

TML Annual Conference Aug. 13-16

See you in Gatlinburg!

We are pleased and proud that you have selected our city for the 82nd Tennessee Municipal League Annual Conference.

We are extremely blessed here in Gatlinburg and we trust that you will feel just as blessed during your stay with us. Our city is surrounded on three sides by the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and our visitors and residents have access to 800 square miles of natural beauty. You can enjoy our magnificent waterfalls, hike our trails, fish for trout, and enjoy some of the most stunning views in the world. There is no doubt why the Smokies draw in excess of 12 million visitors annually, making it by far the most visited National Park in the country.

We encourage you to sample the great outdoors, then retreat to our downtown, where you will find entertainment, attractions, shopping, a variety of eateries and dining options. You can experience the walkability of the Parkway or hop aboard a trolley to easily reach another section of town.

Named in 2021 as the nation's top trending destination by TripAdvisor and as America's Best Mountain Town to Visit by *US News & World Report*, Gatlinburg provides ample opportunity for entertainment, shopping and dining. You can enjoy attractions from miniature golf, museums and motion rides or dine at one of our city's many restaurants. You can see the bottom of the ocean at Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies, recently named the top aquarium in the country by *USA Today*, or check out the views and touch the sky at Anakeesta, Ober Gatlinburg or the SkyBridge, the longest suspension bridge in America.

Much of our city's early heritage featured some of the world's best craftsmen, which helped make Gatlinburg a tourist destination nearly a century ago. The Great Smoky Arts and Crafts Community showcases traditional Appalachian arts and crafts. The eight-mile loop of shops is the longest continually



Mike Werner
Gatlinburg Mayor

operating craft community in the country.

Gatlinburg's Convention Center and W.L. Mills Conference Center has earned the reputation as one of the finest in the country, and hosts hundreds of events each year. The city is also home to Rocky Top Sports World, one of the country's top sports tournament destination complexes, where thousands of athletes come to compete in a multitude of sports on the 80-acre complex.

The city is also home to three community parks: Herbert Holt, Mynatt and Mills, along with a full-service Community Center. In these facilities, families enjoy a wide range of activities including picnic areas, playgrounds, fishing, tennis, disc golf, swimming and bowling. We stock our streams with trout once a week from April through November, courtesy of our city owned and operated trout farm, the only such municipal operation in the state of Tennessee.

Again, we are thrilled that you have chosen our city for the TML Annual Conference and look forward to serving you during your stay. We believe that you will come to love Gatlinburg and our many blessings as much as we do!

Sincerely,

Mike Werner
Gatlinburg Mayor

TMBF celebrates milestone

The Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF) recently passed a major milestone of \$5 billion in total lending. Since inception, TMBF has closed more than 1,650 loans. The TMBF was created by the TML Board of Directors in 1986 to provide municipalities in Tennessee with low-cost funds. It began by offering a pooled variable rate loan program as well as an alternative loan program, and has since expanded its operations to include both fixed rate and variable rate loan options.

TMBF was created for the sole purpose of saving cities and towns money. To date, the TMBF programs have saved cities and counties more than \$710 million in interest costs alone.

"We work hard every day to fulfill TMBF's commitment to providing your community with the loans you need at the lowest cost so that you can create opportunities for your communities to grow," said Wade Morrell, President and CEO of the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund.

TMBF offers both a fixed-rate, and a variable-rate loan option with a draw feature where a borrower only pays interest on the amount drawn as projects are completed. TMBF has also added several new banks into their program bring the total number of banks providing internal competition on their loans to nearly 20 banks.

"We could not have done this without all the hard work of our dedicated board members and our extraordinary staff," Morrell commented. "They work hard every day to make sure that we are providing you the best service and the loan options you want at the best price. We have added a number of new banks over the last several years in an effort to get our borrowers the lowest cost of funds



Wade Morrell,
TMBF President / CEO

that we can find."

TMBF feels that a valuable part of its job is maintaining great relationships with all municipal officials. This is a practice we have strived to create for more than 35 years.

"When we look at the number of repeat borrowers, we get a renewed sense of dedication that makes us work harder every day to prove that the faith these communities have placed in us is not unfounded," Morrell said. "I sincerely appreciate our partnership with the Tennessee Municipal League under the leadership of Executive Director Anthony Haynes, and our relationship with all cities and towns in this great state."

Morrell stated that he is excited about the future of TMBF.

"We offer many features and advantages that can save you money. We believe strongly in maintaining your local control. All we ask is that you give us a chance to provide you with options so you can choose what you feel is best for your own community. We were created by you, for you, and our board of directors is composed of municipal officials. We are always here for you."

Martin, Ogles secure nominations; Incumbents upset in House races



Maury County Mayor Andy Ogles was the victor in the contentious U.S. House District 5 Republican Primary. Ogles fended off former Tennessee Speaker of the House Beth Harwell and retired Brig. Gen. Kurt Winstead in the race between nine candidates.

By KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

Tennesseans went to the polls in August primary elections to decide leadership in the state General Assembly, partisan races for Congressional seats, and nominations for governor.

Incumbent Bill Lee was the only Republican on the ballot for governor. Lee will face off against Democrat Dr. Jason Martin in November. Martin fended off fellow challengers Carnita Atwater and sitting Memphis Councilman J.B. Smiley, both of Memphis, with Martin taking 40% of the vote.

Tennesseans also set general election challenges for the state's nine congressional districts. Perhaps the most contested of these is the U.S. House District 5 Republi-

can Primary where Maury County Mayor Andy Ogles triumphed from a field of nine candidates that included former Tennessee Speaker of the House Beth Harwell and retired Brig. Gen. Kurt Winstead. Ogles face off against Democrat and Tennessee State Sen. Heidi Campbell, who was unopposed in her primary. The U.S. House District 5 seat for Tennessee was previously held by U.S. Rep. Jim Cooper, who announced he would not seek re-election following re-districting.

For the Tennessee State Senate, there were 17 races overall, but five were completely uncontested and another six had no primary contestants. As a result, only six races had primaries where candidates needed to be set for the November general election.

Five incumbent candidates will definitely be returning to the Senate as their race has no opposition in either August or November: Bo Watson, R-Hixson; Paul Bailey, R-Sparta; Mark Pody, R-Lebanon; Kerry Roberts, R-Springfield; and Raumesh Akbari, D-Memphis.

At least three new faces will join the Senate in January with no incumbents running for seats in Districts 1, 18, and 31.

While all 99 house districts had seats on the ballot, 42 of those races were completely uncontested and another 26 races had no challenger for the August primary. As a result, only 30 races had at least one party primary with a contestant in August. There will also be at least a dozen new faces in the House in January with no incumbents run-
See ELECTIONS on Page 11



Dr. Jason Martin won the Democratic Primary in the race for Tennessee governor. He will face incumbent Bill Lee in the November election.

Municipal elections held in 80 cities

By KATE COIL

Citizens in 80 municipalities across Tennessee went to the polls on Aug. 4, 2022, to decide local town and city races in addition to state and federal primary elections.

Charlotte will have its first new mayor in 30 years while Greeneville and Sparta both elected their first new mayors in 12 years.

In addition to mayors, councilmembers, aldermen, and commissioners, voters also selected city judges, court clerks, and city recorders.

With state and federal general elections scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 8, another 195 municipal elections will also be held later in the fall.

ALEXANDRIA

Newcomer Lloyd D. Dyer garnered 101 votes to defeat fellow challeng-

er Jana Beth Tripp's 47 in the Alexandria mayor's race. Incumbent mayor Bennett Armstrong did not seek re-election.

No candidate qualified for the three open, unexpired terms aldermen terms.

However, Curtis J. Rutter ran unopposed and was elected to the single expired term with 86 votes.

ALGOOD

Incumbent Lisa Chapman-Fowler ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Algood with 370 votes.

In the city council race, incumbents Billy Bilbrey and Ruby Hawkins retained their seats over challengers Tim McPherson and Loyd Norris.

Bilbrey led the vote total with 259 followed by Hawkins with 242, McPherson with 159, and Norris with 151.

ARLINGTON

Incumbent Oscar L. Brooks defeated challenger Jordan D. Hinders 1,643 to 970 in the Position 4 Alderman seat in Arlington. Incumbent Harry McKee also defeated challenger Steve Smith 1,702 to 1,091 in the Position 5 race. Incumbent Position 6 Alderman Jeremy Biggs ran unopposed and earned 2,461 votes.

ASHLAND CITY

Incumbent town judge James W. "Bill" Stinnett Jr. ran unopposed and was re-elected with 367 votes.

BAILEYTON

Incumbent Andy Pierce ran unopposed for one of the two open alderman seats in Baileyton, earning 43 votes.

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State-Shared Revenue projections use multi-year analysis in determining per capita amounts

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 (MTAS) tracks monthly revenues reported by the Tennessee Department of Revenue and uses those along with estimates to forecast what cities may expect to receive in the coming fiscal year.

The estimates shown below

	2020-2021 Per Capita Amount	2021 - 2022 Per Capita Amount	2022 - 2023 Per Capita Amount
General Fund			
State Sales Tax	\$102.70	\$112.35	\$112.00
State Beer Tax	0.48	0.47	0.47
Special Petroleum Products Tax	1.99	1.83	1.83
Gross Receipts Tax (TVA in lieu of taxes)	11.43	10.38	10.50
Sports Betting (Gaming)	0.37	1.91	1.90
Total General Fund Revenue	\$116.97	\$126.94	\$126.70
State Street Aid Funds			
Gasoline & Motor Fuel Taxes	\$36.00	\$35.00	\$35.00

include actual receipts for 2020-21, as well as actual receipts for the 2021-22 fiscal year using state provided numbers.

The reader should be aware that the old population numbers were used for distribution for the first 3 months of FY 2021-22, and the new population numbers were used for the remainder of the fiscal year. FY 2022-23 poses several challenges in forecasting including the effects of the COVID-19 virus, inflation at +/- 9% and very high fuel prices that affect almost every facet of our economy and budgets.

Total state sales tax dollars increased 16.53% and gas and motor fuel taxes increased 5.22% for 2021-22 the current fiscal year, but new census numbers cause the per capita amounts to reflect smaller increases.

This is a useful tool in budgeting and projecting revenues, but a multi-year trend analysis should also be prepared to assist in determining the appropriate estimates going forward. Each city's population changed with the 2020 census and that will have as much of an impact as overall collections.

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



BRENTWOOD

Highland Ventures Ltd., has announced they are relocating their headquarters from Glenview, Ill., to Brentwood, investing \$8.2 million and creating 80 new jobs in the next five years. Located at 209 Powell Place, Highland Ventures' new Tennessee headquarters will serve as the business hub for the company's well-known brands: Family Veterinary Group, Marco's Pizza, Stay Fit 24, Highland Pure Water & Ice, and Legacy Commercial Property. Founded in 1984, Highland Ventures Ltd. is a holding company to top brands in the restaurant, fitness, video rental and commercial real estate industries. Today, the company employs roughly 2,500 people across the country.

BRISTOL

Tennessee Hills Distillery officials announced the company will invest \$21.3 million to expand in Northeast Tennessee by adding a Bristol location to serve as the company's new headquarters. The new location will join Tennessee Hills Distillery's two existing operations in Jonesborough and Johnson City. Through the project, Tennessee Hills Distillery will create 45 new jobs over the next five years as the company constructs an automated distillery, which will be housed in the company's new headquarters on nearly nine acres off Highway 11 West. The distillery's new headquarters will not only specialize in highly automated distilling and packaging but will also house a museum highlighting the history of Tennessee whiskey, NASCAR, music and the distilling process. Once complete, the 35,000-square-foot facility is anticipated to be the fourth largest automated plant in Tennessee. Founded in Jonesborough, and a subsidiary of Rugged American Spirits, Tennessee Hills Distillery, has been part of the Sullivan and Washington County communities since 2014. The company is well-known for establishing its first distillery in a historic salt house in Tennessee's oldest town and for partnering with East Tennessee State University to build a brewing and distillation sciences program. With the addition of 45 new jobs in Bristol, the distillery will more than double its employee headcount.

CHATTANOOGA

The city of Chattanooga is one of five governments across the nation selected to participate in the inaugural Putting Assets to Work Incubator Program. The program is described as "a selective new initiative that will revitalize and recirculate underutilized property and other assets to drive prosperity across the city." The Putting Assets to Work Incubator is a new initiative spearheaded by former Mayor and U.S. Rep. Ben McAdams, in partnership with the Sorenson Impact Center, Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), and Urban3. The city of Chattanooga will take more than 650 underutilized parcels totaling more than 2,500 acres and leverage them toward better use, including properties ranging surplus tax sale properties to difficult-to-develop brownfields. After 10 months of mapping and planning for these properties, the city will then use these assets to create homes and jobs while retaining public ownership. Chattanooga was selected from a competitive application process for the program along with Annapolis, Md.; Atlanta

CHATTANOOGA

The Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport will share in nearly \$1 billion in funds from the federal bipartisan Infrastructure Law to improve airport terminals across the country. The Chattanooga airport will receive \$5 million for the first phase of a terminal expansion project that will increase the airport's second level by nearly 27,000 square feet. The expansion will allow for two new gates, a gate expansion, a new set of restrooms, additional room for passenger queuing, a hold room, and circulation space. The new phase will also reorient the TSA checkpoint at the airport, allowing for an additional screening lane. The project will increase terminal capacity, improve ADA accessibility, increase energy efficiency, promote airline competition, and create jobs.

CHARLESTON

Wacker officials have announced the company will expand its presence in Tennessee with the addition of new silicone production facilities in Charleston. A feasibility study is currently underway for the first step of the company's plans to expand production within its existing campus in Charleston. The expansion would involve a phased investment of more than \$200 million over several years and create more than 200 new jobs, adding to Wacker-Charleston's existing workforce of 700. This is the second major expansion the global chemical R&D and manufacturing company will make in the region since creating a major manufacturing footprint in Charleston eight years ago. The decision aligns with announcements Wacker made earlier this year about further expanding capacity in the regions where its customers operate.

ELIZABETHTON

The Elizabethton City Council has approved a land lease that will expand the Hampton Watershed Trails property by 52.75 acres. Doe River Gorge has agreed to a five-year lease with the city for a parcel adjoining the watershed land. The lease comes without fees and can be renewed for an additional five years. The trail system is a primary recreational project in the area, bringing mountain bikers and hikers into the region. The lease agreement will allow the further expansion of this trail system, which is done in partnership with Elizabethton, Carter County, the Doe River Gorge, and Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association (SORBA) of the Tri-Cities. The watershed supplies about 54% of Elizabethton's water. At present, five miles of trails are available following the first phase of construction on the site. Future plans hope to connect the watershed trails to the Tweetsie Trail and the Tannery Knobs Bike Park in Johnson City.

FARRAGUT

The Farragut Museum has received a \$500 historic preservation grant from the Knoxville Civil War Roundtable (KCWRT) to purchase and install interpretive signage on the planned Virtue Road Greenway site. The site is the former home of the Virtue Mill where the 17th Michigan Volunteer Regiment took a stand against Confederate forces on Nov. 16, 1863, as part of the Battle of Campbell Station. The Dot Kelley Preservation Grant awarded to the city is from a fund established in 2015. The Farragut Museum works to preserve the heritage of the community and features a remarkable collection of artifacts from the area, including an extensive collection of personal belongings of the town's namesake, Admiral David Glasgow Farragut. A hero of the Civil War and first admiral of the U.S. Navy, Farragut grew up in the area that would eventually bear his name. The museum is housed within Farragut Town Hall.

CLARKSVILLE

VK Integrated Systems (VKIS) announced the company will invest \$840,000 to relocate its manufacturing operations from Fullerton, Calif., to Clarksville. VKIS will create 34 new jobs as the company completes construction on a new facility at 40 International Blvd. in the Corporate Business Park. Accompanying the announcement, VKIS officials also broke ground on the new Clarksville site. Through this project, VKIS' manufacturing sector will join the company's headquarters and research and development operations, which were relocated to Tennessee in 2019. All three facets of the company will be housed at the International Boulevard location once construction is complete. VK Integrated Systems specializes in research and development as well as the manufacturing of hardware, software and supporting architecture for handheld weapons systems. The company has been manufacturing, assembling, programming, firing and delivering data from rifles with integrated systems since its founding in 2014.

MADISONVILLE

Madisonville has joined 42 other cities across Tennessee to receive

Cleveland cuts ribbon on sidewalk connectivity project



Cleveland Mayor Kevin Brooks, Cleveland City Council members, residents of the Blythe-Oldfield community, and other community leaders cut the ribbon on the new Blythe-to-Blythe sidewalk connectivity project. The 1.95 miles of new walkways connect Avery Johnson Park, the Blythe-Bower Elementary School, Blythe Oldfield Park, the Family Resource Center, and numerous residences. Funding of this project was from \$124,000 CDBG grant funds and \$450,000 from Diabetes grant funds from the Tennessee Department of Health as well as funding for the master plan, survey, and design from the Lyndhurst Foundation.

USPS to launch new elephant-themed stamp at Hohenwald animal sanctuary



Hohenwald's Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee will be commemorated by the United States Postal Service (USPS) with a Forever stamp titled "Elephants." Designed by Rafael Lopez, the digitally illustrated elephant design honors both the elephants at the sanctuary and the work done by the sanctuary for the species. The stamp will be launched at an Issue Dedication Ceremony at the Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee on World Elephant Day, Aug. 12. Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee has also granted a certificate of recognition for the event and in honor of the sanctuary's work. For more information about the Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee and the stamp, visit <https://www.elephants.com/>.

Tennessee Main Street accreditation. Madisonville, the county seat of Monroe County in Southeast Tennessee, has become the 43rd municipality to be accredited through the state program and Main Street America, a program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The Main Street Program provides training, support and grant opportunities to assist in downtown revitalization efforts. The program will focus on adaptive reuse of historic commercial buildings for community events and economic vitality. The Tennessee Main Street Program requires communities to illustrate a commitment from local government and other local organizations, an adequate organizational budget, a strong historic preservation ethic, a collection of historic commercial buildings and a walkable district.

MUNFORD

The Munford Board of Mayor and Aldermen unanimously voted to purchase a property owned by First Citizens National Bank to turn into a Veterans Plaza. The property at the southeast corner of Munford Avenue and Tipton Street will serve as an outdoor space with a stage, farmers' market, and bathrooms. The city will purchase the property, which includes a building with a drive-thru, for \$127,000 at 0% interest rate for 10 years. A federal grant not exceeding \$500,000 and matching city dollars will fund the plaza project.

NASHVILLE

Toast, Inc., an all-in-one digital platform built for restaurants, will establish its new configuration fa-

cility in the Antioch section of Nashville. Founded and headquartered in Boston, Toast plans to create more than 100 new jobs over the next five years in the greater Nashville region. Toast's new configuration center will support the company's fulfillment, shipping, inventory management and national distribution of its hardware. Toast is a cloud-based, end-to-end technology platform that serves the restaurant industry as an operating system, connecting the front-of-house and back-of-house operations across dine-in, takeout and delivery channels. As of March 31, approximately 62,000 restaurant locations use Toast's all-in-one digital platform to help streamline operations, increase revenue and deliver amazing guest experiences.

PULASKI

U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) is awarding a \$640,000 grant to the city of Pulaski for construction of a new water boosting station and related materials to support the Dan Speer Industrial Park South. This grant is funded by the American Rescue Plan. This project will deliver safe, potable water to local businesses while attracting others to the region. The EDA investment will be matched with \$160,000 in local funds and is expected to create 81 jobs, retain 13 jobs and generate \$8.5 million in private investment, according to grantee estimates. This project was made possible by the regional planning efforts led by the South Central Tennessee Development District (SCTDD). EDA funds SCTDD to bring together the public and private sectors to create an economic devel-

opment roadmap to strengthen the regional economy, support private capital investment and create jobs. This project is funded under EDA's American Rescue Plan Economic Adjustment Assistance program, which makes \$500 million in Economic Adjustment Assistance grants available to American communities.

SHELBYVILLE

Duksan Electera America, Inc. officials announced the company will invest \$95 million to locate its first North American manufacturing facility in Shelbyville. A branch of South Korean-based Duksan Group, Duksan Electera will create 101 new jobs in Bedford County over the next five years as the company constructs a new facility at 210 Frank Martin Road. As an electrolyte manufacturer for the electric vehicle battery industry, Duksan Electera's expansion to Tennessee will position the company to be geographically closer to its core customer base. The Shelbyville location will be essential to Duksan Electera as the company is responsible for supplying roughly 60,000 tons of electrolytes to battery makers in the southeastern U.S. Founded in 2021, as a subsidiary of Duksan Technopia Co., Ltd., Duksan Electera is part of the Duksan Group, a South Korean-based advanced material manufacturer. Duksan Electera supports its parent company through the manufacturing of electrolytes for the electric vehicle battery sector.

New state opioid abatement council takes first steps with settlement money

By KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

A state council that will help determine future spending of Tennessee's more than \$600 million share of federal opioid settlement funds held its first meeting where requirements for use of program funds and timelines for disbursement were among the topics of discussion.

The recent House Bill 1132/ Senate Bill 558, signed into law by Gov. Bill Lee, created Tennessee General Assembly in Public Chapter 491 the Opioid Abatement Council whose function is to serve as trustees of funds received by the state for the purpose of opioid abatement and determining what programs local governments and state agencies can use those funds for. The council held its first meeting in July.

TML President and Franklin Mayor Dr. Ken Moore represents TML on the council.

"All of this dates back to the opioid settlements with multiple companies who agreed to settle suits based on the fact that some of their practices led to misuse of addictive medications," Moore said. "This settlement is their way of paying back and trying to help be part of the solution to stopping the opioid epidemic and addiction."

The council consists of 15 voting members and one non-voting member. Voting members also include four appointees by the governor, four appointees by the Speaker of the Senate, four appointees from the Speaker of the House, and two appointees from the Tennessee County Services Association.

State government appointees serve a four-year term while appointments TSCA and TML serve five years. The non-voting member of the council is the commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

Members of the council include two sheriffs, several medical doctors, a TBI official, a judge, a district attorney, and those who work in addiction treatment and recovery. Moore said council members bring important expertise in the opioid epidemic to the table.

"They are in the day-to-day battle lines," Moore said. "People like judges and sheriffs are on the frontlines of this problem."

Mary Shelton, director of behavior health services at the division of TennCare, was also selected at the council's July meeting to serve as the executive director of the abatement council. Shelton has more than 26 years of service to the state of Tennessee.

She will coordinate with the council to schedule meetings as well as provide data and information about the opioid crisis and programs available in Tennessee.

"The committee will be determining what type of organizations and programs qualify for the use of this money," Moore said. "That list is being populated, but hasn't been released yet. The money is specifically going into treatment that have to do with opioid addiction. The council is going to determine what those



Members of the Tennessee Opioid Abatement Council at their first meeting, including TML representative Franklin Mayor and TML President Dr. Ken Moore, second from right, seated. The council will determine both the use of the state share in the more than \$600 million awarded to Tennessee as part of opioid abatement settlements, what programs will benefit from funds, and how accountability for the use of funds will be measured.

programs are and the disbursement of the money and at the same time make sure there is accountability in the process and metrics to make sure those programs addressing the issue have measurable goals that show what they are doing is working."

As defined by the same statute that sets up the committee, abatement funds can be spent on:

- prospective opioid abatement and remediation;
- expenses incurred in administering and operating the opioid abatement council
- related expenses associated with administering, investing, and disbursing funds held in the abatement fund;
- executive director and support staff for the opioid abatement council

Moore said funds will be distributed over an 18-year period as defined by the settlements. The funds will not come in one single deposit as those companies involved in the suit have agreed to payouts in various time periods.

The funds will come from three settlements of lawsuits and two bankruptcy plans. The three settlements are with consultancy firm McKinsey, manufacturer Johnson and Johnson with its subsidiaries, and the "distributor settlement," which includes opioid manufacturers and distributors including AmerisourceBergen, Cardinal Health, and McKesson. The bankruptcy funds will come from Mallinckrodt and possibly Perdue Pharma, whose ruling is presently in appeals.

So far, \$13.2 million from McKinsey's are available with another \$14.9 million from the distributors and Johnson and Johnson expected in September at the earliest. An additional to-be-determined amount of funds will come at the earliest by the end of 2022 from Johnson and Johnson and Mallinckrodt.

After 2022, McKinsey will make three payments of \$651,000

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each while Mallinckrodt will make payments until 2030. As per agreement, Johnson and Johnson will resume its payments from 2026 until 2031 with the distributors making 16 additional payouts through 2038.

All funds will be paid into the Tennessee State Treasury where they will be held until disbursement. The first payout of funds is expected by the end of 2022.

Moore said 15% of the funds will go the Tennessee General Assembly while another 15% will go to the 151 subdivisions of cities and the state's 95 counties based on litigated agreements.

The remaining 70% will go to the opioid abatement fund, of which 35% will be directed to counties to use on programs approved by the abatement council.

Two of the settlements have local governments eligible or direct payments. These direct payments include all 95 counties, all cities with populations more than 30,000, and all cities and towns that had been part of litigation against the companies, no matter their size. A total of 56 cities will receive funds from the distributor settlement while 35 will

receive funds from the Johnson and Johnson settlement.

Funds for municipalities who are receiving direct payments comes from the funds given to their respective county. While not all cities receive direct payments, the goal is for all communities to benefit with funds divided up among all of the state's counties.

Funds being distributed to cities were determined based on population as well as the impact of the opioid crisis on the community using metrics determined by local governments. These metrics include factors like overdose death rates, opioid use disorder rates, and the number of pills entering the community.

Tennessee Attorney General Herbert H. Slatery III said the work of the funds and the opioid abatement council are steps in the right direction for tackling the opioid crisis.

"This has been our goal all along," Slatery said. "To get significant funding into the hands of people and organizations who have the experience and expertise to know what is specifically needed for opioid abatement in our communities. We are finally there. The

money is coming in and we have an impressive group of people on the Opioid Abatement Council dedicated to finding the best use for these funds. We want the money to go to programs and projects that we know will work, will move the needle on mitigating this crisis. That process is now underway."

With growing issues surrounding fentanyl, Moore said his hope is that the opioid abatement council can provide solutions for those struggling with addiction.

"We are in the middle of a substance misuse or opioid epidemic, which has particularly been heightened by the introduction of fentanyl into the equation," Moore said. "Fentanyl is killing many Tennesseans as we speak, and is one of the major causes of death. My hope for the council is that we will develop a system of distributing the money that addresses the problem in a fashion that addresses the use of opioids and returns people to a normal life without addiction."

For more information on the council, [visit here](#). For frequently asked questions about the opioid settlement funds, [visit here](#).

No loan is too large or too small



Oakland recently closed on a \$5,200,000 PBA fixed rate loan through the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund to finance parks and recreational facilities for the town. Oakland previously used TMBF's alternative loan program last year to issue two capital outlay notes. Pictured are Jay Johnson, Town Manager; Tommy Green, TMBF Marketing Representative; H. Michael Brown, Mayor; and Yvonne Bullard, Town Recorder.

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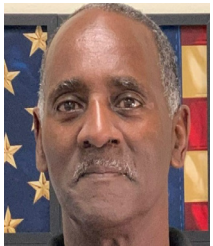
The city of Waverly used the TMBF fixed rate PBA loan program to borrow \$5,000,000 to finance necessary projects due to the August 2021 flood disaster. First Federal Bank provided the financing through the TMBF program. The city has used our programs previously. Pictured are Waverly Mayor Buddy Frazier and City Recorder Kayla Thomas.

TMBF
TENNESSEE MUNICIPAL BOND FUND



PEOPLE

William Barner has been promoted to town public works director for Greeneville. Barner is a longtime town employee and will lead a 42-person department that includes solid waste services, landfill operations, stormwater planning, and street and sidewalk improvements. Barner has more than 40 years of experience with the town of Greeneville and has served as the interim head of the department since June. Prior to that, he served as the department's assistant director.



William Barner

Missy Dillingham, longtime children's services manager with the John P. Holt Brentwood Library, died suddenly at her home on Aug. 1. Dillingham served for 38 years with the city of Brentwood, beginning in 1984 as the inaugural manager of children's services for the Brentwood Library. In 2011, she won the Daniel A. Taylor Memorial Award for her contribution to children's services as well as the Frances Neel Cheney Award in 2020 for her contribution as a librarian. Dillingham also served as the head of the children's and young adults' services roundtable.



Missy Dillingham

Elaine Brunelle has been selected as the new town manager for Signal Mountain. Brunelle retired as a commander from the U.S. Navy in 2019 after nearly 31 years of service, including being stationed in Everett, Wash.; San Diego, Calif.; and Bahrain. She holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and corrections from New Mexico State University, a master's of public administration from the University of Washington, and a master's degree in psychology from Grand Canyon University.



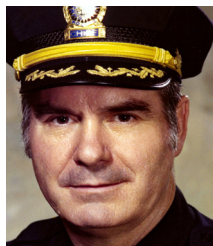
Elaine Brunelle

Edward "Ed" Hargraves, principal engineer emeritus for firm A2H, died June 28, after nearly 35 years of service in founding what is now A2H engineering. A native of Arkansas, Hargraves earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Mississippi and a master's in civil engineering from the University of Memphis. He partnered with Mark Askew in 1989 to found what is now A2H, one of the premier architectural, engineering, and planning firms in West Tennessee. Hargraves also served as past president of the Consulting Engineers of Memphis and on the American Council of Engineering Companies of Tennessee (ACEC). He was recognized as the Outstanding Engineer of the Year by the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers and received the Presidential Citation from ACEC.



Ed Hargraves

Joe D. Casey, retired police chief for Metro Nashville, died Aug. 1, at the age of 96. Casey was a member of the Nashville Police Department for nearly 38 years, beginning as a patrolman in November 1951. He rose through the ranks to become acting chief of police in November 1973 and then the permanent chief in May the following year. He retired in July 1989. A native Nashvillian, Casey started several MNPD traditions such as the annual Christmas Basket program that provided gifts of food and toys for needy families and support of Special Olympics programs. In addition to his role with MNPD, Casey served as president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) in 1987 and as president of the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police (TACP) from 1976 until 1982. TACP bestows an award named after Casey to active and retired chiefs in recognition of outstanding character and service.



Joe Casey

Regina Smithson, longtime commissioner and former mayor of the city of Brentwood, died suddenly on July 23. Smithson had served on the Brentwood Board of Commissioners for more than 30 years, including terms as vice mayor and mayor. During her time on the commission, Smithson served on numerous boards and commissions including the planning commission, Sister Cities board, park board, environmental board, historic com-



Regina Smithson

Haynes visits Milan City Hall, local officials



As part of TML's ongoing membership outreach, Executive Director Anthony Haynes visited Milan City Hall and met with Utility Director Jason Griggs (left) and Milan Mayor BW Beasley (right).

mission, and library board. Smithson moved to Brentwood in 1982 and with her late husband built a financial services business, John Smithson and Associates.

Larry Wallace, the only person to be both head of the Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP) and Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI), died after a short battle with cancer Aug. 6. Wallace was 77. He began his law enforcement career in 1964 as an officer with the Athens Police Department before joining THP as a trooper three years later. He rose through the ranks to special agent with TBI in 1973 then served as sheriff of McMinn County for two terms before returning to TBI in 1980. He was later named head of the TBI criminal investigation division and was selected to be colonel and commanding officer of THP in 1987. The following year, he was



Larry Wallace

also named deputy commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Safety. In 1992, he was then appointed to serve as director of TBI, where he served until his retirement in 2003. He later joined the faculty at Tennessee Wesleyan University in Athens and helped develop its criminal justice program.

David Wilson has been appointed as the new director of operations for the city of Bristol. In this role, he will oversee the city's engineering, utilities, and public services divisions. A certified professional engineer with more than 30 years of civil engineering experience, Wilson most recently served as a principal with Mattern & Craig, managing numerous roadway, water and wastewater, drainage, and site development projects. Prior to that, he served as an engineer and inspector for numerous state and local organizations in both



David Wilson

Tennessee and Virginia. He holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Virginia Tech.

Kirsten Yates has been selected as senior advisor for communications and digital strategy by Chattanooga Mayor Tim Kelly. Yates will manage the mayor's office of communications as well as work with the mayor, chief of staff, and other senior administration officials. Before joining the city of Chattanooga, Yates served as a health communication specialist for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) new Division of Viral Diseases. She also worked for the CDC as a health communications specialist, as communications director for the Council for the Model Aquatic Health Code, and as a marketing specialist for the Grady Health system. She holds a bachelor's degree in English from Vanderbilt University and a master's



Kirsten Yates

Morristown Police Department uses grant funding to redevelop body-worn camera program

Morristown Police Department (MPD) officers are no strangers to utilizing technology to help them in day-to-day operations. A patrol officer vehicle comes equipped with mobile computers, radar units, onboard cameras, and myriad tools to help with scene response and investigation.

In 2018, the MPD used grant funding from the US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance to augment city funds devoted to redeveloping the department's body-worn camera program. Once the specifications for the cameras were determined and bids were submitted, the Axon Body Cam 2 was chosen.

MPD officers have worn body cameras in some form since 2009; however, the cameras were from multiple vendors and had different methods of operation and retrieval which led to confusion in operation, data storage and retrieval.

A modern, comprehensive police body-worn camera program has to address several important issues such as privacy considerations, impact on community relationships, officer concerns, managing internal and external expectations, ensuring appropriate partnerships with stakeholders, financial considerations, technical support, and internal policies which promote program evaluation to include training requirements and proper training and data usage.

Privacy concerns have emerged with the increased use of surveillance technology. Unlike in-car cameras, officer body-worn cameras allow for recording of sensitive situations such as interviews with sexual assault and abuse victims as well as footage inside private residences.

These cameras capture both audio and video recordings and provide close-up images of individuals and incident scenes. The MPD partnered with the district attorney's office, juvenile court, community leaders, and other stakeholders to develop policy and procedures which balanced the need for appropriately documenting events to provide evidence for court proceedings and case adjudication with transparency in our operations and lawful compliance to the Tennessee Public Records Act.

Comprehensive policies regarding the recording of police and community member interactions are bound to have an impact on those relationships. Officers were trained to inform individuals that they are being recorded when reasonable. These notifications often serve to diffuse tense interactions with individuals.

In addition, supervisors are required to periodically review officers' camera footage to evaluate officer/citizen interactions and address any concerns.

Community support for this

program was encouraged through in-person forums to discuss the MPD's enhanced use of body-worn cameras including how they were to be used and to outline the benefits of the program. MPD's jurisdiction includes demographics which consist of approximately 20% Hispanic and 12% African-Americans.

The department also reached out to leaders in these communities to gain input from minority populations regarding the policies and guiding principles of a body-worn camera program which serves to effectively enforce laws and statutes while maintaining public respect.

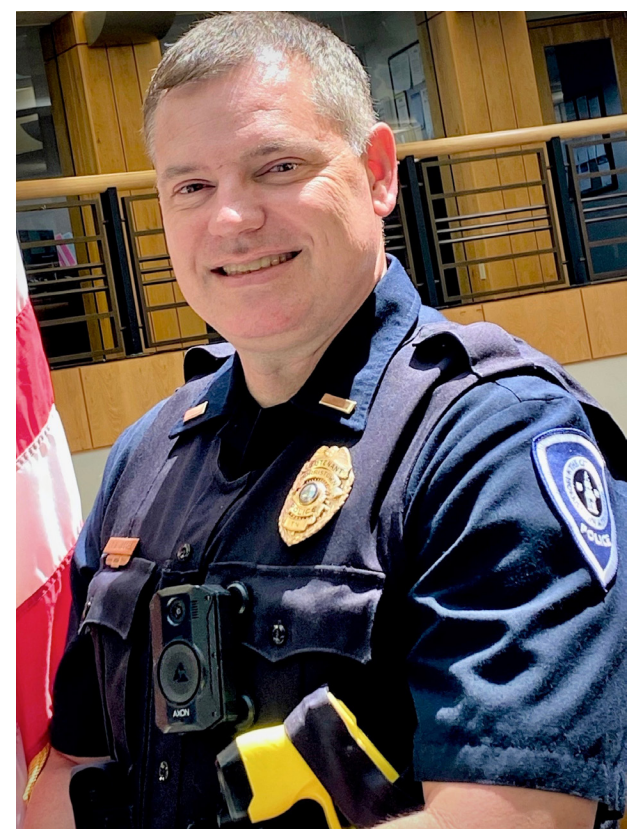
It stands to reason that as a department implements additional technology to be used primarily by first-line officers there will be concerns by these officers about what additional tasks they will be expected to perform and how the information will be used both in court and by department administrators.

With the MPD's previous body-worn camera program, we saw varied buy-in from officers and line-level supervisors. Many viewed the cameras as an opportunity to "prove they are doing the right thing" and believed that the data would help exonerate them in the event of a complaint. Others viewed the cameras as an intrusion and another example of the additional pressures placed on officers in a time when the use of technol-

ogy is at an all-time high with an increasing list of gadgets which add burdensome tasks and time to their shifts.

Supervisors and administrators worked hard before and during implementation of the new program to send a unified message reassuring officers that they have the trust of the department behind them as they perform their duties and these tools will be used not only as a supervisory tool but, to serve as a teaching tool and to identify and recognize outstanding performance by our officers.

As it turns out, the footage much more often exonerates the officers' actions during internal affairs investigations. In the years since the new cameras and policies were introduced, footage from the officers' body-worn cameras have proven the officers' actions were appropriate and the complaints to



be unfounded in half of the complaints filed.

In only 5% of complaints filed did body-camera footage prove the allegation of the complaint which resulted in disciplinary action against the officer.

Axon body-worn cameras have proven to be a vital tool in enhancing transparency and helping MPD officers serve their community with confidence.

TML congratulates 2022 Achievement Award winners

Excellence in Downtown Revitalization and Historic Preservation: Cleveland



A part of Cleveland's economic history, the former Sanda Hosiery Mill is seeing a new life providing housing to residents of downtown Cleveland, bringing the building from a prominent place of employment in community into a structure that will create new vitality in the city.

A public-private partnership has not only preserved a piece of the city of Cleveland's economic history but also opened the door for more residential and economic development in the city's downtown, part of a long-term redevelopment process.

In recognition of the concerted efforts made by the city of Cleveland to breathe new life into their downtown while still preserving and protecting the historic aspects that make the area unique, the Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to present Cleveland with an award for Excellence in Downtown Revitalization and Historic Preservation.

The former Sanda Hosiery Mill, also known as the Cherokee Hosiery Mill, is part of the larger Old Woolen Mill District where numerous woolen mills and factories served as major employers from the late 1800s into the modern area. The Sanda Mill only closed operations in 2002 and served various uses until a public-private partnership between the city of Cleveland and Knoxville-based Lewis Group Architects planned

to revitalize the former mill building into housing for Cleveland's downtown.

Located on the National Register of Historic Places, the former mill building provides a great opportunity for residential development in downtown, helping grow the live portion of the city's desire to make downtown a place to live, work, and play. By having more residents downtown, the opportunity for shopping, dining, and events expands greatly.

The more than 59,6000-square-foot mill is being turned into 52 loft apartments featuring both one and two-bedroom options. The mill project alone will nearly double the amount of apartment units available in downtown Cleveland to 111 total units. Residents of the building will not only enjoy its historic exterior but also historic interior features like reglazed windows, refinished hardwood flooring, and displays of original features including a boiler, conveyor, and the original freight elevator.

The redevelopment also fits in with the larger downtown streetscape plan approved by the Cleve-

land City Council as part of an overall downtown redevelopment plan. Local utilities, the city, Main Street Cleveland, and the architects worked to widen sidewalks and add additional parking, street trees, and pedestrian lighting.

The streetscape and mill redevelopment were some of the items highlighted when the city funded a Downtown Revitalization Master Plan in 2017, which was fully approved by the Cleveland City Council in 2019. In addition to being a key component to the Five Points intersection redevelopment and master plan for downtown, the mill redevelopment is already serving as a catalyst for further investment in downtown Cleveland.

The former mill building is also the eastern gateway to downtown Cleveland, and has already initiated other improvements and revitalizations on downtown properties along Edwards and Inman Street. Other redevelopment projects include the renovation of the former Cherokee Hotel into the Cleveland Summit Apartments and the recent purchase of the former Whirlpool Technology Park.

Excellence in Public Works: Sparta



Sparta Public Works employees install a new kayak dock at the city's South Carter Street Park, one of many tasks the department undertakes for the city.

Paving and water and sewer infrastructure upgrades are usually not the most exciting jobs that a municipality has to undertake, but the essential function these services provide can both facilitate community growth and bolster improvements in other areas.

The city of Sparta began a comprehensive overhaul of its infrastructure in a way that both revitalized the community as well as coordinated the project so that new upgrades would be made in tandem. The entire effort was spearheaded by the Sparta Public Works Department and its employees, leading to revitalization in other areas of the community as well.

In recognition of the hard-working efforts made by the city of Sparta and the Sparta Public Works Department to im-

prove city services in a strategic manner, the Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to present Sparta with an award for Excellence in Public Works.

Knowing that the city's water and sewer distribution lines would need upgrades, the city decided to coordinate its schedule of water and sewer rehabilitation with its annual paving schedule. By ranking and rating condition of all water and sewer infrastructure, the city compiled a worst-to-first list for repairs and then worked to rehab those facilities so the work would be completed in time for roads those projects align with to be paved. The city's aggressive paving schedule directs that all city streets are repaved every eight years so long as costs hold.

As a result of coordinating infrastructure rehab and paving, the city has repaved 16 of the 49 miles of roadway within the Sparta city limits as well as added 61 new downtown parking spaces in the past two years. In that same time period, seven streets in the city have seen total water line replacements while another six have had sewer line replacements.

In addition to paving, the Sparta Public Works Department has overseen the completion of two gateway monuments welcoming visitors to the city and completed numerous in-house upgrades to various city-owned facilities. The city has established a pattern of work to make needed infrastructure upgrades and improvements.

Public works employees have maintained an aggressive maintenance schedule while also working on more visible quality-of-life improvements for citizens, such as park upgrades. Existing walking trails and train extensions have been paved this spring with decorative lighting added over the summer. Playground equipment was replaced at both South Carter Street Park and Wallace-Smith Park with the city's Pearson Park next on the list.

Sometimes even the smallest improvements can lead to big change. Sparta public works employees work to plant trees, protect scenic views, control signs, and encourage new construction to fit in with Sparta's unique aesthetic. Mayor Jeff Young has begun a program incentivizing local business owners to improve their facades, leading to several restoration projects.

With its limited resources, Sparta has utilized strong leadership, committed employees, and taking small steps to create big changes in order to make their city a better place to live, visit, and work.

Excellence in Green Leadership: Woodland Mills

With a population of only around 326, Woodland Mills is one of the smallest cities in the state of Tennessee.

However, the city's leadership has shown that even the smallest of cities can take an important leadership role and serve as an example to others in terms of resiliency, preparedness, and green infrastructure.

In recognition of the concerted efforts made by the city of Woodland Mills to leverage federal funds for environmentally-friendly and efficient infrastructure that also serves emergency preparedness goals, the Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to present Woodland Mills with an award for Excellence in Green Leadership.

When Woodland Mills Mayor Joseph Lewis attended last year's Tennessee Municipal League (TML) Annual Conference in Chattanooga, he was one of many city leaders looking to find ways to put his municipalities' share of American Rescue Program funding to best use.

After attending an affiliate community sustainability and emergency preparedness roundtable discussions, Mayor Lewis and his city staff contacted officials with the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) and the Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council (TREEDC) to follow up on ideas presented at the workshop.

Resulting discussions led to Woodland Mills becoming the pilot community for the first MTAS/TREEDC Tennessee Community Resiliency Project, which aims to help communities become more



The city of Woodland Mills approached officials with UT-MTAS and TREEDC about what could be done to make their small municipality better prepared for disasters and more energy efficient. The result is a new pilot program that will be used to help other cities become more sustainable and energy independent.

sustainable and resilient against natural disasters. Woodland Mills wanted to become more energy independent as a municipality and implement specific renewable energy-related targets.

The purpose of the project hit home further when many of Woodland Mills' neighboring communities were devastated in a tornado outbreak that December, prompting the city to fast track the project after rendering aid to their neighbors. By January, the city's Board of Mayor and Alderman had become the first local government in the state to adopt by resolution the program.

The pilot program calls for a three-tiered approach that helps cities use energy efficiency and

sustainability to prepare for natural disasters.

The resolution calls for 100% of electricity used by the city to be derived from renewable energy sources by 2035, the preparation of a climate action plan, and a goal to equip all municipal, commercial, and residential structures with a Bronco Boost Eco Battery generator. This generator doesn't have emissions and works automatically during power outages, providing vital services when they are most in need.

The city used ARP funds to install the state-of-the-art generators at the Woodland Mills Civic Center, which also serves as the city's designated emergency shelter. As a result, those seek-

ing shelter will have emergency power during extended outages.

Woodland Mills also joined the Tennessee Flood Ready Program, another partnership with TREEDC that brings government leaders together for technical assistance, awareness, and outreach in developing green stormwater solutions to mitigate the impact of frequent flooding across the state. Involvement in the coalition is one of the parts of the city's climate action resiliency plants.

Due to Woodland Mills' vision and progressive leadership, MTAS and TREEDC will offer similar community resiliency programs across the state using Woodland Mills as a model for other Tennessee municipalities.

TML congratulates 2022 Achievement Award winners

Excellence in Governance: Sevierville



In order to bring better, more efficient services to their citizens, the city of Sevierville recently completed an \$8 million downtown streetscape project that not only replaced aging water and sewer lines but also used the opportunity to bury other utilities, like electricity, cable, and telephone services. The massive, coordinated effort to do so has revitalized the appearance of Sevierville's downtown, and is one of several major investments the city has made to improve quality of life and services for residents.

Through innovation and a dedication to positive and productive working relationships between elected officials and municipal staff, the city of Sevierville works to provide both top-notch traditional municipal services while finding new and unique ways to provide those services to citizens.

In recognition of the city of Sevierville's both best-management and best governance practices, the Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to present Sevierville with an award for Excellence in Governance.

Finding better ways to serve and deliver service to the community is the motto adopted by both elected officials and municipal employees in Sevierville. Both members of the city's Board of Mayor and Aldermen and city staff work together to create, design, and implement new approaches to standard service delivery in ways that are both tangible and intangible.

Sevierville recently completed an \$8 million downtown streetscapes project that turned the need to replace aging water and sewer lines and address stormwater drainage into an opportunity to provide underground electricity, telephone, and cable services. City departments participated in a massive coordinated effort with contractors, construction officials, and others for management, design, construction, and installation of both these utilities and landscaping and beautification projects following them.

The city recently issued a \$100 million bond to fund expansion of its police headquarters, community center, water and wastewater treatment plant, and construction of a new East Sevierville Park. This comes on the heels of the completion of a \$6.5 million new fire department headquarters building and a \$4.7 million new downtown fire station building that will improve city response times.

Providing stellar emergency services has been another goal for Sevierville. In coordination with the county EMA, the city enacted the Code Red Alert System to alert residents and tourists of critical events. The Sevierville Fire Department has expanded from 38 full-time positions to 52 full-time positions, and has also seen the adoption and training of Ember, a Dalmatian who will serve a vital role in fire safety education and outreach.

Likewise, the Sevierville Police Department has increased its sworn officers from 58 to 65 with all patrol officers equipped with body cameras and automated citation devices purchased and deployed for police patrolmen. Police interaction with the community has also increased through programs like Coffee With A Cop and National

Night Out.

Recently, leadership completed a parks and recreation master plan with the involvement of parks staff. Several unique parks and recreation programs are now underway in the city, including the construction of new pickleball courts and a partnership with the city of Pigeon Forge for the management of Youth Baseball programs in Sevier County. The city is also working with the local chamber of commerce to begin a historic landmark signage program for the benefit of both tourists and locals.

In addition to their hard work on the downtown streetscapes project, Sevierville Public Works employees have been hard at work around the city. Major bridge rehabilitation projects are underway around the city as well as repairs to a massive sink hole. New self-watering technology is keeping downtown flowers beautiful while saving the city hundreds of hours of labor and thousands of gallons of water. Thousands of feet of sidewalks, hundreds of curb ramps, and dozens of accessible pedestrian traffic signals have been added as part of the city's ADA transition plan.

The city has created an overall connected traffic network that allows for real-time data retrieval and manipulation of intersections, controllers, and video detection remotely through centralized software. The city's traffic signal system is responsive enough to change timing to meet the needs of current traffic conditions.

To meet growing water needs, the city has added two new sewer lift stations, upgraded or replaced 28 lift stations, added a new water booster station, and upgraded eight others. Nearly 14,000 customers have had their meters replaced with automatic readers while 50 miles of sewer and 30 miles of water mains have been added.

As the city continues to expand, Sevierville has also streamlined several processes aimed at boosting local growth. The city has implemented the submittal and review of plans and permitting electronically while creating a "one stop shop" for the business application and permitting process. Working with private entities, the state, and local programs, Sevierville has brought in more than 1,800 new housing units since 2017 with more than half of those subsidized through local and state program to make them affordable.

By keeping a customer-oriented focus and working together to find unique solutions despite limited resources, the city of Sevierville has shown how strategic planning, teamwork, and coordination can make better government and a better city.

Excellence in Fire Services: Dresden



Before fatal tornadoes hit the city of Dresden, fire officials planned ahead and sent their trucks to different staging points in the city. When the city's central fire station took a direct hit, the trucks were out of the way and able to respond not only to the immediate aftermath of the storm but to continue serving the citizens of Dresden as the Dresden Fire Department operates out of this temporary building, waiting

When fatal multi-state tornadoes struck Tennessee on Dec. 10, 2021, the city of Dresden was one of many communities left devastated by the storms, losing its city hall, police department, and fire department while still needing to provide services and aid in rescue efforts for citizens.

Foresight of local leadership, including Dresden Fire Department Chief Paul Hutcherson and Assistant Chief Kory Green, led to the Dresden Fire Department taking immediate action to relocate fire apparatus from the city's centralized fire station in a move that would inevitably save both the equipment from a direct hit to the station as well as allow the city to still respond to immediate emergency needs in the wake of the storm.

In recognition of the work done by the Dresden Fire Department to continue to protect and serve their community while dealing with their own loss, the Tennessee

Municipal League is pleased to present Dresden with an award for Excellence in Fire Services.

With equipment located at various staging centers around the city of Dresden prior to the tornado, fire officials were able to not only save valuable equipment but to jump into action despite the destruction of the Dresden Fire Station in the storm. The department was able to retain a level of readiness to respond to the numerous emergency calls that followed.

While no lives were lost in Dresden, the EF-3 tornado that hit the city saw the loss of more than 200 homes and dozens of downtown businesses and infrastructure. Due to their planning ahead, the Dresden Fire Department was able to respond to their community in its hour of need.

Beyond allowing the department to respond to the immediate aftermath of the storm, the decision to relocate the city's fire apparatus from the downtown fire station has

had a positive long-term impact on the city as well. Despite their own loss, officials with the Dresden Fire Department continue to operate out of a loaned building while work is being done to rebuild the community and the fire station.

Dresden fire officials have been on hand as the days, weeks, and months of cleanup afterward have continued, showing that a fire department is more than a brick-and-mortar building but rather the people who are willing to put their own needs and lives at risk to serve the needs of the community above their own.

While no risk reduction efforts could have spared Dresden the impact of these storms, the actions of Dresden's firefighters have shown a commitment to readiness, planning for response, and purposeful actions to maintain the ability to serve their community, even in the worst of times. They have exemplified the mission of the fire service.

Excellence in Police Services: Collierville



When reports of a mass shooting at a local Kroger store came across dispatch, officers with the Collierville Police Department responded quickly and efficiently to protect lives and end the crisis. While the incident itself took a matter of minutes, officers remained on hand in the days and weeks that followed to aid their grieving community.

On the afternoon of Sept. 23, 2021, officers with the Collierville Police Department heard a call over dispatch that no member of law enforcement wants to hear: an active shooter event at a local shopping center.

Members of the Collierville Police Department responded to the active shooting incident at a local Kroger store that left one patron dead and 13 customers and staff members injured. More than 50 people were believed to be inside the building at the time the shooter opened fire.

Within four minutes of the gunman first opening fire, law enforcement was on the scene, clearing the store aisle by aisle and helping to escort patrons and employees from the locked freezers and offices where they had been hiding.

When officers cornered the gunman, he took his own life. The Collierville Police Department continued to be on-hand in the days and weeks following the shooting not only to investigate but also to support their bereaved community.

In recognition of the actions made by the town of Collierville and the Collierville Police Department in the face of community crisis, the Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to present Collierville with an award for Excellence in Police Services.

Collierville Police Chief Dale Lane said the quick response of both law enforcement to the site as well as the training and quick thinking of Kroger employees helped to save lives that day. Support from the Collierville Fire Department to render aid to those at the scene also preserved life at

the scene.

Months before the incident at Kroger, the Collierville Police Department and Fire Department participated in a multi-agency, multi-discipline training sessions that focused on many of the tactics both departments would later use to respond to the September shooting.

The Collierville Police Department's response to the shooting was possible due to the department's "whole community" approach to policing that focuses on relieving citizens from the fear of crime beyond just reducing crime.

By employing technical crime fighting tools, staying engaged on a personal level with the community they serve, and focusing on professional development and training, the department was able to react swiftly and purposefully to the mass shooting.

The department continues to use cutting edge technology like unmanned aerial systems, license plate reader technology, and data-driven crime fighting solutions while still maintaining personal and professional relationships with the community through community policing solutions like Citizen Police Academies, Explorer Academies, Neighborhood Watch Programs, and National Night Out Events.

WAUFORD

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

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Excellence in Parks and Recreation: Springfield



The new, inclusive playground recently opened at the city's Martin Luther King Jr. Park is just one of many new offerings the city of Springfield has worked to build through partnerships with the community and leveraging city funds.

Providing easily accessible parks with a wide range of opportunities for different types of recreation is not always an easy task, especially for smaller cities.

The city of Springfield encompasses a little more than 13-square-miles, and the Springfield Parks and Recreation Department works hard to meet the individual needs of the just under 19,000 citizens who call the community home.

In recognition of the ongoing efforts made by Springfield to provide diverse parks and recreation options and opportunities to its citizens, the Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to present Springfield with an award for Excellence in Parks and Recreation.

Springfield has five parks that are accessible to all areas of the community with each park within three miles of downtown Springfield's courthouse square. Three of the city's parks are connected by the Springfield Greenway, which also connects to the square, several neighborhoods, the city recreation center, and two schools.

In addition to maintaining existing parks, city officials have been hard at work in recent years to prove that living in a small city doesn't mean residents should only have access to a handful of recreation options. After hearing feedback from local residents and through partnerships with

grassroots endeavors, Springfield opened the first public disc golf course in Robertson County.

Partnering with local enthusiast group Discin' Disciples, funds were raised through a series of tournaments that were then used by the Springfield Parks Department to prepare tee pads and fairways for an 18-hole disc golf course at J. Travis Price Park. The city continues to partner with the group to raise funds for improvements to the course as well as to bring in new players to the community who want to experience the layout and challenge. The course has had more than 1,700 users since it was opened last year.

Another new addition to the Springfield park system is the new inclusive playground at Martin Luther King Jr. Park, the first in the city. Located adjacent to the city's splash pad – which also caters to children of all abilities – the new playground features a merry-go-round, unique swings, a rubber safety surface, musical play pieces, and other sensory play pieces throughout. The success of the park has prompted the city to plan the opening of another inclusive park at the city's Garner Street Park.

Springfield also debuted its first-ever Buddies Baseball league, which is open to special needs residents of all ages. A total of 40

citizens ranging in age from three to 64 registered for the program with four teams playing in the inaugural season.

Several sports fields and courts have also been added to the city's park infrastructure. Two outdoor basketball courts, two sand volleyball courts, and two new multi-purpose fields have allowed citizens of all ages to enjoy a wide variety of recreation as well as helped to expand youth sports league offerings in the city. Six tennis courts are already on offer at city parks as well.

In addition to the new planned playground, Garner Street Park has seen two major upgrades. The first is a new concrete skatepark also created through a grassroots fundraising effort. The city partnered with the local Springfield Kiwanis Club to fund the new skatepark, which saw its groundbreaking over the summer. The park is already home to the city's one-acre off leash dog park, which is popular with local residents and their pets.

From walking the greenway to a variety of youth and adult sports leagues to open free fishing to playgrounds, dog parks, a splash pad, disc golf, and more amenities planned for the future, the Springfield Parks and Recreation Department offers something for everyone.

Excellence in Stormwater Management: McMinnville



Drainage issues have created flooding behind a local McMinnville elementary school and in a nearby neighborhood. By taking a green infrastructure approach to solving the problem, the city has been able to leverage more resources and turn the flooding problem into an opportunity to bring the community together.

When faced with a flooding issue that was negatively impacting a local school and neighborhood, McMinnville leadership decided to think outside-the-box to solve an infrastructure problem in a way that will connect education, flood mitigation, public recreation, and the city's reputation as the Nursery Capital of the World.

Ongoing flooding in a field behind the city's Bobby Ray Memorial Elementary School was damaging local homes and infrastructure in McMinnville.

Rather than installing traditional pipes and concrete infrastructure to address the problem, Ming in conjunction with Stormwater Manager Lyndon Bussell, decided to take a modern, green infrastructure approach that has brought in local education leaders, the University of Tennessee, local businesses, and civic organizations to work with the city for the betterment of the entire community.

In recognition of the dedicated efforts made by the city of McMinnville to find unique solutions and bring community buy-in to solving a local stormwater issue, the Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to present McMinnville with an award for Excellence in Stormwater Management.

While in his previous role as McMinnville's Community Development Director, City Administrator Nolan Ming had connected with UT Institute of

Agriculture research coordinator Dennis Gregg about finding a project that could bring together local contractors and nurserymen for education on-site about the utilization of native plants as a form of natural erosion control, stormwater management, and parks maintenance. That project came in the form of the fields near Bobby Ray Memorial Elementary School and a McMinnville neighborhood.

The low-lying area behind the school left nowhere for water to go when it accumulates. New pipes and traditional modes of infrastructure would be too costly and likely not solve the flooding issues. Drawing on his background in stormwater management while in his role of Community Development Director, Ming knew that using native plants and vegetation – such as those raised in nurseries throughout the community – could both mitigate the flooding and stormwater run-off issues while creating a beautiful natural landscape in the heart of McMinnville.

The idea soon evolved into the creation of a new park featuring a wetland restoration that would serve not only for community recreation but also as a way to educate students and the public at-large about the importance of wetlands. The project was dubbed the Bobby Ray Wetland Project both because of its location near the school and in honor of McMinnville native Marine medic David Robert "Bobby" Ray who earned the Congressional Medal of Honor after giving his life during the Vietnam War.

Education has already become a big part of the project. McMinnville Stormwater and GIS officials gathered input from elementary school teachers on ways they could use the park for outdoor education, which has led to plans for picnic tables and a community garden where both students and local residents can learn about how their food is grown.

Engineering students from UT have also been involved in the project, both benefiting their own education by helping with the design and planning for the project as well as working with elementary students to education them about wetlands and conducting pH testing.

The city is also partnering with local FFA and 4H programs, the McMinnville Gardening Club, scouting organizations, and the local Rotary and Exchange clubs to install plants and walkways in the park while the plants themselves will be donated from the local nurseries in the area.

What began as a stormwater mitigation project has evolved into a project that is touching a myriad of aspects of life for McMinnville residents including food, education, outdoor recreation, environmental conservation, and community involvement.

The new Bobby Ray Wetland Project will provide a park in an underserved area of the community and manage an ongoing environmental issue in a way that is not only creative but also bringing together different groups from across McMinnville to make a positive change in their city.

Excellence in Community Planning and Development: Greeneville

The town of Greeneville recently undertook the progress of changing their government to a council-manager form, which has served as a catalyst for significant improvements to both how the town's municipal government function and created positive momentum for the entire community.

In recognition of the considerable efforts made by the town of Greeneville to improve municipal government both inside and out by setting and achieving new goals to better their town, the Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to present Greeneville with an award for Small Town Progress.

The town of Greeneville made the decision to undergo the difficult process of shifting their government style from a mayor-council form to a council-manager form as part of efforts to completely overhaul the way the town conducts its business. The result was the hiring of Todd Smith as the first Greeneville town manager as well as a shift in roles for both the Greeneville Board of Mayor and Aldermen and city staff.

The Greeneville board shifted its focus toward policy and more accountability and efficiency expected from the staff, while local leaders developed a new mission statement and set new goals for guiding the community as a whole.

Soon, the changes implemented at town hall were being reflected in positive growth and change throughout the town itself. Town leadership set goals for Greeneville including facilitating broadband throughout the community, finishing downtown redevelopment, and connecting better with citizens.

The massive downtown Greeneville redevelopment project is aimed at both maintaining the unique, historic nature of the town



After changing their form of government, the town of Greeneville set new priorities and missions for city government including finishing downtown improvements, installing community broadband, and building better relationships with citizens.

while still modernizing and improving the infrastructure that supports those who live, work, and play in the area. Now in its second phase, the downtown redevelopment project is projected to be complete next year.

Another major capital improvement project on Greeneville's agenda is expanding the town's fire department. To ensure facilities meet the department's needs, employees have been involved in the planning, design, and purchasing involved in the construction of a new fire station and the acquisition of a new pumper and ladder truck.

Individual teams have met to determine the needs of the department in the fire service area, for equipment and vehicle storage, and other needs throughout the design process and then met with the town's architect to

create a final plan that not only meets department needs but also includes a back-up emergency operations center in case of extreme disaster. As a result, the project was able to secure federal dollars. Firefighters also used their experience and feedback to ensure that a new truck purchase would meet the town's needs, ensuring that funds spent on the project were used wisely.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the town's Roby Senior Center continued with important outreach to the community. Employees of the center shifted their focus to crafting protective masks from donated materials and giving them away to community members in need.

With meals being one of the center's most important services, employees also began operating a

drive-thru meal service for those seniors who rely on the center for daily lunches. To combat loneliness in those seniors who relied on the center for interaction, employees also developed special drive-thru events at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and on Aging Americans Week, giving out small gift bags and meals so that area seniors could still feel a strong sense of community connection without compromising their health or safety.

By re-evaluating their form of government, the town of Greeneville has begun a top-down process that has led to improvement in all areas of city life. As both short-term and long-range goals are met, town leadership continues to look for new projects and efforts that will better both the operations of municipal government and the lives of citizens.

TML congratulates 2022 Achievement Award winners

Small City Progress Award: McKenzie

Over the last decade, the city of McKenzie has worked tirelessly to improve all aspects of life for its citizens, including several local park upgrades, renovation of an historic theatre, the launch of a downtown co-working space, additional public safety services, and numerous other accomplishments, all without raising property taxes in the past 12 years.

In recognition of the concerted efforts made by the city of McKenzie, the Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to present McKenzie with an award for Small City Progress.

The city has completed numerous parks and recreation upgrades. Work on McKenzie City Park alone include two new picnic pavilions, a new BBQ grill, the October Glory Memorial Walking Trail, new playground equipment, a new dog park, baseball fields, and a new multi-purpose sports field. The park also has a new 18-hole disc golf course.

Future plans for McKenzie City Park include a three-field soccer complex with concessions, parking and bathroom area, pickleball courts, outdoor recreation equipment, cornhole boards, and replacing all ballfield lights with Smart Lighting.

The city took a neglected greenspace that was the location of the first depot and passenger train track in McKenzie and turned it into a splash pad reflecting the spot's railroad history. The McKenzie Station Splash Pad has been a popular addition, especially during the summer months. Nearby, the city also established Harmony Park, which gives children of all ages a chance to explore musical skills on a large outdoor instrument. That park will soon expand to include a shaded pavilion.

At Mulberry Park, the city has installed a new picnic pavilion and grill as well as new playground equipment with plans for walking trail, restroom, and basketball court renovations. The city also turned



Children play at the McKenzie Station Splash Pad. The city took the disused greenspace, which was home to the city's original train depot, and converted it into a splash pad and park, one of numerous improvements officials have made in the past few years.

its University Drive Sidewalk into a "Walk of Champions" with plaques commemorating various local athletes including a nationally-recognized shooting team, state championship basketball team, state championship baseball teams, Para-Olympic teams and more.

Opened in 1941, McKenzie's Park Theatre was known for its unique feature of "sweetheart seats." The theatre closed in the 1980s and slowly became dilapidated to the point demolition was considered. Work by the McKenzie Industrial Board saw the theatre decided to the city and through grants and gifts of labor, the city restored the theatre to its former glory. In addition to showing the latest movies, the theatre is now used for community meetings, performances, concerts, and other gatherings.

After losing several local industries in 2008 and with a general industrial decline in the area, the city of McKenzie has also worked diligently to promote industrial growth and expansion in the community. The result has been the location of six new businesses and expansion of four businesses since 2010, resulting in the creation and retention of more than 540 jobs with more on the horizon.

In 2021, the city created the McKenzie Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which reaches out to the local business community through workshops and events as well as to help ensure the success of existing industries. The McKenzie Industrial Board also purchased one of the older buildings in downtown, which has been renovated and turned into a co-working space for entrepreneurs. In addition to

private offices, the building offers fast wi-fi, sit and stand desks, a color copier, printer, scanner, fax machine, cubicles, conference meeting space, break area with free coffee, refrigerator, dishwasher, and microwave. University students receive discounts to utilize the space. Dubbed the RailYard, it is the only co-working space available in a tri-county area.

The McKenzie Farmers Market is an indoor and outdoor market operation out of a renovated Studebaker dealership. Work is being done to create a commercial kitchen in the market for use by entrepreneurs in manufacturing food products as well as pop-up restaurants.

Various city departments across McKenzie have also been hard at work. The Streets and Public Works Department has

installed new LED lighting on all city-owned poles to provide a savings of up to \$9,000 each month, paved almost five miles of streets since 2010, completed an ADA Accessibility Study leading to upgrades of city-owned buildings and sidewalks, addressed traffic safety issues, and is working on projects to install wi-fi and a music system in downtown.

The McKenzie Fire Department continues to maintain a Class 3 ISO Certification, purchased a new pumper truck, and worked with a local hog production operation to set up special operation trainings for grain bin rescues for area farms. The McKenzie Police Department has begun posting security cameras in the city parks and downtown and has seen an overall 13.7% crime reduction rate in a three-year period.

The McKenzie Water Department has installed automatic readers to provide accuracy and savings and utilized grants to rehab wastewater lines, manholes, and the wastewater treatment plant. The general city government has also updated desk tops for city clerks, added digital signatures for accounts payable, installed a check scanner to reduce time at the bank, added a new server, installed a drive-thru for customer transactions, and has installed Plexiglas windows, sanitation stations, and temperature thermometers in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

McKenzie is also drawing visitors to downtown through a variety of events. McKenzie is both a Tennessee Downtown and Main Street community, which has allowed for numerous façade grants to improve downtown buildings. The city also hosts numerous events like Nights on Broadway providing music around the square, the Sweet Tea and Southern Pickins Festival in August, the Boo Bash and Scarecrow Grove, and the McKenzie Mistletoe Christmas.

Small Town Progress Award: Nolensville

When the town of Nolensville voted to change its form of government to a manager-commission style last year, citizens and staff both expected to see changes in city operations.

Since then, the town has made efforts to expand its fire, public works, and finance services as well as undertaken new projects aimed at improving the community over all.

In recognition of the forward-thinking efforts made by the town of Nolensville to provide the best quality service to customers and expand the scope and size of municipal operations, the Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to present Nolensville with an award for Small Town Progress.

The town established its first-ever full-time fire department, which began operations with a new chief, 10 career firefighters, 26 volunteers, and 23 part-time employees on July 1, 2021. The department responded to more than 1,000 calls in its first year alone, serving more than 14,000 residents in the town limits as well as another 4,000 county residents through relationships with Williamson County.

Beginning in a loaned facility and with borrowed equipment, the Nolensville Fire and Rescue Department also held its first-ever push-in ceremony to celebrate the arrival of the new Fire Engine 16 in the town in April of this year.

Other equipment purchases made by the department include two Life Pak defibrillators, 16 self-contained breathing apparatus, portable radios, three smaller vehicles, hose, and more. The department is presently applying for two FEMA grants to further add to equipment and staff. Plans are now in the works for a new fire station to open in 2024 and a second station planned as part of long-term growth for the town in the next seven to 10 years.

Concerns about transparency and a desire to improve financial services led the town's finances team to reorganize the finance and human resources department into separate departments. Now in its own organizational structure, the municipal finance department began implementing a fund balance policy, which has served as a catalyst



Members of the Nolensville Fire Department hold their first-ever "push-in" ceremony for a new engine only around a year after the department went from a volunteer organization to a full-time one. Creating a new fire department is just one of the many big changes being made in Nolensville as city officials look toward future growth.

to develop municipal projects, such as infrastructure for the new fire department.

The adoption of this policy by the town council also allowed for the creation of a capital improvements fund, a capital improvements advisory committee, and a multi-year capital improvements plan. The finance department further took on the responsibility of revising the town's outdated debt management policy, adopting a new financial policy, implementing new software for financial services, and finding other ways to improve performance and efficiency. Nolensville's finance department also received the GFOA distinguished budget presentation award for its 21-22 fiscal year budget, one of only 18 government entities in the

state to do so.

After public works employees were forced to hand-spreading salt on major roadways following a minor snow incident, the decision was made to expand the size and scope of services undertaken by the department. This also meant adding new equipment to the department.

Nolensville Public Works Director Kyle Billingsley developed a five-year growth plan for the department, outlining the need for equipment and employees. Two employees were added in the 21-22 budget year along with the first snow plow and truck-mounted salt spreader.

Nolensville public work crews also proposed new initiatives for their department including in-house sidewalk repair to save funds that

could then be better used elsewhere. Expanded stormwater and drainage tasks were accomplished through equipment rents and crew members went to conferences to learn new techniques and gain experience with new equipment. These initiatives saved the town approximately \$100,000 and helped resolve drainage issues that have been significant for years.

The public works department has also had a hand in many beautification projects around the town as well. Other beautification efforts undertaken by the town include the first Keep Nolensville Beautiful Day this past May and the town receiving a Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) grant for the cleaning of Mill Creek, which saw three-quarters of a mile of the

creek cleaned by town staff and local volunteers.

Community events, like Nolensville Nights, are also bringing citizens together in the town's historic district. Local businesses, artists, performers, crafters, and others showcase their talents at business locations throughout the district. Town officials recently hosted an open house with local business leaders to discuss their vision for the community. Residents are also kept up-to-date with a weekly report from Town Manager Victor Lay.

The town is also in the middle of overhauling its zoning ordinance to help facilitate positive growth in the community. These are just some of the many ways that town leadership is looking toward Nolensville's future.

Municipal elections held in 80 cities across Tennessee

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BAXTER

Incumbents Willie Dale Allison and Greg Phillips retained their seats on the Baxter City Council against challenger Brian H. Burgess. Phillips led the vote total with 118 followed by Allison with 103 and Burgess with 48.

BELL BUCKLE

Incumbent Mayor Ronnie Lokey retained his seat in Bell Buckle with 53 votes. Incumbent alderman David B. Vannatta was the only candidate who ran for the two open alderman seats and retained his seat with 55 votes.

BYRDSTOWN

Incumbent Mayor Sam Gibson ran unopposed and retained his seat with 237 votes. Incumbents Barbara Mitchell, Jeff D. Rich, and Rex Tompkins also ran unopposed and retained their three alderman seats. Rich led the vote count with 223 followed by Tompkins with 217 and Mitchell with 205.

Incumbent Johnny Sells ran unopposed and also retained the city recorder seat with 226 votes.

CHATTANOOGA

Newcomer Marie Mott defeated sitting councilwoman Marvene Noel and challenger Malarie B. Marsh for the Chattanooga District 8 City Council seat. Mott earned 557 votes to Noel's 341 and Marsh's 294. Noel was appointed as an interim to the unexpired seat in March, which was vacated by former Councilman Anthony Byrd when he was appointed city court clerk by Chattanooga Mayor Tim Kelly.

CHAPEL HILL

Incumbent Mike Faulkenberry ran unopposed and retained his mayoral seat with 209 votes.

Incumbents Dale Brown and Jonathan Gilbert will be joined by newcomer Benjamin Piper Sr. as aldermen for Chapel Hill. Gilbert led the vote total with 191 followed by Piper with 180 and Brown with 166.

CHARLOTTE

Garland Breeden was elected the first new mayor of Charlotte in nearly 30 years, defeating fellow sitting councilmember Stevie Smith. Breeden earned 223 votes to Smith's 101. Longtime mayor Bill Davis opted not to run again.

Melinda Miller will be the sole incumbent returning to the Charlotte City Council and will be joined by newcomers Leah Stewart Green, Ricky Pastor, Chris Deloach, Caleb Story and Josh Turnbow, all of whom received more votes than incumbent Shelia Selser and newcomer Mika Sesler.

Miller led the vote with 248 followed by Green with 238, Pastor with 225, Deloach with 194, Story with 179, Turnbow with 162, Shelia Sesler with 136, and Mika Sesler with 123.

CLARKSBURG

Incumbent Howell Wayne Todd ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Clarksburg with 97 votes.

Incumbents Barbara A. McClure and Judy Grant-Smith ran unopposed for the two open Clarksburg alderman seats and were re-elected. Both McClure and Grant-Smith earned 87 votes.

CLEVELAND

Kevin D. Brooks, incumbent mayor of Cleveland, ran unopposed and was re-elected with 1,552 votes.

Incumbent Ken Webb also ran unopposed and was re-elected to his at-large city council seat with 1,455 votes.

In Council District 1, incumbent Marsha McKenzie defeated challenger Nolan Tippens with 163 votes to 56 while in District 2 Bill Estes ran unopposed and was re-elected with 117 votes.

COLLEGEDALE

Newcomer Kevin B. Wilson ran unopposed and was elected the municipal judge for Collegedale with 742 votes.

COLLIERVILLE

Lee Ann Pafford ran unopposed and was elected the municipal judge for Collierville with 7,334 votes.

COOKEVILLE

Incumbents Laurin Wheaton and Eric Walker will be joined by newcomers Luke Eldridge, Ali C. Bagci, and Chad Gilbert for the five open seats on the Cookeville City Council, defeating incumbent Mark Miller and challengers Jeremy

Michael Bowman, Gene Bressler, Jordan M. Iwanyzsyn, Brian Jones, Lynda Marie Loftis-Webb, and Damon Prince.

Wheaton led the vote count with 2,431 followed by Eldridge with 1,810, Walker with 1,744, Bagci with 1,640, Gilbert with 1,587, Miller with 1,396, Iwanyzsyn with 1,150, Prince with 1,069, Jones with 796, Loftis-Webb with 619, Bowman with 451, and Bressler with 238.

Neither incumbent Cookeville Mayor Ricky Shelton nor councilmember Charles Woman sought re-election to their seats.

DOWELLTOWN

Greg Fish earned 51 votes and took one of the two open alderman seats in Downtown. No other candidates qualified.

DYERSBURG

Dean P. Dedmon ran unopposed and was elected municipal judge for Dyersburg with 1,547 votes.

EAST RIDGE

Tracy Cox defeated fellow newcomers Chris Dixon, Rich Heinsman, and Kevin B. Wilson for the open city judge seat in East Ridge. Cox led the vote count with 970 followed by Wilson with 497, Dixon with 279, and Heinsman with 230.

EASTVIEW

Former alderman Elvis Butler ran unopposed and was elected Eastview mayor with 119 votes. Incumbent Mayor Jessie Robbins did not seek re-election.

Four candidates ran for the five open alderman seats in Eastview. Incumbent Jeff Coln will be joined by newcomers Luke Robbins, Jeff Walker, and Chase Koehler. Coln led the vote count with 117 followed by Robbins with 100, Walker with 96, and Koehler with 87.

Incumbent Alderwoman Lucy Martin did not seek re-election.

ELKTON

Write-in candidate Jimmy Caldwell received 5 votes, defeating fellow write-in candidate Jennifer McCluskey who received 3 votes. Incumbent mayor Jimmy Dean Caldwell didn't run for re-election.

For the two open alderman seats, incumbent Bill J. Cary will be joined by Ryan Giland. Cary earned 71 votes and Giland 55.

ENGLEWOOD

Newcomers Richard J. Robinson and Jerry Shirk were elected to the two open seats on the Englewood City Commission. Robinson led the vote with 127 followed by Shirk with 98.

ENVILLE

Enville incumbent Mayor Melinda Johnson ran unopposed and was re-elected to her seat with 24 votes.

Three candidates ran unopposed for the five vacant aldermen seats. Incumbents Shane Johnston, Wanda Kae Ritter, and Nickalaus Weatherington were all re-elected with 24 votes each.

ERIN

Incumbent Paul Bailey ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Erin with 267 votes.

In the Ward 1 Alderman race, newcomer Lisa Moore earned 45 votes to fend off fellow challengers David Conyers, who earned 22, and Jackqlyn Largent Smith, who earned 19. For Ward 2, incumbent Cecil Baggett ran unopposed and was re-elected with 56 votes while newcomer Mike Self ran unopposed and was elected to the Ward 4 seat with 70 votes. P.J. Gooden ran unopposed and earned 66 votes for the unexpired Ward 4 term. No candidate qualified for the open Ward 3 seat.

ETOWAH

Incumbent E. Burke Garwood, who presently serves as Etowah mayor, will be joined by newcomers Laura Floyd and Eugene Keller on the Etowah City Commission. Floyd led the vote total with 231 followed by Garwood with 186 and Keller with 21.

FAIRVIEW

Shannon L. Crutcher, incumbent municipal judge for Fairview, ran unopposed and was re-elected with 727 votes. Incumbent City Clerk Gina Mangrum also ran unopposed and was re-elected with 734 votes.

FARRAGUT

Incumbent Ron Williams defeated challenger Bill Johns 2,016 to 1,958 to retain the Farragut mayoral seat.

In the Ward 1 Alderman race, incumbent Scott J. Meyer fended off challengers Adam Atherton and James Hill with Meyer earning 765 votes to Atherton's 524 and Hill's 417.

For Ward 2, newcomer David White defeated fellow challenger Marty L. Layman with 967 votes to 827. White will take over the seat from Ron Pinchok, who did not seek re-election.

FRIENDSVILLE

Incumbents Shane Rogers and Johanthan D. Newberry will be joined by newcomer Sandra Reagan Bell in the three city commission seats in Friendsville. Rogers led the vote count with 72 followed by Bell with 71, and Newberry with 59.

GAINESBORO

Lloyd F. Williams retained his mayoral seat in Gainesboro. Williams ran unopposed and received 197 votes.

In the Gainesboro alderman race, incumbent Ricky Head will be joined by newcomers Nancy Pruett and Eric Bartholomew after fending off incumbent Travis Agee and fellow challengers Patrick Highland and Dennis Colonel White.

Pruett led the vote tally with 130 followed by Head with 103, Bartholomew with 101, Agee with 98, White with 97, and Highland with 30. Incumbent Wayne Strong did not seek re-election.

GERMANTOWN

Incumbent Raymond Clift ran unopposed and was elected municipal judge for Germantown's Division 1 with 7,608 votes while his fellow incumbent Bob Brannon ran unopposed and was elected municipal judge for Germantown's Division 2 with 7,523 votes.

GLEASON

Mike Bennett defeated fellow challenger James Thurman Hines 179-30 for the unexpired, at-large alderman seat in Gleason.

GREENBRIER

For the Ward 1 Alderman seat in Greenbrier, incumbent Billy Ray Dorris ran unopposed and was re-elected with 100 votes. Incumbent Chris Davis also ran unopposed and was re-elected to the Ward 3 seat with 144 votes. No candidate qualified for the Ward 2 seat.

GREENEVILLE

For the first time in a dozen years, Greeneville will have a new mayor as challenger Cal Doty defeated incumbent W.T. Daniels and fellow challenger David Crum for the seat. Doty led the vote count with 625 followed by Daniels with 582 and Crum with 427.

Incumbents Scott Bullington and Tim Teague ran unopposed for the two open Ward 2 alderman seats. Bullington led the vote with 492 followed by Teague with 487.

HARRIMAN

Newcomers Alicia Harris, Travis J. Kirkland II, and Johnny Brackett defeated both incumbents Sam Russell and Lonnie Wright as well as fellow challengers Joshua Dale Gillespie and Bruce Knobloch for the three open seats on the Harriman City Council.

Harris led the vote count with 424 followed by Kirland with 370, Brackett with 355, Wright with 342, Knobloch with 308, Russell with 293, and Gillespie with 209.

HENDERSON

Three incumbent aldermen ran unopposed and were re-elected to their seats in Henderson. Keith Smith led the vote with 615 followed by Donna Butler with 611 and Mark A. Barer with 588.

JACKSON

Incumbent Jackson Municipal Judge Blake Anderson ran unopposed and was re-elected with 6,075 votes. Incumbent Court Clerk Daryl K. Hubbard also ran unopposed and was re-elected with 5,934 votes.

LENOIR CITY

Newcomer Gregg Harrison defeated incumbent Robin M. McNabb and challenger Amanda Smith for the Lenoir City municipal judge seat. Harrison led the vote count with 350 followed by McNabb with 313 and Smith with 296.

LEWISBURG

Incumbent Jim Bingham fended off challenger and sitting Alderman Joseph Bradford for the mayoral seat in Lewisburg. Bingham earned 966 votes to Bradford's 712.

In the Ward 2 race, challenger Vickie Michael defeated incumbent Jack Cathey with 344 votes to 288. In Ward 3, incumbent Peggy Harwell fended off challenger Harry Lee Douglas with 81 votes to 68. For the Ward 4 race, newcomer Tommy G. Burns defeated incumbent Jerry N. Gordon 213 to 155.

Barbara Gillespie Medley, incumbent municipal judge for Lewisburg, ran unopposed and was re-elected with 1,460 votes.

LIBERTY

Newcomer Audrey M. Martin defeated incumbent mayor Jason Hayes Ray with Martin earning 73 votes to Ray's 58.

Incumbents Kevin R. Mullinax, Joe D. Bratten, and William H. Reynolds Jr. will be joined by newcomers Ryan Dodd and Kendra Stanford as aldermen for Liberty, unseating incumbent Derek Johnson. Mullinax led the vote total with 98 followed by Bratten with 91, Dodd with 88, Stanford with 86, Reynolds with 80, and Johnson with 74. Incumbent alderman Kelly Spain did not seek re-election.

LINDEN

Four incumbents ran unopposed and were re-elected to their seats in Linden: Mayor Wess F. Ward, Ward 1 Alderman Bart Rosson, Ward 2 Alderman Patrick Denton, and Ward 3 Alderman Dean Heady.

In the Ward 3 unexpired term, Joey Mackin narrowly defeated Forrest White 98 to 95 for the seat previously held by the late Richard Jones.

LOBELVILLE

All three races in Lobelville were uncontested with incumbents retaining their seats. Mayor Robby J. Moore, and Aldermen Don Barnette and Josh Warren were all unopposed.

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

Incumbents Jim Bentley, Walker Jones, and David Paschall will be joined by newcomers Karen Leavengood and William Valadez as Lookout Mountain City Commissioners. Jones led the vote count with 634 followed by Paschall with 628, Leavengood with 601, Bentley with 590, and Valadez with 553.

Commissioners Brooke Pippenger and Frank Schriener did not seek re-election.

Steve Phillips Persinger ran unopposed and was elected municipal judge with 639 votes. Persinger will take over from previous Judge Flossie Weill, who did not seek re-election.

LOUDON

John Cardwell fended off a crowd of seven candidates to fill the unexpired term on the Loudon City Council. Cardwell won with 297 votes and was followed by James Webb with 168, Eric Newman with 123, Jonathan R. Yates with 81, Jimmy Parks with 78, John Franklin with 48, and David Paul Williams with 39.

Admiral "Bumper" Webster was appointed to fill the seat in 2021 after the resignation of Tim Brewster for health reasons.

LYNNVILLE

Newcomer Floyd Pratt was the sole candidate to qualify for the three open aldermen seats in Lynnville. Pratt received 36 votes.

MANCHESTER

Incumbent Mayor Marilyn Howard ran unopposed and received 1,176 votes.

For the four aldermen seats in Manchester, incumbent Mark Messick will be joined by newcomers Joey Jobs, Donny N. Parsley, and Julie Anderson after fending off fellow challengers David Bradley, Helen J. DeBellis, Claude S. Morse, and James Threet.

Hobbs led the vote count with 747 followed by Parsley with 729, Messick with 712, Anderson with 664, DeBellis with 617, Threet with 561, Morse with 519, and Bradley with 478.

MCEWEN

Incumbent City Judge Tracy L. Harrell ran unopposed and was re-elected to the seat in McEwen.

MEMPHIS

Newcomer Kenya Hooks defeated fellow challenger Carolyn S. Watkins with Hooks earning 40,699 to Watkins' 27,256 votes for the Memphis Division 1 municipal judge race. The seat was previously held by Judge Teresa Jones, who died in January of last year.

MICHIE

Incumbent Jay Poindexter will be joined by newcomer David Lynn Baker as Michie aldermen, defeated fellow incumbent John R. Dunn for the two open seats. Both Poindexter and Baker garnered 20 votes while Dunn earned 11.

MILAN

Incumbent Milan City Judge Collins Bond ran unopposed and was re-elected

MINOR HILL

Incumbent mayor Tracy Wilburn ran unopposed and was re-elected with 99 votes.

In the alderman race, incumbent Brandon Beard will be joined by newcomer Jerry Paul Stafford after defeating fellow challenger Peter Abdo for the two open seats. Stafford led the vote count with 49 followed by Beard with 30 and Abdo with 10.

Bill Sacharnoski was elected to finish out the unexpired term he was appointed to with 68 votes.

MONTEREY

Incumbent Nathan Walker ran unopposed and retained his Monterey mayor's seat with 217 votes.

Incumbents also ran unopposed in three of the four open alderman wards in Monterey. Ward 1 incumbent Alexander Garcia garnered 192 votes, Ward 2 incumbent Jimmy L. Whitaker earned 203 votes, and Ward 4 incumbent Bill Wiggins earned 168.

Newcomer James Wolfgram ran unopposed and won the Ward 3 seat with 172 votes. The seat was vacant prior to the election.

MOSHEIM

Newcomer Rick Cunningham ran and was re-elected to the unexpired mayoral term in Mosheim with 94 votes. David B. Myers was sworn into the seat in February 2021 after the resignation of previous Mayor Tommy Gregg, but Myers did not run for the remainder of the term.

Incumbent Marc A. Campbell ran unopposed and earned 84 votes for the Ward 2 alderman seat.

No candidate qualified to run in the Ward 1 Alderman race.

MURFREESBORO

Incumbent Murfreesboro Mayor Shane McFarland fended off challengers Nathan Bennett and Tony Lehw to retain his seat. McFarland earned 8,446 votes to Lehw's 2,103 and Bennett's 2,100.

Madelyn Scales Harris is also the sole incumbent returning to one of the three open seats on the Murfreesboro City Council and will be joined by Austin Maxwell and Jami K. Averwater. Harris led the vote with 6,408 followed by Maxwell with 5,153, Averwater with 4,991, Carolyn Cox with 4,101, Warren Russell with 4,087, Ricky R. Turner with 3,698, and Samarne Sourinho with 1,677.

NEWBERN

Incumbent Municipal Judge Jason R. Creasy ran unopposed and was re-elected with 300 votes.

NEW JOHNSONVILLE

Incumbents Justin Lance Nichols and Wayne Woods will be joined by newcomer S. Krystal Beasley on the New Johnsonville City Council. Woods led the vote count with 121 followed by Nichols with 103 and Beasley with 100.

Newcomer Scott Daniel ran unopposed and was also elected to the New Johnsonville municipal judge seat previously held by Michael W. Patrick, who did not seek re-election.

OAKDALE

Incumbent Mayor Buddy Miller ran unopposed and received 25 votes for his seat. No candidates qualified for the two open at-large aldermen seats previously held by Danielle Mackenzie and Wolfgang Robertson.

OAK HILL

Incumbents Dale Grimes and Joy O'Dell will be joined by Scott T. Price on the Oak Hill City Commission, fending off challenger Michael Bono. Grimes led the vote count with 461 followed by O'Dell with 439, Price with 420, and Bono with 198.

OLIVER SPRINGS

Incumbent Oliver Springs City Judge Joseph Van Book ran unopposed and was re-elected to his seat with 226 votes. Incumbent court clerk and finance officer Ramona Walker also ran unopposed and was

Continued on next page

Elections held in 80 cities

Continued from previous page
re-elected with 222 votes.

PEGRAM

Newcomer Michael Paszek garnered 178 votes to defeat incumbent Randall Glenn Howington, Jr., who earned 139 votes in the open Pegram alderman seat.

Bob Sanders ran unopposed and was elected to the unexpired alderman term with 325 votes. Sanders was previously appointed to fill the seat vacated by the death of Pegram Vice Mayor Rankine Roth.

PETERSBURG

Incumbent aldermen Randy W. McDonald and Charles B. Talley ran unopposed and were re-elected to their seats. Talley earned 23 votes while McDonald earned 17.

RED BANK

Incumbent Red Bank Municipal Judge Johnny D. Houston Jr. ran unopposed and was re-elected with 1,371 votes.

RIPLEY

No candidate qualified to run for the open municipal judge seat in Ripley. The seat was previously held by Tracey Brewer-Walker.

RIVES

Incumbent Mayor Lester Burnes fended off write-in challenger Joshua Rollins to keep his seat in Rives. Burnes received 30 votes to Rollins' 18.

Newcomers Warren "Craig" McCord and Sherry Davis will take two of the three open alderman seats. McCord received 43 votes while Davis, a write-in candidate, received 8.

SARDIS

Sardis Mayor J.W. Creasy ran unopposed and was re-elected to his seat with 58 votes.

In the alderman race, Jason Craig will join incumbents Richard Holland, Kenneth Scott, Larry Smith, and Gail Wade on the board. Craig led the vote count with 62 followed by Holland with 59, Wade with 56, Smith with 55, and Scott with 51. Incumbent Teresa Beecham did not seek re-election.

SCOTTS HILL

Alderman Woody Capley ran unopposed and received 42 votes for the mayoral seat in Scotts Hill. Incumbent mayor Kenny Parrish did not seek re-election.

Incumbents Bonnie Butler, Mary L. Connell, and Tiffany M. Lyle will be joined by newcomers Monty Ray, Jerry Tucker, and Jeremy Creason after defeating challenger Don Buckingham for the seven open aldermen seats.

Dickson led the vote count with 132 followed by Lyle with 128, Butler with 124, Ray with 122, Tucker with 117, Creason with 111, Connell with 109, and Buckingham with 101. Incumbents Wesson Reeves, Betty Sims, and L.D. Sims did not seek re-election.

SIGNAL MOUNTAIN

Incumbent Municipal Judge Gary S. Humble ran unopposed and was re-elected with 1,386 votes.

SMITHVILLE

Incumbent Joshua M. Miller ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Smithville with 805 votes.

Incumbent alderman Don Crook will be joined by newcomer Beth Chandler, defeating fellow challenger Rhonda Tiefenauer for the two open alderman seats. Chandler led the vote with 670 followed by Crook with 508 and Tiefenauer with 337.

SMYRNA

Brittany Stevens, who previously served as town court clerk, ran unopposed and was elected municipal judge for Smyrna with 2,389 votes. Stevens will take over the role from outgoing Judge Lynn England Alexander.

Lisa J. Brewer defeated fellow newcomer Sergio Gutierrez 1,838 to 954 votes for the open town court clerk seat.

SODDY-DAISY

Incumbent Soddy-Daisy Municipal Judge D. Marty Lasley ran unopposed and was elected with 1,391 votes.

SOUTH CARTHAGE

Newcomer Joey Nixon ran unopposed and was elected mayor of South Carthage with 183 votes. Incumbent Mayor Hollis Mullinax did not seek re-election.

In the Ward 1 Alderman race,

Bobby Law ran unopposed and was elected with 51 votes while in the unexpired Ward 1 race, Seth Dillehay ran unopposed and was elected with 54 votes. Ward 2 incumbent Alderman Sam Murley also ran unopposed and was elected with 108 votes.

SPARTA

After a dozen years as mayor, incumbent Jeff Young was defeated by sitting Alderman Jerry Lowery for the mayoral seat in Sparta. Lowery earned 539 votes to Young's 370.

Incumbents Jim Floyd and Bobby Officer will be joined by newcomer Travis McBride as aldermen for Sparta, garnering more votes than incumbent Hoyt Jones and challenger Janice Jernigan Heikkinen. Floyd led the vote total with 553 followed by Officer with 445, McBride with 430, Jones with 426, and Heikkinen with 386.

SPRING CITY

Incumbents Jody Bauer and Reba Murphy fended off challenger Thomas Beaver for the two open seats on the Spring City Commission. Murphy led the vote with 140 followed by Bauer with 137 and Beaver with 129.

TENNESSEE RIDGE

Two new faces will join the Tennessee Ridge City Commission. Matthew Williams and Travis Wyatt defeated fellow challenger David Wood for the seat. Williams led the count with 225 votes, Wyatt with 214, and Wood with 211.

TOWNSEND

Incumbent city commissioner Rindi Martin will be joined by newcomers Donald Prater and Kelsey Messer Satterfield on the Townsend City Commission, defeating challenger Melinda Spruce. Prater led the vote count with 110 followed by Martin with 96, Satterfield with 48, and Spruce with 42.

TRENTON

Newcomer Mark L. Agee ran unopposed and was elected to the Trenton city judge seat previously held by Jeff Mueller, who did not seek re-election. Incumbent Wilma Champion ran unopposed and was re-elected city court clerk.

TULLAHOMA

Daniel Berry will be the sole incumbent returning to the four open seats on the Tullahoma Board of Alderman and will be joined by newcomers Jerry R. Mathis, Kurt Glick, and Bobbie Wilson. The four fended off both incumbents Rupa Shukla Blackwell and Sernobia McGee as well as challenger Linda Periot Johnson.

Mathis led the vote total with 1,919 followed by Glick with 1,731, Berry with 1,528, Wilson also with 1,528, Johnson with 1,465, Blackwell with 1,380, and McGee with 1,152.

UNION CITY

Newcomer Cody Martin fended off fellow challenger Hal Mosier 112-98 to take the Ward 4 unexpired council term in Union City.

WARTBURG

Councilman Phil Vespie defeated challenger Doug Garrett for the Wartburg mayoral seat. Vespie earned 1010 votes to Garrett's 65 to take the seat previously held by Jonathan Dagley.

Newcomer Wendell Laughter ran unopposed for the at-large seat previously held by Vespie and was elected with 101 votes. Bael Guntner ran unopposed for the expired at-large council seat and won with 140 votes.

WAYNESBORO

Three incumbents ran unopposed and were re-elected to the Waynesboro City Commission. Jeff Howell led the vote total with 424 followed by Tony L. Creasy with 411, and Chris Bevins, who presently serves as mayor, with 401.

WHITE BLUFF

Diann Smithson ran unopposed and was elected municipal judge for White Bluff with 280 votes.

WHITEVILLE

Incumbents Ocie Holmes and Jimmie Lee Robertson will be joined by newcomer Jessie Junior Giles as aldermen for Whiteville after defeating challengers Nadean Matthews and Steven Stanley.

Holmes led the vote total with 110 followed by Robertson with 100, Giles with 99, Stanley with 73, and Matthews with 54.

Patience, etiquette vital for cities interested in recruiting South Korea-based companies



Officials with the city of Martin, state of Tennessee, and Korean-based Dong-A at the announcement of the company's decision to open its first U.S. facility in Martin in 2019. Martin ECD Director Brad Thompson said city officials learned a lot about Korean business culture while working to recruit the company, which was the city's first major business investment since the 1980s and the first ever for-

By KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

Working with SK Innovation and other Korean-based Ford suppliers and companies was the focus of a recent Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (TNECD) panel discussion as part of a series of meetings focusing on the development of Blue Oval City.

Based in Seoul, SK Innovation will be the latest of the more than 15 Korean-based companies employing 3,500 people and making foreign-direct investments (FDI) in the state of Tennessee. By knowing customs and how business is conducted by Korean officials, local leaders can be more successful in working with companies like SK as well as recruiting other companies from South Korea to their communities.

While Korean and American businesspeople have a lot in common, there are some differences in both business and cultural etiquette. Chassen Haynes, director of business development with TNECD, said patience with foreign investors is key.

"You need to be patient and understanding," Haynes said. "Put yourself in their shoes. You are going to South Korea or Germany, and you are trying to formulate a business plan in a place you've never visited. You are looking at sites you have never visited and are meeting with people you have no rapport with. You are trying to build a relationship. Just like people from Tennessee may negotiate differently from people who are from California or New York, it's exponentially different when you are negotiating with a foreign company. There is not only a language barrier but also different etiquette. Be patient and respectful through that process."

Hee-Jung Shin, director of business development in Korea for TNECD, works in Korea to recruit businesses to Tennessee. Shin said that Americans may want to provide an introduction to visiting Korean officials with members of existing Korean populations within their cities, but this isn't always helpful given the rapid nature of change in Korean history in culture in the past 50 years.

"It is very sensitive to involve Koreans already living in America," she said. "A lot of the Koreans who migrated to the U.S. did so a long time ago, and there is a big difference between Korea when they left and Korea now. Meeting Korean people in America can sometimes be a bad experience and Korean businessman cannot say they don't want to do this. Even the people who have been in the U.S. for a couple of years and return to Korea find there are big changes."

That being said, Brad Thompson, director of economic and community development with the city of Martin, said when the city was working to recruit Dong-A USA, Inc., officials found it beneficial to include Korean ex-pats who are willing to promote the area as a good place to live.

"It was really important that we were prepared and welcoming to everyone and that everyone was comfortable while they were here," Thompson said. "We have a Korean Association here in Martin and some Korean professors on campus at UT Martin. When they arrived in Martin, they were greeted by Korean people who lived in Martin. We did a vetting process to accomplish what we wanted to accomplish. It was more strategic than a free-for-

all welcome. We asked people to stick to a script about Martin, the good experiences they had here, and not do anything that would be disruptive or disrespectful to what we were doing. I would say if you do have a Korean population in your community and you don't have an existing relationship with them already, you might start working on that now."

Haynes said when recruiting SK it was often valuable to show that Korean businesses and their employees were safe and have opportunities for their families in the U.S.

"We want people to feel like they are coming to a safe environment where people from South Korea can come and live, because there are going to be people coming over to help start up the plant," Haynes said. "We actually recorded video from a Korean businessman in Memphis to specifically talk about his experiences living in Memphis, his family, and where his kids go to school. If you were going to Thailand to open up an operation or do business, we would all feel a little more comfortable with an American ex-pat who was over there already living and working telling us directly what it is like."

A quick Google search of your community to see what negative press comes up can also help ease any concerns about safety. Haynes said FDI companies will do their due diligence before coming to visit a site, and local officials may have to address negative publicity.

Facts and figures are not as important as visualization when it comes to Korean and other FDI business recruitment.

"There is something we have found with a lot of FDI companies when looking at a site, especially if there is an encumbrance like a hill, trees, or anything that could be a risk for development," Haynes said. "If you cannot mitigate that risk beforehand, help tell the story of how their facility could lay out on the site. One question we got from SK was about where the labor was coming from. We showed them facts and data, but they still didn't believe it until we picked them up in a helicopter and hovered 100 feet above the ground so they could see all of the rooftops. That's when the lightbulb went off with them."

Haynes said Korean companies are also often interested in where and how their potential workforce will be trained.

"We have to explain we don't build training facilities on-site for everybody," he said. "We try to have conversations with our Department of Labor and local workforce boards to help them understand things like apprenticeship programs, how those pathways work, and being more secure in where their workforce comes from."

Helping Korean officials understand how their employees will live in an area is also important. Shin said knowing where the best schools are, how to enroll in schools, and where to find English courses so non-English speaking members of a family can learn are common questions. Having someone to serve as a contact person for making these transitions can be valuable, she said. Seemingly smaller cultural differences can also be different, but by working to understand these differences cities looking to recruit FDI companies can avoid miscommunications or insults. Thompson said Martin officials learned that Korean business etiquette is often more formal than American.

"Initially, one of the things we

learned quickly when dealing with the Dong-A folks when they were in Martin is that they were very formal and very big on titles," Thompson said. "They didn't necessarily call someone by their first name. They preferred the title, especially with the mayor or the director. They used titles as a demonstration of respect."

Haynes said American informality can often come off as insulting or scheming in other cultures.

"Be cognizant of sarcasm and slang," Haynes said. "I even have to watch myself saying 'y'all' because it doesn't always translate. Be a little more formal. It can be seen as negative if you are talking on the side, being buddy-buddy, and sharing inside jokes. Sometimes I have seen foreign companies feel like someone is trying to pull something over on them because of that. Cultural things we do in our everyday life may not be as prevalent with them."

"Some have better English than others, and sometimes they will need a translator," he said. "When preparing for a lot of the interactions with SK, I consulted with Hee-Jung about the level of English. We knew we needed to allow time in between presentations for people to have sidebars. They might have one person who has very good English, but the decisionmaker doesn't have good English. We might have one person who might, in the middle of a presentation, start talking to the decisionmaker. We would be patient, pause, and let them have their sidebar conversation. They were working to make sure things were being interpreted correctly. The translator might come back to ensure what they were translating was accurate."

Thompson said while meetings themselves were formal, a meal or snack following meetings or site tours offered more of a chance to be informal.

"One thing we did notice is that they liked to debrief," he said. "They were very hospitable offering food and drink and having something prepared for us to have after the tour of a facility to visit. It seemed very important to them that we stay and participate and enjoy some food with them."

Shin said eating together is an important aspect of both business and overall culture.

"Having meals together is a big thing for Koreans," she said. "If you go to a site or a meeting, they will be really formal. At the dinner, they will relate and you can have more real talk."

Haynes said that other breaks in the schedule may also need to be accommodated.

"There are often a lot more smokers," he said. "If you've ever been on a site visit with me, they are planned out by the minute. Make sure you work in some time for them to feel independent and have their own time. If they need a smoke break, let them have a smoke break."

Watching gestures can also be important as not all hand signals and gestures have the same meaning in different cultures. Thompson said Martin officials learned this when conducted a site visit with Korean officials.

"During our site visit, people were out there pointing and waving to show people things," Thompson said. "Jisun Collier, a Korean teacher from the University of Martin who was working with us, said 'please tell them to stop pointing.' That is deemed as disrespectful."

Shin said in Korean culture people do not motion to gain attention. *See KOREA on Page 12*

Tennessee federal and state election results

ELECTIONS from Page 1
ning in races for Districts 13, 18, 24, 26, 32, 35, 52, 59, 61, 63, 67, 69, 71, 75, and 79.

However, biggest news out of the Tennessee State House races may have been the loss of two incumbents in their respective primaries.

Incumbent Republican State Rep. Bob Ramsey lost his District 20 seat to primary challenger Bryan Richey with Richey garnering 3,802 votes to Ramsey's 2,061. With no Democrat challenger in November, Richey will take the House District 20 seat.

Another Republican incumbent, State Rep. Terri Lynn Weaver of District 40, lost her primary race to challenger Michael Hale by Hale's 6,473 votes to Weaver's 4,403. Hale will go on to face Democrat Tom Cook in November.

Tennessee Governor

Democrat
Carnita Atwater 56,061
Jason Martin 101,221
J.B. Smiley 99,753

Republican

Bill Lee (i) 494,195

US House District 1

Democrat
Cameron Parsons 6,099

Republican
Diana Harshbarger (i) 43,754

**Independent candidates Richard Barker and Ahmed Makron also be on the ballot in November.*

US House District 2

Democrat
Mark Harmon 24,871

Republican
Tim Burchett (i) 56,869

US House District 3

Democrat
Meg Gorman 22,194

Republican
Sandy Casey 13,603

Chuck Fleischmann (i) 52,060

**Independent candidates Thomas Rumba and Rick Tyler will also be on the ballot in November.*

US House District 4

Democrat
Russell Steele 11,166

Republican
Arnold White 5,991

Ed Jackson (i) 17,260

**Independent candidate Ronnie Henley will also be on the ballot in November.*

US House District 5

Democrat
Jack Johnson (i) 12,470

Republican
Gary Humble 11,683

Democrat
Bob Ramsey (i) 2,061

Bryan Richey 3,802

Democrat
No candidate qualified

Republican
Lowell Russell (i) 6,787

Democrat
Dan Howell (i) 6,787

Republican
London Lamar (i) 12,634

Rhonnie Brewer 2,637

M. Latroy Alexandria-Williams, Jr. 3,158

Republican
Frederick D. Tappan 2,587

**Independent candidate Hastina D. Robinson will also be on the ballot in November.*

US House District 6

Democrat
Randal Cooper 17,071

Republican
Clay Faircloth 5,798

Democrat
John Rose (i) 57,115

US House District 7

Democrat
Odessa Kelly 24,654

Republican
Mark Green (i) 48,924

**Independent candidate Steve Hooper will also be on the ballot in November.*

US House District 8

Democrat
Tim McDonald 9,186

Republican
Lynette Williams 15,816

Democrat
David Kustoff (i) 69,575

Danny Ray Bridger Jr. 4,233

Gary Clouse 2,296

Bob Hendry 6,996

**Independent candidates James Hart and Ronnie Henley will also be on the ballot in November.*

US House District 9

Democrat
Steve Cohen (i) 62,008

Republican
M. Latroy Alexandria-Williams 8,441

Democrat
Leo AwGoWhat 999

Charloette Bergmann 10,378

Brown Dudley 8,757

**Independent candidates Dennis Clark, Paul Cook, and George Finn will also be on the ballot in November.*

TN Senate Dist. 1

Democrat
Patricia Waters 2,003

Republican
Mark Hall 8,549

J. Adam Lowe 9,647

TN Senate Dist. 3

Democrat
Kate Craig 2,479

Republican
Rusty Crowe (i)

TN Sen. Dist. 5

Democrat
No candidate qualified

Republican
Randy McNally (i) 12,964

Earle Grest 2,515

TN Sen. Dist. 7

Democrat
Bryan Langan 7,390

Republican
Richard Briggs (i) 8,574

Kent A. Morrell 4,395

TN Sen. Dist. 9

Democrat
Sara Thompson 1,763

Republican
Steve Southerland (i) 13,527

TN Sen. Dist. 11

Democrat
No candidate qualified

Republican
Bo Watson (i) 17,262

TN Sen. Dist. 13

Democrat
Kelly Northcutt 5,149

Republican
Dawn White (i) 11,080

TN Sen. Dist. 15

Democrat
No candidate qualified

Republican
Paul Bailey (i) 20,777

TN Sen. Dist. 17

Democrat
No candidate qualified

Republican
Mark Pody (i) 13,147

TN Sen. Dist. 18

Democrat
Barry Barlow 445

Jerry Maynard 5,060

Charlane Oliver 5,665

Rossi Turner 349

Ludye N. Wallace 1,476

Republican
Pime Hernandez 1,027

TN Sen. Dist. 21

Democrat
Jeff Yarbro (i) 11,343

Republican
No candidate qualified

**Independent candidate Rueben Dockery will also be on the ballot in November.*

TN Sen. Dist. 23

Democrat
No candidate qualified

Republican
Kerry Roberts (i) 18,733

TN Sen. Dist. 25

Democrat
No candidate qualified

Republican
Ed Jackson (i) 17,260

**Independent candidate Ronnie Henley will also be on the ballot in November.*

TN Sen. Dist. 27

Democrat
No candidate qualified

Republican
Ed Jackson (i) 17,260

**Independent candidate Ronnie Henley will also be on the ballot in November.*

TN Sen. Dist. 29

Democrat
Raumesh Akbari (i) 21,558

Republican
No candidate qualified

TN Sen. District 31

Democrat
Ruby Powell-Dennis 12,204

Republican
Brent Taylor 24,850

TN Sen. Dist. 33

Democrat
London Lamar (i) 12,634

Republican
Rhonnie Brewer 2,637

M. Latroy Alexandria-Williams, Jr. 3,158

Republican
Frederick D. Tappan 2,587

**Independent candidate Hastina D. Robinson will also be on the ballot in November.*

TN House Dist. 1

Democrat
No candidate qualified

Republican
John Crawford (i) 1,824

TN House Dist. 2

Democrat
No candidate qualified

Republican
Bud Husley (i) 2,986

TN House Dist. 3

Democrat
No candidate qualified

Republican
Scotty Campbell (i) 5,758

TN House Dist. 4

Democrat
No candidate qualified

Republican
John Holsclaw Jr. (i) 5,362

TN House Dist. 5

Democrat
No candidate qualified

Republican
David Hawk (i) 3,197

TN House Dist. 6

Democrat
No candidate qualified

Republican
Tim Hicks (i) 3,980

**Independent candidate Joel Goodman will also be on the ballot in November.*

TN House Dist. 7

Democrat
No candidate qualified

Republican
Rebecca Alexander (i) 3,895

TN House Dist. 8

Democrat
Dylan D. Kelley 1,191

Republican
Jerome Moon (i) 4,330

TN House Dist. 9

Democrat
No candidate qualified

Republican
Gary Hicks (i) 5,904

TN House Dist. 10

Democrat
No candidate qualified

Republican
Rick Eldridge (i) 3,203

Donel Shelton 1,085

TN House Dist. 11

Democrat
No candidate qualified

Republican
Jeremy Faison (i) 6,508

TN House Dist. 12

Democrat
No candidate qualified

Republican
Dale Carr (i) 2,028

**Independent candidate Larry Linton will also be on the ballot in November.*

TN House Dist. 13

Democrat
Jeffrey Young Crum 1,499

Republican
Gabriel Fancher 1,363

Robert Stevens 2,062

TN House Dist. 14

Democrat
Amanda Collins 3,204

Republican
Jason Zachary (i) 6,361

TN House Dist. 15

Democrat
Sam McKenzie (i) 3,104

Republican
Pete Drew 1,047

TN House Dist. 16

Democrat
No candidate qualified

Republican
Kelly Keisling (i) 9,730

TN House Dist. 17

Democrat
Bruce Manuel 2,147

Republican
Iris Rudder (i) 6,922

TN House Dist. 18

Democrat
Tom Cook 1,464

Republican
Terri Lynn Weaver (i) 4,542

Michael Hale 6,696

TN House Dist. 19

Democrat
No candidate qualified

Republican
Gregory B. Kaplan 3,776

Elaine Davis 3,528

Janet Testerman 2,785

TN House Dist. 20

Democrat
No candidate qualified

Republican
Dave Wright (i) 4,261

**Independent candidate Mary Ann Rochat will also be on the ballot in November.*

TN House Dist. 21

Democrat
Zeke Streetman 1,447

Republican
Bradley Hayes 1,172

Michael C. Swisher 2,417

**Independent incumbent John Windle will be on the ballot in November.*

TN House Dist. 22

Democrat
Kesa Fowler 1,008

Republican
William Lambeth (i) 4,363

TN House Dist. 23

Democrat
No candidate qualified

Republican
Johnny Garrett (i) 3,867

Democrat
No candidate qualified

Republican
Rush Bricken (i) 7,115

**Independent candidate Vernica Owens will also be on the ballot in November.*

TN House Dist. 24

Democrat
No candidate qualified

Republican
Anne Ferrell Quillen 1,211

Cameron Sexton (i) 7,893

TN House Dist. 25

Democrat
Allison Gorman 3,088

Tim Roberts 488

Greg Martin 6,881

TN House Dist. 26

Democrat
No candidate qualified

Republican
Patsy Hazlewood (i) 6,718

**Independent candidate Michael H. Potter will also be on the ballot in November.*

TN House Dist. 27

Democrat
No candidate qualified

Republican
Yusuf Hakeem (i) 4,977

TN House Dist. 28

Democrat
No candidate qualified

Republican
Bill Beck (i) 5,558

TN House Dist. 29

Democrat
No candidate qualified

Republican
Justin Jones 1,931

Delishia Porterfield 1,690

TN House Dist. 30

Democrat
No candidate qualified

Republican
Esther Helton (i) 4,643

TN House Dist. 31

Democrat
David Brown 950

STATE BRIEFS

Austin Peay State University (APSU) has become the first Tennessee university to offer in-state tuition rates to all of the nation's military-affiliated students, which includes active-duty military personnel, veterans, reservists, National Guard members, and their eligible family members. APSU recently announced the creation of special financial awards so that military-affiliated students can receive one of the lowest tuition rates in the state. The university is also reducing the cost of its military student graduate-level tuition to the Federal Tuition Assistance rate of \$250 a credit hour, which will save uniformed military graduate students over \$600 in out-of-pocket expenses per course. The Tennessee Higher Education Commission previously honored the university's support of this population by naming Austin Peay State University a Veterans Education Transition Support (VETS) Campus, and APSU is now home to the state's first Institute for National Security and Military Studies.

The rate at which people looked for new jobs across Tennessee held steady in June, according to newly released data from the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (TDLWD). The latest statistics also showed more people were on the job across the state in June compared to any other month on record. Tennessee's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for June 2022 came in at 3.3%, which mirrored the rate from May. One year ago, the rate was 1.1 percentage points higher than the latest number. In a year-to-year comparison, nonfarm employment in Tennessee grew by 130,600 jobs. The leisure and hospitality sector, trade, transportation and utilities sector, and professional and business services sector saw the most growth over the last year. Tennessee's civilian workforce jumped from 3,405,540 in May to 3,413,449 in June. That marked the largest civilian workforce since the state started tracking the statistic. The new numbers increased the state's labor force participation

rate from 61.1% to 61.2%.

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) and the University of Memphis (UofM) have partnered to establish the "Tennessee Delta Alliance," a new organization supporting the communities of Lake, Dyer, Lauderdale, Tipton, and Shelby counties. The organization will be housed in the university's Center for Regional Economic Enrichment and will comprise a director and an advisory council of residents from the five counties. The Tennessee Delta Alliance will serve as a dual-purposed organization. Its mission is to manage the roadway and improve the corridor of the Great River Road National Scenic Byway, and to establish a water-based Keep America Beautiful affiliate for the communities adjacent to the corridor. The group will beautify, promote, and enhance the area along the Great River Road. The Great River Road is a National Scenic Byway that runs both sides of the Mississippi River through ten states. In 2021, Tennessee's portion of the route earned the prestigious "All-American Road" designation from the U.S. Secretary of Transportation for its historic and cultural intrinsic qualities. The Great River Road is one of three National Scenic Byways in Tennessee to be designated as an All-American Road, and one of 35 to earn the rare designation nationally.

As students return to classrooms across Tennessee, a new app is being recommended to parents, students, and teachers across the state. Gov. Bill Lee and the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security have invited all Tennesseans to download the [SafeTN app](#), which gives a direct line for confidentially reporting suspicious or concerning activity within schools. The tipline is designed for the anonymous reporting of violence or assault, threats of violence or planned attack, and physical injury or harm to self or others. Concerns and tips are vetted by law enforcement 24/7 to address concerns.

Patience, etiquette vital for cities interested in recruiting S. Korea-based companies

MUNICIPAL from Page 1

tention the same way as they do in America. Instead of crooking a finger forward to beckon someone toward them, they will do a hand gesture similar to the way Americans wave good-bye.

Ways of speaking may also be cultural.

"We noticed with their language and their dialect that sometimes their voices got really loud," Thompson said. "We thought they were not having a good visit or unhappy. It was just very normal in their dialect and language to be expressive by taking volume up and down. No one was upset or dissatisfied."

Korean email etiquette is also different.

"One thing that is really different is that Koreans, including me, if we email or contact someone, we expect a reply right away," Shin said. "If I send an email to SK, as soon as I click the send button, I make a phone call to the SK people

to tell them I sent the email and when I expect them to get back to me. Normally, Koreans expect an answer within a few hours. You can answer them that you cannot reply right away, but say you will get back to them in a few days or a few hours. It's important to update your status, and they will understand. A Korean expects updating status, even though something isn't done. We have a harder time if there is no reply."

Efficiency is expected in other areas as well.

"Dong-A was our first foreign start-up in the U.S. for Martin," Thompson said. "We learned adopting American work culture was met with resistance. We are on our fourth director of the manufacturing facility. They see when something isn't working, and they want a quick change or response. Something we might see as volatile or disruptive is not the same with the Korean work culture."

11 municipalities grantees for \$5.3M to develop EV fast-charge network

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) announced that 11 municipal utilities are among the dozen entities selected to share in \$5.3 million in total grant funding to install fast-charging stations for electric vehicles along major roadway corridors.

The 12 projects will involve the installation of 32 total direct current fast charging (DCFC) infrastructure for electric vehicles (EVs) at 13 prioritized sites along interstate or major highway corridors. The program is part of a partnership between TDEC and TVA to develop a statewide EV fast-charging network along Tennessee's interstates and major highways to power the growth of EVs across the state.

Grantees include the city of Athens; Johnson City's BrightRidge; the Brownsville Energy Authority; Columbia Power and Water Systems; the city of Dayton; EPB of Chattanooga; Memphis Light, Gas, and Water; the Paris Utility Authority, Smithville Electric System, the city of Springfield, and the Tullahoma Utilities Authority.

The Sequatchie Valley Electric Cooperative—which serves the majority of Bledsoe, Sequatchie, Marion and Grundy counties, and touches into five other counties —



Funds for an EV fast-charge network totalling \$5.3 million will be split among 11 municipal utilities and one electric cooperative.

was grantee.

In addition to the projects listed above, TVA anticipates funding 21 projects in Tennessee, which will include the installation of 56 total charging units at 27 sites. This investment is part of TVA's broader [Fast Charge Network](#) that aims to reduce barriers to EV adoption by deploying fast chargers at least every 50 miles along the interstates and major highways across its 7-state service territory by 2026.

The competitive grant program comprises the state's fourth solicitation for projects under the

Volkswagen Diesel Settlement Environmental Mitigation Trust (VW Settlement EMT).

The program will complement the state's use of its allocated funds under the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program, which is funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The NEVI Formula Program aims to build out fast charging infrastructure along federally designated Alternative Fuel Corridors, which in Tennessee includes all of the two-digit interstate highways and the majority of U.S. 64.

13 municipalities among winners of final round of Dog Park Dash grants

Winners of the fourth and final round of Dog Park Dash grants included 13 cities statewide.

Municipalities including Clarksville, Dunlap, Farragut, Franklin, Goodlettsville, Hixon, Jackson, Lenoir City, Livingston, McEwen, Somerville, Waverly, and Whiteville all presented winning applications to each take home \$25,000 toward community dog parks.

A joint application by the town of Hohenwald and Lewis County as well as one for Memphis' Overton Park also took home individual \$25,000 grants.

Randy and Jenny Boyd, co-founders of the Boyd Foundation who presented the grants, announced the award winners via Facebook. The goal of the program was to finance the building of or improvements to at least 100 dog parks across the state of Tennessee with the goal of making Tennessee the most dog-friendly state in America.

"We want to say congratulations to all our winners," Randy Boyd said in the announcement. "The winners are the ones that have the most passion, the most determination, and the most care for their

community and their pets. We are looking forward to going across the state to all the grand openings as they occur."

Since 2018, the Dog Park Dash program has awarded grants for the construction of and improvements to dog parks across Tennessee, including in 82 municipalities.

The Tennessee Dog Park Dash, funded by the Boyd Foundation, is dedicated to building or enhancing dog parks across the state. Through the Dog Park Dash, more than one hundred communities across the state of Tennessee will benefit from dog parks.

Tennessee sees overall crime trends decrease in 2021

The state of Tennessee saw a marginal decrease in crime between 2021 and 2020, part of a national decrease in crime, according to information released in the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation's (TBI) 2021 Crime in Tennessee report.

The annual TBI report is based on crime statistics submitted by all law enforcement across the state through the Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System (TIBRS), which is the state version of the FBI's national reporting system. While pandemic-based restrictions were not in place for as much of 2021 as they were the previous year, TBI officials noted that there seemed to still be a post-pandemic impact on reported crime.

TBI Director David Rausch noted that all law enforcement agencies across the state contributed to the report.

"The TIBRS program continues to serve as a model for the nation and remains successful because of the continued cooperation by Tennessee's law enforcement community," Rausch said. "The TBI provides TIBRS training to commissioned and non-com-

missioned law enforcement personnel across the state. TBI remains committed to this effort and will continue to provide the training and technical assistance necessary to collect the most accurate and comprehensive crime statistics for Tennessee and its citizens."

The overall crime rate dropped by 1.38% between 2021 and 2020, continuing a nationwide trend of a decrease in overall crime. The COVID-19 pandemic saw a large decrease in crime between 2019 and 2020, which continued between 2020 and 2021.

Tennessee saw also saw 1.38% reduction in overall Group A or violent crime between 2021 and 2020. Warmer months, and July in particular, had the most reported violent crime while February had the least. Violent crimes were most common between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. followed by 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. while violent crimes were least likely to occur between 3 a.m. and 5 a.m.

Victims between the ages of 25 and 34 were the most common targets of violent crime while those between the ages of 35 and 44 were the second. Those under 18 were the least likely to be victims

of violent crime. Women made up 52.94% of violent crime victims while males made up 46.74%.

In domestic violence cases, women comprised 71.81% of victims while men made up 28.12% of victims. Domestic violence victims were most likely to be in the 25 to 34 age range followed by the 35 to 44 age range.

However, there were some reported increases in criminal activity. Juvenile arrests increased by 30.11% in 2021, still a 24.7% decrease from pre-pandemic levels. Of the individuals arrested for violent crimes comprised 7.65% of all arrests.

The DUI rate also trended upwards, increasing by 3.04% over last year, but still remaining at 4.34% lower than before the pandemic. Meth offenses saw a noticeable rise, increasing 19.73% over last year and increasing 6.5% above pre-pandemic levels. The state also saw 21.51% increase in weapon law violations over the past year.

For more information or to see data submitted by individual law enforcement agencies, read the [full report online](#).

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Will Tax Credits and Infrastructure Speed Adoption of Electric Vehicles?

By JARED BREY
Governing

Along with cost, one of the biggest obstacles to widespread adoption of electric vehicles in the U.S. is what researchers call “range anxiety”: The fear that you’ll be stranded somewhere on your journey without access to a charging station.

It’s an anxiety rooted in a real concern. The U.S. does not have a fully connected network of EV charging stations in the same way that gas stations serve the entire roadway system. But for most drivers, the 234-mile median range of a 2021 model electric car is more than enough for day-to-day use, says Gil Tal, director of the Plug-in Hybrid and Electric Vehicle Research Center in the Institute of Transportation Studies at the University of California, Davis.

“We want to know that we can drive the car from San Francisco to New York,” Tal says. “We’re not going to do it, but when we buy the car, we want to know that it can be done.”

New financial incentives in the proposed Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 — the deal struck suddenly by Sens. Joe Manchin and Chuck Schumer late last week — could offset some of the cost concerns. The bill proposes a \$7,500 tax credit for purchases of new electric vehicles and a \$4,000 credit for used ones, with limits on buyers’ incomes and on the cost of the models that qualify.

The federal government made \$5 billion available to states for charging stations through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act passed last fall, with an Aug. 1 deadline for states to submit plans for where the chargers will go. Taken together, the tax credits and infrastructure funding could speed adoption of electric vehicles, with potentially significant benefits for national efforts to

reduce carbon emissions in the transportation sector. But some kinks still need to be worked out.

States looking to take advantage of federal infrastructure money were required to submit plans for building charger networks by this week. Federal guidance said that states should plan to place chargers no more than 50 miles apart on designated EV corridors.

It also said their plans should seek to equitably distribute the benefits of the funding in underserved and disadvantaged communities, through the physical placement of chargers and hiring and contracting practices for construction and planning. States with sparsely populated areas — like Wyoming or Montana — are able to apply for exceptions to the 50-mile guideline. The federal government plans to review and approve the plans by the end of September.

“It’ll be interesting to see how they do use the money, because not all states are alike. What may work in Maryland is not necessarily going to work in Montana, which has a very different geography,” says Timothy Johnson, a professor of the practice of energy and the environment at Duke University’s Nicholas School of the Environment. “What you’ll have in a way are 50 different experiments.”

In Arizona, which has a relatively low ratio of charging stations to electric vehicles, the state is planning to deploy its electric vehicle charging corridor along the National Highway System. It will have up to \$76.5 million to implement the plan.

“The biggest challenge is going to be getting these located,” says Doug Nick, a spokesman for the Arizona Department of Transportation. “We have some ideas where we want to put them: truck stops are the low-hanging fruit, and shopping malls in urban areas that are close to the interstate. Places like that already have a lot of the infrastructure in place — in other words, parking lots.”

Densely populated areas have

challenges with charging infrastructure, too. In 2017, Philadelphia passed a moratorium on new permits for residential charging stations. The reason was that individual homeowners in the city’s crowded residential streets, where parking spaces are at a hard-fought premium, were using electric vehicle chargers to claim street spaces as their own.

“Essentially what they were doing was making electric-vehicle-only spots and then only people who could afford EVs had the ability to park there. It was an affordability thing,” says Dominic McGraw, the city energy manager for Philadelphia.

Since then, the city has moved forward with a Municipal Clean Fleet Plan and added EV chargers for city vehicles at some of its publicly owned fueling stations.

There’s been no resolution to the residential parking question, McGraw says, though there have been discussions about possibly connecting EV chargers to other types of on-street infrastructure, such as street lighting. The potential for more people to buy electric vehicles with the proposed incentives makes the question more urgent.

“With the federal government’s movement on this, now everyone is very interested in bringing the conversation back and moving faster,” McGraw says.

The Manchin-Schumer deal — which is still not certain to become law — also includes requirements for domestic production of batteries and other parts for cars that qualify for the rebate. With increasing demand for electric vehicles, that could create some supply chain issues for manufacturers. But car companies now have even more incentive to work through those challenges and produce electric vehicles on a greater scale.

According to Tal, the tax credits are as important for them as they are for consumers. “Now they understand the demand is there,” he says.

NATIONAL BRIEFS



Wages for government employees have lagged significantly behind the private industry in the past year as workers across the country negotiate and receive wage increases at the fastest past in decades. Private sector wages rose by 5.5% over the past year, the highest increase in the history of such data being kept, but wage gains for state and local government workers have trailed behind at 3.4%, according to the U.S. Labor Department. While wages have not kept up with inflation in either the private or public sector, a new report from the *Washington Post* found that government workers like teachers, firefighters, sanitation workers, bus drivers, and other municipal employees are quitting in droves to take higher-paying jobs in the

private sector to afford basic necessities. Understaffing has also increased workloads and stress among government workers.

Business investment is an early causality of U.S. inflation and rising interest rates, according to new data from the U.S. government. Business investment on new buildings and renovations to existing structures slipped 0.1% in the second quarter with cutbacks hitting every major industry sector except mining and drilling. Rents and construction costs may be the primary reason for companies pulling back on these types of investments. Consumer spending has softened in the face of higher prices, but still managed to add growth in the second quarter. Even as companies curtailed investment in buildings and expansions, they still kept hiring with the U.S. job growth

rate accelerating in July and the U.S. job market at levels similar to pre-pandemic. At the same time, global supply chain issues eased to their lowest street point since January 2021.

The consumer price index increased 9.1% between June 2022 and June 2021, according to new data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The 9.1% increase is an all-time high for 12-month increases since the 12-month period ending in November 1981. The bureau found prices for food increased 10.4% in the 12-month period, the largest increase since February 1981. Energy prices rose 41.6% over the past year, the longest same period increase since April 1980 with motor fuel and gasoline prices driving the bulk of the increase. Prices for new vehicles also increased 11.4% year-over-year.



Aug. 18-27: Lebanon *Wilson County and Tennessee State Fairs*

A full ten days of family fair fun await you at the Wilson County and Tennessee State Fairs in Lebanon. Enjoy rides, pageants, livestock shows, historic and crafting demonstrations, fine arts, quilts, farm and exotic animals, music, food and other entertainment. For more info, visit <https://www.wilsoncountyfair.net/>

Aug. 19-20: Johnson City
Meet the Mountains Festival
From newcomers to old-timers, this festival is aimed at helping everyone of all skill levels find the right equipment and experience to explore the mountains of Northeast Tennessee. Learn more about Johnson City and the region’s tourism and outdoor assets. For more info, visit <https://www.mtmfest.com/>

Aug. 20: Ardmore
Ardmore Crape Myrtle Festival
Come to Ardmore for a fun family day of craft booths, music entertainment, great food, and Crape Myrtles. For more info, visit <https://greaterardmorechamber.com/crape-myrtle-festival/>

Aug. 20: Loudon
Loudon Riverfest
Legion Park will host music, crafts, food, classic cars, kids activities, inflatables, and more from 5 p.m. until dark, capping off the evening with a fireworks display. For more info, visit <https://www.loudon-parks.com/eventcalendar.php>

Aug. 20: Townsend
Great Smoky Mountain Balloon Festival
Join us when professional balloonists light up the evening sky with a beautiful balloon glow and spectacular tethered rides. The sky will be filled with a spectrum of color like never before, against a backdrop of a breathtaking Smoky Mountain sunset, in beautiful Townsend. For more info, visit <https://gsmballoonfest.com/>

Aug. 24: Smyrna
Depot District BBQ Fest
Enjoy some great barbecue, live music by the Clayton Mann Band and some great fun at the Depot District BBQ Fest. For more info, visit <https://www.town-ofsmyrna.org/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/10387/359?cur-m=8&cury=2019>

Aug. 26-27: McKenzie
Sweet Tea and Southern Pickins Festival
Explore, discover and pick your way through vintage treasures, oddities, antiques, and artifacts throughout the town of McKenzie while visiting the Sweet Tea and Southern Pickin’s Festival located in the heart of the downtown. For more info, visit <https://growmckenzie.com/sweet-tea-southern-and-pickins-festival>

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Pickleball players taking to courts across Tennessee

By KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

From Alcoa to Vonore, the sport of pickleball is taking Tennessee municipalities by storm.

A mix between tennis, racquetball, and ping pong, pickleball was invented in 1965 by the Prichard family of Bainbridge Island, Wash., who began experimenting with balls and paddles before trademarking the game in 1972. The game was named after the “pickle boat,” the nickname given to the last boat to finish the Bayview Mackinac Boat Race.

The sport uses courts somewhat smaller than the size of the tennis court and has its own set of rules. Doubles is the most popular variety, but singles games are played as well. Games often run for about 15 minutes each, and interest in the sport is increasing for all age groups.

The popularity of the sport in the Pacific Northwest led to snowbirds spreading it on their annual visits to warmer climates in Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Florida. [The USA Pickleball Association \(USAP\)](#) was founded in 1984 and at least two U.S. championships have been held since the mid-2000s. There are also three professional pickleball leagues and two international organizations.

Pickleball had seen a 650% increase in participation in the six years prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to USAP. Unlike other sports, pickleball managed to keep up its momentum during stay-at-home orders. Candi Rawlins, executive director of the Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association (TRPA), said Tennessee was one of the many states seeing a surge in pickleball participation prior to and then during the pandemic.

“Pickleball was starting to really ramp up right before COVID, but it has exploded since,” Rawlins said. “There are very, very enthusiastic players, and it’s always great to see people out having fun in our parks. During the pandemic, we saw anything that got people outside or that they could do and still stay apart from each other grow. We saw tremendous usage in non-contact activities, and our parks stayed open, for the most part throughout the pandemic so people were able to get outside in the fresh air, exercise, have fun, and try new things like pickleball.”

Terry Napier, director of parks and recreation for the city of Bristol, said pickleball started out as a popular activity for the over 50 set.

“We actually started offering pickleball about eight or nine years ago,” he said. “We had a couple who moved up from Florida who talked about it, and it just happened that we were redoing the basketball court at our senior center. We had the pickleball court lines painted when we redid that. Obviously, just as the pandemic hit, pickleball was blowing up everywhere. We had already started converting some of our tennis courts to meet the needs. I see a lot of 50-somethings who have gotten really into the sport, and it keeps growing and expanding. It doesn’t seem to know any age limits. Your first wave was probably ex-tennis players because it’s a similar sport with a lot of the same actions, just slower and smaller.”

In Germantown, Parks and Recreation Director Natalie Ruffin said the popularity of pickleball was also resident-driven.

“Germantown resident Mike Morgan deserves a lot of credit,” she said. “In 2019, Mike came to city staff to make us aware of the popularity of the sport. At the time, it was primarily played at some local churches, as well as at a multi-purpose court at Riverdale Park where residents painted lines down for pickleball. We knew that the sport was a big hit in the 50 and older community, but after a few tournaments were held at Johnson Road Park, we witnessed firsthand the popularity of the sport locally. Given the feedback we received from the community and our sense that the popularity was only going to grow, we knew we had to add some courts in Germantown.”

Napier said he has seen a shift in interest in the sport since it first came to Bristol about a decade ago. The city has painted pickleball courts on existing tennis courts and converted lesser-used tennis courts into pickleball courts.

“Originally, we looked at it as a cool activity for seniors because it’s a smaller court with a wooden paddle and a wiffle ball and moves a little slower,” Napier said. “However, all those same things make it an activity for everybody. You will see grandparents playing with their



A recent pickleball clinic hosted in Germantown. Originally popular with the 50 and over set, the pandemic has seen pickleball’s popularity spread to all age groups in Germantown and elsewhere in Tennessee.



The city of Bristol has partnered with the local for-profit Bristol Sportsplex in the hopes of expanding opportunities for pickleball play and drawing tournaments to the region. There are 11 pickleball clubs in the state of Tennessee recognized by USAP, the professional pickleball organization.



With equipment needed for the sport relatively cheap and play less strenuous than sports like tennis part of pickleball’s popularity is that it is relatively accessible for those of all skill levels and without big budgets to spend on sports equipment.

grandkids because the court size and the equipment is an equalizer. You have also seen coming out of the pandemic an increase in social activities.”

Germantown has also seen a post-pandemic growth in pickleball’s popularity.

“In fact, we are starting to get more and more requests for youth lessons in the community as entire families are picking up the game and going to play,” Ruffin said. “Now post-pandemic, we know the sport is growing not only in Germantown, but on a national level. We also know that we’re not the only game in town, as we’re one of many in the surrounding Memphis area that are leaning more and more into the sport. A lot of that can be attributed to the pandemic as people were looking for something to do outside that was safe and active. We noticed as soon as the courts at Cameron Brown were completed, the popularity was almost immediate.”

With the growth of the sport, many cities are looking to set aside dedicated areas for pickleball.

“Pickleball is something that we haven’t had a lot of infrastructure built for, and we are seeing that user conflict when you try to put them on tennis courts,” Rawlins said. “If a city has a strong enough group that plays all the time, they are looking for dedicated space to play pickleball.”

Before building dedicated courts, the city of Germantown allowed painted lines and taped lines at tennis courts at its Riverdale and Johnson Road parks. After hosting two tournament events, the city realized there was a desire for dedicated pickleball space.

“The popularity we witnessed with those two events and the

overwhelming demand from the community, we knew we needed to invest in the sport,” Ruffin said. “Our primary facility is the eight dedicated pickleball courts at Cameron Brown Park with nets provided. In addition to that, we have three lined courts at Riverdale Park on the multi-use court in which players bring their own nets. All of that occurred in 2019 prior to the pandemic. In the midst of the pandemic, in the summer of 2020, we had the eight courts built at Cameron Brown Park.”

Ruffin said the city provides opportunities for both new and advanced pickleball enthusiasts to gather.

“The city of Germantown does not offer any league play at this time; however, due to the increasing popularity of the sport, the city is continuing to look at all options to best serve the pickleball community,” she said. “Besides open play, we do offer pickleball clinics for those looking to learn the game or those looking to hone in their skills. Also, we host a variety of tournaments throughout the year to give pickleballers the chance to compete in organized play.”

The growth of the sport has even prompted the city of Bristol to partner with a local recreation and wellness center, the Bristol SportsPlex, to build city courts on land owned by the company. The public-private partnership would include a 12-court, lighted pickleball facility at a vacant lot on SportsPlex property with the city leasing the land from the company.

Adding to the four indoor pick-

leball courts and additional tennis courts inside the Sportsplex, the project would open up Bristol to having the 28-courts needed for official tournaments and make it one of the prime venues in the Southeast for such events. The project is expected to cost the city around \$750,000, but would in turn generate tourism revenue from hotel stays and other business generated by tournaments.

“This property had old tennis courts, and the asphalt is still there,” Napier said. “We are just going to have to get in there and clean it up. This is a different approach, and a partnership with this company. Once it is built, we will maintain it, but they have the responsibility of conducting a certain number of tournaments and classes every year. They have the expertise to do that in-house.”

Napier said there has already been interest in tournaments in the city.

“We are seeing a lot of people come from Kingsport and Johnson City already, so we think that if we have this joint-facility where there are tennis and pickleball courts indoors and outdoors as well as a juice bar, there is one place everyone can do what they want to do,” he said. “From day-to-day, we think we will draw from the whole region. We also hope to get to the point where we are sponsoring two or three major tournaments. I would like to see a couple hundred people a few times a year

“It may be a fad, but I think it’s a fad that’s going to be around for a while. People should take note.”

— Terry Napier,
Bristol Parks and Recreation Director

who are staying in hotels and eating in local restaurants. The recreation facility is the first priority, but if you can take it a few times a year to drive the local economy, that’s a bonus.”

The sport requires minimal, inexpensive gear and the fact that it can be played outdoors increased its participation during the pandemic as well. Pickleball is now spreading to all generations. USAP has 11 registered clubs within the state of Tennessee alone.

“Sneakers, a paddle, some balls, and you’re set,” Rawlins said. “The dimensions of a pickleball court are a little smaller than a tennis court, but in a pinch, you can make a tennis court work. You can make a gymnasium work. We have people who prefer to play indoors and they can mark off courts with different colored tape

lines. There is a specific type of tape that you can get for gym floors that you can put down so the lines are there but it doesn’t cause damage when you pull it up. You want a hard surface. There are portable pickleball courts with rubber sheets.”

While pickleball equipment can be bought cheaply in the sporting goods section of any big box store, Napier said those interested in the sport can opt to spend more on it.

“It’s one of those great things where you can spend as much as you want to spend,” he said. “You can go to Walmart and get a paddle and two balls off the shelf and that is all you need. We also have people who take it seriously and spend hundreds of dollars on carbon-fiber paddles and the latest and greatest of everything, but

everyone doesn’t have to do that. Because the cost is so inexpensive, we can keep stuff laying around so if anyone wants to start, they can use that.”

While the city isn’t leading any pickleball organizations, Napier said there are several independent pickleball groups and leagues in the city that utilize public facilities. These groups range from those just wanting a relaxed game with friends to those that are more professional and tournament-oriented.

Napier said pickleball is also a tool to help improve and promote healthy habits.

“Anything that gets people out of the house and active is something we concentrate on,” he said. “Over a two-year period, people’s habits changed, so doing things that get those habits changed back to a more active lifestyle is important. I love going by one of the tennis courts we converted to a pickleball court and seeing a group there at 10 in the morning. It’s very social, but these people are exercising, enjoying themselves, and getting back together with their social groups. It’s outside so they feel comfortable. For us, providing that opportunity so that everyone can get out and do at their level is what’s important.”

While it may be easy to dismiss pickleball as a “fad” sport, Napier said its broad appeal makes it well worth the investment.

“It may be a fad, but I think it’s a fad that is going to be around for a while,” he said. “People should take note. I think this is something that P.E. students can be doing in the gym with elementary school kids. It’s certainly something we are doing in the senior centers. That is probably what makes pickleball a gamechanger: everybody can play it. Anyone can have fun and enjoy the game. It’s a great sport for hand-eye coordination, and I think you are going to see more opportunities to play pickleball. I can build three pickleball courts for one tennis court and 12 people can play versus four.”

Ruffin said pickleball provides an important social outlet as well as recreation, which are among the reasons pickleball courts are positive investments for municipalities.

“With it being a modified version of tennis, it pulls people from that realm as well as players who may never have played tennis before,” Ruffin said. “The courts are smaller, the paddles are smaller, the ball is easier to hit, the rules are fairly easy to follow, and it’s not too extraneous a sport on the body. Most importantly though, the sport lends itself to being a great social gathering for people which is probably the most prominent factor as to why the sport has grown so much.”

With a dedicated userbase, Rawlins encouraged municipalities to work with local pickleball groups to invest in the sport.

“Anything that gets outside and moving helps with health, helps reduce medical costs in our communities, and this is a sport that is accessible because it doesn’t require a lot of equipment,” Rawlins said. “It’s one of those sports that those who play it are very passionate about it, and they are very eager to share with newbies what it is and how to play. Pickleball clubs are popping up everywhere.”