



Save the Dates
TML District Meetings

Nov. 30	District 4	Sparta
Dec. 1	District 5	Lafayette
Dec. 5	District 6	Brentwood
Dec. 6	District 7	Henderson
Dec. 7	District 8	Bartlett
Dec. 12	District 1	Greeneville
Dec. 13	District 2	Knoxville
Dec. 14	District 3	Dayton

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

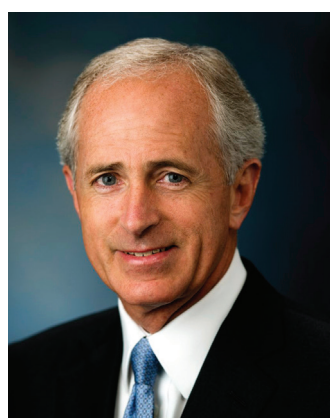
Sen. Corker announces he will not seek another term

Sen. Bob Corker recently announced he will not seek a third term in the U.S. Senate—a decision he has been weighing for several months.

“After much thought, consideration and family discussion over the past year, Elizabeth and I have decided that I will leave the United States Senate when my term expires at the end of 2018,” Corker said in a statement.

“When I ran for the Senate in 2006, I told people that I couldn’t imagine serving for more than two terms,” Corker said. “Understandably, as we have gained influence, that decision has become more difficult. But I have always been drawn to the citizen legislator model, and while I realize it is not for everyone, I believe with the kind of service I provide, it is the right one for me. I also believe the most important public service I have to offer our country could well occur over the next 15 months, and I want to be able to do that as thoughtfully and independently as I did the first 10 years and nine months of my Senate career.”

“Serving the people of Tennessee in this capacity has been the greatest privilege of my life. And as I spent the month of August traveling across our great state, I was



Sen. Bob Corker

reminded that we live in a unique place full of people who care deeply about the direction of our country,” Corker added.

In 2012, Corker was re-elected to his second term in the U.S. Senate, where he serves as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee and is an active member of the Banking Committee and the Budget Committee.

He has also served as Tennessee’s commissioner of finance and mayor of Chattanooga before being elected to the Senate in 2006. He spent most of his life in business. At the age of 25, he started his own construction company with \$8,000 in savings, eventually expanding operations to 18 states nationwide.

Upcoming Supreme Court cases that matter most to states and municipalities

In the term that started Oct. 2, the justices will hear cases that could drastically alter the country’s political, financial and social landscape.

BY J.B. WOGAN
Governing Magazine

Every summer, Lisa Soronen writes a short summary of upcoming U.S. Supreme Court cases for her clients — state and local governments across the country.

Because the court often decides to take its most controversial cases after the October term begins, her early summaries rarely include high-profile cases that garner broad public interest, said Soronen, who is the executive director of the State and Local Legal Center. This year, she said, is different.

“It is hard to get more interesting than partisan gerrymandering, the travel ban, religious liberty and sports gambling,” she wrote in July.

The case on partisan gerrymandering “could be explosive,” said Chuck Thompson, general counsel and executive director of the International Municipal Lawyers Association.

“Depending on how the court reaches its decision, we could see a significant, dynamic change in the makeup of state legislatures and Congress,” he said.

With the addition of Justice Neil Gorsuch, the court has taken more controversial cases that it may have avoided after Justice Antonin Scalia’s death last year left the court ideologically split in half 4-4.

Beyond what is already on the docket for the 2017 term, the

Supreme Court is likely to hear “the biggest state and local government case since I don’t know when,” said Soronen. That case involves a dispute over South Dakota’s law requiring online retailers to collect sales taxes. The South Dakota legislature passed the law hoping it would invite legal challenges, and it did.

Ultimately, state lawmakers want the U.S. Supreme Court to reverse a 1992 decision that said states cannot require retailers with no in-state physical presence to collect sales taxes. At the time of the ruling, the internet was in its infancy. With the growth of online commerce in the past 25 years, some estimate that states now miss out on more than \$23 billion a year in potential online sales tax revenue.

Both Justices Anthony Kennedy and Neil Gorsuch have openly questioned the 1992 decision. In a 2015 concurring opinion, Kennedy called it “a case questionable even when decided” and welcomed legal challenges that might allow the court to re-examine the issue.

There is speculation, though, that Kennedy may step down in 2018 before the midterm elections. That could hurt states’ chances of reversing the 1992 decision and could impact the outcome of other cases.

Beside the online sales tax dispute, Soronen and Thompson say state and local governments should keep an eye on the following cases.

Is there a constitutional limit to partisan gerrymandering?

Redistricting—the drawing of
See COURT on Page 7

Memphis, other local governments consider suits as TN drug deaths rise to record high

BY KATE COIL
TML Communications Specialist

As drug overdose deaths in Tennessee reached a new record high, governments on the state, county, and municipal level are considering legal action against major pharmaceutical companies.

The Memphis City Council is one of the first cities in the state of Tennessee to take up the issue of filing suit against some of the biggest pharmaceutical companies in the nation to recoup costs related to dealing with the opioid epidemic in the city. Likewise, Shelby County is also researching the feasibility of a similar lawsuit.

Costs created by the addiction range from the more immediate — police overtime, processing toxicology and autopsy reports, and supplying officers with medications like Nalaxone to treat overdoses — to the longer lasting, such as foster care, jail costs, and treatment programs.

Several municipalities of various sizes have already filed lawsuits against drug makers on their own, including Everett, Wash.; Lewiston, Maine; Paterson, N.J.; Portland, Maine; Princeton, W. Va.; and Tacoma, Wash. Princeton is the smallest of these cities with a population of just under 6,000 while Tacoma is the largest with a population just under 208,000.

Other cities have joined other governmental groups in suits. Some 30 state and local jurisdictions in Ohio have also filed a class action suit, which includes the municipalities of Elyria and Lorain.

After a class action suit was filed by the municipality of Waterbury, Conn., several other Connecticut cities — including Bristol, Bridgeport, Coventry, New Milford, Naugatuck, Oxford, Roxbury, and Wolcott — have signed on as co-defendants with other municipalities in the state expected to sign on as well.

Tennessee is among 41 states that recently issued subpoenas



The city of Memphis is among the first municipalities in Tennessee to consider filing suit against opioid manufacturers. Suits have been filed by municipal, county, state and tribal governments across the nation in the past few months.

against four major drug companies as part of an investigation to determine if the companies “engaged in unlawful practices in the marketing, sale, and distribution of opioids.”

Tennessee State Attorney General Herbert Slatery led the coalition of state attorneys general to investigate the roots of the opioid epidemic two days after prosecutors from three judicial districts covering nine upper East Tennessee counties filed suit against OxyContin manufacturer Purdue Pharma in Sullivan County court.

“The opioid crisis impacts all of us, and is a threat to families in every community in Tennessee and across the country,” Slatery said. “We will use all resources available to identify and hold accountable those parties responsible. There is too much at stake not to attack this problem from all sides.”

States including California, Illinois, Mississippi, New York, Ohio, and Oklahoma have even filed suit against OxyContin manufacturer Purdue over allegations they knew the drug was being used on the black market and did not intervene. The

Cherokee Nation has filed a similar lawsuit against drug companies in tribal court, which had jurisdiction in the 14-county area in northeastern Oklahoma where their reservation is located.

In fact, more than 20 states, counties and cities have sued companies including Johnson & Johnson, Purdue, and McKesson Corp., over claims their aggressive marketing and distribution fueled the public health crisis. According to a 2016 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study, the estimated national economic impact of prescription opioid overdoses, abuse and dependence is approximately \$78.5 billion annually.

Many suits are similar to those filed against major tobacco companies by government entities during the 1990s. In 1998, the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement — the suit on which many government entities are modeling their suits against opioid makers — awarded a minimum of \$206 billion in the next 25 years to 46 states from four tobacco companies.

See OPIOIDS on Page 3

Community risk reduction important component of fire protection program

BY DENNIS WOLF
MTAS Fire Management Consultant

The term community risk reduction can include many different programs to improve the safety of, and reduce the risk to, residents and business owners in a community from fire, natural disasters, and other risks. For the purpose of this article, we will focus on community risk reduction, sometimes referred to as CRR, as it relates to preventing fires in the community.

The Insurance Services Office (ISO) rates the fire protection capability in a community on a scale of Class 1 to Class 10, with Class 1 being the best and Class 10 representing no recognized level of organized fire protection.

ISO evaluates the communications and dispatch capabilities, the fire department’s capabilities, fire hydrants and the water supply, and community risk reduction efforts at fire prevention, and awards a Public Protection Classification, more commonly called the ISO Rating, to the community.

Insurance companies use the ISO Rating as one factor in setting property insurance premiums, and a lower (better) ISO Rating translates into lower insurance rates for residential and commercial property owners.

When evaluating CRR in a community, ISO looks for the fire department to adopt and enforce current editions of the fire and building codes. The fire department must have a sufficient number of inspectors to make inspections and enforce the code. While the inspector must be state certified to issue a citation for a code violation, trained, but not state certified, firefighters can make fire prevention inspections.

According to the rules of the



The Insurance Services Office (ISO) awards credit for community risk reduction activities. The credit earned for community risk reduction can make a significant difference in the ISO Rating the community receives.

state fire marshal’s office (Rule 0780-02-16-.02(10)), a fire prevention inspection is advisory in nature, and any code violations found can be referred to a certified inspector if needed.

All violations found must be corrected, and compliance can be compulsory, as with a citation, or voluntary, as with a fire prevention inspection. ISO awards credit for both code enforcement (i.e. certified inspectors) and fire prevention inspections (i.e. trained firefighters), so even a small community can have an effective fire inspection program and reduce the risk of unwanted fire in the community. All personnel-making inspections should receive annual training in inspection practices.

The community must have a comprehensive fire prevention program that includes plans review, certificate of occupancy/use and occupancy inspections, and a quality control program to evaluate the effectiveness of the inspection program. The fire department must

require the inspection of all private fire protection equipment (i.e. sprinkler systems, standpipes, fire pumps, etc.) annually, with appropriate verification documentation sent to the fire department.

The governing body should adopt fire prevention ordinances. Finally, the fire department must complete pre-fire planning inspections, and create written pre-fire operational plans, on all commercial, industrial, and institutional occupancies in the community.

The community must have a comprehensive fire safety education program, and the fire department should use multiple programs and try to reach 100 percent of the community annually with a fire safety program or message. Examples of such programs include a Facebook page, newspaper articles, fire prevention week activities, an open house at the fire station(s), public safety announcements, a safety message on utility bill inserts, fire prevention week activities, and
See FIRE on Page 3

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



BRISTOL

The city of Bristol held its 12th annual "Dump the Pump" Transit Day on Oct. 5, in conjunction with the city of Bristol, Va. The transit system of both cities offered free rides and a free lunch at the Downtown Center on State Street. Transit Day is set aside to encourage members of the community to ride public transportation as it drives economic development and revitalizes neighborhoods. The event is hosted to thank those who participate in public transportation and offer those who do not use public transportation a change to try out the city bus system.

CHATTANOOGA

The city of Chattanooga has opened its first Miracle League field and only the second such field in the state. Warner Parker is now home to a state-of-the-art Miracle Field featuring a baseball diamond, playground and multi-sport field designed for people with special needs. The facility is close to the zoo and the Warner Park Pool and splash pad. The \$2.5 million complex was built entirely through donations, including funds from the Miller Family Foundation, Miller Industries, PlayCore, BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee, McKee Foods Corporation, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Realty Center, Unum, and Coca-Cola. The playground will be managed by the city and open to the public while the fields will be managed by the YMCA. The hope is the field and Miracle League will provide more recreational opportunities for the estimated 13,000 special needs children in the greater Chattanooga area. Murfreesboro opened the state's first Miracle League field earlier this year with more than 300 fields located nationwide.

CROSSVILLE

Officials with the city of Crossville recently broke ground on the new Crossville Shooting Sports Park on Albert Frye Road. The project was completed in conjunction with Cumberland County, Crossville-Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce, members of Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), and Crossville Shooting Sports, LLC. The 147 acres used for the project were sold by the nonprofit group to the city for \$1 and the park was constructed with a \$2.2 million federal grant administered through the Pitman Roberson Act. The property will be used by local students in archery programs, members of the public, and law enforcement for training purposes.

GERMANTOWN

The city of Germantown in partnership with the Germantown Performing Arts Center (GPAC) is constructing a new \$4 million concert and events facility. Named The Grove at GPAC, the project will be located on a 1.5-acre tract north of the current GPAC theater at Exeter and Germantown Road. A groundbreaking for the project is slated for July 2018 with an opening tentatively scheduled for fall 2019. The Grove facility will have capacity for between 1,200 and 2,000 people with capability for theater, dance, and concert productions. A state-of-the-art video wall will also broadcast shows to an outdoor audience.

JEFFERSON CITY

All officers with the Jefferson City Police Department have been

equipped with Naloxone, a medication used to reverse exposure to opioids and save the lives of overdose victims. Chief Andy Dossett said the decision was made after a recent spike in opioid overdose deaths and the influx of the new drug fentanyl. The antidote is used for both civilians and officers in the advent of accidental exposure. Officers also recently switched from using latex to nitrile gloves at scenes because fentanyl is known to penetrate latex. Dossett said his department would like to thank Dr. Mark Harrell, Murphy's Sav-Mor Pharmacy, and Mayor Mark Potts for support and assistance in the project.

KINGSPORT

The city of Kingsport and Kingsport Area Transit Service (KATS) recently broke ground on a new transit center to be located at the intersection of East Market and East Main streets, formerly known as the Kingsport foundry. The center will improve and support growth, accessibility and safety within the community as well as help improve the appearance of the east gateway into the city. The project is the result of more than four years of planning with completion tentatively scheduled for November 2018. The first phase of the project will add a 6,500-square-foot transit facility to the property featuring a lobby, restrooms, dispatch center, driver's area, conference room, and administrative offices. Twelve bays for buses, shelters with benches, bike racks and a parking lot for customers and staff will also be constructed. A second phase planned for the future will include a bus storage garage and vehicle wash facility. KATS has been operating in the city since 1995 with ridership tripling since then.

KNOXVILLE

Knoxville's Market Square has been named as one of five Great Public Spaces on the American Planning Association's (APA) annual Great Places in America list. APA celebrated the tenth anniversary of the program by recognizing streets, neighborhoods, and public spaces in the U.S. that demonstrate exceptional character, quality, and planning—attributes that enrich communities, facilitate economic growth, and inspire others around the country. Located in the heart of Downtown Knoxville, Market Square is a testament to the effectiveness of community-driven planning and how a diversity of uses and historic preservation can work together to revitalize an area. The Square is deeply rooted in the history of Knoxville and, despite a devastating fire and multiple economic downturns, continues to flourish today. Knoxville was recognized alongside Bakersfield, Calif.'s Mill Creek Linear Park; Grand Rapids, Mich.'s Rosa Parks Circle; Greenville, N.C.'s County Home Complex; and San Angelo, Texas' San Angelo River Walk.

MEMPHIS

The city of Memphis will receive a \$1.07 million grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to finish processing untested rape kits. As of August, the Memphis Police Department had analyzed and processed approximately 73 percent of a backlog that reached 12,000 kits at its peak in 2013. The department tested 479 kits in August alone with some 2,813 still awaiting testing in forensic labs. The city received two grants in 2015 to help with pro-

cessing the backlog, which totaled \$3.9 million.

MURFREESBORO

The city of Murfreesboro has received a significant achievement award from the Public Technology Institute for the Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Program, making it the first government-certified UAS program in the nation. The 2017 Technology Solutions Awards recognizes PTI member local governments nationwide for their use of technology to enhance public service and operations. In October 2015, Murfreesboro received a Certificate of Authorization (COA) to begin training Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) vehicles by a FAA-certified pilot in Barfield Crescent Park. Operational certification soon followed. The city utilizes UAS for a wide range of support services including Water Resources Department surveying, GPS land mapping, fire suppression and searches for missing persons.

MURFREESBORO

Murfreesboro's Water Resources Recovery Facility, formerly known as the Sinking Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, has increased capacity 50 percent following a major expansion. Started in 2015, the \$30.5 million expansion project increased the plant's processing capacity from 16 million to 24 million gallons per day, and the number of clarifiers from four to six and added a third oxidation ditch. Each clarifier measures 145 feet in diameter and 17 feet in depth. The expansion was completed before its expected timetable of 2018. The facility's performance enabled the city to gain state approval of a new river discharge permit for the expansion, and also earned professional recognition, receiving the William Hunter Owen Award in 2014 as an Outstanding Wastewater Treatment Plant from the Tennessee Water and Wastewater Association, the national Utility of the Future award in 2016, and a fifth consecutive Operation Excellence award in 2017.

SPRINGFIELD

The city of Springfield has launched an online web mapping tool that allows residents to see what types of projects are currently taking place or planned around the area. Developed using ESRI ArcGIS Online, the new tool uses the city's 2016-17 site plan and subdivision plat submittals to show construction, transportation, greenway, and parks projects. Layers allow viewers to see zoning maps with parcel information and a traffic county map. Plans are also in motion to add utility information to the maps. The hope is for the site to help citizens, realtors, and economic developers know what is going on in the city.

WHITE HOUSE

The city of White House is working to construct a new amphitheater and playground in its city square near the recently expanded splash pad. Funding for the amphitheater project is coming from a \$500,000 grant with the total project costing approximately \$1 million. City officials hope adding more parks and recreation opportunities downtown will spawn more economic development in the area. Plans also call for adding a recreation center with indoor multi-use courts within the next five years.

Centenarian selected as Kingsport mayor for a day



Left to right, Kingsport Mayor Clark, resident Josephine Morrison, and City Manager Jeff Fleming celebrate declaring Morrison mayor for a day as part of ongoing celebrations of the city's centennial. Morrison, 101, came to Kingsport in 1939 and is a charter member of Waverly Road Presbyterian Church, co-founder of Holston Habitat for Humanity and through her many years volunteered for organizations including Contact Concern, Kingsport Public Library Commission, the Kingsport Safety Council and the Governor's Housing Task Force.

Hendersonville honors IndyCar driver, local resident Newgarden



The city of Hendersonville designated Sept. 20 as "Josef Newgarden Day" in honor of Hendersonville native Josef Newgarden's 2017 IndyCar National Championship. A graduate of Hendersonville's Pope John Paul II High School, Newgarden became the youngest IndyCar champion in more than a decade, and is a member of Team Penske racing team. He has emerged as one of the most accomplished and promising American race car drivers. Left to right, Hendersonville Mayor Jamie Clary, Newgarden and Alderman Darrell Woodcock as Newgarden is presented with a proclamation honoring him by the city.

Jefferson City dedicates Mossy Creek play structure



Photo by Ronnie Housely/Jefferson City Standard Banner

Children and train fans were on hand Sept. 8 to dedicate the Mossy Creek Express train, a wooden play structure recently added to downtown Jefferson City's Mossy Creek Plaza. The train was built by local artist John Barnhill and made possible through a placemaking grant from the Tennessee Arts Commission.

Chattanooga's Coolidge Park hosts dog disc championship



The 2017 Hyperflite Skyhoundz World Canine Disc Championships were held at Chattanooga's Coolidge Park on Sept. 23, bringing canine competitors from around the world to demonstrate their abilities to catch discs in high vertical leaps. Some 200 competing teams came to the event from the Americas and Europe.

Tennessee cities lauded for high exercise rates

Several Tennessee communities were listed among the top 100 cities for regular exercise in a new study of well-being in municipalities across the country.

Clarksville ranked ninth out of the 189 communities surveyed with 61 percent of the area's population reporting they exercised regularly, putting it on the list of communities with the highest rates of regular exercise. Knoxville and the Tri-Cities area, which includes Bristol, Kingsport and Johnson City, also broke the top 100.

Compiled by Gallup and Sharecare, the report was based on the percentage of respondents in each community who indicated that they exercise 30 or more minutes,

three or more days in the last week. Colorado was the state with the highest rates of exercising per community while Ohio had the lowest rates of exercise for communities. No Tennessee cities were in the bottom 50 of the list.

The survey also found that exercise rates have gone up in the U.S. in recent years. Those exercising 30 minutes or more, three or more days per week jumped two percentage points from 2008, to reach 53.4 percent in 2016. During this same time period, those who didn't exercise at all declined by almost 3 points to 27.4 percent, adding to this positive national trend.

The study also found a direct correlation between regular exer-

cise rates and income rates. Those with higher incomes were more likely to spend more time exercising. In addition, the study found those communities with higher exercise rates were healthier and happier.

"High exercise communities also have residents who report higher rates of smiling, enjoyment and happiness, and they evaluate their current and future lives more positively," the study reported. "From a community well-being perspective, high exercise communities have populations who feel safer and more secure, have more pride in their communities, and have higher rates of impactful volunteerism."



PEOPLE



David Brace has been selected as the new chief operating officer and deputy to the mayor of Knoxville. Brace previously served as the city's senior director of public works and will take over from Christi Branscom, who announced her departure from the city in July. Brace has been with the city for 15 years, starting his career in the community development department before moving to public services. He became director in 2011. He has a bachelor's degree in human ecology and a master's degree in planning from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. Prior to joining the city, he served as a firefighter and EMT for Rural Metro Corp. in Knox County and worked as a consultant in the industrial rescue and safety field. His duties at chief operating officer include overseeing public service, parks and recreation, engineering, plans review and inspections, fleet services, finance, purchasing, information systems, and employee benefits.



David Brace

Paige Edwards has been selected as the municipal court clerk specialist for the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS). Edwards earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and earned her juris doctorate from the University of Memphis' Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law in 1999. From 2006 to 2011, she served as a managing attorney for the Bureau of TennCare and from 2011 to 2016, she was employed as a research analyst for the Judiciary Committee with the Tennessee House of Representa-



Paige Edwards

tives. Additionally, she has served as executive director of the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference and is a member of the Tennessee Bar Association.

Sheryl Ely has been selected as the new director of parks and recreation for the city of Knoxville. Ely has previously served as the city's deputy director of public service for the past two years. A native of Charlotte, N.C., Ely has a bachelor's degree in community health from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and a master's degree in planning from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. She served for nine years with the Tennessee Local Planning Assistance Office, spending six of those as a regional director. She also worked as a public educator for the Knox County Health Department and as a senior planner for the city of Oak Ridge. She became the deputy director of public service of Knoxville in 2015.



Sheryl Ely

Hellyn Riggins has been appointed the new city manager of Eagleville and will begin her duties on Oct. 23. A native of Goodlettsville, Riggins is returning to Tennessee from Berlin, Conn., where she served as director of development since 2003. Riggins has a bachelor's degree in public administration from Auburn University and a master's in public administration from Tennessee State University. She served as a planning assistant in Brentwood from 1987 to 1994, and as the director of planning and development for Madison, Miss., from 1994 to 2003.



Hellyn Riggins

Carl Sells has been named the new safety coordinator for the city of Cookeville's Human Resource Department, taking over from Bob Lynch who left the city to work with the Tennessee Risk Management Pool. Sells has served for 21 years with the Cookeville Police Department, most recently as the department's public information officer, and reached a rank of major. Sells worked for a police department in Indiana before moving to Tennessee in 1996. He then joined the Cookeville Police Department, becoming detective sergeant in 1998, then detective lieutenant, captain and major. Detective Lt. Bobby Anderson will serve as the new public information officer for the Cookeville Police Department.



Carl Sells

Dennis Wolf, a fire management consultant with the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS), has earned re-designation as a chief emergency medical services officer, making him one of only 119 people worldwide to carry the designation. Wolf originally achieved the designation in 2008 and has maintained it since. The Chief Emergency Medical Services Officer is a certification bestowed by the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE), the only organization that provides professional designations for fire and emergency service providers. Wolf joined MTAS in 2011 and spent more than 34 years with the Germantown Fire Department before that, serving as the fire chief and emergency management director for 15 years.



Dennis Wolf

STATE BRIEFS



The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) has received \$6 million in federal funding to provide medication-assisted treatment for opioid addiction. The funds are designed to help people who otherwise might not have access to treatment for their addictions. Treatment supported by the funding will be targeted to the uninsured or underinsured, particularly veterans or military members and women of childbearing age. In all, the funding will provide medication-assisted treatment for 660 people in six targeted counties: Davidson, Hardin, Lewis, Shelby, Sullivan, and Washington. Funding for this program began on Sept. 30, 2017, and will run through 2020.

The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (TNECD) has launched an innovative online

tool, Tennessee SmartStart, which guides Tennessee entrepreneurs through the process of establishing their business. Tennessee SmartStart provides resources through an interactive, step-by-step guide designed to assist early stage business owners establish a business in Tennessee and navigate rules and regulations. SmartStart also offers existing business owners with resources to help grow their business. An initiative within TNECD's Business Enterprise Resource Office (BERO), SmartStart has previously been available as a print resource for nearly a decade. The new online guide integrates existing BERO resources into one tool to simplify the business registration and start-up process for new and existing entrepreneurs and small business owners. For more details about SmartStart, go to www.tnsmartstart.com.

NATIONAL BRIEFS



Weather extremes and air pollution from burning fossil fuels has cost the U.S. \$240 billion a year in the past decade - a total of \$2.4 trillion - according to a study recently published by the nonprofit Universal Ecological Fund. The fund also predicted 2017 is to be the most expensive on record with an estimated \$300 billion in losses from Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria as well as a spate of wildfires in the past two months. Costs to human health from air pollution caused by fossil

fuels averaged \$188 billion a year over the past decade while losses from weather extremes, such as droughts, heat waves and floods, averaged \$52 billion. In a sign of increasing risks, there were 92 extreme weather events that caused damage exceeding \$1 billion in the United States in the decade to 2016, against 38 in the 1990s and 21 in the 1980s. Scientists report higher ocean temperatures mean more moisture in the air that can fuel hurricanes.

Cities receive state Historic Preservation Grants

Eight municipalities have received a share in \$750,000 worth of matching grants recently awarded to entities across the state by the Tennessee Historical Commission State Historic Preservation Office to support the preservation of historic and archaeological resources.

Awarded annually, 60 percent of the project funds are from the Federal Historic Preservation Fund and 40 percent of project funds come from the grantee. Grants are competitive and the Tennessee Historical Commission staff reviewed 51 applications with funding requests totaling approximately \$900,000, significantly more than the amount of funding available. Many of the grants are recurring, leaving roughly \$250,000 available to award each year.

"These grants are a critical part of the Tennessee Historical Commission's mission and contribute to the study and protection of Tennessee's treasured historic places," said Patrick McIntyre, state historic preservation officer and executive director.

The town of Alexandria was

awarded \$5,400 to fund the restoration of the Seay Chapel and East View Cemetery, which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Constructed in 1931 to replace an earlier African-American church that dated until the 1860s, W.E.B. Du Bois worshiped at Seay Chapel and later wrote about the area.

The city of **Brownsville** was awarded \$6,000 for the Haywood Heritage Foundation and Main Street to fund a website on historic resources in the Brownsville area.

The city of **Columbia** received \$18,000 to fund design guidelines and update preservation plans for the city's historic districts.

The city of **Harriman** received \$29,850 to fund structural assessments to work on the Temperance Building, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Opened in 1893 as the Temperance Hall of the American Temperance University, the building was once the focal point of Harriman and harkens back to its legacy of a planned community founded on the temperance movement.

The Metropolitan Government of **Lynchburg/Moore County** received \$40,000 to restore the Moore County Courthouse in Lynchburg. The complex includes the courthouse, built originally in 1885, and the former 1893 jail that is now used as a museum.

The **Nashville** Metropolitan Historical Commission received \$5,000 to send five staff commissioners to the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions' Forum conference. The group also received \$24,000 to fund a cultural landscape plan for Fort Negley. Built during the Civil War in 1862, the fort was the largest inland fort built in the U.S. during the war.

The city of **Savannah** received \$12,000 to fund a mobile tour application for historic sites in the city.

The city of **Shelbyville** received \$2,000 to send two staff or commissioners to the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions' Forum conference.

For more information about the Tennessee Historical Commission, please visit the website at www.tnhistoricalcommission.org.

Community risk reduction and fire protection

FIRE from Page 1 safety talks.

The safety of our children is important, and each school must conduct one fire exit drill a month while school is in session. The fire department should witness a few drills, but as long as the school conducts the drills, keeps records, and forwards the documentation to the fire department, ISO will award the associated credit.

Between 2011 and 2015 in Tennessee, children playing with lighters or matches started 388 fires that killed two people, injured 13, and caused \$3.7 million in property damage. The fire department must have a juvenile firesetter program in place to intervene when children are caught playing with fire.

Some commercial, industrial, and/or institutional facilities have a high fire loss potential and/or loss of life risk, and the fire department should have programs in place to provide fire safety education to

such facilities. Examples of programs include safety talks and fire extinguisher training.

State law requires that a fire department investigate the cause and origin of all structure fires, and the fire department should have a fire investigation program in place. The department can use its own trained investigators, trained investigators from another fire department or the police department, or the state fire marshal's office.

All investigators need annual training in investigative procedures, and the fire department should report all fires to the state fire marshal's office using the Tennessee Fire Incident Reporting System (TFIRS), as required by state law.

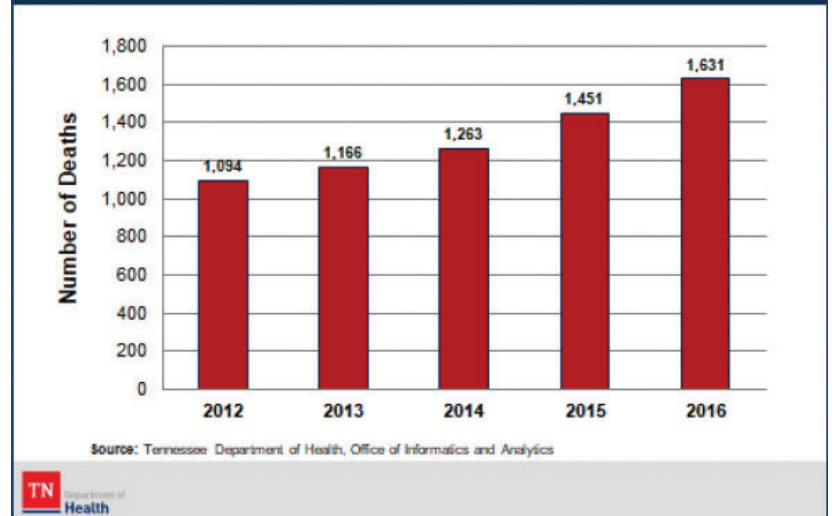
ISO awards credit for CRR activities, and the credit earned for community risk reduction can make a significant difference in the ISO Rating the community receives. ISO grades communities on a 100-point scale: 10 points

for communications/dispatch, 50 points for the fire department, and 40 points for fire hydrants and the water supply. Community risk reduction is worth an additional 5.5 points, which are added to the final score for communications/dispatch, fire department, and water supply. CRR points are like extra credit, and in many instances, the points received for community risk reduction have enabled a community to receive a better ISO Rating, such as improving from a Class 4 to a Class 3. The time and effort invested in community risk reduction programs creates a safer community and helps keep property insurance rates low.

MTAS can provide assistance to cities in evaluating or developing a community risk reduction program for your fire department. Contact either fire management consultant Dennis Wolf, dennis.wolf@tennessee.edu, or Steve Cross, steven.cross@tennessee.edu for more information.

Memphis, others consider suits as Tennessee drug deaths rise to record high

Drug Overdose Deaths in Tennessee, 2012-16



Drug overdose deaths in the state reached a new high in 2016 according to newly released data from the Tennessee Department of Health. Deaths increased 74 percent over the previous year.

OPIOIDS from Page 1

The attorneys general who filed suit in Sullivan County are also using a lesser known Tennessee law to prosecute drug companies. Officially the Tennessee Drug Dealer Liability Act but also nicknamed the "crack tax," the law was instated to allow civil action against drug dealers. The lawsuit filed in Sullivan County seeks to label drugmakers as dealers and punish them financially for the impact of their products.

The plaintiff in the Sullivan County case is "Baby Doe," an infant born addicted to opioids, and the child's mother, "Mary Doe," who are being represented by a Nashville-based law firm. In addition to the pharmaceutical company, the suit names two convicted opioid dealers and an area medical firm.

An additional five judicial districts encompassing 15 East Tennessee counties joined the Sullivan County suit in early October.

The suits being filed and considered across Tennessee come on the heels of another record-high year for overdose deaths in the state.

An estimated 1,631 people died from drug overdoses in 2016, according to newly released data from the Tennessee Department of Health. Overdose deaths have increased yearly and doubled in the past five years. Drug overdose-related deaths increased 74 percent from 2015 to 2016, with the largest increase in deaths occurring among those age 25 to 34.

State Health Commissioner John Dreyzehner said statistics sometimes belie the human cost of

the opioid crisis.

"Each of these numbers represents a person, with family and friends who are now facing the loss of someone dear to them to a cause that is preventable," Dreyzehner said. "The rate of increase in these deaths is slower than in the previous year, but it is still a horrible increase, and as we feared, our data show illicit drugs like fentanyl are now driving the increase."

Tennessee ranks No. 2 nationally in the share of opioid prescriptions per capita, and has the eleventh highest rate of opioid-related deaths of any state in the nation. Additionally, the amount of deaths related due to drugs like methamphetamine grew between 2015 and 2016 across Tennessee, especially among those between the ages of 25 and 44.

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Tennessee's long-serving town and city officials set gold standard for leadership, civic commitment

BY LINDA BRYANT

Author Zig Ziglar once said: "It was character that got us out of bed, commitment that moved us into action, and discipline that enabled us to follow through." Ziglar's adage could very well serve as a motto for many of Tennessee's longest serving elected small town and city public officials.

These are the tenacious pioneers who make sure critical community projects get done, whether it's a new ball park, school, sewer

line or an economic development deal designed to spur job growth and enhance the quality of life.

Tennessee Town & City spoke with 11 veteran mayors and aldermen across the state to find out what keeps them inspired, motivated and willing to give back to their respective towns and cities year after year.

Collectively, they've served for over 389 years and are—in almost every case—part-time or volunteer leaders who receive modest stipends for their tireless work. They grew up in and raised their families in

their hometowns, where they are still working day jobs as farmers, bankers, small business owners, realtors, health care professionals and more.

Sometimes it takes them six months to reach a goal. Other times it takes 15, 20 years — or even more. And many of these hometown heroes will tell you one reason why they serve such long tenures is that they're devoted to seeing much-needed projects through from vision to completion, no matter how long it takes to complete them.



Mayor Phil Williams
McMoresville
44 years



Alderman John David Douglas
Somerville
43 years



Alderman Bob Kirk
Dyersburg
50 years



Mayor Don Mull
Alcoa
46 years



what's going on in our community.
Mayor Eugene Pugh
Halls
44 years

TT&C: What drives you to continue to serve?

BK: I love this community, this entire area. I've been blessed by it, and I've continued to be re-elected all these years. When I came out of the Air Force in the 1960s, I knew I wanted to become involved in this community. I knew I was going to make it my home. I joined the Jaycees and got involved with them and wound up being president. You get older and can't be in the Jaycees over 40, so I became involved in the Dyersburg/Dyer County Chamber of Commerce. I've been involved with them ever since, and I'm a past chairman. I've been a city alderman for the past 50 years. I'm sold on this community. It's a sharing and giving place. My opportunity in public service was to help this community grow, develop and be a better place to work and play. My desire and commitment have remained strong.

I am also motivated by opportunities outside of Dyersburg that help bring attention to our area. I served on TACIR [Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations] for eight years. I was president of TML 2004-5. I'm currently the chairman of the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund.

TT&C: What accomplishment are you the proudest of during your time of service?

BK: In my early years on the board we repealed the Blue Law in the 1970s. [The blue law prohibits or restricts certain activities such as retail sales in order to support religious standards.] There were certainly some in the community who didn't feel like that needed to be done. The repeal was important and made commerce available on Sundays. Another highly controversial issue I was involved in was opening up a five-lane road from outside the city to downtown. I led that charge, and there was a group of people who tried to beat me in the next two elections after we got that approved. There was much opposition, but now everybody thinks it's the best thing we ever did.

I've been very active in economic development, creating jobs and working with new industries and prospects, and I've gotten involved with expanding existing industries. There are always issues surrounding expansions and new business projects — bond issues, expansion of infrastructure, etc. Right now, I'm working on future retail and commercial prospects for Dyersburg. I've had a good opportunity with my platform to make a significant difference in this community. We have a good school system, transportation system, infrastructure, balance of industry, business and commercial interests. And we can always be better. I'll be 80 in December, and I still have a strong commitment and desire to make this place better for future generations.

TT&C: What drives you to continue to serve?

DM: Actually seeing the accomplishments that we make is a big part of it. We completed a new police and fire department facility several years ago, and we have a new \$28 million water treatment plant. We just completed a new Alcoa High School. We renovated our elementary and middle school. This is our third city hall I've been in, and it is a really a good deal for the city. We actually purchased it for \$1 million with all the furnishings. We spent about \$200,000 to \$300,000 putting restrooms in and a few other things. It's probably a \$7 or \$8 million building if you built it today.

A multitude of things keeps me excited. Seeing retail coming to our city and seeing the expansion of the school system and the police and fire departments are two big ones. And now we are developing a new urbanism area in front of the airport. We added infrastructure to the road that's parallel to Alcoa Highway, putting in sewer, water, electric, gas — the whole nine yards. It will be like Turkey Creek in Knoxville.

The Alcoa Highway in front of the Knoxville airport is the most traveled interstate in the state of Tennessee, and it's going to be expanded with four more lanes in the next few years. It's an exciting time. There's a lot of interest and people coming into the area. I guess that's one of the things that drives you — when you get things moving. You hate to jump off the boat when things are going really well.

TT&C: What accomplishment are you the proudest of during your time of service?

DM: The key thing is the power of our sales tax base and how much it's changed from when I first got elected to the commission. There was virtually no sales tax; it was \$3 million. Last year property taxes were \$10 million. Our sales tax has gone to \$13 million a year. We have a Walmart and all kinds of restaurants and retail.

We have three new subdivisions, and they are actually full. At the present time, trying to find a house in our city is somewhat difficult because it's a seller's market. People really want to move here because of the quality of life and the quality of our schools. Maryville is in close proximity, and we work jointly in our industrial development with them and with Knox County. We are the envy of other areas because, regardless of where the industrial development happens, we all share in the success.

We don't care where it goes because you put the infrastructure in and then you share the taxes. We found out that working together accomplishes more. We are all good friends. We get together every month and just chit-chat about

TT&C: What drives you to continue to serve?

EP: I was born and raised in Halls. I really enjoy working for the community. I think the people in town know me, and they know I'm going to do everything I can to run the town as efficiently as possible. I was elected to the city board in 1968. I served my first term as mayor in 1996. I served eight years, and then I was out until 2008, when I was elected mayor again.

One of the main issues I've always thought was important is having jobs and making sure our citizens can work where they reside. We had a big Tupperware plant here before I was mayor. They pulled out, and we lost 1,100 jobs. Of course, that hurt. We had an Anderson Hickey metal office furniture company. They were doing really well, and then the company decided to close it up and relocate to Texas. We have overcome these things. We are still a very strong industrial location. Right now we are in the middle using a state grant to get some of our industrial properties ready. The water and sewer lines are there, the property has been graded and the site location is already prepared. Environmental studies have been done on the property, and we are in the process of finishing it all up.

TT&C: What accomplishment are you the proudest of during your time of service?

EP: One of the biggest things I've been involved in is our city park system. For a small town, we have an awfully good one. We have two main parks, one is where we have our little league and softball events. In the summer, we'll have between 475 to 500 kids signed up to play. We started off with two ball fields, and now we have five.

We need some more, and we'll get it done. I'm a farmer. I took a couple of other farmers with me to move all of the dirt work for the first two ball fields. We moved somewhere around 30,000 yards of dirt with the help of kids and farm tractors. We are constantly trying to improve our parks system. Anytime you can do anything for kids, you need to do it.

We have kids signing up to play summer league ball from Haywood County, Dyer County, and the south end of Lauderdale County. On Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday nights there will be 800 to 900 people at the ball fields. Anybody you want to see who lives within a 10-mile radius is at the ball fields those four nights during the summer — grandparents, mamas, daddies, and kids.

We are also very proud of our utility department. With water, we have more customers outside of town than we do inside because we've expanded our lines out into three other counties. If we hadn't done this, we wouldn't have the facility that we do have. We have a 1.5 million gallon-per-day output if we need it. If we didn't have these water lines out in the country, we wouldn't be able to afford the system because we wouldn't have enough customers.

TT&C: What drives you to continue to serve?

PW: I came home from the military in 1969 and built a house here. I ran for the board in the early 1970s. I was elected mayor in 1976, and I've been serving ever since. The mayor's job is part-time. For my full-time job, I own a furniture store. It seems like the years run out before my finished plans do. When you're working in your community, you always have something to do. If you had a board with folks as good as the ones I have, you would not mind serving. The real secret of being a mayor, whether you are successful or just comfortable, is having a supportive board.

TT&C: What accomplishment are you the proudest of during your time of service?

PW: When I was first elected, we had over \$1 million invested in a water plant, and we had to pay it off. It was a pretty big deal to pay off the debt with only 150 water customers at the time.

We started a Fourth of July Festival and a Fall Festival. We are proud of our town square. The city started to buy little properties [to complete the town square], and that has worked out really well for us. I was inspired to take over a manufacturing facility we had from the 1970s when the textile industry left. We acquired another one in the 1990s and kept it rented until 2010. It's been a dream to get it reoccupied. This past year we put a wall down the center of the 22,000-foot facility. We have Roger's Hydrant Service on one side and an air conditioning facility on the other side. We worked really hard to update and modernize the building.

Through a \$500,000 grant, we remodel 17 houses, and the people in those houses are so proud of where they live. Anytime you can help the elderly or underprivileged you've done what you were put here to do. If we have not accomplished these basic things as politicians — plus taking care of the middle class people who are working so hard to pay their taxes — we haven't really served.

The other thing I'm really proud of is that we are the hometown of Dixie Carter and Hal Holbrook. Dixie passed away but Mr. Holbrook comes back. We try to keep the town as clean as we can. For Flag Day, we always put up the American flag. We are always trying to do something for other people. You hear about city governments fighting, but we don't do that here. If you want to fuss, go somewhere else.

TT&C: What drives you to continue to serve?

JD: It is an honor to serve, and a great honor for the citizens to have selected me to serve for so many years. I believe I have added to the financial stability of the town while providing reasonable services. I've been in banking since 1970. I have served on every committee [on the Somerville Board of Mayor and Aldermen] at some point. I was chairman of the finance committee for several years, and I was the vice mayor for several years.

We currently have as good a team of associates and department heads as I have seen in my history with the town. I am proud of them and appreciate them. However, I do encourage some, possibly younger people with a mentality toward financial management, to please consider serving. I wouldn't mind passing the baton at some point.

It's very rewarding to serve in a small town and community. My son, David, and daughter, Amanda, live in Somerville with their families. Every Sunday they all come to dinner at our home, and it's the highlight of my week.

TT&C: What accomplishment are you the proudest of during your time of service?

JD: Other than large sewer projects, gas, and square enhancement projects, the largest accomplishment has been the UT Martin Somerville Center, which just opened. It is UT Martin's fifth educational outreach center in West Tennessee.

Credit for that goes to Mayor Ronnie Neill, City Administrator Bob Turner and a group of citizens including — but not limited to — Marlin Mosby, Richard Rucker, and County Mayor Skip Taylor, who worked on this idea and project for 5-plus years.

I would like to think that my suggestions to the board help provide a sounder financial structure for the UT Center. To me, my primary accomplishment — year in and year out — has been my part in the sound financial management of the town.

Our sales tax growth has increased in the past few years. We have two national retail establishments here — McDonald's and Tractor Supply. We think attracting them gets us on the radar for other retailers. I understand that Dollar Tree is going to enter one of our buildings that is currently vacant. We are also seeing an increase in residential growth on the west side of Somerville.

Tennessee's long-serving town and city officials set gold standard for leadership, civic commitment



Mayor Bryan Atchley
Sevierville Mayor
32 years

TT&C: What drives you to continue to serve?

BA: I served as an alderman from 1979 to 1989. I then took six years off because my kids were a senior and a sophomore in high school, and I knew the next few years were going to be really important. I needed to free myself up. In 1995, they were well on their way, and I decided to jump back into things. I have been serving ever since. I always said I'd be mayor until it quit being fun — because it doesn't pay enough for it not to be fun — or until I lose an election. I have to run for office every two years. I haven't had an opponent since 2005. I tell people I've either done a good job, or I've got it so messed up nobody else wants it.

When I was elected, our budget was \$11 million; now it's \$46 million. Our population was about 7,000; now it's about 17,000. Geographically we are 24-square miles, and there's still room to grow. We still have properties that developers are continuing to look at now. It was tough from 2007 to 2010 because of the recession, nothing was done. We used to have 20 or more items on our planning commission agenda, but during the recession, if we had three it was a lot. But we bounced back very well.

TT&C: What accomplishment are you the proudest of during your time of service?

BA: Since 1995 we have added a lot of things. We have a new police station, city hall and civic center. We were partners with the county in building a new hospital. We have a new library, senior citizen center and convention center. We expanded an 18-hole golf course to 36-holes back in 2010. We created Smokies Park, a Double-A ballpark. We are very proud of the ballpark, which was a joint city/county effort. We threw out the first pitch in April 2000. This past season was the 18th season, and we set attendance and revenue records. That's unheard of. Normally, your attendance records are set during the first five years. We are also very excited about our new main station fire hall. Our old fire hall was finished back in the late 1950s and early 1960s. It will be a state-of-the-art facility.

So much of our sales tax comes from outside the county. We are fortunate. At Tanger Five Oaks Mall, they did a survey and found that 91 percent of the sales tax comes from the Sevier County zip code. The highest they'd ever seen before that was 35 percent. Infrastructure is always a challenge, but we are ahead of the challenge right now. You have a town of 17,000 with 12 million people passing through here a year to shop, go to the national park, etc. You have to take care the electric, water and roads.



Mayor Kenneth Kizer
Parkers Crossroads
30-plus years

TT&C: What drives you to continue to serve?

KK: We incorporated in 1981, and I was vice mayor on the first board. I have been serving ever since in some capacity except for one term. I have always been community minded. But there's an old saying about a job like this, "You're either doing a pretty good job or no one else would take the job."

Parkers Crossroads has changed over time. There wasn't much here in 1977 when I built the first modern convenience store with fast food, walk-in coolers and such. There was nothing but service stations, one restaurant and one grocery store. We now have roughly 350 residents. Our trade area includes Huntingdon 15 miles to the north and Lexington 10 miles to the south. Of course, I-40 is the lifeblood of businesses here. About 37,000 vehicles a day come through our town. Our turning point was in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Our businesses were landlocked on septic systems. We acquired a grant and a loan of about \$1 million and got a septic sewer line put in with help of Lexington. We made a deal to tie onto their septic sewer. It was businesses only, not residential. We accomplished that and that opened the doors for other things.

TT&C: What accomplishment are you the proudest of during your time of service?

KK: The septic sewer system was a very big thing. I am proud of our growth. We got a McDonald's, and it continues to be a big plus for our sales tax revenue. We are currently negotiating with another fast food restaurant for some property here in town, as well as a new upscale motel. In the 1970s, the county formed a volunteer fire department. We have been a real success story in rural fire protection. We have a high ISO rating, which helps everyone in our area when it comes to their insurance rates. Another high point is our state-of-the-art visitor's center right in the center of town. We bought the property, eventually got it paid for and got a grant to renovate it. It looks like it should be in a larger town.

We are proud of the Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery at Parkers Crossroads. It's the first rural veteran's cemetery in the state. All the others are in large metropolitan areas and are nearing capacity. The state and federal government and our state representatives worked with us closely to make this happen. We bought 124 acres that join Interstate 40 right before you get into town. The project has been under construction for two years now, and there's going to be a grand opening in 2018. The total project is \$6.1 million and it will serve 45,000 veterans and their families within 17 counties in west Tennessee.



Mayor Casey Burnett
Friendship
30 years

TT&C: What drives you to continue to serve?

CB: If you think you are accomplishing things as you go along, you feel more like staying. I've been the fire chief here ever since I turned 18 and graduated from high school in 1982.

They appointed me to the city board in the mid-1980s to take the place of an alderman. In 1989, the mayor, who'd served here a very long time, came to me and asked me to run. I've been here ever since. I've had opposition several times but folks keep electing me, so I keep working for them.

I have been really fortunate to work with great people — from the local city to the state level. There have been five or six governors since I've been in office, and I've had good relationships with all of them.

The one thing I've had going for me is that I've always had good boards to work with. We have brought our fire department a long way. Our volunteer firemen have done so well. They don't get paid for drills or to answer calls, but during my time we went from a Class 10 to a Class 5 ISO rating.

TT&C: What accomplishment are you the proudest of during your time of service?

CB: When I came into office our utilities were in shambles. We've completely redone our gas, water and sewer systems over the years. We built new water tanks. A couple of years ago, our sewer plant was getting old. We studied it and ended up getting UT MTAS and others to help us. We decided it would be best to pump our sewer to Dyersburg. We got that accomplished. It gave us a lot more capacity.

Back in the 1990 things were really going well, and we had industry come into town. After they built a bridge across the Mississippi River on Highway 412 [Caruthersville Bridge] it made things better for us, and we were able to get some industry.

Between the city and the county, we were able to build a new elementary school about 15 years ago. Right now we are upgrading our water plant and bringing that system further along. We have more than doubled the size of our natural gas system during my time of service. In the 1990 census, we had 440 people. In the 2010 census, we had 660, so we've grown about 50 percent.



TT&C: What accomplishment are you the proudest of during your time of service?

DW: Dickson has grown from a small town to a small city. We have been fortunate from an economic standpoint. We have really sustained our budget and have been able to do things in the budget. I think my proudest accomplishments are the expansion of our parks and the rebirth of our downtown.

The TDOT grants we received for our downtown revitalization project, which began in 2011, have really brought our downtown back to life. I don't think we really knew where that downtown project would end up, but so far it's beyond what we hoped for. There are several restaurants downtown, and at this time I can't think of a vacant building on Main Street. We have been



Mayor Dale Kelley
Huntingdon
27 years

TT&C: What drives you to continue to serve?

DK: In my younger days I got interested in public affairs, and everything grew from that. I've been in elected office for 47 years, and I've been mayor for 25 years. I was on the Huntingdon City Council for two years. I served four years as an assessor of property. Then I was elected to the legislature and served six years. I served three years in Gov. Lamar Alexander's cabinet as commissioner of transportation. I'm grateful that people continue to show confidence in me, and I've always wanted to make sure I didn't let them down. It's been a wonderful run to make good things happen for my community. I get up every day, and I'm excited to go into the office and work. I have been blessed with the opportunity to interact with a lot of different people from governors and legislators to different organizations like the Tennessee Municipal League.

TT&C: What accomplishment are you the proudest of during your time of service?

DK: During my time in the legislature I sponsored legislation that created the Carroll County Watershed Authority. Once I became mayor, that translated into developing the 1,000 acre recreational lake for Carroll County. It's not only a recreational lake but an economic driver as well. It took 28 years to make it happen. Being able to do things of that magnitude and really making a difference for Carroll County — now and in the future — is what drives me and make it all worth it. Plus, we were able to develop the Dixie Carter Performing Arts and Academic Enrichment Center and the Hal Holbrook Theater here in Huntingdon. The performing arts center is a big contribution to our downtown.

When I became mayor, most of the storefronts in downtown Huntingdon were closed up. We revitalized downtown, redone streets and sidewalks, put in lighting systems and made sure we have the best water and sewage system. All of those things have helped revitalize Huntingdon. I wouldn't want to serve in public office if there weren't opportunities to make good things happen. That's what keeps me going.

One of our local industries just announced a \$110-million investment that will create the best paying jobs in the county. Providing opportunities for all our kids has been gratifying as well. We have created many recreational options for them. We have a school system here that is one of 12 exemplary school systems throughout the state. It takes time for the wheels of government to turn, and the things that happen have to occur in the stream of revenue that is available to you, but great things can happen.



Mayor Tom Rowland
Cleveland
26 years

TT&C: What drives you to continue to serve?

TR: I enjoy working with the citizens of Cleveland. I enjoy making things happen, and I enjoy working with people. What I've always said is "I'll help you anyway I can if it's not immoral or illegal."

I learned a long time ago that you need good people to help make it happen. I have been able to choose people who are movers and shakers to help me accomplish things. For instance, Athens has a beautiful museum that I was really jealous of when I first came into office. I appointed a committee of city and county residents to get together and explore these possibilities. Because these were hard-working people, the museum became a reality, and we have one of the finest in the state in downtown Cleveland.

Another thing I did was to form an organization called Cleveland 100 which honors first responders. It is called Cleveland 100 because it requires \$100 a year to become a member. Businesses pay \$1,000 a year. We take this money to help the relatives and survivors of first responders who lose their lives in the line of duty. We have helped four families since we started the organization. We provide funeral payments and other things that the family may need in cash as soon as the tragedy happens. As a spin-off of that, we built a memorial wall downtown that honors first responders. I think it's the only one in Tennessee, and it has been real successful.

TT&C: What accomplishment are you the proudest of during your time of service?

TR: When I was campaigning, the one thing I emphasized was us needing a community museum. I took great pride in it. When I first had the idea for the museum I started thinking about old buildings that we could convert into a museum. But by putting together a group of people with a vision we created a brand new building. That's something that I really didn't imagine at first, but I guess I wasn't thinking out of the box as much as some of the people in my committee were. The museum, the greenway system, and public transportation are the three things that I am proudest of. I consider myself a pretty good lobbyist for the city.

As far as Tennessee Municipal League goes, I really enjoyed serving as president of TML, serving on the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund Board and the Tennessee Risk Management Pool Board. I just resigned from TACIR [Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations]. I served there for 20 years, and during that time I was able to meet a lot of influential people in the legislature and the state government. It really helped over the years.



Mayor Don Weiss
Dickson
24 years

TT&C: What drives you to continue to serve?

DW: When I was elected to the council in 1987 it was a way to get

involved in the community. I wanted to see our community thrive and move forward. I never dreamed of becoming mayor. When I was asked to fulfill the last two years of Mayor Wyckoff's term, it was totally different than being on the council because as mayor you're involved with the day-to-day operations of the entire city.

After those first two years, I thought that I should have a full term in office. I ran in 1995 and was fortunate enough to be elected again. I've been elected several times since then. I'm driven by a sense of service to our community. I know that's a cliché and it's used by a lot of people, but it's true for me. It's very gratifying on a personal level when you can say, "Maybe I've had a little influence, a positive influence on this community."

able to keep this project going, and we are getting ready to begin the fourth phase.

We've also been able to work very well with the county over the years. Our industrial park has done extremely well. The newest industry we have been able to bring to Dickson is Dal-Tile, a wall and floor tiling company that's bringing about 300 jobs. It's a \$160 million investment in our city and county. To be able to secure this kind of investment in Dickson is an amazing thing.

We are proud of all that Dickson represents. We are really the regional shopping area for the five to six counties that surround us. We are close to Interstate 40, and that is a huge plus for us. We still have affordable residential and commercial property.

Several years ago we were

fortunate enough to have the Jackson Foundation build the Renaissance Center here. Since then the Renaissance Center has become Freed-Hardeman University. Nashville State has a campus in that facility, too. When you become a small college town, I think it takes you to a different level.

When I first became mayor our budget was probably in the \$5-\$6 million range. We now have a \$22 million budget, with only \$6 to \$7 million of debt. We have great sales tax revenue. We have very affordable city property tax rates. I can't say enough about our city administrator and our department heads. They are some of the most dedicated individuals I've ever been around. They are the ones that run this city on a day-to-day basis, and I just try to stay out of their way.

Smart Corridors use technology to alleviate congestion

By KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

As technology evolves, transportation officials across the country are looking at ways to make commutes faster and easier, especially on major and frequently-congested corridors.

One emerging tool is the Smart Corridor, a section of roadway featuring specialized signage that can alert motorists to upcoming accidents, weather events, and other obstacles. The goal of the technology is to help transportation officials' better guide motorists by using strategies to alleviate congestion.

Atlanta recently broke ground on a new Smart Corridor in its downtown and the city of Pittsburgh, Pa., is partnering with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for a \$30 million smart-signal system. Similar plans have been discussed for Austin, Texas, and implemented on a small scale in areas like Denver, Chicago, and in the Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn., area, largely on major interstate corridors.

The greater San Francisco Bay area implemented a \$79 million Smart Corridor system in the summer of 2016 along its Interstate 80, which has served as the test case for many other areas. Consistently named as the worst-congested corridor in the country, this stretch of I-80 transports some 270,000 vehicles daily with an accident rate twice that of the state average.

The Nashville and Memphis Metropolitan Planning Areas have already looked into Smart Corridors as solutions to traffic congestion in the area. The state of Tennessee is also looking into these corridors for Interstate systems.

Phillip B. "Brad" Freeze, director of the traffic operation division of the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), said Smart Corridors are one way transportation officials across the country are looking at using technology to make transit easier and more reliable.

"A Smart Corridor is us learning to operate a corridor more efficiently through partnerships and through the use of technology, both existing and future, emerging technology," he said. "Smart Corridors are really targeted toward congestion as a result of non-reoccurring causes, which include instances like traffic crashes, weather events, and anything that is not planned. If you look at information from the Federal Highway Administration, 60 percent of the causes of congestion are the direct result of these non-concurrent incidents."

While increasing the capacity of roadways may seem like a good solution to easing congestion, Freeze said congestion management is more efficient.

"You aren't fully addressing the project by just adding another lane," he said. "You have to make the system work more efficiently. You can't build your way out of congestion. A major expansion project, like adding a couple of lanes to I-24, would take at least 10 years from planning to design to the environmental processes before you can even construct it, which can take three years or more. We can do things now that directly impact the causes of congestion."

While it may seem inevitable, Freeze said rush hour traffic is one of those unplanned occurrences. One of the goals of Smart Corridors is to provide more predictable travel times.

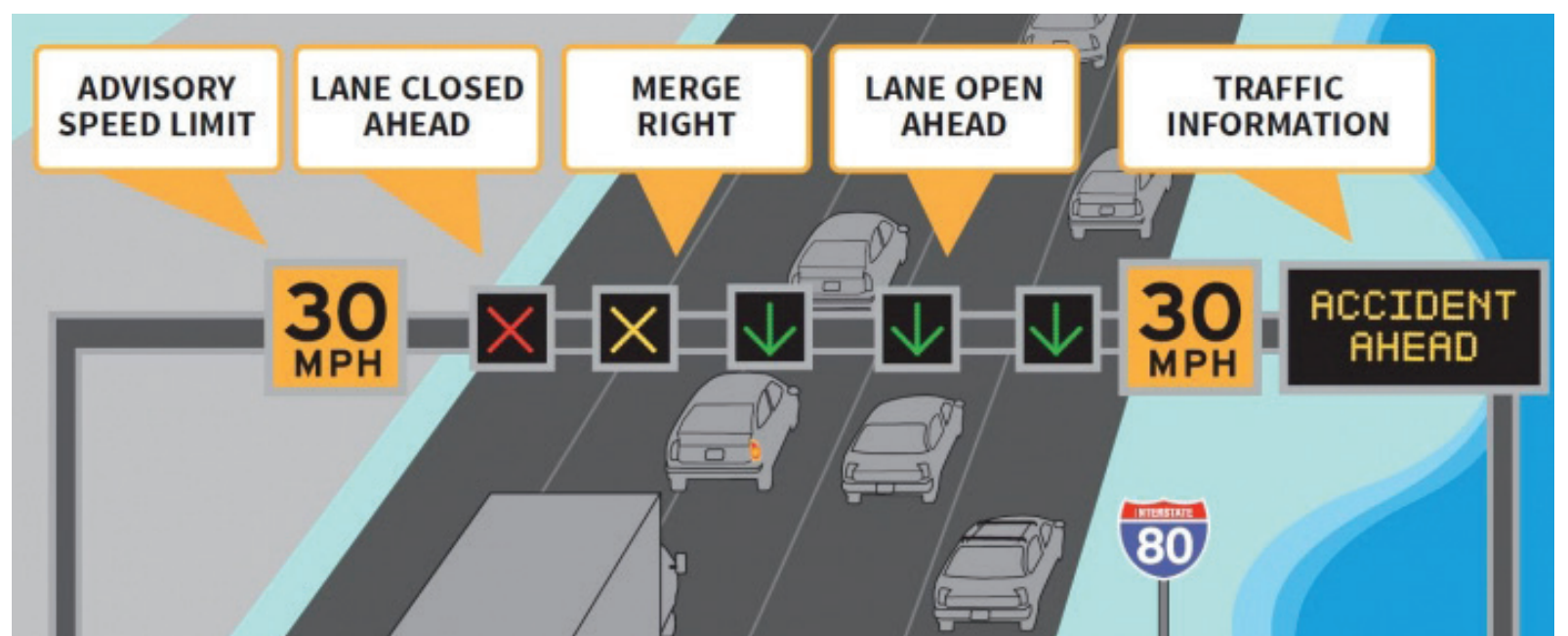
"Rush hour is really influenced by traffic incidents," he said. "You have a limited capacity out there and your road system is operating at or near capacity, so when you have an accident it really compounds the issue. What we want to target is how reliable the system is, and how reliable it is from day to day. You can't plan your day around rush hour, and that is what we are trying to target: that unreliability."

Smart Corridors allow transportation officials to communicate more and better information to motorists as well as have more control over traffic.

"It helps reduce accidents, even the flow of traffic, reduce the buildup of congestion, and makes the system a little more reliable," Freeze said. "It allows other strategies that allow dynamic speed control where we can adjust speed limits or advisory limit of speeds



Smart Corridors use technology similar to the dynamic message boards located on interstates across Tennessee, like this one. In addition to quirky messages about driver safety, the boards also display information about accidents, construction, and even Amber Alerts issued in the local area.



The different components of the Smart Corridors display shows motorists how fast they should be going in current traffic, which lanes will be closed ahead, which lanes must merge ahead and which lanes will be open. The goal of the display is to help motorists navigate road obstacles and delays long before they arrive at the point of delay, therefore, speeding up traffic. The hope is that the technology will also reduce secondary accidents caused by motorists attempting to merge or slowing down as the result of an initial traffic issue.

to slow down the flow of traffic. It sounds counterintuitive to slowdown the system to speed up traffic, but it actually works. We can let people know if lanes are closed ahead and control when people start to merge over into another lane."

These corridors can also make things easier for emergency personnel responding to traffic incidents, Freeze said.

"Part of the process is working together with first responders and creating better response plans," he said. "We want to make these roadways safer for first responders to do their jobs."

The technology used by Smart Corridors is similar in display to the dynamic message boards already located throughout interstates in Tennessee as well as the technology used by TDOT's SmartWay app, which gives mobile and desktop users current updates on traffic speeds, delays and construction zones.

While most Smart Corridors are planned

around one major roadway, Freeze said integrating arterial roadways are an important part of these projects.

"When we say Smart Corridors, we talk about using freeway systems but it also includes the adjacent arterials off those when we have a major incident off the interstate," Freeze said. "Those arterials can provide diversionary routes for some of the traffic. We want to provide better synchronization of the signals on arterials along those corridors, and better response plans for those signals so those roads can better handle an influx of people and how we move them."

Interstate 24 between Murfreesboro and Nashville has been considered as a Smart Corridor pilot program area for the state of Tennessee with the project eventually expanding to other corridors in the state. Freeze said the state has already expanded its systems in this area, including monitoring cameras and dynamic sign boards, as well as expanding

highway service patrols in the area. Freeze said one of the challenges is the ages of different systems on the corridor, but the hope is to begin implementing more technology strategies in the long-term.

While most may think major metro areas are the only regions up for consideration for Smart Corridor projects, Freeze said this isn't so. Other areas considered for Smart Corridors by the state include Interstate 40 in Jackson.

"These concepts work in all areas," he said. "Jackson has eight or nine exists on I-40, and it can get quite clogged in that area during lunch hour and morning peak. These strategies aren't just good for larger urban areas. They can have effects on these areas as well. Smaller areas may not need all the components needed in an urban area, but these strategies can be useful for them. A lot of areas of the state have periods when traffic is a big issue."

Another goal of Smart Corridors is to adapt as transportation technology evolves as well. The emergence of "connected vehicles" with access to cellular communications, internet, wi-fi and other technologies may even allow for transportation departments to receive and disseminate information to motorists in the future.

"One of the things about Smart Corridors is planning for things like that happening in the future," Freeze said. "Smart Corridors are about integrating corridor management, and are an all-encompassing concept. It is about all we can do to make the system work more efficiently."

"You aren't fully addressing the project by just adding another lane. You have to make the system work more efficiently. You can't build your way out of congestion. A major expansion project, like adding a couple of lanes to I-24, would take at least 10 years from planning to design to the environmental processes before you can even construct it, which can take three years or more. We can do things now that directly impact the causes of congestion."

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