



TML policy process underway

Oct 1 deadline set for legislative proposals

TML has opened its policy process for proposed legislative initiatives for the first session of the 109th General Assembly. Proposals will be accepted through Oct. 1.

All ideas are welcome and TML encourages member-municipalities to submit any initiative(s) of interest that benefits municipalities. Municipalities are reminded that only fully completed submissions will be considered, and must be submitted on a Proposed Legislative Initiative Form, provided by TML. Any municipality submitting a proposed legislative initiative must present its initiative to the TML Policy Com-

mittee.

The TML Policy Committee will meet Oct. 15, in the TML building located at 226 Capitol Boulevard in Nashville.

The TML Policy Committee is comprised of nine members: the eight elected district directors and the current 2nd vice president of the TML Board of Directors. The 2nd vice president will chair the committee. All nine members of the committee have voting privileges.

The committee will meet to consider and rank only those legislative initiatives that have been fully
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Wine in grocery stores on 80 local referendums



Photo by Larry McCormack / *The Tennessean*

In the municipalities where the referendum is approved on Nov. 4, retail food stores will be able to sell wine beginning July 1, 2016.

A total of 80 municipalities have collected enough signatures to allow a referendum on the November ballot to determine whether wine can be sold in grocery stores.

To get the wine referendum on the ballot, eligible communities – those that already allow liquor-by-the-drink, liquor stores or both – had to submit petitions to the local election commission by Aug. 21 with at least as many signatures equal to 10 percent of their residents who voted in the last gubernatorial election.

In the municipalities where the referendum is approved on Nov. 4, retail food stores will be able to sell wine beginning July 1, 2016.

Red White and Food, a coalition that lobbied for the change, has been keeping track of the collected signatures. The following communities have submitted petitions to their local election commissions which were then verified:

Anderson: Clinton, Norris, Oak Ridge
Bedford: Shelbyville
Blount: Alcoa, Maryville
Bradley: Cleveland
Carter: Elizabethton
Cheatham: Ashland City, Pleasant View
Cocke: Newport
Coffee: Manchester
Cumberland: Crossville
Davidson: Nashville
Dickson: Burns
Dyer: Dyersburg
Fayette: Oakland

Franklin: Monteagle, Tullahoma
Greene: Greeneville
Hamblen: Morristown
Hamilton: Chattanooga, Collegedale, East Ridge, Lakesite, Red Bank, Signal Mountain
Hardin: Savannah
Hawkins: Church Hill, Rogersville
Henry: McKenzie, Paris
Knox: Farragut, Knoxville,
Loudon: Lenoir City, Loudon
Loudon: Lenoir City, Loudon
Madison: Jackson
Maury: Mt. Pleasant, Spring Hill
McMinn: Athens, Etowah
Montgomery: Clarksville
Obion: Union City
Putnam: Cookeville
Roane: Harriman, Kingston
Robertson: Coopertown, White House
Rutherford: Murfreesboro, Smyrna
Squatchie: Dunlap
Sevier: Gatlinburg, Pigeon Forge
Seyierville
Shelby: Arlington, Bartlett, Collierville, Germantown, Memphis, Millington
Sullivan: Bristol, Johnson City, Kingsport
Sumner: Gallatin, Goodlettsville, Hendersonville, White House
Tipton: Atoka, Covington, Munford
Washington: Johnson City, Jonesborough
Weakly: Martin
Williamson: Brentwood, Fairview, Franklin, Spring Hill, Thompson's Station
Wilson: Lebanon, Mt. Juliet

NLC joins cell tower siting Supreme Court amicus brief

BY LISA SORONEN
State and Local Legal Center

In *T-Mobile South v. City of Roswell* the Supreme Court will decide whether a letter denying a cell tower construction application that doesn't explain the reasons for the denial meets the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (TCA) "in writing" requirement.

The State and Local Legal Center's (SLLC) amicus brief, which the National League of Cities joined,

argues it does. This case is significant to cities because local governments generally regulate land use.

T-Mobile applied to construct a 108-foot cell tower in an area zoned single-family residential. The city of Roswell's ordinance only allowed "alternative tower structures" in such a zone that were compatible with "the natural setting and surrounding structures." T-Mobile proposed an "alternative tower structure" in the shape of a man-made tree that would be about 25-feet taller than the pine

A preview of 109th Freshman class

Primary win votes in six new legislators

BY CAROLE GRAVES
TML Communications Director

Although many legislative seats won't be determined until Nov. 4, for some seeking office a win in the August primary automatically means a win in November due to no opponent in the general election. Among those wins include six new legislators who have been elected as House representatives in the 109th Tennessee General Assembly.

In **House District 18**, **Martin Danel** defeated incumbent Steve Hall in the Republican primary. Martin has no Democratic challenger in November. Daniel, who is an outdoor advertising business owner and an attorney, is a self-proclaimed defender of the Constitution and an advocate for free speech. He and his wife Melissa reside in West Knoxville. The couple have an eight-year old daughter and a six-year old son. Their son is afflicted with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, which is what prompted Martin to found a non-profit charitable organization Defeat Duchenne. The organization raises money for research.

In **District 22**, **Dan Howell** won the GOP primary. He has no Democratic challenger in November and was sworn in early on Sept. 8, to fill the remaining term of Rep. Eric Watson, who was elected as the new Bradley County sheriff. The move to place Howell in office early came by a unanimous vote of the Bradley County Commission. Howell served five years as executive assistant to Bradley County Mayor Gary Davis and also served on the Tennessee Republican Party State Executive Committee. He has also served on the Chamber of Commerce Board,
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Martin Daniel



Dan Howell



Marc Gravitt



Jerry Sexton



John Ray Clemmons



David "Coach" Byrd

Legendary Civil Rights Attorney George Barrett passes away at age 86, services held in Nashville

A major civil rights chapter came to a close Aug. 26 at a local hospital where legendary Nashville attorney George Barrett passed away from acute pancreatitis. He was 86. Barrett leaves behind countless friends, colleagues and admirers from across Tennessee, as well as the nation, who were impressed not only by his professional insight, but by his indomitable work ethic and youthful enthusiasm.

Most widely known for handling a 38-year civil rights case *Geier vs. Tennessee*, that ultimately desegregated the state's public colleges and universities, former U.S. senator and vice president Al Gore, dubbed Barrett "a beacon of progressive politics for three generations of Tennesseans."

Born in Nashville on Oct. 19, 1927, Barrett attended Catholic schools, completing his graduate work at the University of Oxford in England. He also remained true to his Irish-Catholic background throughout his lifetime.

As a hard charging, outspoken member of Nashville's legal community since 1957, the year he graduated from Vanderbilt University Law School, Barrett advanced upon Nashville's civil rights scene in the 50's and 60's as a lone wolf in uncommon territory; a white attorney representing black college students demonstrating for integration.

Through the years, Barrett's staunch defense of the working class earned him the title "The Citizen" or "Citizen Barrett."

"I went to law school to repre-

sent working people," Barrett was quoted as saying in *The Vanderbilt Lawyer*. "He lived up to that credo," the article notes, "waging court battles on behalf of labor unions, teachers, convicts, voters, hospital patients, protestors and anyone else who could rightly be considered an underdog or second-class citizen."

Barrett was an enigma, by many people's standards, an octogenarian attorney whose 50-year passion for his job trumped any thoughts of retirement. He was known to report to work even on Saturday at his firm Barrett, Johnston Martin & Garrison, expecting others to do the same.

Barrett's high-profile client list included many organizations such as The Tennessee Municipal League.

"George Barrett was a unique individual. He woke up each day caring about the poor and the voiceless," said Charles "Bones" Seivers, president and CEO of the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund and a close friend of Barrett's for 50 years. "He was a gifted and successful, well-known lawyer, greatly respected all across this country for not only his superior legal expertise, but his courage and efforts in battling injustice."

Seivers continued, "George was also known for his legal work on behalf of cities all across Tennessee. Having served as the chief legal counsel to the Tennessee Municipal League for a number of years, all of us will miss his guidance and leadership. Having known George as a friend for the past 50 years, he is recognized not only as a talented



Photo by Victoria South

Civil Rights attorney George Barrett speaks at a meeting of the Tennessee Municipal League.

and successful lawyer, but more notably as an individual who dedicated his life to making the world a better place for all people."

Upon news of his death, accolades poured in on-line from political figures across the state.

"George always played fair and was a worthy opponent. He always kept his word," said State Comptroller Justin Wilson.

"George Barrett was a legal giant and a champion for working people. His work, his example will be missed, but his spirit will live on forever," said state Rep. Craig Fittzugh.

Barrett's service, held at the Cathedral of the Incarnation, featured a who's who of prominent Nashville residents, including former Gov. Phil Bredesen, U.S. Sen. Jim Sasser, former Nashville Mayor Richard Fulton, U.S. Rep. Jim Cooper, civil rights leader Charles Kimbrough, State Comptroller Justin Wilson, ACLU leader Hedy Weinberg, and Nashville Police Chief Steve Anderson. A veteran of the Coast Guard, Barrett received military honors near the end of the service.

Barrett is survived by three daughters, Ann Louise (Lucy) Barrett Thomason of Watertown, Mary Eloise Barrett Brewer of Nashville and Kathryn Conroy Barrett Cain of Nashville; 11 grandchildren; and a sister, Sister Mary George Barrett O.P., a Dominican nun, of Nashville.

NEWS
ACROSS
TENNESSEE



CALHOUN
Resolute Forest Products launched a \$105 million expansion of its pulp and paper mill. The expansion, to be completed in late 2015, will install a modern 220-foot-high pulp digester, or cooker, and other wood-chip processing equipment. The project will add about 50 jobs at the plant that now employs 540 people. The project will help the company make higher demand products. The McMinn County factory is marking 60 years of operation.

CHATTANOOGA
Van De Wiele, one of the largest manufacturers of high performing machines for the textile industry, plans to invest \$5 million in a facility that will create around 35 jobs and provide service and support for the company's U.S. operations. The new facility will include a state of the art sampling and development center for tufting, following Van de Wiele's recent acquisition of tufting machine manufacturer Cobble.

CHATTANOOGA
Fulton Bellows LLC has acquired a competitor and is integrating those assets into its local operation, resulting in a \$3 million investment and creation of about 27 jobs. Equipment and other assets from Massachusetts-based Cliflex Bellows Corp. are being brought from South Boston to the plant in Forks of the River Industrial Park. The expansion will not involve any new construction at the 115,000 square-foot facility. The company makes parts for industries ranging from manufacturing to medical equipment.

COOKEVILLE
TTI Floor Care North America, which bought Oreck Co. out of bankruptcy last summer, has announced an expansion. TTI will create 211 new jobs at the plant over the next five years, nearly doubling the local workforce. The company expects to move some of its production from factories in China and Mexico. The company said the facility was selected for its skilled, tenured workforce and its central location for shipping to a majority of the U.S. TTI makes upright and hand-held vacuums, carpet washers and hard floor cleaners.

EAST RIDGE
The city's fire department has received the ISO class two rating, up from the previous rating of three., following an inspection performed in April. East Ridge now ranks in the top two percent of fire departments nationwide and seventh in the state. Mayor Brent Lambert said this rating will affect insurance rates and will make it more valuable for a business to locate in the city.

HUNTINGDON
More improvements are on the way for Carroll County's 1,000 Acre Lake, including a new marina, an R.V. park and three rental cottages—thanks to a \$250,000 grant from the state. According to Huntingdon Mayor Dale Kelley, “These new additions will put the lake in the running to become a big vacation spot and sportsman's destination in West Tennessee.” The new marina should be installed this fall with the other improvements following soon after.

KNOXVILLE
The city's Blighted Properties Redevelopment Program (BPRP) provides short-term development and construction financing through subsidized loans for the purpose of redeveloping and renovating unoccupied residential dwelling units for sale, rent or owner occupation. Loans must be repaid upon completion of the development, when the property is sold, or when the owner obtains permanent financing.

As loans are repaid, money is made available to fund additional BPRP applications. Applicants will be notified by mail or email when loan funds are anticipated to become available. The city's community development director notes the BPRP can be a great help in polishing architectural gems that have fallen into disrepair.

KINGSPORT
A \$1.5 million federal grant will support infrastructure development around Eastman Chemical Co. The grant, from the U.S. Commerce Department's Economic Development Administration, will create an estimated 120 jobs in the area and generate \$640 million in private investment. The grant is geared to help make water infrastructure improvements that will provide a consistent, reliable water source to businesses. It will support the recently announced expansion of Eastman, which produces a broad range of advanced materials, additives and functional products for manufacturing and business use. Last year, Eastman launched a \$1.6 billion effort to expand its corporate campus and make other improvements at its site.

MEMPHIS
The 55-year-old Allen Fossil Plant will be replaced with a \$975 million natural gas plant built near the original facility. The power plant, which was originally built by Memphis Light, Gas and Water Division, generates electricity for the Memphis area and a larger part of the western region covered by the TVA. TVA officials made the decision to abandon the coal-powered plant, as it works toward a December 2018 deadline to reduce coal emissions. The deadline was a key part of a 2011 settlement with the Environmental Protection Agency, three state governments and four environmental groups.

MORRISTOWN
The city's Utility Systems announced that two of its current pump station projects are complete, the overhaul of the Airport Industrial District pump station 1 on Hunter Street and the Willow Springs pump station on Panther Creek Road. The pump stations were upgraded as part of a Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation order. MUS took control of the city's sewer system at the start of the year, but plans for overhauling many of the pump stations were already in place. Both projects were bid together for \$2.2 million. The projects took eight months to complete, paid for by bond issues from the city prior to the takeover. The pump station on Panther Creek Rd. had not been upgraded in at least 10 years and had to be completely rebuilt. The older station continued to run until the new one is fully switched over.

NASHVILLE
A new study, in a report by *USA Today*, shows that Nashville is the most “American” of U.S. metro areas. The study, from personal finance website *WalletHub*, says the city's demographics most closely mirror the U.S. average as a whole.

PIGEON FORGE
As part of Pigeon Forge's new sports tourism initiative, the city has plans for a new multi-million dollar sports facility. The Ripken Experience baseball complex will be located on 50 acres beside Teaster Lane. The nearly 17,000 square foot facility will consist of six replica ballfields and will be open nine months a year to draw in baseball and softball tournaments. Tourism officials say bringing people in for the tournaments could also help the numbers at other local attractions such as The Island and Dollywood. Developers also plan to build hotels and restaurants

on site all themed to fit the Ripken Experience. Two other Ripken Experience baseball complexes are located in Aberdeen, Md., and Myrtle Beach, S.C. The city commission has already approved \$26 million in bonds to help pay for construction of the new facility. City officials say the facility will be completed by 2016.

SMYRNA
Federal-Mogul officials announced the company will invest \$6.2 million to expand its current distribution facility and create 135 new jobs. Federal-Mogul is expanding its existing Worldwide Aftermarket Distribution Center in Smyrna, due to the recent purchase of part of Affinia's product line. Affinia is a leader in the manufacturing and distribution of automotive replacement products. As part of this expansion, the company will increase its footprint from 600,000 square feet to 800,000 square feet. This larger warehouse and distribution capacity will allow the facility to become more productive.

SPARTA
Sparta has earned a spot on *Mother Earth News'* 2014 “Great Places You've (Maybe) Never Heard Of” list. The publication is the leading magazine dedicated to sustainable living and features eight communities in its October-November issue. *Mother Earth News* ranks the city high for its friendly, self-sufficient citizens and its natural beauty. The magazine also listed Sparta's prevalence of home food gardens and backyard chickens; weekly bluegrass concerts at Liberty Square; abundant caves, waterfalls and wildlife and growing local food system. “If you crave a slower pace of life – and sharing it with friendly folks in a knock-your-socks-off setting, then you need to visit Sparta,” says K.C. Compton, senior editor for *Mother Earth*. The Great Places list serves as a way to recognize cities and towns that demonstrate positive civic engagement, invest in the local economy and develop meaningful environmental initiatives. Nominations come from *Mother Earth News* readers, social media communities and staff.

SPRINGFIELD/WHITE HOUSE
Robertson County, Springfield and White House officials are moving toward a finalized contract that will allow dispatching services to re-consolidate under one system. The cities separated their dispatchers within the county's consolidated E911 center last year after city leaders said they thought they were paying too much for the consolidated services. Last month, governing bodies from all three entities met and approved the contracts needed to reconsolidate the dispatching system. The new financial plan, as outlined by each of the contracts, calls for Springfield to pay 23 percent of the center's personnel costs. Robertson County will pay 62 percent and White House will pay 15 percent. The personnel costs are broken down based on the total calls for service that come in to the 9-1-1 center from citizens. The plan should save the cities money while increasing the amount paid by the county.

SPRING HILL
Magna International officials announced the company is expanding its manufacturing operations, investing \$16 million to construct a new, state-of-the-art facility. Currently located in Columbia, Magna will create 357 new jobs in Maury County over the next two years. Magna will manufacture complete seat assemblies supplying General Motors' Spring Hill assembly plant. GM recently announced the company will invest \$185 million to make small gas engines. GM also identified the next-generation Cadillac SRX as a future mid-size vehicle to be produced at Spring Hill. The new, 122,500 square foot facility will be Magna's fifth location in Tennessee and is expected to be fully operational in January 2015.

Johnson City project on community crime reduction wins Outstanding Criminal Justice Program Award



Johnson City's Targeted Community Crime Reduction Project (TCCRP) received the Outstanding Criminal Justice Program Award for the Southern Region by the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) for its work in preventing crime and improving public safety. Pictured left to right: Office of Criminal Justice Program Director William Scollon, TCCRP Director Becky Haas, and National Criminal Justice Association Vice President, Kharlton Moore.

The National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) honored the Johnson City Targeted Community Crime Reduction Project (TCCRP) with its Outstanding Criminal Justice Program Award for the Southern Region in recognition of their work in preventing crime and improving public safety. The award is given annually at the National Forum on Criminal Justice to five criminal justice programs, as a way to seek out and share successful programs that merit recognition for providing effective services to address crime-related issues in communities. This year's awards were presented at a luncheon in Breckenridge, CO.

The TCCRP seeks to prevent crime, rebuild neighborhoods, improve law enforcement and provide offender intervention for probationers and parolees. Program efforts include evidence-based prevention, enforcement and intervention strategies to reduce juvenile delinquency, as well implementing data-drive approaches to crime and traffic safety, crime mapping software and neighborhood and business watch initiatives.

The TCCRP also collaborated with the local corrections commu-

nity to create a unique probation in the state of Tennessee, a Day Reporting Center, that builds coping skills, sobriety, and education and job opportunities for probationers and parolees.

Since the program began in April 2013, the TCCRP has implemented 19 initiatives to achieve its goal and Johnson City has seen overall reductions in arrests and incidents.

At the Science Hill Alternative School, juvenile disciplinary actions decreased from 2.0 incidents per child to 1.6 incidents per child, while juvenile absences from the school dropped 15.8 percent.

In areas of high crime targeted by TCCRP actions, the number of neighborhood incidents has decreased by 26 percent and arrests have declined by 19 percent. Business owners and residents have also reported that they feel safer and that the quality of life has improved.

For more information on NCJA, please visit <http://www.ncja.org>. To learn more about the Outstanding Criminal Justice Program awards and view previous winners visit <http://ncja.org/outstanding-criminal-justice-program-awards>.

Clarksville awarded with grants for transit projects



TDOT Commissioner John Schroer presented Clarksville with a check for \$1.6 million to replace the three of the city's aging diesel buses.

Tennessee Department of Transportation Commissioner John Schroer presented Clarksville Mayor Kim McMillan with a check for \$1.6 million, just one of the grants presented that will benefit Clarksville and Montgomery County.

The grant was a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) grant and will be used

to replace three aging diesel buses with heavy-duty hybrid-electric transit buses, improving the community's fleet age by 18 percent.

The CMAQ grants were awarded to 11 communities across the state to fund a wide range of transportation projects designed to reduce congestion and improve air quality.

In addition, the Regional Transit Authority also received approximately \$275,000 in grant funds to expand the transit service between Nashville and Clarksville.

“We are now adding a fourth bus with an additional route in the morning and evening to and from Nashville,” said Mayor McMillan, RTA vice chair.

The mayor also joined a group from Montgomery County to accept a \$1 million grant to expand the Cumberland River Waterway Intermodal Facility to connect rail, truck and barge traffic. One of the project partners in the grant application, R.J. Corman, is paying the \$250,000 local match requirement.

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Photo by Judy Housley

Dandridge Public Works transforms delivery truck into an incident response vehicle

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

Dandridge Public Works Department Superintendent Gregg Gann had been concerned about getting his department more organized in the face of emergencies. Then, he spied a blue delivery truck and the wheels began to turn.

In the past, when Dandridge Public Works staff responded to serious incidents, such as a broken water main or a fallen tree blocking the road, the staff first had to retrieve its emergency equipment stored in various locations throughout the community— not only slowing response times— but possibly placing lives at risk, depending upon the situation.

What the department needed was an efficient, low-cost way to transport all its equipment to the scene at one time. Gann first considered outfitting a trailer to meet the department’s needs, but when he saw a “for sale” sign on a flower delivery truck outside the local funeral home, he stepped inside to inquire.

“I told the funeral director what I planned to do, and he made me a good deal,” Gann explained. The truck was painted white, and then the Public Works Department set about retrofitting the vehicle in-house— which brought the total cost of the project to about \$3,000— about \$27,000 less than it would have cost if the vehicle and equipment had been purchased brand new, according to Gann.

“This project would have cost the city at least \$20,000-30,000,” he said.

Outfitted with new tires, the truck received caution lights and direction bars, installed by a city fleet mechanic.

“If we have a tree down at night,

we can light up different panels of the truck to assess the situation. We also have a power converter that lights up the scene as if it were daylight,” said Gann.

As the project progressed, the Knoxville safety equipment supplier the city was working with became interested in the project as well, contributing sample equipment such as lights, to help keep the department’s costs low. Stocked with all the equipment necessary for road incidents: barricades, professional first aid kit, gloves, flashing lights, traffic cones, and a traffic wand, the truck was prepared to back up the community’s fire department and rescue squad when tragedy struck Oct. 2013. A church bus carrying seniors headed home from a Christian music festival in Gatlinburg had a tragic accident on Interstate 40, crossing the median and colliding with an SUV, and then a tractor-trailer.

As the building traffic surrounding the incident spilled off I-40 and I-81 into the town of Dandridge, the new incident response vehicle was taken for its inaugural run. The Public Works Department, after receiving the call, drove directly to the scene to close the town’s side roads quickly and efficiently, diverting the traffic onto the town’s main road.

“We had all the barricades to do the major road closures,” said Gann. “It was so much quicker and easier.”

The effort recently caught the eye of the TML Pool. While there isn’t a specific insurance reward or adjustment for this type of project, Judy Housley, Loss Control consultant, said “this type of preplanning does demonstrate a professional approach and attitude.”

And in the words of Jodeen Baumann, the Pool’s senior underwriter, “I certainly will take a look at their next renewal.”

New upgrades make Brentwood library more efficient: reduces energy usage, saves money

BY MARK PENLAND
TDEC
Office of Sustainable Practices

The city of Brentwood has always strived to be good stewards with their taxpayers’ dollars, making city operations more efficient as well as protecting Tennessee’s environment.

Using a federal grant awarded through the Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant Program, the city undertook an energy audit of all of its municipal buildings in 2010 to assess their energy usage and determine a way to reduce energy use, taxpayer costs, and air emissions associated with the generation of the power used by municipal facilities. The audit revealed that replacing the old boilers at Brentwood’s public library would be the biggest single opportunity to reduce energy use, as the library had the highest level of energy usage of all municipal facilities.

In 2012, the Brentwood Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to proceed with a grant application for a Clean Tennessee Energy Grant through the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation that provides financial assistance to municipal governments, county governments, utility districts, and other entities in Tennessee to purchase, install, and construct energy projects that address cleaner alternative energy, energy conservation and air quality improvement.

Using the grant and matching funds totaling \$83,170, the city chose to replace the library’s two, 14-year old inefficient boilers with units that could be programmed to operate at lower temperatures when power demand is not as high and without the associated condensation problems present in the old boilers. These condensation problems previously meant that the older boilers operated at a 100 percent “on” or 100 percent “off” mode resulting in an energy efficiency of only 81 percent. The newer programmable boilers operate at an efficiency of 99 percent, which greatly reduces energy usage, according to City Engineer Mike Harris. “The new boilers are much smaller, more efficient and quite a bit quieter than the older units,” he said.

Through the installation of these new boiler units, the city estimated that it would be able to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 71 tons, its nitrogen dioxides emissions by 28 pounds annually and sulfur dioxides emissions by 60 pounds annually thereby, helping to improve Tennessee’s air quality.



An energy audit of all of Brentwood’s municipal buildings revealed that the library had the highest level of energy usage of all municipal facilities.



The newer programmable boilers operate at an efficiency of 99 percent, which greatly reduces energy usage. In addition to reducing these power generation air emissions, the city estimated its tax payer savings over 15 years to be approximately \$12,000 a year.

In addition to reducing these power generation air emissions, the city estimated its taxpayer savings over 15 years to be approximately \$12,000 a year. Harris explained that “although no long-term energy usage data is available at this time, the energy usage for the months of May and June was the lowest on record. “City officials are excited about its positive impact on the environment of Tennessee,” he said.

“We are very pleased with the outcome of the project,” said Kirk Bednar, Brentwood city manager. “We initially began assessing energy use in city facilities several years ago through an energy audit funded by the Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant program from the Federal government. That audit showed the older boilers at the Library to be our biggest single opportunity to reduce energy use and costs. The state grant was the perfect vehicle to

expedite this upgrade and we are certainly seeing the positive results in our monthly bills. I’d like to thank TDEC for making the grant program available to cities and the process for administering the grant was very straightforward and easy for city staff.”

As a result of this project, Brentwood is demonstrating its continuing commitment to its citizens to lower operating costs for municipal facilities and save taxpayer dollars as well as having a positive impact on the environment of Tennessee and citizens all across the state.

Kathy Glapa with TDEC’s Office of Sustainable Practices congratulated Brentwood for promoting energy efficiency. “Their heating and cooling upgrade at the public library will offer a comfortable atmosphere for the citizens while saving the city and taxpayers money year after year,” she said.

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Four Tennessee fire departments honored

Four Tennessee fire departments earned the Life Safety Achievement Award for fire prevention accomplishments in 2013.

Congratulations to the Germantown Fire Department, Henderson Fire Department, Pigeon Forge Fire Department and Sharps Chapel Volunteer Fire Department. The departments received this award for organizing educational programs targeting specific age and at-risk groups. In addition, each department conducted fire safety inspections, checked and installed free smoke detectors, provided fire extinguisher

training, offered multi-lingual fire prevention resources, and promoted fire safety messages at a variety of community events.

“We are also pleased with the fire prevention efforts of all fire departments across Tennessee,” said Gary West, state fire marshal. “It is an honor to have four of our departments recognized nationally for their heroic efforts.”

For more than 20 years, the National Association of State Fire Marshals Fire Research and Education Foundation (NASFM Foundation) has nationally recognized fire de-

partments for actively promoting fire prevention in the pursuit of saving lives.

Nationally, 143 fire departments from 34 states received the Life Safety Achievement Award.

“Fire prevention should be in the minds of every Tennessean,” said West. “It is vital that communities partner with their local fire departments to increase awareness about smoke alarm safety as well as other preventative measures that will help get your family out safely, if a fire incident should occur inside the home.”

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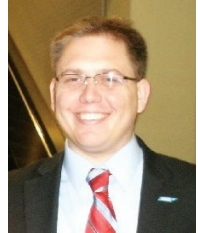
PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

David W. Purkey has been appointed by Gov. Haslam as a deputy commissioner of the Military Department where he will direct the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA). Purkey has served as interim director of TEMA since the April retirement of Jim Bassham. He will also continue to serve as the governor's Homeland Security advisor and assistant commissioner for the Department of Safety and Homeland Security. In 1995, Purkey was appointed to the vacancy of Hamblen County mayor and was elected four times before voluntarily retiring in 2010.



Purkey

Justin Wilkins will serve as Chattanooga Mayor Andy Berke's deputy chief of staff. Wilkins has spent the last several years serving as the Tennessee state director for multiple advocacy and electoral organizations, including Organizing for America and Organizing for Action. Prior to that, he worked as project manager at Profit Plans LLC for five years. The position has been open since Jeff Cannon moved from deputy chief of staff to chief operating officer last year.



Wilkins

Franklin Court Judge **Tom Taylor** was lauded by the city for his 27 years of service, before being administered the Oath of Office for the Williamson County General Sessions Court. Taylor has presided over thousands of cases from traffic and parking violations, to zoning ordinance violations.

Brentwood Mayor **Betsy Crossley** was appointed by Gov. Haslam to the Tennessee Advisory Council on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR). Currently, in her second term as mayor, Crossley has been a member of the TML Board of Directors since 2008. In 2012, the Speaker of the House appointed Crossley to the Tennessee Local Development Authority (TLDA), where she is the first woman in the history of the state to serve on that board.



Crossley

Dara Sanders is the new city planner for the city of Spring Hill. Sanders replaces Paul Keltner, who left the position May 30. As the head of the Planning and Zoning Department, Sanders will guide the city through its rapid growth by focusing on the city's land use, interconnectivity between key developments and pedestrian facilities, ensuring consistency in landscaping and architectural designs, and planning for how these elements integrate into the city's comprehensive land-use plan. She also will advise the city's Planning Commission. Sanders has a master's degree in urban and regional planning and is a member of the American Planning Association.



Sanders

Cleveland attorney **Barrett Painter** was appointed to the position of city judge by the Cleveland City Council to replace the late Judge Bill Moss. He was officially sworn in Sept. 8.

Paris Fire Marshal **Chuck Wade**, a 14-year veteran of the city's fire department, has been promoted to the rank of assistant chief. Wade has been working



Wade

as fire marshal for 2-1/2 years, after being promoted from the rank of lieutenant. He joins Randall Jones as one of two assistant chiefs working at the department, both of whom will act as training officers. The position has been vacant since the death of Asst. Chief Jeff Hamlin in early July.

On the bench since 1980, longtime Circuit Court Judge **Robert E. Burch** retired this month. Burch, 67, served on the 23rd Judicial District, which includes Cheatham, Dickson, Houston, Humphreys and Stewart counties. A former attorney and commercial pilot with Capitol Airways in Nashville, Burch became a referee for the Tennessee Juvenile Court from 1973 to 1980, and was named the Tennessee Trial Judge of the Year in 2002. Serving on the 23rd Judicial District Drug Court program, Burch said he hopes to continue working with the program after retirement.

Jan Phillips, a 37-year veteran of the Shelbyville Police Department took the reins as police chief. Phillips worked his way up from patrolman, also holding the rank of major and overseeing the patrol division. He replaces Chief Austin Swing, who takes over as Bedford County sheriff after 20 years as chief.

Longtime police officer Capt. **Tom McDaniel** has retired from the Bristol Police Department after serving with the force for more than 42 years.

Government activities carry Oak Ridge's Mark Watson to Indonesia



Oak Ridge City Manager Mark Watson and Mayor Tom Beehan host participants of the Professional Fellows Exchange program on their visit to Oak Ridge: Hera Nugrahyu, finance administrator of Palangka Raya, Borneo and Irma Mutiahsari, general services director of Pangkalpinang, an island city of Sumatra.

Oak Ridge City Manager Mark Watson, as part of the U.S. Department of State Professional Fellows Program, ICMA Professional Fellows Exchange team, traveled to Indonesia to meet with state and national officials and U.S. Embassy staff. Watson met with officials in four cities across the island nation.

Implemented by ICMA, the management exchange occurs as part of an effort to share local government issues, innovations and partnerships between the two countries. Relationships are established that can assist one another in business, management and knowledge over the coming years.

Earlier this year, Oak Ridge had the opportunity to host two government officials: Hera Nugrahyu, finance administrator of Palangka

Raya, Borneo, and Irma Mutiahsari, General Services director of Pangkalpinang, an island city of Sumatra.

For three weeks, they served the city through reports and attending numerous meetings with city staff. They also met with professional women to learn of U.S. women in the workplace. Historical preservation, environmental management, economic development, finances and education were the focus of the visit.

During his trip, Watson examined the impacts of rapid growth, deforestation, community economics and civic engagement with citizens. The impact on local animal life was also explored as habitat is lost.

In his blog, Watson said he hoped to share conservation efforts in the U.S. with the local government.

Brady Mountain overlook to honor regional citizens, Harrison, Brown



TDEC Deputy Commissioner Brock Hill (right) presents Rob Harrison (center) and George Harrison (left) with a plaque acknowledging the naming of the Arthur Harrison/Bob Brown Overlook in honor of their father Arthur Harrison and noted conservationist Bob Brown.

At a recent Friends of the Cumberland Trail musical celebration of traditional music at the historic Palace Theater in Crossville, TDEC Deputy Commissioner Brock Hill announced that a scenic overlook atop Brady Mountain will be named in honor of local landowner Arthur Harrison, and noted conservationist Bob Brown.

Harrison and Brown both offered crucial initial support and vision for the development of the Cumberland Trail in Cumberland County in the 1960s and 1970s. The Arthur Harrison/Bob Brown Overlook, formerly known as the Overlook at Brady Bluff, provides a striking view of Grassy Cove.

The event, Everlasting Music:

Seven Decades of Music of the Cumberland Mountains, featured performances and presentations which paid tribute to families of the region who have received national recognition for the richness and strength of their musical heritage.

The sold-out concert was funded by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Library of Congress American Folklife Center. Other participating organizations included the Tennessee State Library and Archives, Tennessee Arts Commission, Cumberland Mountain State Park, the Heartland Series, the Museum of Appalachia, and the Center for Popular Music at MTSU. Numerous local businesses and individuals provided additional support.

Primary win votes in six new legislators

FRESHMEN from Page 1

the Cleveland/Bradley Greenway Board, and the county Storm Water Advisory Board, as well as directed the county's Three Star Program.

In House District 30, **Marc Gravitt** was the only candidate to file qualifying papers to fill the seat left vacant by Rep. Vince Dean, who ran for the Republican nomination in Hamilton County's Criminal Court clerk race. On Sept. 10, the Hamilton County Commission voted to swear Gravitt in early to fill Dean's remaining term. Gravitt currently serves on the East Ridge City Council and is the managing member of Gravitt Auctions & Appraisals, LLC. He was recently elected president of the Tennessee Auctioneers Association and is a veteran of the U.S. Army. Although he ran unopposed, he continued to campaign, promising to be an effective, conservative voice at the State Capitol.

In House District 35, **Jerry Sexton** beat incumbent Dennis Roach. One of 10 children and the son of a coal miner, Sexton founded Sexton Furniture Manufacturing in 1988. Located in Grainger County, today it employs more than 200 employees and ships furniture all over the world. He campaigned for small government and a favorable business climate that keeps taxes low, incentivize existing businesses to expand, and a regulatory environment that will attract businesses to locate in

Tennessee. As a former pastor of the same local church for 25 consecutive years, he proudly boasts conservative values – protector of the Second Amendment, pro-life, and defender of a traditional marriage between a man and woman.

In House District 55, **John Ray Clemmons** defeated incumbent Gary Odom in the Democratic primary. An attorney, Clemmons is a former political director for the Tennessee Democratic Party and former legislative aide to U.S. Congressman Bob Clement. He served on the Tennessee Civil Service Commission appointed by Gov. Bredesen, and is a former member of the Metro Board of Fair Commissioners, appointed by Nashville Mayor Karl Dean. He currently serves on the board of directors for Friends of Sevier Park, Inc., and the steering committee for Belmont-Hillsboro Neighbors. He campaigned for strong schools, affordable health care, women's rights and supports energy efficiency and environmental green initiatives.

In House District 71, **David "Coach Byrd** beat incumbent Vance Dennis. Byrd is a lifelong educator (33 years) in Wayne County where he served as a teacher, coach and principal at Wayne County High School. During his eight years as principal, he worked with the Wayne County Disciplinary Board helping students get their lives back on track. For 24 years, he served as Head Basketball

Coach for the Wayne County Lady Cats. During his tenure, he led his teams to 14 state tournament appearances with three second-place finishes and two State Championships. In 2002, he was inducted into the Freed-Hardeman University Sports Hall of Fame. Byrd campaigned for education reform, giving local school districts more control over their curriculum, standards, and expectations; and plans to use his education background to assist the district in attracting more industry and provide better paying jobs.



Bud Hulsey

In House District 2, **Bud Hulsey** defeated incumbent Rep. Tony Shipley in the GOP primary. Hulsey does not face a Democratic opponent but does have a challenge from a write-in Independent candidate. Hulsey is a retired lieutenant from the Kingsport Police Department after 34 years of service. He is known for his drug prevention work with youth.

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STATE BRIEFS

TN film commission launches new website

The Tennessee Film, Entertainment and Music Commission (TFEMC) announced the launch of its new website, TNentertainment.com. The site offers immediate access to essential information regarding Tennessee’s thriving entertainment industry and a host of free resources for anyone interested in learning more about entertainment and doing business in Tennessee. Along with a comprehensive overview of Tennessee’s statewide entertainment advantages, the website features resources for Tennesseans and prospective productions alike, including the Tennessee Production Directory and a comprehensive locations database. Both tools are a way for Tennessee businesses and citizens to market their services and for the TFEMC to recruit new pro-

ductions to the state.

Poll finds voters approve of clean energy

Tennessee voters agree that reducing carbon and introducing clean energy is a good move for the state. A recent poll conducted by North Star Opinion Research and commissioned by the Energy Foundation confirms that 83 percent participants support increasing the use of renewable energy in Tennessee. The polls showed that 72 percent of voters support TVA’s move to retire its coal fleet, seen most recently in the decision to switch Memphis’ Allen Fossil Plant to natural gas. Additionally, 25 percent of voters prefer renewable energy sources such as wind and solar to meet the area’s need. The 600 registered voters also fielded questions on the Environmental Protection Agency’s Clean Power Plan.

TDEC pushes energy efficiency projects for local govt’s, housing authorities

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation has launched a new program to provide education, outreach and technical assistance to local jurisdictions and public housing authorities to support implementation of energy efficiency and energy management projects.

With a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, TDEC’s Office of Energy Programs and its subrecipient grantee, expert energy efficiency consultancy group Clean Energy Solutions, Inc., will educate local officials on the benefits of energy efficiency and provide technical assistance on cost-effective energy efficiency measures, such as: building audits and reviews; requests for proposals or requests for qualifications to scope energy efficiency improvement projects; collaborating with energy service companies; benchmarking energy and water usage; measurement and verification of energy savings; and procurement and contracting assistance.

The program will explore major

financing options to support energy efficiency improvements, such as energy performance contracting, utility incentives, and utility bill repayments. Other financing options may be identified during the grant period, which currently runs through early 2016.

Tennessee was one of sixteen states to receive a competitive U.S. Department of Energy State Energy Program 2013 award overall and just one of six states to receive an award in the “Public Buildings Retrofit” category. Additional information on the State Energy Program 2013 is available at <http://energy.gov/eere/wipo/sep-2013-competitive-solicitation>.

The program is available at no cost to local jurisdictions, including city and county governments, and public housing authorities in the State of Tennessee through January 2016. Interested agencies are encouraged to contact Luke Gebhard, Senior Program Manager of TDEC’s Office of Energy Programs, at 615-741-2994 or luke.gebhard@tn.gov.

TN Museum seeks LaFollette photos for display

The Tennessee State Museum wants photographs of communities across the state and is asking Tennessee residents to submit pictures to be placed on display next month. The museum says it’s only accepting digital images. It plans to display them as part of an exhibition celebrating the photographic documentation of LaFollette. Images selected will be displayed in conjunction with an exhibit called “Eyes On LaFollette,” which showcases 20 years of student photojournalists documenting the historic community. Submit entries by 5 pm Sept. 19. Photos may be submitted by emailing the photo, a completed entry form, and model release form to museuminfo@tnmuseum.org.

Cursive handwriting makes a comeback in schools

New cursive handwriting standards will go into effect in schools throughout the state. While keyboarding is a skill that is included in the Common Core education standards adopted by most states, Tennessee lawmakers are concerned that some children have not developed their own signature and struggle to read teachers’ handwriting. Schools are expected to start bringing back cursive in 2015-2016 in grades two through four, under the new law, signed this year by Gov. Haslam. Keyboarding and print writing will still have a spot in the curriculum, but legible penmanship will be required by third grade.

State’s task force on aging unveils new report

The state unveiled a report by the Governor’s Task Force on Aging aimed at serving Tennessee’s senior citizens more efficiently and effectively. Among the initial steps the task force has recommended are to conduct a review of aging services in state government and to promote healthy living in partnership with the Governor’s Foundation for Health and Wellness, as well as encourage local leaders to assess their communities for their livability for the aging. More than 14 percent of Tennesseans are over the age of 65 today, and that number is expected to be more than 22 percent by 2020. The task force has presented three areas of focus: promoting healthy aging; creating livable communities; and supporting family caregivers.

TVA picked as a top utility by Site Selection

TVA has been picked by *Site Selection* magazine as one of the nation’s top utilities in terms of economic development. Site Selection noted that TVA’s efforts with local economic development agencies had helped retain or attract more than 52,000 jobs and \$5 billion in investment last year.

Aviation on the rise in education

The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development is actively reaching out to aerospace employers, as a result of an aviation jobs initiative aimed at making Tennessee a major player in the aerospace industry. Back in late June, Northeast State Community College and Bell Helicopter’s Piney Flats operation rolled out an education collaboration with the intent of helping Bell and other potential aviation employers attract and develop local talent. Core classes in the collaboration began this fall on Northeast State’s Blountville campus — located next to Tri-Cities Regional Airport — with specific aviation courses to be offered in spring 2015. Bell is expected to provide training instructors to help Northeast State develop aviation-related course content and create craftsmen with mechanical and electrical skills. In the future, additional objectives include developing a flight school and four-year aviation curriculum possibly to be offered at East Tennessee State University.



Even though the next term of the Supreme Court won’t officially begin until Oct. 6, the Court has already accepted about 40 of the 70 or so cases it will decide in the upcoming months.

Cell tower siting case on High Court docket for Oct.

CELL TOWER *from Page 1*

writing that itself contains all of the grounds and explanations for the decision.”

The SLLC’s amicus brief takes the position that the “in writing” requirement is met when a local government issues a written denial letter and the reasons for its decision can be gleaned from written minutes or a transcript.

The brief argues that T-Mobile’s interpretation of “in writing” to mean local governments must issue a separate written decision with formal findings and conclusions “is not supported by the plain text of the statute, by its legislative history, by the weight of precedent, or by considerations of

public policy.” The brief also points out the practical effect of T-Mobile’s position would be to impose “substantial new costs and burdens on local governments, without providing any benefit in terms of facilitating the granting of meritorious wireless siting applications.”

Tim Lay, Jessica Bell, and Katharine Mapes of Spiegel & McDiarmid in Washington, D.C., wrote the SLLC’s brief which was joined by NLC, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National Association of Counties, the International City/County Management Association, the International Municipal Lawyers Association, and the American Planning Association.

Other Supreme Court cases of interest to local governments

Even though the Supreme Court’s next term won’t officially begin until Oct. 6, the Court has already accepted about 40 of the 70 or so cases it will decide in the upcoming months.

Here is a quick highlight of what is on the Court’s docket right now that will affect local government:

To date the Court has agreed to hear only one Fourth Amendment case. *Heien v. North Carolina* involves whether a traffic stop is permissible under the Fourth Amendment when it is based on an officer’s misunderstanding of the law.

Of interest to cities that operate jails, the issue in *Holt v. Hobbs* is whether a state prison grooming policy violates the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act because it prohibits an inmate from growing a half-inch beard in accordance with his religious beliefs.

The Court has accepted three tax cases affecting local government this term. *Comptroller v. Wynne* involves the constitutionality of a state failing to offer residents a tax credit for all income taxes paid to another jurisdiction. *Alabama Department of Revenue v. CSX Transportation* involves whether a diesel fuel sales tax is

discriminatory against railroads in violation of the Railroad Revitalization and Regulation Reform Act (4-R). And in *Direct Marketing Association v. Brohl* the Court will decide whether a challenge to the constitutionality of Colorado’s attempt to collect more tax revenue from online purchases can be heard in federal court.

No Supreme Court term would be complete without one Fair Labor Standard Act (FLSA) case. *Integrity Staffing Solutions v. Busk* ask the straightforward question of whether the time employees spend in security screenings is compensable under the FLSA.

While the question presented in *Perez v. Mortgage Bankers Association* sounds academic, this case will have a practical impact on local government. The issue is whether a federal agency must engage in notice-and-comment rulemaking pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act before it can significantly alter an interpretive rule that interprets an agency regulation.

For a more detailed summary of all the cases the Supreme Court has accepted so far that affects cities, read the State and Local Legal Center’s Supreme Court Preview for Local Governments at www.statelocalcl.org

TML policy process underway

LEGISLATION *from Page 1*

completed and presented to the committee for consideration. Any initiative that lacks the required signatures or, otherwise, fails to meet the requirements will not be considered by the committee. If a municipality submits a fully completed proposed initiative but is unable to send a representative to present the submission to the committee, then the committee will send that municipality’s proposal to the TML Legislative Committee without recommendation.

The committee will rank all of the qualifying proposed initiatives in order of preference, as determined by a vote of the committee. The committee’s final ranking of proposed initiatives will be submitted to the TML Legislative Committee for consideration and eventually approved by the full TML Board of Directors.

Should you have questions about the policy process, contact a member of the TML lobby team at 615-255-6416.



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Waste Industries USA, Inc.

Localities want more say in transportation spending

BY DANIEL C. VOCK
Governing Magazine

Two years ago, Congress cut local leaders’ role in deciding how federal money should be spent.

Mayors and county officials have two tough missions as they lobby Congress on transportation.

First, they want federal lawmakers to find an elusive source of new money so that federal highway and transit funding does not dry up.

Second, they want Congress to revisit changes it made two years ago in how that money is divvied up. Local leaders say the changes, instituted under the law called MAP-21, disproportionately hit cities and counties. Under the law, Congress not only cut money available for local roads, it also gave local leaders less say in deciding how federal money should be spent by putting states in charge of more of those decisions.

Now that the law is about to expire, localities hope Congress will require states to coordinate with local officials when deciding how to spend the money.

“We want to be partners with our governors,” Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed told a U.S. House panel earlier this year. “We understand that will mean being junior partners. But we’d like to have a seat at the table to ensure that cities have a voice as well.”

The 2012 federal law put more money toward big highways and less

toward local roads. It cut money for bridges and roads that are not part of the National Highway System by 30 percent. Local governments own more than half of those smaller roads. The law also gives states a greater role in determining how to spend federal money on everything from run-down bridges to bike lanes and sidewalks.

Despite years of discussion, there is no consensus in Congress on where to find extra money for transportation. The idea of raising the federal gas tax — which has been at 18.4 cents a gallon since 1993 — is politically toxic on Capitol Hill. Other proposals to pay for infrastructure with corporate taxes or general funds also have not gained much traction. While funding debates have stalled at the national level, many counties have raised property or sales taxes to pay for transportation improvements. Some states prevent localities from doing so.

If Congress were to find money, there is a chance it might reconsider how the funds are allocated. Two members of the U.S. House’s Transportation and Infrastructure Committee are sponsoring legislation that would require states to set aside a portion of the federal transportation money they receive for competitive grants, for which localities could compete.

David Goldberg, a spokesman for Transportation for America, which supports greater local involve-

ment in transportation decisions, said that approach would allow the federal government to set national priorities. Then states and localities could decide which projects best meet those national goals.

That way, cities and states could focus on spurring economic development, creating links between different modes of transportation or attracting private money to a project, rather than simply just building and maintaining highways, Goldberg said.

“We’re not saying local communities would get unilateral control over a state highway. We are saying there has to be more acknowledgment of the needs of localities,” he said.

The competitive grants would be similar to the federal Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (or TIGER) grants, first created under the 2009 stimulus law. The U.S. Department of Transportation has awarded more than \$4.1 billion to more than 200 projects under the program, but demand has been far higher. In the most recent round, for example, the agency received \$9.5 billion in proposals for \$600 million in funding.

Localities can apply directly for the grants, which have been used to help build light rail between Minneapolis and St. Paul; improve pedestrian safety in and around Ft. Myers, Florida; and increase the capacity of the port in Wilmington, Delaware.

NATIONAL BRIEFS



As reported in *Governing Magazine*, the supercharged storms in the Midwest, droughts and forest fires in the West, and sea level rise on the coasts -- are forcing cities to prepare for a future in which new weather patterns can overwhelm existing infrastructure. According to this year’s National Climate Assessment, “Like first responders, localities do not have the wherewithal to take on the entire problem of global warming themselves. But they have tools to improve the situation until greater resources can be

brought to bear.” The Rockefeller Foundation’s 100 Resilient Cities initiative characterizes resilient cities as those that learn constantly, rebound quickly, fail gracefully, operate flexibly and ensure spare capacity of vital resources. The newfound enthusiasm for resilience at the local level is as much about addressing longstanding problems as anticipating new ones. But with limited outside help, cities still must rely on local funding sources to meet the most immediate needs. The city of Miami Beach, Fla., for example,

plans to spend \$300 million in the next five years to install more than 50 new pumping stations for its stormwater system, paid for by residents in their stormwater utility bills, through proposed tax increment financing, resort taxes and loans from the state, and the city hopes either the state or federal government will offer grants allowing it to complete the job.

State legislation to prevent discrimination against the unemployed has often failed, according to *Stateline*. In a 2012 study, three researchers from UCLA and one from the State University of New

Sept. 25-26: Joint Annual Meeting of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Tennessee (ACEC) and the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers. Held at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 1200 Conference Center Drive, Murfreesboro. Sessions on engineering topics include: Fracking in Tennessee, Storm Water Visual Assessment, Project Management, and Building Based Solar Arrays. ASCE will host its annual awards presentation. Head Vanderbilt Baseball Coach Tim Corbin will be the keynote speaker at the Tennessee Engineering Foundation luncheon. For more information or to register, visit www.ACECTN.org or call Judy Logue at 615-242-2486.

Oct. 29-31: Tennessee City Management Association Fall Conference held at the Hilton Garden Inn, 635 River Road, in Gatlinburg. Sessions include: Economic Development 101, Effective Use of Tax Increment Financing, Amendments to the Annexation Law and more. For registration or information, visit http://www.tncma.org/upcoming_events/index.htm

***Save the date: Nov. 13-14: TN ECD 61st Annual Governor’s Conference on Economic & Community Development**

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Oct. 21: Kingsport
Oct. 23: Knoxville

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Jackson, Univ of Tenn - West Tenn Research & Education Center, 605 Airways Blvd

Knoxville, Univ of Tenn - Conference Center Bldg., 600 Henley Street
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For registration assistance, call 865-974-0411 or for more information, contact Kurt Frederick at 615-253-6385 or kurt.frederick@tennessee.edu.

* Notice: The location for MTAS’ Oct. 1 “*Customer Service for Front Line Employees*” class has been changed to the Franklin Police Dept., 900 Columbia Ave., Community Room 1.

No loan is too large or too small



The city of Morristown closed a \$20 million loan for sewer system upgrades.



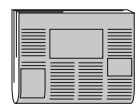
The city of Ripley closed a \$1 million loan for a new fire hall and equipment.



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AIRPORT DIRECTOR

PORTLAND. The city of Portland is accepting applications through close of business Sept. 26, 2014, for the position of Director of Airport Operations. Under general supervision of the mayor, the incumbent will perform complex professional work in a variety of airport management related duties. Considerable knowledge of aviation regulations, managerial practices, and considerable experience in aviation services industry. Considerable experience in writing and procuring grant funding. Significant experience in managing, supervising, or providing service in a local municipal airport environment strongly preferred. Knowledge of governmental accounting and purchasing practices. Must be at least 21 years of age. Minimum of High School Diploma or GED; prefer post-secondary education in aviation services or management. Strongly prefer, or require, the following certifications/licenses: Aviation Fuel Delivery Certification required (or ability to obtain within 6 months of employment); Private Pilot License with Commercial Rating preferred; Valid TN driver license required. Pay range is \$34,588 to \$48,423 DOE per year and is classified as exempt; full benefits package. Completed application accompanied by resume must be returned no later than 4:30 PM on Sept. 26, to City Hall Receptionist (100 South Russell Street), faxed to (615)325-1481, or mailed to: Human Resources, Attn: John Grubbs, Portland City Hall, 100 South Russell Street, Portland, TN 37148. Email: jgrubbs@cityofportlandtn.gov. Pre-employment drug screen and physical required. The city of Portland is an EOE.

CITY MANAGER

PARIS. The City of Paris is seeking applicants for the position of city manager to replace the retiring city manager. The City operates under a Manager – Commission charter, has an annual budget of \$12 million, and 147 FTEs. Utilities are operated under a separate board. The salary range is \$80,080 – \$ 97,760. The city of Paris participates in the TCRS Pension system. The ideal candidate should have a minimum of five years of progressive experience in municipal management, including a supervisory experience, and bachelor’s degree in public administration. A master’s degree in public administration is preferable. Strong financial capabilities and major project planning skills are a must. An expanded position / community description may be obtained by electronic mail by contacting wray@cityofparisn.gov. Resumes may be submitted electronically to cholder@cityofparisn.gov.

CONSTRUCTION INSPECTOR

GERMANTOWN

The City of Germantown is seeking a Construction Inspector to perform inspections of construction sites for conformance to city standards, codes, designs, and specifications. This is an entry level position and works under moderate supervision to inspect and monitor the more standardized construction activities for city and private development construction projects. The Inspector works independently in the field and is responsible for making decisions requiring technical discretion, sound judgment and familiarity with a variety of codes, specifications and construction methods. Successful candidate must possess excellent documentation, interpersonal and communication skills. Incumbents may advance to the higher-level Senior Construction Inspector classification after gaining experience and demonstrating a level of proficiency that meets the qualifications of the higher level. Equivalency to high school education and three years of construction inspection experience required. Special Level I Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control (EPSC) Certified or ability to obtain one. Valid driver’s license required. Minimum Salary: \$38,000. For a full job description, go to www.germantown-tn.gov. Interested candidates should submit a City of Germantown employment application or resume to the Human Resource Office, 1930 S. Germantown Rd. Germantown, TN 38138, or email to hrmailbox@germantown-tn.gov..

ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR, COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL

MT. JULIET. The city is seeking candidates for Certified Electrical Inspector Commercial and Residential to perform a variety of tasks associated with advanced technical building inspection work to enforce building codes, regulations and ordinances for both residential and commercial construction. This position will be responsible for electrical commercial and residential inspections (ICC Certifications Required/ State Certification). Selected candidates will be required to complete pre-employment testing as deemed necessary by each specific position. You will need to hold a valid TN drivers license. Salary \$16.93 and to top out in 3 years at \$24.43. Detailed job description and requirements are available online. Applications must be filed electronically and are available online at the city’s website, www.cityofmtjuliet.org. We will accept electronic applications until such time when a qualified candidate is chosen. 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. The City of Mt. Juliet is EOE/Drug-free Workplace.

ENGINEER

GOODLETTSVILLE. The city of Goodlettsville is seeking an experienced Engineering Professional to serve as Engineer for the city’s Public Services Department.

The city is seeking a proven, dedicated, responsive, and experienced individual for the position of Engineer. The position reports directly to the Public Services Director and assists with development, review, and oversight of plans, specifications, construction and cost estimates for projects occurring within the city. Individuals should meet the following qualifications: bachelor’s degree in Civil Engineering from an accredited college or university and two years post-degree full-time engineering experience, preferably within a municipal or government setting. Must hold active engineering license and possess a valid “Class D” driver’s license. Obtain TDEC Level 1 and Level 2 Certifications; pass a medical examination by licensed physician; pass a drug screen by licensed physician. Starting salary is \$53,907 to \$65,342, depending on the experience and qualifications, salary maximum is \$81,677. All interested applicants should submit a resume and cover letter along with five personal and five professional references to: Human Resources Department, 105 South Main Street, Goodlettsville, TN 37072. Email: dfreeman@cityofgoodlettsville.org Apply by Oct. 17, 2014. The city of Goodlettsville is EOE/Drug-free Workplace.

FIREFIGHTER

COLLIERVILLE. The city is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Firefighter. This position is to perform entry level firefighting and basic level emergency medical assistance work in combating, extinguishing, and preventing fires, and in responding to medical emergencies that is designed to help the town of Collierville’s Fire Department respond effectively to fires, medical emergencies, natural disasters, and man-made emergency situations. Requires a High School diploma or GED with course concentration in the physical sciences or industrial arts; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience, which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Must possess and maintain a valid driver’s license. Must possess a valid Emergency Medical Technician license with IV endorsement (up to Dec. 31, 2016) or Advanced EMT license as outlined in the rules and regulations by the Tennessee Department of Health and Environment and maintain license throughout employment. Must possess a Firefighter I certification, as outlined in the rules and regulations by the Tennessee Commission on Firefighter Standards and Education. Education and/ or training cannot be substituted for the required years of experience. Must be 21 years of age at time of hire. Incumbents must satisfactorily complete a one year probationary period. Incumbents must establish and maintain their actual bona fide residence within a distance no greater than 30 miles from a firehouse within the town’s corporate limits. If qualified, a firefighter may ride out-of-rank in the driver’s position and perform such duties and responsibilities. Applicants must not have been convicted of a felony or any misdemeanor that involved force, liquor, or drug laws. Applicants who have military service must possess an “Honorable” discharge. Salary: \$31,389.00 annually with excellent benefits package. Apply to: Human Resources Office, 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN 38017. The Town of Collierville is EOE/ Drug-free Workplace.

FOREMAN II

UNION CITY. The city is accepting applications for the position of Foreman II. in the Water & Sewer Division of the Department of Public Works. Salary range \$14.10 - \$ 19.86 per hour. Must possess: GRADE II distribution system opera-

tor certification, GRADE II wastewater collection system operator certification, CLASS A CDL with air breaks or able to obtain one in 6 months. CONTACT : Lisa Chambers, personnel administrator, lisag@ci.unioncity.tn.us City of Union City, P O Box 9, Union City, TN, 38281, or call 731 885-1341.

PROJECT ENGINEER

LA VERGNE. The City is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Project Engineer (Stormwater). This position is under the supervision of the city engineer. This position performs complex and professional engineering work for the City’s varied projects and programs ensuring technical competence and compliance with all current codes and criteria. Supervises storm water inspectors/employees and other staff as assigned. Graduation from a four-year college or university with a degree in engineering or a closely related field; and any equivalent combination of education and experience. Thorough knowledge of civil engineering principles, practices and methods as applicable to a municipal setting. Considerable knowledge of applicable City policies, laws, and regulations affecting Division activities. Considerable skill in arriving at cost estimates on complex projects; Skill in operating the listed tools and equipment. Ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing, with employees, consultants, other governmental agency representatives, City officials and the general public; Ability to conduct necessary engineering research and compile comprehensive reports. Must possess a valid State driver’s license or have the ability to obtain one prior to employment. Must be physically capable of moving about on construction work sites and under adverse field conditions. Detailed job description along with benefits information can be found by applying online at www.lavergnetn.gov. EOE

MECHANICAL & PLUMBING BUILDING INSPECTOR

MT. JULIET. The city is seeking candidates for Certified Mechanical & Plumbing Building Inspector to perform a variety of tasks associated with advanced technical building inspection and plans review work to enforce building codes, regulations and ordinances for both residential and commercial construction. This position will be responsible for Commercial and Residential inspections, Plumbing and Mechanical (ICC Certifications Required and State Certification). Selected candidates will be required to complete pre-employment testing as deemed necessary by each specific position. A valid TN drivers license required. Salary DOQ. Detailed job description and requirements are available online. Applications must be filed electronically and are available online at the city’s website, www.cityofmtjuliet.org. We will accept electronic applications until such time when a qualified candidate is chosen. 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. The City of Mt. Juliet is EOE/Drug-free Workplace.

WASTEWATER TECH I

WHITE HOUSE. The city is accepting applications for the position of Wastewater Tech I. A full job description detailing the purpose, functions, responsibilities, and minimum qualifications, training, and experience is available on our website at www.cityofwhitehouse.com. Starting hourly rate of \$11.50, depending on experience. Applications may be obtained by visiting the website or at the Human Resources office located at 105 College Street, White House, TN 37188. Applications should be returned to the Human Resources office or faxed to 615-616-1058 or emailed to abrewton@cityofwhitehouse.com. Application Deadline: Open until filled.

TENNESSEE FESTIVALS



Sept. 19-20:Chapel Hill

Step Back in Time Festival

Held at Henry Horton State Park featuring music, food, storytellers, re-enactors and demonstrations. Kicks off Fri.at 9 am and concludes Sat. at 5 pm. Live entertainment along with sheep dog demonstrations, horse-mounted shooters, old-time children’s games, bee keeping and primitive weapons. Competitions for cross cut saw, watermelon seed spitting and animal calling. More than 40 craft vendors will be on hand. For park information, call the park office at 931-364-2222 or visit <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/henry-horton>.

Sept. 20: Nashville

4th Nashville Beer Fest

Held at East Park, one mile from LP Field. Celebrates craft beer, with more than 45 breweries, live music, food, football, and lots of festivities. More than 12 local breweries, the Bluegrass Drifters band, food trucks, college football and alumni groups, and more. Tickets are \$45, \$60 for VIP, and \$20 for Designated Driver. Ticket includes unlimited tastings, souvenir sample glass and all the festivities. VIP ticket includes one hour early entrance and food samples. For more information visit www.nashvillebeerfestival.com.

Sept. 20-21: Hendersonville

Daniel Smith Colonial Days

139 Rock Castle Lane. See a 1779-1820 re-enactment and community fair commemorating the lives of the Tennessee founding families with hunters, trappers, traders, crafts, demonstrations, entertainers, children’s activities and tours of Historic Rock Castle.

Sept. 20: Rockwood

50’s Sock Hop

Rockwood Events Center, 120 Rockwood St. The nifty fifties comes to life at this nostalgic event sponsored by the Roan Writer’s Group from 5-9 pm. Swing to the “Jail House Rock” as “Elvis” entertains along with a live band. Dinner includes pizza, salads, meat and cheese appetizers, popcorn popped on site, brownies, moon pies, R.C. Colas, wine and beer. Silent auction, dancing, hoola hoop and bubble gum blowing contests with prizes. Cost \$30 per person. Reservations required. Call B.J. Gillum 865-354-8658 or Linda Lynch 321-537-9466. Adults only.

Sept. 28: Green Earth, Blue Skies

A National Public Lands Day

inaugural event hosted by the town of Farragut at Founders Park and the new Outdoor Classroom at Campbell Station Road from 1:30 to 4:30 pm. Non-profit organizations will be on hand to distribute information on protecting the environment, electric/hybrid vehicles on site. Kids’ activities will include a geocaching adventure, scavenger hunt and

make-and-take crafts. Sweet treats from Dale’s Fried Pies.

Oct. 10-11: Lewisburg

12th Annual Goats, Music & More

Rock Creek Park. Honors those famous “fainting” goats of Marshall County. Thurs. night kicks off with a Goat Rodeo, and on Fri., the Fainting (Myotonic) and Boer Goat shows, kid’s games and rides, arts and crafts, and vendors, food and musical entertainment. Multi-platinum-selling artist Joe Diffie takes the stage Fri. night. and Sat. night features The iconic Marshall Tucker Band. Goat shows each day, 5K Goat Run, kids games and rides, arts and crafts and plenty of great food. For more information and directions to the festival, visit <http://www.goatsmusicandmore.com/index.php/home>.

Oct. 11: Parrottsville

17th Annual Heritage Day

Held at in the Parrott-Larue-Myers Park and along Highway 321 from 9 am - 5 pm. Craft demonstrations from the late 1800’s, buckboard rides, pie and cake baking contests, Civil war memorabilia on display and demonstrations throughout the day. Kids games and a “War Between the States” parade at Noon. Music and a quilt and flower show at the Community Center. For more information, call 423-623-9380.

Oct. 11:White House

Harvest Moon Festival

Hwy 76, festival has arts and crafts, food and children’s activities. Bluegrass contest with fiddle, banjo, guitar and mandolin. Harvest Moon 10K run.

Oct. 10-11: Clinton

Clinch River Antique Festival

Market and Culom St. Antique and specialty stores open at Fri night Kick Off party from 6-9 pm. More than 80 antique dealers and artisans line the streets on Sat. from 9 am-5 pm. Free admission and parking. For more information, call 865-457-2559 or visit www.clinchriverfall-festival.com.

Oct. 10-11: Crossville

Oktoberfest

Sponsored by and held at the Knights of Columbus Grounds, 2892 Hwy 70 East. Plenty of authentic German food including: Pork Schnitzel, Kaseler Rippchen (Smoked Pork Chop), Bratwursts, Knackwursts, Weisswursts (White Sausage). German bands play all day. Hours Fri. 11:30 am – 9:30 pm and Sat. 11 am-9:30 pm. For directions, visit <http://www.crossvilleoktoberfest.com/home>.

Oct. 17-19:Maryville

Foothills Fall Festival

Held at 404 W Broadway Ave. Three days of world class concerts, juried arts and crafts, activities, shows, and more for the whole family. Visit <http://www.foothillsfallfestival.com/>.

Oct. 17:Franklin

The Franklin Wine Festival

Held at 230 Franklin Road. Thirty of Middle Tennessee’s finest chefs paired with more than 300 selected wines from around the world, silent auction, tastings, live entertainment, crowning for King and Queen of the Vines, and more. For more information, call 615- 522-5659.

Oct. 18: Brownsville

Hatchie Fall Fest

Fun for the whole family with live music, arts & crafts, children’s activities, games, open Blues Jam and other music, frozen T-Shirt contest on Sat. at the courthouse. Tennessee Trash Car Show Sun. For more information, visit <http://www.hatchiefall-fest.com/events.html>.

Oct. 17-18: Mt. Pleasant

Mid-South Barbecue Festival

Historic Downtown on Main Street. Held along with the Fall Street Festival. Arts and crafts, entertainment, free kids zone, classic car show, scarecrow building contest, 5K and 100 mile bike ride. Free admission.

Oct. 25-26: Morristown

Mountain Makins Festival

442 West Second North Street. A folk life/crafts festival celebrating the traditions of Appalachia through traditional music and dance, storytelling, regional authors, fine art, juried crafts, skilled demonstrations, a variety of delicious food, children’s activities and more. Sat.-10 am-5 pm and Sun. 11 am-5pm. For more information, visit <http://www.tnvacation.com/vendors/mountain-makins/>.

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Tennessee cities: both feet on the throttle toward growth

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
Communications Coordinator

In spite of some hard knocks, Tennessee’s cities, along with the rest of the nation, are experiencing real growth, fueled by an influx of new residents, innovative businesses and healthier regional economies. Data from Tennessee’s June *Quarterly Business and Economic Indicators Report*, prepared by Secretary of State Tre’ Hargett’s office, showed highs nearing pre-recessionary figures, with the state, in the past 12 months, filing 28,798 new companies, compared with 30,000 in 2007.

“As you look at the data, you see some really exciting things for Tennessee,” said Dr. William Fox, director of the Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Tennessee, who contributed to the report. “We’re beginning to see a pickup in construction, which has been a little weaker than we would have expected for a recovery,” he said. Researchers at the Center found that the state gained more than 40,000 jobs in 2013 and manufacturing employment grew 2.2 percent compared with 0.5 percent nationally. Census data also indicate that 177,098 people moved to the state in 2012.

A recent study of 29 cities across the state with populations over 20,000, conducted by consumer advocacy group *NerdWallet*, ex-

Mt. Juliet, No. 4, and Bartlett, No. 6.

Kingsport—No. 1

The city that education built, Kingsport is experiencing double-digit growth in income and population according to *NerdWallet*, led by industrial reinvestment and resurgence in residential construction. With a 5.2 percent employment growth, City Manager Jeff Fleming compared the city’s increase to that in 2007, 2008, and 2009, when growth was related to commercial and residential investment. “It is particularly encouraging to see residential development returning to healthy levels, which shows faith in where Kingsport is heading,” he said. “When taken as a whole, it is clear Kingsport is regaining momentum.”

The building season for Fiscal Year 2014 posted solid results for private construction investment, with outlays nearly double the rate demonstrated in the city in recent years. A total of 600 building permits were issued in FY 14, 438 residential permits and 162 commercial for a combined value of \$128.26 million, according to a city press release.

As the community’s sales tax collections strengthen, the city’s home sales hit a 23-month high in July, the fifth double-digit sales increase this year. Single family home sales were 18.4 percent better than July of last year.

“A home sold in July was on the market for an average of 159 days, compared to 172 last



Ranking No. 1 in *NerdWallet’s* “Cities on the Rise” study, Kingsport is experiencing double-digit growth in income and population led by industrial reinvestment and resurgence in residential construction. Eastman Chemical posted the largest single building permit in the city’s history in FY14—\$74.31 million— for its new corporate business center.



A mecca of Southern charm, Franklin’s rich Civil War heritage is complimented by an award winning Main Street with brick sidewalks, antique shops, art galleries, boutiques, and restored homes — all balanced by Class A office space, a hot housing market and sustainable infrastructure.

plored factors such as population, employment and income growth from 2009-2012, reflecting Tennessee’s top cities on the rise.

Kingsport took the No. 1 slot, followed by Franklin and Oak Ridge as No. 3, as other Middle Tennessee cities in the top 10 included

year,” said Northeast Tennessee Association of Realtor’s President Louie Leach.

On the industrial front, Eastman Chemical posted the largest single building permit in the city’s history in FY14—\$74.31 million— for its new corporate business center. Nicknamed

NerdWallet Cities on the Rise

Rank	City	2009-2012 Working-Age Population Growth	2009-2012 Employment Growth	2009-2012 Employment Growth in Tennessee	2009-2012 Employment Growth Relative to Statewide Growth	2009-2012 Median Income Growth
1	Kingsport	14.3%	{0.6%}	{5.2%}	4.6%	16.2%
2	Franklin	10.1%	{3.0%}	{5.2%}	2.2%	9.1%
3	Oak Ridge	9.6%	0.4%	{5.2%}	5.6%	5.2%
4	Mount Juliet	23.0%	{14.8%}	{5.2%}	{9.6%}	10.1%
5	Collierville	19.1%	{2.9%}	{5.2%}	2.3%	{2.8%}
6	Bartlett	17.1%	{6.2%}	{5.2%}	{1.0%}	2.9%
7	Cleveland	6.2%	{7.8%}	{5.2%}	{2.7%}	14.8%
8	Clarksville	12.8%	{5.6%}	{5.2%}	{0.4%}	5.5%
9	Smyrna	4.6%	1.3%	{5.2%}	6.5%	3.3%
10	Johnson City	3.1%	1.5%	{5.2%}	6.7%	3.7%
11	Hendersonville	10.4%	0.2%	{5.2%}	5.3%	{2.1%}
12	La Vergne	9.3%	{7.7%}	{5.2%}	{2.5%}	8.1%
13	Morristown	2.4%	{4.0%}	{5.2%}	1.2%	8.0%
14	Murfreesboro	8.1%	{4.9%}	{5.2%}	0.3%	3.3%
15	Nashville-Davidson metropolitan government	3.0%	{3.9%}	{5.2%}	1.3%	5.1%
16	Knoxville	{0.6%}	{2.6%}	{5.2%}	2.6%	6.7%
17	Jackson	7.3%	{11.7%}	{5.2%}	{6.5%}	10.7%
18	Farragut	0.0%	{3.2%}	{5.2%}	2.0%	6.5%
19	Brentwood	5.1%	4.0%	{5.2%}	9.2%	{7.4%}
20	Lebanon	10.4%	{9.1%}	{5.2%}	{3.9%}	3.0%
21	Gallatin	1.7%	{4.2%}	{5.2%}	1.0%	4.6%
22	Cookeville	3.6%	{7.8%}	{5.2%}	{2.6%}	6.8%
23	Memphis	{1.7%}	{6.0%}	{5.2%}	{0.9%}	8.4%
24	Chattanooga	{1.0%}	{5.4%}	{5.2%}	{0.2%}	6.9%
25	Bristol	3.3%	{6.0%}	{5.2%}	{0.8%}	0.2%
26	Maryville	3.3%	{5.2%}	{5.2%}	{0.1%}	{0.7%}
27	Shelbyville	{2.5%}	5.4%	{5.2%}	10.6%	{9.6%}
28	Germantown	{2.0%}	{4.9%}	{5.2%}	0.3%	{1.9%}
29	Columbia	{5.3%}	{11.4%}	{5.2%}	{6.2%}	9.0%

Project Inspire, over the next seven years, Eastman will invest \$1.6 billion in the site and add 300 new jobs in Tennessee, as Kingsport’s working age population ranks 14.3 percent, according to *NerdWallet*.

Starting with an initiative called “Educate and Grow,” the nation’s first K-14 education initiative that funds post-secondary education for qualified students from Kingsport and Sullivan County, the city’s education program was coupled with the creation of an Academic Village, where local industry could invest in the creation of the future workforce.

Franklin—No. 2

With the city’s own music video of Will Pharrell’s hit song “Happy” blowing up YouTube, Franklin is blessed with a diverse economy with growth in every segment, including insurance, banking and health care, according to Mayor Ken Moore

“We are honored to be recognized by *NerdWallet* as a city on the rise and I think the statistics will bear out with the rapidity of growth that we’ve been experiencing,” said Moore.

NerdWallet cites Franklin’s median income growth at 9.1 percent. The city recently experienced a 3 cent property tax increase—the first in 27 years— which Moore said specifically allocates one and a half cent to the community’s repaving program.

“With the recession challenges, the gas tax isn’t funding enough projects, so the one and a half cent will help us address the repaving of our city streets at a much faster pace,” he said.

The second cent and a half is directed toward a savings account for Franklin’s future capital projects. “Our base rate is 35 cents per \$100 assessed value. For a city our size, we’re still lowest in the state, as far as our property tax rate,” said Moore.

The city is facing three challenges to growth, according to Moore: developing an educated workforce, keeping infrastructure up with growth/relieving traffic congestion and the last, housing.

While the roots of Franklin’s hot housing market are historically embedded in an upscale mode of living, city leaders there are exploring avenues toward developing a more diverse market, reaching out to various socio-economic income levels. “House values have continued to rise very steadily and quickly here and sometimes that makes it harder for employers to have a variety of employees living close by,” said City Manager Eric Stuckey. “We want to make sure we’re providing those options as an economic competitiveness issue— housing options for different careers and stages of life—so that different companies want to expand or locate to this area. Having a good diverse workforce will meet the different needs of companies.”

Neighborhoods that are fully hospitable to residents with a range of incomes, ages and abilities is one of the top questions explored by the nation’s foremost authorities when contemplating how to make cities, towns, and neighborhoods work better for both people and the environment, according to F. Kaid Benfield, special counsel for urban solutions at the Natural Resources Defense Council in Washington, DC. “If our solutions don’t work for people, they will never work for the planet,” he noted.

Moreover, training the future workforce is a front burner issue that affects every city in Tennessee. With a 10.1 percent increase in working age population, Franklin will feature more education/training opportunities upon the completion of a new Columbia State Community College campus on the east side of the city. An investment of around \$45-46 million, College President Dr. Janet Smith spoke with the *Williamson Source* at the July ground-

breaking, about the future economic impact the campus will have on the community. “Just in construction of the campus alone we’ll have somewhere around \$130 million economic impact,” she said. “The overall operation of the campus will be \$10-plus million, then we’ll have an economic impact of students spending and living in the community along with people coming from the outside to attend, who will spend as well. With education, salaries go up and people can buy more and pay more taxes.”

“It will be an excellent component in providing skills for the workforce already in place



History was made in Bartlett on Dec. 2, 2013, as Mayor A. Keith McDonald swore in the city’s first Board of Education with five elected School Board members. McDonald notes the excitement surrounding the municipal school system has been a big draw for industry and new citizens. Pictured from left to right are: Shirley Jackson, Bryan Woodruff, Erin Elliott Berry, Chairman Jeff Norris, David Cook and Mayor McDonald.

and in the future,” adds Stuckey.

Bartlett—No. 6

Bartlett, the largest city near Memphis, reflects an overall growth score of 56.7 percent, in *Nerdwallet’s* findings. Home to a number of medical device manufacturers, doctors and physicians’ offices, the city’s local hospital Saint Francis, has expanded with more beds and more than double its ER services, creating a positive impact on the number of quality jobs available, according Mayor Keith McDonald. The community is also home to Federal Express, International Paper, as well as a number of regional and local companies.

The formation of Bartlett’s own school district is one of the most exciting draws yet, McDonald said. “Going back to February of last year, the excitement has been building. You see housing values going up, new homes being built, and more people moving in,” he said.

While the city’s past success has put a damper on the number of available housing options at the moment, McDonald notes that rental houses are being sold for single family dwellings and there’s a lot of available housing within longstanding neighborhoods. “We haven’t approved a new neighborhood since 2008 before this year and the stock is dwindling,” he said.

Bartlett’s working age population of 17.1 percent is running neck and neck with the medical device manufacturing park where there’s at least 50-60 unfilled jobs at any given time, McDonald explains. “That’s how fast they’re growing and how hard it is to make sure they have people with the technological skills they need,” he said. “As we’re able to educate and attract people to education for those jobs, we’ll continue to see that growth.”

Nationwide, new census estimates reflect that cities are continuing to record steady population gains, with municipalities exceeding 100,000 residents adding an estimated 857,000 residents between July 2012 and July 2013, an increase of about 1 percent, as reported by Mike Maciag in *Governing* magazine’s “New Population Estimates Highlight Nation’s Fastest-Growing Cities.”

“Areas with strong energy sectors, retirement destinations and those attractive to young people, in particular, are experiencing large increases,” he writes.

According to the data, Chattanooga experienced a 0.6 percent change in population since 2012, with a population gain of 173,366. Nashville experienced a 3.9 percent change and Murfreesboro, a growth spurt of 117, 044. Population maps are available along with information on hundreds of cities at <http://www.governing.com/news/headlines/gov-population-estimates-highlight-nations-fastest-growing-cities.html>.