

## Gov. Lee makes plans to reopen Tennessee

Beginning this week, 89 of Tennessee's 95 counties will begin a phased reopening of the state's economy in order to bring industries like retail, restaurants, and close contact services to a safe and methodical opening.

Gov. Bill Lee issued the first steps from the "Tennessee Pledge," to keep employees and customers safe during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The first industries to receive guidance through the plan include the restaurant and retail industries.

"Tennesseans pulled together to flatten the curve, and it is time for people to begin to get back to work and back to their businesses," Lee said. "We are pursuing a careful, measured approach to reopening our economy that does not depend on heavy-handed mandates but instead provides practical tools for businesses of all sizes."

Lee underscored the Tennessee Pledge plan for safe economic recovery is supported by data showing Tennessee's curve of novel coronavirus infections hitting a plateau. Lee also pointed to the unsettling economic reality COVID-19 has created in our state.

Tennessee has seen the average

daily growth rate remain stable for 14 days, in addition to a steady downward trajectory in positive tests as a percentage of total tests since April 1. The state has also had a massive ramp up in testing, included open testing available to all Tennesseans across 33 sites over last weekend, 18 this weekend, and more the next.

On the economic front, 15 percent of Tennessee's workforce filed unemployment claims as of this week – more than 400,000 people. State officials predict a \$5 billion loss in the state's gross domestic product during 2020.

Lee said this is the first step in a phased reopening of the state's economy, which entails rebooting industries as they are safe to pursue in 89 of the state's 95 counties. The state is working with Shelby, Madison, Davidson, Hamilton, Knox, and Sullivan on plans to reopen businesses in those counties. Lee added that many Tennesseans are facing not just potential sickness but crippling financial hardship, particularly in the service industries.

Lee announced Tennessee restaurants are able to reopen Monday. See **REOPEN** on Page 6

## Congress passes interim coronavirus aid package to fund testing, extend small business loans

No new money provided for states and local governments

BY ANDREA NOBLE  
Route Fifty

A \$484 billion interim coronavirus relief package passed both chambers last week contains \$25 billion to expand testing capacity across the country, a measure public health officials said will be necessary to reopen the nation.

The legislation sends \$11 billion directly to states to bolster their testing capabilities and will also require the Trump administration to devise a national testing strategy.

Passage of the interim bill comes after Republicans and Democrats struggled for more than a week to reach an agreement on spending priorities as lawmakers sought to replenish a new loan program for small businesses.

While the aid package addresses several funding areas sought by

Democrats, it does not include direct funding for state and local governments. State and local government leaders have complained that with stay-at-home orders in place, millions of workers filing for unemployment, and the U.S. economy at a standstill, they will need support from the federal government to offset the steep loss in tax revenues.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said that while the bill does not include new funding for states, the Trump administration has promised to give state and local government flexibility in how they can spend other federal funding, including \$150 billion allotted through the CARES Act. "We got a commitment from President Trump and [Treasury] Secretary Mnuchin that they will be able to use the money," he said. See **FUNDS** on Page 6

## Covid-19 serves major blow to economy, economists say state, nation in recession

BY CHAD JENKINS  
TML Deputy Director  
&

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TML Research Analyst

This report will be part of an ongoing summary of recent and relevant economic commentary and data to assist municipal officials. While it should not be viewed as an exhaustive analysis of all data, we hope it will serve as a guide for your local governments during this time.

### Tennessee Economy in General

The COVID-19 pandemic is constraining Tennessee's economic activity. Over the last four weeks, new unemployment claims totaled 324,501 in Tennessee and 22 million nationwide. The most losses on record. An April 15 *Wall Street Journal* survey of 57 economists states that a second round of layoffs has begun, and approximately 14.4 million job reductions may be added to the first wave of 22 million with an unemployment rate nearing 13% by June. This suggests that a substantial number of additional Tennesseans may become unemployed in the coming weeks. Economists caution that Tennessee unemployment rates may increase to historically high levels.

Earlier this month, the Howard Baker Center for Public Policy and the UTK Coronavirus Outbreak Response Team (CORE) issued a report that stated Tennessee is likely already in a recession and this pending recession is likely to be deep. Differently situated communities will be impacted differently, and communities that rely on high-risk (leisure/hospitality, travel, employment services, transportation) and high contact-intensive (face-to-face interaction) industry segments will be hit the hardest.

Tennessee government leaders are planning protocols for an economic reopening. Gov. Bill Lee appointed an Economic Recovery Group to focus on a phased reboot of the state's economy. This group will issue industry specific guidance on employee and customer protection. A phased economic reopening would likely be slow and some supply chain participants would be unable to transact business if part of their supply chain did not re-open. However, it should be noted that a complete reopening could lead to a wide-spread viral infection, the largest loss of life, and another complete shut-down of the economy.



Communities that rely on high-risk (leisure/hospitality, travel, employment services, transportation) industry segments will be hit the hardest. Pictured above is a near-empty street in Gatlinburg, which normally would be bustling with activity.

### Local Government Revenues and Budgeting

Municipal budgets will be strained. In-state and national economists anticipate an upcoming recession that will be unlike any previously recorded recession. The severity will depend, in part, on your community's economic composition. Urban areas will likely be impacted the hardest, and tourism dependent economies should prepare for very significant, near-term revenue loss.

Economists caution local governments to plan budgets based on either no revenue growth or even year over year reductions for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020. In mid-March the state adopted a budget that assumed negative revenue growth for the remainder of the current fiscal year (ending June 30, 2020), and 0.25% growth for the upcoming fiscal year (beginning July 1, 2020).

State and federal transfers may help local budgets. The upcoming FY21 state budget included \$100 million in grants for cities and

towns. While state law limited the purposes of the grants, local governments should still benefit from the availability of the revenue. For more information on the state of Tennessee grant program please refer to TML's COVID website and the Governor's Department of Finance and Administration's dedicated page <https://www.tn.gov/finance/governor-s-local-government-support-grants.html>.

In addition, according to the Tax Foundation the federal government's CARES Act included \$2.6 billion for the state and local governments of Tennessee. Approximately \$2.4 billion of this will go to Tennessee state government for programming, and some portion of this revenue could eventually go to local governments. On April 16, Gov. Lee created the Stimulus Financial Accountability Group to ensure proper distribution of this funding. The first round of funding was limited to states and the largest cities and counties, so the National League of Cities, the

See **ECONOMY** on Page 7

## State-Shared revenues projections for FY2020-21

BY BRAD HARRIS  
MTAS Finance Consultant

The Tennessee Department of Revenue makes payments of state-shared revenues to all Tennessee municipalities based on population.

The Municipal Technical Advisory Service tracks the monthly revenues reported by the Department of Revenue and uses those along with estimates to forecast what cities may expect to receive in the coming fiscal year.

The estimates include actual numbers through February 2020. The effects of the COVID-19 virus on the economy are not known at this time, so city officials should use sound judgment and caution when budgeting for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

State and federal grants and relief aid will help buffer a decline in revenue, and more detail about those funds and allowable uses should be forthcoming soon.

MTAS will continue to monitor state collections and update this publication regularly. Most economic experts expect a significant drop in revenues in the first six months of 2020, with revenue growth in the second half of the 2020-21 fiscal year.

The first column in the chart shows an updated estimate for the 2019-20 fiscal year (\$140.77).

	Updated Estimate 2019-2020	Initial Estimate 2020- 2021
General Fund	Per Capita Amount	Per Capita Amount
State Sales Tax	\$90.00	\$80.00
State Beer Tax	.48	.48
Special Petroleum Products Tax (City Streets and Transportation Revenue)	1.99	1.99
Gross Receipts Tax (TVA in lieu of taxes)	12.30	12.00
Total General Fund Revenue	\$104.77	\$94.47
State Street Aid Funds Gasoline and Motor Fuel Taxes	\$36.00	\$32.00
Total Per Capita (General and State Street Aid Funds)	\$140.77	\$126.47

The second column takes what is estimated through June, uses available market data for 2020-21 and makes a conservative estimate of state-shared revenues for the 2020-21 fiscal year (\$139.47). This estimate is preliminary, especially since only a few months of actual data are available at this time and the economic impact of COVID-19 is not known. This is to be used as a tool in estimating projected revenue for the 2020-21 fiscal year. It is but one tool, and a multi-year trend analysis should also be prepared to assist in determining the appropriate estimate for the FY 2020-21 budget.

**NOTE:** The IMPROVE Act of 2017 provided for additional gas and motor taxes. For FY 2019-20 the Act provided for an additional 1 cent of gas tax and 3 cents of diesel tax. Through February 2020 state sales tax shows a state-wide increase of 5.69% percent over the prior year. State beer tax, the special petroleum tax and the TVA in-lieu-of tax remain essentially unchanged. Gasoline and motor fuel taxes have increased 5.83% percent over the prior year due primarily to the IMPROVE Act. MTAS will review monthly actual revenue and will update the estimate if it changes significantly.



Jonesborough's Tennessee Hills Distillery is one of many breweries and distilleries across the state who have shifted to making hand sanitizer in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak.

## Tennessee companies changing production to meet pandemic needs

BY KATE COIL  
TML Communications Specialist

The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (TNECD) is using social media to highlight the way Tennessee companies are helping their communities during the crisis, shifting production to manufacture items ranging from hand sanitizer to protective gear to toilet paper.

In an effort to combat the spread of COVID-19, Tennessee Distillers Guild members are pivoting their production efforts from distilled spirits to sanitizing products to help support essential workers throughout the state.

So far, 23 distilleries belonging to the guild have produced and provided hand sanitizer and sanitizing surface cleaning products to hundreds of hospitals, nursing homes, police and fire departments, EMS services, postal workers, food ministries and health care facilities throughout the state.

Kris Tatum, president of the Tennessee Distillers Guild and co-owner of Pigeon Forge-based Old Forge Distillery, said the group is working with the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) to ensure sanitizer gets into the hands that need it most.

"We saw a need in our communities, and we are on a mission to make a difference," Tatum said.

Among the guild distilleries who have switched production are the Big Machine Distillery in Lynnville and Nashville, Memphis-based B.R. Distilling Company, Chattanooga Whiskey Distillery, Nashville-based Corsair Distillery, Gatlinburg's Doc Collier Moonshine, Chattanooga-based Gate 11 Distillery, Pigeon Forge-based Junction 35 Distillery, Leipers Fork Distillery, Bristol-based Lost State Distillery, Nashville Craft Distillery, Nashville-based Nelsons Green Briar Distillery, Memphis-based

See **SANITIZER** on Page 4

# NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



## COOKEVILLE

The city of Cookeville is highlighting the lives of important local figures by bringing the Cookeville Cemetery Walks online. Usually offered in the fall as a collaboration between the Cookeville History Museum and Cookeville Department of Leisure Services, volunteers who normally participate in the walk were recorded reading scripts from the annual walk to post online for entertainment and educational purposes during the COVID-19 quarantine. Each episode features a prominent Cookeville person or family telling their story from the grave of that person. Stories posted so far include the tale of Myrtle Hurst Barnes who allegedly shot her husband's mistress on a train; World War I Sgt. First Class Aubrey C. Wright; local hotelier Mary Elizabeth "Mollie" Shores Shanks; and Confederate soldier Elijah C. Crowell.

## ERWIN

The town of Erwin has approved a \$1-a-year-lease of 115 acres of land for the development of a multi-modal mountain biking and hiking park developed with a planning grant from the International Mountain Bike Association. The property is owned by Erwin Utilities and overlooks downtown Erwin as well as adjoins the Cherokee National Forest. Construction of the trails is estimated to cost a little more than \$1.9 million. Plans for the park include 10 miles of multi-use biking and hiking trails as well as trails for biking online. Trails will include an elevation change of around 700 feet and offer views of downtown Erwin, Unaka Mountain, and Martin Creek.

## KINGSPORT

Construction is nearing completion on the \$2 million expansion to the Kingsport Aquatic Center. The project includes a new outdoor pool, adjacent office space, and nearby pavilion. Construction began on the project last summer and is the first major expansion of the facility since it opened seven years ago. The new pool is aimed at teens and adults with 180-person capacity. The heated pool will include three 25-yard lanes for outdoor lap swimming, a circular social area with hydrotherapy jets, a seated bench area for water aerobics, and an area for sports like water basketball and volleyball. Additionally, approximately 60 lounge chairs will provide seating around the pool with the private, shaded pavilion providing seating for a dozen tables and three family changing restrooms.

## KNOXVILLE

Knoxville's Community Development Corporation's (KCDC) Five Points redevelopment has earned a 2019 Tennessee's Best award in the neighborhood stabilization category. Presented in March by the Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA) at the Tennessee Housing Conference in Nashville, the Tennessee's Best awards honor excellence in the development or management of affordable housing that reflects the highest standards in quality and sustainability. The \$80 million redevelopment of Five Points in East Knoxville includes the construction of 336 modern, energy-efficient housing units through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program, utilizing

Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) and Community Investment Tax Credits (CITC) through THDA. Additionally, the city of Knoxville has invested more than \$13 million in the Five Points site for extensive utilities replacement; new and widened streets; additional lighting; and sidewalk construction to improve walkability and connectivity of housing to the community.

## MORRISTOWN

The Morristown City Council has approved a \$1.35 million contract to grade and prepare an 85-acre site in the East Tennessee Progress Center. The contract was awarded to Jonesville, Va.-Glass Machinery and Excavation. The city's share of the cost will come from the recent sale of property at the industrial park with the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development and the Tennessee Valley Authority also making contributions to the site preparation costs. The goal is to sell the entire site to one company, but industrial board officials would also consider subdividing the site if the right buyer was presented.

## NASHVILLE

The Nashville International Airport (BNA) was recently profiled in *Business Facilities* magazine due to its own growth and the airport's contribution to the overall economic growth of Middle Tennessee. According to a recent study, BNA's total economic impact more than doubled between 2012 and 2018 with the airport generating some \$7.1 billion in economic impact. More than 67,000 area jobs and \$2.8 billion in personal income are supported by activity at BNA, which also produced \$168 million in state and local taxes and \$224 million in federal aviation-specific taxes. BNA also generated \$6 billion of business revenue to firms providing goods and services at the airport and to the local visitor

industry. The airport has also set new passenger records every year for the past seven year, growing its passenger base by 4.2% to nearly 18.3 million passengers. To accommodate its increased growth, the airport broke ground on a major expansion in 2017 that is expected to be complete by 2023. This expansion will include the construction of two new terminal garages, a new concourse, terminal wings expansions, a new administration building, a pedestrian plaza, on-site hotel, international arrivals facility, and terminal lobby renovation.

## SPRING HILL

The city of Spring Hill has made six free WiFi sites accessible to residents for use 24/7. The access points are placed inside Spring Hill police cruiser vehicles to create localized WiFi hotspots. Residents are encouraged to use the access points for homework, conducting business, or for any activity requiring internet uses. The access points are located in the parking lot of the Spring Hill Public Library, Spring Hill City Hall, Port Royal Park, Kohl's at the Crossings, the Publix on Main Street, and at the People's Church on Main Street. The city library has also rented out 40 hotspots to patrons for use.

## THREE WAY

Construction on the new Three Way city hall is nearing completion. Officials broke ground on the city hall building in August 2019, which will be located on a 15-acre site next to Pine Hill Park. The city hall is the final phase of the overall construction of the Three Way Municipal Complex, which includes the park and a maintenance building for city equipment as well as the city hall building. City officials are moving forward with the addition of needed interior furnishings to the building including audio/visual equipment, security systems, and signage for the building.

## TNECD selects 10 communities for Tennessee Downtowns program

Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner Bob Rolfe has announced the selection of 10 communities for the seventh round of the Tennessee Downtowns program.

Collinwood, Covington, Decaturville, Dunlap, Halls, Hartsville, Madisonville, Somerville, South Pittsburg, and Whiteville were all selected to join the program.

"TNECD remains focused on strengthening rural Tennessee, and for many communities, that means ensuring their historic downtowns are vibrant," Rolfe said. "The Tennessee Downtowns program is an essential part of our rural development strategy, and we look forward to working with these ten new Tennessee Downtowns as they develop sustainable renewal efforts in their commercial districts."

TNECD provides the Tennessee Downtowns program to communities that want to pursue the Main Street America approach to downtown revitalization. Fifty-eight Tennessee communities have participated in the program since 2010.

The Tennessee Downtowns program helps local communities revitalize traditional commercial districts, enhance community livability, spur job creation, and maintain the historic character of downtown districts. The two-year program coaches selected commu-

nities and their steering committees through the steps of launching effective renewal efforts. Tennessee Downtowns includes community training in the Main Street America program and a \$15,000 grant for a downtown improvement project.

"We are proud to welcome ten new communities into the Tennessee Downtowns program and look forward to working with them on their goals for downtown revitalization," Main Street Program Director Nancy Williams said.

The 10 newly selected communities all have downtown commercial districts established at least 50 years ago and demonstrated their readiness to organize efforts for downtown revitalization according to Main Street America principles. The highly competitive selection process was based on historic commercial resources, economic and physical need, demonstrated local effort, overall presentation and probability of success.

Tennessee Downtown communities that complete the program are eligible for Commercial Façade Improvement Grants as well as Main Street designation. To date, six Tennessee Downtowns have advanced to the Main Street program.

Each application was supported by the community's senator and representatives in the Tennessee General Assembly.

## Tennessee Aquarium connects animals, lessons to students



Penguins at the Tennessee Aquarium in Chattanooga are fed by their keeper live on webcam. To entertain students and others at home, the aquarium has set up live webcams of several of its exhibits, including its Secret Reef and River Otter Falls. While closed amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the aquarium is also reaching out to students across the state by producing educational video series, creating at-home science lessons, the Naturalist Notebook blog written by Tennessee Aquarium Education Outreach Coordinator Bill Haley, streamable IMAX films and accompanying educational guides, and a guide to backyard birdwatching.

## New city mural to color downtown McMinnville



Local volunteers Carol Neal, left, and Pat Bigbee, right, are spending their quarantine days helping paint the new mural in downtown McMinnville. The wood paneling on the front of 216 East Main Street was cost-prohibitive to remove, so the owners decided to cover the paneling with a mural. The mural honors McMinnville's claim to fame as the Nursery Capital of the World. More than 300 nurseries operate within the vicinity of the city, shipping their trees, plants, and flowers to customers across the country.

## Collierville mayor assures kids Easter Bunny is essential worker



The Easter Bunny, far left, and employees with the town of Collierville demonstrate proper social distancing as part of a proclamation issued by Collierville Mayor Stan Joyner declaring Easter Sunday a day of essential business for the Easter Bunny. To ensure local kids that the Easter Bunny would still be making his rounds, Mayor Joyner issued a proclamation giving the Easter Bunny "full authority to hop around through town."

### TENNESSEE TOWN & CITY

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# WAUFORD

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

# Cities help residents go on the hunt for entertainment during quarantine

BY KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

With schools, parks, and playgrounds closed, cities across Tennessee are finding engaging ways to keep families both mentally and physically active.

Encouraging residents to hunt for local landmarks, teddy bears, and Easter eggs from the safety of their vehicles or neighborhoods are just some of the ways municipalities are encouraging residents to engage with each other and the community.

The town of Farragut is hosting a drive-by scavenger hunt featuring 12 local landmarks. Karen Tindal, tourism coordinator with the town of Farragut, came up with the idea for the scavenger hunt with Carisa Ownby, media assistant for the town, after seeking ideas from other communities who were trying to engage their residents. The idea was created as part of a Tourism Industry COVID-19 Resource Group, which is intended to help tourism agencies during the outbreak find new and interesting ways of connecting their communities.

Tindal and Ownby chose locations for the scavenger hunt that are both recognizable and important to Farragut. They also ensured that each location is accessible by car so residents could safely visit them.

"One of the most unique locations was WFiv; this is Farragut's independent radio station," she said. "The radio station is on the edge of town and the station is not visible from the road so many people that may listen to 105.3 may not realize that it is located next to one of our busiest parks, Mayor Bob Leonard Park. The Farragut Press was also chosen because for many it's just a pretty house on Kingston Pike."

As a result of the outbreak, the tourism industry has had to find unique ways to continue serving their communities.

"While generally, Visit Farragut, focuses on increasing visitors to our town, during this crisis, we have had to pivot, as well as most in the industry, to continue to serve our community's needs," Tindal said. "We all agree that we are 'safer at home' now, so with all of us taking a collective pause we felt it was important to highlight those things that define our community."

The scavenger hunt is also a bit of a test drive for future tourism projects.

"We also wanted to test the waters with this scavenger hunt and if it is well received. We are considering doing a second one and are looking at ways to incorporate our local businesses and restaurants into the next scavenger hunt or a bingo type game," Tindal said.

Another popular activity cropping up across the state are bear hunts. Businesses, residents, and



Cities across Tennessee are going on "bear hunts" as a way to entertain smaller children, especially those who have lost the day-to-day routine of going to school. Aimed at providing a safe way for children to spy bears from the family car or out on a neighborhood walk, the bear hunts and other scavenger hunts are giving residents both young and old a way to stay mentally active and safely get out of the house.

even local government officials placed a teddy bear in a window, allowing those walking or passing by to try and spy as many hidden bears as they can. The activity is one way that parents are keeping younger children active and entertained as popular outdoor destinations like playgrounds are closed.

Amy Rose, public relations manager with the town of Greenville, said she was eager for the town to participate when she heard a local "bear hunt" would be conducted in Greenville. A bear with a large silk flower dubbed "Sunflower" now peers out from one of the windows of Greenville Town Hall.

Rose said the bear hunt is a way to help bring a little happiness in the lives of local residents, young and old.

"This pandemic is causing all sorts of emotions, and we just wanted to share some love and joy with our citizens," she said. "Whether its parents getting stir-crazy kids out of the house for a little while, or a healthcare worker on their way to or from work, we hope everyone who sees Sunflower will forget their troubles, even if it's just for a moment. Greenville is known as a friendly town, and bears are popping up throughout the community. In unprecedented times like these, it's important for us to stay connected."

Bear hunting has also become a fun activity for residents in Germantown, according to Jessica Comas, Germantown marketing and communications manager. The city decided to participate in the local bear hunt after an employee brought the subject up in one of the city's daily operations management meetings.

"Our parks and recreation director said her neighborhood in

Germantown had been fairly active with bear hunts," Comas said. "She took a picture of a teddy bear positioned outside of her home while wearing a Germantown T-shirt. The marketing and communications team decided to use that photo to inform our social media followers of the bear hunts and encourage everyone to take part."

Comas said the bear hunts

bring a bit of levity to a situation that has disrupted everyday lives.

"People are being asked daily to refrain from doing a lot of things right now and that change can be difficult," she said. "It's refreshing for people to read about simple activities that they can continue to do. There is a lot of uncertainty and fear that is circulating, while it is important to keep everyone



This statue of area native and later town namesake Union Admiral David Farragut is one of the stops on a motorized scavenger hunt of local landmarks created by officials with Visit Farragut. Residents are encouraged to find each stop from their car. Tourism officials say the scavenger hunt is also helping with tourism initiatives.

abreast of the national situation and actions that are being taken on a local level, it is also equally as important to generate some positivity and highlight the good that is happening as well."

Maryville Community Relations Manager Jane Groff said the city decided to participate in a local bear hunt after seeing Facebook posts from mothers in the community who were using the hunt as a way to entertain their children. The city brought out the bears that usually decorate city hall during the Christmas holidays.

"We want to remind people to find joy wherever possible," Groff said. "If you turn on the news, you are likely going to see all of the scary things happening around the world. We just want to embrace our community and remind them that we will continue to be here for them, providing the services they depend on and that we will get through this together."

A lot of cities had to cancel their annual Easter egg hunts along with other events. However, some communities found ways to still hold an Easter egg hunt that meets with health guidelines.

Beth Rhoton, Winchester city administrator, said the city's "virtual Easter egg hunt" was created as a way to entertain local residents. The city began partnering with members of the community and local businesses who felt the virtual hunt was a way to bring cheer to kids who couldn't hunt eggs the traditional way.

Residents and business owners were encouraged to make eggs and place them in their windows or front yard using items already on hand. Once completed, they sent a picture to the city's Facebook page to qualify to win prizes donated by local businesses and the city.

"We drive them to our Facebook page in order to qualify for the prizes," Rhoton said. "Our Facebook page is the number one way we disseminate information such as daily updates for our citizens and businesses. Many people in our community, not just Winchester, come to our page to learn what is going on."

While initially designed for kids, Rhoton said residents of all ages were invited to participate as a way to safely get out of the house.

"Our residents are trying to abide by the rules and stay in as much as possible and we know that brings on boredom," she said. "We have noticed when the sun shines the citizens like to ride around to get out of the house. That boredom was leading them to go places they really didn't need to go. We also know everyone was disappointed that all the Easter egg hunts had been cancelled. Our thought was we can entertain them and give them something to look for while still remaining safe and practicing social distancing and staying in their cars."

## No loan is too large or too small



Etowah recently closed a \$1 million fixed-rate loan with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF) to finance a new city hall. Etowah has used TMBF loan programs 21 times since 1997. Seated L to R: Mayor Burke Garwood and City Manager Tina Tuggle. Standing L to R: Finance Director Alison Bull, and Steve Queener, TMBF Marketing Representative.



East Ridge recently financed a \$132,748 note with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF) to purchase police cars. The city has used TMBF programs 16 times since 1992. Seated: Mayor Brian Williams. Standing L to R: Steve Queener, TMBF Marketing Representative; Chris Dorsey, City Manager; and Diane Qualls, Finance Director.

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# PEOPLE



**Doug Caffey** has been named the new planning and community development director for the city of Shelbyville.



Doug Caffey

Caffey comes to Shelbyville from Clute, Texas, where he served as the city building official for more than 12 years. He holds an associate's degree from Brazosport College in Lake Jackson, Texas, and has multiple certifications ranging in construction, electrical, plumbing and wastewater.

**Bryan Conley**, codes director for the town of Arlington, died March 26, 2020. Conley began working for the town of Arlington in 1999 and served as the lead code inspector for the town before being selected as the codes director.



Bryan Conley

Conley was a second-generation town of Arlington employee with his mother and stepfather both working to help grow the city through its public works department. Born in Alabama, Conley went to State Tech Community College and earned a license in heating and air. He began his career as a partner of Handyman for Hire for 10 years, earning various licensures before being hired by the town of Arlington.

**Don Crider**, chaplain for the Morristown Police Department, died April 8, 2020, from complications related to COVID-19. He was 70. Crider was a chaplain for the department

for nearly 20 years and received his chaplain certification through the International Conference of Police Chaplains. During his tenure with MPD, Crider even officiated weddings for officers. Crider also founded Eastwood Baptist Church in Morristown in 1980 and served as the pastor there.



Don Crider

**Butch Eley** has been selected to serve as the commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration (F&A). Eley will take over from acting commissioner Eugene Levy, who was appointed to hold the acting commissioner position after Commissioner Stuart McWhorter was tapped to lead the state's COVID-19 Unified Command. Eley presently serves as chief operation officer in the governor's office and will continue to coordinate efforts between departments in the interim. Prior to joining the Lee Administration, Eley was a founder and CEO of Infrastructure Corporation of America (ICA). Eley was also a partner and eventually President at the Ingram Group, a premier public affairs and advisory firm in Tennessee. He earned his bachelor's degree and MBA at Belmont University.



Butch Eley

**Glenn Rosenoff** has been selected as the new town administrator

for the town of Jonesborough, taking over the role on May 1 after the retirement of longtime town administrator Bob Browning. Rosenoff will be joining Jonesborough from working as city recorder and town administrator for the town of Erwin. Prior to working for Erwin, he was the planning director for the First Tennessee Development District based in Johnson City. Rosenoff holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and a master's degree in city management from East Tennessee State University.



Glenn Rosenoff

**Buck Vallad** has been named the new public works director for the city of Shelbyville. Vallad has more than 20 years of experience in public works in both the public and private sector, including most recently with the village of Newberry, Mich. Vallad served as the assistant village manager of Newberry from May 2017 until taking the post in Shelbyville and before that served as the superintendent of Newberry for nearly five years. Before that, he was the director of public works for Evart, Mich., between 2007 and 2014 and a construction inspector for the Michigan Department of Transportation between 2003 and 2007. Vallad holds an associate's degree in civil engineering technology from Ferris State University in Michigan.



Buck Vallad

## Tennessee companies changing production to meet pandemic needs

**SANITIZER** from Page 1

Old Dominick Distillery, Pigeon Forge's Old Forge Distillery, Clarksville's Old Glory Distillery, Gatlinburg-based Old Smoky Distillery, Gatlinburg's Sugarlands Distilling Company, Sevierville's Tennessee Legend Distillery, Shelbyville's Uncle Nearest Distillery, Woodbury's Short Mountain Distillery, and the Lynchburg Winery and the American Craft Distillery in Lynchburg.

Lynchburg-based Jack Daniels has also switched one of their distilleries from making its trademark whiskey to producing hand sanitizer with a goal of producing 20 million bottles to be distributed nationwide. Jack Daniel's North American Branch President John Hayes said the company has produced a specialty hand sanitizer brand before given out as a promotion to emergency officials.

"We realize that the need is so great," Hayes said. "That we're happy to announce we had dedicated one of our distilleries that we call Jack Daniel's No. 2 to making industrial amounts of ethanol," said Hayes. "In fact, we delivered our first tanker truck full of ethanol to our commercial partner where they're going to be making roughly 20 million six-ounce bottles for a month for us. So, we're making 2 million gallons of ethanol a month for this effort."

Non-guild distilleries, like the Tennessee Hills Distillery in Jonesborough, have also switched to making hand sanitizer.

Memphis shipping giant FedEx is part of the public-private partnership known as Project Airbridge. FedEx has contracted with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to provide expedited shipping of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other supplies critical to COVID-19 relief efforts. FedEx Express aircraft are being used to transport critical PPE supplies from manufacturers around the world to the U.S. The operation aims to accelerate delivery of PPE and other medical supplies, moving them via air instead of ocean.

"As a company, we are committed to providing our essential services as we help combat this pandemic," said Raj Subramaniam, chief operating officer of FedEx. "Our participation in the federal government's Project

Airbridge to transport critical PPE and medical supplies into the United States is the latest example of FedEx team members around the world coming together to keep critical supply chains moving."

Some businesses are also working to make PPE for the use of medical officials in the state and elsewhere. Nashville-headquartered Smile Direct Club is one of the largest 3D printing manufacturers in the U.S. and turned its capabilities over to printing masks and needed medical supplies.

"In times like these, it is incumbent on all of us to do what we can to help those in need however we can," said Smile Direct Club Chief Executive Officer David Katzman. "Due to recent automations that increased our printing output capacity, we're able to easily add this production to our current clear aligner therapy lines."

Kingsport-based Eastman Chemical partnered with universities and TCATs throughout the state to help facilitate the printing and assembling of protective masks while Memphis-based respirator mask manufacturer Radians donated more than 14,000 masks to medical professionals in Shelby County.

Beginning in April, the Carhart factory in Camden joined other company factories in shifting from manufacturing outdoor gear into making gowns and protective gear for medical professionals. Carhart's Senior Vice President of Supply Chain William Hardy said this isn't the first time the company has made such a monumental shift.

"It's really natural for us in this time of need to serve and protect a different group of workers right now, a group of workers that are in dire need of the right PPE," Hardy said. "In World War I and World War II, we retooled our plants and made uniforms for the soldiers. We salute hard working people of every walk of life, and right now is the time where we're going to provide a service for those who are out there battling this pandemic on the front lines."

Other companies are also finding ways to help their fellow Tennesseans. Nashville-based Genesco is allowing TEMA to utilize 25,000-square-foot of space at its Lebanon distribution center for Journey's shoes to aid in pandemic response.

## Holland to serve on state economic recovery group

Tennessee Municipal League President and McKenzie Mayor Jill Holland has been named to Gov. Bill Lee's Economic Recovery Group.

The group is a joint effort between state departments, members of the legislature, and leaders from the private sector to build guidance to safely reboot Tennessee's economy.

Holland will serve alongside representatives from various state departments, government officials, and representatives of various industries statewide.

A native of McKenzie, Holland has served as the city's mayor since 2011.

"COVID-19 has not only created a public health crisis, it has hurt thousands of businesses and hundreds of thousands of hard-working Tennesseans," said Gov. Lee. "As we work to safely open Tennessee's economy, this group will provide guidance to industries across the state on the best ways to get Tennesseans back to work."

The group is led by Tennessee Department of Tourism Development Commissioner Mark Ezell.

"This public-private partnership will prioritize connection, collaboration, and communication



Jill Holland, TML President and McKenzie Mayor

across industries, the medical community and state government" said Ezell. "We're grateful to these leaders for serving at a critical time in our state's history."

Sammie Arnold will serve as the chief of staff for the Economic Recovery Group. Arnold currently serves as the Assistant Commissioner of Rural Development at the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development.

For a complete list of group members, visit <https://www.tn.gov/tdfi/news/2020/4/16/governor-lee-establishes-economic-recovery-group-to-reboot-tennessee-economy.html>

## Sens. Alexander, Blackburn tapped for presidential economic committees

U.S. Sens. Lamar Alexander and Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., have both been selected for two separate presidential committees focused on the nation's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Alexander has been appointed to President Donald Trump's Economic Recovery Initiative.

Alexander will join 23 other senators and 12 members of the House on the bipartisan committee.

"The way to contain this disease and get back to work and back to school is to put politics aside and work together as fast as we can on new tests, new treatments, and new vaccines," Alexander said. "Everyone I know wants this to happen as quickly as we responsibly can, and I welcome the opportunity to help in this way."

Alexander is the chairman of the Senate's health committee, a position he has held since 2015.

Alexander's daughter, a resident in the highly-impacted Westchester County in New York state, tested positive for COVID-19 in March. Her nine-year-old son was also tested, but his test was negative.

Blackburn has been selected to serve on President Donald Trump's congressional taskforce on the re-opening of America in the wake of COVID-19.

Blackburn will join a mix of private sector figures and top administration officials on the task force, including U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and presidential economic adviser Larry Kudlow.

"Since the day COVID-19 reached our shores, President Trump's resolve to defeat it has not wavered. His administration has worked day and night to identify the most effective ways to keep the American people safe, from supplying health care workers



Sen. Lamar Alexander



Sen. Marsha Blackburn

with needed equipment to aiding small business owners through a volatile economic period," Blackburn said. "These efforts must be complimented by legislative action that will move us through and out of this pandemic... This pandemic is affecting Americans of all backgrounds, in every sector, and figuring out how we re-open our country requires a targeted approach. I am grateful that President Trump has selected me to join that effort, and look forward to working with my colleagues to come up with a solution that serves the American people."

Blackburn has also introduced legislation dealing with telemedicine, helping servicemen and women struggling with mental health issues in the wake of the outbreak, and social distancing.

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## STATE BRIEFS

The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) has received a \$10 million federal grant to create rural behavioral and physical health clinics in 10 of the state's most economically distressed counties. The funding will be spread over a period of five years and will fund a pair of mobile health clinics in Middle and East Tennessee. The Middle Tennessee mobile unit will service Lawrence, Lewis, Marshall, Perry, and Wayne counties while the East Tennessee clinic will serve residents in Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Hancock, and Jefferson counties. The clinics will also partner with Hohenwald-based alcohol and substance abuse treatment center Buffalo Valley, Inc., and the Knoxville-based behavioral health services nonprofit Helen Ross McNabb Center to offer services. The goals of Project Rural Recovery are to create a model of care in rural Tennessee that unites primary care and behavioral health and to engage and treat Tennesseans who are underserved by current service delivery methods. Once fully implemented, the goal of the program is to serve about 2,000 Tennesseans at about 4,800 clinic visits per year.

Gov. Bill Lee has announced the state of Tennessee will allocate \$10 million in Small and Rural Hospital Readiness Grants to support hospitals that are facing financial strain due to the ongoing response to COVID-19. The funds, capped at \$500,000 per hospital, will be allocated from the state's FY20 COVID-19 response appropriation and distributed by the Department of Finance & Administration. Due to the continually developing nature of the pandemic, the application will be held open for a month or until funds are expended. For participating hospitals, the grants will serve as a bridge over the coming weeks while elective procedures are suspended and new federal funds are still processing. Applications can be accessed at [www.tn.gov/ecd/rural-development/small-and-rural-hospital-readiness-grant](http://www.tn.gov/ecd/rural-development/small-and-rural-hospital-readiness-grant).

More than \$124 million in federal money will be awarded to 69 airports in the state of Tennessee to help respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration has awarded \$124,092,305 as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The grant funding will support continuing operations and replace lost revenue resulting from the sharp decline in passenger traffic and other airport business due to COVID-19. The funds are available for airport capital expenditures, airport operating expenses including payroll and util-

ities and airport debt payments. For more information and a complete list of airports receiving funding, visit [https://www.faa.gov/airports/cares\\_act/map/](https://www.faa.gov/airports/cares_act/map/).

Tennessee is in the bottom 10 states when it comes to children's healthcare, according to a new study compiled by financial planning website WalletHub.com. The study ranked Tennessee 41 out of 51 states and Washington, D.C. Tennessee also ranks dead last in its percentage of overweight and obese children, which contributed heavily to its overall low rating. The state also ranked 32 out of 51 in the ease of access children have to healthcare and 22 out of 51 in oral health for children. The survey ranked states based on numerous factors including infant and child death rates, number of uninsured children, share of children with high medical bills, average cost of pediatrician visits, number of children's hospitals, consumption of sugary drinks, average amount of fruits and vegetables consumed by children, fast food restaurants per capita, number of schools meeting nutritional guidelines, access to fluoridated water, and access to recreation areas.

Calls from Tennesseans to suicide prevention hotlines increased between February in March in large part to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network found that calls to the suicide hotline rose to 3,106 in March, up from 2,795 in February. While the number of calls in March 2020 are down over calls this same time last year, officials said that they are expecting call volume to increase again in April. Data from the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse shows numbers for the crisis text line also increased from 90 in February to 105 in March. Unemployment, isolation, loneliness, and the ongoing pandemic have led to mental health struggles for many and suicide prevention hotline calls increased 800% nationwide in March. More info about suicide prevention efforts in Tennessee can be found at [www.tn.gov/behavioral-health/need-help/crisis-services/suicide-prevention1.html](http://www.tn.gov/behavioral-health/need-help/crisis-services/suicide-prevention1.html).

More than 11,000 Tennesseans took advantage of expanded testing for COVID-19 during the first of three weekends offering tests to citizens regardless of symptoms. Gov. Bill Lee reported that April 18 was the largest date for testing in the state so far with more than 6,500 samples taken at the 22 sites set up across the states. Personnel with the Tennessee Department of Health and Tennessee National Guard conducted tests at 19 sites, four more than initially planned, to meet the demand.

## Most Tennessee State Parks have reopened for day use

Most of the 56 Tennessee State Parks reopened on Friday, April 24, for day-use only between 7am and sunset. Specific details on which parks have reopened is available on [tnstateparks.com](http://tnstateparks.com).

The public will have access to most trails, boat ramps, marinas, golf courses and other outdoor recreation opportunities. Park facilities and overnight accommodations will remain closed, as will playgrounds and other social gathering places

"We are eager to serve once again but we urge Tennesseans to continue to practice physical distancing when visiting parks," Jim Bryson, deputy commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, said. "We have implemented policies designed to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and we will monitor all aspects of the issue to ensure safety among visitors and our staff."

The following parks will remain temporarily closed:

- Cummins Falls State Park
- Seven Islands State Birding Park
- Lamar Alexander Rocky Fork State Park

When considering a visit, Tennessee State Parks encourages

the following:

- Stay at home if you are sick or do not feel well.
- Maintain at least six feet of distance between you and other visitors.
- Visit parks that are only a short distance from your home.
- Consider visiting earlier in the day so you can adjust plans if a park is full. Tennessee State Parks may limit access to certain parks or areas if capacity is reached.
- Plan ahead. Many Tennessee State Parks buildings will be closed. Plan to bring your own snacks, water and hand sanitizer.
- Prepare for limited or no bathroom access. Some restrooms remain open, but many will not.
- Consider bringing a mask and wearing it when around other people.
- Carry your trash with you or dispose of it in the appropriate containers to help keep our cleaning staff safe and our parks litter-free.

Overcrowding may cause entire parks or portions of parks to close again. Facilities and gathering areas, including pavilions and playgrounds, will remain closed.

## Tennessee tax revenues exceeded budgeted estimates by \$71 million

Department of Finance and Administration Commissioner Butch Eley announced that Tennessee tax revenues exceeded budgeted estimates in March. Overall March revenues totaled \$1.2 billion, which is \$71.3 million more than the state received in March 2019 and \$62.1 million more than the budgeted estimate for the month.

"Tennessee tax revenues exceeded estimates for the month of March, which will likely surprise some, given the current economy," Eley said. "This monthly report clearly illustrates the inherent lag between reported tax receipts and that of actual economic activity, or lack thereof, which many Tennesseans are facing today. For instance, sales tax collections for the month of March represent February consumer activity."

"The eventual impacts of COVID-19 on tax revenues are unavoidable and will begin to appear in the coming months. We will closely monitor our tax receipts during this time and remain committed to balancing the state's budget in a responsible manner during this extraordinary national economic downturn."

On an accrual basis, March is the eighth month in the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

General fund revenues were \$56.5 million more than the budgeted estimate while the four other funds that share in state tax revenues were \$5.6 million more than the estimates.

Sales tax revenues were \$5.9 million more than the estimate for March and were 2.28 percent more than March 2019. For eight months revenues are \$243.6 million more than estimated. The year-to-date growth rate for eight months was 6.25 percent.

Franchise and excise tax revenues combined were \$35.4 million

more than the budgeted estimate in March and the growth rate was 15.76 percent. For eight months, revenues are \$237.4 million more than the estimate and the year-to-date growth rate is 17.06 percent.

Gasoline and motor fuel revenues for March increased by 13.48 percent compared to March 2019 and were \$5 million more than the budgeted estimate of \$84.1 million. For eight months, revenues have exceeded estimates by \$39 million.

Motor vehicle registration revenues were \$1.3 million less than the March estimate, and on a year-to-date basis they are \$9.3 million more than estimates.

Tobacco tax revenues were \$5.4 million more than the March budgeted estimate of \$19.4 million. For eight months, revenues are \$4.5 million more than the year-to-date budgeted estimate.

Privilege tax revenues were \$7.1 million more than the March estimate. On a year-to-date basis, August through March, revenues are \$41.6 million more than the estimate.

Business tax revenues were \$1.5 million more than the March estimate. For eight months, revenues are \$9.4 million more than the budgeted estimate.

Hall income tax revenues for the month were \$1.9 million more than the budgeted estimate. For eight months, revenues are \$6.5 million more than the budgeted estimate.

All other taxes were less than budgeted estimates by a net of \$1.2 million.

Year-to-date revenues, August through March, are \$605.7 million more than the budgeted estimate. The growth rate for eight months is 8.03 percent. General fund revenues are \$486.7 million more than the budgeted estimate and the four other funds are \$119 million more than estimated.

The budgeted revenue estimates for 2019-2020 are based on the State Funding Board's consensus recommendation of Nov. 26, 2018, and adopted by the second session of the 111th General Assembly in April 2019. Also incorporated in the estimates are any changes in revenue enacted during the 2019 session of the General Assembly. These estimates are available on the state's website at <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/finance/fa/fa-budget-information/fa-budget-rev.html>.

On Nov. 19, 2019, the State Funding Board met to hear updated revenue projections from various state economists. Following this meeting, on Nov. 26, 2019, the board decided to adopt revised revenue growth ranges for the current fiscal year. The recurring growth ranges adopted include a low of 3.10 percent to a high of 3.60 percent for total taxes and a recurring range low of 3.20 percent to a high of 3.75 percent for general fund taxes.

On March 19, 2020, in the second session of the 111th General Assembly, the Legislature passed the 2019-2020 budget, which included the Funding Board's current year revised ranges and also the administration's amendment to the proposed budget. The administration's amendment, in an effort to recognize the economic impact from the COVID-19 pandemic, included a reduction of \$153.8 million of previously projected revenue to acknowledge potential shortfalls. The Governor signed the budget bill on April 2, 2020.

With the passage of the appropriations act, Public Chapter 651, the General Assembly recognized in the current fiscal year an additional \$396.1 million in total revenue and a corresponding increase in general fund revenue in the amount of \$345.9 million.

## State awards \$19.7M in rural broadband grants

Gov. Bill Lee and Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner Bob Rolfe announced \$19.7 million in broadband accessibility grants that will expand service to support 31,000 unserved Tennesseans in nearly 12,700 households and businesses.

The state continues to focus on expanding broadband access in rural areas. According to the FCC's 2019 Broadband Deployment Report, nearly one in four rural Tennesseans lack access to broadband. In response, Gov. Lee has included \$25 million in his fiscal year 2021 recommended budget to continue the grant program.

"One of my top priorities is ensuring the success of rural Tennessee. With the assistance of these grants, communities across 21 counties will now have access to broadband that will aid in that success," Lee said. "I applaud the efforts of these 17 broadband providers as they play a fundamental role in our efforts to boost rural communities throughout Tennessee."

Tennessee's broadband program has been recognized nationally for its efforts to expand broadband connectivity, most recently in a report by The Pew Charitable Trusts on "How States are Expanding Broadband Access."

The report highlights Tennessee's investment in broadband infrastructure with a dedicated grant program and efforts to address adoption and digital literacy.

"With the leadership of Gov. Lee and support of the General Assembly, we are able to position rural Tennessee to compete on a level playing field," Rolfe said. "Since 2018, funds have been awarded to connect 34,000 Tennesseans to broadband, and we are proud that this round of funding will nearly double that amount."

## TML requests city contact information

We need help maintaining our database with the most up-to-date city information.

When COVID-19 began to sweep through our communities, we needed to disseminate information quickly and accurately. During that process, unfortunately, we found that we did not always have the most current contact information for city officials.

The TML staff has spent nu-

Agency	Coverage Area	Amount
Ben Lomond Connect	Cumberland County (partial)	\$2,000,000
BTC Fiber	Bledsoe County (partial)	\$1,500,000
Charter Communications (Spectrum)	Henderson County (partial)	\$140,433
Comcast	parts of Cheatham and Dickson counties	\$568,509
Fayetteville Public Utilities	Lincoln County (partial)	\$1,750,000
Forked Deer Electric Cooperative	parts of Haywood and Lauderdale counties	\$719,921
Gibson Electric Membership Corporation:	Obion County (partial)	\$703,518
HolstonConnect, LLC	Mooreburg	\$361,211
Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative	south Perry County	\$593,166
PVECFiber and Scott County Telephone Cooperative	Union County (partial)	\$1,908,811
SVEConnect	Battle Creek and South Pittsburg Mountain communities	\$1,654,882
Southwest Tennessee Electric Membership Cooperative	Brownsville	\$1,768,686
TEC	Buena Vista and McLemoresville	\$826,677
Tri-County Fiber Communications, LLC	Trousdale County (partial)	\$501,811
Twin Lakes Telephone Cooperative	parts of Fentress and Overton counties	\$1,406,000
United Communications	Eagleville	\$1,331,504
West Kentucky and Tennessee Telecommunications Cooperative	Weakley County (partial)	\$2,000,000

The 17 grant recipients demonstrated a high need for grant funding as well as the ability to implement and sustain the projects long-term with strong community support.

Grantees will provide \$29.8 million in matching funds to com-

plete the projects for a combined investment of \$49.5 million across the state in this third year of the program. Infrastructure should be built out with customers able to sign up for service within two years of receiving the grant funds.

merous hours on the phone with city halls across the state to ensure that we have the correct contact information.

We realize that with city elections, and new hires and employee turnover, that your city contacts are constantly changing. That is why, we are asking that you appoint one person on your city staff to be responsible for helping to make those updates. It would also be helpful



to have the phone number of the designated contact person.

We appreciate your help on this matter. Please send your updates to Jackie Gupton at [jgupton@TML1.org](mailto:jgupton@TML1.org), or Debbie Kluth at [dkluth@TML1.org](mailto:dkluth@TML1.org), by phone at 615-255-6416.



## CLASSIFIED ADS

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

### CITY MANAGER

**OAK HILL.** The city of Oak Hill (Pop. 4,700) is seeking a city management professional to be their next city manager. Oak Hill is located just a few miles south of downtown Nashville. The city manager is appointed and reports to a board comprised of commissioners popularly elected at-large to staggered, four-year terms of office. The city has a \$2.5M budget with 5 employees and several contracted services. Serving this satellite city is a unique and rewarding opportunity to be part of the greater Nashville community. Candidates should possess a bachelor's degree in public administration, business administration, or a field closely related to municipal management, with a master's degree in a related field preferred; and a minimum of 10 years of progressive, responsible management experience that includes experience in city management, planning, zoning and finance. Position profile is available at [www.oakhilltn.us](http://www.oakhilltn.us). Send cover letter and resume by electronic mail to the City of Oak Hill, Attention: Jeff Clawson (jeff.clawson@oakhilltn.us). Initial review of applications will occur by the first week of April. Position opened until filled. For additional information please contact: Jeff Clawson (jeff.clawson@oakhilltn.us) and/or Gary Jaeckel (gary.jaekel@tennessee.edu)

### COMMERCIAL PLANS REVIEWER

**GALLATIN.** The city of Gallatin is currently accepting applications for a commercial plans reviewer in the codes department. The purpose of this position is to perform intermediate technical work in the review of plans for commercial, industrial, and public facilities for compliance with building, plumbing, mechanical, gas piping and electrical codes, and other ordinances. Essential duties and responsibilities include: Performs field inspections of commercial, industrial, and public facilities for compliance with building, plumbing, mechanical, gas piping and electrical codes, and other ordinances. Conducts building and related inspections. Receives and investigates complaints regarding non-compliant construction and inspects existing buildings for hazardous conditions or systems failure. Must have State of Tennessee Certification as a Commercial Plans Reviewer and a valid driver's license. Interested candidates must apply on-line at [www.gallatintn.gov](http://www.gallatintn.gov) to be considered for this open position. Full job description will be available on-line. Under the How Do I tab, click on Employment Opportunities. Once the Employment page pulls up, click the apply button and follow the instructions.

### ELECTRIC UTILITY DIRECTOR

**SPRINGFIELD.** The city of Springfield is accepting applications for an electric utility director with Springfield Electric Department (SED) from April 7-May 8, 2020. Essential responsibilities include performing difficult and complex professional and administrative work planning and directing the activities of professional, technical, skilled, and semi-skilled employees in the construction, operation, and maintenance of a small municipal electric system. Bachelor's degree from an accredited four-year college or university with a major in electrical engineering, business administration, or related field required; minimum of five years of practical experience in electrical engineering and/or engineering management; minimum of 10 years of experience in supervision and administration. Master's degree in business administration preferred, or a combination of education and experience equivalent to the required knowledge and abilities. Special requirements:

registration as a professional engineer in the state of Tennessee desired. Applications may be submitted online at the following website: [www.springfield-tn.org](http://www.springfield-tn.org). Salary range: \$79,899 - \$109,966/YR. City of Springfield Personnel Department, 405 North Main Street, P.O. BOX 788, Springfield, TN 37172. EOE.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

**SHELBYVILLE.** The city of Shelbyville is accepting applications for the full-time position of economic development director. The economic development director will be responsible for developing and implementing the economic development plan for the city and county. This position is responsible for managing, supervising and coordinating the activities of the economic development program in attracting new industry, business and investments to the city of Shelbyville and Bedford County. The ideal candidate will have a minimum of a bachelor's degree in urban planning, public administration, business administration, real estate, economics, planning, economic development or related field. Applications and complete job description may be picked up at city hall during normal business hours or download from the city website: [www.shelbyvilletn.org](http://www.shelbyvilletn.org). Applications must be returned to City Hall Administration Office, 201 N. Spring Street no later than 4 p.m. on May 8. EOE/drug free workplace. Successful applicants are required to pass a background check, physical and drug screen.

### FINANCE DIRECTOR.

**NOLENSVILLE.** The town of Nolensville is seeking to hire a professional, qualified municipal accounting professional to serve as finance director. Under the general administrative direction of the mayor, the finance director directs financial and operational activities of the town in accounting, accounts payable, budgeting, cash management, information services, payroll, purchasing, and human resources/benefits administration. The ideal candidate is a highly professional, knowledgeable, confidential and ethical team player who can maintain diplomacy while executing his/her duties in an efficient and effective manner. Bachelor's degree in accounting or finance, 6-8 years of governmental accounting and human resource experience is required, or equivalent combination of education and experience. CMFO required, or must be willing to obtain CMFO certification within 18 months of hire. CPA preferred. Starting salary (minimum \$68,885) is dependent on qualifications. A complete job description and application are available on the town's website: <https://www.nolensvilletn.gov>. To be considered for this opportunity, please submit a resume and cover letter to Montique Luster, Town Recorder, at [mluster@nolensvilletn.gov](mailto:mluster@nolensvilletn.gov). Position is open until filled.

### PLANNING / ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

**ELIZABETHTON.** The city of Elizabethton is accepting applications for the director of planning and economic development. This position reports to the city manager and supervises the planning and building departments. This position is responsible for ensuring all planning & economic development functions are complete and goals are met by directing activities related to urban planning, zoning, building codes and community and economic development; recruits new retail businesses and revitalizes existing business corridors, manages, administers and coordinates grants obtained by the city and carries out other directions of the city manager. Minimum requirements: master's degree in urban planning, public administration, architecture, or a related field or be AICP certified; and a minimum of five years of progressively responsible planning experience with at least three

of those years being supervisory experience. Salary range: DOQ. Benefits: TCRS Retirement, Medical, Vision and Life Insurance. Apply at [elizabethton.org](http://elizabethton.org) - Job Openings. Applications accepted until the position is filled. EOE.

### POLICE CHIEF

**HENRY.** The city of Henry is accepting applications for the position of police chief. Candidates must be a high school graduate or GED equivalent. Candidates must currently be POST certified by the state of Tennessee. Candidates must pass a background check. This is a full-time position with benefits. Applications will be accepted until position is filled. A city application must accompany all resumes. <http://www.cityofhenry.com/wp-content/uploads/forms/cityofhenryjobapp.pdf>. The city of Henry is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Apply at Henry City Hall located at 1232 Pioneer Road.

### POLICE DISPATCHER

**SHELBYVILLE.** The Shelbyville Police Department will be accepting applications for full-time police dispatcher. Applicants must be 18 years of age and high school graduate or equivalent. Applications and a copy of job description may be picked up at city hall during normal business hours. Applications must be returned to City Hall Administration Office, 201 N. Spring Street, Shelbyville, TN, 37160, and will be accepted until position is filled. Applications and job descriptions can be picked up at city hall or downloaded from the city website: [www.shelbyvilletn.org](http://www.shelbyvilletn.org). EOE/drug free workplace. Successful applicants required to pass background check, physical, and drug screen.

### PROJECT MANAGER / CIVIL PLANS REVIEWER

**MT. JULIET.** The city of Mt. Juliet is seeking a full-time project manager/civil plans reviewer to assist the director and deputy director of public works and engineering in a variety of functions related to development services, general engineering, construction plans review, and the publication of manuals, specifications for the city of Mt. Juliet. Selected candidates will be required to complete pre-employment testing as deemed necessary by each specific position. Must hold a valid TN driver's license. Excellent benefits and TCRS Retirement; Salary DOQ. Detailed job descriptions and requirements are available online. Applications must be filed electronically and are available at the city's website, [www.mtjuliet-tn.gov](http://www.mtjuliet-tn.gov). This position will be open until filled. The city of Mt. Juliet reserves the right to stop accepting applications at any time. For questions, regarding the electronic application process, please call (615) 754-2552. EOE/Drug-free Workplace.

### LICENSED WATER PLANT OPERATOR/DISTRIBUTION

**BLUFF CITY.** The city is currently accepting applications for licensed water plant operator. Ability to immediately attend to issues on short notice day or night and work without supervision. Be a self-starter, good work ethics and well organized. Requirements: state of Tennessee Water Treatment 11 License and state of Tennessee Water Distribution 1 License. Computer skills - Word and Excel. Ability to troubleshoot mechanical, electrical and SCADA System associated with water treatment and distribution. Knowledge of sampling schedules. Good record keeping skills. Knowledge of laboratory procedures, water distribution system practices and procedures, and direct filtration Tonka plant with pressure clarifiers and filters. Part-time - no benefits. Full-time-benefits: health, dental and vision insurance, TCRS retirement plan, paid vacation, personal and sick days. Salary based on experience and education. Apply at Bluff City City Hall, 4391 Bluff City Highway, Bluff City, TN 37618 as soon as possible. Contact Irene Wells, mayor/city manager at 423-538-7144 or 423-612-0828, [bcmayor.citymanagerirenewells@gmail.com](mailto:bcmayor.citymanagerirenewells@gmail.com)

## New coronavirus aid extends SBA loans

See FUNDS on Page 7

to use their state and local money to deal with revenue losses," Schumer said at a press conference after the Senate vote. This would provide some relief to states and localities, as advocates have complained in recent weeks that the CARES Act funding could only be used to cover coronavirus-related spending.

The interim legislation increases funding to support struggling businesses through the now-depleted Paycheck Protection Program by \$320 billion, boost a separate economic disaster loan program by \$60 billion, and direct \$75 billion to hospitals.

Congress authorized the Paycheck Protection Program, which offers forgivable loans to small businesses under the agreement they do not lay off workers, through the CARES Act. But the Small Business Administration quickly burned through the original \$350 billion allocated to the program and ran out of money last week.

The program has come under fire in recent days, as critics noted that big national restaurant and hotel chains received large sums, while smaller businesses struggled to access the funding. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said Tuesday that large businesses would not be allowed to receive money through the fund and President Trump said he would ask large businesses that received money in the first go-round to return it.

Speaking on the Senate floor, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said the program is saving jobs and keeping people working.

"This is even more money than we had first requested," he said. "In the intervening time, and at our request, this new money puts a special focus on community banks and credit unions."

In addition to replenishing the program, the new legislation would require that \$60 billion be set aside specifically for "underbanked" businesses, those run by women and people of color and companies in rural areas. Schumer said the set

asides were necessary to ensure that minority and small businesses that do not have connections to prominent banks are able to obtain access to the program.

For state and local government leaders, the lack of new funding remained a sticking point. A coalition of seven state and local government associations called on Congress to "immediately provide robust, flexible relief" to state and local governments as part of the interim relief package.

After the Senate vote, Matthew Chase, executive director of the National Association of Counties, praised the Trump administration's commitment to local governments.

"As we move forward, we will work in a bipartisan fashion to ensure robust, direct and flexible funding for counties of all sizes in future relief packages," Chase said. "Investing in counties means investing in public health and local economies."

In a bid to address some of the difficulties that states have had in acquiring coronavirus tests, Trump met with New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo to discuss ways the federal government could help to double testing capacity in the next few weeks.

"The federal government will work along with the state and the national manufacturers and distributors to help them secure additional tests," Trump said. "We hope this model will work with the other states as well."

Elsewhere, states have acted on their own to secure additional coronavirus tests.

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan announced that his state had secured 500,000 tests through negotiations with South Korea. Hogan accepted an offer from Trump to allow the state to use federal labs to process the state's test results.

"These federal labs can be key to our utilizing the 500,000 tests we recently acquired from South Korea and our comprehensive recovery plan to get Marylanders back to work as safely and quickly as possible," Hogan wrote.

## Gov. Lee makes plans to reopen TN economy

REOPEN from Page 1

day, April 27, at 50 percent occupancy. Additionally, Tennessee retailers are able to reopen on Wednesday, April 29, at 50 percent occupancy. The state recommends that employees in both industries wear cloth face coverings and that business owners follow federal guidelines for hygiene and workplace sanitation standards related to the pandemic. The full guidance offered by the state for both sectors can be found here, <https://www.tn.gov/governor/covid-19/economic-recovery.html>.

"Like the rest of the country, Tennessee has taken an unprecedented economic hit with families and small businesses feeling the most pain," Lee said. "We must stay vigilant as a state, continue to practice social distancing, and engage in best practices at our businesses so that we can stay open."

Lee's administration assembled the Tennessee Economic Recovery Group, pulling together the state's departments of tourism, economic

development, revenue, members of the Tennessee General Assembly, and business leaders to safely reboot Tennessee's economy. The group is chaired by Tennessee Department of Tourist Development Commissioner Mark Ezell.

Ezell said the state's guidelines for restaurants and retail stores were developed in cooperation with business leaders in both sectors, mayors from across the state, and members of the legislature and health experts, as well as Unified Command which includes the Tennessee Department of Health. He added the reopening of future sectors would be accomplished with similar input from industry leaders and elected officials.

"We need Tennessee businesses, workers, and consumers to step up and pledge to follow these guidelines," Ezell said. "It is critically important that we maintain our commitment to social distancing and adhere to these new guidelines so that we can continue to reopen our economy."



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# Covid-19 serves major blow to economy, economists project state, nation heading into deep recession

**ECONOMY**, from Page 1

National Association of Counties, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors jointly requested an allocation of at least \$250 billion to go to all cities and towns regardless of size. Finally, MTAS's recent state shared revenue projections suggest lower year over year per capita allocations, but as of this time the estimates do not have post-viral spread data. Cities and towns should cautiously estimate state shared revenues until more data becomes available.

Cities and towns rely on the property tax, local option sales tax, business tax, hotel-motel tax, beer tax, and fuel taxes as local sources to fund operations. Going forward, this summary will evaluate these local sources in more depth; however, little relevant data exists today. Below is a quick review of budgeting and tax revenues by source:

**Budgeting** - Currently, we know that the two largest sources of local government revenues will be influenced by a time-lag issue that may both help and harm budget planning. Sales tax receipts are delayed multiple months due to the accrual method. So, the sales tax revenue impact of social distancing and stay-at-home orders will not be noticed in collections reports until May. This delay could require cities and towns to pass budgets projecting an entire fiscal year without any relevant sales tax data. In many instances, the local property tax has been collected for the current year and thus will not be due again until early 2021. This delay may help local government budgets as some economists anticipate economic recovery will be underway by the time property

taxes are due again. However, to the extent a local government has not collected property tax or has delinquencies then they should plan budgets based on pessimistic scenarios.

**Property Tax** - The property tax is generally the most stable source of local revenue. Currently, there is not enough data to suggest wide-spread foreclosures or tax delinquencies similar to the 2008 Great Recession; however, the unemployment projections, potential for business failures, layoffs, furloughs and other employment scenarios could result in real liquidity problems for a far greater share of households and businesses than normal. This may impact future collections and property sales. In addition, local governments might find it prudent to anticipate higher than normal property tax delinquencies in 2021.

**Sales Tax** - The sales tax will be impacted on multiple fronts by behavior migration. Purchasing behavior has migrated from in-person, brick and mortar sales to internet-based sales and deliveries. This will impact situs collections for governments that depend on traditional brick- and-mortar sales. In addition, types of purchases have migrated away from discretionary and entertainment. The advance estimates of retail sales from the U.S. Census Bureau indicate that March sales of food and beverage were up 28%, while clothing fell more than 50% and auto sales dropped more than 25%. It should be noted that business to business transactions account for nearly one-third of sales tax revenues. The supply chain disruptions from the virus and subsequent actions to reduce the spread will likely impact all segments of the supply chain and reduce purchasing behavior. This reduction will occur in phases as businesses that supply

other businesses gradually reduce or cease activity. More information on business outlook and sentiment can be found in the Macro-economic section.

**Business Tax** - The local business tax on gross receipts will likely move similarly to the sales tax revenues. In addition the filing deadline was moved from April 15 to June 15, 2020. This will naturally delay cash flow for two months, and may also ultimately reduce total collections to the extent that a business chooses to close entirely. Local governments should estimate business tax revenues with extreme caution. More information on business outlook and sentiment can be found in the Macro-economic section.

**Hotel-Motel Tax** - The tourism and lodging industry has effectively halted. At this time, the most current occupancy rates are from the week of March 14. This was immediately prior to widespread infections; however, global hospitality research firm STR data for that week indicated a 24.4% reduction in occupancy down to 53%. Anecdotal evidence now suggests occupancy rates in the single digits. This would suggest anywhere between three months to a half of a year of single digit percentage collections relative to the prior year.

**Motor Fuel Taxes** (Gasoline & Diesel) - Fuel taxes are paid at the wholesale level based on the gallons purchased and remitted to the state and local governments. As the tax is based on the gallons consumed, fuel prices only impact revenues to the extent the prices change consumption behavior. The recent reduction in prices was concurrent with the Stay-at-Home order and business closures so fuel prices may not have led to increased gallonage consumption.

It should be noted that the Tennessee Department of Transportation found traffic volume has fallen nearly 50% since the beginning of April.

## Macro-economic Commentary

According to the Federal Reserve Beige Book for April 2020, economic activity contracted sharply and abruptly, and employment declined steeply across all regions of the U.S.. As previously discussed, newly filed unemployment claims for the nation exceeded 20 million over the last four weeks. In addition, retail sales fell 8.7% in March. The largest decline on record. Wall Street Journal economists anticipate a larger retail sales decline in April since business closures did not begin until the end of March.

The impact of the virus and the subsequent actions to control the spread have led to wide and varying employment estimates for the coming year. Unemployment rates may reach extremely high percentages with some estimates exceeding 30% depending on your community's economic composition. In addition, relaxing social distancing and stay-at-home actions may lead to a second wave of infections that could lead to another employment reduction and thus additional economic loss. Recent reports suggest employment may not return to current levels until 2022.

The Philadelphia Federal Reserve conducted a special weekly business outlook survey for the week ended April 5 to measure business sentiment on COVID-19. This survey found that 61% of responding firms reported a greater than 5% reduction in new orders, 25% of non-manufacturing firms have closed, almost 60% of firms have laid-off or furloughed workers, almost three-quarters have applied for or inquired about SBA loans to cover revenue shortfalls, nearly 86% of responding firms are concerned about adequate cash flows, 81% are concerned about customers paying them, and nearly two-thirds are concerned about maintaining solvency.

According to the UT-Knoxville Howard Baker Center for Public Policy, the most severe economic disruptions will likely occur in urban areas. Economies that depend on tourism should prepare for very significant loss. In addition, the Brookings Institute suggests that governments reliant on more elastic sources of revenue (sales) and/or the aforementioned high-risk industries will be more heavily impacted. Finally, economists disagree on recovery prospects. Some economists suggest a V-shape, or quick recovery; some suggest a U-shape or slower recovery; some suggest a W-shape or double-dip recovery, recession, recovery; and some even suggest a L-shape, or severe recession without a return to trend line growth.

More data will provide more clarity in the coming weeks and months. The only thing that is for certain is that we have not experienced the end of the economic concerns.

## NATIONAL BRIEFS



**One fourth of American workers expect to be laid off in the next year, the highest ever recorded in 45 years.** A new Gallup poll found that a record-high 25% of American workers expect to lose their jobs within the year, one full year after Gallup reported a record-low rate of 8% in response to the same question. Of the quarter of American workers anticipating layoffs, 9% report losing their job is "very likely and 16% said it is "fairly likely." The survey was conducted April 1-14 when more than 20 million U.S. workers filed for unemployment benefits.

**More than 4.4 million Americans filed claims for unemployment insurance the week of April 12-18.** A total of 4,427,000 million Americans applied for jobless benefits for the first time, falling by rough-

ly 800,000 from a revised total of 5,237,000 jobless claims in the prior week. Claims for jobless benefits have reached record-high during the COVID-19 pandemic. More than 26 million Americans have applied for their first round of unemployment insurance since March with more than 6 million people filing claims the last week of March alone. Millions more are expected to have lost their jobs but have been unable to apply or disqualified from receiving jobless benefits. The near real-time unemployment rate has increased to a minimum of 21.1%.

**The COVID-19 pandemic's economic impact on the U.S. travel industry is expected to be nine times of that of 9/11 with a decline of 45% expected for the entire year.** The study conducted by Oxford Economics found that travel industry losses will have resulted in a cumulative GDP loss of \$651 billion to the U.S. economy with a decline of \$80 billion in taxes as a

direct result of travel declines. The U.S. economy is also predicted to lose 8 million jobs by the end of April 2020 alone as the result of travel declines with travel-related employment losses alone driving the unemployment rate nationwide up to 8.4% by the end of April.

**More than half of Americans have reduced their spending as the result of the COVID-19 outbreak.** A new report from financial planning website Bankrate.com found that 52% of U.S. adults have intentionally reduced their spending as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Of the more than half of Americans who cut their spending, 47% said they did so because of concerns about the economy while 15% said they did so because of concerns related to the stock market. Those in higher earning brackets were the most likely to cut their spending while Millennials and Gen Xers were the age groups most likely to cut their spending.

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# Back Alley Paris project highlights history of the city’s downtown buildings

BY DR. BRIDGET JONES  
*jones-bridget consulting group*

Enhancement Grant.

## BACK ALLEY PARIS PROJECT

Paris, located in Henry County, has been described as the architectural and cultural gem of northern West Tennessee.

Anchored by the 1896 Henry County Courthouse, the Paris courthouse square is surrounded by well-maintained buildings and storefronts from the early 1900s. Paris and Henry County are fortunate to have a strong tourism trade that brings thousands of visitors each year to the downtown and nearby Kentucky Lake.

Henry and surrounding counties also have many full- and part-time lake residents that also come to downtown Paris for dining, shopping and services. Home to the World’s Biggest Fish Fry, Paris is a regional destination that plays a significant role in West Tennessee’s tourism economy.

Paris has long recognized the importance of maintaining a vibrant downtown, and a coalition of city and county government leaders, property owners, life-long downtown advocates, and merchants have dedicated time and resources toward this goal.

Today, the Downtown Paris Association (DPA) is the community’s Main Street organization comprised of business and community leaders that continue these efforts. The DPA works with property owners and merchants to maintain and renovate properties and actively supports both city and county government leaders in promotions and infrastructure projects.

Over the years, Paris downtown leaders have preserved and enhanced their historic buildings and public spaces in order to attract new investments, businesses, residents and tourism revenues. In 1988, the Paris Commercial Historic District was added to the National Register of Historic Places. Since the mid-1990s, the city of Paris has worked to revitalize the physical infrastructure of the downtown including replacing sidewalks and curbs with handicap accessible brick accented sidewalks with plantings, period lighting and installing underground utilities lines and services.

### DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT

In 2010, Paris was accepted to the Tennessee Downtowns program, and in 2016 community leaders took the step to become a nationally accredited Main Street community.

Since that time, Paris Main Street leaders have participated in training, strategic planning and grant opportunities offered through TNECD’s Tennessee Main Street program to revitalize their downtown district including a Façade Improvement Grant and a Tourism

Historic buildings in downtown Paris adjacent to the city’s alleyways were experiencing issues with flooding in basements. City leaders began to work to address the drainage issues in order to protect and prolong the life of the historic structures. The city evaluated the situation and decided to take numerous steps to not only make repairs to alleviate the flooding but also address other issues.

In 2013, the city of Paris received funding from the Tennessee Arts Commission (TCA) Arts Build Communities to begin the Back Alley Paris project that has repaired and revitalized important infrastructure and created new public art within the downtown district.

This project has allowed the city to alleviate serious drainage issues and transform four downtown alleys into functional, attractive and educational arts venues. The project has also fulfilled important economic development objectives including constructing new restroom facilities for shoppers and tourists.

In 2016, construction began after extensive planning and coordination involving multiple stakeholders to ensure the project had as little negative impact as possible on local businesses. In addition to repairing the drain pipes, the city carefully removed old asphalt and replaced paving in the alleys, removed obsolete overhead wires, repaired utilities and installed a storm system where drainage is filtered by a chamber system at an off-site vacant parcel.

The project also provided the opportunity to upgrade utilities beyond the water and sewer system, allowing for the repair or replacement of electric, gas, cable, and telephone systems in buried conduit to allow easy future access. The alleyways were resurfaced using pavers that improved the appearance and ease of future repairs.

The city and DPA had begun the Back Alley Paris art project in the alleyways prior to construction of the infrastructure improvements. The art development phase incorporated art and history into the alleyways making them an outdoor museum with murals depicting local history and culture using the buildings as a canvas.

Murals that depict an event or person, along with a plaque providing a narrative or story, are presented as each alleyway is completed. To support visitor experiences, DPA leaders have created a mobile app that provides a narrated walking tour of art displays and features in the downtown and other community points of interest.



Officials cut the ribbon on local artist Dan Knowles addition to the Back Alley Paris project. Knowles completed four murals together measuring 40 feet titled “Electricity: A River Cycle.” Together, the murals tell the story of how the Tennessee Valley Authority brought electricity to Paris and surrounding communities through the creation of Kentucky Lake as well as how the lake’s history is intertwined with the city. Fittingly, the mural is located next to the Paris Board of Public Utilities.

### COMMUNITY IMPACT

The Back Alley Paris project provides for a partnership with the local school system that brings students downtown to educate them on the community’s heritage. The stories in the alleys open doors for the community to tell its history and create a place of learning and pride. The alleyways also provide new commissions and venues for local artists and art events that support art-related businesses.

The Back Alley Paris project has increased the number of events, community partnerships, educational and art venues. First year program results include :

Community Arts Festivals and Events	5
Community Education Events	5
Total Arts Festivals and Event Attendance	750
Total Student Attendance	200
Paris Walking Tour App Users	860
Local Artists Commissioned	5
Historic Structures Protected	31

### PROJECT FUNDING

<b>TOTAL BACK ALLEY PROJECT FUNDING</b>	<b>\$312,000*</b>
*Projections for local investments, contributions, grant funding	
Tennessee Arts Commission Grant and DPA Match (artist stipends and materials)	\$20,000
TNECD Tourism Grant and City of Paris Match (restrooms)	\$47,000
City of Paris Capital Investment (infrastructure, engineering, materials, staffing)	\$244,000
Private Contributions (artist stipends)	\$1000

### PROJECT LEADERS AND PARTNERS

- City of Paris
- Downtown Paris Association
- Tennessee Arts Commission
- Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development
- Henry County and Paris City School Districts
- Tennessee River Arts League
- Robert E. Lee Academy for the Arts

For project contact visit the City of Paris and Downtown Paris Association.

### TENNESSEE MAIN STREET and TOURISM ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMS

*Downtown revitalization is a critical component of successful rural economic and community development. The Tennessee Main Street program helps communities revitalize their downtown districts and improve their assets for increased small business and tourism-related economic impact. Tourism is one of the largest industries and most important economic drivers in Tennessee. The Tennessee Main Street and the Tourism Enhancement Grant programs can work together to help communities revitalize their downtown districts and improve their tourism assets for increased tourism-related economic development through the Governor’s Rural Task Force and Tennessee Rural Economic Opportunity Act of 2016 and 2017. For more information visit the TNECD Tennessee Main Street and TDTD Tourism Enhancement Grant Programs.*

*The Tennessee Arts Commission Arts Build Communities (ABC) grant program is designed to provide support for arts projects that broaden access to arts experiences, address community quality of life issues through the arts, or enhance the sustainability of asset-based cultural enterprises. For more information visit the Tennessee Arts Commission program.*

*For more information visit TNECD Community and Rural Development.*



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