The TML legislative process is underway for the 2020 session. Only fully completed proposals that meet the following requirements are being considered by the committee. A proposed initiative may be submitted using the online Proposed Legislative Initiative Form. All sections of the proposed initiative must be completed, including any problem statement, description of the proposed remedy, and a review of the anticipated financial impact on municipalities. In addition, municipalities are encouraged to submit, either by reference or attachment, any other copy, background or supplemental information in support of their submission. A majority membership of one of the sponsoring municipalities, however, must sign the form for it to be completed. The Proposed Legislative Initiative Form must be signed by at least three eligible local officials of the sponsoring municipality.

The committee will meet to consider and rank only those legislative initiatives that have been fully completed and presented to the committee for consideration. This initiative that lacks the required signatures or, otherwise, fails to meet the requirements will not be considered by the committee.

The committee has four standing subcommittees: Americans with Disabilities (ADA), Municipalities, Growth and Public Safety, and Housing and Planning. These subcommittees will conduct hearings on any legislation that comes before the committee. Poppy Steel, a member of the deaf community, testified on the importance of accommodations and the need for trained personnel.

When she begins her talk with law enforcement throughout the state of Tennessee, Poppy Steel often begins with a story about a girl named Molly. Most people don’t understand the story the first time Steel tells it; she uses sign language to relate the tale of Molly’s life. When you see the images she shows and hear the story as she signs.

Storytelling is the life of Molly, Steel says. “I’m a 65-year-old little girl, that’s the only person I know. I love Skittles. I love my puppy. My mom and dad never meet but I love them without even seeing them,” Steel said. “I have no family who signs. I have no friends. I have no one to love. I have no one to love.”

Deafness is one of the most common birth defects reported in the U.S. Approximately 20,000 babies are born deaf each year, and about 5 percent of the U.S. population have some sort of hearing loss. Deafness is about a lack of access to communication. When no one in the room can hear you, you can’t communicate. You can’t access the world around you, you can’t access the information you need to make decisions.

Proper communication vitally serving needs of deaf citizens

BY KATE COILELLIE

Collierville’s Garbage Recycling Initiative

Collierville, Tenn. — By Jennifer Casey

Collierville joins other cities in the South by no longer recycling glass, out of glass recycling amid rising costs.

Collierville announced phases to phase out glass recycling amid rising costs.

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**BARTLETT**  
Surface Snow will impact nearly 130,000 area residents in the next five years as expanding development in the Bartlett. The company has operated in Bartlett since 2009 when it received the medical division of UnitedCoatings Group, a worldwide leader in providing coating technology, finishes, and solutions to orthotopic exterior organic materials. The company has expanded in Bartlett, Surface Snow’s 750,000-square-foot engineering and production jobs.

**CLARKSVILLE**  
The city of Clarksville has received a $2,900 AARP Community Challenge grant to fund a new public amenities project that seeks to promote and increase pedestrian activity in the downtown area. The city has purchased nearly 1.6 million AARP designated funds to help ensure the area remains pedestrian-friendly as part of its Liveable Communities project. The project will help improve communities for aging residents and will enhance areas such as Clarksville Parks and Recreation and Bloomfield. The project will en-  

**CLEVELAND**  
Local and state officials recently broke ground on the new Bradley County, Tennessee State Veterans’ Home located on the site of the old Hawkinsville Elementary School. The new facility, which will open in about 150 acres on County Line Road, will be assembled to ensure that all residents will have access to the park’s amenities and green spaces. The property purchased is to help ensure the area remains paved surfaces. The property is to be used as a training center, museum, and office building in the world. TE employs thousands of employees in the West Tennessee area.

**SEVIERVILLE**  
A new 50-acre water park called Sevierville Splash has opened in Sevierville by summer 2020. The $90 million water park is one of nearly $1.6 million AARP designated funds to help ensure the area remains paved surfaces. The property purchased is to help ensure the area remains paved surfaces. The property is to be used as a training center, museum, and office building. The city purchased around 326 acres along the Tennessee River, 14 acres at East Main Street, and 1.8 acres on East Main Street, all of which originally belonged to the city’s parks and recreation department. The property was formerly home to Langley Field and has an existing house that could be a potential site for a park or rec-  

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Since the first announcement, expansion needs and requirements. Available to accommodate NMMC that adequate infrastructure be economic development in the state and an instrumental contributor to As a large employer in the castings, supplying 17 Nissan and annually production capacity at 1.4 million jobs to the facility. In 2017, NMMC reported the Decherd plant's annual production of 50,000 engines and 456,000 cylinder block manufacturing facility and opened the plant in May of 1997 with 2,500 employees. In 2014, NMMC began construction of Phase I of the Nissan Decherd powertrain manufacturing facility adjacent to the existing plant. It is set to add an additional $190,070,000 in private investment, building a new powertrain facility and creating an additional 450 production jobs and 500 indirect jobs. In 2017, Decherd and Franklin County officials began work with NMMC to prepare for Phase III that will include the addition of three 4-cylinder production lines and bring an additional 400 jobs to the facility. In 2017, NMMC reported the Decherd plant's annual production capacity of 5.7 million engines and crankshafts, along with 556,000 cylinder block castings. Supplied by Nissan and local suppliers. As a large employer in the facility, the city of Decherd and Franklin County and the South Central Tennessee region. Since 1997, Nissan's plant has been building reliable, high-quality engines while providing secure and high-paying jobs for residents and supporting community organizations. NMMC Decherd provides engines for all Nissan and Infiniti vehicles built at the company's vehicle assembly plants in Smyrna, Tennessee and Canton, Mississippi. In 2013, the plant began supplying electric motors to support U.S. production of the all-electric Nissan LEAF.

ECONOMIC IMPACT
The Nissan Decherd powertrain manufacturing facility is the largest private employer in Franklin County and the South Central Tennessee region.

TOTAL 2017-2017 ECONOMIC IMPACT INCLUDES:
- 20-year Investment: $1,200,000,000
- 20-year engines assembled: 1,000,000
- Models Supplied: 17 (Nissan and Infiniti vehicles)
- Employment: 3,500
- Payroll: $63,000,000
- 2017 Community Impact: $200,000 (contributions to local organizations)

Nissan Motor Manufacturing Corporation

PROJECT FUNDING
TOTAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT FUNDING: $11,200,000
- (Projections for federal and state grant funding, local investments)
- Community Development Block Grant
- Appalachian Regional Commission Grant
- TNECD FastTrack Infrastructure Development Grant
- USDA Rural Development Loan
- City of Decherd and Franklin County Local Match

PROJECT LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERS
- City of Decherd
- Franklin County
- Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development
- South Central Tennessee Development District
- United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development
- Appalachian Regional Commission
- Economic Development Administration
- Nissan Motor Manufacturing Corporation

For project contact information visit the City of Decherd website at http://www.decherd.net/.

Decherd, Franklin County partner with state to invest in infrastructure

BY DR. BRIDGET JONES

The city of Decherd and Franklin County, located in southern middle Tennessee along the I-24 southern automotive corridor, is a world-class assembly plant and three engine plants within a 50-mile radius. Decherd is the junction of major rural and state highways promoting efficient distribution and logistic access for suppliers and distribution of engine products. Since the early 1990s, Decherd has seen unprecedented development with the location of Nissan Motor Manufacturing Corporation (NMMC) engine production facilities. The major industrial location has brought new residents and a promise of future capital and human resources. NMMC, along with the need for new and enhanced wastewater treatment facilities for the Phase II expansion was one essential part of these strategic investments.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT INFRASTRUCTURE EXPANSION
In 2014, community officials began the process to develop plans and identify sources of funding for a new wastewater treatment system to meet current demand and accommodate future capacity requirements. The city of Decherd determined the need to expand their current wastewater treatment plant to a hydraulic treatment capacity of 2.5 million gallons per day to accommodate existing and future wastewater flows. As future requirements were identified, the city worked with NMMC and the South Central Tennessee Development District to identify funding sources and develop a grant application to support Community Development Block Grant, TNECD FastTrack, and local government funding sources. This public-private partnership positioned the community to secure necessary capital to begin to make systematic infrastructure improvements in a relatively short timeframe. In 2016, design and engineering for the Decherd Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project was finalized with plans and specifications to upgrade existing facilities and equipment and add a plant expansion. This project will increase the capacity of wastewater treatment systems and successfully accommodate the projected increase in wastewater discharge due to Decherd’s rapid growth, annexation, and the NMMC’s Phase II expansion.

TNECD INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS
The TNECD Infrastructure Programs is a fund of significant components of successful economic and community development. TNECD provides leadership and administration for state and federal infrastructure programs directly and also works in conjunction with local and federal partners. The TNECD Community Development Block Grant program provides grant funding for community and economic development projects including water and sewer system improvements and extensions, owner-occupied housing rehabilitation, health and safety projects, and commercial and industrial sites.

The TNECD FastTrack Infrastructure Program provides grants to local communities for public infrastructure improvements and must be used for the following infrastructure investments: one or more community projects committed to creating new jobs and/or making new capital investments. The USDA Rural Development Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant program in Tennessee provides funding for clean and reliable drinking water systems, sanitary sewer systems, solid waste disposal, and stormwater drainage to households and businesses in eligible rural areas. The Appalachian Regional Commission is a federal-state partnership that works with the people of Appalachia to create opportunities for economic development and improved quality of life. Through ARC, Tennessee is able to award grants each year for economic and community development projects in the 52 counties in eastern and middle Tennessee served by the ARC. The Economic Development Administration - Public Works program empowers distressed communities to revitalize, expand, and upgrade their physical infrastructure to attract new industry, encourage business expansion, diversify local economies, and generate or retain long-term, private sector jobs and investments.

For more information visit the TNECD Community and Rural Development programs.
The Brentwood Fire and Rescue Department has received International Accreditation (IAF) for meeting the criteria established through the accreditation program. Brentwood Fire and Rescue is one of only 250 agencies worldwide to achieve this status with the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) for meeting the criteria established nationally for Accredited Agency status from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) for meeting the criteria established nationally for Accredited Agency status from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). Hodgen Mainda has been selected as the new commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance. Mainda currently serves as the vice president for community development at the Electric Power Board (EPB) in Chattanooga which is the first provider of Gigabit internet in the state. Brentwood Fire and Rescue is one of only 250 agencies worldwide to achieve this status with the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). Hodgen Mainda has been selected as the new commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance. Mainda currently serves as the vice president for community development at the Electric Power Board (EPB) in Chattanooga which is the first provider of Gigabit internet in the state. Brentwood Fire and Rescue is one of only 250 agencies worldwide to achieve this status with the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI).
Two new programs will help workforce development in rural TN communities

Two new programs will help improve workforce development across the state’s rural and economically distressed areas.

The state of Tennessee has established new programs to create and expand apprenticeship programs across the state. The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development (TDLWD) in the next three years through the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) Apprenticeship State Innovation Challenge with the Governor’s Office of Economic and Community Development.

“I am committed to expanding workforce learning across the state, and I’m pleased that USDOL is partnering with us as in these efforts,” said Governor bill H. Lee.

Employers continue to face obstacles in attracting and retaining workers with in-demand skills. Tennessee’s challenge is to identify effective workforce solutions and collaborative approaches that benefit employers, workers, and communities.

Registering Apprenticeship programs are a proven strategy for developing a talented pipeline of skilled workers for local businesses and industries and providing local and national employers with qualified candidates for credentials. They are created and sustained by joint employer partnerships.

A key part of the strategy will be the WBG in forming group apprenticeship programs that encourage small and medium-size businesses to form apprenticeship programs. By joining forces, these businesses can share in the cost of training and still realize increased productivity.

TDLWD leadership, along with state partners, will develop a plan for the target workforce including those in rural and urban areas. Often, local leaders in rural counties are forced to navigate workforce challenges that do not exist in the state’s urban and metropolitan areas.

The goal of the RIAs is to increase public awareness of apprenticeships and encourage interested employers to apply for the innovative technologies category. TennCare Connect was nominated for the 2019 Health IT Innovation Awards and the Revitalize Project was nominated for the 2019 Health IT Innovation Awards.

The state of Tennessee leadership, along with state partners, will develop a plan for the target workforce including those in rural and urban areas. Often, local leaders in rural counties are forced to navigate workforce challenges that do not exist in the state’s urban and metropolitan areas.

The Rural Initiative Funding Opportunity (RIFOA) is an opportunity for counties to apply for funding to support Gov. Lee’s rural initiatives. The Rural Initiative Funding Opportunity (RIFOA) will make monies available to support Gov. Lee’s rural initiatives.

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COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

The Communications Director is responsible for the planning, coordination, and implementation of public relations, media relations, event management, community outreach, and public relations strategy. The communications director must be able to manage a team of media relations professionals and work with a variety of stakeholders to create a positive public image for the city. Ideal candidates will have exceptional writing, editing, and public speaking skills, and the ability to lead a team in the development of public relations campaigns and initiatives. The communications director will work closely with the city manager and other senior staff members to develop and implement communication strategies that promote the city's goals and objectives. The position requires a bachelor's degree in communications, journalism, or public relations and at least five years of professional experience in public relations and media relations. This is a full-time position with a competitive salary and benefits. The position is based in the city of Portland, Oregon. To apply, please submit a cover letter and resume to hr@portlandoregon.us.
Drinking from a Fire Hydrant

Deaf people experience unique barriers to hiring.

A report from the U.S. Deaf Education Association states that deaf people experience unique barriers to hiring. In one study, deaf people were found to be more than twice as likely to hold a job in a field that required a high degree of communication than people who were not deaf. This is especially true in states with a large deaf population, such as Tennessee.

The report also notes that deaf people are more likely to have lower wages and be unemployed for longer periods of time than their hearing counterparts. This is likely due to the fact that many employers are not willing to accommodate deaf individuals by providing sign language interpreters or other accommodations.

The report concludes that deaf people are discriminated against by employers and that more needs to be done to ensure equal opportunities for all individuals, regardless of their hearing ability.
Clarksville Mayor Joe Pitts talks growth, managing expectations

Pitts works to manage the city's extensive growth while keeping the sense of close-knit community he loves about his hometown.

BY KATE COIL
PML Communications Specialist

After he was sworn in as a mayor of Clarksville in 2005, Joe Pitts began his job by holding meet-and-greet breakfast sessions with each city department and calling on an aggressive schedule of community meetings, initiatives, and public relations outreach to stakeholders.

A Clarksville native, Pitts graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1977, followed by earning a bachelor's degree from Austin Peay State University in 1980. He went on to complete post-graduate work at the J. Morris Davis School of Social Work and earned a Ph.D. from Texas A&M University in 1987.

Pitts serves as a member of the Clarksville City Commission. He has served as mayor of Clarksville since 2005 and earlier served as a state representative for 13 years. He was elected to the Tennessee House of Representatives in 2002.

During his tenure as a state legislator, Pitts was a member of multiple committees and was instrumental in passing legislation to aid the city and county. He was a member of the Finance and Ways and Means Committee, the Government Operations Committee, and the Public Health Committee.

In 2006, Pitts ran for mayor of Clarksville and won, becoming the city's 16th mayor.

TT&C: As a Clarksville native, what was it like growing up in the community? Who were your role models or influences? What led you to run for anything? Joe Pitts: My father had an eighth-grade education and wanted to make sure his children had a better future. He started with the second grade and worked his way through high school and college. He studied education and worked hard to support his family. He provided the opportunity for me to go to school and get a college degree.

In my family, I learned a lot about city government, from my father and my grandfather. I learned about budgeting, about making decisions, about working with people, and about serving the community.

My sister and I were very involved in politics, especially voting and civic engagement. We were active in student government in high school and college, and we served in local government in her city and in my city. We were involved in numerous community organizations and events, and we were involved in civic leadership roles.

TT&C: What is your approach to leadership in Clarksville? Joe Pitts: As a mayor of Clarksville, I believe that leadership is about working with citizens and being a role model for civic engagement. I lead by example and by listening to citizens and hearing their concerns.

I work closely with citizens and community leaders to ensure that we are making decisions that are in the best interest of the community. I believe that the best decisions are made by working with citizens and listening to their concerns.

TT&C: What are some of the challenges that Clarksville is facing today? Joe Pitts: One of the biggest challenges that Clarksville is facing today is managing growth. Clarksville is one of the fastest growing cities in the country, and we are experiencing a significant increase in population.

This growth is putting pressure on our city infrastructure, including our schools, roads, and public services. We are also facing challenges related to housing, transportation, and public safety.

TT&C: What are some of the big projects Clarksville is undertaking or considering? Joe Pitts: We are working to address our growing population and the challenges it presents. We are currently working on several projects, including:

- Improving our transportation infrastructure
- Expanding our public safety services
- Developing our public education system
- Increasing our affordable housing options

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