



Save the Dates!

TML Annual Conference Sept. 18 - 21, 2021 Chattanooga

The Tennessee Municipal League is excited to offer an in-person conference this year. However, your safety is of our utmost concern and therefore, we will be following Tennessee's safe meeting guidelines that require us to limit the number of participants and to follow CDC Covid protocols.

We will strive to keep the conference as traditional as possible, such as offering CMFO and Utility Board Training workshops, dynamic speakers, an exhibitor's program, and our annual awards ceremony. So please mark your calendars and save the dates – **Sept. 18-21, 2021** – at the Chattanooga Convention Center.

We will provide more program information in the upcoming months.

THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN:



The American Rescue Plan will deliver \$65 billion to cities and towns. The National League of Cities (NLC) has compiled extensive information with searchable tools to help answer questions, provide guidance, and support cities' responsible stewardship of the funds.

- **American Rescue Plan Act Summary of Provisions**
NLC has created an extensive, searchable summary of provisions in this legislation relevant to municipalities and local leaders.
- **ARP Local Relief Frequently Asked Questions**
NLC has identified frequently asked questions about the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund grants, and has provided answers based on available information to help city staff members prepare while we all wait for official guidance. These answers will be updated when additional information becomes available.
- **Estimated Local Allocations in the American Rescue Plan**
Wondering how much your community will receive? The U.S. Department of Treasury is in the process of refining the estimates for allocations from the State and Local Fiscal Relief Funds, but estimations for each municipality have been released. Use NLC's new allocation tracker to find out how much your community is eligible for. Go to www.NLC.org to learn more.

Public Sector jobs up, but still below pre-Covid levels

BY BILL LUCIA
Route Fifty

State and local governments added about 129,000 jobs in March, with the bulk of the gains in education-related positions, according to Labor Department estimates.

It was one of the stronger monthly increases for state and local public sector employment since the coronavirus outbreak. But the state and local government workforce is still far below pre-pandemic levels, down by around 1.2 million jobs compared to February 2020, the final month before the virus hit the U.S. in full force.

The state and local government figures were part of a jobs report that was generally upbeat, with total non-farm payrolls rising by 916,000 and the unemployment rate declining to around 6%, from 6.2% in February. Despite the improvement, employment is still down by 8.4 million, or 5.5%, from its pre-pandemic peak in February 2020, the Labor Department said. Job growth in March was widespread, based on the estimates. In addition to education, leisure and hospitality and construction saw gains—of 280,000 and 110,000 respectively. About 176,000 of the leisure and hospitality gains were in food services and drinking places, a category that includes restaurants and bars, businesses that have been hammered by the virus.

“March’s jobs report is the most optimistic report since the pandemic began. The end of the pandemic appears to be in sight as vaccine distribution accelerates,” according to Daniel Zhao, an economist with the workplace transparency website Glassdoor.

“While the pandemic is not over yet, the finish line appears close and the economy is surging forward in a last sprint toward a full reopening,” Zhao added.

Teryn Zmuda, chief economist for the National Association of Counties, pointed out that March was too soon for the billions of dollars in state and local aid from the latest coronavirus recovery package—the American Rescue Plan Act—to significantly influence workforce decisions. Zmuda said that once the aid is allocated to

localities, hiring is apt to pick up.

“I would anticipate over the next couple months we’ll see small gains and it will likely be summer before we see any significant local government job gains,” she said. Zmuda also predicted that as the economy recovers, local governments would add jobs, not just replace the ones lost over the past year. “I think we’re going to see new jobs created,” she said.

The state and local job losses during the pandemic have been a mix of layoffs, furloughs, early retirements and positions left unfilled. Most of the job losses in the public sector, particularly at the state level, have been tied to education, as schools switched to remote classes and curtailed in-person learning, which in some cases reduced the need for staff.

In March compared to February, the Labor Department reported that the state education sector added 49,600 jobs, while state government outside of education lost an estimated 3,500 jobs, for a net employment gain at the state level of 46,000 positions. Local government added 83,000 jobs, with 76,000 of them tied to education. This means about 125,000 of the 129,000 added state and local government jobs last month were in education.

Still, the report notes that employment is down from February 2020 in local government education by about 594,000 jobs, while state government education is down by about 270,000.

“It’s still massive, I would say,” Elise Gould, senior economist with the Economic Policy Institute, a left-leaning think-tank, said of the state and local education jobs deficit. Gould said recovery funding and school re-openings should help education employment in the coming months.

Gould also said that, given the level of the federal aid, she expects the public sector jobs recovery to be stronger than it was in the wake of the Great Recession, which began at the end of 2007.

“I am optimistic that we have learned our lesson from the very slow recovery of the public sector because of austerity in the years following the Great Recession,” she said.

Tornadoes, flooding, and record-breaking rainfall lead to rescues, damage statewide

By KATE COIL
TML Communications Specialist

Tornadoes, flooding, and other severe weather led to the deaths of seven Tennesseans and record-breaking rainfall.

The Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) reported “two rounds of heavy rain, high winds, flash flooding, and tornadoes” effected much of the state beginning on the evening of Thursday, March 25, and lasting throughout the weekend.

The extreme weather began with three tornadoes that touched down on March 25 including an EF-2 that struck Wayne, Lewis, and Lawrence counties, a second EF-1 tornado that hit the town of Smyrna, and a third EF-0 storm that struck the Gladeville community in Wilson County. Microbursts and large hail were also reported that same evening in the eastern area of Nashville and Portland as well as in the Greater Knoxville area.

Rainfall ensued and much of the state remained under flood watches until March 31. The weather event resulted in the “flooding of homes and businesses, scattered structures damaged, closed roads, downed trees, and power outages” as well as seven deaths in four counties, TEMA reported.

Four deaths were reported in Nashville including a 70-year-old man swept away in his vehicle, a 65-year-old man swept away by high water after exiting his vehicle, and a 64-year-old man and 46-year-old woman both found at a homeless camp in the city.

A 61-year-old Surgoinsville woman died when her vehicle was swept into Big Creek in Hawkins County while an Ashland City man died after being washed away in flood waters after he drove past official roadway barriers. A Columbia woman also died after



Vehicles are abandoned and drivers try to make it through high waters in Nashville during flooding created by record-breaking rainfall. Four people were killed in Nashville due to flooding, one of whom was in his vehicle and another who had exited his vehicle when waters began to rise.



Photo by Saul Young/Knoxville News Sentinel

A Knoxville Utilities Board crew finishing their work after repairing a water main at the intersection of Gay Street and Union Avenue in downtown Knoxville. The break in the underground main was caused by heavy rainfall and flooding.

she was pulled through a culvert, attempting to unblock a large drain.

Nashville saw its second-highest ever two-day rainfall with more than seven inches of rain on March 25 and 26, which was followed by an additional rain that increased flooding in the following two days. Saturday, March 27, was also the

fourth wettest-day on record for Nashville with March 2021 going down as the second wettest March and eleventh wettest month in the city’s history.

Mill Creek – the source of the devastating Nashville floods of 2010 – crested at 20.85 feet, its *See WEATHER on Page 5*

Loudon officials aim to get city ‘Looking Good’ with new beautification campaign

By KATE COIL

Loudon officials are bringing their community together to get things in the city looking good.

Loudon Mayor Jeff Harris said city officials and residents began to notice there was a great accumulation of trash and litter during the early days of the pandemic.

“It came up through discussions we were having with downtown merchants, citizens, and residents,” Harris said. “I don’t know if it’s tied to COVID, but more and more people seem to be going to drive-thrus, and we are seeing more fast food bags and things littering highways. I know because of COVID there were a lot of places that were only doing drive-thrus. We wanted to clean that up, but also expanded the scope to add new signage, plants, planters, and take it to another level. We also want to encourage businesses to spruce up their storefronts and perhaps come up with an award for their efforts.”

Ty Ross, city and utility manager for the city of Loudon, said the Looking Good Loudon project came together after city officials prioritized their goals for the city at a series of meetings and retreats concerning Loudon’s future direction. The Looking Good Loudon campaign is divided into three sections: clean up, spiff up, and build up.

“Cleaning up is an anti-litter campaign first and foremost. We thought that was long-hanging fruit. It is also something people can get involved in at the individual level, whether through behavior modification or through clean-up projects. The spiff up part is more about permanent aesthetics, whether it be gateway signage, landscaping, or something as simple as straightening a stop sign that is leaning. Build up is more long-term, and it’s bigger.



Loudon city officials have launched the ‘Looking Good Loudon’ campaign to encourage community pride and clean-up projects. In addition to a city-wide clean-up scheduled for May 1, the city itself has committed to fixing dilapidated properties and providing new landscaping and signage to enhance local assets.



It is thinking about from a Google Earth perspective where are the problem properties, where are the empty dilapidated buildings that need to be replaced. That is something the city would prosecute with the council’s support through code enforcement and city court to get buildings that are dangerous from a public safety standpoint addressed.”

The “build up” section of the campaign has developed into its own program called “Five to Fix.” Ross said the program is focused on repairing or removing dilapidated and dangerous properties within the city limits.

“You can always find five

properties in your community that you can focus on,” he said. “We have an auxiliary list of maybe 20. This list can get too long and you can get bogged down in the weeds. We thought if we focus on five, we can have a narrower focus and work on that. When one gets taken care of, we can pull from the backup list and a new property gets taken care of. It may not solve all the problems, but it will move the needle.”

Harris said the ultimate goal of Looking Good Loudon is not to be punitive but rather give people incentive to do the right thing.

“We want to put a positive spin *See LOUDON on Page 3*

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



BOLIVAR

Choate Engineering Performance officials announced that the company will establish new operations in Bolivar, investing \$8 million and creating 100 jobs in the next five years. The company will retrofit and make improvements to an existing 155,000-square-foot facility located at 1033 Lake Street for the manufacture of engines and components for the automotive industry. Founded in nearby Whiteville, the company is a leader in diesel engine technology.

COOKEVILLE

Cookeville's first public dog park is taking shape and could be ready to open by this summer at Cane Creek Park. Cookeville Leisure Services Director Rick Woods said construction is underway and equipment purchases are being made for the 1.5-acre park that will include fenced-in areas for dogs to run leash-free, as well as agility equipment, shade structures and more. The city of Cookeville had been awarded a \$100,000 grand prize grant in 2019 from Tennessee Dog Park Dash, funded by The Boyd Foundation. A parking lot has been built near the dog park site, across from Cane Creek Recreation Center on CC Camp Road, and sidewalks are finished. The park will include separate sections for smaller dogs and larger dogs, a variety of play components (paws table, king of the hill, dog walk, crawl tunnel, jump over, hoop jump and fire hydrant), benches and shade areas for dogs and their owners, watering stations, and pet waste stations and receptacles.

DICKSON

The owners of a Dickson-based radio station are starting a family-oriented, locally-focused television station. R&F Communications has launched WO6AY/WDHC or TV6 as a low-powered television station available to antenna-based viewers and digital subscribers. The station will be able to reach all of Dickson County as well as portions of Cheatham, Montgomery, Hickman, Williamson, Humphreys, Houston, and western Davidson counties. The station will serve as a broadcast affiliate of The Family Channel, which is owned by Chattanooga-based Reach High Media Group. The Dickson station will show local sports, human interest stories, real estate listings, and more.

GALLATIN

Gap, Inc.'s distribution center in Gallatin will expand its operations with the investment of \$83 million and the creation of 600 new, full-time jobs. Gap Inc.'s Gallatin operations currently service retail and online shopping orders. As customer demand for online shopping rises and Gap Inc. works to grow its online business to approximately 50% of revenue over the next three years, expanding its omni fulfillment network will allow the company to deliver a faster, more efficient shopping experience to customers across the country. Headquartered in San Francisco, Gap Inc., a collection of purpose-led lifestyle brands, is the largest American specialty apparel company offering clothing, accessories, and personal care products for men, women, and children under the Old Navy, Gap, Banana Republic, Athleta, Intermix, and Janie and Jack brands. The Gallatin expansion is part of Gap Inc.'s long-term digital growth strategy.

GALLATIN

The city of Gallatin's Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating has improved from a Class 4 to Class 2/2X. The rating provides a benchmark to help fire departments and other public officials measure the effectiveness of their efforts and plan for improvements. Shift Captain Charles Johnson says some of the factors attributed to the improved ISO rating include the construction of a new fire station, new staffing, training, a new radio tower, the new Sumner County Emergency Communications Center and the city's water supply and distribution systems. An improved ISO rating can result in lowered premiums for home, property, and commercial building insurance, as a home or business that is less likely to be severely damaged or destroyed by fire costs less to insure. Insurance rates can also vary based on the distance a structure is within a fire station and fire hydrant. The improved rating also serves to attract new development and businesses.

GREENEVILLE

Miller Industries officials announced today that the company will repurpose a portion of its Greeneville operations and create approximately 80 new jobs over the next five years. Miller Industries will invest \$15.4 million over a five-year period to renovate and upgrade an industrial site located at 515 Bohannon Avenue, which is part of the company's existing facilities in Greeneville. In addition to the renovations, Miller Industries will invest in new equipment, including CNC lasers and press brakes, which will enable the company to perform fabrication work in-house. Since its formation in 1990, the company has provided innovative and high-quality towing and recovery equipment for customers around the world. Miller Industries has four manufacturing facilities in Chattanooga, Greeneville, and Hermitage, Pa., as well as two in Europe.

KNOXVILLE

Design work will soon begin on a new two-mile greenway in East Knoxville that will connect Harriet Tubman Park with the Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum. The greenway will skirt Austin Homes and Vine Magnet Middle School on the western end. It will cross through Dr. Walter Hardy Park and the heart of the Five Points community before crossing Williams Creek and connecting with the Botanical Garden trails to the east. Mayor Indya Kincannon and the Knoxville City Council have committed \$5 million to build the East Knox Greenway with nearly \$4 million being funded federally and administered by the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT). The city's contribution will be 20 percent of the cost, or \$988,054. Detailed design work is scheduled to start later this spring, to be followed by public meetings to gather input from residents. Once the path of the greenway is determined, right-of-way acquisition will be the next-to-last step, with construction currently anticipated to begin in spring 2024.

LAFOLLETTE

The city of LaFollette has plans to construct a new 10,000-square foot indoor recreation and multi-purpose facility at the city's Liberty Park. The new facility will be located at the present site of the Liberty Park Skate Park with a new skate park planned for the East End Community Center grounds. The new facility at Liberty Park will accommodate activities like dance and gymnastics classes as well as other events. A concession area will also be part of the project. City officials have budgeted \$200,000

Bartlett cuts ribbon on greenway extension



Officials with the city of Bartlett have cut the ribbon on the second phase of the city's Fletcher Creek Greenway. The new phase runs from Byrd Park to the Yale and Brother Boulevard, connecting to a segment that extends nearly a mile from U.S. 64 to the roadway. The goal of the Fletcher Creek Greenway is to connect the Brunswick community to the Santa Valley Trailhead. The greenway project is funded by 80% federal funds administered by TDOT and a 20% local match.

Bristol breaks ground on pad-ready sites



Bristol officials and Bristol Tennessee Electric Services (BTES) have broken ground on two pad-ready sites at the Bristol Business Park. The project was funded through grants from the state of Tennessee and TVA, which will be used for clearing, grading, and seeding of the two sites. Together, the sites equal 22 acres and can accommodate buildings ranging from 35,000-square-feet to 200,000-square feet.

for the project with an anticipated construction start date of July 2021. Officials expect the project to be completed in early 2022.

OAK RIDGE

The city of Oak Ridge has received a \$500,000 donation from the UT-Battelle Development Corporation (UTBDC) to assist with the planned airport project at East Tennessee Technology Park. The donation is intended to help the city with their portion of matching funds required to secure state and federal grants. The planned airport project is tied into the economic growth of the park and potential business development in the area. The UT-Battelle Development Corporation is the non-profit arm of UT-Battelle, a private not-for-profit company for the sole purpose of managing and operating the Oak Ridge National Laboratory for the U.S. Department of Energy.

SHELBYVILLE

The Shelbyville City Council recently purchased two 2020 Ford F-150 trucks for the Shelbyville Fire Department. The department is presently short two such vehicles, which will be purchased by the city for \$82,982. The trucks will be fitted with lights, sirens, controls, and consoles and is needed to serve the city's new Fire Station No. 3, which opened last year to serve the growing area near the Shelbyville Municipal Airport.

SPARTA

The city of Sparta is now home to a one-mile mountain biking trail located at 443 East Bronson Street. The trail design, clearing of land, cleaning of property, and erection of signs and fences were all done by local volunteers led by mountain biking enthusiasts Greg O'Neil and David Zuber. The city donated both the property and funds to purchase the sign and fencing. It took volunteers a little more than two years to complete the project, which will be the first mountain biking trail located within Sparta's city limits. The trail will be open to the public from dusk to dawn every day of the year, unless closed for weather or maintenance.

Church Hill to open new park splash pad



The city of Church Hill is planning a grand opening for its new splash pad at Derrick Park on April 30. The \$260,000 splash pad finished construction last July, but was not opened yet due to the pandemic. City officials are hoping to open the splash pad prior to the opening of the municipal pool on Memorial Day weekend. The splash pad is one of several ongoing improvements to Derrick Park including new picnic shelters, an amphitheatre, and an expansion of property on the park's west side.

Dyersburg Stormwater plants 400 trees in city



The Dyersburg Stormwater Department sponsored the planting of more than 400 trees in South Dyersburg as part of Tennessee Tree Day events. Citizens and city employees gathered for the planting project. Trees can be a vital tool in reducing stormwater runoff and preventing soil from eroding due to heavy rains. As a result, trees have become a vital stormwater management tool in many communities.

TENNESSEE TOWN & CITY
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WAUFORD

J. R. Wauford & Company, Consulting Engineers, Inc.

Despite obstacles, Charleston officials pushing for city's brighter future

By KATE COIL
TML Communications Specialist

Amid the national and international crises brought on by the global pandemic in 2020, the small city of Charleston found itself facing a crossroads of its own.

Longtime Charleston Mayor Walter Goode died in July 2020 after nearly 30 years of guiding the city of approximately 700 residents. Many city officials were worried the loss of Goode, one of the community's most dedicated advocates, would stymie plans already underway to improve the city.

Looking for someone with the same love and dedication to Charleston, city officials selected Donna McDermott, who had been vice mayor for 20 years. Making history as the city's first female mayor, McDermott has guided Charleston in making several leaps forward.

"I can say Mayor Goode always encouraged me," McDermott said "His are big shoes to fill, but in the past, he had told me that I should be mayor. I am up to the task, but I wish he was still with me to make the transition a little better rather than how it happened, unfortunately. I learned a lot from him."

Charleston Vice Mayor Frankie McCartney said McDermott has continued Goode's legacy.

"Donna hit the ground running," McCartney said. "She's been working on several city projects as well as the reorganization of various city boards."

McDermott said one of her main goals as the city's new mayor was to encourage more activity among the city's boards and commissions.

"I think that because we have gotten the boards connected back up, you can see the dreams of different people trying to manifest," she said. "We have an excellent city team. Even throughout the pandemic, we still are thriving and working to make Charleston more productive, healthier, and more exciting."

McCartney said city officials are hoping to rename Charleston City Hall in honor of Goode as a tribute to his work for the city. As things continue to move forward, McCartney said the city has worked on several initiatives, including the lease of three new vehicles for the city's police department and other projects to improve local security.

"The city commission is working with PE Partners and the Charleston Police Department to help the town become one of the recipients of the PE Partners Property Conservation Grant," he said. "Plans to purchase surveillance

equipment are in the beginning stages. Police Chief Johnny Stokes and his department go above and beyond for this community."

PUBLIC WORKS

McCartney said the addition of Charleston Public Works Department Supervisor Chris Scoggins has played a key role in revitalizing both the department and the city itself.

"After reorganizing the Charleston Public Works Department, Supervisor Chris Scoggins worked with city management to utilize the city's portion of a Local Support Grant to purchase a new excavator and dump truck for the department," McCartney said. "Chris has been on the job for a year and has brought a new energy to the Public Works Department, moving it into the 21st Century."

A 30-year resident of Charleston with a background in construction and contracting, Scoggins said he initially rented an excavator to show city officials how such equipment could help clean up the community.

"My goal has been to get the town back in shape to where property values can come up partially based on public works actions," Scoggins said. "My plan was to update equipment and make things more efficient and more cost-efficient. We were contracting out a lot of things that we are now doing in-house for 20 to 30% less cost. We had a tractor with a bush hog extension, but it couldn't cut back the limbs on trees. You ended up with a line-of-sight problem. It would have cost \$28,000 to repair that tractor. I rented an excavator to clean out ditches for a month, and that gave me an opportunity to show city officials what a machine like that could do for us. I cleaned up overgrown property, cleaned ditches, and fixed drainage and run-off problems, then showed the mayor and city council a video of what that had accomplished."

Scoggins is hoping to implement a monthly appliance pick-up day as part of the city's garbage pick-up services as well as hired a new garbage employee for the city with cost savings from new pick-up policies and contracts.

The city also installed new LED signage at the city's fire hall that was paid for with support by numerous local businesses.

"We can use that to get messages out to people about city meetings, community events, church events, fire and police notifications, public works notifications, and local news," Scoggins said. "While it's an upfront cost, it's an overall improvement. It's value added. Long-term, that will really get people's attention."



Charleston's position on the Hiwassee River and the Hiwassee River Blueway put it in a prime position to take advantage of recreation tourism. City officials have been working on recreation programs with TVA to better take advantage of the city's location. Several beautification and parks and recreation projects are ongoing in the small city.



Celebrating the area's agricultural heritage, Charleston's annual International Cowpea Festival and Cook-Off benefits the Hiwassee River Heritage Center, which tells the story of how the Trail of Tears and Civil War impacted the region. The museum added its most recent expansion in 2019.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Scoggins, who also serves on the Charleston Parks and Recreation Board, said there is a lot of activity for improving recreation opportunities in the community. The board's Baseball Subcommittee is working with Pen Gulf, a local construction business, on a plan to restore the municipal baseball field to its former glory.

"We want to bring our ballfields to or near to the condition we had in the 1990s when our fields looked like professional fields," he said. "We want both local leagues and the community to use them. We want to make things better so people will utilize them more. It's all added value to the town, not just monetary value but also making people want to live here. We have that small town feel. Our kids can

go to the park and play ball, we can go for a walk, go fishing, or put a boat in the river."

McCartney said the city is working with TVA to offer more recreation opportunities along the Hiwassee River. Charleston is one of several stops on the 55-mile Hiwassee River Blueway that stretches from Chickamauga Lake near Dayton almost to the North Carolina border.

"We revitalized the city's recreation board after an agreement with TVA to begin charging a small fee for boat ramp usage at River Park to aid in improvements on the ramp itself," McCartney said. "The boat ramp at River Park has been temporarily revitalized while future planning leads toward the possibility of a new ramp."

Scoggins said there have been

numerous improvements to the boat dock in the past 30 years and in recent months, he has worked to improve irrigation in the area as well as clearing overgrowth and improving the area with extra resources from the public works department.

"We have put four new street lights up there," he said. "A local company donated 18 loads of rock to extend the boat ramp out when it's at low water. We have also put riprap around the ramp to keep the river flow from undermining the ramp. This has extended the ramp about 10 to 15 feet to allow people to use it when the water is low, which happened to be great because this past year we've had some of the lowest water we've had in a long time."

The city is looking into building new restrooms at the site rather than costly rentals. Wooden picnic tables have been also exchanged for concrete tables. Primitive camping on the property is another idea the city is exploring with TVA.

Additionally, McCartney said the city has recently applied for a Boyd Foundation Dog Park Dash Grant with hopes of building a dog park either near the city's ballfields or between the city hall and local historical society property.

Charleston is also slated to host its annual International Cowpea Festival and Cook-Off on Sept. 11, 2021. Once known as the "Cowpea Capital of the United States," Charleston was once the biggest location for farming of cowpeas, which is the general name applied to a variety of pea products including black-eyed peas, southern peas, silver-hull peas, purple-hull peas, and cream peas.

The event allows visitors to sample different ways these products can be prepared as well as enjoy entertainment, arts and crafts, and learn more about the area's history. The festival supports the Hiwassee River Heritage Center in Charleston, which highlights the area's history and primarily tells the story of the Trail of Tears and Civil War in the area. The museum added an expansion in 2019.

McDermott said she and others with the city will continue to work to assure Charleston's future is bright.

"People like the small town atmosphere because it's like a safe haven," she said. "In the future, we need to progress a little more. It doesn't have to be a giant step, but I think we need to expand and bring a little bit more into the city for our people. I just look forward to, once we get through the pandemic, a bigger, exciting, and very active community moving forward."

Loudon officials aim to get city 'Looking Good' with new beautification campaign

LOUDON from Page 1
on it," Harris said. "We don't want to come in with a heavy hand and tell people if they don't do this then we'll do that. We want everyone to buy into the whole idea of Looking Good Loudon. We are going to print some t-shirts and put banners on our light poles with this theme. Hopefully, this will create a lot of momentum."

One of the ways the city is getting involved is by scheduling a city-wide clean-up event and providing resources for residents who want to work on beautification projects on their own schedule.

"We have designated May 1 as Looking Good Loudon Day," Ross said. "We don't see this as a temporary thing; it's an ongoing initiative. We are pacing ourselves. We wanted to have an annual recognition day and are looking at May 1, which happened to be a Saturday this year which was perfect. It will be a day of volunteerism where we will pull people together, divide them up into groups of family and friends, and set them out to go tackle some problem areas. That's where our residents can get involved. We are facilitating that with an online sign-up form for volunteers and a checkout packet complete with pickers and safety vests that can be checked out. Maybe May 1 isn't your day or you're busy, but you want to do something on your own. The city is the facilitator for that."

The city is also working on replacing signage for historic area and replacing old signs around the city that are fading. City leaders hope that this signage will also help market homes and businesses in the historic district more marketable.



One of the goals of the Looking Good Loudon campaign is to educate local residents about the benefits of simple acts like picking up trash or planting flowers. City Manager Ty Ross said something as simple as planting flowers around a mailbox can increase a home's appraised value by as much as 10%.

A little effort can go a long way. Ross said many do not realize that there can be financial benefits from community clean-ups.

"You hear and read about inequality, and you know it is real," he said. "You can go from one neighborhood to the next and see differences, but one thing we can all have in common can be values and behaviors. It doesn't matter if you live in a shack or a mansion; through your behavior you can keep it neat and presentable. It snowballs. People don't realize that when you plant flowers around your mailboxes you can add 10% to the appraisal value of your home. Little things like that can make big differences and pay

dividends down the road."

Ross said that word of mouth about the campaign has been enough to get many residents started on their own efforts.

"A city is just an idea, nothing more and nothing less. It's a layer of services on top of a county," he said. "If you like that idea and you are in favor of that idea, you promote that idea by lifting that city up and helping it look good. Believe it or not, it's already happening naturally. I can drive to work on a Monday morning and I will see bags of trash where people have gone on their own and picked up just because people read an article in the newspaper, came to a city meeting, or talked to a council

member or city employee about what we're doing. It's becoming a part of the conversation."

Harris says that part of the challenge Looking Good Loudon faces is changing local attitudes toward littering to prevent the same people who always pick up from constantly cleaning up after those who don't.

"It's a mindset people have," he said. "I think we have to change that mindset. We want people to think 'I can't just throw things out the window.' The way I was raised, you just didn't do that, and I think we've lost some of that. We all have to take personal responsibility. We have to change people's mindsets. We also have to

educate people on the importance of recycling.

Harris, who is president-elect of the local Rotary Club, said one of the ways the city is looking to re-educate the population is by having Rotarians take recycling and anti-litter campaigns into elementary and middle school classrooms.

Overall, Harris said he hopes Looking Good Loudon brings the city closer together.

"I hope it has a long-term effect as far as making everybody really proud of their city," he said. "If we can make people take personal responsibility to make their community look good, we've accomplished something. That isn't going to happen overnight, but if we can create a positive vibe and get everyone working together to do it, I think that will have a lasting effect. It just builds community involvement, togetherness, and unity. It will also make our city more beautiful long-term."

Ross said the campaign is also a way for Loudon residents to leave a positive imprint on their city.

"I think everybody who works in municipal government wants to leave a footprint," Ross said. "It's that Athenian oath we hear about so much to 'leave it better than you found it.' This has been a tough year; it's one of the toughest years in American history. We have intense partisanship going on at the national level. This is an effort to focus on ourselves. It's acting locally, but thinking nationally. If we can do our part and build community pride, camaraderie, and volunteerism through Looking Good Loudon we can build our community."



PEOPLE



John Andrews has been selected as the new police chief for the city of Sharon. Andrews has more than 20 years of experience in law enforcement. Andrews has served as a police officer and later police chief for the town of Henry Police Department as well as worked as a deputy sheriff with the Henry County Sheriff's Office. He holds an EMT ambulance certification from Dyersburg State Community College and went through the police academy at Walters State Community College.



John Andrews

Steve Gwilt is retiring after more than 20 years as the cultural arts coordinator for Cookeville Leisure Services. During his career, Gwilt has acted and directed in numerous performances at the Cookeville Performing Arts Center and Dogwood Performance Pavilion, including the city's Shakespeare in the Park series. Gwilt holds a bachelor's degree in theatre from Winona State University as well as a master's and doctorate in education from Tennessee Tech.



Steve Gwilt

retirement of former Police Chief David Quillin after 35 years of service. Phipps has nearly 33 years of experience with almost half of his career as deputy chief for the Kingsport Police Department, overseeing administration and operations. A graduate of East Tennessee State University, Phipps holds both an associate's degree in law enforcement and a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. He is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy and a veteran of the U.S. Air Force Security Police.



Dale Phipps

Patrick Chesney has been named the new public utilities assistant superintendent for Clarksville Gas and Water. A Clarksville native, Chesney has 33 years of utility construction experience in both the private and public sector. He has been the senior engineering manager in Clarksville Gas and Water's Chief Utility Engineering Office for the past nine years. In this role Chesney oversaw the city's utility construction and maintenance contract projects for gas, water and wastewater infrastructure and assisted the chief utility engineer in managing the operations of the Engineering office. He will continue to assist in this role as well as fulfill his new responsibilities as the assistant to the Gas and Water general manager until a replacement is selected for his former position.



Patrick Chesney

Deana Hood, municipal court judge for the cities of Franklin and Spring Hill, has been appointed to the Judicial Ethics Committee by the Supreme Court of the State of Tennessee. Hood replaces Judge Paul Plant and her term runs Jan. 1, 2021, through Dec. 31, 2024. Hood has served as Spring Hill's municipal judge since August 2018 and also has served as the municipal judge for Franklin since 2014. She has also been appointed to serve on the Municipal Court Board of Governors. Hood holds a bachelor's degree in political science and government and her law degree from Samford University's Cumberland School of Law.



Deana Hood

Dawn Thomack has been named public utilities finance director for Clarksville Gas and Water. Thomack has 31 years of accounting experience and has served as the department's accounting manager for the past 12 years. In this role she assisted the Finance Director with all aspects of the finance and accounting operations for gas, water and wastewater as well as overseeing the operations of the accounting staff. A Clarksville native, Thomack holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and accounting from Austin Peay State University. She will take over from outgoing finance director Fred Klein, who retired after 11 years of service on March 11.



Dawn Thomack

Debbie Dillon, director of purchasing with the city of Johnson City, was selected by the East Tennessee Purchasing Association (ETPA) as the 2020 Manager of the Year for the organization. The award is given to the public procurement professional with supervising responsibilities who embodies the leadership, integrity and skill of a true public servant. Dillon was recognized for how she has led her team in revising and implementing new purchasing policies in the wake of the pandemic as well as the mentorship and leadership she has provided to her staff. Dillon is a longtime member of the EPTA, Tennessee Association of Public Procurement (TAPP), and the National Institute of Government Purchasing (NIGP).



Debbie Dillon

Ron Johnson has been selected as the community safety coordinator for the city of Nashville by Mayor John Cooper. The newly created role is part of a \$3 million community safety pilot initiative aimed at bringing experts from neighborhoods, local businesses, philanthropic organizations, faith leaders, and government officials together to create community-based violence reduction programs and address mental health issues. A longtime youth mentor and coalition builder, Johnson has more than 20 years of experience in working with the Juvenile Justice Center, Department of Children's Services, courts, schools, and outreach groups. He holds a bachelor's degree from Tennessee State University.



Ron Johnson

Blaine Wade, chief of police for the city of Bristol, has announced his retirement after nearly four decades of public service. Wade's final day on the job will be June 18. His 37-year career in law enforcement began when he joined the Bristol Police Department after his graduation from high school. He would go on to become one of the youngest sworn officers in the state of Tennessee and would be promoted to captain before being selected to lead the department in 2004. During his tenure, Wade also earned an associate's degree in criminal justice and police science from Virginia Highlands Community College, a bachelor's degree in organizational management from Tusculum University, and a master's of city management from East Tennessee State University. He presently serves on the boards of the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police, the Second Judicial District Drug Task Force, and the Branch House Family Justice Center.



Blaine Wade

Murray to retire as director of UT Howard Baker Center

Matt Murray, director of the University of Tennessee Knoxville's Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy, will retire July 31, 2021.



Matt Murray

Murray holds a joint appointment with the Howard Baker Center, the Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER), and the Department of Economics at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He is credited with focusing the center's programming to leadership and governance, energy and environment, and global security, and establishing a fellows program.

The center also began new programs such as the Legislative Leaders Academy, a joint program with the UT Institute for Public Service that helps prepare newly elected members of the Tennessee General Assembly, and the Washington Program, a two-week intensive course for students conducted in Washington, D.C.

"Since Dr. Murray took over as director in 2012, he has transformed the center by shaping its role as a source for nonpartisan data-driven policy analysis and expertise in Tennessee," Chancellor Donde Plowman said. "He's had a stellar career, and we will miss his leadership."

Murray also helped the center establish a minor in public policy

analytics and host its first U.S. Senate candidate debate in 2018.

Murray has been a professor of economics with the University of Tennessee since 1986. He served as associate director of the Boyd Center of Business and Economic Research beginning in 1986 and was appointed as director of the Baker Center in 2012.

He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Iowa and earned his master's degree and his doctorate in economics from Syracuse University.

The university said it will start an internal search for Murray's successor immediately and hopes to have a new leader in place by Aug. 1, 2021.

Tennessee Senator, Labor Secretary Bill Brock dies

Bill Brock, the former U.S. Senator of Tennessee who went on to serve as national chairman of the Republican Party, a U.S. Trade Representative, and U.S. Secretary of Labor, died March 25, 2021, at the age of 90.



Bill Brock

A Chattanooga native, Brock was the son of the owners of the Brock Candy Company. After earning his bachelor's degree from Washington and Lee University in Virginia, he served in the U.S. Navy from 1953 until 1956 before returning to Chattanooga to work in the family candy business.

He was first elected to serve as a U.S. Representative for Tennessee's 3rd Congressional District in 1962, serving in the seat until 1971.

He was then elected as a U.S. Senator from Tennessee from 1971 until 1977. With his election to the U.S. Senate, Brock was following in the footsteps of his grandfather, William Emerson Brock Sr., who had served as a Democratic Senator for the state from 1929 to 1931.

After leaving the Senate, Brock was selected as the new chairman of the Republican Party, a position he held from 1977 until 1981. That year, he was appointed as a U.S. Trade Representative by President Ronald Reagan, a post

he held until 1985, when he was then made Reagan's Secretary of Labor.

He resigned that position in 1987 to serve as the manager for Bob Dole's presidential campaign for the 1988 Presidential Election.

Now living in Annapolis, Md., Brock started the Washington, D.C.-based trade consulting firm the Brock Group in 1989.

A family spokesperson reported his death while staying in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. from pneumonia.

He is survived by his wife, Sandra Schubert Brock — with whom Brock traveled extensively — six children and step-children and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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The city of Trenton recently closed on a \$275,000 note with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF) issued for city paving projects. Seated L to R: Leigh Ann Grice, city recorder, and Trenton Mayor Ricky Johnson. Standing is Tommy Green, TMBF marketing representative. The city has used TMBF programs 10 times since 2000.



The city of LaFollette recently closed on a \$1.5 million note with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF) to finance various public works projects for the city. LaFollette has used TMBF programs 16 times since 1993. Seated L to R: Mayor Mike Stanfield, and Stan Foust, city recorder. Standing L to R: Steve Queener, TMBF marketing representative; Terry Sweat, finance director; and Jim Jeffries, city administrator.

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Tornadoes, flooding, and record-breaking rainfall lead to rescues, damage statewide

WEATHER from Page 1
highest stage since the 2010 flood. Interstate 40 was also briefly shut down in the city due to flooding with parts of Interstate 24 also reported to be completely or partially underwater at one point. The Harpeth River in Franklin crested at 31 feet on Sunday, the fourth-highest on record.

TEMA said at least 240 water rescues had to be made in communities including Nashville, Brentwood, Dickson, Farragut, Huntsville, Kingsport, Lebanon, and Nolensville. A total of 68 individuals had to be provided overnight shelter in six counties as a result of flooding, including eight people and a dog who stayed overnight at Brentwood City Hall.

Additionally, TEMA reported that 150 businesses were flooded in downtown Lebanon. Flooding was also reported in municipalities including Belle Meade, Chattanooga, Caryville, Jacksboro, Jackson, Jefferson City, Kingston Springs, Mt. Juliet, LaFollette, Lenoir City, and Selmer. Hail was also reported throughout the state.

Boil water notices were issued for the municipalities of Adamsville, Lexington, and much of Cannon and Jackson counties while water service was temporarily out in Lenoir City. Power outages across the state also peaked at around 15,000, according to TEMA.

Right: The Chattanooga Fire and Rescue Squad prepares to pull out a vehicle that was abandoned in flood waters.



The Harpeth River overflowed its banks in Brentwood, forcing many families out of their homes. Eight local residents and a dog had to shelter overnight at Brentwood City Hall.



STATE BRIEFS



More than 1 million Tennesseans are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, according to information released by the Tennessee Department of Health. Approximately 22% of eligible Tennesseans have received at least one dose of the vaccine with nearly two-thirds of those 70 and older having received their first dose. Unicoi, Trousdale, Hancock, Moore, and Madison counties have the highest percentage of their populations vaccinated against the virus with Unicoi, Hancock, and Madison being among the 35 counties with the highest social vulnerability against the disease.

The number of overdoses and overdose-related deaths have increased in Tennessee during the pandemic, according to new information from the Tennessee Department of Health. Preliminary data collected for 2020 shows that the year will be the deadliest in state history for overdoses with the highest volume of overdose deaths reported between April and June. Hospitals across the state have also reported an increase in non-fatal overdoses. Officials believe illicit fentanyl and stimulants are driving the increase in overdoses with fentanyl being involved in more than half of fatal overdoses in the state. Tennesseans between the ages of 24 and 44 had the highest rate of overdose death.

Tennessee had the third-highest violent crime rate of any state

in the nation, according to a new analysis from financial planning website 24/7 Wall Street. Tennessee recorded 595.2 violent crimes per every 100,000 residents in 2019 compared to a national rate of 366.7 incidents per 100,000 Americans. Poorer states tended to have the highest rate of violent crimes, according to the study, with Southern states with a lower average income having the highest rates of violent crimes. Tennessee has a poverty rate of 13.9%.

Economically disadvantaged students are the most likely to be chronically absent from school, according to a new report compiled by the Tennessee Comptroller's Office of Research and Education Accountability (OREA). A Tennessee student is considered chronically absent if they miss 10% or more of instructional days, typically amounting to 18 or more days of a school year. While the state's rate of chronic absenteeism has declined to 13.1% in the 2019-20 school year, the report found that economically disadvantaged students had an absenteeism rate of 20.9% when compared to the 9.3% rate of their peers. Lack of access to transportation, healthcare, nutrition, housing, clothing, and other essential resources were among the top reasons these students were absent. High school students were the most likely to be chronically absent, counting for nearly half of the state's chronically absent students. To read the report, visit the Comptroller's website at: tncot.cc/orea.



Above: Early morning fog rises from flood waters at Columbia's Riverwalk Park after the Duck River overflowed its banks. The Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) said the Duck River crested in Columbia at 39 inches on March 28. The river had reached the same height in Centerville more than 25 miles away about an hour and a half before.

Right: Flood waters in downtown Lebanon as seen from the Lebanon Police Department building. At one point overnight, water downtown was waist high in some places. More than 150 businesses and buildings in downtown Lebanon were struck by flood waters as a result of record-breaking rainfall across the state.



Employees with the Franklin Parks and Recreation Department pump out water that has pooled at the city's Pinkerton Park as a result of heavy flooding.



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ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN/ H.R. ASSISTANT

PIPERTON. The city of Piperton has an immediate opening for an accounting technician/H.R. assistant. The successful candidate must have the ability to interact with a variety of city staff, appointed and elected officials, vendors and contractors and possess effective communication (oral and written) and interpersonal skills and attention to detail. Experience with automated applications is desirable; computer literacy and extensive knowledge of Microsoft Office, especially MS Word and Excel, is required. The candidate must have attained a high school diploma or G.E.D., plus a minimum of two years accounting experience. A valid driver's license from state of residence is also required. The individual employed in this position will perform bookkeeping and fiscal work for various financial and accounts management functions as well as all Human Resource functions including payroll processing. The accounting work involves receiving, preparing and processing financial documents; performing accounts payable and/or receivables work; advanced customer service tasks; reconciling accounting transactions; maintaining and balancing accounting ledgers; creating and maintaining accounting databases and automated files; and preparing records, reports and summaries regarding assigned fiscal operations. Hourly wages will be commensurate with experience. A background check will be conducted. Health insurance and retirement benefit package is provided. Email letter of interest and resume to mgcorgc@pipertontn.com. EOE.

BUILDING CODE INSPECTOR, I, II III

HENDERSONVILLE. The city of Hendersonville is currently recruiting for a Building Inspector I, II, or III position in our Building and Codes Department. This recruitment is open until filled. Click on the job link to the Job Openings page with all recruitment information: Job Openings | City of Hendersonville <https://www.hvilletn.org/departments/human-resources/job-openings>

BUILDING INSPECTOR/CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

PIPERTON. The city of Piperton has an opening for a full-time building inspector/code enforcement officer. Duties will include residential construction inspections (building, plumbing, and mechanical), record maintenance, responding to public requests for service and resident's concerns, and enforcing city ordinances. Must hold or obtain and maintain ICC Certifications within one year (building, plumbing, and mechanical inspector). Working knowledge of ICC and local ordinances, legislation, rules and regulations is preferred. Computer proficiency and excellent communication skills are a must. High school diploma or equivalent and valid driver's license is required. Priority will be given to certified inspectors or applicants with current background in building or related trades. Background check will be conducted. Salary \$38-\$45k and is commensurate with experience. Medical and retirement benefit package is provided. Applications may be obtained at the Piperton Administrative Office at 3725 Hwy 196 Suite B, or at www.pipertontn.com/jobs. Return application and resume to tjohnson@pipertontn.com. EOE.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

SPRING HILL. The city of Spring Hill (Pop. 46,000+) is seeking a city management professional to be their next city administrator. The city administrator is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. The city has a \$90.55M overall budget with 261 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees. Candidates should possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in public administration, business administration, or a field closely related to municipal management and a minimum of eight years of progressively increasing city management experience, or any combination of education and municipal experience that demonstrates proficiency in managing a complex municipal corporation. Residency within the city limits will be a requirement. A position profile is available at www.springhilltn.org. Salary commensurate with education, experience and marketplace conditions. Send cover letter and resume immediately by electronic mail to the University of Tennessee's Municipal Technical Advisory Service, attention Gary Jaeckel, at gary.jaekel@tennessee.edu. Initial review of applications will occur in April/May, 2021. Please direct questions to Gary Jaeckel, MTAS Management Consultant, at the same email address.

CITY TREASURER

LEWISBURG. The city of Lewisburg (Pop. 12,380+) is seeking a finance professional to be their next city treasurer. The city treasurer is an appointed position responsible for all city general funds averaging \$11 to \$12 million dollars and answers directly to the city council. Position is under the general administrative direction of, and evaluated by the city manager. The position is responsible for the supervision of others and directs the financial activities of the city in budgeting, accounting, purchasing, tax collections, etc. Budgeting, accounts payable/receivable, debt and cash management, and pension management are a high priority. The city treasurer also directs operational activities of the city in fleet management, information services, municipal court, and collaborates with the city manager on other related work as required. Candidates should possess a Bachelor's degree of business administration, accounting, finance, or closely related field; Master's degree preferred. Certified Government Finance Manager (CGFM), Certified Public Finance Officer (CPFO) or CPA with a minimum of five years of primarily governmental experience with at least three of those years in the state of Tennessee is preferred.

Five to seven years of responsible managerial positions in accounting and financial management required. Experience in the public sector preferred. If treasurer qualifications do not meet the exemption criteria of the Municipal Finance Officer Certification (CMFO) and Education Act of 2007 (the Act), individual must enroll and successfully complete the CMFO education program and obtain certification from the state of Tennessee within two years. Salary commensurate with education, experience and marketplace conditions; plus, an excellent benefit package which includes, employer paid health insurance premium for employee at 100%, average dependent premiums paid by employee range from \$91 - \$223 monthly, health reimbursement account (HRA) with maximum out of pocket of \$500 for employee & family, employer paid life insurance of \$50k, defined benefit pension plan, annual attendance bonus, 14 paid holidays, accrued paid sick leave, and paid vacation days. A position description profile is available at www.lewisburgtn.gov. Send cover letter and resume by electronic mail to the University of Tennessee's Municipal Technical Advisory Service, attention Gary Jaeckel, at gary.jaekel@tennessee.edu. Initial review of applications will occur in April/May, 2021. Please direct questions to Gary Jaeckel, MTAS Management Consultant, at the same email address. EOE.

CLAIMS SYSTEM ADMIN

PUBLIC ENTITY PARTNERS . Under the direction of the Director of IT, the Claims System Administrator is responsible to: Support, enhance, secure, optimize, and maintain the Origami Claims Management System and supporting systems. Ensure data integrity and that the system maintains a high level of security, performance, and availability. Work closely with any IT Staff & End Users (internal, external, or third party) to resolve any issues. Provide any assistance needed to access PEP data sources to meet needs and protect sensitive information. Work closely with Adjusters and other Claims staff to understand processes and workflows, then make recommendations to automate these processes to gain efficiencies. Qualifications include: undergraduate degree in a computer related field from an accredited college or university, and six years of experience in the computer-related or information technology field, or a substantially-equivalent combination of education and experience is required. Experience maintaining, optimizing, and securing Microsoft Windows network systems. Experience supporting: Microsoft Windows 10 systems and peripherals; Microsoft Office \ 365 suite; Microsoft Windows Servers \ Networks. Experience using and supporting any of the following applications preferred but not required: Origami Risk Claim System; HTML \ XML; Microsoft SQL \ SSIS Packages; C#; Microsoft Visual Studio; Scripting; PowerShell. Full Job description can be found at pepartners.org. Salary range \$90,000 - \$102,000 DOE. Excellent benefits and retirement plan. Please send cover letter and resume to ctaylor@pepartners.org or Attn: Celeste Taylor, 562 Franklin Rd. Suite 200 Franklin, TN 37069.

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

SPRING HILL. The city of Spring Hill seeks to fill the full time, exempt position of communications director. He or she will develop, implement and maintain the city information program, and oversee public communications throughout the organization. The director will serve as the city spokesperson and primary news media liaison. Develop and implement a cohesive communications strategy. Manage all news media relations, serving as city spokesperson; write news releases, and other web and social media content; manage primary city social media pages using government social media management best practices; manage website using content management system, serving as website administrator; and gather facts to distribute to news media. Manage multimedia specialist position, approving all graphic design work, print and digital promotional materials, photos, video projects, and operations of live video streaming system. Attend weekly department head meetings and write internal weekly staff report; occasionally write staff memos based on topical research; occasionally write mayoral speeches and talking points; coordinate with community partner agencies to develop and distribute communications materials; provide communications support to city departments; and develop, present and manage annual communications department budget. Respond to citizen inquiries through multiple communications platforms; plan, manage and execute annual State of the City Address event. The ideal candidate has strong writing and verbal skills, experience in news media relations, social media and website management experience, and a passion for working in the public sector. This strategic communications position will serve a pivotal role in citywide communications to ensure accurate and consistent messaging on behalf of the city of Spring Hill. Four-year degree in communications, public relations, journalism, public affairs or related area of study. Minimum of five years of relevant communications, media, or public relations experience. Excellent oral and written communication skills required. Knowledge of media tactics, and modern principles of digital mass communications and public relations required. Proficiency with Microsoft Office Suite and Adobe Creative Cloud. Management experience desired. Some event planning experience a plus. The city of Spring Hill offers an extensive and generous employee benefit package, which includes an 100% employer paid medical coverage option for the entire family, optional vision insurance, employer paid dental insurance for the employee with the option to purchase family coverage, Flexible Spending Account, employer paid Life, AD&D and LTD Insurance, as well as voluntary life and STD. TCRS pension. Applications/resumes MUST be submitted online at: www.springhilltn.org/Jobs.aspx Questions to staylor@springhilltn.org No phone calls please. EEO/AA/Title VI Employer. Minorities and women are encouraged to apply.

ELECTRIC MANAGER

CLARKSVILLE, AR. Clarksville Connected Utilities is accepting applications through 04/16/2021 for electric manager. The electric manager must understand standard electrical distribution, construction, and maintenance methods. Which include (not limited to) receiving projects from the general manager and completion in a timely manner, resolve conflicts within the department (and the public) and work with and the other department managers and the general manager as needed. The manager will plan, organize, direct, and review work of employees in the operation/maintenance of the department. The position requires the individual to oversee trouble calls and emergency work to ensure a high safety standard with minimal outage time for customers. Authorize and track expenditures within the department. Assist the general manager in the preparation of an annual budget by providing input relative to the department's current and future needs. Works under the general supervision of the GM. Responsible for overseeing all things related to the daily operations of the department. Bachelor degree in engineering, or related field; six years of electric utility experience, three years in a managerial/supervisory role -or- high school diploma/equivalent; ten years of experience in electric distribution, three in managerial/supervisory role -or- any combination of related education, experience, certifications and licenses that will result in successful performance. Clarksville Arkansas is located in Johnson County and nestled between the Arkansas River and the Foothills of the Ozark Mountains, Interstate 40 and US Highway 64 intersect within the city limits. Clarksville-Johnson County is known for its peaches, scenic byways and abundance of natural outdoor recreational activities which include hunting, fishing, floating, and walking trails. Visit www.clarksvillear.gov for an overview of our beautiful community. CCU is locally owned and operated with excellent pay and benefits and is an Equal Opportunity, Drug Free Workplace. To Apply: Business Office: 400 West Main Street Clarksville, AR. 72830 Email: debbie.pintado@clarksvilleconnected.net Online: <https://clarksvilleconnected.net/297/Current-Job-Openings>

FINANCE DIRECTOR

NASHVILLE. The Greater Nashville Regional Council (GNRC) is seeking an experienced professional to serve as its finance director. The Finance Director manages the agency's financial, accounting, and budgetary functions and is a key member of the organization's senior leadership team. GNRC is a public sector agency with a typical annual budget of approximately \$15 million. The vast majority of revenue is sourced from state and federal grants allocated by formula or awarded competitively to fund the agency's work across a variety of programs and services aimed at improving the region's economy and quality of life. Approximately 60 percent of the budget is used to fund the agency's day to day operations including its 80 member staff. The remainder is subgranted to local community partners such as municipal and county governments, non-profit organizations, senior centers, and aging and disability service providers. The finance team is staffed by four professionals including the finance director. For more information and to apply go to: www.gnrc.org/jobs.

FIRE CHIEF

FAYETTEVILLE. The city of Fayetteville is seeking an experienced, energetic, team-builder with exceptional leadership skills to serve as their fire chief. This is an extraordinary opportunity, for the right person, to serve in a progressive organization with a superb staff. The fire chief's position requires an individual that has demonstrated sound judgment, human resources skills, organizational development expertise, and a can-do work ethic. The fire chief is a highly visible municipal department head that is expected to project a professional image of self, the department, and the city in all situations. The city of Fayetteville will offer a competitive salary and benefits package to the successful candidate. The position profile is available for review at <http://www.fayettevilletn.com>. Mail or email cover letter, resumé, employment application, and copies of certificates for all training, education, certifications, and professional credentials for evaluation to Fayetteville City Administrator, Attention: Fire Chief Candidate, 110 Elk Avenue South, Fayetteville TN, 37334 or scollins@fayettevilletn.com. Deadline for applications no later than noon (CST) April 30, 2021.

FIRE CHIEF

GALLATIN. The city of Gallatin an energetic, growing city just north of Nashville, which offers a rich variety of recreational, educational, and economic activities, is seeking qualified applicants for the open position of fire chief. The city of Gallatin is a full service community, with its own airport, regional hospital, community college, and excellent city services. The fire chief supports a department of approximately 90 employees, has a \$4+ million budget, and serves a diverse community with 5 fire stations. Reporting to the mayor, and responsible to the city council, this position performs professional administration work in leading, planning, organizing, reviewing, and directing the full activities of the fire department; will be responsible for annual department budget; controls budgeted expenses; formulate and implement fire policies; manages employee relations; attend community meetings; and makes presentations related to fire activities. Minimum qualifications include a Bachelor's degree in Fire Science or a related field. A Master's degree is preferred. A minimum of 15 years of work experience which includes a wide and progressively responsible nature in fire suppression inclusive of upper level management experience. Must have five years of Supervisory experience. The city of Gallatin highly desires individuals with experience in Tennessee, who have knowledge of all controlling laws applicable to fire agencies in TN. We also highly desire individuals with Fire experience in diverse communities of a similar/larger size with experience as a chief/assistant chief or command-level position in a similar size fire department. Must be willing to meet residency requirements to maintain

your residence within the city limits or within two miles of the city limits, but in no event outside the boundaries of Sumner County, Tennessee. Residency requirements do not apply until 90 days after appointment. Must have a valid driver's license. To apply, please submit an online application, cover letter, and resume at the City of Gallatin website: <https://cogselfserve.gallatin-tn.gov/MSS/employmentopportunities/default.aspx> Current starting pay: \$ 89,134.86 with excellent benefits. Position will be posted until position is filled. EOE/Drug-free workplace. Contact the Human Resources Department at 615-451-5890 if you have any further questions.

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR

TULLAHOMA. The city of Tullahoma is seeking applicants for the position of parks and recreation director who works under the general direction of the city administrator. Tullahoma has a population of 20,000, and is a progressive community located in southern middle Tennessee close to Nashville, Chattanooga and Huntsville, Ala. The city has numerous parks and greenways, nearby lake access and a top-rated school system making it an ideal place to live. The parks and recreation director manages an operating budget of \$1.8 million and a staff of ten full-time employees and up to 100 additional part time/seasonal staff. The Parks and Recreation Director coordinates and directs a city-wide system that includes two community centers; eleven parks including a disc golf course; an indoor and zero entry water park; over twenty ball fields; a city greenway and maintenance of 225 acres of park land and 440 acres in partnership with the state of Tennessee. Responsibilities also include long and short-term planning related to development of new park facilities, maintenance and enhancement of existing facilities, and the creation of recreation programs. Bachelor's degree in parks and recreation, business administration or a closely related field is required, with a masters' degree and NRPA certification preferred. Seven years of progressive experience in the recreation field and five years of management experience required. Starting salary range is \$71,000 - \$76,000, DOQ. Tullahoma offers a comprehensive benefits package and participates in the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (TCRS). Interested applicants can mail a resume with cover letter and professional references to "City of Tullahoma, Attn: Human Resources, P.O. Box 807, Tullahoma, TN 37388" or send an email to Casta Brice, HR Director at cbrice@tullahomatan.gov. Resumes will be accepted until Monday, April 19, 2021. Applications are subject to public disclosure. A job description is available upon request. EOE/Title VI/Drug Free Workplace.

PLANS EXAMINER II.

FRANKLIN. The city of Franklin is hiring a Plans Examiner II. Franklin is accepting applications through the close of business on April 7, 2021. All interested applicants should apply here: https://cta.cadientalent.com/index.jsp?POSTING_ID=95936556669&locale=en_US&SEQ=jobDetails&applicationName=CityofFranklinTNKTMdReqExt

PLANNING DIRECTOR

LAKELAND. The city of Lakeland is seeking qualified applicants for the position of planning director. This employee is responsible for a broad range of administrative and support services under the general supervision of the city manager. The planning director is primarily responsible for planning, organizing and directing all planning and land development for the city of Lakeland. Duties include: advising and making staff recommendations to city boards, commissions and departments on planning and land development issues including interpretation, revision, implementation and enforcement of regulations and ordinances and the creation and implementation of development and growth plans; directs implementation of sign ordinance, zoning ordinance, subdivision regulations, design guidelines, comprehensive plan and related plans and policies; provides strategic direction in short and long-range planning and growth management; researches, prepares and implements technical and operational studies, reports and projects; supervises staff with responsibility for employment-related decisions or recommendations that include hiring, disciplining, training, and evaluating performance; develops and implements the departmental operating budget and monitors costs to maintain budget integrity; evaluates and revises tracking procedures for development projects; makes presentations to boards, commissions, volunteers and other community groups. Successful applicants will possess the proven ability to maintain effective working relationships with the public, city officials, and other employees and the ability to prepare and present accurate reports to the governing body; five to seven years of progressive planning experience and a bachelor's degree with a focus in Planning and American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) certification required. Competitive salary and benefits offered. For more information and for a complete job description, please visit www.lakelandtn.gov/job

PLANNING DIRECTOR

SHELBYVILLE. The city of Shelbyville is accepting applications for the full-time position of planning & community development director (planning director). The planning director will be responsible for daily administration of all planning and zoning activities, including comprehensive planning, and the administration of subdivision regulations. The planning director will also implement and manage municipal projects related to the development of this growing community. The ideal candidate will have at least a bachelor's degree in urban planning or a related field (master's degree preferred), and a minimum of 5 years' experience involving municipal land use planning at local government level. This is a full-time salaried exempt position with a starting salary between \$64,896 - \$79,601, depending on qualifications. Applications and a copy of job description may be picked up at city hall during normal business hours or downloaded from the city website: www.shelbyvilletn.org. Application/job description must be returned to City Hall Administration Office, 201 N. Spring Street, and will be accepted until position is filled. EOE/Drug-free workplace.

**PLANNER OR SENIOR PLANNER
COOKEVILLE.** The city of Cookeville is accepting applications for a position in the planning department. The position will be filled as either planner or senior planner, depending on qualification. Pay range: \$43,180 - \$72,737 DOE. Applications/resumes will be accepted until 4:30 pm on 4/15/21 and must be submitted online. View complete job posting/qualifications and submit applications at www.cookeville-tn.gov EOE

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

CHAPEL HILL. The town of Chapel Hill (Est. pop. 1,850) is seeking a city management professional to be their next town administrator. The town administrator is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. The town has a \$2.5M annual budget with 13 full-time employees. Candidates should possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in public administration, business administration, or a field closely related to municipal management and a minimum of eight years of progressively increasing city management experience, or any combination of education and municipal experience that demonstrates proficiency in managing a complex municipal corporation. Residency within the town is not a requirement. Salary range \$70,000-\$90,000 (DOQ). A position profile is available at www.townofchapelhilltn.gov. Send a cover letter and resume immediately by electronic mail to the University of Tennessee's Municipal Technical Advisory Service, attention Chuck Downham, at chuck.downham@tennessee.edu. Initial review of applications will occur on May 11, 2021. Please direct questions to Chuck Downham at the same email address.

TOWN PLANNER

ARLINGTON. The town of Arlington is a growing community of 14,000+ residents, 12 miles east of the city of Memphis. The full-time planner will perform professional administrative and technical planning work using independent judgement and discretion. This position reports to the town administrator. Duties include: administering municipal zoning, design guidelines, research, and analysis in processing land development applications from submittal to site occupancy; code enforcement; assisting town officials and committees; long-range planning; and coordinating with other local, county, and state agencies. Considerable knowledge of planning theory, principles, and practices, such as zoning, land use, comprehensive planning, economic and community development, architectural design principles, and site planning necessary. Bachelor's degree required, master's degree preferred, from an accredited college or university in urban or regional planning or a closely related field. At least five years of public management and professional planning experience, preferably in a municipal setting. AICP certification is preferred, as well as excellent project management, oral, and written communication skills. Background check will be conducted. Starting salary \$60-70k (DOQ), with a competitive benefits package. Town of Arlington, 5854 Airline Road, Arlington, TN 38002.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNER I

JACKSON. The city of Jackson is accepting applications for a transportation planner I. The transportation planner will assist the planning director with work tasks to ensure compliance with federal and state guidelines and overall assistance with administration of the transportation-planning program, such as the UPWP, TIP, LTRP, and PPP. Specific job duties include: perform studies related to transportation planning; conduct research, analyze data, and prepare written reports. Manage preparation of meeting packets or special materials for distribution to the MPO Technical Staff and Executive Board. Prepare quarterly MPO grant billings. Bachelor's degree in Urban Planning, Business Administration, or a closely related field. Transportation planning experience is helpful, or any equivalent combination of education, knowledge, skills and abilities sufficient to satisfactorily perform the duties of the job may be substituted. Generous benefit package; salary beginning at \$24.94 per hour. EOE/M/F/V/D. Minorities are encouraged to apply. Job description on city web site: www.cityofjacksontn.gov. Please contact the City of Jackson, Human Resources Department, 127 E. Main Street, Suite 303, Jackson, TN 38301; phone (731) 425-8252; Fax (731) 425-8673

UTILITY DIRECTOR

SPRING HILL. The city of Spring Hill is accepting applications and resumes for a full-time, exempt utility director. He or she will perform administrative and managerial work in the planning, organizing, and directing of overall operations amongst the water and wastewater treatment plants; and, the water distribution, and sewer collection. This employee must possess the ability to make prudent and independent decisions as they apply to daily activities. The incumbent in this position will supervise assigned employees; coordinate activities between departments, and maintain records and budgets for various projects. The utility director provides substantive and highly complex staff assistance to the city administrator and operates under his or her direct supervision. The employee will perform other related and/or non-specific work as required, some of which will be mechanical. Must possess a bachelor's degree in engineering; must possess professional engineer (P.E.) license from the state of Tennessee; Must possess a valid driver's license; 10 years' experience in water or wastewater system maintenance or construction, hydraulic engineering, or civil engineering of which some experience having been in an increasingly responsible administrative or supervisory capacity. The city of Spring Hill offers an extensive and generous employee benefit package, which includes an 100% employer paid medical coverage option for the entire family, optional vision insurance, employer paid dental insurance for the employee with the option to purchase family coverage, Flexible Spending Account, employer paid Life, AD&D and LTD Insurance, as well as voluntary life and STD. TCRS pension. Applications/resumes must be submitted online at: www.springhilltn.org/Jobs.aspx Questions to staylor@springhilltn.org No phone calls please. EOE Minorities and women encouraged to apply.

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Why strong passwords aren't enough – three tips for a better password policy

By **JOE HOWLAND**
VC3

We recently heard an anecdote from a security executive that illustrates the need for much stronger password policies at municipalities.

(We altered the details of the anecdote to protect our source. However, the gist of the anecdote will make his point clear.)

An organization in Tennessee has 1,000 employees. During a security audit, 117 employees were found to be using the password “Volunteers2019.”

Immediately, the security executive implemented a stronger password policy that caused employees to reset their passwords and eliminated the chance of such a common password from being used in the future.

What's interesting is that each employee selected their password individually, thinking it was unique! None of the 117 people knew about anyone else's “unique” password.

Many employees know not to use “password” anymore, but a problem persists. Sports teams, TV shows, celebrities, pet names, and children's names don't make strong passwords. They are too common.

Here are three ways tips for a better password policy—from good to better to best.

Good: Strong Passwords

Enforcing the use of strong passwords avoids the issue of employees choosing common or easily hackable words and phrases. Strong passwords may be:

- Passphrases: A passphrase is a long phrase easy for you to remember (such as “Theredh0rseis2fast!”) but hard for hackers to guess. The longer a password, the



more difficult it becomes to hack. You would still need to mix in a few numbers and symbols for good measure.

- Complex Passwords: While not as memorable as a passphrase, a complex password involving a string of letters, numbers, and symbols can also still work as a less hackable password.

Strong passwords are a good tactic, but hackers can still crack them with enough effort.

Better: Password Manager

If you haven't heard about password managers, they are services that automatically generate strong passwords, remember all your passwords, and encrypt them. Once implemented, they tend to work smoothly in the background and make your life easier. Some benefits include:

- Automated generation of strong passwords: A password manager can automatically generate strong complex passwords for you and encrypt them.
- Shoring up employee password weaknesses: With a password manager, employees cannot use weak passwords or reuse the same password across multiple accounts.

- Ease to support adoption: Implementing a password policy becomes easier for employees resulting in a password policy that's actually used and enforced.

Best: Two-Factor Authentication (2FA)

Despite what you may hear about its inconvenience, 2FA dramatically increases your login security.

- Large reduction in the chance of getting hacked: In 2018, a Verizon Data Breach Investigations Report noted that 81% of company data breaches occur because of poor passwords. With 2FA, you add an extra step that makes it much, much more difficult for a hacker to succeed. While 2FA isn't hacker-proof, it places an additional barrier—physical access to your smartphone—in front of the hacker to overcome.
- Ease of use: 2FA works when you get a code through text messaging or an easy-to-install app (such as Duo Mobile or Microsoft Authenticator) that gives you a randomly generated code every 30 seconds or a “push notification” where you just press OK to confirm your login.
- No IT investments or infrastructure needed: 2FA is cheap. It's often baked into existing applications and the implementation generally involves receiving a text or installing a free app on a smartphone.

We encourage you to explore the options discussed above and implement the strongest password policies possible. Weak passwords put your city at risk.

About Joe Howland

Joe has been in the IT industry for over 20 years and has extensive IT management experience that spans multiple industries. Joe joined VC3 in 2009. He is currently VC3's Chief Information Security Officer and is responsible for VC3's IT security as well as advising on security for VC3's customers.

NATIONAL BRIEFS

Covid-19 was the third leading cause of death in the U.S. in 2020, according to provisional data released by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Heart disease and cancer were the only two conditions more deadly than the coronavirus to Americans. The national death rate also increased 15.9% in 2020 to 828.7 deaths per 100,000 people. Of the 3.36 million deaths that occurred last year, Covid-19 was reported as the underlying cause or a contributing cause of death for nearly 378,000. The presence of Covid-19 on the list knocked suicide from the tenth spot.

Other top causes of death in 2020 were unintentional injury, stroke, chronic lower respiratory disease, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, influenza and pneumonia, and kidney disease.

Home sales fell while home prices rose in February, according to new information from the U.S. Census Bureau and Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). New home sales fell 18.2% between January and February, but the number of new sales was still 8.2% higher than initially estimated for February. Prices also rose with a median sales price of \$349,400 in February, up from \$346,400 in January. Inventories remain tight with 312,000 new homes for sale, an

increase from 307,000 in January. Realtors and economists estimate there is enough new housing to supply the country for 4.8 months.

The pandemic has cost \$500 billion in travel spending to the U.S. economy with \$1.1 trillion in economic output lost, according to the U.S. Travel Association. The decline in travel due to the pandemic has also resulted in a lost of 35% of the nation's travel-related jobs and a 65% of travel-support jobs. The study also found there was a 31% decline in domestic travel and a 76% decline in inbound international travel to the U.S. While the leisure travel sector only declined about a quarter (24%), the business travel industry saw a 60% decline



TENNESSEE FESTIVALS

April 17: Fayetteville
7th Annual Slawburger Chase 5K
Beginning at the Bank of Lincoln County at 8 a.m., this 5K event will help raise money for a 13-year-old boy who was diagnosed with a rare brain tumor. Organizers ask that participants bring a mask and wear it before and after the race, especially during the awards ceremony. They will have disposable masks and hand sanitizer available as needed. Register for the Slawburger chase 5K at [alwaysendure.com/upcoming-events](https://www.alwaysendure.com/upcoming-events).

April 17-24: Paris
World's Biggest Fish Fry
The famous World's Biggest Fish Fry, the last full week of April in Paris features scrumptious, fried catfish and more. Cheer at the catfish races, run the hushpuppy dash, relax at the parade and fish with the kiddos. Enjoy street dances, rides, a rodeo and memorable, family-friendly events. For a full schedule of events, visit <https://www.paristnchamber.com/fish-fry-information/>

April 23-25: Knoxville
Dogwood Arts Festival
The Performance Lawn at World's Fair Park will showcase more than 75 arts vendors working in mixed media, pottery, painting, photography, glass, jewelry, sculpture, and more. The festival provides an important opportunity for local artists to sell and showcase their work. For more information, visit dogwoodarts.com/dogwoodarts-festival.

April 24: Carthage
Carthage Market-Fest
Carthage Parks, Recreation, and Wellness will host the second annual Carthage Market fest at the City Walking Track from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Vendors can sell crafts, art, yard sale items, jewelry, clothing, and other items. Musical entertainment is planned with food vendors to be set up. For more information, contact the town of Carthage at 615-735-1881 or at townofcarthagetn.com.

COMING UP

May 20 - 21
Municipal Court Clerk Conference
Franklin

June 2 - 4, 2021
TAMCAR Spring Conference
Murfreesboro

Sept. 1-3, 2021
TCMA Fall Conference
Chattanooga

Sept. 18-21, 2021
TML Annual Conference
Chattanooga

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Ed Stewart, ChFC, CLU, CF
Financial Advisor

Tennessee State Library and Archives opens doors at new location

By KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

On April 12, state leaders and officials gathered to officially open the new home of the Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA) in Nashville.

Located at the intersection of Rep. John Lewis Way North and Jefferson Street, TSLA's new home is across the Bicentennial Mall State Park from the Tennessee State Museum. The \$123.8 million project was initially approved by the 110th General Assembly in 2017, though the project was adjusted due to events like the March 2020 tornadoes and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

With its new location, TSLA is better poised to tell Tennessee's story. Secretary of State Tre Hargett said the new facility both protects the state's past while has room to accommodate future needs.

"Preserving Tennessee's legal and civic history is both our statutory responsibility and honor," Hargett said. "The documents housed at the Library and Archives are the foundation of Tennessee's history. Our new state-of-the-art facility will ensure our state's past is properly preserved and accessible for generations to come."

Tennessee State Librarian and Archivist Chuck Sherrill said the purpose of TSLA is to give Tennesseans a physical link to their history.

"Our records tell the Tennessee story," Sherrill said. "The documents in the Library and Archives are Tennessee's tangible link to the past, created by the people who lived those stories. In our new building, many of those stories will come alive for our visitors like never before."

The new facility will be the third location in TSLA's history. Julia Bruck, communications director for the Secretary of State's Office, said TSLA has a history dating back to 1854.

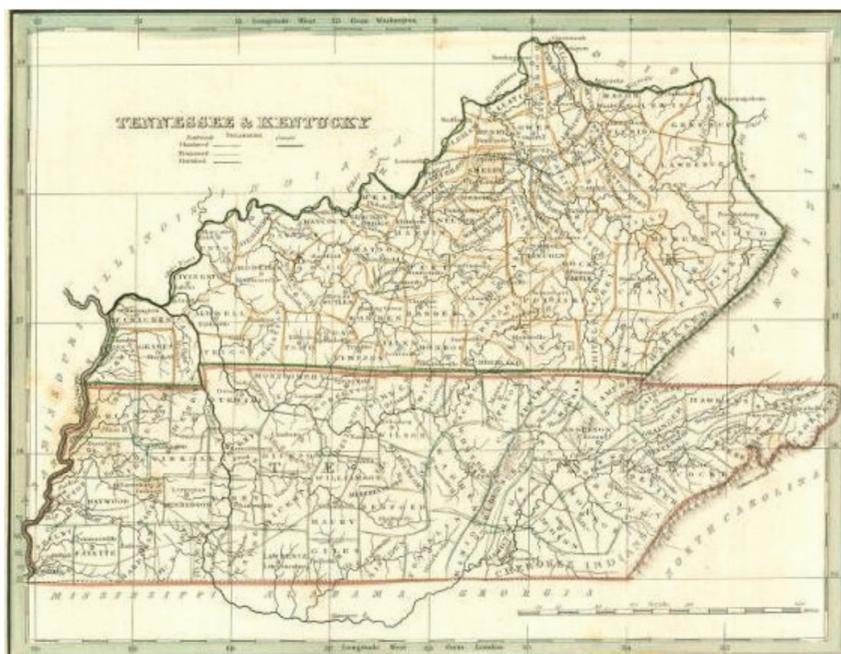
"The Tennessee State Library was originally housed in the State Capitol. Its purpose was to house the small law library and provide a sort of gentlemen's reading room for legislators and officials," Bruck said. "In 1919, the fledgling state archives program was added, creating the Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA). The role of the TSLA expanded in 1927 when the rich collections of the Tennessee Historical Society were placed in trust at the State Library and Archives."

TSLA then moved across the street from the Capitol in the 1950s.

"By the time WWII ended, the TSLA had outgrown its space in the State Capitol," Bruck said. "The Tennessee General Assembly approved funding for a new building and opened its doors in 1953 to the public. Beginning in 1955, Tennessee was one of the first states to record its General Assembly and committees' proceedings and continues to this day. Current digital recordings are stored electronically, but the Library and Archives has



A view of the new Tennessee State Library and Archives building (TSLA) at its new home at the corner of Jefferson Street and the Rep. John Lewis Way North at the Bicentennial Mall State Park. The new 165,000-square-foot facility is across the Bicentennial Mall State Park from the Tennessee State Museum and is the third location for TSLA since its inception in 1854. The archive and library were initially located within the Tennessee State Capitol Building until growth necessitated its move into its own building across the street in 1953.



This map depicting Tennessee and Kentucky is from President James K. Polk's own 1835 edition of Thomas G. Bradford's *A Comprehensive Atlas*. The archives contain maps dating as far back as the 1700s depicting the state up to more modern mail route and flood plain maps.

50,330 cassettes of earlier legislative recordings."

After more than a year of preparation, TSLA staff started moving and installing collections and exhibits in the new building at the beginning of February.

"Countless hours of planning by our staff has gone into carefully and thoughtfully transporting our historical documents, manuscripts and collections," Sherrill said. "Thanks to the dedication of our staff and the professionalism of our moving contractor, most of the 500,000 books and 40,000 boxes of archival material in our collection will be available for Tennesseans when we open our doors in April."

Bruck said the larger and more technologically advanced building is a major upgrade from TSLA's current 1950s era home. The new

165,000-square foot-facility increases the facility's capacity by nearly 40%.

"A climate-controlled chamber for safely storing historic books and manuscripts with a space-saving robotic retrieval system will house a majority of our collections," Bruck said. "State-of-the-art conservation equipment including our new blast freezer, temperature-controlled vaults and large conservation lab will help preserve and save damaged materials for our collection and collections across Tennessee. The new facility also has classrooms for student groups and meeting space for training librarians and archivists."

The advent of the digital age has made it easier to preserve some of TSLA's collection, though Bruck said some more traditional methods, like microfilm, are still important for

preservation.

"Digitization has made it much easier to provide our users with copies of documents, maps and images," she said. "In the past, we had to create and mail photographic prints of images and photocopies of documents. Thanks to digitization, we can offer and satisfy a request by sending a digital file saving on cost and time. Many of our most popular materials have been digitization for use.

Many state agencies now create records, such as birth and death records, digitally. We have developed methods to ingest these files and also create microfilm copies for preservation. For long-term preservation, we still use microfilm since it has a shelf life of 500 years if kept in proper conditions."

The new technology and the new location are all part of TSLA's mission to both preserve the state's history and make that history available to all Tennesseans.

"Today, the TSLA has become Tennessee's premier historical research facility and actively promotes library and archival development throughout the state," Bruck said. "It has extensive and

wide-ranging collections of original historical documents which includes state and county records, censuses and genealogical information, military records, penitentiary records, newspapers, city directories and telephone books, bibliographies, ledgers, manuscripts, letters, diaries, maps, photographs, broadsides, prints, postcards, oral histories, films, sheet music and general reference materials."

Visitors to TSLA can find a wide variety of items. Beyond the documents, photographs, maps, letters, and petitions one might expect to find in the archive, TSLA also holds unique items including children's toys, glass bottles, post cards, tools, textiles, quilts, musical instruments, invitations, and slides for magic lanterns, which were one of the precursors to modern-day film.

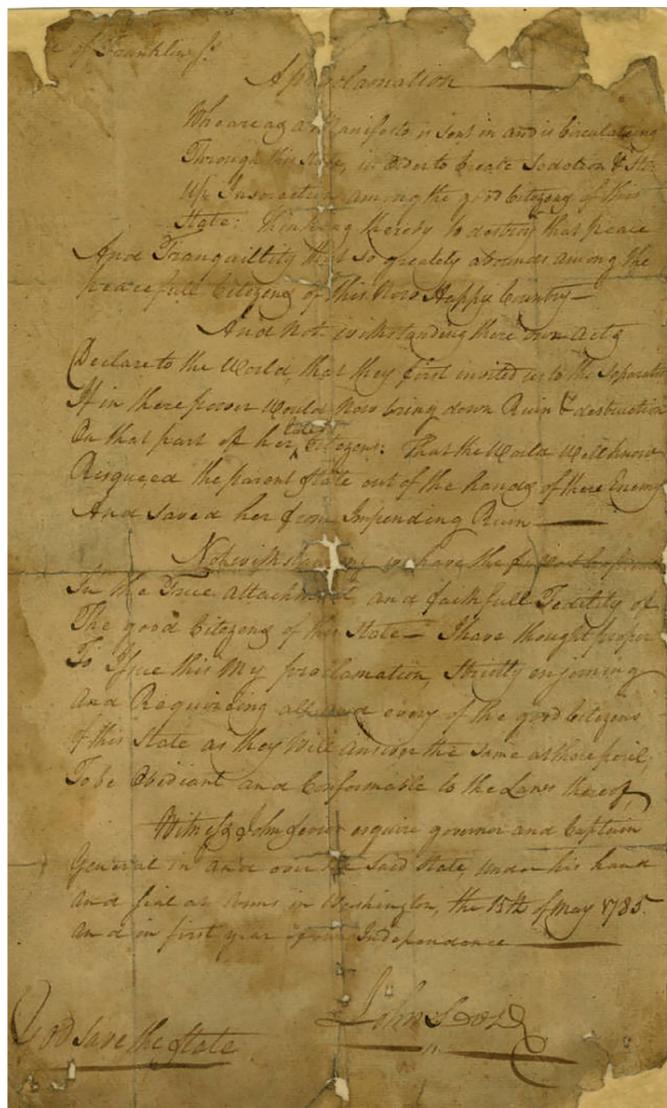
Bruck said visitors can also see some of the most important documents and papers relating to the state's history from its founding to the present day.

"TSLA is home to several notable historical documents, including Tennessee's Constitutions, letters from Tennessee's three presidents, Civil War diaries, records of 55 past governors of the state, and original records and maps of the State of Franklin," she said. "The collections include copies of virtually every book published about Tennessee and Tennesseans. TSLA preserves original documents from court cases and legislation, along with audio recordings of legislative proceedings since 1955. Copies of the records from every Tennessee courthouse and all surviving Tennessee newspapers can also be viewed in the library's collections."

To learn more about TSLA, visit <https://sos.tn.gov/tsla> and to check out TSLA's digital resources, visit the Tennessee Virtual Archive at <https://teva.contentdm.oclc.org>.



Above: One of the more nontraditional items held by TSLA, these relics were gathered from the former camp of the 12th and 13th Regiments of the U.S. Colored Troops Division stationed in what was once the city of Johnsonville and is now the Johnsonville State Historic Park during the Civil War. Items found include a sardine can, a drumstick holder, a bullet mold, a knife, hat badges and insignia, and two wipers for a musket.



Right: One of the oldest items in the state archives, this one-page handwritten proclamation was issued by future first governor of Tennessee John Sevier proclaiming the new State of Franklin out of what was then part of North Carolina on May 15, 1785. Located in what is now East Tennessee, the attempt to create the State of Franklin was a major event on the route to the creation of Tennessee as a state.