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Mark your calendar for Second Annual Rural Mayor's Day Oct.1



On Monday, Oct. 1, Tennesseans will celebrate the observance of Tennessee Rural Mayors' Day.

Signed into law by Gov. Bill Haslam in 2017 as Public Chapter No. 176, Tennessee Rural Mayors' Day was established to honor and recognize mayors of small cities in this state for their tireless work and dedicated

service to their respective communities.

Recognizing that most of the time that mayors do not receive the credit they deserve for the day-to-day operations that keep cities running smoothly, TML hopes each community will take the time to recognize their efforts as part of the special day.

NLC reports city tax revenue is slowing down

BY BILL LUCIA

RouteFifty

City fiscal health in the U.S. is generally good, but tax revenues are showing continued signs of a slowdown, the National League of Cities recently reported.

Three major sources of city revenue—property, sales and income taxes—grew at a more sluggish pace in the 2017 fiscal year compared to the previous budget cycle, according to findings presented in NLC's 33rd annual City Fiscal Conditions Report.

Property tax revenues grew at 2.6 percent in 2017, compared to 4.3 percent in 2016, sales tax growth slowed to 1.8 percent, from 3.7 percent, and income tax 1.3 percent from 2.4 percent.

The report incorporates findings from an online survey of city finance officers around the U.S., which this year included information from 341 cities with populations of 10,000, to over 300,000.

Overall, revenues did grow in fiscal 2017, but only at a rate of 1.25 percent and growth is expected to be closer to zero in fiscal 2018. Fiscal 2017 is the second year in a row revenue growth slowed

Even so, 73 percent of city finance officers voiced optimism in this year's survey about the fiscal positions their cities are in. That's up slightly from last year when the figure was 69 percent.

Christiana McFarland, director of research at the National League of Cities, said that overall the survey indicates that "city fiscal conditions are on solid footing" and finance officers are mostly voicing confidence. But she added: "we're also starting to see decelerating growth."

McFarland explained that national figures for economic output and employment, which are strong right now, can tell an incomplete story about the economy. Digging deeper, she said, reveals signs of a cooling housing market and slowing income growth even though there have been gains in the nation's median income level.

Natalie Cohen, managing director of municipal research with Wells Fargo, cautioned that people shouldn't conflate macroeconomic trends with what's happening with city budgets.

She noted the closed shopping malls that now pepper communities around the U.S. as an example of a factor that is affecting property values and, in turn, local government revenues. She also pointed out that first time homebuyers are lagging compared to historic lev-

The report indicates that finance officers in cities with fewer than 50,000 residents were less likely to be upbeat about their jurisdiction's ability to meet its financial needs. Larger cities, by comparison, have seen stronger growth in their economies and tax bases.

Survey respondents generally said it's still too early to know how key parts of last year's sweeping federal tax overhaul will affect their local government's finances.

But 35 percent of finance officers did say that their cities are experiencing negative fallout from one element in the tax code rewrite: the elimination of tax-exempt advance refunding bonds.

The bonds had been a popular way for state and local governments to refinance debt at lower interest rates and save money. But they are banned under the new tax law. Figures cited in the NLC report say the bonds saved taxpayers over \$2.5 billion in 2017 alone.

NLC president, Mayor Mark Stodola, of Little Rock, Ark., said that city officials will press their case with lawmakers to restore the tax exemption.

"We're going to be pushing very, very hard for that," he said.

Republicans on the House Ways and Means Committee kicked off a legislative effort dubbed "Tax Reform 2.0" this week.

It would, among other things, lock in individual tax cuts in the new tax law beyond 2025, and make permanent a \$10,000 cap on the state and local tax, or SALT, deductions that individual taxpayers can claim under the law on their federal tax returns.

NLC was one of the groups that unsuccessfully opposed the inclusion of the SALT cap in the tax rewrite. In the fiscal survey, 83 percent of respondents said they hadn't yet seen effects from the cap on their city budgets. But 28 percent said they thought it would See REVENUE on Page 7

Water planning essential to Tennessee's sustainability and economic future

BY KATE COIL
TML Communications Specialist

TML Communications specialist

Throughout the summer, state officials have been crisscrossing Tennessee to discuss both the current condition of the state's water supply as well as future plans for water conservation and preservation.

TN H20 is a project bringing together stakeholders from all levels of government as well as industry, academia, environmental advocacy groups, and public utilities to develop a statewide plan for future water availability in Tennessee.

Later this fall, a final report including an assessment of current water resources and recommendations to help ensure Tennessee has an abundance of water resources to support future population and economic growth will be presented to Gov. Bill Haslam and then be made available for public comment.

Deputy Gov. Jim Henry, chairman of the TN H20 steering committee, helped lead a panel presentation during the TML Annual Conference held in Knoxville in June. He said water isn't something he or many Tennesseans have given much consideration to in the past because the state has always seemed blessed with an abundance of water.

"I'm from Kingston where there is an abundance of water," Henry said. "he Tennessee River, Emory River, and Clinch River run together there, and our focus is usually on the water quality. Right after the governor asked me to head this steering committee, I went to Mexico on vacation. It was amazing to see that people on one side of the street living in the finest luxury you can imagine and people on the other side of the street have a burro tied up to their tin hut. A lot of that comes down to unequal water supplies."

However, Henry said it is easy to see water issues on the horizon for Tennessee.

"Water is both the lifeblood of the human system and the lifeblood of Tennessee communities," he said. "Water is crucial to our state from manufacturing to recreation to agriculture. Over the past several years, Tennessee has experienced several issues that highlight the need for a comprehensive study and assessment of its water resources. We face droughts impacting numerous communities across Tennessee. We have been confronted by the failure of aging wastewater and drinking water systems. We have been drawn into contentious interstate battles over who has rights over water."

TDEC Commissioner Dr. Shari Meghreblian said the job of TDEC and the mission of TN H20 going forward is to ensure that Tennessee remains a good place to live, work, and play through good stewardship of water resources.

"We in Tennessee right now do not regulate water quantity, and this isn't what TN H20 is about. You can't really talk about water quantity without talking about water quality," she said. "If you have more water, you have more opportunity to use that water and reuse that water. Having an abundance of water is important, and from a TDEC perspective, we work with large urban areas and small towns and municipalities to deal with issues. However, it sometimes feels like a game of whack-a-mole where if you handle a problem over here another one pops up over here. We have to solve these problems as a state before we get to a situation where it's too late."

Henry said the state's rapid economic growth wouldn't have been possible without its water supply.

"The state's population is expected to double in the next 50 years – there will be 14 million people in Tennessee in 50 years," Henry said. "States are already competing with us for fresh water. There are lawsuits with Georgia and Mississippi. People need to take this issue seriously because our economic development depends on having an adequate, clean supply of water that is inexpensive. While water is inexpensive compared to what we have paid in the past, water will get more expensive."

Municipalities across Tennessee are already dealing with balancing the health and safety of their water supply with meeting the demands of growing populations.



Jim Henry TN Deputy Governor



Dr. Shari Meghreblian TDEC Commissioner

Franklin Mayor Ken Moore said making sure there is enough water for consumption is just as important as making sure water is reused properly.

"Franklin is a city that is all about planning, but water infrastructure is one of the most complex areas of planning a city can do," he said. "You want to be sustainable, and you want to appease the regulators. We aren't a community that requires a lot of industrial water, but we are a growing community of people who need drinking water. We have to find laces to discharge our water and find places to discharge our gray water. We also have a river that runs through our city that is a recreation center and is just pretty."

West Knox Utility District Manager Drexel Heidel said East Tennessee is also facing similar See WATER on Page 5

Fire Prevention Week set for Oct. 7-13

Look. Listen. Learn. Be Aware Fire Can Happen Anywhere

The latest statistics from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) show that people who have a reported fire in their home, are more likely to die today than they were a few decades ago.

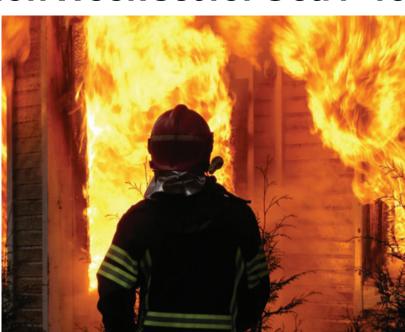
This startling statistic is behind this year's Fire Prevention Week theme: "Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware - fire can happen anywhere." Fire Prevention Week takes place Oct. 7-13, 2018.

Through three simple callsto-action, this year's theme identifies basic but essential ways people can reduce their risk to fire and be prepared in the event

- Look for places fire can start,
 Listen for the sound of the smoke alarm, and
- Learn two ways out of each room.

"People take safety for granted and are not aware of the risk of fire," said Lorraine Carli, NFPA vice president of Outreach and Advocacy. "Paying attention to your surroundings, looking for available exits in the event of a fire or other emergency, and taking the smoke alarm seriously if it sounds can make a potentially life-saving difference in a fire or other emergency situation."

This year's Fire Prevention



With four out of five fire-related deaths occuring in homes every year and home fires on the increase, the National Fire Protection Association is reminding residents to focus on at-home prevention during this year's National Fire Prevention Week.

Week messages apply to virtually all locations. However, NFPA continues to focus on home fire safety, as the majority of U.S. fire deaths (four out of five) occur at home each year. In fact, the fire death rate (per 1000 home fires reported to the fire department) was 10 percent higher in 2016 than in 1980.

"While we've made significant progress in preventing home fires from happening, these statistics show that there's still much more work to do when it comes to teaching people how to protect themselves in the event of one, and why advance planning is so critically important," said Carli. "Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware – fire can happen anywhere." works to re-

mind the public that fires can and do still happen – at home, as well as other locations - and that there are basic but vitally important steps people can take to remain safe.

As the official sponsor of Fire

As the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week for more than 90 years, NFPA works with local fire departments throughout North America to promote the campaign in their communities and reaches out to the public directly to encourage everyone to take action to be safe.

For a wealth of information and resources about this year's "Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware – fire can happen anywhere" campaign, visit www.firepreventionweek.org.

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



ASHLAND CITY

Ashland City residents will soon be able to receive communications and submit anonymous tips to the city's police department through a smart phone app. The city recently approved a three-year contract with Tip411 to the tune of \$3,600 from the department's budget. Used in more than 1,400 communities nationwide, the web-based application allows for real-time communication between police officials and members of the public. Even residents of Cheatham County who do not live in the city limits can use the app to contact the Ashland City Police Department who can then forward tips to the appropriate department. Citizens can also include videos, images, and other information in their submissions allowing the department to better follow up on reported incidents. Additionally, the city police can also send out notifications to users that including maps, images, links, and case information such as the names and identities suspect or missing persons to help citizens be on the lookout for persons of interest.

CHATTANOOGA

The city of Chattanooga has unveiled the newly renovated Miller Park after 14 months of work on the project. The \$10.6 million renovation was funded through a mix of private and public funds and grants, and included the creation of a 25,000-square-foot green space in the 78,522-square-foot park. Other additions include a brick stage replacing the former band shell that can also be enclosed with glass for meetings. Free high-speed wifi is available throughout the park and an underground system of internet cables and electricity can support hightech digital art installations and performances. Water fountains installed at the park include areas to refill water bottles as well as shorter basins for dogs visiting the park. Renovations to the centrally-located city park began in 2015 and construction closed the park for a year. The park was originally constructed in the 1970s as part of one of the first city-wide riverside renaissance projects.

CLINTON

The Clinton Parks and Recreation Department recently broke ground on the community's first inclusive playground in conjunction with officials from local nonprofit Milly's Wings. The charity was established in honor of Amelia "Milly" Erb who died at the age of five after a lifelong neurological disorder. Clinton city officials said nearly 20 percent of the 10,000 children living in the surrounding area have special needs or disabilities and could benefit from having specially designed playgrounds that allow them to play with other children. The South Clinton Inclusive Playground project will include wheelchair accessible riding toys, sensory play equipment, musical instruments, swings that can accommodate children with muscle and bone structure issues, bathroom facilities, a covered pavilion, and some more traditional playground equipment. In addition to local charitable donations and funds from Milly's Wings, a recent \$115,000 parks and recreation grant the city received from the state of Tennessee will help fund the project.

CROSSVILLE

Stonepeak Ceramics, Inc., will expand its operations in Cross-

TENNESSEE TOWN & CITY

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ville, opening a new production line. The company will invest \$70 million and increase the factory's capacity by 20 percent through the expansion. Once completed, Stonepeak Ceramics will be the first tile manufacturer to produce large size porcelain panels in the country. The new product line will also require the addition of a new kiln to the facility. With this expansion, the porcelain tile manufacturer will add approximately 160 fulltime jobs at its Crossville facility over the next five years. StonePeak is a domestic porcelain tile manufacturer serving locations across the U.S. Stonepeak Ceramics, a subsidiary of the Italian holding group Iris Ceramica, is one of the leading porcelain tile manufacturers in the U.S.

GERMANTOWN

The city of Germantown will soon be adding two lanes, a median, bike lines, and a sidewalk to Forest Hill-Irene Road. The \$6.1 million project is expected to be completed by January 2020 and is being done to handle the expected traffic increase when the nearby Forest Hill Elementary School opens. The city is hoping to have the first phase of the project in time for the school opening next year. A waterline extension is also included in the traffic project to help improve water flow and pressure in the area. In the meantime, motorists are asked to use alternative routes.

GOODLETTSVILLE

The Goodlettsville Parks and Recreation Department is working with local residents and playground equipment company Playworld to create the city's first all-inclusive playground. Named Rachel's Garden, the playground is inspired by Rachel West, the daughter of retired Gallatin Fire Captain Ricky West who is in a wheelchair and was not able to play on local playgrounds with mulch or pebble surfaces as a girl. Plans for the playground include a surfacethatis accessible for wheelchairs, sections for smaller and older children, sensory-friendly equipment, wheelchair-accessible equipment, swings for children of all abilities, ramps to provide access, a shaded picnic area, and a climbing area made to look like a local fire truck. The total cost of the project is estimated at around \$500,000 with \$20,000 already raised through donations.

HENDERSONVILLE

Gray Matter Studios, LLC, and Hendersonville developer Ealey Properties will be developing a 43-acre property in the city into a production and post-production study for television and movies. Gray Matter Studio intends to begin operations in the fall of 2019 at the eastern end of Molly Walton Drive. The facility will feature 10 stages totaling more than 150,000 square feet with the total complex including more than 50,000 square feet of dedicated production office space, 40,000 square feet of administrative and executive offices, and 10,000 square feet of post-production space. The facility will also include dressing rooms, green rooms, wardrobe space, hair and make-up space, catering and commissary rooms, warehousing and storage, a mill shop, scenic shop, and grip department. A five-acre backlot will also be developed on the site.

KINGSPORT

The Kingsport Housing and Redevelopment Authority has received \$2 million in grants from the Tennessee Housing Development Agency to provide more affordable housing in the area. The authority received three grants: a nearly \$750,000 National Housing Trust Fund grant for the rehabilitation of an 18-unit apartment building at the corner of Charlemont and Broad, \$500,000 grant from the Tennessee Housing Trust Fund to assist in the rehabilitation of the 76-unit Dogwood Terrace Apartments, and \$900,000 to help with the Dogwood Terrace overhaul. The funding is part of an ongoing redevelopment project that the city started six years ago to renovate all existing KHRA properties. When complete, the project will have renovated more

than 400 units housing more than 1,000 residents.

LEBANON

The Music City Star's new train station at Hamilton Springs has opened in Lebanon, making it the third stop for the train system in the city. More than 2.5 million passengers have taken 294,000 trips on the train system in the past decade with fiscal year 2018 showing the highest number of annual trips so far. The land for the station was donated by the Bell Family and includes 160 parking spots. The new station is also in walking distance of Lebanon's Hamilton Springs community. The site was also originally the location of the original Hamilton Springs Station, which brought passengers to the nearby Hamilton Springs Resort more than 100 years ago.

MT. JULIET

The city of Mt. Juliet has received nearly \$1 million in grants for traffic projects through the Nashville area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT). The first award is \$811,812 for the widening of the bridge over Interstate 40 on Mt. Juliet Road. The total project cost is estimated at around \$1.5 million. The second grant totals \$140,000 from the MPO for the second phase of a sidewalk project along Lebanon Road. The project will install six-foot-wide sidewalks on both sides of the road between Mt. Juliet Road and Park Glen. The funds from these two projects come on the heels of a \$2.34 million grant the city recently received for an adaptive traffic signals project.

MUNFORD

The Munford Fire Department has received a \$42,000 grant from the Ernest & Anna Ritter Family Endowment to upgrade existing equipment and purchase new tools needed to provide pre-hospital care and advanced life support. Equipment purchased through the grant included a new cardiac monitor, six automatic external defibrillators (AEDs), and medications. Officials with the department said roughly 60 percent of the calls they respond to are medical emergencies. In addition to the city of Munford, the department also frequently responds to calls in Atoka and much of southern Tipton County.

MURFREESBORO

The city of Murfreesboro has the fourth best real estate market for medium-sized cities and sixth best real estate market of any city in the nation overall according to a new study by financial planning site Wallet Hub. The city ranked tenth overall for real estate market and seventh overall for its affordability and economic environment. Cities were ranked on 22 different metrics including home value, foreclosure rate, vacancy rate, home sales turnover, price cuts, days until a house is sold, housing affordability, population growth, job growth, unemployment, and median credit score. The city of Nashville also ranked sixth for major metro areas in terms of real estate market and 25 overall.

MURFREESBORO

The Murfreesboro Fire and Res-

cue Department has been awarded \$2.8 million in federal grant money through a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant. Funds from the grant will assist the city and the department in the hiring of 28 new firefighters to meet National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) minimum staffing standards. Under the grant, the department is required to maintain minimum staffing levels and incur no lay-offs in the first three years of the grant. Funds will cover an estimated 75 percent of the annual cost for the new staffing positions in the first year and second year and 35 percent of cost in the third year. The city will also contribute a \$1.765 million match as part of the three-year commitment. Fire officials said the positions will likely be filled by November using an existing list of qualified applicants.

Construction progresses on Sevierville FD headquarters



Construction continues on the new headquarters for the Sevierville Fire Department located on Dolly Parton Parkway. The structure is expected to be completed in late 2018 or early 2019. The new headquarters provide 24-hour staffing of six firefighters, one engine, and an array of technical rescue equipment. The estimated cost of the 17,000-square-foot facility is \$6.5 million. When completed, the building will house all of the department's administrative staff, a museum, training class rooms, and displays including the city's first fire engine.

Lebanon officials break ground on police station renovations



Officials with the city of Lebanon and Lebanon Police Department broke ground on renovations and additions to the city's Sparta Pike Police Station. The new space will include offices for detectives, interview rooms, and increasing storage space - which is one of the growing needs of the force. The station will be the first major overhaul of a city police station in more than 20 years and has been prompted by the rapid growth of the community. The 14,000-square-foot addition is expected to be completed by the end of October 2019.

Martin dedicates restored train caboose at city park



Martin Mayor Randy Brundige addresses the crowd a ceremony dedicating the newly restored caboose at the city's Virginia Weldon Park. City officials had long wanted to restore the caboose at the park when a 13-year-old Martin Middle School student volunteered to spearhead the efforts two years ago. The restoration celebration was part of the overall events of Tennessee Soybean Festival's Magical Martin Day held at the park.

Gallatin students turn trash bins into public art



Art students from Volunteer State Community College and Gallatin High School are turning recycling bins at Gallatin Public Works recycling center into works of art. Students turned one of the bins used to recycle cardboard materials into a work of art reminiscence of Claude Monet's water lilies as part of ongoing beautification projects across the city outlined in the Gallatin on the Move 2020 community development plan. The Gallatin City Council also recently approved murals to be painted in the downtown area to bring more color to the community and improve the appeal of blighted areas. Murals must be approved by city officials.



Community and Rural Development Best Practices Series - Infrastructure

Public / private partnership unites to provide funding for critical infrastructure improvements for Bonnaroo

South Central Tennessee Development District, Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (TNECD) and Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) join with the city of Manchester and Coffee County

BY DR. BRIDGET JONES

Project Consultant jones-bridget consulting group

Since 2002, Manchester and Coffee County have been the home of the Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival, a four-day event held on more than 700 acres of farmland featuring a diverse array of music styles and international performers.

Each year the event, located 60 miles southeast of Nashville, attracts thousands of people to Coffee County and southern Middle Tennessee to hear jam bands, dance D.J.'s, marquee pop stars, and enjoy artisans providing art, film, dance, and other unique cultural experiences.

For the music world, outdoor festivals are a big business that is only getting bigger. Once a marginal part of the music scene in North America, festivals now play an increasingly central role in the business. In 2008, Rolling Stone magazine named Bonnaroo the "Best Music Festival" in the U.S. which brought more national focus after this prestigious designation.

In April 2015, the New York Times reported that Live Nation Entertainment acquired a controlling interest in the festival and Great Stage Park, joining Bonnaroo festival owners in their operations.

The article also deemed Bonnaroo one of the country's premier music festivals and reported that the four-day event drew more than 80,000 fans to the rural Tennessee location.

Bonnaroo co-founders stated in the article that the partnership with Live Nation would empower them to enhance the festival and preserve the integrity of the event that has been thoughtfully built over the last 14 year period.

INFRASTRUCTURE **IMPROVEMENTS**

For most big festival operators, rapid expansion is critical to build a network for booking talent and making sponsorship deals. Manchester and Coffee County leaders have worked closely with Bonnaroo/Live Nation Entertainment to develop crucial infrastructure to the Great Stage Park.

Their public/private partnership has positioned the community and Bonnaroo to make systematic infrastructure improvements in a relatively short timeframe to address growth needs.

An additional benefit of the infrastructure improvements has been the support for the growth of the nearby industrial parks also benefiting from the improvements where hundreds of new jobs have been created.

In 2015, South Central Tennessee Development District staff, along with the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (TN-ECD) and Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) joined the local public/private partnership to provide funding for necessary water system improvements to supply nearby industrial park and residential customers and the event at current attendance levels.

The need to maintain water service to local consumers during the period of festival consumption factored into project plans and specifications as a critical factor. The infrastructure investments would also be adequate to support the future growth of the festival.

In 2015, the city of Manchester was awarded \$175,000 in ARC funding and matched the grant with \$175,000 in local funding to construct a water booster station necessary to supply adequate amounts of water to industrial park consumers and the event.

In 2016, partners including ARC, Coffee County, the city of Manchester, and Bonnaroo/ Live Nation Entertainment invested \$1.4 million in combined funding to upgrade the capacity of existing waterlines to better serve local industrial customers and the festival.

Also in the fall of 2016, Bonnaroo/Live Nation invested an additional \$650,000 to replace rows of port-a-potties with "state-of-the-art" restroom facilities that opened for the 2017 festival, much to the happiness of attendees.

The TNECD Best Practice Toolkit Series is a growing resource of project descriptions that highlight success stories across Tennessee. Featuring projects that have been funded by TNECD Community and Rural Development and Rural Task Force partner programs, the series fulfills Tennessee Rural Task Force recommendations to highlight success stories and show other communities how they can be replicated.



Founded in 2002, the Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival in Manchester has blossomed into one of the country's top music festivals. The growth of the festival has also prompted economic growth in the surrounding area. Photo credit: The New York Times.



To support the more than 80,000 attendees of the four-day festival, the city of Manchester has worked with several partners to provide more infrastructure at the festival site.

Photo credit: The Tennessean

ECONOMIC IMPACT

The Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival is a significant economic driver for Coffee County and the entire South Central Tennessee region. In 2012, a Bonnaroo sponsored study reported the total economic impact of the Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival exceeded \$50 million, including \$36 million in direct expenditures and \$15 million in indirect and induced economic activity. Also in 2012, the recognized industry trade publication Pollstar reported Bonnaroo ticket sales over the four-day festival period totaled nearly \$19 million for the company. In 2018, the event continued to thrive with more than 275 Tennessee residents working directly for Bonnaroo and more than 130 Tennessee-based companies directly servicing the Bonnaroo festival. Local officials and Bonnaroo/ Live Nations Entertainment leaders predict that once new infrastructure systems are in place, Manchester and Coffee County will be positioned to continue to grow the annual festival and attract even more entertainment events to the region.

PROJECT FUNDING

TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT FUNDING \$2.400.000*

*Projections for federal grants, local government funding and festival investments

City of Manchester Match

Appalachian Regional Commission Grant Coffee County Match City of Manchester Match

Bonnaroo/Live Nation Match Bonnaroo/Live Nation

Appalachian Regional Commission Grant \$175,000 (pump station construction) \$175,000 (pump station construction)

\$500,000 (existing water line upgrades) \$150,000 (existing water line upgrades) \$100,000 (existing water line upgrades) \$650,000 (existing water line upgrades) \$650,000 (restroom facilities construction)

PROJECT LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERS

City of Manchester

Coffee County

Bonnaroo/Live Nation Entertainment Appalachian Regional Commission

South Central Tennessee Development District

Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development

For project information, visit the city of Manchester and Coffee County.

TNECD INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS – APPLACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

The mission of the Appalachian Regional Commission is to innovate, partner, and invest to build community capacity and strengthen economic growth in Appalachia. TNECD serves as the lead agency in administering Tennessee's ARC funding and programs. Through ARC, TNECD is able to assist in the award of grants each year for economic and community development projects, including infrastructure development, in the 52 counties in middle and east Tennessee served by ARC. For more information visit TNECD Community and Rural Development.

Local recycling programs feeling pressure from China's policies

BY JENNIFER CASEY

Collierville Communication Specialist

Recycling programs all across the U.S. are starting to feel the impact of China's new waste import restriction policy.

Implemented in January 2018, the policy prohibits the import of certain solid wastes into their country - including mixed paper and mixed plastics.

China also began a new contamination standard applicable to recyclable imports that is extremely stringent and inconsistent with the recycling community's global standards.

As the largest export for recyclables generated in the U.S., China's waste import restrictions are causing recycling costs to rise in municipal recycling programs, including Collierville.

"For the last couple of years, the cost of recycling has skyrocketed," said Bill Kilp, director of Collierville Public Services. "We

went from receiving \$25 a ton for our recyclables to paying \$80 a ton to dispose of the material. In comparison, we dispose of garbage for \$25 a ton."

According to the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), China imported approximately 13 million tons of paper and 776,000 tons of plastic from the U.S. annually.

With the gap between domestic processing and recycling demand, the restrictions are already adversely affecting municipal recycling programs.

"Some communities are charging upwards of \$9 a month to recycle," Kilp said. "Collierville residents pay \$3.60 for our recycling program, whether they recycle or not, as part of their \$22 sanitation fee."

The town's recycling fee is lower than average, because every resident pays the fee; around 75 percent of Collierville residents participate in the weekly recycling program.

To combat rising costs and the over-supply of recyclable materials, municipal recycling programs are also sending large quantities of recyclables to landfills. Collierville spends an average of \$700,000 annually on the recycling program. If the recyclables were sent to a landfill, the town would save around \$400,000.

Fewer recycling pick ups maybe in the future

Another solution to the supply and demand issue is offering recycling pick-ups on a monthly or bi-weekly basis. Collierville has a weekly recycling program, where other communities are choosing a less frequent schedule to reduce

Until new domestic or international markets develop for recyclables, Collierville, along with municipal recycling programs across the country, will continue to explore options to the over-supply of recyclable materials.



China is reducing waste imports as part of the country's ban on all waste imports by 2020, which will have a drastic effect on U.S. recycling. China is the biggest consumer of U.S. waste and recycling. Malaysia and Vietnam are considering similar import bans as well, which could further strain U.S. recycling and waste disposal.



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Paul Boyer has been selected as the executive director of the city of Murfreesboro's new Internal Services Di-



Paul Boyer

vision, one of the new departments created under the continued reorganization of city administration. The new division incorporated the city's human resources, information technology, communications, purchasing, fleet services, and facilities management divisions under one roof. Boyer will also continue his role as the city's purchasing director under his new title. He came to the city of Murfreesboro in 2015 after serving as a city manager for the cities of Columbia, Oak Ridge, and Lake Worth, Fla. He holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from Millersville State College in Pennsylvania and a master's in public administration from George Washington University.

Calvin Clifton has been selected as the new chair of the government affairs committee for the American Public



Calvin Clifton

Works Association. Clifton assumed his chairmanship during APWA's annual conference in Kansas City, Mo., and will serve a year-long term representing towns, counties, and large cities as well as construction and engineering firms that serve the public sector by advocating for public policy priorities. He is presently employed as a business development manager for Mattern & Craig. He has worked for the firm for more than 12 years, primarily in eastern and middle Tennessee as well as southwestern Virginia. Prior to entering the consulting field, he was the public works director of the city of Athens and a transportation planner and water/wastewater services manager for Kingsport.

Dawn Distler will be leaving as Knoxville's director of transit to become head of Akron, Ohio's regional tran-



Dawn Distler

sit service. An Ohio native, Distler will serve as executive director of the Metro Regional Transit Authority (METRO), which is the largest small-sized transit organization in North America and where she began her career as a bus operator. Distler was selected as Knoxville's director of transit and head of the Knoxville Area Transit (KAT) system in 2014. Under her leadership, KAT received the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) 2017 Outstanding Public Transit System award and the 2018 APTA Gold Award. Prior to heading the transit department, Distler was generation manager of

operations and maintenance and as director of operations for Nashville-Davidson County's transit organization.

Jennifer Donnals has been selected as the new director of communications for Gov. Bill Haslam. Donnals most recent-



Jennifer **Donnals**

ly served as the governor's press secretary and will now serve as his chief advisor and strategist for communications, overseeing internal and external communications for the administration. Donnals began her career as a broadcast journalist working in Ohio, Alabama, and Tennessee before becoming the director of communications for the Shelby County District Attorney's Office in Memphis. She moved to Nashville to serve as director of communications for the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security before being appointed press secretary in 2015. Donnals holds a bachelor's degree in communications from Ohio University.

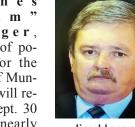
Boyce Evans has been promoted to as the deputy director of finance for the city of Knoxville. As part of his new du-



Boyce Evans

ties, Evans will continue to oversee the purchasing division operations and will focus on the budget and other areas of the finance department with Finance Department Senior Director Jim York. Evans has served the city as a purchasing agent since 2006. Prior to that, he served in the U.S. Army including a stint as the finance director for Fort Campbell in Kentucky in 2003. He holds a master's in business administration from Strayer University.

J a m e s " J i m " Harger, chief of police for the city of Muntord, will retire Sept. 30 after nearly 40 years of



Jim Harger

service. Harger joined the department as a reserve officer in 1979, being promoted to captain in 1988 and appointed chief of police in 1992. He has been a member of the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police since 1993 and has served as both secretary/treasurer and president of the Memphis Metro Association of Police Chiefs. He has also served on the Tipton County 911 Board. Before beginning his law enforcement career, Harger served in the U.S. Army from 1972 to 1975.

Mark Johnson, chief of police for the city of Church Hill, will be retiring from his position after 35 years of service, 23 of which he

has served as the city's police chief. A Church Hill native, Johnson joined the city's police force while



Mark Johnson

still a senior at East Tennessee State University. He holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and a master's in sociology from ETSU. He was selected as the city's interim police chief in 1992 when the current chief was recovering from illness and then took on the role full-time in 1995

Jon Luttrell has been named the new business development specialist for the city of Bristol's Econom-



Jon Luttrell

ic Development Department. A Bristol native, Luttrell originally joined the city as a public relations specialist in 2016 and managed development of the city's hiring expos. Prior to working for the city, he worked for multiple private sector agencies. Luttrell holds a bachelor's degree in language and international trade from Clemson University and a master's in business administration from King University. He is currently enrolled in a master's of public administration program with Clemson.

Fiona McAnally has been selected as the new deputy director of communications for the city of Knoxvile.



Fiona McAnally

McAnally will take over the position from former deputy director Eric Vreeland, who was recently promoted to senior director. Prior to coming to the city, McAnally was the director of community assessment and planning for the Knox County Health Department. She has a background in management and public policy, and has held positions with AC Entertainment and the Historic Ramsey House in Knoxville as well as with the U.S. Department of State and Commerce in Washington, D.C. McAnally holds a bachelor's degree in political science and economics and a master's degree in plant sciences from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville.

Ben Newman has been appointed the new mayor of McMinnville after former mayor Jimmy



Ben Newman

Haley was sworn in as Warren County executive. Newman previously served as the city's vice mayor since 2012 and has been employed by the Law

Kurt Frederick retires from MTAS, state of Tennessee with 33 years of service

MTAS will say goodbye to longtime employee Kurt Frederick in October. He is retiring following 33 years of service with the state of Tennessee. Nineteen of those years was with the University of Tennessee, most recently as a training consultant with the Municipal Technical Advisory Service.

Frederick was responsible for administering the statewide Municipal Administration Program, Municipal Management Academy, and worked with all municipalities and municipal associations.

Prior to joining UT, Frederick was coordinator of a National Science Foundation curriculum development grant for Nashville State Technical Institute. He also worked for the state of Tennessee Department of Finance Administration as an administrative budget analyst and was responsible for the law enforcement, judicial and military budgets.

Although he is officially retiring from the state of Tennessee on October 8, he will continue his career in training with the city of Murfreesboro as a training manager. In this role, he will plan, design,



Kurt Frederick

develop, and implement training programs, and services for the employees of Murfreesboro.

He has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Memphis State University and a master's in human resource development from the University of Tennessee.

Offices of Galligan and Newman since 2010. A McMinnville native. Newman holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Tennessee - Knoxville and his law degree from the University of Memphis, where he was also the student body executive officer.

ScottSampson has been selected as the new parks and recreation director for the town of Ashland



Scott Sampson

City. Sampson has a decade's worth of experience and most recently was employed with the Kingston Springs Parks and Recreation Department. Sampson is also retired from the U.S. Marine Corps, which he served in for 27 years. He participated in Operation Desert Shield/ Desert Storm and was awarded a Bronze Star with Combat "V". After leaving the military in 2003, he worked for The Golf Club of Tennessee for two years.

Jim Shulman has been elected as the ninth vice mayor for Metro-Nashville. Shulman previously served



as an at-large councilman and was originally elected as a district councilman for the Green Hills area of Nashville. He will finish up the remainder of the term left by now-Mayor David Briley, who won a special election in May after serving as the city's vice mayor. Shulman's duties as the city's vice mayor include presiding over the city council and assigning mem-

bers to committees. A onetime chief of staff for former Tennessee House Speaker Jimmy Naifeh, Shulman was a deputy commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Health under former Gov. Phil Bredesen. He currently works as executive director for the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability.

Judy Smith has been appointed by the Carthage City Council to fill the seat left by the death of longtime Carthage



Judy Smith

Councilman Phillip Brooks. Smith will hold the seat until a new councilperson can be seated in the city's November election. Smith is a longtime realtor in Smith County, having worked in the industry for more than 30 years. She is also a local community advocate. Smith holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and management from Middle Tennessee State University.

Maxie Stewart has retired as the chief of the Jackson Fire Department after a 36year career. Stewart was selected as



Maxie Stewart

the city's fire chief in 2012, and served the department as a driver, captain, and battalion chief during his career. He began his career as a firefighter in 1982 and after only two years of service began to work with the new Haz-Mat section of the department. Through the Jackson Fire Department and Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA), he was able to attend a number of schools and earn training certifications in fire chemistry. Stewart then went on to attend specialist level training through the state.

Elizabeth Taylor has been hired as the new assistant city attorney for the city of Murfreesboroandwill also repre-



Elizabeth Taylor

sent Murfreesboro City Schools. Taylor will divide her time between city hall and city school system offices. Taylor previously served as a general counsel for the Tennessee Board of Education from 2015 to 2018. She has also held positions as a staff attorney and director for the state department of education's Office of Civil Rights and as a law clerk for the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals, Western Section. Taylor holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Fisk University, a master's of business administration from the University of Phoenix, and a law degree from School of Law at the University of Memphis.

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Water and Wastewater Systems

STATE BRIEFS

Despite another record-breaking year of overdose deaths, Tennessee officials believe there might be hope on the horizon. While fatal opioid-related overdoses overall increased, the deaths attributed specifically to prescription painkillers dropped for the first time in five years with a 12 percent decrease. Officials said the shrinking death toll is most likely attributed to opioid prescriptions gradually becoming weaker and less common throughout Tennessee over the past five years. Medical officials hope this decrease means that less people will become addicted in the long run. However, fentanyl-related overdoses are on the increase, showing how the state's drug crisis is evolving.

Tennessee is home to several of the top nationally ranked colleges and universities, according to an annual study released by U.S. News and World Report. Vanderbilt University in Nashville ranked 14 on the list of top national universities and seventh on the list for best educational value while Sewanee University of the South in Sewanee and Rhodes College in Memphis were on the list of top 50 liberal arts colleges. Nashville's Fisk University was ranked sixth on the list of top historically black colleges while Belmont University was ranked sixth for regional schools in the Southeast.

Tennessee has one of the highest amounts of sex offenders per capita, according to a study recently released by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Tennessee ranks ninth in the amount of sex offenders per capita with 344 registered sex offenders for every 100,000 residents. The state has a total of 22,856 registered sex offenders. Tennessee was also ranked sixth on the organization's

most dangerous states in America because of its high number of violent crimes, particularly rapes. The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation offers information on registered sex offenders in the state and maps where they are located.

Suicide rates are on the rise in Tennessee according to an annual report from the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network. Tennessee has one of the highest suicide rates in the nation with 16.2 deaths per 100,000 people – the highest rate reported since 1981. The average national rate is 13.4 deaths per 100,000. Suicide is the second leading cause of death among Tennessee youth aged 10 to 14 and adults between the ages of 24 and 35. It is also the third-leading cause of death for persons age 15 to 24 in the state. A total of 1,110 suicide deaths were reported in 2016.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced \$643,300 in grant funds for six projects in Tennessee aimed at opioid use prevention, treatment, and recovery programs. The projects are part of \$10.7 million awarded to 85 initiatives across 22 states. Tennessee's portion includes \$53,300 for Hepatitis C or liver damage treatment equipment at Dayspring Family Health Center Inc. in Campbell County; vehicles, computers and telehealth at Hope Family Services in Sumner County; \$150,000 for diesel mechanics skills training at Tennessee Center for Applied Technology in Hawkins County; \$41,500 for Overton County for an ambulance and transport ventilators; \$150,000 for telecommunications equipment at Rural Health Services Consortium in Hawkins County; and \$98,500 for Rural Medical Services, Inc,. in Cocke County for vans and ultrasound equipment.



The Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) is now accepting grant proposals for projects that will help improve water quality and reduce or eliminate nonpoint source pollution.

"Keeping Tennessee's waterways clean and healthy will benefit our citizens for years to come," Agriculture Commissioner Jai Templeton said. "The Nonpoint Source Program is a significant tool at our disposal in the fight to reduce the amount of pollutants that enter our state's waters. We encourage those who are eligible to submit project proposals for funding."

Nonpoint source pollution is soil, urban runoff, fertilizers, chemicals, and other contaminants that degrade surface and groundwater quality. The Nonpoint Source Program was created in 1987 as part of the Clean Water Act and provides funding to states to stop nonpoint source pollution.

Local governments, regional and state agencies, public institu-

tions, and private nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply for those federal dollars administered by TDA's Land and Water Stewardship Section. Highest priority is given to projects that seek to make measurable improvements to waters impaired by nonpoint source pollution. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation assesses water quality.

The deadline for submitting grant proposals is Dec. 1. Proposals will be evaluated based on program goals and objectives, performance evaluation criteria, and applicable EPA nonpoint source grant guidelines. Other priorities for funding include water quality-related educational projects and projects that aim to protect threatened waters.

A list of impaired waters and the FY 2019 Request for Proposals can be found at www.tn.gov/agriculture/farms/conservation/non-point-source-program_rd.html.

For more information, contact Sam Marshall at 615-837-5306 orsam.marshall@tn.gov.



While Tennessee has a large variety of water resources, there are concerns that rapid growth and suits over water rights from other states could limit the state's resources in the future.

Water planning essential to Tennessee's sustainability and economic future

WATER from Page 1

issues.

"Like a lot of Tennessee, we are experiencing a lot of rapid growth," he said. "Right now we have 16 subdivisions under construction, and in the last two years we have approved 4,500 residential lots for construction we expect to see built out in the next five years. Some of the water and wastewater related issues we are going to be facing are regulatory issues. Future regulations I see coming down the road will include changes in the lead-copper rule thanks to Flint, Mich., and there are going to be changes for total nitrogen and phosphorous. However, I think the biggest problem is how we are going to handle all the growth. It puts a strain on our water, sewer, and general infrastructure.'

In addition to residential growth, industry across the state relies heavily on water. A study published by the U.S. Geological Survey in 2018 found that the U.S. withdraws 322 billion gallons of water per day with more than 50 percent of those total withdrawals being used by 12 states: California, Texas, Idaho, Florida, Arkansas, New York, Illinois, Colorado, North Carolina, Michigan, Montana, and Nebraska.

Tennessee reported the with-drawal of 6.42 million gallons of water per day with thermoelectric power, public water supply, and industry being the biggest users of the state's water.

Hanneke Counts, vice president for global health, safety, environment, and security with Kingsport-based Eastman Chemical Company, said her company couldn't make its products without water

"In order for us to make our products we need water, and we require an ample supply of water at all of our manufacturing plants around the world," she said. "At our Kingsport site, we withdraw water from the south fork of the Holston River, and we use river water mainly as non-contact cooling water in our manufacturing process. Even though we are a large withdrawer of water we don't consume a lot of water; we put almost 100 percent of that water back into the river. Without water, we would have to curtail production or stop

it all together, which has happened at some of our manufacturing sites around the world."

As a result, Counts said the company has taken a closer look at how its water use impacts the surrounding area.

"Water is one of the most important resources – ultimately the most important," she said. "We look at innovative ways to reduce our environmental footprint such as introducing sustainable products. Water quality is important to us also. We live in the communities where we operated, and we want clean water just like everyone else. Every 10 years, we have an independent study done on Eastman's impact on the local water supply, and the condition of the river has improved since we began that in 1965."

Increasingly, water supply is becoming an interstate issue as well. Tennessee is already facing issues related to water scarcity, including suits from other states over control of area water supply.

"We are used to hearing concerns about water in the western states like California and Arizona," Megrehblian said. "However, if you read up on water quantity issues you'll see one of the biggest fights going on over water rights is between Georgia and Florida. That fight has gone all the way to the Supreme Court. I know if you're from West Tennessee you know there are issues over the Memphis aquifer."

In 2014, a suit filed by Mississippi against the state of Tennessee and city of Memphis in the U.S. Supreme Court claimed Tennessee was stealing water and groundwater from an underground aquifer that crosses state lines.

The Memphis Sand Aquifer is a primary drinking source for parts of Mississippi, Alabama, and Arkansas. The suit before the U.S. Supreme Court is still ongoing as evidentiary hearings continue and evidence is collected. A similar case filed by Mississippi against the city of Memphis was dismissed in 2010.

In March 2018, the state of Georgia revisited a long-running dispute with Tennessee over control of the Tennessee River, which provides water to much of northern Georgia including Atlanta.

The argument is based on a 200-year-old surveying mistake that set the Tennessee-Georgia state line about a mile south of where it was intended to be located along the 35th Parallel, but Georgia's real aim is getting access to Nickajack Lake.

Heidel said these suits not only affect him as a utility employee but also as a Tennessee resident.

"It's important to see what issues our state is going to face in the next few years," he said. "We need to identify the issues we never thought about like legal issues. All these other states want our water, and as a Tennessean that affects me. We have to think about how we protect the water we use recreationally but also maintain the rights of those who own property right next to the water. We need to think about how we are going to improve our water infrastructure. We have to solve both the problems that already exist and begin working on solutions for programs that might arise in the future."

Meghreblian said the ultimate goal of the TN H20 plan is to provide a framework from Memphis to Mountain City for how Tennessee monitors, uses, preserves, and conserves its water supply.

"We are really looking at this from the 50,000 foot level and figuring out how much water we have today, where is it, how accessible it is, who is pulling what out and where, and then try to estimate what that will mean 30 or 40 years ahead," Meghreblian said. then have to make sure the money we spend between now and then, the initiatives we fund, and the priorities we set will have a positive impact on our future. This plan may look different from Memphis than it does East Tennessee because their issues are different. It will give us a great leg up on our surrounding states especially if those states tryto get access to our water supply. If we are paying attention to what is going on, we are in a much better position to protect ourselves from a legal standpoint as well as truly on the ground."

The TN H20 Steering Committee plans to publish findings from their statewide study of water resources in the late fall after the findings have been presented to and approved by Gov. Bill Haslam.





CLASSIFIED ADS

Advertising: \$9.25 per column inch. No charge to TML members. Send advertising to: Carole Graves: cgraves@ TML1.org.

ASSISTANT TOWN MANAGER

HOLLY SPRINGS, N.C. The town of Holly Springs is seeking experienced, professional candidates for assistant town manager to help lead this fast growing, welcoming, and high quality Wake County community. Position performs complex leadership work assisting the newly appointed town manager with a broad range of management functions for the town, primarily focused on planning, economic development, public works, utilities and infrastructure development. Position oversees strategic planning for capital infrastructure investments; manages assigned departments and personnel; administers and coordinates special projects and research; develops and implements policies and programs; conducts policy development; and assists the town manager with intragovernmental relations and issues with agencies, community partners and the public. Position oversees longterm strategic planning of the town's utilities and transportation systems. The position will also be instrumental in leading the implementation of \$40 million of Transportation Bond projects that voters will consider in a November 2018 bond referendum. Additional responsibilities involve representing the Town in a variety of meetings; preparing or coordinating financial and budget documents and/ or projects; attending and presenting at town council meetings; and coordinating and preparing special research reports on a wide variety of functions and issues for the town. Position requires a bachelor's degree in public administration, business administration or a related field and 8-10 years of experience in a municipal environment, five of which must have been at the senior management level with significant experience leading teams, overseeing major municipal services, and a history of strategic, innovative leadership. Master's degree in public administration or business administration preferred. Hiring range \$98,988 - \$112,000 depending on experience. Apply on the town's website at www.hollyspringsnc.us. Closing date Sept. 28.

BUILDING /ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR

MT. JULIET. The city of Mt. Juliet is seeking candidates for a building electrical inspector for building and codes department. Applications must be filed electronically and are available at the city's website, www.mtjuliet-tn. gov. Detailed job description and requirements are available online. The city accepts electronic applications until position is filled. The city of Mt. Juliet reserves the right to stop accepting applications at any time. For questions, regarding the electronic application process, please call (615)

754-2552. EOE/Drug-free Workplace.

BUILDING INSPECTOR

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

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

MCMINNVILLE. The city of Mc-Minnville is seeking well-qualified, innovative, professional applicants for the position of city administrator. Minimum qualifications include a bachelor's degree in public administration, or a closely-related field, with at least 5 years' experience in municipal government management and finance or experience and training in municipal management. Major duties include supervision of all city departments, staff employment and assignments, including work procedures and schedules, budget preparation, with the monitoring of revenues and expenditures, development and implementation of goals and visioning for the city, provision of proper reports, and initiation of grant writing. The administrator will perform duties which will reflect the needs of a progressive city by serving on various boards, committees, agencies and civic organizations that promote retail, tourism, and industrial development in the area. The administrator will possess all the skills necessary to complete the successful operation and

management of the city while fulfilling the expectations of the elected officials. The city administrator is selected by, reports to, and serves at the pleasure of the mayor and a six-member board of aldermen. McMinnville is located in Warren County, 70 miles southeast of Nashville and has a population of 14,000 citizens. It is designated as a National and Tennessee Main Street Community. Starting salary and benefit package will be market competitive, depending on the professional experience and qualifications. Reasonable relocation expenses will be negotiated. Interested applicants should email cover letters, resumes with references and salary history to Warren Nevad, The University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service at warren. nevad@tennessee.edu by Oct. 1.

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. The city of Brownsville is an equal opportunity employer.

CITY MANAGER

EAST RIDGE. The city of East Ridge is accepting qualified applicants for the position of city manager. East Ridge is a city of approximately 22,000 with a Council/Manager form of government. Total budgets are approximately \$20 million. As provided in the city's charter, the city manager shall possess, at a minimum, a bachelor's degree, at least three years of direct supervisory experience in government, and "such other qualifications as the city council may require." While not specifically designated under the charter, the council is interested in individuals possessing a background involving management and leadership, team building, communications skills, and experience in municipal finance, economic development and urban planning. The current manager is retiring at a salary of \$110,000 with a monetary city contribution to IC-MARC. Resumes may be submitted electronically to tperry@eastridgetn. gov or mailed to Ms. Trish Perry, Human Resources Manager, City of East Ridge, 1517 Tombras Avenue, East Ridge, TN 37412. City website: www.eastridgetn.org. Closing date Oct. 2. EOE/ Drug Free Workplace.

CODES ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

ATHENS. The Friendly City is seeking an energetic professional to join Team Athens as a codes enforcement officer. The position is responsible for enforcing city codes, ordinances, inspecting existing buildings to determine compliance, and maintenance of standards relating to health, sanitation, and safety issues. In addition, the codes enforcement officer manages operational and maintenance activities for city cemeteries. Knowledge of city codes, ordinances, and laws; knowledge of construction standards, materials, and methods; and excellent communication skills, both verbal and written are required. A current certification as a building inspector through the state of Tennessee is preferred; a bachelor's degree in planning or city administration and previous experience in city government is a plus. If you are interested in being part of

the team that delivers timely, reliable service to citizens and play a key role to enhance the quality of life and help build a better, safer community, please submit your resume via email to nedmonds@citvofathenstn.com or mail to City of Athens, ATTN: Human Resources, 815 N. Jackson St., Athens, TN 37303. You may also apply in person Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5p.m. Applications will be accepted through Sept. 28, at 5 p.m. EOE.

CROSS CONNECTION CON-TROL TECHNICIAN

GALLATIN. The city of Gallatin Public Utilities Department is accepting applications for a cross connection control technician. This position performs field and technical work in the inspection and testing of commercial, industrial, and residential backflow prevention devices. Some essential duties include performing annual testing of backflow prevention devices and inspecting new construction for compliance with cross connection control requirements. This is a 40 hours per week, day shift position. The starting rate is \$16.71 per hour + excellent benefits. Minimum qualifications: high school diploma/equivalent with two to five years recent work experience in water distribution operations or related utilities experience; or an equivalent combination of education, experience, and training. Must have a valid, appropriate driver's license. Must have current Tennessee Certificate for Testing and Evaluation of Backflow Prevention Assemblies, or obtain within six months of hire/promotion; and must retain certification throughout employment. apply online at www.gallatintn.gov. Applications will be accepted until the position is

filled. EOE. **DIGITAL SERVICES LIBRARIAN** COLLIERVILLE. The purpose of this classification is to assist upper management in directing and planning the digital services library programs. This position requires a master's degree from an American Library Association accredited college with major course work in library science; supplemented by three (3) years previous experience and/or training in adult library services, literature and reference resource; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Must have the flexibility to work evenings and weekends to meet required staffing levels of the library. Must possess and maintain a valid driver's license. Must be able to pass a work-related physical and drug test. Salary is \$38,425 - \$42,312 annually (DOQ) with excellent benefits package. To apply for this position, you must submit an official Town of Collierville application. Applications are available to download at <u>www.collierville.com</u> under the Employment Opportunities tab, or you may obtain one from our Human Resources Office located at 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN, 38017, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Completed applications must be submitted either by mail or in person to the above address. We are unable to accept faxed or emailed applications. EOE.

ENGINEERING INSPECTOR

COLLIERVILLE. The town of Collierville has an opening for engineering inspector. This position requires the performance of intermediate technical work inspecting construction projects for compliance with plans and specifications. Requires a high school diploma or GED, an associate's degree is preferred but not required, with major course work in heavy construction, civil engineering, construction inspection, construction management or a related field; supplemented by five years' experience and/or training as a construction inspector, foreman, or a superintendent; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Knowledge of heavy construction, civil engineering construction inspection, construction management required. Must obtain stormwater certification within one year from date of hire. Must possess and maintain a valid motor vehicle operator's license. Must be able to pass a work related drug test. Salary is \$35,475 - \$40,500 annually (DOQ) with excellent benefits package. To apply for this position, you must submit an official Town of Collierville Application. Applications are available to download at www.collierville.com under the Employment Opportunities tab, 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.

EQUIPMENT OPERATOR COLLIERVILLE. The town of Col-

lierville has an immediate opening for equipment operator. This position includes driving and operating trucks, tractors and other equipment. Driving and maneuvering the vehicle constitute the majority of the work required to complete tasks for various maintenance, upkeep and/or construction projects. Equipment in this classification does not involve the operation of additional mechanisms other than

those that are moderately simple and routine. This classification is reserved for those positions in which operation of included equipment is the primary function of the job. Requires High school diploma or GED, supplemented by vocational/technical training in vehicle operation, equipment operation and work in area of assignment; supplemented by one year of previous experience and/or training involving vehicle operation, job related equipment operation, and work in area of assignment; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Must possess and maintain a valid Commercial Driver's License (CDL) with Class "A" or "B" endorsement Salary is \$31,200 (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 under the Employment Opportunities tab, 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

FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR

remain open until filled. EOE

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

POLICE MANAGEMENT

CONSULTANT JACKSON. The University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) seeks applications for a Police Management Consultant in its Jackson office. MTAS is an agency of the University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service and provides professional services to Tennessee cities, state government, and municipal government related associations. 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. The position is located in the Jackson, Memphis or Nashville office. 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, etc.; 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; high level of cognitive or intuitive skills are necessary to fully understand, design, and implement successful solutions to municipal problems; ability to multitask 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. Prefer

ability to communicate effectively with



Oct 10 - 12 TGFOA Fall Conference **Embassy Suites Murfreesboro** TGFOA provides continuing professional education to more than 300 officials from state and local governments in Tennessee. For more information visit: http:// tngfoa.org/

Oct. 21-23

TCAPWA Annual Conference DoubleTree Downtown Nashville For any additional information contact Mark Miller at (865) 850-1534 or markmiller@charter.net

Oct 31 - Nov 2

TCMA Fall Conference Chattanooga Marriott Downtown Enhance your knowledge and skills for successful municipal management at TCMA's Fall Conference. For more information visit: www. TCMA.org

Nov. 1 -2

TN Governor's Conference Gaylord Opryland Convention Center, Nashville

Join Gov. Bill Haslam and TN-ECD Commissioner Bob Rolfe along with hundreds of state and local official to learn more about Tennessee's strides in recruiting jobs and the programs helping to build strong local communities. For more information visit: https:// govcon.tnecd.com/

Nov. 7 - 10

NLC City Summit

Los Angeles Convention Center NLC's City Summit conference convenes local leaders to collaborate on solutions to common challenges facing America's cities. The conference offers tangible and new best practices for government officials to take back home. For more information visit: https://www. citysummit.nlc.org/program/

March 26-27, 2019

TML Legislative Conference DoubleTree Hotel, Nashville

June 22-25, 2019

TML Annual Conference Cook's Convention Center Memphis

city officials with varying levels of experience and ability. Each employee that drives a vehicle for work related business must have and maintain a valid driver's license and insurance. This position requires 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. Please apply at: https:// ut.taleo.net/careersection/ut system/ jobdetail.ftl?job=18000001EI&tz=G-MT-04%3A00. The University of Tennessee is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/ Section 504/ADA/ADEA institution in the provision of its education and employment programs and services.

PUBLIC UTILITIES MANAGER

COLLIERVILLE. The purpose of this classification is to provide highly responsible, 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 (6) years progressively responsible experience in public utilities administrative functions, of which at least two (2) 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. To apply for this position, you must submit an official Town of Collierville Application. Applications are available to download at www.collierville.com under the Employment Opportunities tab, or you may obtain one from our Human Resources Office located at 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN, 38017, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Completed applications must be submitted either by mail or in person to the above address. We are unable to accept faxed or emailed applications. EOE.

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City tax revenue is slowing down

REVENUE from Page 1 have future negative effects.

Another recent development at the federal level was a U.S. Supreme Court ruling in June that clears the way for states to collect additional sales

tax revenues from online retailers. Here again, there's uncertainty about what the decision will mean for city budgets in the years ahead.

"We anticipate in the years to come," McFarland said, "that we will see some bumps in sales tax collections potentially from

Cohen highlighted some other issues that could marginally affect state and local revenues in the years like newly legalized sports betting, and the growing

number of states allowing for regulated marijuana sales and possible one-time effects from federal tax and trade policies.

Hanging in the backdrop for city budgets are questions about when the next recession will hit and how bad it will be.

Matt Paulin, chief finance officer for Stockton, Calif., a city that exited a Chapter 9 municipal bankruptcy in 2015, said there had been recent local news coverage in the city about whether its "rainy day" reserve fund policy was fiscally prudent or "miserly." The tension here rests on whether the city is saving too much, at the expense of current city services.

Paulin says excess optimism about the city's financial future during the booming economic Revenues only grew by 1.25 percent in FY 2017. Growth is expected to be closer to zero in FY 2018.

years in the early 2000s, prior to the Great Recession, is part of what led it into bankruptcy.

"We're overdue for the next recession historically," he said, adding that the city is trying to avoid painful cuts in city spending during the next downturn like those it had to make when it went through its financial crisis. "We're just trying to kind of hold on to what we

For a complete look at the report, go to https://www.nlc.org/re- source/city-fiscal-conditions-2018



TENNESSEE **FESTIVALS**

Sept. 28-29: Townsend

Fall Festival and Old Timers Day Held at the Townsend Visitors Center, the festival celebrates the traditional music, crafts, Appalachian skills, and heritage of Townsend, East Tennessee, and the Great Smoky Mountains. For more info, call 865-448-6134 or visit www.smokymountains.org/ what-to-see/fall.

Sept. 29: Waverly

Waverly Walls Arts Festival This festival allows local artists to compete under three separate genres; street art, realists, and junior artists. The various categories within each genre will allow people from all artistic backgrounds to compete. The artists will have five hours to complete their masterpieces. In order to promote the grand opening, the Waverly Walls Art Park will be hosting a festival to support the artists.

Oct. 6-7: Newport

32nd Annual Newport Harvest Street Festival

Stroll through the streets of downtown Newport and take advantage of all the city has to offer in terms of food, crafts, and entertainment. For more info, call (423) 623-7201.

Oct. 12-14: Johnson City 35th Annual StarFest

Hosted by the Bays Mountain Astronomy Club and Bays Mountain Park, three days and two nights are devoted to seeing the stars in Appalachia. This year focuses on 200 Years of American Women in Astronomy. For more information visit <u>baysmountain.com</u> or call 423-229-9447.

Oct. 12-14: Lewisburg

Goats, Music, and More Festival For more than 16 years, Rock Creek Park in downtown Lewisburg has showcased the biggest names in country music. There are kids games and rides, fainting and boer goat shows, vendors galore, and great food. Fun for the whole family every second weekend of October. For more info, visit www. goatsmusicandmore.com

Oct. 12-14: Hohenwald Oktober Heritage Festival

Come celebrate the city's unique heritage and those who settled and developed the area. Hohenwald is a community of diverse background—Swiss-German immigrants who brought orchestral music and beautiful architecture, and Native American influences who brought homesteading skills. For more info, visit http://hohenwaldoktoberheritagefestival.weebly.com.

NATIONAL BRIEFS

The U.S. economy added 201,000 jobs in August, slightly above expectations, as the job market rebounded following a July slump. The national unemployment rate held steady at 3.9 percent. The economy has added jobs for 95 straight months, a streak begun under the Obama administration in 2010. Wage growth also ticked up in August with hourly earnings up 2.9 percent for the year, the fastest growth since the end of the recession in June 2009. Jobs growth was strong in professional and business services, health care and transportation and warehousing. Manufacturing reported losses of 3,000 jobs, the auto sector lost 4,900 jobs, retailers shed 5,900 and the information sector lost 6,000 jobs. Economists said many of the sectors that reported losses are those most affected by recent tarrifs.

Americans are beginning to save more money for retire-

ment, though officials are concerned they may not be saving enough. A recent study conducted by financial advisory website GO Banking Rates found that 42 percent of Americans have less than \$10,000 saved for retirement with 14 percent of residents having no money at all set aside. The average adult over the age of 65 spends nearly \$46,000 per year in retirement. While Millennials had the least amount of money saved overall, economists found it more troubling that one-third of baby boomers have \$10,000 or less saved as they rapidly approach retirement age, meaning they could have no money after one year of retirement.

Home buyers will have to settle for smaller lots according to information recently released by the U.S. Census Bureau. Among properties sold in 2017, the average sized lot for a new, detached single-family home was one-fifth of an acre or 8,560 square feet. Median lot sizes fell below 8,600

square feet for the first time in 2015 and have continued to decline. Lot size also depends on region with New England homes having the largest lot sizes – thanks in part to stricter zoning regulations – while the Pacific Coast states tend to have the smallest.

Middle-class income rose to its highest recorded level in 2017 thanks to declining poverty rates and a strong economy, according to new findings by the U.S. Census Bureau. Research found the median U.S. household earned \$61,372 last year, meaning half of the families in the country brought in more income than this and half earned less. This is the first time the median middle-class income exceeded \$61,000 – a benchmark set in 1999. Economists attributed theincrease to the economic rebound following the recession, an increase in the number of dual-income households, and the fact that more citizens have acquired health insurance since passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

UT-MTAS SEPTEMBER MAP CLASSES

LEADING BY LEARNING: SOMEWHERE TO BEGIN

This workshop is designed to assist participants in developing effective leadership skills. Highlights include the building blocks of leadership and determining your leadership style.

Target Audience: All Municipal Employees

4 CPE / CMFO(Other) (LM)

Dates/Locations/Times: Knoxville **Sept. 27**

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. EDT **Jackson** 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT Oct. 11 Nashville

> THE UNIVERSITY of I ENNESSEE UT MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL Advisory Service

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. CDT

To register for a course, go to www.mtas.tennessee.edu, or fax to 865-974-0423. Credit card payments must register online with the Solution Point System: http://www.solutionpoint.tennessee.edu/MTAS or by invoice. For registration assistance, call 865-974-0413. For more information, contact Kurt Frederick, training consultant, at 615-253-6385.

No loan is too large or too small



The city of 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.



Henderson's small town status doesn't mean Mayor Bobby King doesn't dream big

BY LINDA BRYANT

Economic development is a front-burner concern for virtually all towns and cities in Tennessee, but when a municipality is small it's often much harder to attract new companies and retain existing businesses.

Thanks in large part to the leadership of Mayor Bobby King, Henderson, a town of about 6,500 in West Tennessee, is finding ways to shine as an economic generator and small town with a high quality of life.

As Tennessee celebrates its second annual Rural Mayor's Day on Oct. 1, King stands tall as a fitting example of a small-town mayor who's impacting his community in recognizable — and often profound — ways.

Rural Mayor's Day, passed by the Tennessee General Assembly in 2017, is designed to honor and recognize Tennessee's small-town mayors for their hard work and dedication, which all too often go unnoticed.

King has a lot of experience in meeting hard challenges and turning difficult situations around. In 2005, while working for the U.S. Marshal's office in Memphis, he was in a horrific car accident and lost his left arm and right foot. His life was forever changed, and recovering from the accident presented King with obstacles and difficulties that were arduous and painful.

Yet, coming to terms with what at the time seemed like an insurmountable personal tragedy and learning how to adjust to life in a new way gave King the tools he needed to address new and different challenges.

Listen to a constituent complain about potholes? No problem.

Figure out a way to attract young entrepreneurs to a small Tennessee town? Difficult, yes, but not impossible.

Under King's leadership, Henderson became the first "Gig City" — an area that offers ultra-fast gigabit fiber services — in West Tennessee.

Other amenities in Henderson have flourished in the past 10 years. The city's park system has been greatly enhanced and expanded, downtown Henderson is in the middle of a Renaissance, and the city's school system has gotten better and better.

Emily Johnson, executive director of the Chester County Chamber of Commerce, says King's leadership carries with it an infectious "can-do" attitude.

"Mayor King never says, "I can't do it," Johnson said. "I've worked with him for nine-plus years, and I have never heard him be negative about a new idea. After all he's been through in life I've never even heard him complain. He doesn't seem to let anything get him down or bother him. He's very dedicated and really focused on making life better for our residents. He's an inspiration.'

"I feel like he's really been instrumental in carving out a unique identity for our small community," Johnson continued. "Having things like free high-speed wi-fi, beautiful parks and good schools really do help us to stand out. They help us remain proud of Henderson and willing to do the hard work to make sure it continues to thrive."

King keeps looking to the future, and he knows from experience that once people discover Henderson and all it has to offer, that good things can happen.

He's especially keen on continuing to work with Freed-Hardeman University, a private liberal arts college with an enrollment of about 2,500, which is located in downtown

"Having such a dynamic school be such an integral part of Henderson is just something most other towns don't usually have," he said. "And it's helping us in our efforts to revitalize downtown. A lot of the students and/ or millennials when they move here they want something close that's in walking distance."

King is also confident that Henderson will continue to make progress because of the spirit and generosity of the residents.

"People here are always ready to volunteer to help to make our town strong," he said.

TT&C: Tell me about your background. Did you grow up in the region? Where did you go to school?

BK: I grew up in Henderson. My father was a family physician in town for four decades, and my mother was a nurse, who worked for him taking care of our neighbors. My siblings and I understood how important it was to love and serve your community from the time we were young. My education included Chester County High School, Middle Tennessee State University, and the FBI National Academy.

My wife Teresa and I have been married since 1980. We have four children and four grandchildren. Even before she began serving as first lady of Henderson, she was giving long hours of service to making our region better. She is known as the one who makes things happen, tirelessly planning and handling details — often behind the scenes — to serve our community.

With our parents' occupations, our family was always heavily involved in community and our neighbors' lives, so public service was modeled for my siblings and me. Following MTSU, I served in the Chester County Sheriff's Department for 10 years. I attended the FBI National Academy while I was there and became a U.S. Marshal following my work with the sheriff's office. That often involved long hours out of town but provided great opportunities for learning and growth during my 19 years there. I also served as an alderman for the city of Henderson for eight years.



Henderson Mayor Bobby King

state of Tennessee? What sets Henderson apart as a community and a place to live? **BK**: While we enjoy the quality of life of a small town, we are not stagnant. There is a vibrancy and energy here, along with benefits of less traffic and friendly neighbors. We are fortunate that our residents can go from preschool through a doctorate on our Main Street, thanks to quality private preschools/ child care, public schools and Freed-Hardeman University. We have involved residents who create and build programs that make our life here even better — from Henderson Arts

job opportunities for more people to stay here

more jobs available for people here.

and work. We are making progress. There are

TT&C: There are 346 municipalities in the

Prevention of Child Abuse. Our small size is also an asset; we are flexible in being able to work together and address issues quickly without bureaucracy

Commission to supporting the parks to the

Exchange Club Carl Perkins Center for the

We're attracting growth because of the high-speed internet and because we have a really good school system. We have a slogan that says 'PreK to Doctorate on Main Street.' We are kind of unique because on the east end we have a junior high, elementary school, middle school and high school on Main Street. They are all less than half a mile apart and are all side by side on Main Street. Then about a half a mile further down we have a four-year university where you can get your doctorate degree. I think that's something we take for granted here sometimes. I sat with a group of other mayors and talked about the things we want in our towns and cities — such as a river running through the city — and one of the mayors turned to me and said: "You have got something we would really like: a four-year university in your downtown." I told him not only do we have a four-year university in our downtown but Freed-Hardeman University won the national women's basketball championship!

TT&C: What is a typical day like for a fulltime small-town mayor?

BK: It's very diverse when it comes to what you do. A resident could walk in the door and complain about a pothole in front of their house or about a speeding ticket, or you might be working with state partners on a grant. I enjoy all aspects.

TT&C: How do you deal with conflicts and differences of opinion? Do you have an overriding philosophy or approach to leadership?

BK: It's important to encourage and allow people to voice their opinions, to have an open mind and listen to them and to understand the needs they see in your community. The more controversial the issue, the more transparent I try to be and the more time I try to give for people to voice their opinions before decisions are made. I try to figure out how we can make ideas people present happen instead of automatically saying no. We may not be able to get everyone's dreams accomplished, but we can at least consider what could happen and explore ideas.

TT&C: Assuming there's more need to get things done in the city than there is money to pay for all those needs, how do you figure out what the highest priorities are?

BK: Our mission is to improve the quality of life for the residents of the city of Henderson. Our aldermen and staff work together to make sure that every decision focuses on our mission statement. Additionally, volunteers and nonprofits play a huge role in our quality of life and make things happen outside of our budget.

TT&C: How does Henderson support its young people?

BK: Our residents are interested in our young people from preschool through school through college degrees. We have a strong group sports, and children's fine art programs, and we focus on supporting their work, passion and talents serving our children. We focus on providing the infrastructure and encouraging their work through volunteer groups, like the Henderson Arts Commission, scouts, etc. We also financially support the REDI program through Southwest Tennessee Development District to help students go to college. We celebrate and support our schools and invest in our parks, providing great places to walk, ride bikes, play and spend time away from screens and technology.

TT&C: Can you name a couple of life lessons you've learned from being mayor? **BK:** Pay attention to what residents need to make their life better. For example, once we had high-speed internet in city hall to improve our efficiency, we realized that a teenager was outside in the bushes trying to access it. That was a big lesson for me to make sure we were supplying what residents need, and we have made high-speed public access available in Sue Shelton White Park, and Gene Record

Everything is not about me. Sometimes it's important as a leader to let people do the work they love, get out of their way and support them where they need it to help them succeed. Our Chester T. Dog Park, the Henderson Arts Commission and countless other volunteer projects are strong because residents have taken ownership, and we support them.

TT&C: What interests, special causes or hobbies keep you busy outside of your job? BK: I serve as a TSSAA supervisor/assignor for the Southwest Football Officials Association. This keeps me busy on Friday nights, evaluating crews who officiate high school football in Tennessee. I continue playing golf, and we have a great course in Chester County: Chickasaw Golf Course. And with my prosthetic golf arm, now I don't hit the ball nearly as far out in the woods as I used to. I also enjoy time at the river with family and friends.

TT&C: In your personal life have you had any important mentors or influences?

BK: The three biggest influences have been my father, Dr. D.C. King, my football coach Tommy Moffitt, and Sheriff Eric Bell, who was my boss in my first job in law enforcement. Sheriff Bell was a very big influence in my law enforcement career. I looked up to all of them because of their integrity and honesty. All three of them believed in me and they all had an overall tremendous influence on me.



Mayor King, State Rep. Ron Gant, and former Chester County Mayor Dwain Seaton at the annual Chester County Barbeque Festival.

TT&C: What's the biggest challenge you've ever faced - personal, political or both?

BK: My biggest challenge was the loss of my arm and leg. While working for the U.S. Marshal service in 2005, I had a car accident. I woke from a coma at The Med [Regional Medical Center at Memphis] to find out I had lost my left arm and my right leg below the knee from injuries sustained in the accident. I was at The Med and in rehab for more than 10 weeks. That provided a defining life juncture for me, and I knew I could get on with dying or get on with living. I chose to get on with living. During that time, I learned what the support of family and community means in getting you through tough situations. Following that experience that ended my time as a U.S. Marshal, I saw the opportunity to serve our community as city mayor, following the announcement of Mayor Eddy Patterson's retirement.

TT&C: You had a long career in law enforcement. How did you get involved in local politics?

BK: I first ran as city alderman and got elected and served two terms. In 2004, I didn't run again because I was promoted to supervisor, and I had to work out of the Memphis office. My term on the council was from 1994 to 2002. In 2008, I was elected mayor in August and started serving in September. Currently, I have two more years on my third term. I always planned to run for public office after I retired from the U.S. Marshall service. I just didn't know when it would be. It just happened a lot quicker than I thought it would because of my accident.

TT&C: How did being a U.S. Marshal pre-

pare you for being a mayor?

BK: Being a supervisory deputy marshal in the fugitive section gave me experience in managing employees and managing budgets. It also provided opportunities for setting priorities, how to remain focused and calm, and how to solve problems.

TT&C: As a small rural town, what are some of the biggest challenges and issues you're facing in Henderson?

BK: We understand that we have to continually focus on the changing demands of the workforce. We need to be flexible in meeting those needs to help not only our young people but also our current workforce. We need to make sure they have the skills they need to be excellent employees. This is important in another area that's vital to us in Henderson - providing work opportunities at home, so fewer of our residents have to leave the county for daily work. Finally, we all hear about brain drain, and we are constantly looking for ways to keep those whom we've trained and educated to use their talents to make their home community better instead of having to move to another community to find the employment they want.

Our close proximity to Jackson, which has 55,000 to 75,000 people, is a challenge. We're only about 15 miles from Jackson. It's nice to have Jackson so close, but we have about 3,500 people that leave the county every day to go to work in Jackson. We'd like to have

or power struggles. We also have a recycling program that we coordinate with the county. Chester County Solid Waste and Recycling offers services that are not found other places in our region, and we offer a recycling pickup program in the city to make it simple for residents to participate. We are one of the only counties in the state that grew a little over 11 percent last year. And I'd say in the future we will grow to another 7 or 8 percent.

TT&C: You have ultra-high-speed internet in Henderson, which is 100 times faster than today's basic broadband. This is pretty unusual for a small town. Can you explain how of volunteers who work with parks, youth this happened, and why it's important?

BK: It's important in being able to attract and keep entrepreneurs and businesses that rely on it every day. It's also important for residents when it comes to their quality of life. Aeneas [an independent telecommunications company based in Jackson] wanted to expand into rural areas around Madison County, and they approached us in addition to other rural areas. We did everything we could quickly [providing easements, etc.] to make that project happen. We also wanted to offer it in our city parks and industrial parks.

Bringing in high speed internet has helped tremendously. We've also worked to enhance our city parks. We were awarded two park grants to develop walking trails and other amenities. We're also really proud of our historic downtown. We received grants to redo the sidewalks and street lighting downtown to increase accessibility. We are very proud of those accomplishments. During that time the county received the same grant to remodel around their courthouse. We are also revitalizing our downtown.

TT&C: How do you attract business, industry and more residents to Henderson? **BK:** We provide a quality of life that makes the owners and employees want to live here,

and we work closely with our chamber of commerce, county and state partners to communicate, meet needs, look for opportunities and be ready to respond to requests. We have several entrepreneurs who have purposefully chosen Henderson to begin and build their businesses: 8th Day Software, Bramblett Group, Oliver's, and Southern Chic, which is a previous Tennessee Small Business of the Year. Arvin Sango also has opened during my

tenure as mayor. A huge aspect of our economic development and growth has been supporting the success of our existing businesses and industry. All of our long-term businesses and industries have expanded buildings, purchased new equipment and/or added employees. That growth is as important as attracting new businesses and shows those considering locating here that we will be committed to their longterm success, too.

We are not a town where you're going to see big Walmarts. What we're trying to do is welcome entrepreneurs. We attract people who can do their business from anywhere via the internet. We are working with the university on a joint program. The university has had a lot of alumni who have moved away. We want those people to come back.