

6,250 subscribers

[www.TML1.org](http://www.TML1.org)

Volume 71, Number 19

Dec. 14, 2020

## 2020 Census Update

BY TENNESSEE  
STATE DATA CENTER

2020 Census data collection concluded on Oct. 16 and attention now turns to the delivery of results. The state is waiting for final confirmation of release dates for two important products:

- Statewide population totals (Congressional apportionment counts), delivered as close as possible to the Dec. 31, 2020, deadline.
- P.L. 94-171 Redistricting data with population counts for counties, municipalities, census tracts, etc., delivered as close as possible to the April 1, 2021, deadline.

There is growing uncertainty about the timeline. A November statement from the Census Bureau noted that processing challenges had been encountered.

One thing that is certain--delivery of the 2020 TIGER/Line

Shapefiles should be completed by Feb. 28, 2021.

State and local government agencies use redistricting data for a variety of activities beyond drawing new political districts. Here's a reminder of the variables included in the redistricting data product:

- Total population
- Voting age population and citizen voting age population
- Race and Hispanic ethnicity
- Housing units (occupied/vacant)

A preview of Tennessee's July 1, 2020, population will come on Dec. 22 when the 2020 Evaluation Estimates are released. These state-level numbers will be compared with the 2020 Census results to evaluate accuracy of the annual population estimates program. The estimates missed the 2010 Census total of 6,346,105 residents by -0.3% or -19,702 people.

## Third quarter showing signs of economic recovery in TN

Even though economic activity is still below pre-pandemic peak levels, a report from Secretary of State Tre Hargett's office shows signs of economic recovery.

The Tennessee Quarterly Business and Economic Indicators report for the third quarter of 2020 showed 16,470 new entity filings, representing a strong 42.2 percent increase over the same quarter in 2019. Initial filings have now seen positive year-over-year growth for 35 consecutive quarters.

"The pandemic made a significant impact on our economy, but Tennessee's entrepreneurial spirit and business-friendly environment has seen some Tennesseans start their own businesses," said Secretary Hargett.

Growth in new entity filings is generally a good indicator for employment, personal income and revenue growth in Tennessee. However, due to the pandemic, future economic growth will depend on public policy measures and the reactions of businesses and private consumers.

Shelby County saw the largest

number of new entity filings and the highest rate of growth, with Davidson County a close second followed by Hamilton and Knox counties. Together, these four counties accounted for 56 percent of all new entity filings in Tennessee.

After spiking at 15.5 percent in April, Tennessee's unemployment rate has trended downward, falling to 6.3 percent in September. By comparison, the national unemployment rate reached 14.7 percent in April and fell to 7.9 percent in September.

"Tennesseans' business ingenuity has really shone through over the past half year or so," said Dr. Bill Fox, the director of the Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research. "More than 16,000 new entity filings this quarter show that people across the state are embarking on new journeys like making masks, delivering food, providing enhanced cleaning services and more to make the best of the situation we are all in together."

To review the 2020 Tennessee Quarterly Business and Economic Indicators report, visit: [sos.tn.gov](http://sos.tn.gov).

## Cookeville honors March tornado victims with new memorial tree grove

A place for remembrance and healing is now part of Cookeville's Cane Creek Park complex.

The Cookeville Strong Memorial Tree Grove was planted Nov. 7 at the corner of West Jackson Street and C.C. Camp Road near the Sportsplex ballfields. It includes 19 trees in memory of the 19 people lost to the March 3, 2020, tornado.

"We're honored to be the chosen location for this tree grove," Cookeville Leisure Services Director Rick Woods said of the complex, which is maintained by his department. "It will be a great memorial to those who lost their lives in the tornado and others who endured great hardships."

The grove was planted in honor of Robert Dickson, Hattie Collins, Dawson Curtis, Terry Curtis, Joshua Kimberlin, Erin Kimberlin, Sawyer Kimberlin, Todd Koehler, Sue Koehler, Patricia Lane, Leisha Littenberry, Harlan Marsh, Stephanie Fields, Bridgette McCormick, Keith Selby, Cathy Selby, Jamie Smith, Jessica Clark, and Amanda Cole.

It includes a mix of shade trees native to Tennessee, including bald cypress, oak, maple, sweetgum and tulip poplar.

The city of Cookeville partnered with the Nashville Tree Foundation and Tennessee Urban Forestry Council to organize the planting event, which was attended by family members of the victims, local volunteer organizations and people from all over Tennessee and Kentucky.

"The project allowed us to gather as a community and take a step toward healing," said Jaime Nunan, Cookeville urban forest-



Cookeville's largest city park is now home to a memorial tree grove honoring the 19 people who died in a March 3, 2020 tornado that struck the city. The grove at Cane Creek Park consists of a mix of bald cypress, oak, maple, sweetgum and tulip poplar trees.

er. "Since the tornado and then COVID, there has been so much loss. The gathering on Nov. 7 allowed us to work together on a memorial that will outlive all of us. It will serve as a reminder for generations to come of the loss we suffered and how the community healed."

In addition to the 19 trees, the grove includes a bench donated by the Cookeville Tree Board with a plaque that reads as follows:

"Perhaps the most tragic event in Cookeville's history occurred

March 3, 2020, at approximately

2 a.m. An E4 tornado struck down

in our town taking 19 lives and

injuring many more. The torna-

do ravaged our community and

changed our lives forever, so we

gathered to plant this memorial as

a display of the strong community

roots that helped guide us through

dark hours and to symbolize a new

## TN Senate, House nominate candidates for leadership roles



Sen. Randy McNally  
Lt. Gov. and Senate Speaker



Rep. Cameron Sexton  
House Speaker



Sen. Jack Johnson  
Senate Majority Leader



Rep. William Lamberth,  
House Majority Leader

## 112th Tennessee General Assembly to welcome 12 freshmen legislators

When the 112th General Assembly is gavelled into session Jan. 12, 2021, 12 new freshmen legislators will be sworn into office – two in the Senate and 10 in House.

The two freshmen Senators both have municipal government experience. Four of the incoming House freshmen have local government experience.

Here's a look at the new freshmen class.

In Senate District 20, Heidi Campbell, D-Oak Hill, narrowly won against incumbent Sen. Steven Dickerson. Campbell has served as the mayor of Oak Hill in Davidson

County for six years. Campbell is a former music industry executive and holds an MBA from Vanderbilt.

In Senate District 26, Page Walley, R-Bolivar, was elected to fill the seat vacated by Sen. Dolores Gresham. Walley currently serves as the vice-mayor of Bolivar, and previously served in the Tennessee House of Representatives from 1990 to 2000. Walley is a licensed clinical psychologist and was formerly a Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Children's Services under Gov. Don Sundquist and held a similar post in the state of Alabama. He received his bachelor's degree from Davidson College and his doctorate in psychology from the University of Georgia.

In the House, four incumbents lost their primary elections.

In House District 6, Tim Hicks, R-Gray, defeated incumbent Rep. Micah Van Huss in the Republican primary election. Hicks serves on the Washington County Planning Commission and is the CEO of Hicks Construction, a custom home building business. His father served two terms in the state House in the mid-1990s.

In House District 7, Rebecca Keefauver Alexander, R-Jonesborough, defeated incumbent Rep. Matthew Hill in the Republican primary election. Alexander is the owner of Dillow-Taylor Funeral Home. As a graduate of East Tennessee State University's master's in storytelling program, she is also a professional storyteller and motivational speaker. She comes from six generations of Washington County dairy farmers.

In House District 15, Sam McKenzie, D-Knoxville, defeated incumbent Rep. Rick Staples in the Democratic primary and beat Independent Troy Jones in the general election. After earning a bachelor's degree at Fisk University and a master's degree in solid state physics at the University of Memphis, McKenzie spent more than 30 years working at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). He also served on the Knox County Commission for more than eight years.

In House District 92, Republican challenger Todd Warner, R-Chapel Hill, was victorious over incumbent Rick Tillis. Warner is a businessman and farmer in Marshall County. He has served on the Marshall County School Board and as an Alderman in Chapel Hill. As an active member of Farm Bureau See **FRESHMEN** on Page 3



Heidi Campbell  
Senate District 20



Page Walley  
Senate District 26



Tim Hicks  
House District 6

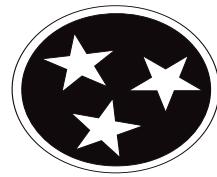


Rebecca Keefauver Alexander  
House District 7



Sam McKenzie  
House District 15

# NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



## BRISTOL

The city of Bristol has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), the 17th consecutive year the city has received the honor. Award winners are selected by members of the GFOA professional staff and a committee comprised of those with expertise in public sector financial reporting. They evaluate reports using a long checklist to determine if the information included allows users to better understand the financial condition of the governmental agency, the availability of funds for future use, whether the financial condition has improved or deteriorated from the previous year, and many other factors.

## CHATTANOOGA

Reliance Partners, LLC, will invest \$1.3 million to expand their Chattanooga headquarters, creating more than 100 new headquarter function positions in the next five years. Due to increased demand within the industry, Reliance Partners will expand and create these new positions focused on day-to-day operations. Reliance Partners, LLC provides insurance brokerage and advisory services in the United States. The company offers transportation insurance solutions, including truck, warehousing, and freight broker insurance and other types of insurance and liability coverage. Founded in Chattanooga in 2009, the company has since expanded to include locations in Alabama, Illinois, Florida, Texas, and Wisconsin.

## CHATTANOOGA

Gestamp will invest \$94.7 million to expand operations at its Hickory Valley Road and Ferdinand Piech Way plants in Chattanooga, creating 260 new jobs in the next five years. The project is the company's third expansion in Chattanooga in the past decade. Gestamp provides structural metal stampings and welded assemblies to automotive original equipment manufacturers (OEMs). As part of this expansion, the company plans to add to both facilities for increased capacity due to new electric vehicle production. In addition, both plants will undergo retrofitting, weld assembly and robotics updates. Gestamp has more than 100 plants worldwide. The company focuses on producing parts that continually increase vehicle safety while also reducing overall weight and environmental impact that results from production processes.

## COOKEVILLE

The city of Cookeville has purchased 31.39 acres of land that will increase the size of the city's most visited and largest park. The purchase will bring Cane Creek Park to a total of 293 acres, extending its southern boundary. The acreage will primarily be used as a passive park area as well as to extend paved and unpaved trails. The park presently has four miles of paved trail and 2.5 miles of unpaved trail. Cane Creek Park features a 56-acre lake for fishing and non-motorized boating, two fishing piers, paved trails, mountain bike trail, 18-hole disc golf course, pollinator fields, playgrounds, basketball and volleyball courts, picnic shelters and picnic tables with charcoal grills, seasonal concession building and seasonal paddle boat, kayak and canoe rentals. It is also the future home of Cookeville's first public dog park.

## KINGSPORT

The city of Kingsport has received

### TENNESSEE TOWN & CITY

Tennessee Town & City (ISSN 00403415, USPS 539420) is published semi-monthly except in the months of June and December 19 times per year by Tennessee Municipal League, 226 Anne Dallas Dudley Blvd, Suite 710, Nashville TN 37219-1894. Subscription rates: \$6 per year to members, \$15 to nonmembers, \$1 a copy. Periodicals Postage Paid at Nashville TN. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Tennessee Town & City, 226 Anne Dallas Dudley Blvd, Suite 710, Nashville TN 37219-1894. Official publication of the Tennessee Municipal League. Publisher: Margaret Mahery (mmahery@TML.org); Editor: Carole Graves (cgraves@TML.org); Phone: 615-255-6416. Advertising: Publisher reserves the right to reject any advertising deemed unacceptable. Fax classified ads to TT&C: Attention Carole Graves at 615-255-4752, or e-mail cgraves@TML.org. Fax advertising copy to TT&C: Attention Debbie Kluth at 615-255-4752, or e-mail to dkluth@TML.org. Opinions expressed by Non League officials or staff do not necessarily reflect policies of TML.

three major awards for the city's wastewater services. The city has been recognized by Cartograph with a High-Performance Government Operations award for the impeccable work of Wastewater Collections, the fourth time the city has received such recognition. In 2019, Kingsport's Wastewater Collections was able to streamline processes with sanitary sewer overflow procedures and documentation. The Kingsport Wastewater Treatment Plant also won both the Peak Performance Award from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) and the Operational Excellence award from the Clean Water Professionals of Kentucky and Tennessee. The Peak Performance Award annual award is presented to honorees who have achieved excellence in operational performance and permit compliance. Kingsport was honored with a Gold Award, signifying a facility with no permit violations for the entire calendar year. The Operational Excellence Award is a direct reflection of the operations and maintenance staff at the facility.

## KNOXVILLE

Fraley and Schilling, Inc. officials announced that the trucking company is expanding its operations in Knoxville, investing \$2.4 million and adding 50 office jobs in the next five years. Due to growing demand in transportation and logistics, Fraley and Schilling is expanding by adding a new terminal building, which is currently under construction. The new building will be the largest in the company at approximately 11,600 square feet. Founded in 1955, Fraley and Schilling is a trucking and logistics provider, specializing in lightweight equipment for hauling heavy products. The company has become an industry leader in utilizing lightweight equipment to move essential goods across the United States. Today, Fraley and Schilling employs 250 people in Tennessee and more than 700 in the U.S., and operates more than 500 trucks across the eastern half of the U.S.

## LA VERGNE

Gutterglove will invest \$5.4 million to establish a new manufacturing and distribution operation in La Vergne, creating 85 jobs in the next five years. Gutterglove will improve a new building to add administrative offices and team member facilities. In addition, Gutterglove will build out manufacturing, shipping and receiving, and inventory holding spaces. As part of the expansion, Gutterglove will relocate some machinery from its current West Coast manufacturing facility to Tennessee to replicate a portion of current capacity in the new location, as well as invest heavily in new state-of-the-art machinery to expand its manufacturing capabilities. Headquartered in Roseville, Calif., Gutterglove produces patented gutter guard systems that are designed, assembled and packaged in the U.S.A. The company began as a gutter cleaning business in 1996 and, after seeing a need for more reliable gutter systems, incorporated in 2000. Gutterglove serves consumers through major retailers and professional installers. Its DIY product is available across the country from retailers including Costco, Sam's Club, The Home Depot, Lowe's, Menards, Amazon and Walmart. The company's contractor-grade product can be installed by any of the professionals participating in Gutterglove's proprietary DoneRight program, which supports a vast network of local installers around the nation and connects them with interested homeowners.

## LEBANON

Genuine Parts Company, a leading automotive and industrial parts distributor, will invest \$50 million to establish a new distribution facility in Lebanon and create 250 jobs in the next five years. Headquartered in Atlanta, Ga., Genuine Parts Company distributes automotive parts to a network of 6,000 NAPA Auto Parts stores in the U.S. In addition, the company has automotive operations in Canada, Europe, Australia and New Zealand. Genuine Parts Company also distributes industrial parts throughout the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Australia and New Zealand. Construction on the Lebanon facility is essentially com-

## TCAT makes training equipment for Morristown FD



The Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) in Morristown collaborated with the Morristown Fire Department to create equipment that will be used to train firefighters. New firefighter crews are required to complete a physical ability test prior to employment. TCAT welding students designed and fabricated a ceiling breach and pull machine. This piece of equipment will be extremely valuable for both new and current firefighters to utilize for training.

plete and was initially operational in September 2020. The build-out of the internal operations remains underway and will continue for several more months. The new Lebanon facility will supply auto parts to approximately 300 NAPA Auto Parts stores.

## NASHVILLE

Nashville Mayor John Cooper has announced a partnership between Nashville Electric Service, the Tennessee Valley Authority, and Vanderbilt University to construct 100 megawatts of utility-scale solar power under the TVA Green Invest program—placing Metro General Government operations over one-third of the way toward being sourced with 100% renewable energy and enabling Metro to meet a 2025 benchmark for renewables established by Council legislation. On Metro's and Vanderbilt's behalf, TVA will contract with Nashville-based Silicon Ranch Corp. to build a solar array in Tullahoma. Silicon Ranch pioneered utility-scale solar power in the Tennessee Valley and is today one of the largest independent solar-power producers in America. The company was selected through TVA's 2020 competitive procurement process for construction of up to 200 megawatts of solar power on the Tullahoma site.

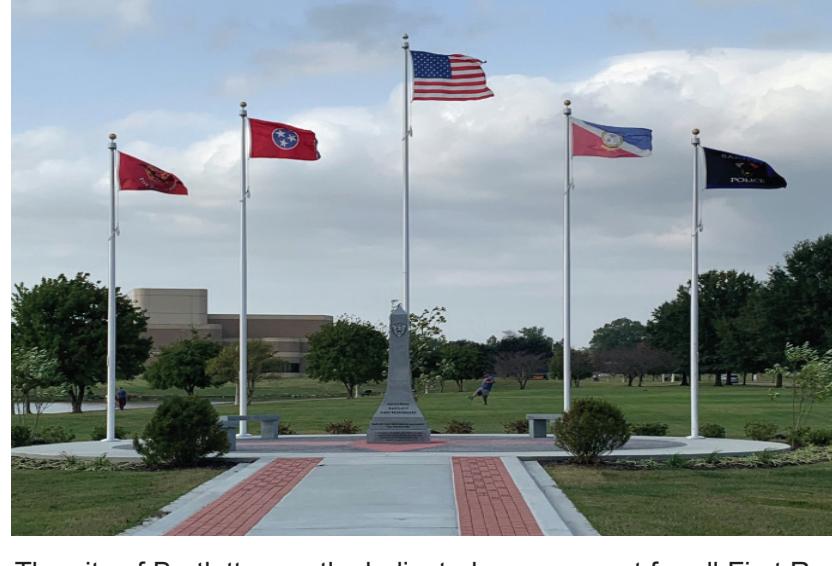
## NASHVILLE

August Bioservices, LLC, will expand its operations in Nashville, investing \$64.6 million and creating 180 jobs in the next five years. The first phase of the project, which will be completed in late 2021, will involve the targeted expansion of August Bioservices' existing Nashville facility, adding high-value technologies such as lyophilization and terminal sterilization to its existing cGMP fill and finish manufacturing capabilities. The second phase of the project will see August Bioservices construct a new, state-of-the-art, drug development and manufacturing facility that will feature multiple high-speed production lines capable of delivering commercial scale throughput across a wide array of sterile injectables containers, including vials, IV bags and prefilled syringes. The expansion activities will enable August Bioservices to grow its footprint in drug development and manufacturing services and allow the company to pursue attractive later-stage clinical development as well as commercial manufacturing opportunities. Headquartered in Nashville, August Bioservices is a contract development and manufacturing organization (CDMO) providing drug discovery, drug development and drug manufacturing services in support of the global pharmaceutical industry. The company is expanding its capabilities to become a preferred, specialized, one-stop-shop CDMO for clinical and commercial injectable therapies.

## PULASKI

Frito-Lay, a division of PepsiCo and a leading snack manufacturer, will expand its operations in the city of Pulaski, creating 100 new jobs in the next three years and investing \$100 million. The Frito-Lay Pulaski site project will include manufacturing and warehouse expansions, including the addition of four new manufacturing lines to support future growth. The new lines will produce products from the recently acquired PopCorners brand. Construction is set to begin in early 2021, and the project is expected to be completed in early 2022. Frito-Lay employs 50,000 associates in the U.S. and approximately 2,100 in Tennessee. The company has operated in Pulaski for more than 40 years and is the only Frito-Lay producer of Grandma's Cookies.

## Bartlett dedicates First Responders monument



The city of Bartlett recently dedicated a monument for all First Responders. Bricks that have been purchased in honor or memory of First Responders line the walkway up to the monument. This monument was made possible through numerous donations from the business community, individuals and the city of Bartlett. Alderman Emily Elliot was the chair of the Ad Hoc committee that worked to get this monument constructed.

## Piperton purchases historic home of the city's namesake



The city of Piperton has purchased a historic home with connections to the city's founding. The 32.3 acres of land on Highway 196 was built by town founder and namesake Sam Piper in 1877, who came to the area to escape a yellow fever epidemic in Memphis in the 1870s. Currently being used as a private home, the city will develop the 20 acres south of the highway into a city park with a small garden, trails, and a pond. The front part of the house will be preserved while a later back addition to the house will be used as administrative offices. The property around the house connects with the city's public works building and the property will allow expansion for a new city hall and other development.

## Kingsport Miracle Field wins TCAPWA Project of the Year



Kingsport Deputy City Manager Ryan McReynolds receives the Project of the Year Award from TCAPWA President Justin Holland. The city of Kingsport's Miracle Field was honored with the Mark Miller Tennessee Public Works Project of the Year Award by the Tennessee Chapter of the American Public Works Association (TCAPWA), which is given annually in recognition of a project within the state of Tennessee that emphasizes outstanding planning, construction and management. Kingsport's success with the Miracle Field Complex is an excellent example of how a public works department can operate as a team to produce high-end results. The Miracle Field Complex features a rubberized baseball field, along with an adaptive playground, pavilion, and concessions.

# TN Senate, House nominate candidates for leadership roles

**112th Tennessee General Assembly Convenes January 12, 2020 12 noon (CST)**



## ASSEMBLY from Page 1

Rep. William Lamberth, R-Portland, was re-elected without opposition as majority leader.

Rep. Jeremy Faison, R-Cosby, was re-elected to a second term as caucus chair after facing opposition from Rep. Robin Smith, R-Hixson.

Additionally, Rep. Ron Gant, R-Rossville, was elected assistant majority leader; Rep. Johnny Garrett, R-Goodlettsville, was elected whip; Rep. Mark Cochran, R-Englewood, was elected caucus treasurer; Rep. Pat Marsh, R-Shelbyville, was elected speaker pro tempore; Rep. Brandon Ogles, R-Franklin, was elected caucus vice chair; and Rep. Paul Sherrell, R-Sparta, was elected floor leader.

## DEMOCRATIC NOMINATIONS

Democrats also elected new leadership in the House.

Rep. Karen Camper, D-Memphis, was re-elected to another term as minority leader in the House.

Rep. Vincent Dixie was elected as the new Democratic Caucus Chair. He defeated Rep. Bo Mitchell, D-Nashville, and Rep. John

Ray Clemons, D-Nashville, in a bid to replace Rep. Mike Stewart, D-Nashville who decided not to run for the leadership position.

Also new to the House leadership are Rep. Bob Freeman D-Nashville, as vice-chair, and Rep. Jesse Chism, D-Memphis, as treasurer.

Rep. Jason Powell, D-Nashville, remains the minority whip in the House.

Rep. Harold Love Jr., D-Nashville, remains the assistant floor leader. Rep. London Lamar, D-Memphis, remains the secretary.

At press time, the Senate Democratic Caucus had not met yet to elect leadership positions.

Last session in the 111th General Assembly, Sen. Jeff Yarbro, D-Nashville, served as the Senate minority leader; Sen. Raumesh Akbari, D-Memphis, served as the Democratic caucus chairwoman; Sen. Brenda Gilmore, D-Nashville, was the Democratic floor leader; and Sen. Sara Kyle, D-Memphis, was the vice-chair of the Senate Democratic Caucus.

It is uncertain if those leadership positions will change for the upcoming legislative session.



Sen. Ken Yager  
Republican Caucus Chairman



Sen. Ferrell Haile  
Republican Caucus Treasurer



Sen. Dawn White  
Republican Caucus Secretary



Sen. Shane Reeves  
Republican Caucus Chaplain



Rep. Pat Marsh  
House Speaker Pro Tem



Rep. Jeremy Faison  
Majority Caucus Chair



Rep. Paul Sherrell  
House Majority Floor Leader



Rep. Johnny Garrett  
Majority House Whip



Rep. Karen Camper  
House Minority Leader



Rep. Vincent Dixie  
House Minority Caucus Chair



Rep. Bill Beck  
House Minority Floor Leader



Rep. Jason Powell  
House Minority Whip

## 112th General Assembly welcomes 12 freshmen legislators

**FRESHMEN from Page 1**  
and the Tennessee Cattlemen's Association, Warner has expressed support for farmers and the agriculture industry.

The remaining freshmen legislators filled seats vacated by legislators who either chose not to seek re-election or ran for another elected seat.

In House District 3, Scotty Campbell, R-Mountain City, is filling the seat previously held by Rep. Timothy Hill, who unsuccessfully ran for Congress. Campbell is a graduate of Vol State Community College and Cumberland University. He previously served in the Tennessee House of Representatives during the 107th General Assembly and was a legislative staff member during the 105th and 106th General Assemblies. Campbell was a 911 police/fire/EMS dispatcher and worked at a local radio station as the morning news host.

In House District 16, Michele Carringer, R-Knoxville, is filling the seat previously held by Rep. Bill Dunn, who retired from the legislature after 26 years in office. Carringer served for on the Knox County Commission. She attended the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in the College of Communications and is active in the Knoxville community, serving on numerous non-profit boards and commissions. Carringer has also served in various leadership roles for both the Knox County Republican Party and regional Republican organizations.

In House District 18, Eddie Mannis, R-Knoxville, was elected to fill the seat previously held by



Todd Warner  
House District 92



Scotty Campbell  
House District 3



Michele Carringer  
House District 16

Rep. Martin Daniel, who decided not to run for re-election. Mannis is a graduate of Maryville College and the founder and CEO of Prestige Cleaners. He served as the city of Knoxville's chief operating officer under Madeline Rogero's administration. He is also the founder of Honor Air Knoxville, which sponsors local veterans to visit war memorials in Washington, D.C. Mannis has served on several boards, such as the McGhee Tyson Airport, Visit Knoxville, and Zoo Knoxville's boards, and was chair of the University of Tennessee Chancellor's Associates.

In House District 76, Tandy Darby, R-Greenfield, succeeded Rep. Andy Holt, who decided not to run for re-election. Darby works for Akin and Porter Produce and on the family's cattle farm, Darby Brothers Farm. He also served on the Weakley County Chamber Board. Darby is a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin, obtaining his bachelor's degree in agricultural business.

In House District 90, Torrey Harris, D-Memphis, defeated 26-year incumbent Rep. John DeBerry, who was forced to run as an independent after the Tennessee Democratic Party executive committee voted to remove him as a Democrat from the ballot. Harris received his bachelor's degree in industrial and organizational psychology from Christian Brothers University. He works in human resources management for Shelby County Government and is active in his community, serving in organizations like the Memphis Urban League.

In House District 97, John



Eddie Mannis  
House District 18



Tandy Darby  
House District 76



Torrey Harris  
House District 90



John Gillespie  
House District 97

Gillespie (R-Memphis) was elected to fill the seat of Rep. Jim Coley, who decided not to run for re-election. Gillespie works as a grant coordinator at Trezevant Episcopal Home and is a graduate of High Point University in North Carolina. He previously worked at First Horizon as a financial service representative and later moved to the mortgage division at Evolve Bank and Trust. Gillespie also has a background in political campaigning, having served as the assistant campaign manager for former Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell's campaign.



## COVERAGES DESIGNED TO PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY

- GENERAL LIABILITY
- CYBER COVERAGE
- LAW ENFORCEMENT LIABILITY
- EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES LIABILITY
- WORKERS' COMPENSATION
- PROPERTY

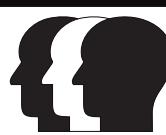
**PUBLIC ENTITY PARTNERS**

[www.PEPartners.org](http://www.PEPartners.org)  
800.624.9698





# PEOPLE



**Greg Baltimore** has been selected as the new assistant fire chief for the Franklin Fire Department after having



Greg Baltimore

served as the interim assistant fire chief since June. Baltimore has 35 years of firefighting experience with 28 years with the Franklin Fire Department. During his tenure with Franklin, Baltimore has served as a firefighter, engineer, lieutenant, captain, and battalion chief. A native of Ripley, Baltimore earned a bachelor's degree in business at Tennessee State University and then returned to his hometown where he was hired as the first African-American firefighter for the Ripley Fire Department. After five years, he was hired as a firefighter for the Nashville International Airport. He served there for two years before joining the Franklin Fire Department. He holds numerous certifications and has received multiple awards, including Fire Suppression Officer of the Year in 2008.

**Pearl Bransford**, a longtime Franklin alderwoman, died Nov. 27, 2020, at the age of 67 following an illness. First



Pearl Bransford

elected to the Franklin Board of Mayor and Aldermen in 2007, she was elected to a fourth term on the board in 2019. A native of Brownsville, Bransford earned a nursing degree from Tennessee State University; a bachelor's degree in health arts from the University of St. Francis in Joliet, Ill.; and a master's degree in nursing administration from Vanderbilt University. She also worked at Vanderbilt Medical Center for 18 years. Bransford first ran for office to serve on the Franklin Special School District board in 1992, where she served until 2003. Bransford was active in local education programs and championed historic preservation, especially to preserve Franklin's black heritage and history.

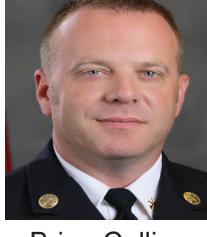
**Michael Chesney** has been selected as the new city manager for the city of Maynardville. A



Mike Chesney

Knoxville native, Chesney earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee in 1978 and holds a master's of business administration from the University of Chicago. He has nearly 30 years experience in rural telecommunications in operations and corporate development. He previously served as the interim city manager for Millington and most recently served as a church administrator for First Baptist Church Morristown.

**Brian Collins** has been promoted to deputy chief of Brentwood Fire and Rescue. Collins is a 19-year veteran of the



Brian Collins

department and most recently served as battalion chief. Collins also previously served as assistant chief for the Pleasant View Volunteer Fire Department and served on numerous committees and in countless capacities on the state, regional, and national level. Collins holds a bachelor's degree in Fire Protection Administration from Eastern Kentucky University and a master's of public administration from Tennessee State University. Additionally, he is credentialed as an Executive Fire Officer (EFO) through the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Md., and holds his Chief Fire Officer (CFO) designation from the Center for Public Safety Excellence's Commission on Professional Credentialing.

**McMinnville Police Chief Bryan Denton** will retire from the force after nearly 40 years in law enforcement.

The son of a career deputy sheriff, Denton began his career in law enforcement in 1981 as a patrolman. He was promoted to shift sergeant in 1986, lieutenant detective in 1998, captain in 2001, major in 2006, and deputy chief in 2009. He was selected as the city's police chief in 2011. Denton is the longest-tenured chief in McMinnville history, serving nine years in that capacity. He also served as the city's interim chief on three separate occasions. He also served on the Warren County Commission for three terms. Denton is a member of the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police where he serves on the Professional Standards Committee.

**John Drake** has been selected as the new police chief for the city of Nashville. A 32-year veteran of the Metro Nashville

Police Department, Drake has been serving as the city's interim police chief since August. A Nashville native, Drake holds a bachelor's degree in public service from Bethel University. He began his service with MNPD in 1988, serving in the city's patrol division, vice narcotics division, the police athletic league, the office of professional accountability, and the community services bureau. He achieved the rank of captain in 2014, serving as an overnight field captain and then captain of the domestic violence division where he developed a new domestic violence supplement and lethality assessment protocol that has become a national model.

**Kelly Drummond** has been named the human resources director for the city of Knoxville by Mayor Indya Kincannon.

Drummond presently served as the vice president of human resources and leadership development for the Boy and Girls Club of the Tennessee Valley. Drummond has also worked for Knox County Schools as executive director for human resources and served on a variety of boards and committees within the city of Knoxville. She also finds time to teach leadership and management courses at several area schools, including the University of Tennessee, Tusculum University and Roane State Community College. Drummond holds a bachelor's degree in political science and government from Old Dominion University, a master's degree in organizational management from Capella University, and doctorate in education specializing in human resource development from Lincoln Memorial University.

**Lauren Kirk**, director of performance management for the city of Jackson, has been selected as a fellow of the Delta Regional Authority (DRA)'s 2021 Delta Leadership Institute (DLI) Executive Academy. Kirk is one of 30 fellows selected from eight DRA states, including three from Tennessee. Kirk holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Union University and a master's degree in city and regional planning from the University of Memphis where she also served as a Housing and Community Development Fellow. She also served as an executive assistant and project manager for Memphis-based City Leadership before being hired by the city of Jackson in 2019.

**J.P. Taylor** has been selected as the deputy chief of the administrative division, public affairs, and criminal investigations of the Franklin Police Department. Taylor is a 22-year veteran of the Franklin Police

**Carter Lawrence** has been appointed commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance by Gov. Bill Lee. Lawrence previously served as the chief deputy commissioner and chief operation officer at the Department of Commerce and Insurance. He has also served on Tennessee's Economic Recovery Group throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, assisting Gov. Lee's efforts to reboot the state's economy. A Nashville native, Lawrence earned his bachelor's degree from Wheaton College in Illinois, as well as a law degree and master's of business administration from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

**Ryan Martin** has been selected as the new city manager for the city of Springfield, taking over from retiring City Manager Gina Holt. Martin has served as Springfield's assistant city manager since 2018. A Springfield native and graduate of Springfield High School, Martin earned his bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Tennessee and a law degree from the Nashville School of Law. Before coming to work for the city of Springfield, Martin was a legal advisor and public information officer for the Robertson County Sheriff's Office from 2009 until 2018. He is also a graduate of Leadership Robertson County and the MTAS Municipal Management Academy. He is a member of the Tennessee City Management Association (TCMA).

**Lisa Piercey**, commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Health, has received the 2020 Dr. William Schaffner Public Health Hero Award from The Tennessee Medical Association and Tennessee Public Health Association. Piercey was given the award for her leadership of the state during the COVID-19 pandemic, guiding Tennesseans through the evolving challenges presented by the outbreak. Piercey joined Gov. Bill Lee's cabinet as the state's fourteenth commissioner for health in 2019. Prior to joining TDH, Piercey spent a decade in health systems operations, most recently as executive vice president of West Tennessee Healthcare, a public, not-for-profit health system with more than 7,000 employees servicing 22 counties. Piercey is certified by the American Board of Pediatrics in both general pediatrics and in the specialty field of child abuse pediatrics.

**David Smith** has been named the director of the Clarksville Building and Codes Department after serving as the department's interim head since June 2019. Smith holds a bachelor's degree in public management from Austin Peay State University. He has been employed with the city of Clarksville since 2005 when he was hired as a deputy building official. In 2009, he was promoted to parking manager for the city and in 2017 served as project manager for Clarksville Municipal Properties until he was chosen as the city's interim building and codes department director.

**David Smith** has been selected as the first fire chief for the new Nolensville Fire Department. Smith holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania as well as a master's degree in criminal justice. Taylor began his new position with the department on Dec. 6, 2020.

**J.P. Taylor** has been selected as the deputy chief of the administrative division, public affairs, and criminal investigations of the Franklin Police Department. Taylor is a 22-year veteran of the Franklin Police

## Dunn, DeBerry selected for senior advisory roles

Gov. Bill Lee has announced that two former state representatives will take on advisory roles in state government.

Former House Speaker Bill Dunn will join the Department of Education as a senior advisor to Commissioner Penny Schwinn.

"Bill Dunn is one of the most experienced and thoughtful advocates for education in our state who has dedicated his career in state government to improving outcomes for Tennessee's students," said Gov. Lee. "Bill is a man of impeccable integrity, and his counsel will be critical to our success as we navigate one of the most challenging school years in our state's history."

Dunn began his role on Nov. 9. Dunn will counsel the department on key priority areas and engagement strategies to help education initiatives in Tennessee.

"Tennessee has made significant gains in public education over the past decade and I look forward to keeping us on an upward trajectory to provide all students with a path to success," said Bill Dunn.

Former State Rep. John DeBerry of Memphis will also join the governor's cabinet as a senior advisor.

"John DeBerry is a respected leader and man of faith who has served our state with integrity for decades as both a legislator and civil rights champion," said Gov. Lee. "John has fought to protect life, provide better education options for Tennessee students, and to reform our criminal justice system and I'm honored to have his counsel within the cabinet."

DeBerry has represented the 90th House District of Tennessee from 1995 until 2020. He is a graduate of Freed-Hardeman University and the University of Memphis and currently preaches



Bill Dunn



John DeBerry

at the Coleman Avenue Church of Christ in Memphis in addition to churches and organizations across the country.

"It's been an honor to serve my constituents for the last 26 years," said DeBerry. "I am proud of the work accomplished throughout my time with the Tennessee General Assembly and I look forward to serving Tennesseans in this statewide role."

Beginning Dec. 1, DeBerry will serve on the governor's Executive Leadership Team and his office will be in the Tennessee State Capitol.

## Oak Ridge's Ellen Smith named NLC committee chair

The Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to announce that Ellen Smith, Oak Ridge councilmember, has been selected to serve as the chair of the Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Advocacy Committee for the National League of Cities. She was approved for this leadership role during NLC's annual business meeting held last month as part of the virtual City Summit.

Smith has served as a member of this committee since 2016.

Outside of serving on the Oak Ridge City Council, Smith is an environmental scientist on the staff of the Environmental Sciences Division at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, where she has participated in or managed a variety of activities related to waste management and environmental impact assessment.

She has also served as an appointed member of Oak Ridge's Environmental Quality Advisory Board (EQAB) from 1991 to 2007,

Ellen Smith  
Oak Ridge Councilmember

and from 2013 to 2014. She was the EQAB's vice-chairman for five years and chairman for 11 years.

Her expertise and experience will be a valuable asset to NLC's Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Advocacy Committee.

Department, working his way up from patrol officer. Taylor holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania as well as a master's degree in criminal justice. Taylor began his new position with the department on Dec. 6, 2020.

**J.P. Taylor** has been selected as the first fire chief for the new Nolensville Fire Department. Taylor is a 22-year veteran of the Franklin Police

served as a battalion chief in the Dallas-Ft. Worth International Airport Department of Public Safety. He holds a master's degree in public administration and a bachelor's degree in emergency administration and disaster planning from the University of North Texas. He also holds an associate degree in fire protection technology.

**Kenneth Winslow** has been selected as the new deputy chief for field operations and special operations for the Franklin

Police Department. Winslow is the former police chief for Springfield, Ill., and has 25 years of experience in law enforcement as well as supervisory and management. Winslow holds a bachelor's degree in social justice. He has served on many law enforcement boards and is a member of International Association of Chiefs of Police, Illinois Association-Chief of Police and the Police Executive Research Forum. Winslow will start with the Franklin Police Department on Jan. 19, 2021.



Kenneth Winslow

**STATE****BRIEFS**

**U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander recently announced that national parks properties across the state of Tennessee will receive "significant funding" for maintenance backlogs under the Great American Outdoors Act.** The act, championed by Alexander, is the largest federal investment in the national parks system since the late 1950s. The U.S. Department of Interior said under the act, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park will receive funding to replace the Sugarlands maintenance buildings and rehabilitate 17 miles of the Foothills Parkway. Additionally, the new law will provide up to \$1.36 million for Land and Water Conservation Fund projects in three national park units across Tennessee, including at the Fort Donelson National Battlefield, Shiloh National Military Park and Stones River National Battlefield.

**In the spirit of the season, the TNStars College Savings 529 Program is again giving one Tennessee child a \$5,000 scholarship awarded into a TNStars account.** For the second year in a row, Tennessee residents age 21 and older can enter to win at [TNStars.com/Scholarship](http://TNStars.com/Scholarship) now through Dec. 31 on behalf of a child age 10 or younger. One entry is good for the entire contest period. The \$5,000 prize can be used by the winning beneficiary to cover future post-secondary education expenses ranging from tuition and housing to books, computers, and more. TNStars is

designed to give Tennessee families high-quality investment options at a low cost to help them put aside money for higher education expenses. Families can invest directly with the program and money can be withdrawn tax-free from a TNStars account as long as it is used for qualified post-secondary education expenses. To enter the scholarship giveaway or to get more information on the program, visit [TNStars.com](http://TNStars.com).

**Camping in Tennessee State Parks has reached record highs during the coronavirus pandemic.** The state park system saw 62,124 guests camping overnight in October, breaking the previous one-month camping stay record of 57,472 set earlier this year in June. November saw more than 36,000 camping stays sold, the highest number ever recorded for the month of November. Four of the top 10 camping months ever recorded in the state park system have occurred in 2020, driven by the pandemic. June, July, and October of this year are the top three months ever recorded while September was the sixth best month ever. Park officials said Tennesseans are seeing both the mental and physical health rewards that outdoor activity provides. There are more than 3,000 campsites in the Tennessee State Parks system ranging from RV hookups to primitive, backwoods sites. In Tennessee, outdoor recreation value added as a share of GDP was 2.4 %, above the 2019 national GDP average of 2.1%.

**TRPA announces annual award winners**

The Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association (TRPA) announced the recipients of the Association's 2020 Awards. The outstanding achievements of these individuals, communities and organizations were acknowledged during the Association's 69th Annual Conference held virtually.

The Fellow Award, the highest award the Association can bestow on an individual, recognizes professional members who have made outstanding contributions to the recreation field throughout their career. The 2019 Fellow Award recipient is **Thomas Laird of Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation**.

The Distinguished Young Professional Award, awarded to a young professional was presented to **Sara Jennings of Goodlettsville Parks and Recreation** for her outstanding service to the Parks and Recreation profession and her community.

The Lifetime Member Award honors and recognizes individuals who have made numerous and/or significant long-term contributions within the parks and recreation profession. This prestigious award can be given to more than one nominee per year. TRPA recognized two outstanding members this year: **Sandy MacDiarmid of Jackson Recreation and Parks and Mike Gorham of Fort Campbell Outdoor Recreation**.

The Four Star Awards recognize excellence and community impact by agencies. Winners included:

- Innovative Program: Hamilton County Parks and Recreation—Enterprise South Nature Park for Duck Box Conservation Initiative



Greeneville Mayor W.T. Daniels poses with his family at the opening of the city's new W.T. Daniels Park. The new park recently won the Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association's New Facility Award for facilities with a budget of \$500,000 or less.

- Special Event: Gatlinburg Parks and Recreation for Halloween Spooktacular
- Public Relations: Hendersonville Parks and Recreation for Hendersonville Stay at Home Jam
- Renovated Facility Award (Budget \$500,000 or less): Clarksville Parks and Recreation for City of Clarksville's Billy Dunlop Park Pavilion
- Renovated Facility Award (Budget Over \$500,000): Chattanooga, Department of Public Works for East Lake Park Water Quality Improvements and Park Renovations
- New Facility Award (Budget

\$500,000 or less): Greeneville Parks and Recreation for W.T. Daniels Park

• New Facility Award (Budget Over \$500,000): Kingsport Parks & Recreation for Miracle Park of Kingsport

Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association (TRPA) is the leading nonprofit organization for parks and recreation in Tennessee with over 1,700 members united to strengthen those committed to the benefits of parks and recreation by supporting highly effective professionals to achieve healthy, livable communities.

**TDEC, TDOT announce 2020 Sustainable Transportation Award winners**

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) in partnership with the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) has announced the winners of the 2020 Tennessee Sustainable Transportation Awards.

The Tennessee Sustainable Transportation Awards recognize outstanding initiatives to improve the efficiency, accessibility, affordability, and sustainability of transportation. Award winners included:

**Southwest TN Development District – MyRide West TN**

MyRide West TN provides safe and reliable door-through-door transportation for older adults who are ambulatory and in need of assistance due to health or safety concerns. Operating out of the Southwest TN Development District's Agency on Aging and Disability since May 2017, the program strives to improve the quality of life for older adults.

**CARTA – Wayside Inductive Power Transfer System**

The Chattanooga Area Regional Transportation Authority (CARTA) has expanded its already innovative electric transit bus fleet through the installation of inductive

power transfer systems (wireless charging). Working with partners from the University of Tennessee, CARTA has paired an inductive power transfer system with several new BYD electric transit buses, each launched in March 2019 with a battery range of 150 miles and the ability to accept a wireless charge. The inductive power transfer system was installed within the transit-way of CARTA's Shuttle Park South facility in downtown Chattanooga to allow for en route fast charging for longer, fixed route electric vehicles.

**KUB – Electric Vehicle Charger Rebate Program**

In early 2019, the Knoxville Utilities Board's (KUB's) Utility Transformation Team began exploring ways to incentivize electric vehicle adoption within the utility's service area, deciding that a charging station rebate program would best serve its customers in terms of accessibility and need. Tennessee's first-ever utility charging station rebate program was launched by KUB in August 2019. The rebate covers 100 percent of electric vehicle charging equipment costs up to \$400.

**American Natural Gas/Frito-Lay Fayetteville – Renewable Natural****Gas Fueling Station**

American Natural Gas (ANG) builds, operates, and maintains natural gas fueling stations across the country and strives to provide 100% domestically sourced renewable natural gas to its customers. Frito-Lay is a major customer at several of ANG's renewable compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling stations, including a fueling station at Frito-Lay's facility in Fayetteville, TN. The Fayetteville station is equipped with three fueling lanes and both NGV1 and NGV2 nozzle types. Primarily used by Frito-Lay, the station is also accessible to the public.

**Chapel Hill – Pedestrian and Bicycle Infrastructure Community Master Plan**

Chapel Hill began a community transportation assessment and planning project, identifying ways to connect residential areas, schools, parks, churches, retail, and business properties that would help accommodate future growth and transportation needs for the community. As a part of this planning process, Chapel Hill strategically invested in a walking trail at Depot Park that would function as a trailhead for a master community sidewalk. The

town also updated traffic signals on Horton Parkway, leading to Henry Horton State Park, to provide protection to bicycle and pedestrian traffic in the area.

**Transit Alliance of Middle TN – Transit Citizen Leadership Academy**

The Transit Citizen Leadership Academy (TCLA) is designed to equip private-sector and public-sector leaders across the 10 counties of Middle Tennessee with tools to lead conversations about the value of multimodal transit and the emerging mass transit options that can address the region's mobility needs. The academy is built around a six-session program developed by the Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee that brings the experience and expertise of local elected officials, college professors, entrepreneurs, engineers, planners, federal and state agencies, and nonprofit organizations together for a deep dive into what it would look like, what it would cost, and what it would take to improve and enhance regional transportation.

**Nashville Departments of Planning and Public Works / KCI Technologies, Inc. – Arthur Ave-****ne Cycle Track**

The Metro Nashville Public Works and Planning Departments recently partnered with KCI Technologies to complete traffic engineering, design, and implementation of a cycle track along Arthur Avenue in North Nashville, a neighborhood with a unique history whose population has been increasingly threatened by growing development and gentrification.

**NET Trans/Alliance AutoGas – Elizabethhton, Greeneville, and Kingsport AutoGas Programs**

NET Trans is a rural public transit fleet serving nine counties in the eastern part of the state. In March 2015, NET Trans entered into a partnership with Alliance AutoGas to implement three alternative fuel programs in Elizabethhton, Greeneville, and Kingsport. The partnership's goal was to initiate a replicable autogas program that addresses infrastructure, vehicle conversion and maintenance, staff training, and data reporting. As a result of this project, the NET Trans fleet now uses autogas in their PRINS bi-fuel vehicle propane systems, with the fuel supplied through the ongoing relationship with Alliance AutoGas.

**No loan is too large or too small**

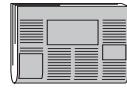
The City of Milan recently closed on a \$1.5 million fixed rate loan with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF) issued to finance electric system improvements. Seated L to R: Jason Griggs, Superintendent of Public Utilities; Milan Mayor B.W. Beasley; and Autumn Stewart, City Recorder. Standing is Tommy Green, TMBF Marketing Representative.



The City of McKenzie has used the TMBF programs since 1987. McKenzie recently closed on three refunding issues in order to lower the rate of interest on the debt. The General Obligation Refunding Bond is in the amount of \$2,648,995 and was placed with a local bank in McKenzie. From L to R Jennifer Waldrop, City Recorder; McKenzie Mayor Jill Holland; and Tommy Green, TMBF Marketing Representative.

See us for your special projects needs.  
(615) 255-1561





## CLASSIFIED ADS

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

### ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN/HR ASSISTANT

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

### ASSISTANT TO CITY ADMINISTRATOR

**GREENEVILLE.** The town of Greeneville is seeking an assistant to the city administrator. This position is a diverse, multi-functional operations position in support of the city administrator. The person in this position will be highly engaged with other departments, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, and members of the community on special projects, grant programs, ad hoc requirements, and other duties designated by the city administrator. The main duties of the position will focus on grant administration, developing and overseeing the town's fundraising Foundation, and overseeing the implementation of the town's ADA program. A successful candidate will be a self-motivated multi-tasker who possesses strong communication skills both verbal and written, Microsoft Office experience, a strict attention to detail, and is a team player. He or she will have a four year college degree in business, economics, political science, public administration, or like field. A master's degree is preferred. A minimum of five years of experience in local government is preferred, but applicable experience at other government levels or in the private sector/non-profit administration will be considered. A dependable record of integrity and credibility while providing critical services to an organization is a must. Salary DOE, including excellent benefit and retirement packages. Applications can be obtained from the town's website [www.greenevilletn.gov](http://www.greenevilletn.gov), and can be submitted via email to [hrtstaff@greenevilletn.gov](mailto:hrtstaff@greenevilletn.gov), or mailed to HR Director, 200 N. College St. Greeneville, TN 37745. Open until filled. EOE.

### CITY ADMINISTRATOR

**PITTMAN CENTER.** The city of Pittman Center (population 502) is accepting applications for a city administrator. Salary DOQ plus excellent benefits. Current salary \$63K. Administrator responsible for 10 employees and \$1 million general fund. Position answers to a high-quality five-member council. Located in the Great Smoky Mountains in northeast Tennessee. Must be a good manager with excellent communication and team-building skills. Experience in budgeting and intergovernmental relations. At least two years' experience in public administration or related field. Bachelor's degree required. Application is a public record. Send resume by Dec. 23, 2020, to Mayor Jerry Huskey, City of Pittman Center, 2839 Webb Creek Rd., Sevierville, TN 37876. Or email resume to [jhuskey@pittmancentertn.gov](mailto:jhuskey@pittmancentertn.gov).

### CITY ENGINEER

**HENDERSONVILLE.** This position directs the operations of Engineering Division of the city of Hendersonville Public Works Department. Bachelor's de-

gree in civil engineering or closely related field. Must have a minimum of 8 years of increasingly responsible experience in civil engineering, and 5 years supervisory experience or an equivalent combination of education, experience, and training. Possession of or ability to readily obtain a valid driver's license issued by the state of Tennessee for the type of vehicle or equipment operated. Certification as a Professional Engineer. Entry level salary: \$83,768 annually or DOQ. Interested candidates must submit a completed job application, resume, and a cover letter highlighting your career experience as it relates to this position and explaining why you are interested in this job. Information can be found on the 'Job Openings' page on the city of Hendersonville Human Resources website or picked up at the Personnel office at Hendersonville City Hall. Open until filled. EOE.

### CITY ENGINEER.

**SPRING HILL.** The city of Spring Hill is seeking to hire a city engineer. This is a skilled, full time exempt position under the direct supervision of the infrastructure director or, in the absence of an infrastructure director, the city administrator. This employee performs administrative/technical functions to ensure that infrastructure proposed through development plans meets city regulations and to provide general engineering support to the public works department, and other departments. Duties and responsibilities include providing technical expertise in areas of construction problems, floodplain and drainage issues; overseeing new development work; reviewing sewer and water system capacity in conjunction with the system managers; setting bond amounts to ensure city protection from developers' defaults; performing site inspections and estimating project costs; project management; and providing information to the public. This employee also supervises and directs the work of the associate engineer and utility inspectors. Bachelor's degree in civil engineering or related field required, with five to seven years of experience as a professional engineer knowledgeable in general construction, water and sewer system construction, stormwater drainage, roadway construction, estimating, and development plans review; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Valid Tennessee licensure as a professional engineer required. Applications/resumes submitted online at: [www.springhilltn.org/Jobs.aspx](http://www.springhilltn.org/Jobs.aspx). Questions to [staylor@springhilltn.org](mailto:staylor@springhilltn.org). EOE.

### CITY ENGINEER

**JACKSON.** The city of Jackson has an opening for a city engineer. Qualifications include: a bachelor's degree from an accredited college in the area of construction architectural systems, civil engineering, or a related field; P.E. or eligible for P.E. licensing from the state of Tennessee; and at least five (5) years of experience or equivalent as an architect, engineer, inspector, contractor, superintendent of construction or any combination of these (at least 2 years' experience as supervisor/manager in city/county government). Specific job duties include: must be able to exercise sound judgment and make independent decisions regarding engineering activities; assist in project management for the construction of the municipal public works projects; oversee assigned projects to ensure contractor compliance with time and budget parameters for the project; review all contracts for projects covering streets or bridges; work closely with the planning department in reviewing subdivision plats and zoning requests; prepare estimates for project costs to correct drainage problems; follow-up on complaints regarding drainage and street flooding; prepare and submit budget for the engineer department and control the expenditures; evaluate the work of subordinates and departmental working conditions; formulate and prescribe work methods, policies, and procedures; maintain regular contact with consulting engineering, construction project engineers, county, state, and federal agencies, professional and technical groups and the general public regarding engineering activities and services. Generous benefits package. Hourly rate \$44.98; EOE/M/F/V/D. MINORITIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY. Apply online at [www.jacksontn.gov](http://www.jacksontn.gov) or contact: City of Jackson Human Resources Department, 127 E. Main Street, Suite 303, Jackson, TN, 38301, Phone: (731)-425-8252.

### CITY MANAGER

**SAVANNAH.** The city of Savannah (Pop. 7,000) located on the Tennessee River in southwest Tennessee is seeking a city management professional to be their next city manager. This position is

appointed and reports to a five-member board of commissioners duly elected to serve four-year terms of office. The city has a \$27M budget with 96 full-time employees and provides natural gas, water, and sewer utilities. Candidates should possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in public administration, business administration, or a field closely related to municipal management, with a master's degree in a related field preferred, and a minimum of eight years of progressive responsible management experience that includes experience in city management, planning, zoning, and finance. Salary dependent on qualifications. Residency within Hardin County will be required. Send cover letter and resume with salary history by electronic mail to the City of Savannah, Attention: Bobbie Matlock ([bmatlock@cityofsavannah.org](mailto:bmatlock@cityofsavannah.org)). A position profile may be obtained from the city website at [www.cityofsavannah.org](http://www.cityofsavannah.org). Initial review of resumes will occur the week of Jan. 4, 2021. Position opened until filled. EOE

### LOSS CONTROL CONSULTANT

**FRANKLIN.** Public Entity Partners is seeking applications from a loss control consultant. Under the direction of the vice president of risk services, the loss control consultant serves as the loss control resource in the east Tennessee region, providing loss control surveys for municipalities, utilities, schools, housing authorities, and other public agencies that have workers' compensation and/or liability coverage with PEP. This position identifies safety and liability exposures and provides recommendations and training designed to reduce these exposures, while informing the member and the underwriting department of unmanaged risks. This position will work an East Tennessee office. Job qualifications include: conducting site surveys and evaluations by reviewing policies, surveying facilities, observing work crews and work processes; discussing loss trends and observations with department heads and administration; identifying risks, internal and external threats, and recommending risk controls; reviewing the member's loss history and underwriting file in preparation for site visit, reviewing claim detail, loss trends, develops loss ratios and frequency rates; reporting survey findings in the risk control summary, communicating with underwriting, other key loss control team members, the insured party, and/or the agent; drafting letters of recommendations to members and risk control summaries to underwriting regarding members; responding to external requests for information regarding risk management issues; determining if any follow-up visits or correspondence are appropriate; working with related PEP departments seeking claims or underwriting information; seeking guidance from related departments and/or legal regarding unique issues encountered in the field; developing and presenting training programs; handling confidential member information, claims data, and financial information; participating in special projects; and other duties as assigned. Qualifications include: a bachelor's degree in business or public administration, risk management, safety or a related field, or equivalent experience; ARM-P is a plus; experience working in general risk management or local governmental administration or safety; proficiency in use of Microsoft Office: Word, Excel, PowerPoint; ability to work independently; strong interpersonal skills and ability to work harmoniously with others; excellent oral and written communication skills; strong analytical skills; knowledge of Tennessee Governmental Tort Liability Act, Tennessee Workers' Compensation Law, and/or federal laws pertaining to civil rights; ability to travel up to 80% of the time, with some overnight travel; and valid Tennessee driver's license with a non-adverse driving history and reliable vehicle. Interested parties can mail resumes to 562 Franklin Road, Suite 200 Franklin TN Attn: Celeste Taylor or email [ctaylor@pepartners.org](mailto:ctaylor@pepartners.org)

### PLANNING DIRECTOR.

**SPRING HILL.** The city seeks a skilled, full time planning director under the direct supervision of the city administrator. (S) he will perform technical planning work involving the research, review, analysis and coordination of annexation, zoning text and map amendments, subdivisions and planned developments, site plans and community-based planning. This employee may develop, update and distribute population statistics and demographic information, and assist with Census-related matters. This employee presents findings and recommendations to staff, planning commission, Board of Mayor and Aldermen, Board of Zoning Appeals, various committees and commissions, and the public. The employee will supervise the work of the associate planner and planning assistant. The position requires a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with major coursework in urban planning or closely related

field. A Master's degree in planning or related field preferred. Membership in the American Institute of Certified Planners or ability to obtain certification within one (1) year preferred. Five to seven year of increasingly responsible experience in urban or community planning required, preferably in urbanized county or municipal government. Generally, three of experience must be in a supervisory capacity. Applications/resumes submitted online at: [www.springhilltn.org/Jobs.aspx](http://www.springhilltn.org/Jobs.aspx). Questions to [staylor@springhilltn.org](mailto:staylor@springhilltn.org). EOE

**POLICE OFFICER**  
**SHELBYVILLE.** The city of Shelbyville Police Department is now hiring Tennessee POST Certified Police Officers. Starting pay based on years of experience. Successful Applicants will be required to pass a background check, physical, psychological, and drug/alcohol test prior to final consideration for the position. Applicants must be minimum age of 21 years old. Applications and a copy of the job description will be accepted until position is filled and may be returned to City Hall Administration Office, 201 N. Spring Street Shelbyville, TN 37160. Applications and job descriptions can be picked up at City Hall or download from the city website: [www.shelbyvilletn.org](http://www.shelbyvilletn.org). EOE/ Drug Free Workplace.

### PUBLIC UTILITIES SUPERINTENDENT.

**GALLATIN.** The city of Gallatin is seeking qualified applicants for the open position of superintendent of public utilities to plan, direct, manage, and oversee the activities, projects, and operations of the Public Utilities Department including natural gas, water treatment and distribution, wastewater treatment and collection facilities of the city. Gallatin Public Utilities provides excellent quality drinking water, sanitary sewer, and reliable natural gas services at competitive rates, and in a safe, environmentally clean and efficient manner. The superintendent of public utilities supports a department of approximately 90 employees. Minimum qualifications include bachelor's degree in business or public administration, engineering, chemistry, or closely related field with a minimum of 10 years recent work experience of an increasingly responsible nature in the construction operation and municipal utility, including some experience in a natural gas utility; or an equivalent combination of education, experience, and training. Must have five years of supervisory experience. Must have a valid driver's license. To apply, please submit an online application, cover letter, and resume at the City of Gallatin website: <https://cogselfserve.gallatin-tn.gov/MSS/employmentopportunities/default.aspx> Telephone 615-451-5890. Current starting pay: \$ 93,589.50 with excellent benefits. Position will be posted until position is filled. EOE.

### SENIOR FINANCE ANALYST

**BARTLETT.** The city of Bartlett is currently accepting applications for a Senior Finance Analyst in the finance department. The purpose of the position is to perform general ledger and fiscal work for the city's financial and accounting management system. Work involves preparing journal entries, balancing cash and reconciling accounts, maintaining automated files using the city's computerized accounting system. Requires a bachelor's degree with major course work in accounting, finance, business or a related field; supplemented by three years of previous experience and/or training involving basis accounting, bookkeeping, and reporting using generally accepted governmental accounting principles. An equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job will be considered. Advanced proficiency in Microsoft Excel is required. CPA or CGFM certificate is required. Must be able to pass a work related physical and drug screen. The work of this position is primarily sedentary. Salary DOE with excellent benefits package. To apply for this position, you must submit an original city of Bartlett application. Applications are available online at [www.cityofbartlett.org](http://www.cityofbartlett.org). Position open until filled.

### TOWN MANAGER

**NOLENSVILLE (pop. 10,000).** The town of Nolensville is currently accepting applications for a town Manager. Starting salary between \$130,000 - \$150,000, depending on experience and qualifications. This fast-growing community is located immediately south of Nashville-Davidson County. The town has the nationally recognized Williamson County Schools with beautiful neighborhoods to live in and raise families. Nolensville's citizens recently voted overwhelmingly to change its 1996 incorporation charter from a Mayor-Aldermanic to a classic Commission-City Manager form of government, then elected a 5-member Town Commission. The town currently has a



## TENNESSEE FESTIVALS

### Nov. 6-Dec. 19: Lebanon

#### *Christmas in the Grove*

Tour the historic Fiddlers Grove decorated for the holidays. The event is all outdoors with masks encouraged and free hand sanitizer stations. For more information, visit <https://fiddlersgrovetn.com>

### Nov. 13-Jan. 3: Nashville

#### *Gaylord Opryland's A Country Christmas*

Marvel at lavish holiday displays featuring more than three million twinkling lights and festive décor at A Country Christmas, Gaylord Opryland Resort's celebration of the season. Experience the yuletide atmosphere and events with our exclusive Christmas packages. For more information, visit <https://christmasatgaylorodpryland.marriott.com/>

### Nov. 20-Jan. 2: Lookout Mountain

#### *Rock City's Enchanted Garden of Lights*

See Rock City shine brighter than ever before during the 26th anniversary of Rock City's Enchanted Garden of Lights! This light extravaganza showcases more than 30 holiday scenes and over a million LED lights that transform the gardens' natural daytime splendor into a fantasyland of four realms of wonder. For more information, visit [www.seerockcity.com](http://www.seerockcity.com).

### Nov. 24-Jan 1: Clarksville

#### *Christmas on the Cumberland*

Celebrating 21 years, come enjoy displays of more than 1 million lights along the half-mile River-Walk. Weekends bring additional activities like seasonal crafts, dances, and other events. For more information, go online to [visit-clarksvilletn.com](http://visit-clarksvilletn.com)

### Nov. 28-Dec. 19: Collierville

#### *Christmas in Collierville*

Come celebrate Christmas in Collierville featuring Santa visits in the gazebo, a horse-drawn carriage ride around the Town Square, and more free events. Named one of the Southeast Tourism Society's Top 20 Events in the Southeast for December, Christmas in Collierville has fun for the whole family. For more information, visit [www.colliervilleparks.org](http://www.colliervilleparks.org).

\$4.4M annual budget with 32 full-time positions. Water & wastewater services are provided by others. Information on the town is available at [www.nolensvilletn.gov](http://www.nolensvilletn.gov). The Town Commission is seeking a highly educated and experienced city management professional who is creative thinker with strong understanding of land use and infrastructure development, plus financial capabilities. A person with strong communication skills and a high degree of political sensitivity as the elected board navigates its policy decision-making role. Residency is desirable but not required. Qualified candidates should send cover letter and resume immediately by electronic mail to the University of Tennessee, Municipal Technical Advisory Service, attention Gary Jaecel at [gjaecel@tennessee.edu](mailto:gjaecel@tennessee.edu) with the latest deadline for consideration, Dec. 18, 2020. Resumes will be considered as received. Direct questions to Mr. Jaecel or Town Consultant Mike Walker at [walker@tablerockresources.com](mailto:walker@tablerockresources.com).

### WASTEWATER PLANT MANAGER

**LEBANON.** The city of Lebanon, population 33,000, is accepting applications for a degreed, experienced wastewater plant manager. This position reports to the Public Services Commissioner and oversees a staff of 15. The manager plans, directs and reviews the work of operating and maintenance plant personnel. Responsibilities include inspection, developing plans, establishing procedures and supervising the service and repairs of equipment. Also responsible for department budgets and reports. This position will be responsible for complying with all state and federal requirements such TDEC, EPA and OSHA regulations. Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with major coursework in biology, chemistry, engineering or related field is required. Grade IV Wastewater Operator's Certification is required or obtain within 12 months from hire. Plus a minimum of 5 years experience in a supervisory role within a similarly sized Wastewater Treatment Plant is required. Must have a valid Tennessee driver's license and clear motor vehicle records. Apply online: [www.lebanontn.org](http://www.lebanontn.org)

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

**Tennessee Municipal League**  
2020-2021 Officers and Directors**PRESIDENT**

Mike Werner

Mayor, Gatlinburg

**VICE PRESIDENTS**

Ken Moore

Mayor, Franklin

Bobby King

Mayor, Henderson

Ron Williams

Mayor, Farragut

**DIRECTORS**

Andy Berke

Mayor, Chattanooga

Paige Brown,

Mayor, Gallatin

Randy Childs

Councilman, Kingston (District 2)

Vance Coleman

Mayor, Medina

John Cooper

Mayor, Metro Nashville

W.T. Daniels

Mayor, Greeneville

Mike French

Alderman, Somerville (District 7)

J.H. Graham

Councilman, Crossville (District 4)

Doris Hensley

Mayor, Erwin

Blake Lay

Mayor, Lawrenceburg (District 6)

Gina Holt

City Manager, Springfield (District 5)

Terry Jones

Mayor, Millington (District 8)

Indya Kincannon

Mayor, Knoxville

Katie Lamb

Mayor, Collegedale (District 3)

Christa Martin

Vice Mayor, Columbia

Keith McDonald

Mayor, Bartlett

Wade Morell

President-CEO, TN Municipal Bond Fund

Lonnie Norman

Mayor, Manchester

Todd Smith

City Manager, Greeneville (District 1)

Jim Strickland

Mayor, Memphis

Mary Ann Tremblay

Vice Mayor, Three Way

**PAST PRESIDENTS**

Jill Holland (2019) Mayor, McKenzie

Wallace Cartwright (2018) Mayor, Shelbyville

Bo Perkins (2017) Vice Mayor, Athens

John Holden (2016) Mayor, Dyersburg

Curtis Hayes (2015) Mayor, Livingston

Dale Kelley (2013) Mayor, Huntingdon

Kay Senter (2011) Morristown Vice Mayor

Sam Tharpe (2010) Commissioner, Paris

Tommy Pedigo (2009) Councilman, Morristown

**AFFILIATE DIRECTORS**

Tracy Baker, Sevierville (TCMA)

**TML AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS** (Ex-Officio Directors)

TN Assn. of Air Carrier Airports

TN Building Officials Assn.

TN Assn. of Chiefs of Police

TN Assn. Municipal Clerks &amp; Recorders

TN Government Finance Officers Assn.

TN Fire Chiefs Assn.

TN Fire Safety Inspectors

TN Assn. of Floodplain Management

TN Assn. Housing &amp; Redevel. Auth.

TN Municipal Attorneys Assn.

TN Municipal Judges Conference

TN Chapter, American Public Works

TN Recreation and Parks Assn.

TN Chapter, American Planning

TN Personnel Management Assn.

TN Assn. of Public Purchasing

TN Section, Institute of Transport

TN Public Transportation Assoc.

Assoc. Independent &amp; Municipal Schools

TN Renewable Energy &amp; Economic

Development Council

TN Urban Forestry Council

TN Stormwater Assn

**TML SPONSORS****5 STAR SPONSOR**

Voya Financial Advisors

**4 STAR SPONSOR**

Blue Cross Blue Shield

**3 STAR SPONSOR**

First Horizon Bank

**2 STAR SPONSOR**

Alexander, Thompson, Arnold, CRA's

Alliance Water Resources

Bank of America

Bank of New York Mellon, Co.

Enterprise

Waste Management Inc. of Tennessee

**1 STAR SPONSOR**

Charter Communications

Employee Benefit Specialists, Inc.

J.R. Wauford &amp; Co. Consulting Engineers

Local Govt. Corporation

Mattern &amp; Craig, Inc.

NORESCO

Pavement Restorations, Inc.

Republic Services

Smith Seckman Reid

Tennessee 811

Trane Commercial Systems &amp; Services

TLM Associates, Inc.

Waste Connections of Tennessee Inc.

Waste Industries USA, Inc.

**TML SPONSORED PROGRAMS**

Public Entity Partners

Tennessee Health Works

Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund

**TML PARTNERED PROGRAMS**

American Fidelity

GovCard

GovDeals

Omni Partners

Peachtree Recovery Services, Inc.

Reach Alert

TN Drug Card

VC3

**TML STAFF**

Margaret Mahery, Executive Director

Chad Jenkins, Deputy Director

Mark Barrett, Legislative Research Analyst

Kate Coil, Communications Specialist

Jackie Gupton, Administrative Assistant

Carole Graves, Communications Director

&amp; Editor, Tennessee Town &amp; City

Sylvia Harris, Conference Planning Director

John Holloway, Government Relations

Debbie Kluth, Marketing Director /

Member Services

Kevin Krushenski, Legislative Research Analyst

Denise Paige, Government Relations

# EMS agencies are short staffed, overworked

BY KATHERINE  
BARRETT and  
RICHARD GREENE  
*Route Fifty*

Many emergency medical services agencies report struggling to stay adequately staffed, even as the pandemic continues to surge across the U.S. Given the life and death nature of these jobs, shortages are always serious business. But with so many health sectors now under stress, EMS leaders find it difficult to get attention for their own workforce, funding and equipment needs.

This is not a new problem. Though the pandemic has made operations increasingly difficult for EMS agencies, the National Rural Health Association two years ago published a report that cited funding and staffing problems as putting a third of rural emergency medical services in "immediate operational jeopardy." For volunteer units, which provide service in many rural areas, volunteers are increasingly hard to come by, causing many to close.

Though the problems are particularly difficult in rural areas, city EMS services are under stress as well. In St. Louis, Missouri, for example, only 60% of the paramedic positions are currently filled. While recruiting qualified individuals for these highly demanding jobs has become increasingly difficult, keeping them on the job is even harder. "In the last two years, I hired 70 paramedics and lost 72," says Rick Frank, personnel director for the city. "It's a very difficult situation. We're constantly having to train new people." The average tenure in St. Louis dropped in the

last four years from about 36 to 38 months to 24 months.

"I don't think people have any understanding of these services," says John Sinclair, fire chief of Kittitas Valley Fire & Rescue in Washington state, which serves a community of about 21,000 residents 60 miles east of Seattle. "They know they dial 911 and someone shows up. They don't have a good understanding of how fragile the system is or what the needs are."

EMS has a strange history in the U.S. While various kinds of ambulance services have existed since ancient times, coordinated emergency medical services didn't really materialize in the United States until the 1960s. A report from the National Academy of Sciences, along with the Highway Safety Act passed by Congress, drew attention to the many lives that were lost on U.S. highways and the pressing need to get accident victims delivered quickly to hospitals.

Enthusiasm for federal funding of EMS bloomed in the late 60s and 70s, but dissolved in the federal budget-cutting 1980s. Since then, the modest federal involvement in EMS has largely been separate from other health-related endeavors, with a small U.S. Office of EMS located in the Department of Transportation and another focused exclusively on EMS for children at the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

The result is that EMS has become largely a local responsibility, heavily dependent on Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance reimbursement, as well as subsidized by fundraising efforts, donated labor and sometimes local tax revenues.

There is a wide variation of practices, as well as many different service delivery models. According to the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO), in Maryland, the District of Columbia and northern Virginia, the majority of 911 ambulances are fire department based. Yet, in North Dakota, out of

137 ambulance services, only one agency is part of a fire department. In other places, separate city or county units handle EMS, but sometimes it is left to hospitals or private businesses. Licensure rules, background checks and education requirements, above a national minimum, all vary, although the vast majority of states require certification of EMS workers by the National Registry of EMTs.

Shortages in the EMS workforce shouldn't be a surprise. Remle Crowe, a research scientist and performance improvement manager at ESO, a health care and public safety software and data company, has authored or co-authored four studies about EMS worker burnout and more than a dozen others about turnover and other EMS workforce issues.

She cites low wages, limited patient outcome feedback, constant exposure to tragic situations, increasing verbal and physical attacks on EMS workers, and unrelenting job demands as factors that create burned-out employees and a negative feedback loop. "Burnout increases turnover and absenteeism, which leads to increased demand on other workers, who may have to put in mandatory overtime, and that leads to more burnout," she says.

Stresses of the job have become more acute this year. "People are questioning whether they want to do this work, put themselves on the front line and bring the virus to their families," says John Becknell, a consultant and former editor in chief of The Journal of Emergency Medical Services.

One problem frequently cited in EMS circles is low compensation. In St. Louis, where the fire division employs both emergency medical workers and firefighters, the former are considered civilians and aren't part of the city's first responders. That means benefits and salary for emergency medical technicians and paramedics, who are required to have substantially more training

than EMTs, are significantly lower than the firefighters they work with. Given the extreme worker shortage and turnover problem, the city has been trying to attract paramedics with a recent hike in starting salary from \$36,400 to \$40,404 and a retention bonus after two years on the job. Making these kinds of adjustments are particularly difficult as St. Louis and other local governments are faced with declining revenues and many difficult budget decisions during the economic downturn.

Revenue decreases are not the only financial problem. Funding stresses have worsened as the cost of equipment increases. With fewer volunteers to help with lifting heavy people onto stretchers, for example, Kittitas Valley Fire & Rescue needed to invest in electronic stretchers, which cost \$50,000 for each ambulance. Personal Protective Equipment costs soared this year. "The burn rate for PPE has gone up and the expense of the PPE has gone up tremendously. There's a host of different effects because of Covid that in and of themselves are small, but cumulatively they do add up," says Sinclair.

One of the chief ongoing policy issues for EMS is reimbursement, which is generally only provided by Medicare and private insurance if a patient who is picked up by an ambulance is delivered to an emergency department. This is true even if emergency medical workers are able to stabilize a patient on site and even if another alternative health care setting—like a substance abuse center—might provide more appropriate care.

There is currently a Medicare pilot that started before the coronavirus pandemic that allows reimbursement for ambulance transport to alternative locations under certain conditions, but only a small number of ambulance services are eligible to participate, according to Dia Gainor, executive director of NASEMSO. With Medicaid patients, states have the ability to take regulatory action to broaden reimbursement rules to accommodate alternative destinations or the ability to treat in place, but the majority have not done so. Workforce and funding shortages worsened during the pandemic as training for paramedics has periodically shut down and both public and private ambulance services suffer from staff burnout, fears of contagion, and budget cutbacks. "You take this fragmented system," says Becknell, "and you add coronavirus on top of this and it creates a difficult environment for EMS workers."

## NATIONAL BRIEFS



Wildfires, hurricanes, and the ongoing coronavirus pandemic have led to more Americans than ever needing emergency housing in 2020. The Red Cross said that American families have spent more time in emergency housing this year than any on record with more than one million people having relied on disaster housing – more than four times the annual average from last year. The Red Cross said the pandemic, compounded by disasters getting worse due to climate change, are the main reasons why more Americans are needing emergency housing.

This year, the U.S. saw 14 million acres burned due to forest fires, the most since record-keeping began. Likewise, the Atlantic hurricane season spawned more than two-and-a-half times the average number of storms, breaking the record for the most storms in a single hurricane season.

The U.S. dollar hit its lowest value in two-and-a-half years the Monday after Thanksgiving and posted its worst monthly percentage loss since July.

While broad risk sentiment improved overall, the dollar's value has fallen due to economic shock from the coronavirus pandemic and month-end dollar sell-offs that have continued by global fund managers. However, economists are hopeful that the dollar will begin to rebound with an expected push for more stimulus funds by the incoming Biden administration. On the last day of November, the dollar index was down 0.2% at 91.558. Despite this, bitcoin hit its all-time high of \$19,864 and was last up 8.3% at \$19,707 the same day.</p

# UT mural project coming ‘everywhere you look’

By KATE COIL  
TML Communications Specialist

In addition to “See Rock City” and “Visit Ruby Falls,” motorists in Tennessee may soon see a new slogan painted on barns, water towers, and walls across the state: Everywhere You Look, UT.

The murals are part of a marketing campaign by the University of Tennessee to show its presence in each of the state’s 95 counties. Ellie Amador, director of marketing for the University of Tennessee, said the project was partially inspired by the historic “See Rock City” style murals that still dot the state.

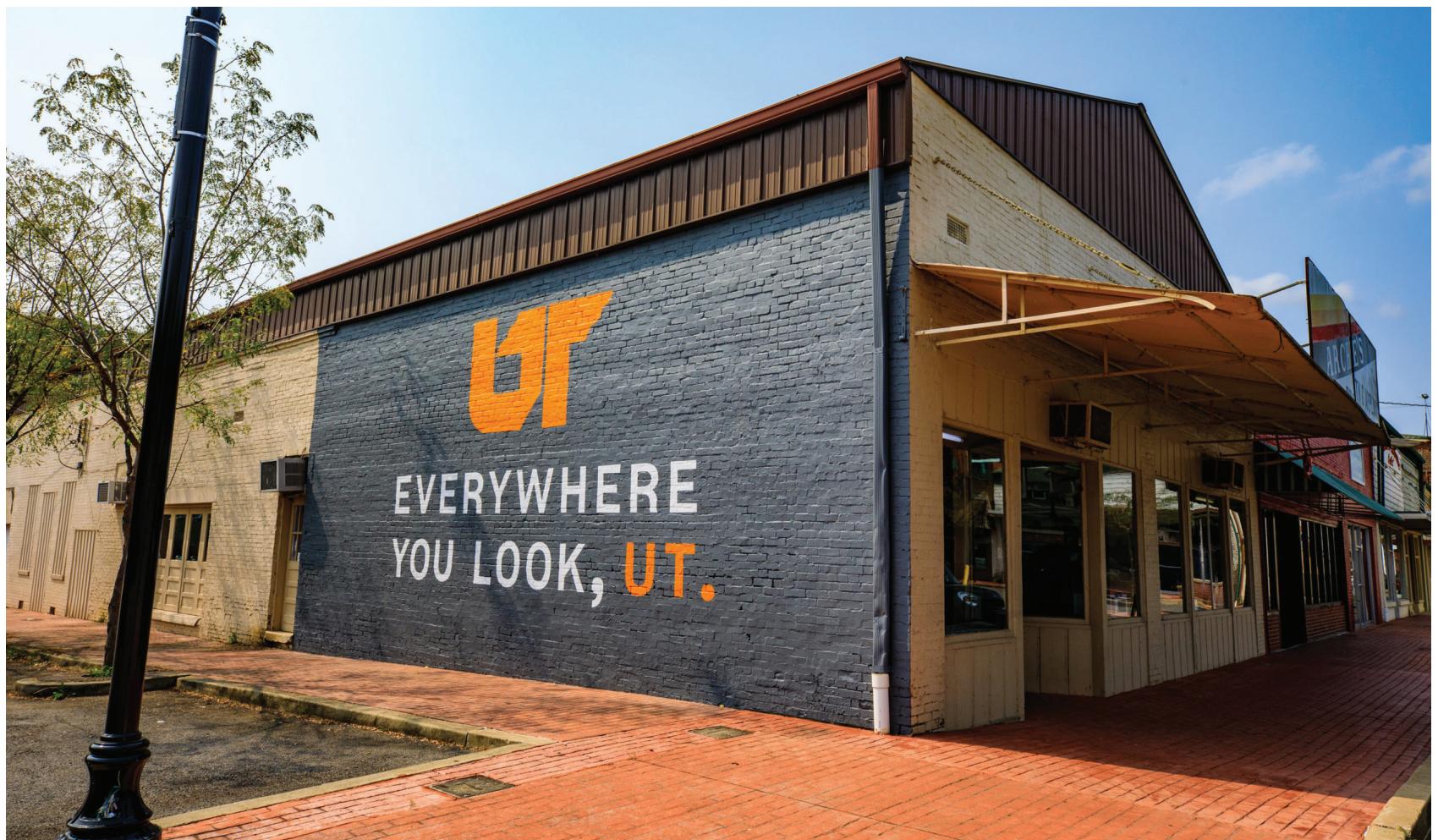
“Using murals to promote the University was something [UT Vice President for Communications and Marketing] Tiffany Carpenter had been thinking about for a long time—and the launch of the ‘Everywhere You Look, UT’ marketing campaign in 2018 provided the perfect opportunity,” Amador said. “Carpenter was the driving force behind the campaign designed to tell UT’s story of statewide presence and impact. From Memphis to Mountain City and every county in between—UT is there. And there’s no bigger or better way to share that message than through the mural component of the campaign. Inspired by the iconic ‘See Rock City’ signs still visible today, the ‘Everywhere You Look, UT’ murals are generating excitement among alumni, community leaders and business owners across the state.”

One of the goals of the project is to show that UT has deep connections throughout the state.

“Each mural serves as a tribute to the family we’ve partnered with and the UT alumni, employees and students representing and making an impact in that particular county,” Amador said. “The mural also serves as a daily reminder to everyone who passes by that UT has a presence in each of Tennessee’s 95 counties and exists to serve all Tennesseans statewide. We’ve set a goal to paint a mural in every Tennessee county by 2030. We’re finishing our 12th mural this week in Grainger County and plan to start up again in spring 2021. In the beginning, we approached potential partners based on the visibility of properties and connections to the university. Today, most partners approach us. The storytelling aspect of each new location generates excitement in the surrounding area and submissions flood in for new properties we should consider.”

The project is also connecting alumni in new ways.

“Though not a requirement, every location to-date has an alumni connection—be it the property owner, a family member or the individual who submitted the property for consideration,” Amador said. “With more than 400,000 alumni worldwide and 235,000 alumni living in Tennessee, chances are pretty good that our partners have an alumni connection to the university.”



Archie’s TV and Appliance Repair in downtown Erin became home to the seventh of the murals put up by the University of Tennessee’s new mural project. Tamera Brooks, daughter of store owner Archie Brooks, is a UT alumna and submitted her father’s business as a potential location for a mural.

Each mural is funded through a combination of private funding and investment income with the cost of each mural averaging about \$8,000. While Amador said a billboard can run from \$1,000 to \$3,000 a month, the murals provide a greater return on investment because they are expected to last 10 years until they begin fading.

The murals are already drawing a lot of attention. Kevin Helms, city manager of Harriman, said the city’s mural on the side of Chase Drugs downtown demonstrates a long connection between the three entities.

“The project was a partnership between the city, UT, and Chase Drugs,” Helms said. “Interestingly, the connections between these entities began at roughly the same time based on the information that we have available. In 1906, American Temperance University traveled to Knoxville to play UT in football and UT came to Harriman the following year for a game. It was also around this same time that Chase Drugs was founded in the city, so there has been a connection there between the three entities for almost 115 years.”

Helms said he hopes that the mural serves as a statement of the value Harriman places on education.

“We have far too many students graduate high school in this area and never seek additional education, even now that we have the Tennessee Promise,” he said. “While UT or a four-year institution may not be the right fit for everyone, we have a technology center and a community college right here in Harriman, and any of these would make a fine choice for someone to pursue additional education after high school. We know from demographic data



Located on the side of the 128-year-old Chase Drugs and Clinical Services building, downtown Harriman’s mural was the eleventh completed in the state and joins many of the iconic structures of the city’s downtown. The mural is just across the street from the city’s famed Temperance Hall and other local landmarks along North Roane Street.

that a person, their family, and their community are enhanced in many ways as the overall education level rises. Therefore, I wanted it to be a daily reminder to every student who drives by and sees the mural that they can achieve more than just a high school education, and once they have done so they can take on a role in the community to continue to help make it better than it ever was before.”

Amanda Love, executive director of the Humboldt Chamber of Commerce, had high praise for the mural painted on the side of the Flippin Law Firm in downtown Humboldt. Love said the location of the mural was due to the “tenacity” of lawyer Floyd Flippin, a

well-known “die-hard UT fan” who campaigned for his business to bear the area mural.

“We love our mural,” Love said. “As the executive director of both the Humboldt Chamber of Commerce and Main Street Humboldt, I love having just one more reason for people to stop in our city. As we all know, people love taking selfies in front of the UT murals, so we’re hoping that people start taking advantage of this one. Afterwards, our hope is they drift down Main Street into our shops and restaurants then on around Humboldt and Gibson County.”

The 300-acre Crafton Farms along one of the two major highways in Portland is also home to a mural

on one of the farm’s grain bins. Portland Mayor Mike Callis said the mural adds even more local color to the area.

“We are excited to have the UT mural in our community, especially since we already have six other murals in town,” Callis said. “These murals offer a great opportunity for tourism in our city.”

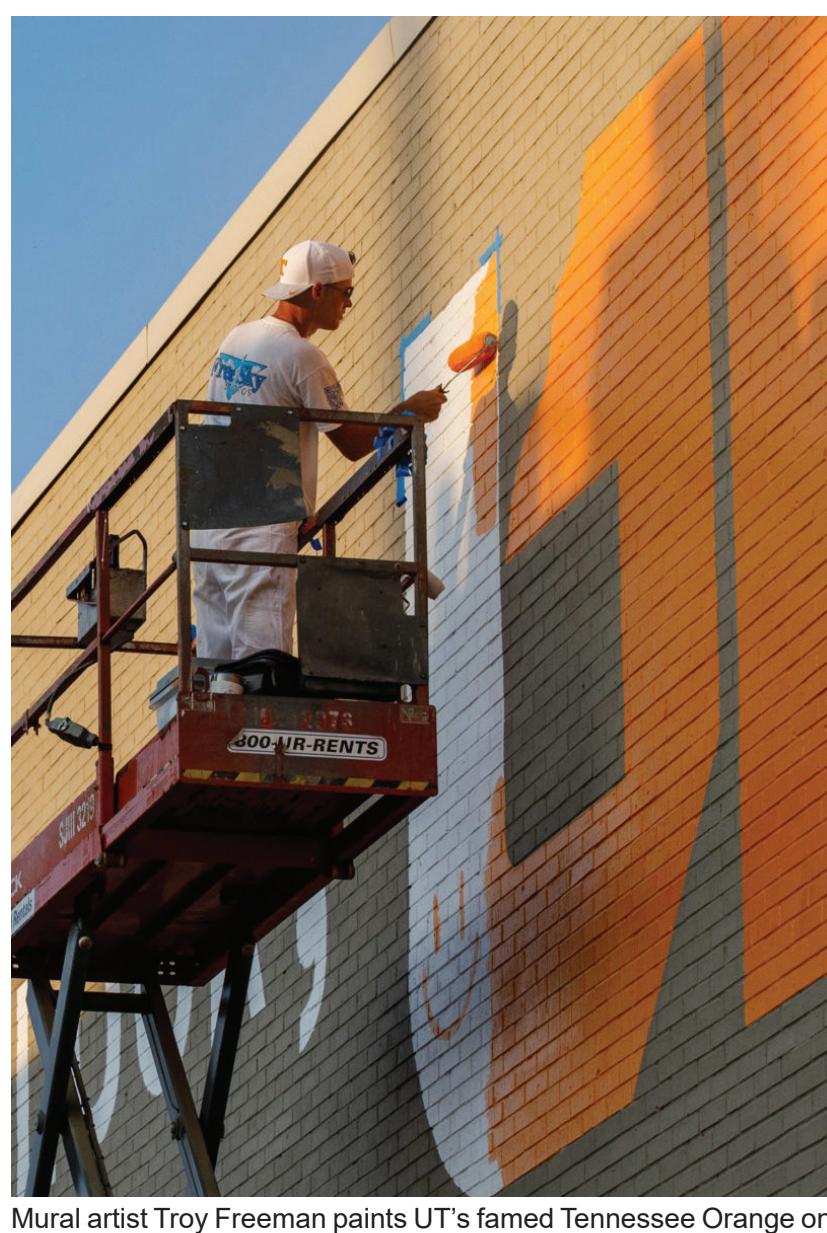
Amador said communities interested in submitting an idea for a property to be used in the mural project is encouraged to do so at <https://everywhere.tennessee.edu/murals/campaign/>. Those interested in making a momentary contribution to help cover the costs of a location is encouraged to contact Ellie Amador at [amador@tennessee.edu](mailto:amador@tennessee.edu).



UT President Randy Boyd, left, and members of the Stone family with the mural painted on the family’s barn in Bristol. The barn sits on a parcel of property used for farming for more than 100 years and has been owned by the Stone family since 1927.



Those driving into Portland on Tennessee State Route 52 will see the town’s mural on the side of a grain bin on the 300-acre Crafton Farm. The family farm is part of Portland’s long-standing connection to agriculture and even delivers several crates of its famed strawberries to UT Athletic Director Phil Fulmer every year.



Mural artist Troy Freeman paints UT’s famed Tennessee Orange on the mural located on the side of the Flippin Law Firm in downtown Humboldt. Firm owner, lawyer, and UT grad Floyd Flippin became interested in the project after seeing another UT mural going up in Sharon.