of jobs, entrepreneurial energy, and human capital. The study divided each of the country's zip codes into one of five categories based on how well they were doing economically following the Recession. Urban and suburban areas that were economically successful during and following the Recession saw an increase in job growth, new business openings, and population while rural areas saw decreases in these three factors. Economic researchers said this falls in line with historical trends wherein businesses and workers tend to seek

out the relative economic stability and variety of urban and suburban areas following times of economic stress.

U.S. home borrowing costs have reached their highest in seven years, having a negative impact on current and prospective homeowners. The Mortgage Bankers Association said borrowing costs have reached their highest point since 2014, leading refinancing requests to dip to their lowest part since 2000 while mortgage requests dropped to their lowest point in the past 20 months. The jump in mortgage rates is another blow to the American housing industry, which is already facing issues like gaps between the price of available inventory and what the average citizen can afford.

Collaboration Program (\$5.9 million). Address the treatment needs of people using opioids under the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program.

• Helping Children and Youth Impacted by Opioids (\$46.6 million). Provides training and technical assistance.

• Drug Courts (\$81.2 Million). Assist adult, juvenile, and family drug courts and veteran's treatment courts, including training and technical assistance.

• Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program (\$17 million). Address the dramatic increase in deaths and the backlogs of seized drugs because of the opioid crisis.

• Opioid-Related Research for Criminal Justice Purposes (\$4.1 million). Development of new tools to enforce the law, ensure public safety, prevent and control crime, and ensure fair and impartial administration of justice.

For more information about the grant funding, view the OJP's fact sheet.



FESTIVALS

Nov. 1-4: Bristol

20th Annual Banjo Gathering Celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Banjo Gathering at the Birthplace of Country Music Museum. Since 1998, the Banjo Gathering has been the platform for banjo collectors, researchers, instrument builders, and musicians to share new scholarship and findings about the banjo as a historical, cultural, and built object. For tickets, registration, and all other information, visit https://banjogathering.weebly.com/

Nov. 3: Gallatin

Grand Ole Gallatin Music Festival In celebration of our music history, bring out the whole family for a day filled with food, shopping, dancing, and some of the best Old Time music performed by our talented locals. Take a free tour of the Douglass-Clark House and walk along the picturesque Station Camp Greenway Entry. This event is free of charge, and activities last from 11a.m. to 4 p.m.. Seating will be on the Douglass-Clark house lawn.

UT-MTAS NOVEMBER MAP CLASSES

TOOLKIT FOR DEVELOPING AND EVALUATING MUNICIPAL PROGRAMS

Demands on city services are Dates/Locations/Times



TN Municipal Judges Conference TN Chapter, American Public Works TN Recreation and Parks Assn. TN Chapter, American Planning TN Personnel Management Assn. TN Assn. of Public Purchasing TN Section, Institute of Transport TN Public Transportation Assoc. Assn. of Independent and Municipal Schools TN Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council TN Urban Forestry Council TN Stormwater Assn TML SPONSORS **4 Star Sponsor** First Tennessee Bank **3 STAR SPONSOR** Bank of New York Mellon, Co. **2 STAR SPONSOR** AARP Alexander, Thompson, Arnold, CRA's Alliance Water Resources Bank of America Barge Design, Inc. Carr, Riggs & Ingram LLC Civil & Environmental Consultants Entegrity Master Meter, Inc. VC3 Voya Financial Advisors Waste Management Inc. of Tennessee **1 STAR SPONSOR** Charter Communications Employee Benefit Specialists, Inc. J.R. Wauford & Co. Consulting Engineers Local Govt. Corporation Mattern & Craig, Inc. NORESCO McGill Associates, P.A. Pavement Restorations, Inc. Republic Services Smith Seckman Reid Tennessee 811 TLM Associates, Inc. Utility Service Co., Inc. Waste Connections of Tennessee Inc. Waste Industries USA, Inc.

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& Editor, *Tennessee Town & City* Sylvia Harris, Conference Planning Director John Holloway, Government Relations Debbie Kluth, Marketing Director /

Member Services Kevin Krushenski, Legislative Research Analyst Denise Paige, Government Relations constantly changing. This course is designed to provide cities with a systematic method for collecting, analyzing, and using data to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of municipal services.

Credits: 4 CPE

Nov. 6 Jackson 8:30a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CST Nov. 7 Nashville 8:30a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CST Nov 8 Chattanooga 8:30a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EST Nov. 12 Knoxville 8:30a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EST Nov. 13 Johnson City 8:30a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EST

Advisory Service

To register for a course, go to <u>www.mtas.tennessee.edu</u>, or fax to 865-974-0423. Credit card payments must register online with the Solution Point System: <u>http://www.solution-point.tennessee.edu/MTAS</u> or by invoice. For registration assistance, call 865-974-0413.

Nov. 3: Townsend

Grains and Grits Festival From 6 - 9 p.m. at the Townsend Visitor Center, this is a unique opportunityto experience our thriving crafts spirit and gourmet food community, while discovering some of the region's legendary distillers and blenders, taking place in The Peaceful Side of the Smokies. For more info, visit<u>http://grainsandgritsfest.com.</u>

No loan is too large or too small



The city of Tullahoma closed a \$7 million fixed-rate loan for several public works infrastructure improvement projects within the city. The city first borrowed through the TMBF variable rate loan program in 1986 and has used various TMBF programs 23 times since then. Pictured standing are: Sue Wilson, finance director; Linda Mooningham, TMBF marketing director; and Rosemary Golden, city recorder. Seated is Mayor Lane Curlee.

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



The city of Bartlett recently closed a \$1.35 million note with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF) to finance equipment for various city departments. It marked the city's ninth note issued through TMBF's alternative loan program. Seated are Mayor A. Keith McDonald and Dick Phebus, finance director. Standing are Stefanie McGee, city clerk, and Tommy Green, TMBF representative.



Johnson sees Cleveland through changes big and small

BY LINDA BRYANT

Most communities have at least one resident who can speak about bygone days as well as current times with so much knowledge and authority that almost everyone responds with deep respect and admiration.

Hands-down Avery Johnson fills that role in Cleveland and Bradley County.

Johnson has been working and serving the region for decades. He has gone from attending school and working during a time when, as an African American, he was required to use separate water fountains, bathrooms — even a separate bus station — to serving in many key leadership roles, including vice mayor and councilman at-large in the Cleveland City Council.

Johnson showed leadership qualities early in life, and although he wanted to pursue a rigorous education after high school, his ambitions were whittled down because he needed to help his mom, who was a single parent. He went to work for Magic Chef, the storied Cleveland-based company that is now Whirlpool Corporation, at the age of 19, worked his way up to various positions for more than 43 years. All the while, Johnson educated himself wherever and whenever he could, joined key community organizations, and set about making Cleveland a better place to live for all.

Bill Estes, city councilman and dean of the Helen DeVos College of Education at Lee University, says Johnson is widely revered as a trusted leader in the community.

"Avery Johnson is much more than a pillar of the Cleveland community," Estes said. "Yes, he is foundational to both our past and who we are today, but I am continually amazed at his energy and vision in making Cleveland stronger in both the near and long-term. From his decades of service to one of our manufacturing companies, to his service to the local school board, to his representing all of Cleveland at-large on the city council, Avery continues with a very unique and personal skill set to unite all of our community as we work through the issues in municipal government.

"He has the institutional knowledge combined with the personal integrity to give all of us both direction and courage to serve the entire community in our duties," Estes added. "He's never afraid to question, nor to listen. I can't imagine a Cleveland



Cleveland Councilman Avery Johnson



Astronaut Rhea Seddon, left, and Johnson at the 2017 TML Conference in Murfreesboro.

1993 elections, I was asked to serve as a city councilman. At that time, we were appointed for two years. Under the council-manager form of government we needed three additional council members. I was appointed for the first two years, and after that I was hooked like a fish and have run six times and won six times. Hallelujah!

TT&C: What professional interests and jobs have occupied you over the years?

AJ: I worked for Magic Chef Inc./ Mavtag Cleveland Cooking Products/Whirlpool Corp. for 43 years and eight months. [The company changed names because of corporate acquisitions.] I actually started out working in the garage department washing trucks and changing the names on tractors and trailers from Dixie Products to Magic Chef Inc. I was 19 at the time. When I retired in 2005, I was superintendent of the shipping and warehouse department. I was a molder in the foundry for seven years, grinder and sand blast machine operator for three years, assembly line supervisor, general foreman in the electric range department and team process coordinator.

TT&C: Can you share some impressions of living and working during the Civil Rights era?

AJ: I was very involved. There were a lot of things going on especially in Alabama and Mississippi; we just didn't talk about it much. We were very much in tune here in Cleveland with what was taking place both here and all over the world. Race relations here in Cleveland were pretty good. People wanted better opportunities and equal rights for everybody. I really do think the majority of the people really did want that here in Cleveland but we were just watching the rest of the world. Every time somebody had an opportunity to make a difference here in Cleveland they did. I was proud of the way people here acted, even though we still had some discriminatory practices going on. The great company I worked for years, Magic Chef, had separate water fountains and restrooms. The bus stations here in Cleveland were separate. It was very much like that when I was growing up in the 50s and 60s. It was called equal, but it wasn't really equal. It was amazing to live through this time when everything changed and so much of it for the better.

running for office and wanted to support me. My company was always involved in the community, and there were other people besides me from Maytag and Magic Chef active in the community, especially when the Rymers owned the company.

TT&C: Cleveland is growing and changing rapidly, but it must have been very different back in the 70s, 80s, and 90s. Did you always have the feeling that Cleveland could grow into what it is now? What were the most important issues back then?

AJ: I have always had confidence in the people of Cleveland. Those in the old commission form of government had their hands full keeping up with the growth and development on the north and west side of Cleveland. Things were changing everywhere. The east and south side of Cleveland suffered as victims of budget cuts and a slow economy. Small businesses were beginning to leave neighborhoods in east and south Cleveland. Jobs were sometimes uncertain and layoffs always a threat.

TT&C: Can you talk about the advantages of city growth? Are there downsides to consider?

AJ: There is definitely an advantage to growth. For example, our city's growth a few years ago was so consistently at 4 to 5 percent and more, that the Cleveland City Council voted to give our schools a percentage of our budget increase annually, one that's equal to the population growth percentage. It was one of the best things we did. And, yes there's a downside to growth. If you fail to anticipate growth, you start seeing over-crowded conditions everywhere — street traffic backup, unsafe pedestrian conditions, sidewalk shortages, etc.

TT&C: Can you share some achievements you are proudest of? AJ: The Maytag Cleveland Cooking Products (Whirlpool Corporation), which was the largest employer in Cleveland, was considering closing down the Cleveland plant and moving everything to the Mississippi division, which would have put more than 1,800 local employees out of their jobs. Thanks to Mayor Tom Rowland, County Mayor Gary Davis, the Cleveland City Council, and the Bradley County Commission, we made a proposal to help with infrastructure and setup costs for the new facility by donating \$1 million from the city and \$1 million from the county. The state also contributed several millions of dollars. We saved nearly 2,000 jobs. Here's another example of a proud accomplishment: the new Cleveland High School athletic arena. It is really beautiful and first class. The old gym had been condemned due to a deterioration of several weight-bearing support beams, causing severe cracks in the walls and foundation. The building was totally unsafe. We had enough funds left to begin construction of a new arena. The vote for the project was tied 3 to 3. I was the last to vote, and I voted yes.

cilitating experience. Our mayor in Cleveland doesn't have a vote, but he has a voice and a veto power. Mayor Brooks comes already equipped to handle all those issues. We have a lot of things coming up, especially in the next three to five years. We have a great visionary plan put together. I think Kevin is doing to a great job.

TT&C: What is the visionary plan?

AJ: The visionary plan is a plan for downtown revitalization and turning our community into a walkability community. We also have several intersections that are overcrowded and issues with traffic. We want to go in and rebuild those areas and make them safer for pedestrians and traffic. We have a great plan in place for the next four to five years. Our growth in Cleveland has been so good that we have fallen a little behind in infrastructure improvements. Now we have a plan in place that will help get us caught up.

TT&C: Why do you think Cleveland has been a such a success story in recent years?

AJ: There are so many people here who have invested in and given back a lot to the community. They are very interested in good government and good leadership. There are many people in Cleveland with a lot of experience, and they have a certain standard that they hold for the city. And the community really supports the people who want to be in leadership roles and who want to help keep the community going. That's the reason why we have such a unique city. At one time we had 14 Fortune 500 companies here, and now we have 12 or 13. The leadership of all those companies always come together, and make sure they stay in touch with the leadership of our community - the mayor, city and county commissioners. We all come together in Cleveland even though we have our disagreements from time to time. When it comes to really important issues like jobs, housing, redevelopment and infrastructure improvement we set our differences aside and always come together. We sit down and talk about what is best for Cleveland. I think that's part of why we've been so successful.

TT&C: What are some of the biggest challenges in your community right now?

AJ: Here's my perspective: even though we are known as political figures you don't want to get too political and let politics override your common sense. You always want to do what's right and what's best for the community. In the political environment there are sometimes hidden agendas and ulterior motives. Some people don't know the whole story, and they only see one side of it. But when they come to us we have all kinds of information about what we're getting involved in — in the community and in the state. So, it's hard sometimes to tell people no. Especially when it's someone you really like and have a lot of respect for. But sometimes we have to vote or go against what they want because they don't have all the information that you have. You have to do the right thing. Especially on a local level it's important to be as bipartisan on issue as you can. These are very challenging times.

without his leadership."

TT&C: Describe your history and roots in Cleveland. Tell us about growing up in the area and give a few details about your family.

AJ: My grandmother, mom and family moved to Cleveland in 1938 from Hollywood, Ala. My grandmother, whose maiden name was Dovie Cobb, opened a restaurant known as the Eveready Cafe on East Inman Street around 1939. I was born in the early 1940s and graduated from College Hill High School with honors. I was president of the student council, editor-in-chief of my class yearbook, and also played football. I worked everyday after school at Watson Grocery, Simon Grocery, and Cedar Lane Restaurant. Sometimes I worked for the janitor cleaning up after school.

I have two sons. My oldest son, Avery Jr., has his own music studio in Atlanta. He's traveled all over the world and toured with BeBe & CeCe Winans and with Bobby Jones out of Nashville. My youngest son, Sean, is also musically inclined, and he's a juvenile correctional officer. They are both great kids, and they have never been in any trouble. I lost my first wife in 2011, and we were married for 49 years. I've remarried again and have gotten lucky twice. I have two grandsons, and they are the best grandsons in the world.

TT&C: You have been on the Cleveland City Council since 1993. Thinking back, what inspired you to run for office?

AJ: I was always involved in community services. I was a member of the Citizens Improvement League when I was 19 years old, which meant listening to people twice my age talking about segregation issues and discrimination problems. In 1992, I was asked to serve on the Charter Study Commission to look at the different forms of governments and decide which form of government best fit the city of Cleveland. After our recommendation passed on a referendum in the

TT&C: Is there anything about your career at Maytag that helped you prepare as a public servant?

you prepare as a public servant? AJ: Everything about Maytag prepared me because I took all the training that they offered — all the workshops and seminars. I went to Middle Tennessee State University for training; I went to the University of Tennessee for training; and I also went to Black Mountain, N.C., for a leadership conference. Plus, I gained a lot of experience as a supervisor and general foreman. I spent five years working on and off in HR. All of this contributed to the success I've had in the community.

I really got lucky with Maytag because when I got out of high school I didn't have money for college. I had to go to work and help my mom because she was a single-parent. I worked and went to night school at Cleveland State and got whatever I could for education. I was very studious when I was in school. I took all of it, everything that I could. Plus, I read a lot of books.

TT&C: What is the most important book that you've read?

AJ: My favorite book is by Congressman John Lewis called *Walking with the Wind*. Lord have mercy, there are so many books that I have read! Reading has taught me a lot of lessons in life to live by, especially leadership books.

TT&C: Did you ever have a hard campaign or a tough race?

AJ: Every race was a challenge, except for one when I didn't have an opponent running against me. There was always opposition. I had worked at Maytag for a long time and knew a lot of people and had a lot of friends, black and white, and it paid off. I was also involved in community services. I've always been trying to do something that makes a difference since I was 19. I understood early on what the issues were, and I served on a lot of boards and have been in all types of civic organizations — the United Way Board, American Red Cross, the Gideons, and others. I was president of the Lions Club twice.

TT&C: It sounds like you worked hard for those campaigns and those wins.

AJ: Oh yes, I knocked on a lot of doors. My brother and I went through my entire district knocking on doors and asking people to vote for me. It was a good feeling to be out there campaigning. That was one of the joys I really got out of the whole process — getting to know the community and people. I represented District 3 until the last few years. Now, I'm a councilman at-large.

TT&C: Was it hard to hold down a full-time job and still have your civic responsibilities?

AJ: Not really because the people I worked for were very proud of me

TT&C: Do you have a philosophy of leadership? How do you deal with conflict or difficult issues? AJ: My philosophy of leadership is

always do what is right, be fair and respectful to everyone. When there is a conflict, always strive for a winwin solution when possible.

TT&C: What is it like since longtime Mayor Tom Rowland retired as Cleveland's mayor? He had been in office since 1991. What is working with the new mayor like? AJ: Mayor Rowland is truly an icon. He set a standard all of us are trying to measure up to. He is such an excellent communicator and facilitator. The new Mayor Kevin Brooks is a chip off the old block. He is off to a very good start. [Brooks, a Republican who did not seek re-election to the Tennessee House District 24 seat, won the mayoral election in August 2018.]

I worked with Mayor Rowland during all the years that I have been on Cleveland City Council. So, that's been 25 years. Mayor Rowland had a lot of experience. He's very knowledgeable, and he has great communication skills probably more than any leader I've worked with. Of course, there were times when we had disagreements, but I learned a lot from him.

The transition is going great. Mayor Brooks has already come out of a governmental environment. He has a lot of leadership and fa-

TT&C: You have been active with Tennessee Municipal League for years. Why do you think TML's work is important?

AJ: I have grown and learned so much through TML conferences and workshops. The facilitators have been the best of the best very informative. Through TML the municipalities across the state have a united voice to our state legislators. Together we have made a difference. I am very honored to have served as district director for District 3 at least two times, and I'm enjoying the privilege of currently serving as one of the at-large directors.

TT&C: Can you think of an experience in your life that has really humbled you or taught you a major life lesson?

AJ: I ran for the office of city councilman six times and won six times. I learned that people will vote for and follow anyone, as long as you help them meet their needs. It does not matter whether you are tall or short, fat or skinny, black, white, or green. As long as you help people meet their needs, they will follow and support you. Your word is very important. I go by this: DWYSYWD — do what you say you will do!